TAKE SPECIAL CARE OF USING DRUGS FOR LONGEVITY

PAGE-8 (OPINION)

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.

SAC Vice-Chair DPM Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends Film Academy Award Presentation Ceremony

STATE Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win attended yesterday evening the ceremony to present Film Academy Awards for 2019, 2020 and 2022. The award presentation ceremony was held at the open-air theatre near the city hall.

Present on the occasion were Daw Than Than Nwe, the wife of the Vice-Senior General, the SAC Secretary, the Joint Secretary and his wife, the SAC Members and their wives, the Union-level Personnel and their wives, the Union Ministers and their wives, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and his wife, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye and his wife, high-ranking Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, the Deputy Ministers, the patrons, the chairman and members of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, the Myanmar Press Council chairman, Myanmar Theatrical and Music Associations' chairpersons and members, Myanmar Academy Award Scrutiny Board members, the people from the film, literature, theatre and music industries, responsible officials and specially invitees.

State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, his wife and dignitaries attend the Film Academy Award Presentation Event in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Before the ceremony, the vocalists sang the songs played by the musical band of MRTV. The SAC Vice-Chair greeted warmly the guests. Next, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn and Myanmar Motion Picture Organization Chairman Academy Awards Winner U Kyi Soe Tun formally opened the ceremony to present the academy awards for 2019, 2020 and 2022. Afterwards, the Information and Public Relations Department presented a documentary video film.

The Film Academy Award Presentation Ceremony for 2019, 2020 and 2022 in progress yesterday.

Next, the SAC Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General delivered a speech. He said, "I would like to express my delight and pride to have a chance to meet the actors, actresses, directors, producers and the people of all strata in the film industry on this auspicious occasion. As known to you all, Myanmar Film Industry has a very long history.

SEE PAGE-4

SSMNC Sayadaws receive Russian Orthodox Archbishop

SIX Sayadaws led by State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Thanlyin Minkyaung Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaj Bhaddanta Sandhima Bhivamsa receives a delegation led by Russian Orthodox Archbishop His Eminence Sergiy at the Buddha Hall of Maha Nayaka Building in Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon yesterday afternoon.

In a courtesy call, Russian Orthodox Archbishop His Eminence Sergiy said that they were highly pleased to get the opportunity to meet State Sangha Maha Nayaka Sayadaws and like to implement the mutual friendship and religious affairs with Orthodox Christians in Myanmar between Myanmar and Russia.

Afterwards, Thanlyin Minkyaung Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sandhima Bhivamsa said that there was an enjoyable meeting with a delegation led by Orthodox Archbishop His Eminence Sergiy and had to cooperate following four principles of Brahmasura Taya. — MNA/MKKS

Announcement of Ministry of Planning & Finance

THE Ministry of Planning and Finance hereby issues an announcement stating that effective from 1 April 2023 the import of the following solar and related equipment from foreign countries shall be exempted from customs duties to secure adequate domestic electricity for the betterment of the nation.

1. PV Module/Solar Module/PV Panel/Solar Panel/Solar Panel 92-Watt CIGS (Copper Indium Gallium Selenide)
2. PV/Solar (Hybrid/Smart Array) Controller, Charge Controller for PV/Solar
3. PV/Solar Inverter (String/Hybrid/ Battery/ Bidirectional/Central)
4. PV/Solar Mounted Structure, PV/Solar Mounted Frames, PV/Solar Mounted Kits (Roof and Ground Mounted)
5. PV/Solar Mounted System (Floating)
6. PV/Solar Controller and Battery Box
   (Only for importing PV/Solar controller and battery together)

Ministry of Planning and Finance

222 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 6 May, total figure registers 635,882

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to 635,882 after 222 new cases were reported on 6 May 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

Therefore, a total of 10,430,474 laboratory samples were examined and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 635,882. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 615,105 including 59 new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered 19,492 on 6-5-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. According to the research, it is found that people who have been vaccinated do not suffer severely from the disease, need not be hospitalized and are unlikely to die. If they have received booster shots, the death rates can be reduced more. As such, people need to follow the new normal way of living with COVID. Hence, all people above five have to fully receive COVID-19 vaccination inoculated by the Ministry of Health free of charge. Six months after the vaccination, they have to take booster jabs at relevant health centres and ward/village administration offices without fail.

Moreover, they have to wear masks while in closed chambers and public places, and when more than one person is in closed chambers, windows should be opened for good ventilation. They need to often wash their hands with soap and water or the hand gel containing alcohol (at least 60 per cent) for 20 seconds. People need to follow the social distancing rule and avoid crowds as much as possible.

While not wearing masks, if they cough and sneeze, they need to cover their mouth and noses with elbows in line with the personal hygienic ways. COVID-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health. — GNLM

Four-day Myanmar-China Expo to kick off in Nay Pyi Taw on 25 May

A four-day Myanmar-China Expo will take place from 25 and 28 May at Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw, according to Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

More than 150 representatives from China's private and public sectors will attend the expo, showcasing coffee, dried tea leaf, macadamia, ready-made food products, solar products, electronic appliances, kitchen wares and other consumer goods.

There are 60 booths from Myanmar micro, small and medium enterprises and Myanmar traders and organizations concerned will exhibit the local products that have great potential to be exported to China.

The rent for one booth is K500,000. Booth registration can be made online through https://forms.gle/nAdM4eTASGWnKLxM7. For further details, enthusiastic traders can dial the contact number 067 408622 of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization, 067 408623 of MTPO branch (Nay Pyi Taw), and 01 385323, 01 377101 of the MTPO central, Yangon. – NN/EM

Ship carrying 1,000 tonnes of cement to dock at new Sittway Port on 9 May

MV-ITT Lion (V-273) loaded with 1,000 tonnes of cement from Kolkata Port, India is scheduled to call at the new Sittway Port on 9 May for the first time.

On 4 May, Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways hailed the first ship departure with a flag-off ceremony as part of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP), heading to Myanmar's Sittway Port. This MV is slated to dock on 9 May at the new Sittway Port.

This KMTTP is connecting Kolkata Port, India with Sittway Port and building a new corridor between Myanmar Paletwa Port, Chin State with Mizoram State in the northeastern state of India by road trip. The Sittway Port, a part of this KMTTP, was constructed in 2010 and the Inland Waterways Authority of India developed the port and its components. A-to-Z EXIM takes the role of port operator. The IMO-certified ships and vessels certified by Inland Water Transport can dock at the port. When the port is fully operational. This KMTTP will facilitate trade flow to northeastern India's states through the Sittway Port. It will also become a key trading hub for Rakhine State, bring market opportunities and help enhance the development sectors of the two countries. – TWA/EM

Building of a Union system is the most reliable system for our country

THROUGH historical experience, it is not enough to foster a multiparty democratic system alone in our nation-building, and it can be seen that the building of a Union system in the oneness of opportunity through a peaceful co-existence of multi-ethnicity is the most reliable system for our country.

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing at the Passing Out Parade of the 64th Intake of Defence Services Academy on 2 December 2022)

SAC Vice-Chair DPM Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends NDMC emergency meeting

Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the National Disaster Management Committee's emergency meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 6 May 2023.

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win who is also Chairman of the National Disaster Management Committee-NDMC addressed the National Disaster Management Committee's emergency meeting yesterday.

The Vice-Senior General said according to the forecast of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts(ECMWF), Global Forecast System (GFS) and the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology of Myanmar, the occurrence of a storm from the low-pressure area in the Bay of Bangel on 8 May might change to a stronger cyclone and enter Yangon and Ayeyawady Region (or) coastal region of Myanmar. The public employees who are responsible to serve full-time duties for the country conduct this emergency meeting of the committee on holiday to overcome the disaster with the least losses.

It is estimated two ways that the storm enters the coastal regions of Myanmar. The first one is between Pyapon Township and Kungyangon townships of the Yangon Region and the second one is between Sittway and Kyaukpyu townships passing through Rakhine coastal region. These are just weather forecasts and the exact way can be known when the storm occurs from the depression. It is expected to occur on 13 and 14 May in Myanmar.

