

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.

Ashes of Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa Presiding Patron of Bhamo Monastery in Mandalay Region, Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chancellor of State Pariyatti Sasana Universities set adrift in the water

CHAIRMAN of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chancellor of State Pariyatti Sasana Universities Presiding Patron of the Bhamo Monastery in Maha aungmye Township in Mandalay Region Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa, aged 94, vasa 74, passed away at 11:11 pm on 25 May (Thursday) 2023, 7th Waxing of Nayon 1385 ME. The remains of the Sayadaw were kept at the Aye Kaba Beikman temporary chamber at the Bhamo Monastery for public obeisance and the final rites of the Sayadaw were held to incinerate the remains on 6 June.

Yesterday morning, the Mandalay Region chief minister and party arrived at the cremation area and paid homage to member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Presiding Patron of Mandalay Masoeyein Taikthit Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Vasettha Bhivamsa and members of the Sangha. Then, disciple monks and the chief minister and officials climbed



The crematory ashes of the Bhamo Sayadaw that are kept in golden and silver urns and bags are seen being carried in procession to the Mayanchan Jetty for drifting them in the water of the Ayeyawady River in Mandalay on 7 June 2023.

the incineration chamber. The master of ceremonies supplied the ceremony to set ashes adrift in the water. They sprinkled the ashes with the coconut sap and kept them in golden and silver urns and bags.

SEE PAGE-4

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL
MoHT Union Minister receives Myanmar-China Culture & Tourism Promotion Society Chair
PAGE-7

NATIONAL
Tatmadaw senior officers, officials assist in rehabilitation work in Rakhine State
PAGE-10



CURRENT AFFAIRS
Earthquake kills one nun, one woman in Maubin Township
PAGE-11



MYANMAR GAZETTE

Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations confirmed

The State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Organization
1. U Zaw Min Aung	Director-General Office of the Supreme Court of the Union Supreme Court of the Union
2. U Zaw Phyo Win	Director-General Strategic Studies and Training Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs
3. U Min Hein	Director-General Department of Electronic Identification Ministry of Immigration and Population
4. Dr Cho Cho Myint	Rector Yenangyaung University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education
5. Dr Myat Myat Thaw	Rector Sagaing University of Education Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education

Electric vehicles arrive at Yangon Port

WITH the approval of the Steering Committee on National-level Development of Electric Vehicles and Related Industries, a total of 36 electric vehicles — nine Honda ENS1 electric vehicles imported by Auto Top Power Co Ltd, six Faw Toyota BZ4X electric vehicles, six Kaiyi B-EV electric vehicles imported by Myanmar Brilliance Auto Co Ltd and 15 BYD Dolphin electric vehicles imported by the Chindwin Shan Construction Co Ltd — arrived at Yangon Port yesterday.

The vehicles were allowed to be claimed according to the procedures, and the import of these electric vehicles is exempted from customs duties. — MNA/CT



The photo shows newly arrivals of battery electric vehicles (BEVs) at Yangon Port yesterday.

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

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

2. In this announcement, it is duly mentioned that our commitment to receiving donations extends to additional electronic payment systems and mobile payment systems. Further updates and notifications will be made in due course.

3. It has been announced

that donations can be made to the previously announced phone number and to the account that was opened, and since it can be confusing to donate with a phone number, we have already made it possible to donate with a QR code instead of the phone number.

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

5. People make donations through CB Pay, AYA

Pay, OK \$, UAB pay and Citizens Pay which are widely used to enhance convenience for donors. To 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		

National Disaster Management Committee

Tatmadaw's key responsibility to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes and Constitution

TATMADAW is mainly responsible for safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes and the Constitution. Tatmadaw is going to serve those duties as a Guardian for the betterment of the country and the ethnic people within.

(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)

Acknowledgement

CHAIRMAN of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Patron of Bhamo monastery in Mahanwesin Ward of Mahaaungmye Township in Mandalay Region Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa, aged 94, vasa 74, passed away at 11:11 pm on 25 May (Thursday) 2023, 7th Waxing of Nayon 1385 ME.

