

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.

Myanmar exports above 100 tonnes of honey to foreign markets in April



Beehives are seen in a row under plum plants. Myanmar exported 1,853.74 tonnes to foreign markets by sea and 63.44 tonnes to neighbouring countries through land borders.

MYANMAR shipped more than 100 tonnes of honey worth US\$0.15 million to foreign markets in April of the current financial year 2023-2024, according to the Apiculture Division under the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.

Myanmar exported 60.3 tonnes of honey to Thailand and 40.11 tonnes to Japan, totalling 100.41 tonnes.

Myanmar has delivered honey to China, the Republic of Korea, Japan, the US and Singapore. Myanmar's beekeeping businesses are mostly found in Sagaing Region, Man-

dalay Region, Magway Region and Shan State.

Myanmar produces sesame honey, jujube honey, niger honey, sunflower honey, lychee honey and flower honey. The harvest season of sesame honey begins in June.

Honey is utilized as traditional medicines in the country, while it also generates foreign income from exports.

There are some State-owned beekeeping stations with 6,200 beehives and about 820 private beekeeping businesses operating with nearly 200,000 beehives. Apiculture

and honey production businesses are primarily found in many township of Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions and Shan State.

Moreover, two million acres of crops are contributed to successfully thrive through bee pollination every year. This year, 11 per cent of sunflower acreages are designated for pollen sources.

Additionally, beekeeping businesses near the crop fields contribute to the successful yield of the crop as well as quality honey production.

Myanmar annually pro-

duces about 7,000 tonnes of honey, with a production capacity of 70 pounds per beehive. Approximately 2,600 tonnes of honey are conveyed to foreign markets every year. Myanmar's honey is priced at \$1,600 per tonne.

More than 1,900 tonnes of honey were shipped to external markets in the 2022-2023 FY (April-March), with an estimated value of over \$2.8 million. Myanmar exported 1,853.74 tonnes to foreign markets by sea and 63.44 tonnes to neighbouring countries via cross-border.—NN/EM

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Welcoming ceremony held for participants of XII ASEAN Paralympic Games



The documentary group photo of the Myanmar sports contingent at the welcoming event yesterday.

THE welcoming ceremony for the participating nations of the XII ASEAN Paralympic Games to be held in Cambodia from 3 to 9 June was held at Morodok Techo National Sports Complex in Phnom Penh, Cambodia yesterday morning.

First, Cambodian National Assembly Member Mr Hun Many gave a welcome speech.

Next, the national flags of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam were raised.

The host Cambodia and the representatives of the participating countries took group photos after exchanging commemorative gifts.

— MNA/KZL



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

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Announcement for local and foreign well-wishers to donate cash to cyclonic storm Mocha victims

1. AN announcement has been issued that well-wishers wishing to make donations for people who fell victim to the extremely severe cyclonic storm Mocha which hit Myanmar on 14-5-2023 can donate cash to Myanmar account OA-011834 and foreign account 1DA-0300086.

2. In this announcement, it is duly mentioned that our commitment to receiving donations extends to additional electronic payment systems and mobile payment systems.
3. It has been announced that donations can be made to the previously announced phone number and to the account that was opened, and since it can be confusing to donate with a phone number, we have already made it possible to donate with a QR code instead of the phone number.

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

5. People make donations through CB Pay, AYA Pay, OK \$ and UAB pay which are widely used to enhance convenience for donors. To donate, please scan the QR code and enter the code provided within it.

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



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

Manufacturing is crucial for MSMEs

THE MSME industry has four sectors namely manufacturing, trade, service and others. There will be no trade without manufacturing. There will be no services without trade. Therefore, manufacturing is crucial.

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

SAC Member DPM Union Minister views round progress of rehabilitation in Sittway Township

MEMBER of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San, together with Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin, inspected the Pyidawtha (Sittway)-Yay-

chanpyin railway section, universities in Sittway and No 10 Basic Education High School yesterday morning. At Pyidawtha (Sittway) Station, the Admiral heard reports on damage at railway stations, staff housings and



The Admiral views the schoolchildren learning basic education at No 10 BEHS in Thetkapyingon Village of Sittway Township yesterday.



The Deputy Prime Minister accepts cash and kind donations from well-wishers in Sittway yesterday.



Deputy Prime Minister Admiral Tin Aung San inspects the Pyidawtha (Sittway)-Yaychanpyin railway section in Sittway yesterday.

buildings of Myanmar Railways and the progress of rehabilitation along the Pyidawtha (Sittway)-Yaychanpyin railway section presented by the managing director of MR. The Admiral instructed officials to soonest repair damaged railway stations and landslides on the railway embankment, inspect strengthening of bridges affected by flooding, reerect damaged signboards, run the trains on time and repair seats for passengers at the railway stations. Pyidawtha (Sittway)-Yaychanpyin railway is 11.46 miles long, commissioned into service on 19 May 2009. An RBE runs twice a day for convenient travelling of students and passengers along the railway. At Technological University (Sittway), the Admiral asked about repairing lecture halls,

learning students and transport facilities. At No 10 BEHS in Thetkapyingon Village of Sittway Township, the Admiral asked about progress in repairing the classrooms and buildings, the number of classrooms in good condition and students, the ratio of students to teachers, and happy learning of students and fulfilled the needs. Moreover, the Admiral inspected the installation of 11 kV power cables in Sittway Station. At the University of Computer Studies (Sittway), the Admiral viewed round the learning of students, repairing of buildings and lecture halls. At the office of the Rakhine State government, Admiral Tin Aung San, Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and U Htein Lin accepted cash and foodstuffs

donated by well-wishers. At the ceremony, Asia Destiny Co Ltd donated K10 million, Shwe Yati Kyel Co Ltd K10 million, Aung Myin Myanmar Co Ltd K5 million, and Yangon Rescue Organization (YRO) 30 bags of rice and 100 bottles of cooking oil weighing 0.5 viss each. The Admiral attended the disaster rehabilitation meeting held at the Rakhine State government office together with Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, U Htein Lin and Lt-Gen Phone Myat. The Admiral gave instructions on prioritized distribution of rations to the storm-hit victims who actually need food, and time should not be wasted in loading and unloading the relief supplies and coordinated measures on undertaking rehabilitation with momentum and timely completion of all tasks. — MNA/TTA

72 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 2 June, total figure registers 639,052

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to 639,052 after 72 new cases were reported on 2 June 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of 10,666,023 laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 639,052. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 618,041 including 60 new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered 19,494 on 2-6-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. COVID-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health. — GNLM

Peace talks held between National Solidarity & Peacemaking Negotiation Committee and MNDAA, TNLA & AA for second day



The second-day peace talks between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee and MNDAA, TNLA and AA in progress yesterday.

THE National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee continued peace talks with representatives from MNDAA, TNLA and AA for the second day in Mongla of Shan State (East) yesterday.

It was attended by State Administration Council member Union Minister at the Government Office Chairman of National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Secretary Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein, work committee member Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo (Retd), Deputy Commander of Triangle Region Command Brig-Gen Tun Myat Shwe and departmental officials, representatives from Myanmar National Truth and Justice Party (MNTJP/MNDAA), Palaung State Liberation Front (PSLF/TNLA) and United League of Arakan (ULA/AA).

They continued negotiation on unfinished measures on the first day and they will meet again at an opportune time. — MNA/TTA

Union Constitutional Tribunal Member attends international paper-reading session in Seoul

AT the invitation of President Mr Namseok Yoo of the Constitutional Court of Korea, a delegation led by U Kyaw Min, a member of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, joined the fourth international paper-reading session with the title of Access to Justice: Constitutional Perspectives in Seoul of the Republic of Korea from 29 May to 1 June.

At the paper-reading session, the member of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union read his paper with the title of Constitutional Rights Ensuring Access to Justice, saying that the preamble of the Constitution (2008) mentions that we, the National people, firmly resolve

that we shall stalwartly strive for further burgeoning the eternal principles namely justice, liberty, equality and perpetuation of peace and prosperity of the National people. The Constitution clearly expresses equal rights in legal affairs and legal protection shall be granted for the people. Fundamental rights for the citizens are described in Chapter VIII of the Constitution. If people suffer a violation of these rights, they have a chance to apply for the Supreme Court of the Union with the writ. Moreover, the basic principles of the Union are mentioned in Chapter I of the Constitution, he explained.