The standing order on natural disaster management (2022) was enacted. It was also released in Tatmadaw as well as by the committee. Similarly, the standing order and procedures for disaster management have been drafted in respective regions and states.

If the storm changes its ways, the preparations will benefit us as practices. Therefore, preparation is a must. There are two sections in disaster management. It is conducting responses across the nation at a national level and response at Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, Region and State levels. There are plans and directives for national-level responses. The proper preparations should be made now as the country has experienced storms. Of the storms, the 2008 Nargis cyclone left the largest losses.

Therefore, the facts for emergency management are compiled and relief items are also provided. In making preparations, the 12 working committees mentioned in Chapter 4 should do the preparations, emergency responses and rehabilitation processes and the region/state working committees formed as per Chapter 5 should do the preparations, emergency responses and rehabilitation processes. Similarly, the preparations, emergency responses and rehabilitation processes for Tatmadaw mentioned in Chapter 6 should be done by members of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) in detail.

He then talked about the duties of the natural disaster management committee, and region and state management teams to be served as per the standing order.

Then, Committee Vice-Chairs Union Ministers Lt-Gen Soe Htut and Dr Thet Thet Khine reported on the cooperation works for response and rescue works while Working Committees' Chairpersons Union Ministers, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air), Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and Commander-in-Chief (Air) presented preparations for disasters including cyclones.

Moreover, the Transport and Communications Working Committee Chairperson Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications discussed the cyclone that can be occurred in the Bay of Bengal and the possibility to enter Myanmar, information released via state-run media and operators.

Then, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and other attendees discussed the emergency responses, shelters and rescue works.

Committee Secretary Deputy Minister U Soe Kyi then tabled the decisions and sought approval from the committee.

The emergency meeting of the National Disaster Management Committee decided to open the office of the Disaster Management Committee at Office No 23 of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement to solve the cyclone-related matters in a timely manner starting 8 May.

Afterwards, the Vice-Senior General concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

SAC Vice-Chair DPM Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends Film Academy Award Presentation Ceremony

State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win poses for the documentary group photo with dignitaries and Academy awardees at the event in Nay Pyi Taw on 6 May 2023.

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn presents the best supporting actor award.

FROM PAGE-1

THE very first film was made during the period of the independence struggle. So, it has been 103 years since Myanmar established the film industry. The art of movie making is of vital importance because movies can give inspiration to the audience in addition to entertaining them. Myanmar film industry has been playing a significant role for more than a hundred years in nation-building activities."

He went on to say that Myanmar movies have been contributing towards the national development, reflecting the real situations of the country, that the people of all strata in the film industry have been benefitting the nation, that the ability to preserve the national culture is important to the national development, that the art of film making is an important part of the national culture and that one of the four social objectives is to have due respect for the cultural customs and mores of all national races and to preserve the religious faith, culture and the national characters based on nationalism.

He said, "It can be seen by all that the government has emphasized the preservation of the national culture and characters. You are all important to achieving this objective. True, the movies are made chiefly for entertainment purposes, but they can be used as a soft power to influence the audience with the imposition of opinion, thoughts and ideas particularly in such matters as peace, unity and development. As great social influencers, they can instil patriotic spirit in their audience."

"Our government has two objectives of ensuring national prosperity and food security. We want you actors, actresses,

SEE PAGE-5

Film artistes are seen at the venue of the Film Academy Award Presentation Event (2019, 2020 and 2022).

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SAC Vice-Chair DPM Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends Film Academy Award Presentation Ceremony

FROM PAGE-4

directors and producers etc to join us in realizing these two objectives. It's said that film is for the country's sake. And so, we want you all to stick to this motto, trying your best to change the mindset of your audience, instilling in them the correct thinking and nationalistic spirit," he said.

He went on to say that the successful holding of the academy award presentation ceremony is demonstrating that the people of the film industry are united. "As the covid pandemic is over now, it is the time to revitalize the film industry. Not only the film industry but also the music and the theatre industry are also required to be active again. And I am optimistic that the people from these industries will perform their roles in unity in the interest of the nation. It is found that a total of over 4,000 movies have been made as of 2022, and the academy awards have been presented for 63 years between 1952 and 2018. Today is the 64th anniversary, but this year we have to present the awards for three years — 2019, 2020 and 2022. Altogether 423 awards have been presented as of the 63rd anniversary. The lifetime awards have been presented to five luminaries."

The Vice-Senior General cordially greets the Film Academy Award winners.

The Vice-Senior General views the documentary photos at the event yesterday.

"The period between 1920 and 1945 was important to the film industry because it was the period during which the movies had a great impact on the audience to instil the patriotic spirit by which the people had struggled for independence, trying their utmost to free themselves from under the yoke of colonialism. The people of these days are needed to emulate their seniors in the aforesaid period."

He said, "The people in the movie industry have been participating throughout different eras in the nation-building activities hand in hand with the people in power. Holding this noble tradition, you are all needed to continue to participate in the realization of the national objectives."

He went on to say that he has a strong belief in the people from the film industry, that not only the actors, actresses, directors and producers but also the media people are those on whom the government relies in nation-building activities, that the fourth pillar is urged to contribute their part towards national peace, prosperity and development, that the government on its part has provided support to the median personnel and that he was grateful to all those who had helped the ministry concerned to achieve success in the convening of the academy award presentation ceremony.

Next, U Kyi Soe Tun spoke words of thanks followed by an explanation about the selection criteria for academy awards by the master of ceremonies.

The best actress award is presented yesterday.

Afterwards, the Myanmar Film Academy Awards were presented for such categories as best cinematography, the best music, the best sound, the film editing, the best screenplay, the best picture, the special award for costumes, the best director, the best supporting actress, the best supporting actor, the best actress and the best actor for 2019, 2020 and 2022 respectively. Myanmar Academy Fashion Awards were also presented to four actors and actresses this year.

The Vice-Senior General, Union Information Minister and veteran Academy Award-winning artistes presented the best award winners, and the award-winners expressed their words of gratitude.

While the awards were being presented, artistes from the Myanmar Music Association, Myanmar Motion Picture Organization and the Myanmar Theatrical Association took turns to perform the entertainment.

Next, the State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General and party pose for the documentary group photos together with the Myanmar Film Academy Award winners and cordially greeted experts, technicians and artistes from the motion picture, literary, theatrical and music sectors.

In 2021, no movies could be screened due to COVID-19, but starting from April 2022, movies were screened again, and by the end of the year, 20 movies were screened.

SEE PAGE-6

DPM MoTC Union Minister attends opening ceremony of new SetSan Staff Housing, Thiri Anawa Hall of MPA in Yangon

Deputy Prime Minister Admiral Tin Aung San speaks on the inauguration occasion of the new SetSan Staff Housing and Thiri Anawa Hall of Myanma Port Authority in Yangon yesterday.

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San attended the opening ceremony of the new SetSan Staff Housing of Myanma Port Authority and Thiri Anawa Hall in Kuutoseik Ward of Mingala Taungnyunt Township of Yangon Region yesterday.

On arrival at the opening ceremony of SetSan Staff Housing, the Deputy Prime Minister inspected two new six-storey buildings with eight apartments each, two buildings for single officers/staff, one Multi-Function Assembly Hall and clinic together with the relevant officials after the procedures of the ceremony.

Then, the Deputy Prime Minister pressed the button to launch the signboard of Thiri Anawa Hall and sprinkled scented water over the monument of the new hall together with other officials.

He then talked about the efforts of the government and the ministry for constructing standard staff housing for the welfare of employees. He also urged the staff to follow the rules and ethics of staff and maintain the new housing to be clean in the long run.

The construction of SetSan Staff Housing of Myanma Port Authority was started in the 2013-2014 financial year. The housing includes 12 buildings with 456 apartments, one Multi-Function Assembly Hall and one clinic.