In accord with the advice of Patron Sayadaws and guidance of the Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister, the final rites ceremony was held on the State level on 6 June; the remains of the Sayadaw were conveyed to Chanmyathazi final rite ground by a decorated float; the cremation was performed; and ashes of the remains were set adrift into the water of the Ayeyawady River at Mayanchan Port on a grand scale.

Acknowledgement was expressed as a record to Secretary of the SSMNC Presiding Patron of Minkyaung Pahtampayan Buddhist Learning Centre of Thanlyin Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa who read the message of condolences at the final rites ceremony of the



The Senior General and congregation seen paying homage to the remains of late Bhamo Sayadaw.

Sayadaw, member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Maha Nayaka of Mandalay Masoeyein Taikthit Agga Maha Pandita Maha Dhammakathika Bahujana Hitadhara Bhaddanta Vasettha Bhivamsa who administered Dhamma Samvega Katha and State Ovadacariya 17th Shwegyin Sangharaja Sayadaw Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academics Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dr Bhaddanta Nyanisara and venerable Sayadaws, members of the Sangha and

nuns who attended the final rites ceremony, members of the Sangha from Mandalay Region and Township Sangha Nayaka Committees and officials from leading committee and work committees for their efforts to hold the final rites ceremony of the Sayadaw on the national level, SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Council Joint-Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo and wife, Council member Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko and officials, Union ministers, sen-

ior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Myo Aung and region cabinet members, Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko Oo, officers, other ranks and families from regiments and units, Mandalay City Development Committee and regional level departmental officials, district and township administration bodies, those from religious associations, organizations from various religions who paid homage to the remains of the Sayadaw at the ceremony, officials

and trainees from Sports and Physical Education Institute (Mandalay) who served the ceremony with the Karaweik decorated float, social organizations, relatives of the Sayadaw, disciples, Mandalay Thein Zaw and artistes who paid homage to the Sayadaw with the Samvega Gatha, local and foreign leaders and religious organizations which sent messages of condolences, members of the Sangha and well-wishers from various regions who managed the incineration chamber and pavilions for the ceremony, the Myanma Radio and Television, Myawady TV and Sky Net under the Ministry of Information that broadcast live the final rites ceremony and the ceremony to set the ash adrift into the water, those who contributed to successful completion of the ceremonies in all aspects and those deserved to be thanked, and special acknowledge was expressed to the people who systematically paid homage to the remains of the Sayadaw along the route of conveyance to the temporary chamber and the final rites ground in Chanmyathazi, those who participated in setting ash adrift into the water and the generous well-wishers.

The final rites organizing leading committee

MoIC Union Minister receives FCC-South Asia President

U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister for International Cooperation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received the delegation led by Mr Shirumalla Venkat Narayan, President of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia based in New Delhi at the Ministry of International Cooperation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call, they cordially exchanged views on the latest developments in Myanmar and efforts of the Myanmar Government to ensure peace and stability in the country as well as matters related to the enhancement of cooperation between the two countries in the areas of trade and investment, connectivity and media development. — MNA



The FCC-South Asia President calls on Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing yesterday.

Ashes of Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa Presiding ...

FROM PAGE-1

These urns and bags were conveyed to Mayanchan Jetty where the ashes were to be set

adrift in the water. Masoeyein Taikthit Sayadaw and members of the Sangha, Union Minister for Reli-

gious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung, Commander of Central Command



The ashes urns seen lowered with the line to the water of the Ayeyawady River at the event yesterday.



The crematory ashes of Bhamo Sayadaw are conveyed on the decorated float.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko Oo and officials, conveyed the ashes onto the decorated float.

The ash urns were conveyed to the mid-stream of the Ayeyawady River near Minye-hla Jetty.

The Union minister, the Mandalay Region chief minister, the commander and offi-

cials set the ashes adrift into the water by reciting Anicca-vata Sankhara Gatha.

Along the route of conveying the ashes, members of the Sangha and people from the bank of the Ayeyawady River paid homage to the Sayadaw.

— MNA/TTA

Union Ministers attend launching of electrification through national grid in Sittway Tsp

THE opening ceremony of the power distribution from the national grid in the wards of Sittway Township was held at the Sittway 66/11 kV substation yesterday evening.

The event was attended by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, U Myo Thant, and Dr Thet Thet Khine, state Chief Minister U Htein Lin, Deputy Ministers and officials of the Ministry of Electric Power.