Chairmen, chief justices



Member U Kyaw Min of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union joins the fourth international paper-reading session in Seoul, South Korea.

and legal experts from 16 countries among the Association of Asian Constitutional Courts and Equivalent Institutions: AACC and those from invited countries exchanged views on justice and fairness among AACC countries based on legal outlooks and judicial experiences of the Constitutional Tribunals.

The member of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union was accompanied by Assistant Director Dr May Hsu Hlaing. — MNA/TTA

MoE Deputy Minister attends Shanghai Forum on Poverty Reduction & Sustainable Development

DEPUTY Minister for Education Dr Zaw Myint accompanied by Deputy Permanent Secretary Dr Myo Min Tun attended the Shanghai Forum on Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development held in Yangling, Shaanxi Province, People's Republic of China from 29 to 31 May.

The opening ceremony of the forum was held on the morning of 29 May, and Ms Zhao Yide gave a welcome speech, and the representatives of the participating countries spoke at the opening.

In his opening remarks, the deputy minister thanked the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the China Rural



The Myanmar delegation headed by Deputy Minister Dr Zaw Myint pose for the documentary group photo at the event in China.

Development Foundation for their assistance in education for Myanmar and expressed his belief that rural development methods can be discussed and identified through this forum.

In the afternoon, the deputy minister and the delegation met Mr Zheng Wenkai, Chairman of the China Rural Development Foundation, separately discussed issues of cooperation in education and exchanged gifts.

The deputy minister attended the panel discussion held on the morning of 30 May and participated in the discussion on the topic of sustainable rural development.

In the afternoon, the deputy

ty minister and the delegation visited the Yangling Smart Agriculture Demonstration Park and toured the greenhouse planting and seedling production facilities, the Wangshang Model Agricultural Village and the Northwest A & F University's Tropical Water Conservation Research Center.

Then, the deputy minister and the delegation went to Yan'an City and observed the cultivation of apple varieties at the Luochuan National Apple Industrial Technology and Innovation Centre and the PV anti-poverty mushroom and sweet potato cultivation project with the TOP Fruit Technology Company. — MNA/KZL

Union Information Minister pays obeisance to Alotawpyae Sayadaw, meets with literati, enjoys fundraising concert



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn, Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Zaw Hein, dignitaries and audience watch the fundraising concert for the Mocha-hit people, yesterday in Yangon.

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn paid obeisance to Alotawpyae Sayadaw at his 79th birthday ceremony and met with literati from the National Literature Award Selection Committee and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Selection Committee yesterday.

In the evening, the Union minister enjoyed the fundraising concert for the people affected by Mocha.

After paying homage to Alotawpyae Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Ariya Vamsa at Aungmyay Bodhi Dhamma Yeiktha Alotawpyae Monastery in Tamway town-

ship, the Union minister supplicated progress in rehabilitation in the Mocha-hit areas and donated cash to the fund for birthday ceremony.

After that, the Union minister met with literati from the National Literature Award Selection Committee and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Selection Committee at the Printing and Publishing Department on Theinbyu Road in Yangon.

During the meeting, the Union minister called for not leaving any books published in 2022 for the selection of the awards. He urged those literati to help im-

prove literature and the youth sector through literature and write books for the purpose of youths to have correct thought and knowledge.

Then, the director-general of the Printing and Publishing Department reported on activities related to literary award selection and selection.

After that, Chairman U Sein Hlaing (Thura Zaw) of the National Literary Award Selection Committee, Chairman U Ohn Maung (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe) of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Selection Committee and participants discussed the selec-

tion for the awards.

In the evening, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn along with Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Zaw Hein and officials enjoyed the fundraising concert for the people affected by Cyclone Mocha at the National Theatre in Dagon Township, Yangon Region.

The entertainment programme started at 6:00 pm with a welcome tune from the Myanmar Drama Association and continued with a preliminary opening tune.

Film artistes, vocalists and comedians presented songs and

dances as well as jokes. At the fundraising concert, the people who desire for good deeds make donations.

Near the entrance to the theatre, books on the history of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization and the dictums of great historical film directors are displayed and sold. The visitors bought the books and contributed cash to the fund for the people affected by the Cyclone.

The fundraising concert will continue until 4 June, and artistes will be performing with great enthusiasm. —MNA/TS/KZL

914,171 students study peacefully in 3,262 schools in Yangon Region

BASIC education schools across the country have been open since 1 June for the 2023-2024 academic year, and a total of 914,171 students are studying at 3,262 schools in Yangon Region.

Students have been attending their classes since 1 June at 2,749 primary, middle, and high schools, 230 monastic schools, and 283 private primary, middle, and high schools in Yangon



Schoolchildren are seen going to schools in Yangon yesterday.



Students are learning basic education in one classroom of the school in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO : KANU

Region.

On the opening day of basic education schools, ministers of the Yangon government, the Yangon Region education officer, officials from the Basic Education Department, and departmental officials met the students starting their edu-

cation at the basic education schools and government technical high schools in the 2023-2024 academic year and fulfilled the requirements.

An increasing number of students attend schools this year compared to the last academic year due to the cooper-

ation of students and parents in the implementation of the reform of the education sector by the state. This academic year, 990,629 students enrolled, and 914,171 of them are studying peacefully at 3,262 schools in Yangon Region. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/CT

Tatmadaw (Air) transports relief materials to Mocha-hit regions



Rice bags are seen being loaded aboard the Tatmadaw aircraft to transport them to Mocha-battered areas yesterday.

THE Tatmadaw has sent a group of aid and relief teams to areas affected by natural disasters and is carrying out the necessary aid and relief operations.

Food and relief items donated by Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, and Air) families and generous donors, as well as items provided by the National Disaster Management Committee, are being transported by military plane, helicopter, and ship.

Tatmadaw aircraft transported 4,364 tonnes of relief materials, including uniforms and books, for schools in disaster-affected areas from Yangon's Mingaladon Airport to Sittway Airport.

The planes also transported 320 sacks of rice totalling 16 tonnes donated by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement to Mandalay International Airport via Kalay Airport.

Relief materials are delivered in a timely manner by planes, and helicopters of the Tatmadaw (Air), and as of yesterday, 447.2 tonnes of relief materials plus 3,097 military and departmental personnel who will assist in the rehabilitation work were successfully delivered.

Relief materials arriving at the airports are being sent and distributed by helicopters to the storm-affected areas, and officials are receiving the materials in a timely manner.

— MNA/KZL

Officials sell essential food items at fairer prices in Mocha-hit areas

MEMBERS of the local battalions under the Western Command and officials are selling essential foodstuffs at lower prices for the convenience of residents and departmental staff affected by Cyclone Mocha in Sittway to enable them to buy foodstuffs at fairer prices.

Foodstuffs such as edible oil, meat, salt, fish, egg, rice, dairy products, vegetables, and products of Tatmadaw factories and MEC such as instant noodles, biscuits and canned food in addition to the foodstuffs, electronic devices and construction materials of private businessmen were sold at lower prices than the market price at U Ottama Park in Sittway yesterday.

Locals and families of the departmental staff enjoyed buying foodstuffs and expressed thanks to officials for selling them at low prices during difficult times. — MNA/KZW



Sittway locals are pictured buying foodstuffs at fairer prices yesterday.

Senior Tatmadaw officers, officials assist in rehabilitation work in Rakhine State

UNDER Section 11 of the Natural Disaster Management Law, the State Administration Council declared the areas damaged by Cyclone Mocha as areas affected by natural disasters and appointed senior military officers to carry out rehabilitation activities in the areas mentioned in the announcement.

Lt-Gen Min Naing, currently in Haka City in Chin State along with officials inspected medical care processes at Haka General Hospital and provided foodstuffs to the patients.

And, Lt-Gen Lu Aye, currently in Kyaukpyu Township, along with officials inspected the schools and cyclone shelters in Kyaukpyu Township.

Similarly, Lt-Gen Aye Win, currently in Buthidaung Township along with officials, attended a coordination meeting to carry out rehabilitation activities for damage in the storm at the meeting hall of the General Administration Department in Buthidaung Township.

Then, Brig-Gen Aung Kyaw Moe, currently in Sittway City, met departmental officials at the meeting hall of the District General Administration Department yesterday morning.



Lt-Gen Min Naing provides foodstuffs for patients in Haka General Hospital yesterday.