The Deputy Prime Minister and party also inspected the use of eight RBEs transferred by West Corporation and the maintenance of the remaining seven RBEs at the Rail Bus Engine-RBE locomotive factory in the Yangon Railways Station compound. During the tour, he instructed responsible personnel to complete the working processes in a fixed period, clean the carriages, ensure safety and substitute in the proper routes.

At the briefing hall of Yangon Railways Station, the Deputy Prime Minister met with the department heads and highlighted the access to information about the cyclone, predictions on transport and communications services of the department, timely management for airlines, ship and train routes, evacuation of aircraft to safe locations, systematic relocation of vessels to the nearest jetty and shipyard, proper maintenance on locomotive, carriages and wagons and reserve communication system if the connection cut off from all access in the natural disaster. — MNA/KTZH

MoIP Union Minister observes International Training Centre of Academy in Minsk

MYANMAR delegation led by Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing visited the International Training Centre of the Academy in Minsk of Belarus on the morning of 5 May.

Maj-Gen Vasilyev Aleksandr Pavlovich gave a PowerPoint presentation on the structure and operation of the training centre, training on mobility and anti-trafficking issues, and training methods for foreign trainees.

After the Union minister inquired about what he wanted to know, the school principal showed them around the classrooms and teaching aids in the training school and exchanged gifts.

The Union minister and party also visited X-Infotech Company, jointly operated with the Belarusian Ministry of Internal Affairs yesterday.

Officials explained through PowerPoint the technical cooperation in the implementation of the e-ID system in connection with the e-Government system of the Republic of Belarus and the international activities related to the e-ID system. — MNA/KZL

SAC Vice-Chair DPM . . .

FROM PAGE-5

For the Myanmar Film Academy Awards, 97 Myanmar movies that were released in 2019, 21 Myanmar movies that were released in 2020, and 20 Myanmar movies that were released in 2022 were evaluated step-by-step by the Myanmar Film Academy Awards Selection Board, and the best films were selected and awarded.

The Myanmar Film Academy Awards have been presented since 1952, and only three awards have been given: the Film Award, the Actor Award, and the Actress Award.

The first prize for the film was a golden Kinnari statue, while the second prize was a silver peacock statue, and the third prize was a bronze lion statue. Only golden pins were awarded for the Best Actor Award and the Best Actress Award.

Starting with the 1957 Myanmar Film Academy Awards Ceremony, the format of the awards was changed, and all awards were golden Kinnari statues.

The number of best awards was also increased year by year.

The Director Award in 1954, the Special Award in 1955, the Best Cinematography Award in 1956, and the Supporting Actor Award and the Supporting Actress Award in 1962, were upgraded. In 1990, Film Screenplay Award, Film Music Award, and Film Sound Award were also added.

There have been 10 kinds of Myanmar Film Academy Awards, and since 1994, the film editing award has been added, bringing the total number of awards to 11. Awards were given to 208 artistes and professionals at the Myanmar Film Academy Awards ceremonies, held from 1952 to 2018. — MNA/KMA/KZL

LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar ships over 87,000 tonnes of rice in April 2023-2024 FY

MYANMAR conveyed a total of 87,648 tonnes of rice and broken rice to external markets in April in the current financial year 2023-2024, including 47,888 tonnes of rice and 39,760 tonnes of broken rice, according to Myanmar Rice Federation.

The majority of rice exports went from seaborne trade with an estimated volume of 85,360 tonnes, whereas the border saw exports of 2,288 tonnes of rice and broken rice.

Myanmar aims to achieve a rice export target of 2.5 million tonnes in the current FY and generate income of US$1 billion from the rice exports, as per the MRF's report.

Myanmar bags $853.472 million from 2.26 mln tonnes of rice exports in 2022-2023 FY.

The export values were recorded at $82 million from 250,947 tonnes in April 2022, $51 million from 153,507 tonnes in May, $50 million from 146,094 tonnes in June, $66 million from 182,550 tonnes in July, $53 million from 156,893 tonnes in August, $37 million from 93,792 tonnes in September, $65 million from 163,189 tonnes in October, $106 million from 264,038 tonnes, $90 million from 228,445 tonnes in December, $107 million from 268,835 tonnes in January 2023, $76 million from 191,404 tonnes in February and $65 million from 161,509 tonnes in March.

Myanmar primarily sent rice and broken rice to China (over 775,000 tonnes), followed by Belgium (323,000 tonnes), Bangladesh (239,000 tonnes) and the Philippines (202,000 tonnes).

Myanmar has been exerting concerted efforts to grow 10 per cent yearly in the rice export sector. To raise foreign income, it has been prioritizing the exportation of high-grade rice and boosting export volume, MRF stated.

Myanmar swelled to over $809.135 million from 2,164,681 tonnes of rice export in the 2021-2022 FY. — NN/EM

Rice bags are being loaded aboard the vessel for exportation to foreign markets.

Myanmar bags over $87 mln from 110,000-tonne export of pulses in April FY 2023-2024

Black grams that India primarily purchases are commonly found only in Myanmar, whereas pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia. The photo shows varities of beans and pulses at the retail outlet.

MYANMAR shipped more than 110,000 tonnes of pulses, with an estimated value of over US$87 million, to foreign countries in April during the 2023-2024 financial year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 and 28 April 2023, the pulses exports by seaborne trade amounted to $74.563 million (99,091.438 tonnes), whereas 14,085.045 tonnes of pulses worth $12.677 million were sent to the neighbouring countries through land borders, totalling $87.24 million.

Myanmar brought in over US$1.4 billion from over 1.9 million tonnes of various pulses exports in the past financial year 2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

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 gram 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.

The prevailing price of black gram is K2,169,000 per tonne, while pigeon peas fetch K2,437,500 per tonne and green gram is priced at K2,060,000 per tonne, according to Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayint Naung Commodity Centre).

On 18 April, the prices hit a record high of K2.183 million per tonne for black gram, K2.45 million for pigeon pea and K2.06 million for green gram from the central region, according to Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Commodity Centre).

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

Black grams that India primarily purchases are commonly found only in Myanmar, whereas pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association. — NN/EM

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 6 May 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K1,880
Octane 95	K1,965
Diesel	K1,830
Premium Diesel	K1,910

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,375,100 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,993,000 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	K2,845 to K2,860

The above prices may change from time to time.

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OPINION

Take special care of using drugs for longevity

CURRENTLY, the infection rate of Covid-19 is slightly on the rise in Myanmar, depending on climatic conditions and impacts of new sub-variant omicron XBB.1.16, known as Arcturus which has a higher transmissibility rate than previous strains but doesn't appear to be more dangerous.

Everybody suffering from the impacts of any disease wishes to take effective medicines to fight against the suffering. But the pharmacy arena is facing imitated drugs not only in the international community but in Myanmar. Mostly, drugs in Myanmar are not imitated ones but these are low quality, indeed.

In India, the Indian government suspended the work licences of 76 drug companies for manufacturing fake drugs. More than 10,000 drug companies manufacture relevant drugs but the licences of some companies have been withdrawn and some companies were suspended for production.

Hence, people should take care of buying drugs by analyzing whether the ingredients, formula and guarantees of medical companies are correct or not. Moreover, they have to observe the list of drugs inappropriate for consumption often announced by the Ministry of Health and relevant departments. Truly, all people need to take the drugs as directed by physicians or relevant medical personnel of skilful chemists who have completed medical training in curing their sufferings in diseases.

Myanmar is a customer of India to import various kinds of drugs made in India. Some drugs are legally imported from India but some drugs flow into Myanmar through illegal routes. Daily newspapers mention a large seizure of illegal drugs at checkpoints in regions and states. Furthermore, officials should surprisingly check the drug market of Myanmar for the sake of the consumer people. In truth, such an act of surprise check can be dubbed as saving lives and the interests of the people.