During the ceremony, Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung pressed the electric button for the 11 kV Mayyu 1 grid while the Mayyu 2 grid by



Union Ministers Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, U Myo Thant, and Dr Thet Thet Khine and dignitaries are present on the resumption of power distribution for Sittway Township yesterday.



Union Minister U Myo Thant, the Mayyu 3 grid by Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine and the Mayyu 4 grid by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin to launch power supply.

As the first phase of power distribution after the storm, the electricity from the national grid was supplied to Sittway and Ponnagyun townships starting yesterday evening and the locals were satisfied with the power distribution system.

— MNA/KTZH

Union Ministers inspect Sittway Nursing and Midwifery Training School, attend demonstration of monsoon paddy cultivation, paddy seeds handover ceremony

UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, accompanied by Union Ministers U Myo Thant and Dr Thet Thet Khine and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin inspected the Nursing and Midwifery Training School and attended the demonstration of monsoon paddy cultivation and handover ceremony of paddy seeds in Sittway Township of Rakhine State yesterday.

First, the Union minister and party visited the Sittway Nursing and Midwifery Training School and met with the principal, faculties and trainees and gave proper instructions.

They then inspected the school buildings, dormitory and staff housing and provided cash prizes to the trainees.

On arrival at the demonstration session of monsoon paddy cultivation and handover ceremony of paddy seeds in Pyalechaung Village in Sittway Township, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Tin Htut reported on the demonstration of monsoon paddy cultivation and handover of rice seeds.

Union ministers, the Rakhine State chief minister and deputy ministers then presented bags of rice seeds produced by the Seed Division of the Agriculture Department to farmers and a local farmer expressed a word of thanks to the officials.



Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and party views the demonstration of monsoon paddy cultivation in Pyalechaung Village in Sittway Township yesterday.

The Union minister and party also attended the demonstration of monsoon paddy cultivation in a model field and the handover of rice seeds in Ywathitkay Village of Sittway Township.

At the event, the Union minister made a remark and Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Tin Htut reported on the demonstration of monsoon paddy cultivation and handover of rice seeds.

The Union minister and party provided bags of rice seeds and vegetable seedlings produced by the Seed Division of the Agriculture Department to farmers.

In his speech, the Union minister said the government is making efforts in rescue and

rehabilitation processes in Mocha-hit Rakhine State. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation also supported cultivation with tractors, distribution of suitable rice seeds and maintenance of saltwater

prevention dykes to be able to cultivate in time. The agriculture, livestock and fishery sectors will be prioritized in rehabilitation procedures and farmers should grow systematically to meet the set production

target.

A total of 33 New Holland tractors provided by the Agricultural Mechanization Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation arrived at Sittway jetty on 3 June. The department will help in cultivation processes using a total of 80 tractors in Rakhine State. Moreover, the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development will grow 10,000 acres of monsoon paddy under the co-operative system in Rakhine State.

All schools in Rakhine State were opened on 1 June. A total of 465,210 students — 312,676 for high schools, 100,815 for middle schools and 51,719 for primary schools — were admitted until 6 June. — MNA/KTZH



Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and party warmly greets trainees at the Sittway Nursing and Midwifery Training School yesterday.

70 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 7 June, total figure registers 639,379

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to **639,379** after **70** new cases were reported on 7 June 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of **10,703,628** laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached **639,379**. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **618,363** including **46** new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered **19,494** on 7-6-2023 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

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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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

MoI Union Minister receives FCC-South Asia President

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn received President Mr Shirumalla Venkat Narayan of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia and party at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed the India-Myanmar bilateral media sector cooperation, the upgrading of The Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper, and the inclusion of bilateral border trade news.

The also discussed the sending of more trainees from Myanmar to media institutes opened in India and measures to report the news and format of news that foreign media are interested in.

They had a friendly discussion on issues related to the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the two countries for the further development of the news and media sector, balanced cooperation between the state-owned media and independent media, and visit exchange programmes for journalists from the two countries.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung and heads of departments. — MNA/KZL



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn receives President Mr Shirumalla Venkat Narayan of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia and his delegation in NayPyi Taw yesterday.