He and officials inspected the lumbar allocation for Sittway township, which was distributed by the township-level officials to the ward administrators for systematic distribution to village administrators. Finally, Brig-Gen Aung Thu Oo and officials inspected the Hman Kyaung monastery in Kyauktaw and donated rice to members of the Sangha. — MNA/KZW

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CRIME NEWS

PDF terrorists detonate
BEHS Branch in Tiddim
with handmade mine

THE government is making strenuous efforts to improve the education sector for the new generation of children, who are the future of the country, and to ensure that they have full access to educational opportunities, and schools have been open since 1 June.

However, PDF terrorists under the NUG and CRPH terrorist groups are committing terrorist acts in various ways with the aim of destroying education opportunities for future children, creating an uneducated class and supporting them through fear.

The terrorists detonated two handmade remote mines near the school entrance to scare the children who were peacefully studying at the Basic Education High School (branch) (Myoma) in Tiddim.

There were no causality or damage to the school found.

The school has teachers and students totalling 170 people.

The security forces are working together with the public to arrest and identify those who detonated the mines to protect schoolchildren for their peaceful learning. — MNA/KZL



The photo shows the location site where two handmade mines exploded near the BEHS (Myoma) in Tiddim.



The injured is undergoing treatment at Mawlamyine General Hospital.

KNLA, PDF terrorists attack Kya-in-Seikkyi
with weapons, casualties found

ONE monk and three innocent civilians were killed and three injured when pro-terrorists from the 6th Brigade of KNLA and PDF terrorists attacked the district police office in Kya-in-Seikkyi, Kayin State yesterday morning with weapons and threw bombs.

The terrorists came from a

neighbourhood about 200 metres southeast of the district police headquarters and attacked with heavy weapons and dropped bombs. Due to the attack, one monk from Zaytawun Monastery in that neighbourhood and three innocent people were killed, and three others were injured, and they were sent to the Mawlamy-

ine General Hospital.

The security forces are continuing to carry out the necessary security operations to arrest and punish the terrorists who attacked innocent civilians with weapons and dropped bombs and to ensure peace and stability in the area. —MNA/KZL

Illegal timbers, consumer goods, industrial materials, foodstuffs and vehicles seized

AN on-duty team at the Mongpyin combined checkpoint confiscated four kinds of goods (worth K1.07 million) including 15 cartons of Fresh Grape, the goods (worth K2.02 million) including 380 bottles of Baby Cinta fine talcum powder and five sets of Aizhuo 2 bed sheets (worth K1.2 million) without official documents from a Toyota HiAce vehicle (worth K35 million) on Tachileik-Kengtung- Taunggyi route on 30 May. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

In addition, an on-duty team at the Mongpyin combined checkpoint captured two kinds of goods (worth K580,000) including 288 kilogrammes of Fresh Longan, 240 bottles of Vaseline (worth K1.44 million), 10,000 Taiyo lighters (worth K500,000) and four kinds of goods (worth K1 million) including 720 bottles of Eifel tower tomato sauce from a Toyota Hiace auto (approximately K30 million), seven kinds of goods (worth K3,600,600) including 2,232 bottles of Coca-Cola without official documents from a Toyota HiAce vehicle (approximately K35 million) on Tachileik-Kengtung- Taunggyi route and 10 kinds

of goods (worth K711,000) including 360 bottles of Magic fam glass jelly in syrup without official documents from a Toyota Succeed vehicle (approximately K25 million) on Tachileik- Kengtung-Taunggyi route on the same day. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Similarly, an on-duty team at the Mongpyin combined checkpoint seized two kinds of goods (worth K420,000) including 30 packages of Samyang hot chicken flavour Ramen without official documents from a Toyota Probox car (estimated value of K18 million), two kinds of goods (worth K660,000) including 1,152 packages of Yum Yum Instant dried noodles without official documents from a Toyota Probox car (estimated value of K20 million) and four kinds of goods (worth K2,984,000) including 540 bottles of Coca-Cola without official documents from a Toyota HiAce vehicle (approximately K32 million), three kinds of goods (worth K1.536 million) including 108 pairs of ADDA Foam Slipper child and five kinds of goods (worth K3.76 million) including 8,400 boxes of Lacasoy soy milk without official documents from a Toyota

HiAce car (approximately K30 million) on Tachileik-Kengtung- Taunggyi route on the same day. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Afterwards, the on-duty team nabbed five kinds of goods (worth K1.75 million) including 1360 bags of Samyang hot chicken flavour ramen and two kinds of goods (worth K2.24 million) including 280 towels without official documents from a King lond mini bus (estimated value of K28 million), three kinds of goods (worth K1.976 million) including 216 bags of Fa Thai concentrated noodle soup and 44 kilogrammes of 801 corn seeds (worth K330,000) without official documents from a Dagon Tawwin microbus (estimated value of 23 million), six kinds of goods (worth K5.155 million) including 800 kilogrammes of Tempura Flour without official documents from a Toyota HiAce minibus (estimated value of K38 million) on the same day. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The combined team captured two kinds of goods (worth K1,891,200) including 1,872 boxes of Kitty Boy Fruity cream

cones and three kinds of goods (worth K2,652,900) including 10 cartons of BSC detergent without official documents from a Toyota Hiace microbus (approximately K42 million), two kinds of goods (worth K4.68 million) including 360 bottles of Vaseline Gluta Glow lotion, two kinds of goods (worth K3.163 million) including 80 Fresh Floral foams and six kinds of goods (worth K3.163 million) including 120 bottles of Sprite lemon-lime flavour without official documents from a Toyota HiAce mini bus (estimated value of K40 million) on the same day. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The on-duty team captured 264 bottles of Duckhams top-quality motor oil (worth K600,000), 13 kinds of goods (worth K3.596 million) including 1,584 bags of vermicelli without official documents from a Jinbe mini bus (approximately K28 million) on the same day. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Therefore, 40 arrests (estimated value of K475,755,700) were made on 30 May, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

OPINION

Mark the celebration of World Bicycle Day

HEALTH is the wealth of nature. Everybody needs to walk on a daily basis for the improvement of their health conditions as walking moves all nerves of the body to operate the regular circulation of blood. As such, regular physical movements are sure to improve health conditions.

Safe infrastructure for walking and cycling is also a pathway for achieving greater health equity. Hence, everybody needs to take physical exercises such as walking, cycling or taking practices of any sports. At all ages, the benefits of being physically active outweigh potential harm, for example through accidents. It is necessary to take special care of physical exercises. Hence, people should take cycling due to its many advantages. Such a healthy move will improve the health of cyclists and all associates.

In Myanmar, cycling is a favourite sport among the people. The family which owns a bicycle can easily solve the short-ranged trips as buses running along the cities are unbalanced with the number of passengers. Riding a bicycle can reduce the emission of carbon as a conservation of the environment through the use of e-bikes, easing transport problems, cutting important time and cost and reducing traffic congestion. Hence, all Myanmar people should use bicycles for shaping a healthy society.

Currently, global countries are facing problems with a shortage of fuel. Moreover, they are under the burden of high prices of fuel. Although fuel-exporter countries are wealthy, consumer countries are suffering financial crises based on the expense of fuel. To be able to solve such a problem, global countries need to turn to a smokeless transport facility called cycling to do their daily routine.

In Myanmar, cycling is a favourite sport among the people. The family which owns a bicycle can easily solve the short-ranged trips as buses running along the cities are unbalanced with the number of passengers. Riding a bicycle can reduce the emission of carbon as a conservation of the environment through the use of e-bikes, easing transport problems, cutting important time and cost and reducing traffic congestion. Hence, all Myanmar people should use bicycles for shaping a healthy society.

THE 10th of May 2023 was the 45th anniversary of the passing of scholar Dr Htin Aung (18 May 1909-10 May 1978). Among many others, Dr Htin Aung was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Rangoon and he had about ten earned University degrees from distinguished Universities abroad.

‘A Conversation with Princess Learned in the Law’ and the People’s Judicial System (of August 1972 to September 1988)

The youngest of the four brothers from a distinguished family who were all Barristers from the Inns of Court of the United Kingdom the fourth brother Dr Htin Aung also had many degrees in law.