In late-2022, some kinds of drugs with the content of toxic chemicals were found in seven countries of the World Health Organization. Hence, WHO officials urged its member countries to take action against offenders of toxic drugs. At that time, more than 300 children from Gambia, Uzbekistan and Indonesia lost their lives to severe kidney diseases due to drugs with toxic chemicals.

Fake drugs and low-quality drugs are silent killers in the medical arena of the world. Such businesses have been dominating the world for many years. In this regard, fake drugs mean imitated drugs and medicines with imitated labels, trademarks, expiry guarantees and incorrect producers and registration as well as incorrect formulas. These kinds of medicines are harmful to patients and the health conditions of new generations.

Hence, people should take care of buying drugs by analyzing whether the ingredients, formula and guarantees of medical companies are correct or not. Moreover, they have to observe the list of drugs inappropriate for consumption often announced by the Ministry of Health and relevant departments. Truly, all people need to take the drugs as directed by physicians or relevant medical personnel of skilful chemists who have completed medical training in curing their sufferings in diseases.

Covid no longer a global health emergency: WHO

THE Covid-19 pandemic, which killed millions of people and wreaked economic and social havoc, no longer constitutes a global health emergency, the WHO said Friday, warning that the threat remained.

It is "with great hope that I declare Covid-19 over as a global health emergency", World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters.

The move came after the WHO's independent emergency committee on the Covid crisis agreed it no longer merited the organization's highest alert level and "advised that it is time to transition to long-term management of the COVID-19 pandemic".

But the danger was not over, according to Tedros, who estimated Covid had killed "at least 20 million" people — about three times the nearly seven million deaths officially recorded.

"This virus is here to stay. It is still killing, and it's still changing," he said.

"The worst thing any country could do now is to use this news as a reason to let down its guard, to dismantle the systems it has built, or to send the message to its people that Covid-19 is nothing to worry about."

Never again

The UN health agency first declared the so-called public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) over the crisis on 30 January 2020.

That was weeks after the mysterious new viral disease was first detected in China and when fewer than 100 cases and no deaths had been reported outside that country.

But it was only after Tedros described the worsening Covid situation as a pandemic on 11 March 2020, that many countries woke up to the danger.

By then, the SARS CoV-2 virus which causes the disease had already begun its deadly rampage around the globe.

"One of the greatest tragedies of Covid-19 is that it didn't have to be this way," Tedros said, decrying that "a lack of coordination, a lack of equity and a lack of solidarity" meant "lives were lost that should not have been".

"We must promise ourselves and our children and grandchildren that we will never make those mistakes again."

Even though Covid deaths globally have plunged 95 per cent since January, the disease remains a major killer.

Last week alone "Covid-19 claimed a life every three minutes", Tedros said, "and that's just the deaths we know about".

"The emergency phase is over, but Covid is not," agreed Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO's technical lead on Covid-19.

SOURCE: AFP

As of 23 April 2023, over 764 million confirmed cases and over 6.9 million deaths have been reported globally.
PHOTO: PUNIT PARANJPE/ AFP

ARTICLE
BOOKRACK

Book Title	-	The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway
Translator	-	Maung Hsu Shin
Publishing House	-	Thunanda (Distribution by Seikku Cho Cho)
Publication Date	-	March 2023 (5th Edition)
Price	-	K6,500

The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway (Bilingual)

THE Old Man and the Sea was written by an American novelist named Ernest Hemingway in 1951. He wrote this novel while in Cuba and was first printed in 1952. This is his final work. Writer Maung Hsu Shin translated this novel in 1974, and his translated version has won him the National Literary Award (Translation for Fiction Genre).

Saya Maung Hsu Shin has devoted all his effort towards the translation of this novel. True, he did the translation as he was a professional translator. Nevertheless, he did it not merely to earn some income but also to contribute towards the development of the translation industry. In the translation of this novel, he has exerted his utmost effort to be able to carry across the message the original writer would like to give. In doing so, he has taken great care to have translated in such a way that would best suit the Myanmar readers who have different cultures and lifestyles from those of the characters in the novel. Additionally, he has made an extra effort to enable the readers to know the life story of the original writer and the background context of the novel. Last, but not the least, he was so daring to have published his translated version in the bilingual format, carrying the original text against the translated version. This format is good for both the readers of the translated version and those who wish to learn the art of translation. This is one way of contributing towards the development of the translation industry. He has also included the illustrations in his translated version.

The main figure of the book, Santiago is an old experienced Cuban fisherman, who has not caught any fish for 84 consecutive days. Therefore, on the eighty-fifth day, Santiago decides to set out his skiff far into the deep sea of the Gulf Stream. His long-term bad luck overturned as expected for he hooks a giant marlin in no time. Since the marlin is so huge and uncontrollable that Santiago has to use his full strength to struggle with it. Unfortunately, on the third day, the blood of the dead marlin attracted a group of sharks after Santiago killed it. The exhausted fisherman has no choice but to start another round of battle for the fruits of his victory with the feral shacks. Finally, he brings the remaining marlin eaten by sharks back to the shore.

The Old Man and the Sea is considered one of Hemingway's most famous novels. It won him the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1953 and the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1954. The persevering and tenacious spirits that Hemingway conveyed through the figure of Santiago are constantly inspiring generation after generation to become "a man can be destroyed but not defeated".

The main theme of this novel is how perseverance and dignity can help one battle through struggles in life. Religion helps give us strength to persevere and reminds us of the cyclical nature of life. ■

Book Title	-	Yay Mote Hsoe Wuthtuto Myar (1st Prize Winner of Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award)
Writer	-	Maung Cheint
Publishing House	-	Pann Nu San Ein
Publication Date	-	February 2023 (2nd Edition)
Price	-	K5,500

Yay Mote Hsoe Wuthtuto Myar

The First Prize Winner of the Sarpay Beikman Literary Award (Collection of Short Stories Genre)

THIS book won the writer the first prize of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award in 2006. This is, therefore, the second edition. Pann Nu San Ein Publishing House published this book as this one is scarce — so scarce that even the Sarpay Beikman does not have this book in the store. The writer of this book is called Maung Cheint, who has also won the National Literary Award. Saya Cheint has depicted the life of fishermen across the nation. Although many writers depict the life of the people of many strata, there are very few writers who depict the miserable life of the fishermen. What is more interesting is that the writer was born and brought up in a village in Delta Area which is mostly inhabited by the fishermen.

In the story titled, "Ahthet Chin Lai Ywai", there was a river called Thayut Thut which has vortices, created by the confluence of the river and the creek. The vortices cause the eddy currents and the river beds have ravines filled with trees and bushes where the big fish such as silonia silondia, catfish and fish horses etc stay. If the big fish are caught with the nets, they can be damaged. Although they can be caught with the use of fishing hooks or fishing lines, it is life-threatening to the fishermen. The characters in his story have used the most dangerous fishing method to be able to catch the big fish. As an expert writer, Saya Cheint has been able to turn the boring subject of fishing into an interesting phenomenon. The readers will be chilled and thrilled by the way Pho Ni and his father have made a risky effort to catch the big fish. How they could have managed to survive the eddy currents will be really exciting. The fishermen have risked their lives in catching the big fish amidst the gravest danger. They could have saved the life of a family member who is in the moribund stage with the money they have earned from the sale of over forty visses weighing fish. This is really a tear-jerker.

Another story titled, "Nay Chi Lin Let Ayon Tet Thaw" depicts the miserable and bitter life of the fishermen, who are hoping against hope. This story also tells the readers about the fishing methods. This is concerned with the catching of ophidian or a kind of spiny eel. Catching this kind of fish requires a special net, big and small. The small one is called Linn Bat and the big one is called Doe Lay. The big one can catch more fish in a shorter time. But the big nets are expensive for those who cannot afford much. Therefore, most fishermen are using the Linn Bat nets. The writer has his focuses on the great details of fishing methods in addition to depicting the miserable and bitter life of the fishermen. He does not neglect the bad habit of the purchase depots which are stealing the weight of the fish. The fishermen have had to sell their fish with short weight. The fishermen can do nothing, merely wait for the arrival of the members from the Fishery Entrepreneurs' Association who will pay the right price for the right weight. There are also many other short stories which are not only appealing and entertaining but also informative. ■

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Preparations underway for natural disasters

Myanmar Red Cross Society (Yangon) seen conducting rescue works in Cyclone Mora-hit areas.