In the 28 and 29 March 1974 issues of *The Working People’s Daily* (WPD) Dr Htin Aung published an article in two parts ‘A Conversation with Princess-Learned-in-the-Law’ Parts I and Part II (hereafter WPD article). In all other published articles and books Dr Htin Aung simply used in his by-lines ‘Maung (Mg) Htin Aung’. But in the above article published the byline reads ‘Mg Htin Aung, LL.M. (London), LL.B. (Cambridge), B.C.L (Oxford), LL.D. (Dublin), Barrister-at-Law’. The mention of all of his degrees (albeit only in the law field), one submits, was deliberate and with intended irony. Implementing the imprimatur of the then paramount leader U Ne Win (6 July 1910-5 December 2002) then Judicial Minister Dr Maung Maung (31 January 1925-2 July 1994) put into effect the so-called ‘People’s judicial system’ starting on 7 August 1972 where almost all of the professional judges with the exception of the apex court were sacked and ‘people’s judges’ were appointed. Dr Htin Aung stated in Part I of the above article that *less than 10%* (emphasis in original)

of the People’s Judges had legal qualifications. This writer would add that an overwhelming majority of the people’s judges were mainly cadres from the sole ruling Burma Socialist Programme Party. Dr Htin Aung mentioning all his law degrees in the by-line is an ironic slide to the stifling, total political control of the judiciary at the time ‘People’s judicial system’ was published.

When I met Sayagyi Dr Htin Aung in 1974 I enquired what the acronym of ‘B.C.L.’ meant. Dr Htin Aung replied that it meant ‘Bachelor of Civil Laws’ and it covered mainly Roman laws and that he was the only person in Burma who had a Bachelor of Civil Law degree.

Aspiring to specialize in history but initially specializing in English and Comparative Literature

Dr Htin Aung had initially wanted to specialize in (Burmese) history but then the young student Maung Htin Aung in the mid-1920s at Rangoon University disagreed- and apparently even made fun of the colonialist slant of the then new history Lecturer D. G. E Hall (17 November 1891-12 October 1979) on aspects of pre-colonial Burmese history. So Maung Htin Aung, in order to avoid a possible clash (so to speak) with Hall, decided to specialise for his honours and post-graduate studies in literature (comparative Burmese and English literature). Indeed, one of his early doctorates from the University of Dublin



Dr Htin Aung was appointed Ambassador to Sri Lanka from 1959 to 1962. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ WIKIPEDIA/FILE

deals with comparative Elizabethan and mainly 19th-century Burmese drama and parts of his doctoral thesis were published as *Burmese Drama* (first published in 1937, republished in 1957 by Oxford University Press).

Anthropological study of Folk Elements in Burmese Buddhism and debunking the ‘conceit’ that the Ari monks were ‘super-villains’

Sayagyi Dr Htin Aung’s *Folk Elements in Burmese Buddhism* (1962) can be designated as an anthropological study of the subject. As early as the mid-1950s Dr Htin Aung had pointed out that the *Ari* monks in the Pagan (Bagan) era

were (to put it blandly) not as bad as the Burmese chronicles stated that they were.

In the latter part of his academic career starting from the early 1960s Dr Htin Aung focussed most of his research work and scholarly publications, in his own words, to scrap ‘the slime of slander and mud of misrepresentation from the ruby stone of Burmese history’ (WPD article, 28 March 1974). Still, perhaps centuries before the British colonialist historians ‘muddled misrepresentation’ of ‘the ruby stone of Burmese history’ it was mainly if not exclusively the Burmese historians or chroniclers who had ‘muddled’ the *Ari* monks.

And he also published another two-part article in 26 and 27 (or 27 and 28) September 1974 issues of the WPD titled ‘A libellous myth against the Burmese chronicles’ where the last sentence of the article (from my recollection) was ‘... there are but a few holes, in the libellous curtain of myths against the Burmese chronicles and when I am dead there will be none for though my books remain dust-covered and forgotten in library shelves, edition after edition of Shwe Yoe (pseudonym for Sir James Scott), (DGE) Hall and (GE) Harvey would come out and they would cover up the holes’.

Shwe Yoe/Shway Yoe (25 December 1861-4 April 1935) wrote *The Burman: His Life and Notions*, first published in 1882 was republished several times. *History of Burma from the Earliest Times to 10 March 1824 the beginning of the British Conquest* by G E Harvey (1889-1965) was first published in 1925 and was republished, perhaps with revisions- as recently as 2019. A search on the internet reveals that none of the following books by Dr Htin Aung concerning Burmese history was republished: *A History of Burma* (Columbia University Press, 1967), *Burmese history before 1287: A defence of the chronicles* (Asoka Society, Oxford 1970) *Lord Randolph Churchill and the dancing peacock, British conquest of Burma 1885* (Manohar publications, India, 1990). The last book was published posthumously more than 11 years after Dr Htin Aung’s demise.

Sayagyi Dr Htin Aung as a humanities scholar and as a historian

By Dr Myint Zan

‘In my own right as a historian’ versus ‘He was no historian’

A year or two after the above article in March 1974 WPD Dr Htin Aung, in another article in the WPD, wrote the phrase ‘in my own right as a historian’. Fast forward about 25 years into the future. This writer has heard (so it is emphasized that it is hearsay) through the late U Thet Tun former Burmese Ambassador to France that in a seminar held in Yangon apparently in the late 1990s a foreign scholar asked the late (historian) Dr Than Tun (6 April 1923-30 November 2005) ‘What do you think of Dr Htin Aung as a historian? Dr Than Tun replied ‘He was no historian!’

In this writer’s humble opinion, Sayagyi Dr Than Tun probably had the advantage of doing extensive historical fieldwork for a few decades whereas Sayagyi Dr Htin Aung did not have the full opportunity to do so. Dr Htin Aung wrote most of his books on Burmese history when he was abroad in the early to late 1960s as a visiting scholar at Universities in the United States and the United Kingdom. Dr Than Tun eschewed references to the chronicles to a very large extent and his primary sources were contemporaneous stone inscriptions. Dr Than Tun also stated to the effect that historians should not be too much influenced by ‘nationalism’. These factors might have been the reasons for Dr Than Tun’s apparent and blunt statement that his elder

colleague was ‘no historian’.

In a different discipline, this writer is reminded of another story (not apocryphal but actual) narrated by the late Martin Gardner in his book *The Whys of a Philosopher Scrivener*. Gardner wrote that in 1980 he saw on Cable News Network (CNN) an interview conducted by the late Larry King interviewing the late right-wing economist Milton Friedman. Friedman told Larry King to the effect that ‘economists agree on basic things and their disagreements, if any, are minor’. Gardner reported that an astonished Larry King asked Friedman ‘Do you mean to say that you (Friedman) and (liberal economist) John Kenneth Galbraith (15 October 1908-29 April 2006) has no differences?’. Replied Friedman ‘Oh I thought you were talking about economists’.

From economists to historians, some scholars may have fixed views as to who or what tenets should the economists or historians adhere to or what methodology they should adopt in researching, writing about and espousing their views and assertions related to their disciplines.

Dr Htin Aung’s last days and my unpublished tribute

After his return to Burma from a long stay abroad from 1959 to 1972 Dr Htin Aung semi-regularly contributed his articles to *The Working People’s Daily*. He also contributed articles to the now defunct *Journal of Burma Research Society* (The then

paramount leader U Ne Win, in December 1980, ordered both the Society and the Journal to ‘close shop’ stating that they were ‘colonial creations’. Dr Htin Aung was, in his own way, an anti-colonialist. What would he have said to U Ne Win’s reason for disbanding the Burma Research Society and closing the Journal?)

In May 1978 Dr Htin Aung was about to leave for (then) West Germany to attend a conference when he suddenly passed away.

The widow of Dr Htin Aung the late Daw Tin Hla told me that when she tried to insert a paid obituary notice of *Sithu* Dr Htin Aung in *The Guardian* she learned that an editorial board meeting was convened to consider whether or not to publish the paid obituary notice before being allowed to be published!

Forty-five years ago, in May 1978, after I learned of Sayagyi’s demise I sent my hand-written tribute to *The Guardian* (Rangoon) newspaper. In paraphrasing Dr Htin Aung’s own tribute to ‘my lord Kanaung’ (Crown Prince Kanaung, 31 January 1820-2 August 1866), who was assassinated, I wrote that Sayagyi’s death likewise left us ‘bereaved and bereft’. It was not published. In retrospect I should have sent it to the WPD for Dr Htin Aung published the bulk (if not all) of his journalistic articles in the WPD. A few weeks later the ‘Third brother’, Dr Htin Aung’s elder brother former Chief Justice U Myint Thein (22 February 1900-3 October 1994) wrote to me: ‘Your article on your Saya Htin Aung did not, as you have written, “saw the light of day”’.