THE relevant officials should make preparations for recuses and rehabilitation processes if the cyclone hits the country, said Yangon Region Chief Minister at the natural disaster management committee meeting on 5 May.

The depressions occur in the South China Sea and Bay of Bengal and are expected to hit Myanmar. Therefore, the natural disasters management activities such as public notice, media methods to inform the marine workers, access to true information by cooperating with relevant wards/villages administrators and rehabilitation processes based on the received news, said the chief minister, in his capacity as chairman of Yangon Region Natural Disaster Management Committee.

He also talked about the proper transportation system for relief items, relocation of cyclone centres, healthcare services and detailed plans of respective working committees regarding the rescue works and response to the disasters. — TWA/KTZH

New curricula for Grades 9 & 12 under implementation this academic year

Union Education Minister Dr Nyunt Pe speaks on the inauguration occasion of the new curriculum central-level course on 4 May.

DURING the inauguration ceremony of the new curriculum central level course on 4 May, the MoE Union minister announced that in the upcoming academic year of 2023-2024, Grade-9 and Grade-12 classes would be instructed with new curricula.

Since the commencement of the 2016-2017 academic year, the novel KG+12 curriculum has been integrated. In the present academic year, Grade-9 and Grade-12 classes will be instructed with new curricula, signifying the complete adoption of the new curriculum across all classes. The new Grade-9 and Grade-12 curricula are designed to be directly taught by university professors who have written them, and the central level coaching course is opened for professors and associate professors, said Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe.

A total of 1,279 professors, associate professors and 200 basic education teachers from universities attended the central-level training. The Grade-12 new central-level course at the Naypyitaw State Academy and the new Grade-9 curriculum central-level coaching course will be conducted for seven days from 4 to 10 May at No 6 Basic Education High School in Nay Pyi Taw. — TWA/KZW

Yangon-Chennai-Yangon direct flight launched

THE opening ceremony to mark the direct flight from Yangon to Chennai, India by Myanmar Airways International (MAI) was held on 6 May at the Yangon International Airport.

"The new Yangon-Chennai-Yangon route is designed for Tamil people living in Myanmar," MAI Airlines Chief Commercial Officer Mr Tanes Kumar said.

General Director of the Department of Civil Aviation Myanmar U Kyaw Soe, Indian Ambassador Mr Vinay Kumar, MAI Chief Operating Officer Captain U Kyaw Soe Hla opened the ceremony.

The Yangon-Chennai-Yangon flight will only operate once a week, exclusively on Saturdays. The flight is scheduled to depart from Yangon International Airport at 8 am and arrive at Chennai at 10:15 am local time. Departing from Chennai at approximately 11:15 am local time, it will reach Yangon International Airport at 3:15 pm. The ticket fare for the trip is US$239. — TWA/KZW

The inaugural flight celebration of Yangon-Chennai-Yangon in progress yesterday.

Kyukok garlic price reaches ten-year record high on 6 May

THE price of Kyukok garlic (imported by China) hit K7,000 per viss at the Bayintnaung Commodity Wholesale Center on 6 May 2023, which is the highest in a decade. Meanwhile, large-sized garlic from Shan State (Aungban) peaked at K5,600 per viss.

On 18 April, Kyukok garlic was priced at K5,000 per viss, when the price of Shan garlic was K3,200-4,100 per viss. The garlic price moved significantly up by K2,000 for Kyukok garlic and K1,500 for local garlic within 15 days.

It is time for onion traders to stockpile them. It was only two months that new garlic was harvested.

It is only one month remaining for Kyukok garlic to enter the market.

In February 2022, Shan garlic was priced at around K3,000 per viss, whereas the price of Kyukok garlic touched a high of K3,900 per viss.

In the corresponding period last year, the garlic prices moved in the range between K1,800 and 3,400 per viss. Kyukok garlic fetched K3,500 per viss. On 1 September, the Kyukok garlic price hit K5,000 and then, it slipped to K3,300 in mid-December. The local garlic from Shan State climbed up to K4,000-5,100 per viss at the end of December 2022.

The record price of local garlic was K6,300 per viss in the wholesale market in 2022 and 2023.

Kyukok garlic prices in the same period during a decade were K1,200 per viss on 6 May 2014, K2,200 in 2015, K3,500 in 2016, K6,500 in 2017, K1,050 in 2018, K2,650 in 2019, K1,800 in 2020, K2,500 in 2021 and K3,500 in 2022. The current market price of Kyukok garlic was the highest in history, said a market observer. — TWA/EM

HEALTH/WELLNESS: WORLD

Eased COVID measures boosting travel during Japan's Golden Week

WITH the easing of measures against the coronavirus, Japan's Golden Week holidays have seen travellers, some no longer wearing face masks, crowding train stations and airports, with the growing influx of foreign travellers adding to the bustle.

Experts on infectious diseases, however, are calling on elderly people and those with underlying conditions to protect themselves from the virus by wearing masks and taking other countermeasures. Shinkansen bullet trains, airplanes and expressways reached peak congestion Wednesday, the first day of the five-day weekend, with more people enjoying long trips this year.

The festive mood has also been boosted by the government's decision to reclassify the virus as an infectious disease on par with the seasonal flu next Monday, paving the way for the full normalization of social and economic activities.

"I want to show my child's face to my family and have a relaxing time," said Satomi Kuroiwa at JR Tokyo Station before heading to Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture.

Asano Hagiwara was carrying her five-month-old baby as she traveled to her parents-in-law's home in Fukushima Prefecture. "I bought tickets a month ago. Seats got booked out quickly."

Shin-Osaka Station in western Japan was also crowded.

A shinkansen bullet train platform at JR Shin-Osaka Station in Osaka, western Japan, is crowded with passengers as Japan enters the second half of the Golden Week holidays on 3 May 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Kotomi Arimura, pulling a suitcase with three children, said, "My husband is away at work. But we are looking forward to having a barbecue at my parents' house in Fukuoka." — Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

US CDC director announces departure by end of June

DIRECTOR of the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Rochelle Walensky announced Friday she will depart the agency at the end of June. Walensky has led CDC through a transition to normalcy across the country, after two years of COVID-19 related closures and waves of dangerous, new virus variants. She also launched a wide-ranging set of reforms designed to strengthen CDC communications and response operations. US President Joe Biden said Walensky led a complex organization on the front lines of a once-in-a-generation pandemic with honesty and integrity. – AFP

Joyful music might be a game changer for virtual reality headaches

JOYFUL music may be the answer to virtual reality problems. According to a study, listening to music might help reduce the dizziness, nausea, and headaches that virtual reality users may suffer after using digital gadgets. Cybersickness - a type of motion sickness from virtual reality experiences such as computer games - significantly reduces when joyful music is part of the immersive experience, the study found. – ANI

Anti-vaxxer assaults Covid-era Italian premier at rally

AN anti-vax campaigner on Friday assaulted Italy's former premier Giuseppe Conte, who imposed strict restrictions at the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, his political party said.

The Five Star Movement, the opposition party led by Conte, wrote on Facebook that Conte had been "attacked by an anti-vaxxer in Massa", a small Tuscan city where he was attending an election rally. News agency Ansa said the man struck Conte in the face, blaming him for the lockdown policies imposed during the pandemic and other measures. Police officers later took him away.

As well as his own party, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni expressed her "solidarity" with Conte.

"Any form of violence must be condemned without hesitation," Meloni said in a statement.

"Dissent must be civil and respectful of people and political groups." Prime minister from June 2018 to February 2021, Conte was the head of government when the Covid-19 outbreak suddenly struck northern Italy in February 2020. — AFP

Italy was the first country outside China to suffer a major outbreak of Covid-19. Passengers undergo a rapid antigen swab test for COVID-19 at Malpensa Airport in Milan. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP/ FILE**

A man on an electric scooter makes his way with other pedestrians in New York. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP**

Denmark's Novo Nordisk sees profits rise on obesity treatments

DENMARK'S Novo Nordisk, the world's leading insulin company, reported Thursday a 39 per cent increase in first-quarter profits, buoyed by sales of obesity treatments.

From January to March, net profit reached 19.8 billion kroner ($2.9 billion) while sales grew 27 per cent to 53.4 billion kroner, with both figures exceeding analyst expectations.

The Danish drugmaker in particular saw sales of its obesity medications Wegovy (up 211 per cent) and Ozempic (up 59 per cent) soar in the quarter.

These treatments have gained popularity as they lead to greater weight loss than other drugs available until now. — AFP

ECONOMY
WORLD

Germany backs African Union spot in G20

GERMANY on Thursday called for the African Union to get a permanent seat in the Group of 20 major economies in the hopes of elevating the continent's role.

"We want to support the African Union getting a seat in the G20," Chancellor Olaf Scholz told reporters in a statement broadcast on news channel NTV.

Scholz's comments came as he began a three-day trip to East Africa, aimed at strengthening ties with the region.

The German leader kicked off his visit in Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, where the African Union has its seat.

Scholz echoed a similar call made by US President Joe Biden and French President Emmanuel Macron last year.

As it stands, South Africa is the only African member of the G20, which was launched in its current form during the 2008 financial crisis as a way to bring together the world's top economies.

There is precedent for international organisations participating in the G20, with the European Union also holding a seat. The then chair of the African Union, Senegalese President Mack Sall, was invited to the G20 meeting in Indonesia last year by the hosts. Scholz travels Friday to Kenya. —AFP

Labourers work on a road along a street under the Smart City project ahead of the G-20 meetings, in Srinagar on 26 April 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

China, Central and Eastern Europe see closer economic ties

Aerial photo taken on 8 June 2021 shows the main venue of the 2nd China-Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC) Expo in Ningbo, east China's Zhejiang Province. **PHOTO: JIANG HAN/XINHUA**

TRADE and economic ties between China and Central and Eastern Europe have boomed over the past decade, a senior commerce official said on Friday.

So far, two-way investment between China and Central and Eastern European Countries (CEECs) has reached nearly 20 billion US dollars, Vice-Minister of Commerce Li Fei told a press conference.

China's direct investment in CEECs rose by 148 per cent year on year in the first quarter of the year, Li said.

Chinese companies are keen to invest in these regions in areas such as auto parts, home appliances, medicine, logistics, energy and minerals, Li added.

The third China-CEEC Expo & International Consumer Goods Fair will be held in Ningbo, east China's Zhejiang Province, from 16 to 20 May. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

European Central Bank slows pace of rate hikes amid lowering yet sticky inflation

THE European Central Bank (ECB) decided on Thursday to lift main interest rates by another 25 basis points in a bid to bring down high inflation.

The central bank, tasked with maintaining price stability in the 20-member euro zone by keeping inflation below but close to two per cent in the medium term, has implemented its seventh consecutive rate hike.

The decision to opt for a smaller increment after six consecutive rate hikes of 50 basis points or more has fueled speculation that the central bank may be approaching the end of its hiking cycle.

"The inflation outlook continues to be too high for too long," the central bank said.

The interest rate on the main refinancing operations and the interest rates on the marginal lending facility and the deposit facility will be increased to 3.75 per cent, 4.00 per cent and 3.25 per cent respectively, with effect from 10 May 2023.

The interest rate of the deposit facility has been brought up to a level last seen in October 2008, historical data from the ECB show.

The ECB has increased its main interest rates seven times in a row since 27 July 2022, lifting interest rates by 375 basis points cumulatively. – Xinhua

Fund managers thirsty for oil despite green vows: report

MAJOR financial firms that publicly support efforts to limit global warming have billions invested in the world's largest oil and gas companies — including in some of their products marketed as green — a new report said Friday.

The analysis found that 25 members of the Net Zero Asset Managers' initiative have a combined $417 billion in holdings in 15 oil and gas firms, including ExxonMobil and TotalEnergies.

Carbon Tracker, the organization behind the report, found that last year many of these asset managers even increased their exposure to the fossil fuel sector, which has seen profits surge as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

It said none of the 15 fossil fuel giants it focused on have activities and businesses aligned with a goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, the more ambitious Paris climate deal target.

US asset management giant BlackRock topped the list of firms in the net zero initiative with exposure to the 15 oil and gas firms, with investments totalling $116 last year, according to Carbon Tracker.

"Asset managers that join coalitions such as the Net Zero Asset Managers Initiative are signalling to the market that they will invest in line with the Paris target of holding global warming to 1.5C," said the report's author Maeve O'Connor, Associate Analyst, Oil, Gas and Mining.

"If they invest in oil and gas companies that are not aligned with this target, they risk their reputation among climate-conscious asset owners while other investors may increasingly be concerned over exposure to energy transition risk." —AFP

This handout photo released by the Iraqi prime minister's office on 1 April 2023 shows a view of installations at the Karbala oil refinery in the eponymous governorate, on the date it launched operations. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ IRAQI PRIME MINISTER MEDIA OFFICE / AFP**

Hotels' part-time job offers surge as inbound tourism recovers

THE number of job offers in Japan's hotel industry increased over 20-fold in the January-March quarter from a year before, as inbound tourism recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a Tokyo-based company that operates a part-time job application service.

Timee Inc said the number of job openings in January was about 8.6 times higher than a year earlier, and the figure in February surged 23.3 times from the same month in 2022. It remained high in March, logging 13.4 times year-on-year growth.

Photo taken on 4 February 2023, shows Fukuoka Airport's international terminal crowded with travelers. **PHOTO: KYODO**

There are many job offers particularly in urban areas in western Japan, the company said.

Japan drastically eased COVID-19 border control measures in October last year, boosting the number of foreign visitors.

The estimated total rose to 1,817,500 in March, equivalent to 65.8 per cent of the level seen in March 2019 before the novel coronavirus outbreak, according to the Japan National Tourism Organization.

The total was the highest since the country lifted its pandemic-prompted ban on individual, non-prearranged trips last October.—Kyodo

Niger uranium mine set to operate until 2040

THE government of Niger and French nuclear firm Orano on Thursday signed a deal to extend the operational life of the country's sole uranium mine.

The "overall partnership agreement" means the Somair mine in northern Niger could carry on working until 2040, 11 years beyond its currently expected closure, Mining Minister Hadiza Ousseini said.

Discussions focused on licencing arrangements and cost reduction in particular, she said.

Orano is the restructured successor to the state-owned Areva, which began uranium mining in the former French colony around 50 years ago, extracting raw material intended mainly for France's nuclear industry. One of the company's mines, Cominak (for the Akokan Mining Company) closed in 2021.—AFP

AI companies have 'moral' responsibility to protect users: White House

AI has potential to improve people's lives and tackle some of society's biggest challenges. **PHOTO: AFP**

US Vice-President Kamala Harris told CEOs of leading tech companies at a meeting Thursday that they have a "moral" responsibility to protect society from the potential dangers of artificial intelligence.

"As I shared today with CEOs of companies at the forefront of American AI innovation, the private sector has an ethical, moral, and legal responsibility to ensure the safety and security of their products," Harris said in a statement.

The vice-president, who met at the White House with chief executives from Google, Microsoft, OpenAI and Anthropic, said AI has "potential to improve people's lives and tackle some of society's biggest challenges".