Through this belated tribute, I paid my respects to Saya Htin Aung’s memory and commemorate his achievements and contributions.

Study examines connection between healthy living and osteoarthritis mortality

The researchers gave each person a score for their lifestyle, based on their body mass index (BMI) and self-reported diet, sleep duration, physical activity, sedentary time, social connection, smoking, and alcohol drinking - all factors thought to be associated with health.

THIS study examined the relationship between individual and combination healthy lifestyle characteristics and the risk of all-cause and cause-specific death among 104,142 osteoarthritis patients using data from the UK

Biobank. The researchers gave each person a score for their lifestyle, based on their body mass index (BMI) and self-reported diet, sleep duration, physical activity, sedentary time, social connection, smoking, and alcohol drinking - all

factors thought to be associated with health.

Overall, there were 9,915 deaths recorded after the first two years’ follow-up. Models showed a variety of associations between people’s lifestyle and mortality.

Sleep duration had a U-shaped relationship, whilst moderate physical activity was L-shaped, and BMI and vigorous activity were J-shaped - a trend that starts with a sharp drop and is followed by a dramatic rise. For sleep, the ideal

seems to be seven hours a night, whilst the turning point for moderate physical activity was 550 minutes per week, and 240 minutes per week for vigorous physical activity. The J-shaped turning point for BMI was 28 kg/m2.

In multivariable models, each lifestyle factor was significantly associated with all-cause mortality, as well as mortality associated with cancer, cardiovascular, digestive, and respiratory diseases.

SOURCE: ANI



This study examined the relationship between individual and combination healthy lifestyle characteristics and the risk of all-cause and cause-specific death among 104,142 osteoarthritis patients using data from the UK Biobank. PHOTO: ANI

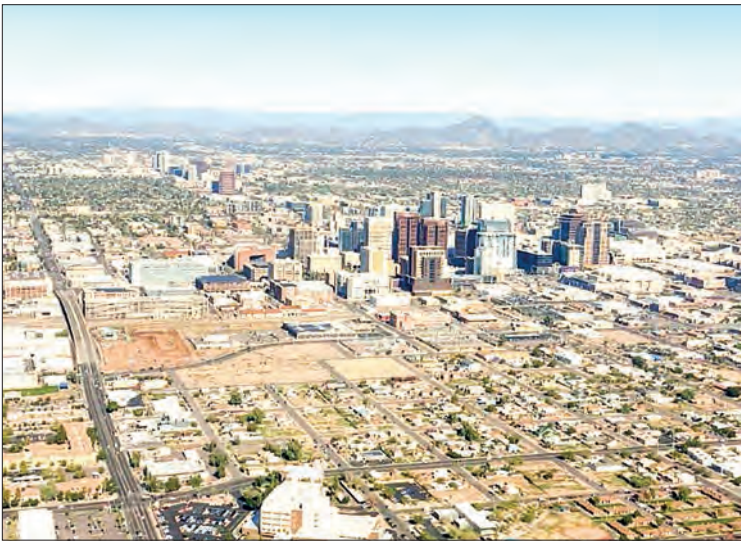
SCI/ENVIRON
WORLD

Arizona limits building as groundwater dries up

NEW houses that rely on dwindling groundwater supplies around one of the United States' biggest cities are to be banned, officials said Thursday, in a sign of the strains that drought and climate change are causing across the US west.

Water managers in Arizona say there is a significant shortfall in the Phoenix area, and that any more development in the fast-growing city must rely on other sources of water -- such as under-strain rivers.

"Over a period of 100 years, the Phoenix (area) will experience 4.86 million acre-feet of



Aerial view of arid downtown Phoenix, Arizona in January 2020.
PHOTO: AFP

unmet demand for groundwater supplies," the Arizona Department of Water Resources said.

An acre-foot is the amount of water it takes to cover an acre with a foot of water -- around 326,000 gallons (1.23 million litres) -- and is equivalent to around half an Olympic-size swimming pool.

"The term 'unmet demand' refers to the amount of groundwater usage that is simulated to remain unfulfilled as a result of wells running dry."

The western United States is in the grip of a more-than two-decade drought and a long-term

aridification, which scientists say is being exacerbated by human-caused climate change.

Major rivers that cross the region, among them the Colorado River, have long been over-exploited, with far more water removed every year than falls as rain or snow.

This has led to shrinking reservoirs, including the enormous Lake Mead, which last year dropped to just a quarter of its capacity, threatening "deadpool" -- the point where the river downstream dries up and hydroelectric power production ceases. -- AFP

'Swimming in plastic': Greek fishermen fight pollution



Volunteers collect ghost nets under the water during a clean-up operation. PHOTO: AFP

THE fish market of Keratsini, west of Athens, is abuzz in the early morning, with trawlers disgorging crates of sardines and anchovies as trucks await nearby to be loaded.

But on his family's fishing boat, Lefteris Arapakis sorts out a different sort of haul -- bottles, boots, plastic pipes and fishing nets, all dragged from the bed of the Aegean Sea.

"We are swimming in plastic," said Arapakis, whose family has fished for five generations.

By 2050 "there will be more plastic than fish" in the sea, he warned, quoting recent reports.

That morning's plastic catch "weighs about 100 kilos (220 pounds)," said the 29-year-old economist and co-founder of Enaleia, an NGO that encourages fishermen to collect marine litter caught in their nets.

Since its creation in 2018, it has worked with more than 1,200 fishermen in Greece to raise awareness over the degradation of the maritime environment.

The seabed litter does not come only from Greece but from all over the Mediterranean, moving with the sea currents. --AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boeing's first crewed space launch delayed, again

BOEING has once again delayed the first crewed flight of its Starliner space capsule after discovering new technical issues, officials said Thursday.

The troubled CST-100 Starliner programme has experienced numerous postponements but was finally meant to send humans on a test flight to the International Space Station on 21 July.

During testing, Boeing engineers identified new issues relating to a faulty parachute system and wire harness tape used extensively through the capsule that was found to be flammable under some conditions. --AFP

Once hostile, NASA holds first public meeting on UFOs

SCIENTISTS at NASA's first ever public meeting on "unidentified anomalous phenomena" -- more commonly called UFOs -- called Wednesday for a more rigorous scientific approach to clarify the origin of hundreds of mysterious sightings. The space agency announced last year it was analyzing observations in the sky that can't be identified as aerial or natural phenomena -- a subject that has long fascinated the public but was shunned by mainstream science. --AFP

Pacific ire at Australia's backing for fossil fuels

PACIFIC Islands expressed dismay on Thursday at Australia's subsidies for fossil fuels, flagging climate concerns as a point of friction between the neighbouring nations.

Two Pacific ministers appeared in a joint livestream to condemn Australia's long and continuing enthusiasm for coal and gas projects.

Vanuatu's Climate Change Minister Ralph Regenvanu wel-

comed Australia's pledge last year to transition towards renewable energy but said it must stop funding climate-damaging projects.

"We are very disappointed to see that Australia continues to subsidise fossil fuel projects," Regenvanu told The Australia Institute, a Canberra-based think tank.

"We need money in the renewable energy sector. That's

where the future of our economies and our societies lies -- not in the fossil fuel industry."

Regenvanu questioned why Canberra continues to pump "billions of dollars into the fossil fuel industry, which we in the Pacific have agreed, including Australia, is the greatest threat to our security". Vanuatu is a small archipelago and, like many Pacific Island nations, is threatened by rising sea levels. --AFP



Young Pacific activists gathered at the University of the South Pacific Lower Campus in Suva today, calling on world leaders to support climate justice on 9 July 2022. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ AFP/FILE

HEALTH/WELLNESS: WORLD

Japan’s fertility rate drops for 7th straight year in 2022



The fertility rate in Japan had recovered to 1.45 in 2015, but has been on a downward trend since 2016. **PHOTO: KYODO**

THE total fertility rate in Japan dropped for the seventh straight year in 2022, government data showed Friday, as the country continues to struggle with a rapidly declining birthrate.

The number of babies born in Japan last year also fell for the seventh consecutive year,

dropping below 800,000 for the first time since records began in 1899 to 770,747, down 40,875 from the previous year, according to data released by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

The total fertility rate — the average number of children a woman is estimated to bear

in her lifetime-- fell to 1.26, on par with the record low in 2005. The decline is believed to have been exacerbated by people delaying having a child due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The data comes a day after Prime Minister Fumio Kishida released a draft plan to boost “unparalleled” child-rearing support, although the announcement has raised questions about its effectiveness in turning around the falling birthrate.