"At the same time," she warned, "AI has the potential to dramatically increase threats to safety and security, infringe civil rights and privacy, and erode public trust and faith in democracy."—AFP

US perfume giant Coty weighs Paris stock listing

US perfume and beauty products giant Coty said Friday that it was looking at a second stock listing in Paris as part of its efforts to strengthen its presence in Europe.

"Paris is the historic home of beauty, and the industry still holds a special attraction for investors there," Coty board chairman Peter Harf said in a statement.

Coty has a large stable of fragrances and skin care products that it produces under licence for fashion houses like Burberry, Hugo Boss, Chloe, Gucci and Mac Jacobs.—AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V IAL 001 VOY.NO. (N149)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (N149)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-5-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S INTER ASIA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V NITHI BHUM VOY.NO. (270N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NITHI BHUM VOY.NO. (270N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-5-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2308S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2308S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-5-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

US border 'not open', Biden admin insists ahead of rule change

THE US border with Mexico will not be thrown open when Donald Trump-era restrictions change next week, the Biden administration said Friday.

The US border with Mexico will not be thrown open when Donald Trump-era restrictions change next week, the Biden administration said Friday.

During a visit to the Texas frontier town of Brownsville, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said safeguards were in place to prevent a tide of migrants entering when Title 42 lapses on Thursday.

The US is building legal pathways for those who qualify to reach the country safely, he told reporters — and enforcing consequences for those who arrive at the southern border "irregularly".

"The message is very clear. We are coming with the relief that our laws provide to the individuals in need. The border is not open, it has not been open and it will not be open into May 11," Mayorkas said.

President Joe Biden's administration is under pressure from Republican Party opponents who claim that Latin Americans are already flooding over the border.

They say the situation is expected to deteriorate next week when Title 42 expires.

The rule was imposed early in the Covid pandemic, ostensibly to prevent infected people entering the country, and allows border guards immediately to turn people away without even accepting their asylum applications. — Xinhua

A Border Patrol vehicle sits along the US-Mexico border wall on 25 January 2017 in San Ysidro, California. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

WORLD: TOP HEADLINE

Russian court orders arrest of theatre director

A Moscow court on Friday ordered the arrest of theatre director Yevgeniya Berkovich on charges of "justifying terrorism" over an award-winning play about Russian women recruited online to marry radical Islamists in Syria.

The case comes as Moscow has launched an unprecedented crackdown on dissent at home as troops fight in Ukraine and as much of the Russian arts community has fled the country.

The RIA Novosti news agency said the court ordered the 38-year-old to remain in custody until 4 July.

The charges carry a maximum penalty of seven years in prison.

Berkovich and playwright Svetlana Petriychuk were detained a day earlier, a move that shocked Russia's shrinking theatre community.

The women were accused of "justifying terrorism" in their play entitled "Finist, the Brave Falcon". — AFP

Coronation of Charles UK's first in 70 years

BRITAIN'S first coronation in 70 years takes place on Saturday, with Charles 3rd crowned king in an elaborate Christian ceremony steeped in solemn ritual and more than a millennium of history.

The coronation, the first of a British king since 1937, is the religious confirmation of his accession after the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth 2nd, last September.

Much of the Anglican service at London's Westminster Abbey — which will also crown Charles' second wife Camilla as queen — would be recognizable to the 74-year-old king's forebears 1,000 years ago.

But there will also be a clear departure with the involvement of women bishops, minority faith leaders, and a more diverse and representative guest list of British society than the lords and ladies of old. So too is the environmental theme at the ceremony, including vegan anointing oil and recycled ceremonial garb, reflecting Charles' lifelong championing of sustainability and biodiversity.

The United Kingdom's King Charles 3rd. **PHOTO: AFP**

Coronation organizer the Earl Marshal, Duke of Norfolk Edward Fitzalan-Howard, called the event "a proud moment" in British history.

"During the coronation, the king will swear before God and the nation to serve our country as head of state, upholding our laws and maintaining justice for all," he told reporters this week.

The duke, whose family has organized state events since 1483, said the coronation was also a chance to unite Britain and the 56-nation Commonwealth grouping, which Charles also heads. — AFP

Philippines rescues over 1,000 trafficking victims

PHILIPPINE authorities have rescued over a thousand people from several Asian nations who were trafficked into the country, held captive and forced to run online scams, an official said Saturday.

International alarm has grown in recent months over internet scams in the region often staffed by trafficking victims tricked or coerced into promoting bogus crypto investments.

Michelle Sabino, a spokeswoman for the Philippine national police force's anti-cybercrime group, said officers raided a cluster of buildings Thursday in Mabalacat city, about 90 kilometres north of Manila.

A total of 1,090 people were rescued who had been recruited to run online scams.

Sabino said the victims were forced to target unsuspecting people in the United States, Europe and Canada.

Their passports were confiscated and they were made to work up to 18 hours a day, with salary deductions for interacting with colleagues or taking extended breaks.

"You're like a prisoner without a cell. You're not even allowed to talk to your roommates," Sabino told AFP.

"They're not allowed to leave outside the bounds of the gate. After 18 hours of work, they're brought to their dormitory."

The victims were mostly Chinese nationals, Vietnamese, Filipinos and Indonesians, police said in a separate statement.

Authorities also rescued people from Malaysia, Thailand, Taiwan, Myanmar, Hong Kong and Nepal.

Sabino said the workers were trained to entice strangers into buying cryptocurrency or depositing money into bogus bank accounts after establishing fake romantic relationships.— AFP

Policemen inspecting documents and passports after a raid inside a freeport zone in Mabalacat City, in Pampanga province, north of Manila. **PHOTO: AFP**

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Legacy of slavery affects US Black people daily: UN experts

UN experts on racism on Friday highlighted the exhaustion of the Black community at the end of a visit to the United States, where the legacy of slavery must be addressed by authorities "at all levels".

The UN team of independent experts was created after the death in 2020 of George Floyd, a Black man, at the hands of a white Minnesota police officer.

Over 12 days, they met with victims, civil society figures, the judiciary, police unions, federal and local officials, in Washington, Atlanta, Los Angeles, Chicago, Minneapolis and New York.

"In the US, racial inequity dates back to the very creation of this country. And there'll be no quick fixes," one of the team members, Tracie Keesee, said at a news conference.

Keesee said conditions call "for comprehensive reform and strong leadership at all levels" to deal with the "deep entrenched legacy" in the daily lives of people of African descent.

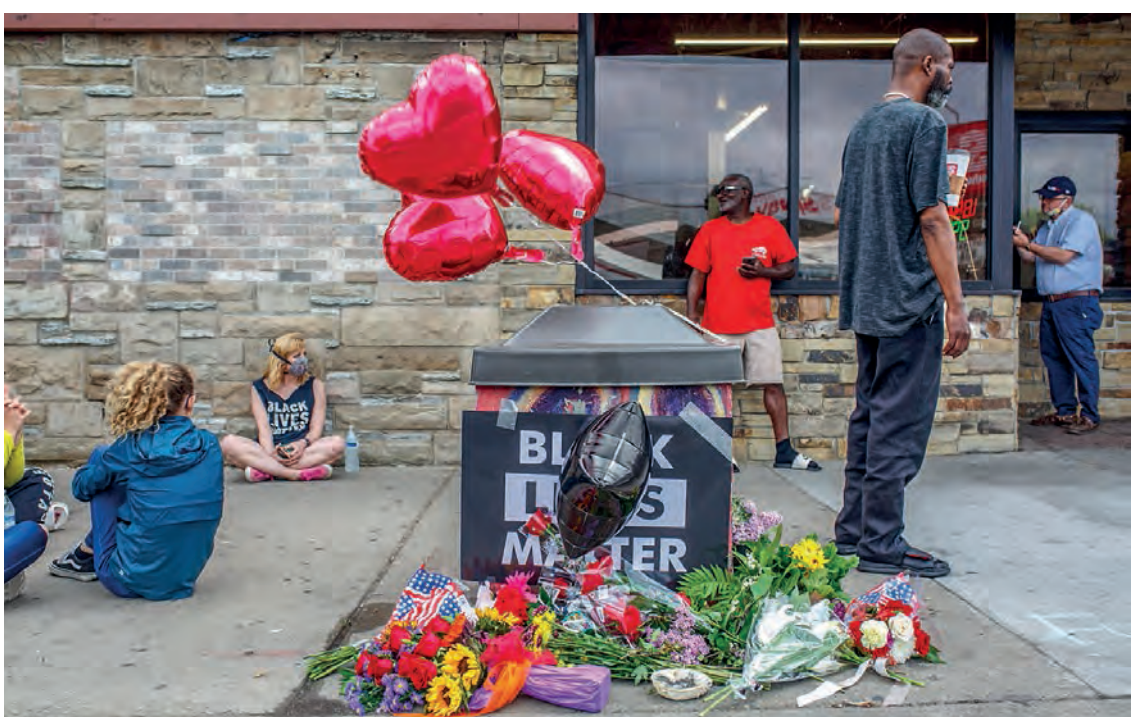
"To this day, racial discrimination permeates through encounters with law enforcement from first contact, arrest, detention, sentencing and disenfranchisement," she said.