The fertility rate in Japan had recovered to 1.45 in 2015, but has been on a downward trend since 2016.

By prefecture, Okinawa in southern Japan had the highest rate at 1.70, followed by Miyazaki and Tottori prefectures at 1.63 and 1.60, respectively.

Tokyo recorded the lowest rate at 1.04, while Miyagi Prefecture logged 1.09 and Hokkaido registered 1.12. — Kyodo

Student’s poor eating habits may lead to lifetime of illness



Unhealthy diets have been strongly linked to the development of numerous chronic diseases. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ COMTEMPORARY HEALTH/ANI**

A UBC Okanagan researcher warns that bad eating habits developed during post-secondary study might lead to future health problems including obesity, respiratory ailments, and depression.

Joan Bottorff, a professor with UBCO’s School of Nursing, is one of several international researchers who published a multi-site study looking at the

eating habits of university students.

Almost 12,000 medical students from 31 universities in China participated in the study that aimed to determine the association between eating behaviours, obesity and various diseases. The point, says Bottorff, is that many poor eating habits begin at university and can continue for decades.

“We know many students consume high-calorie meals along with sugary foods and drinks and there is lots of evidence to show those kinds of eating behaviours can lead to obesity,” says Bottorff. “These are not the only habits that lead to obesity, but they are important and can’t be ruled out.”

The study, published recently in Preventive Medicine Reports, was led by Shihui Peng with the School of Medicine at China’s Jinan University.

While there is well-established research that links unhealthy diets to many chronic diseases, this study aimed to show a relationship between poor eating habits and infectious diseases including colds and diarrhea.

Bottorff notes, due to the nature of the study, it was not possible to show cause and effect but the relationship between poor eating habits, obesity and respiratory illnesses were well supported. — ANI

Non-profit programme helps children guard against sex abuse

WHEN Chu Fengling raised a particular question in front of a roomful of giggling second-graders, the whole class fell silent.

“What would you do if someone wanted to hug you, kiss you, or even touch your private parts?” Chu asked while giving a public lecture in Chengguan No 6 Primary School in Pingluo County, northwest China’s Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

A few seconds later, answers emerged one after another: “Run away.” “Shout for help.” “Call the police.”

Chu praised the students’ answers but warned that if there was no one around when the assault occurred, their screams would not only be inaudible but would also irritate

the abuser. “If there is no one around, you should stay calm and think of excuses to help you escape. If you really can’t escape, quietly remember the appearance of the bad guy,” she added.

Chu, 41, is a volunteer lecturer for Girls’ Protection, a non-profit programme under the Beijing All In One Foundation. Founded in 2013, the programme was established to raise children’s awareness of self-protection and guard them against sexual assault.

In China, discussions about sex are still considered taboo by many. Chinese parents are reluctant to talk to their children about sex-related topics, leaving children uninformed and more vulnerable to sexual abuse. — Xinhua



Ms Chu is a volunteer who helps children learn about how to stay safe and protect themselves from sexual assault. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Canada to require warning labels on individual cigarettes

CANADA will soon require that health warnings be printed on individual cigarettes and cigars in a further crackdown on smoking, the country’s addictions minister announced Wednesday.

The messaging, to be phased in starting 1 August, will include lines such as “Poison in every puff,” “Tobacco smoke harms children” and “Cigarettes cause cancer”.

Addictions Minister Carolyn Bennett said tobacco use continues to kill 48,000 Canadians each year. The new labelling rule is a world first, she said, although Britain has flirted with a similar regulation.

“This bold step will make health warning messages virtually unavoidable and, together with updated graphic images displayed on the package, will provide a real and startling reminder of the health consequences of smoking,” Bennett said. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Foreigner hotel stays in Japan top 10 mln for 1st time in 3 years

THE total number of overnight stays by foreigners at hotels and other accommodation facilities in Japan topped 10 million in April for the first time since January 2020, government data showed Wednesday, buoyed by a weaker yen and increased international flights. The figure rose 19.5-fold from a year before to 10.38 million, equivalent to 92.0 per cent of the total in April 2019 before the coronavirus outbreak, according to the preliminary data released by the Japan Tourism Agency.

Even in 2019, when a record-high number of foreigners visited the country, the monthly total of guest nights by foreigners eclipsed the 10 million mark only three times.

As for Japanese guests, the April figure climbed to 37.24 million, up 12.5 per cent from a year



Foreign visitors take a picture of world heritage site Mt. Fuji (back) and a five-story pagoda in Arakurayama Sengen Park in Fujiyoshida. **PHOTO: KYODO**

earlier but down 5.6 per cent from the pre-pandemic year of 2019, the data showed.

The cumulative total of overnight stays by foreign and Japanese guests at hotels and inns in April stood at 47.63 million, up 41.6 per cent from a year earlier but down 6.1 per cent from April 2019. The tourism industry is regaining ground since the country lifted its pandemic-prompted ban on individual, non-prearranged trips last October.

The figure is likely to increase more in the coming months as Japan lifted its COVID-19 border controls for all arrivals on 29 April, meaning entrants are no longer required to present certification of at least three coronavirus vaccinations or a negative coronavirus test taken within 72 hours of departure. — Kyodo

India records strong 7.2% annual growth

INDIA'S GDP grew by 7.2 per cent in the year to March, official figures showed Wednesday, boosted by services and consumption, putting it among the world's fastest-expanding

major economies.

The South Asian nation is the world's fifth-largest economy, and recently surpassed China to become the most populous country.

Its growth has rebounded since the pandemic — the economy rocketed 9.1 per cent in the 2021-22 financial year.

But like other countries, it has been buffeted by global headwinds including tightening global financial conditions, the war in Ukraine and geopolitical tensions.

India imports more than 80 per cent of its crude, with Russia's invasion of Ukraine driving up oil costs.

But its economy grew by 6.1 per cent in the fourth fiscal quarter from January to March compared with the same period last year, according to National Statistical Office data. —AFP



IT Support Centre in India. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ AFP/FILE**

'No victory yet', ECB says as inflation slows in key countries

FALLING inflation in top eurozone economies is "positive" news, a senior European Central Bank official said Wednesday, while warning that the battle against high prices was not over yet.

In Europe's biggest economy Germany, inflation slowed to 6.1 per cent year-on-year in May, preliminary data showed, down from 7.2 per cent in April.

The drop, which was bigger than analysts had expected, was mostly due to declining energy costs, federal statistics office Destatis said.

The picture was similar in

neighbouring France where consumer price growth slowed to 5.1 per cent in May, down from 5.9 per cent a month earlier.

"The data that we have received yesterday and today is positive, it's a decline in headline inflation," ECB vice-president Luis de Guindos told reporters.

"But I would not say that the victory is there," he said.

"We are on a correct trajectory and we have to look very carefully at the evolution of core inflation" which excludes volatile food and energy prices, he added. —AFP

US consumer confidence slips on job concerns: survey

US consumer confidence slipped again in May, dragged down by a decline in how people perceive the job market, says a survey released Tuesday.

The slight fall in consumer confidence will provide the Federal Reserve with a useful data point on how consumers view the economy as it mulls raising interest rates again in order to control rising prices.

"Consumer confidence declined in May as consumers' view of current conditions became somewhat less upbeat while their expectations remained gloomy," the Conference Board's senior economics director Ataman Ozyildirim said in a statement.

The consumer confidence index fell in May to 102.3, down from a revised 103.7 in April,

according to the Conference Board.

This was slightly above the median forecast in a MarketWatch survey of economists.

"Their assessment of current employment conditions saw the most significant deterioration," Ozyildirim said, adding that the proportion of consumers reporting jobs are "plentiful" fell sharply in May. —AFP



In Europe's biggest economy Germany, inflation slowed to 6.1 per cent year-on-year in May, preliminary data showed, down from 7.2 per cent in April. **PHOTO: AFP**

Tianjin sees cross-border e-commerce imports, exports rise in Jan-May

NORTH China's port city of Tianjin reported a total cross-border e-commerce foreign trade volume of around 4.97 billion yuan (about 700.6 million US dollars) in the first five months of 2023, up

3.18 per cent year on year, according to the municipal bureau of commerce. During the period, more than 1.58 billion yuan of imports and over 3.38 billion yuan of exports were declared

via the city's official cross-border e-commerce comprehensive service platform, marking an increase of 2.86 per cent and 3.33 per cent year on year, respectively, said the bureau.

The city vows to further promote the construction of the China (Tianjin) cross-border e-commerce comprehensive pilot zone, and support more foreign trade enterprises in traditional industries and manufacturing companies looking to expand their markets via cross-border e-commerce trade. — Xinhua



The Port of Tianjin, formerly known as the Port of Tangu, is the largest port in northern China and the main maritime gateway to Beijing. PHOTO: CHINA DAILY

Construction begins for new Haneda airport train line

A ground-breaking ceremony was held on Friday in Tokyo to mark the start of construction for a new train line connecting Tokyo Station and the capital's Haneda airport that will begin service before March 2032.

The new airport line, to be operated by East Japan Railway Co, will allow passengers to travel the approximately 14-kilometre journey in 18 minutes without the need to switch trains, compared with about 30 minutes on existing lines, according to the company. The company will build a new station in an underground area between the airport's Terminal 1 and Terminal 2, with the project to cost 280 billion yen (\$2



A ground-breaking ceremony is held in Tokyo on 2 June 2023 to mark the start of construction for a new train line connecting Tokyo Station and the capital's Haneda airport. PHOTO: KYODO

billion) in total. The new line will "play a major role in (our service) network in the metropolitan area in the future," JR East President Yuji Fukasawa said at the ceremony. The new line

will begin service two years later than initially planned. JR East is considering connecting the new line to the Yamanote Line for Shinjuku and Rinkai Line for the Odaiba area. — Kyodo

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V 21 LUCKY VOY.NO. (103901)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-6-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-5** 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

Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO LTD

UK petcare firm Dechra agrees £4.5-billion takeover

UK petcare firm Dechra Pharmaceuticals has agreed a £4.5-billion (\$5.6-billion) takeover by Swedish private equity firm EQT and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, they announced Friday.

The groups in a statement said they "have reached agreement on the terms and conditions of a recommended cash acquisition".

The announcement sent Dechra's share price soaring eight percent to £36.44 in early deals on London's rising stock market. The offer was pitched at £38.75 per share — a 44-per-cent premium from April 12 — before Dechra first revealed it was holding bid talks.

Dechra is a "leading company operating in the attractive animal health pharmaceuticals market", the statement noted. The sector is "expected to benefit from numerous long-term growth drivers including... increasing pet ownership (and) medical innovation", it added. — AFP

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Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HANSA SIEGBURG VOY.NO. (312S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-6-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD.

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Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (090N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-6-2023** 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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Myanma Port Authority

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M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

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Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC HAIPHONG VOY.NO. (2310S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-6-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department

Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

US withholds additional New START info from Russia



Russian Yars intercontinental ballistic missile launchers during a Victory Day military parade in Moscow in May. **PHOTO: ALEXANDER NEMENOV/AFP/FILE**

The United States on Thursday started withholding additional information from Russia that the countries are required to provide under the New START arms control treaty, in response to Moscow’s continued suspension of the pact.

The State Department said updates on the status or location of missiles and launchers, telemetry information related to launches of intercontinental ballistic missiles and other data will no longer be provided.

The department said the United States had notified Russia of its decision in advance and conveyed its “desire and readiness to reverse the countermeasures and fully implement the treaty if

Russia returns to compliance.”

The accord, which entered into force in 2011, limits each side to no more than 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads and requires a range of verification steps such as onsite inspections. On Thursday, the department also said it will no longer allow Russia to conduct inspections on US territory and was revoking or denying pending applications for necessary visas.

As tensions between the countries remain high, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced Moscow was suspending the treaty in his annual state-of-the-nation address in February, just before the first anniversary of the start of its war in Ukraine. — Kyodo

Viet Nam detains climate activist on tax evasion accusation

VIETNAMESE authorities have detained a prominent climate activist for alleged tax evasion, her husband said Friday, the latest environmentalist to face such an accusation.

Hoang Thi Minh Hong, the founder of now-defunct NGO CHANGE, which aimed to tackle some of the country’s most urgent environmental issues,

was taken into custody in Ho Chi Minh City on Wednesday.

“I can confirm Hong has been under temporary detention since 31 May with the accusation of tax evasion,” Hoang Vinh Nam told AFP.

Hong founded CHANGE in 2013, focusing on mobilizing Vietnamese, particularly young people, to take action against

pressing environmental issues including climate change, the illegal wildlife trade, and pollution.

The 50-year-old has been widely recognized for her work, joining the Obama Foundation Scholars Program at Columbia University in New York in 2018 and listed by Forbes among the 50 most influential Vietnamese women in 2019.—AFP



Hoang Thi Minh Hong, the founder of now-defunct NGO CHANGE, which aimed to tackle some of the country’s most urgent environmental issues, was taken into custody in Ho Chi Minh City on Wednesday. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ FACEBOOK/AFP**

Dehumanizing migrants ‘deeply troubling’: incoming IOM chief

THE incoming head of the United Nations’ migration agency decried a tendency to demonize vulnerable migrants for political gain, saying she aimed to help shift the narrative.

Amy Pope, who last month became the first woman elected to head the International Organization for Migration, told AFP in an interview this week she was deeply concerned over the way some countries and groups were “weaponizing” migrants to win political points domestically.

A number of countries in Europe are facing criticism for harsh and potentially illegal treatment of migrants, including Britain over its plans to send asylum-seekers to Rwanda, and Greece, where footage published last month appeared to show the

forceful expulsion of migrants who were set adrift at sea.

And this week, a group of migrants including women and children, has been stuck on Poland’s border with Belarus, with guards accused of blocking them from seeking asylum.

“What we’ve all seen over the last couple of years is the weaponizing of people who are in the most desperate of situations and using their vulnerability as a way to fuel what is often a political conflict,” Pope said when asked about that case.



Inflatable dinghies, used by migrants to cross the English Channel are brought to port, 14 April 2022, in the marina at Dover. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

“As a tactic, I find that deeply troubling because first of all, it’s dehumanising, and I think it ultimately doesn’t lead to a better outcome for anybody.”

Sweet spot

Pope, 49, who is due to take over the IOM helm in October, said a “primary concern is that people have the opportunity to make their claims for protection”, and that they are considered fairly and not used as political pawns. When the current IOM deputy director last month won the leadership contest against her current boss Antonio Vitorino, she vowed to put forward a more positive narrative about migration and emphasise that it is “human beings we’re talking about”. — AFP

US Senate OKs debt ceiling bill, sends it to Biden for signature

THE US Senate approved a bipartisan bill to suspend the government’s borrowing limit late Thursday, sending the legislation to President Joe Biden for his signature and averting an economically disastrous default. The passage came a day after the House of Representatives, narrowly controlled by Republicans, voted 314-117 ahead of the so-called “X-date” on Monday, when the Treasury Department had said it would run out of money to pay all of its bills on time. After weeks of tense negotiations, Biden will sign the bill into law and suspend the \$31.4 trillion limit through 1 January, 2025, enabling the federal government to continue borrowing money and requiring it to cap spending that is not associated with veterans or national defense for the same two-year period.—Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mexico police find 45 bags with human body parts in ravine

At least 45 bags with human remains were found in a ravine in the western Mexican state of Jalisco during a search for seven young people reported missing last week, local authorities said Thursday.

“Forty-five bags with human remains have been extracted that belong to both male and female people,” the state prosecutor’s office said in a statement.

The gruesome discovery was made on Tuesday at the bottom of a 40-metre (120-foot) ravine in the municipality of Zapopan, a suburb of Guadalajara, a large industrial hub.

The authorities had launched a search for two women and five men, all aged around 30 years, who had been reported missing since 20 May.

The missing persons reports for each one had been made separately on different days, but investigators found that they all worked at the same call centre. — AFP

Condolence Message from Buddha Dhamma Samgha Loka Association (Lotus Foundation) on the Demise of Ven. Bamaw Sayadawpayagi

We would like to express our deepest and sincere condolences on the demise of the Ninth Venerable Bamaw Sayardawpayagi Ashin Kumarabhivamsa, Ovadacariya Chairman Sayadaw of State Samgha Mahanayaka Committee and Mahanayaka Ovadacariya Sayadaw of Buddha Dhamma Samgha Loka Association (Lotus Foundation) on the 25th May 2023. Sayadawpayagi's demise is a great loss to Buddhist Sasana, society, the country and our association. Sayadawpayagi's demise will be felt deeply in Myanmar and across the Buddhist Nations.