Interviews by the UN team highlighted that "the exhaustion of being Black is present in the daily lives".

Black officers also spoke of "the stress of being Black in America".

The team is formally known as the International Independent Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in the Context of Law Enforcement.

While a more in-depth report will emerge from the UN team, in an initial statement the experts hailed "various promising initiatives, including at the state level, that authorities have developed to combat racial discrimination." — AFP



A memorial left for George Floyd at the scene where an officer pinned him down a day earlier in Minneapolis on 26 May 2020. **PHOTO: KEREM YUCEL /AFP/FILE**

Police officers at the home of Ryuji Kimura, the man who on Saturday threw an explosive device at Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. National broadcaster NHK said suspected gunpowder, and pipe-like objects and tools were found at the home. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Japan PM attack suspect served fresh arrest warrant over explosives

POLICE served a fresh arrest warrant Saturday on the suspect in an attack on Prime Minister Fumio Kishida last month alleging he illegally manufactured explosives. Ryuji Kimura, 24, from Hyogo Prefecture was arrested on 15 April at the scene on suspicion of obstruction of business for allegedly throwing an explosive device at Kishida just before the prime minister was about to make a stump speech in Wakayama, western Japan. Kishida was not injured. Investigators said they have determined that a substance confiscated from Kimura's home was gunpowder. The dark gunpowder was found along with metal nuts in one of the two pipe bombs collected at the scene, they said.

While Kimura has remained silent since his arrest, court documents show he may have harboured a grudge after he was unable to file for candidacy for a House of Councillors election held last year.

Kimura filed a lawsuit with the Kobe District Court in June last year seeking 100,000 yen ($742) in damages for mental distress, while asserting the requirements to be at least 30 years old and pay a three million yen deposit to run in the election violated the Constitution, which guarantees equality under the law. — Kyodo

WORLD: TOP HEADLINE

Trump video deposition in civil rape trial made public

A video of sworn testimony given by former president Donald Trump in a US rape and defamation lawsuit against him was made public Friday.

The footage, some of which was aired in court this week, shows Trump being asked about his infamous comments in the "Access Hollywood" tape leaked before the 2016 election.

Trump says during the deposition recorded in October 2022 that his comments that famous people had licence to sexually assault women was "historically" true "over the last million years".

"I guess that's been largely true. Not always, but largely true. Unfortunately or fortunately," Trump says under questioning from the lawyer of his accuser E. Jean Carroll. "And you consider yourself to be a star?" asks the attorney, Roberta Kaplan. "I think you can say that, yeah," Trump responds.—AFP

Air raids in Sudan capital ahead of first direct talks

AIR strikes battered Sudan's capital on Saturday, as fighting entered a fourth week only hours before the warring parties are to meet in Saudi Arabia for their first direct talks.

Hundreds of people have been killed since the outbreak of the conflict on 15 April between Sudan's de facto leader Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, who leads the regular army, and his deputy turned rival Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who commands the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces.—AFP

A plane delivers aid from the United Arab Emirates in Port Sudan. **PHOTO: AFP**

SPORT

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Legacy of slavery affects US Black people daily: UN experts

PAGE-15

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.

CAMBODIA 2023 32nd SEA GAMES 12th ASEAN PARA GAMES

First Gold for Myanmar in SEA Games: Khin Cherry Thet grabs gold medal at Women's Single Pétanque

MYANMAR'S Khin Cherry Thet won a gold medal during the first day Women's Single event of the Pétanque competition held under the XXXII SEA Games yesterday.

A total of eight players competed in the women's singles competition, and the Thai and Vietnamese players who scored the most points in the first round were allowed to enter the semi-finals, while the remaining six players had to compete in the second round.

Khin Cherry Thet finished third and continued to compete in the second round, and was allowed to join the semi-finals as she was listed in the top two along with the Cambodian player.

Myanmar's Khin Cherry Thet focuses and throws the boules away during the Women's Single Pétanque event at the Cambodian SEA Games. **PHOTO: SEA GAMES 2023**

She met Thai player Thong Thanom in the semi-finals and advanced to the final with a 44-31 victory. In the final, she faced Vietnamese player Nguyen Thi Thi and claimed the gold medal with a score of 42-30.

Khin Cherry Thet also won the gold medal in the previous XXXI Viet Nam SEA Games and has won the gold medal twice in a row. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Women's Football: Myanmar's semifinal dream still alive despite losing to Viet Nam 1-3

THE semifinal hope of the Myanmar women's football team is still alive even though they faced a 1-3 loss to team Viet Nam in the second Group A match of XXXII SEA Games Women's Football event held at Army Stadium in Phnom Penh, Cambodia yesterday.

As team Myanmar beat the Philippines 1-0 in the Group A opener and secured three points before, there is still hope for the semifinals.

In the last match, they will have to play against Malaysia, which has a lower FIFA ranking than Myanmar, and if they win that match, Myanmar will have a bigger chance to advance to the semifinals.

Team Myanmar tried their best at yesterday's match but luck did not stay with the Myanmar girls.

Viet Nan opened the goal with a score of Huynh Nhu at the 10-minute mark. That goal gave strength to team Viet Nam and made the game better. Myanmar equalized the goal at 42 minutes with a header from Khin Mo Mo Tun and the first half ended with one goal each.

In the second half, the Myanmar team's stamina dropped significantly, and taking advantage of that fact, the Viet Nam players penetrated the back row and scored goals. Thanh Nhu produced a second goal at 76 minutes and Thuy Trang made the third at 89 minutes.

Myanmar will next play against Malaysia on 9 May, and that match will be a decisive one for team Myanmar to reach the semifinals. — KZL

Aung La N Sang wins over Fan Rong with slick guillotine choke

MYANMAR'S sports icon, former ONE Championship's two division Champion, Aung La N Sang smashed Chinese MMA starfighter Fan Rong with a slick guillotine choke at the ONE's Fight Night 10 event, held at the 1st Bank Centre in Broomfield, Colorado, United States yesterday.

The fight was a big one as both men are all-rounded fighters.

Once the match started, Fan Rong tried to hit Aung La N Sang with a series of quick punches but was unable to overcome Aung La's defence skill plus counterattack.

After 3 minutes, Aung La changed his southpaw position to use high kicks.

Fan Rong still stayed in the stand-fight position, and Aung La found it difficult because the Chinese fighter was able to hit his target precisely and constantly with dynamic punches.

However, just before the end of the first round, Fan Rong received a pair of power punches from Aung La, and his face was broken and bleeding.

At the start of the second stanza, Fan Rong came out with a stronger attack, but his punch only caused Aung La to bend slightly. — KZL`