Sayadawpayagi will always be remembered with Sayadawpayagi's noble services, contributions and devotion to Buddhist Sasana for many years to come! May the Buddha Sasana be prolonged!

Samgan saranam gacchami!

Buddha Dhamma Samgha Loka Association (Lotus Foundation)

Western nations plotting coup in Belarus, Lukashenko warns

BELARUSIAN President Alexander Lukashenko has issued a warning that Western regimes — including that of Ukraine — are preparing to carry out a coup d’etat against him.

At a meeting of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) security chiefs on Thursday, Lukashenko cautioned that a “violent regime change is being prepared” against Minsk.

In contrast to their unsuccessful and largely bloodless colour revolution attempted in 2020, Western regimes are now training and funding the opposition to engage in armed violence, the president alleged.

“This fact means that they won’t leave us alone,” he noted.

The remarks came a week after an influential figure in the Polish military sphere publicly called for the dissident Belarusians currently fighting on behalf of the Zelensky regime to be unleashed on Minsk in the event of a successful counteroffensive in Ukraine.

During a 23 May television interview with a national channel, former top Polish general Waldemar Skrzypczak urged officials in Warsaw to “prepare for an uprising in Belarus”, insisting such a scenario “will happen”. “We must be ready to support the troops that will carry out the operation against Lukashenko,” Skrzypczak insisted.

“We have reasons to help them, just as we help Ukraine,” claimed the general, who previously served as a deputy minister in the Polish Ministry of Defense. — SPUTNIK

Swiss MPs reject allowing arms transfers to Ukraine



The dome of the Swiss parliament (Bundeshaus) in Bern, with Mt. Eiger in the background. PHOTO: AXEL TSCHENTSCHER/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS /FILE

SWITZERLAND’S lower house of parliament on Thursday voted against a proposal that would have specifically authorized the transfer of Swiss-made arms to Ukraine.

The vote in parliament came as Swiss President Alain Berset met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at the European Political Community summit in Moldova, where the pair discussed the subject of exports of war material. The National Council in Bern voted 98-75 against a parliamentary initiative put forward by a committee.

Jean-Luc Addor, of the populist, right-wing Swiss People’s Party — the largest in the National Council — said in the Council that “accepting this initiative means committing to one of the protagonists, which is also in its very title (“Lex Ukraine”). Therefore violating neutrality”.

Switzerland’s long-standing position has been one of well-armed military neutrality and the landlocked country of 8.8 million people has mandatory conscription for men. The issue of Switzerland’s tradition of neutrality has been hotly debated since Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. While the wealthy Alpine country, which is not a member of the European Union, has followed the bloc’s lead on sanctions targeting Moscow, it has so far shown less flexibility on its military neutrality.

Despite pressure from Kyiv and its allies, Switzerland has so far refused to allow countries that hold Swiss-made weaponry to re-export it to Ukraine.

To date, it has rejected explicit requests from countries including Germany, Spain and Denmark, pointing to its War Materiel Act, which bars all re-export if the recipient country is in an international armed conflict. — AFP



Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko has issued a warning that Western regimes — including that of Ukraine — are preparing to carry out a coup d’etat against him. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

Nine killed in Senegal clashes after opposition leader sentenced

NINE people have died in clashes across Senegal, the interior minister said Friday, after a court sentenced firebrand opposition leader Ousmane Sonko to two years in jail. A conviction for “corrupting youth” may disqualify Sonko, President Macky Sall’s fiercest opponent, from contesting next year’s presidential election. The case has deeply divided Senegal, sparking sporadic but

deadly violence that has battered the country’s image of stability.

After Thursday’s verdict, clashes broke out between police and protesters, buses were set alight in the capital Dakar, and disturbances were reported elsewhere including the city of Ziguinchor, where Sonko has been mayor since 2022.

“We have noted with regret violence that has led to the de-

struction of public and private property and, unfortunately, nine deaths in Dakar and Ziguinchor,” Interior Minister Antoine Diome said on national television.—AFP

Two police officials told AFP on condition of anonymity that at least three of the deaths occurred at demonstrations in Ziguinchor, and a policeman was stoned to death by young protesters in the capital. — AFP

Swiss MPs
reject allowing
arms transfers
to Ukraine

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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.



Futsal players are vying for the ball at the previous version of the Myanmar Futsal Tourney. **PHOTO: MFF FUTSAL**

MFF Carabao Futsal Amateur Cup 2023 to be held with additional teams

THE MFF Carabao Futsal Amateur Cup 2023, which will be organized by the Myanmar Football Federation's Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee, will be held with 40 teams, according to the MFF's statement.

The tournament was originally planned to be held with

32 teams, but due to the large number of teams that wanted to participate in the competition, it was decided to increase the number of teams to 40.

The futsal tourney will be held in eight groups, so each group will have five teams to compete, and each team will

have the opportunity to play four group matches.

Teams who wish to participate in the tournament can take out forms and register at the Myanmar Football Federation's Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee in Thuwunna Indoor Stadium until 5 June, and registration for players and team administrators must be done from 5 to 9 June, the MFF stated. — KZL

Man Utd face Antony fitness blow ahead of FA Cup final

ERIK ten Hag fears Manchester United forward Antony is "unlikely" to recover from injury in time for Saturday's FA Cup final against Manchester City.

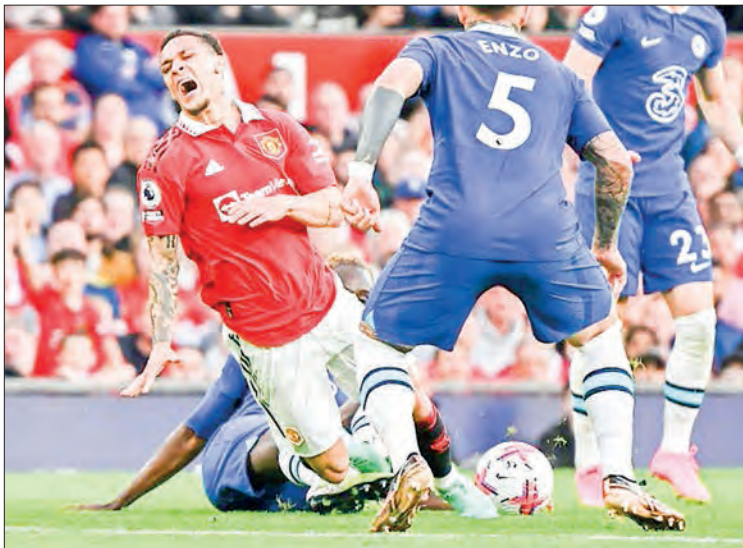
Antony was stretchered off during the first half of last week's Premier League win against Chelsea.

United boss Ten Hag had hoped the Brazilian could return to face treble-chasing City in the first all-Manchester FA Cup final. But Antony has made slow progress this week and looks set to be sidelined at Wembley.

"Unlikely (he will be fit)," Ten Hag told reporters on Friday. "Dos Santos (Antony) still has a chance but it's a really small chance.

"He didn't make the progress, so he still has a chance but unlikely he is available."

Antony Martial's injury-hit



Manchester United forward Antony (21) is likely to miss the FA Cup final. **PHOTO: AFP**

season will also end on the sidelines.

The 27-year-old strained a hamstring towards the end of Sunday's win against Fulham and he will miss the final after

scans showed a muscle tear.

Despite the fitness issues plaguing his team, Ten Hag remains confident United have the squad strength to beat arch rivals City.—AFP

UEFA says Marciniak can referee Champions League final despite far-right event

UEFA said on Friday Polish referee Szymon Marciniak will be allowed to officiate the men's Champions League final between Manchester City and Inter Milan despite attending a far-right conference.

A Polish group that fights racism and anti-Semitism, Nigdy Wiecej, which means

Never Again, drew the European football body's attention to Marciniak's attendance at the "Everest" event in Katowice on Monday. Marciniak said in a statement that in accepting an invitation he had been "gravely misled and completely unaware of the true nature and affiliations of the event in question". —AFP



Referee Szymon Marciniak will be allowed to officiate the Champions League final after arguing that he was misled when he attended a far-right meeting. **PHOTO: AFP**