Union Commerce Minister receives FCC-South Asia President



UNION Minister for Commerce U Aung Naing Oo received Mr Shirumalla Venkat Narayan, President of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia (FCC) based in New Delhi, and the delegation at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They cordially exchanged views on matters in connexion

with trade promotion between Myanmar and India, prospects of enhancing economic cooperation and trade between Myanmar and the countries that were in the former British Indian region, investment promotion, economic cooperation between Myanmar and India's north-eastern states, and the acceleration of the people-to-people interaction between Myanmar and India. The Union minister also clarified the questions raised by FCC-SA President Mr Shirumalla Venkat Narayan. —MNA/TS

The FCC-South Asia President calls on Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo yesterday.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal consumer goods, foodstuffs, cosmetics and vehicles confiscated

THE on-duty teams under the supervision of the Customs Department impounded 720 kilogrammes of belts (worth K2,721,600) and two kinds of goods (worth K9,357,894) including 320 quartz slabs that exceeded 61 days of VPA from two containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint on 2 June, two kinds of goods (worth K11,049,043) including a Sencon Semi Auto Enamel Rater that exceeded 61 days of VPA from luggage at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk) and 3,600 bottles of Justus beer (worth K3 million) without official documents at the Yepu permanent checkpoint on 5 June. The action was taken under Customs

procedures.

Action on a tip-off, a combined team under the management of the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force confiscated 51 kinds of cosmetics (worth K321,237,096) including 20,760 PJN hair colour without official documents at warehouse 2 in the Toepwyagyi compound in Amarapura township on 4 June. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

An on-duty team captured three kinds of goods (worth K7.09 million) including 9,000 boxes of Lactasoy without official documents from a Nissan Diesel vehicle (worth about K30 million) at the Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) on 5 June. The



Confiscated illegal commodities in Mandalay Region.

action was taken under Customs procedures.

Therefore, seven arrests (estimated value of

K384,455,633) were made on 2, 4 and 5 June, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS



Union Education Minister arrives in Kazan, Russian Federation

UNION Education Minister Dr Nyunt Pe arrived in Kazan, the Russian Federation, via Dubai, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), yesterday afternoon. Acting Rector Elena Viktorovna Guselnikova, Acting Vice-Rector Dr Mikhail Sergeevich Vlasov, and Director Dr Natalya Grigoryevna Vinogradova of the Shukshin University welcomed him at the airport. In the evening, the Union minister visited the National Library of the Republic of

Tatarstan and observed the book rental system, reading rooms, and preservation of old books. The Union minister visited the “Uram” sports village to view the youth practising sports and the DJ School. — MNA/CT

Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe pays observation tours at the National Library of the Republic of Tatarstan in the Russian Federation yesterday.



MoHT Union Minister receives Myanmar-China Culture & Tourism Promotion Society Chair



UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Aung Thaw received the delegation led by Chairman Mr David Liu of the Myanmar-China Culture and Tourism Promotion Society at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. They discussed the Myanmar-China bilateral friendship,

matters on the economy, tourism, cultural affairs, advertising under the name of Myanmar Pavilion on social media platforms such as TikTok and Kuai Shou which are widely used in China, holding of the International Mountain Tourism Festival in 2024 and the implementation of Myanmar-China Friendship Capitals. — MNA/MKKS

The Myanmar-China Culture and Tourism Promotion Society Chairman calls on Union Minister U Aung Thaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Fuel prices rebounds in domestic market

THE prices of fuel oil (diesel and Octane 92) have risen again to above K2,000 per litre in the domestic fuel oil market. The prices increased to K2,010 per litre for Octane 92, K2,120 per litre for Octane 95, K1,945 for diesel and K2,025 for premium diesel. The domestic fuel prices are set depending on the price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), pricing basis for many refined products in southeast Asia, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil. Last August 2022, the oil prices surged to K2,605 per litre for Octane 92, K2,670 for Octane 95, K3,330 for premium diesel and K3,245 for diesel. The committee is therefore governing the fuel oil storage and distribution sector effectively not to have a shortage of oil in the domestic market and to ensure price stability for energy consumers.

The Petroleum Products Regulatory Department, under the guidance of the committee, is issuing the daily reference rate for oil to offer a reasonable price to energy consumers. The reference rate in Yangon Region is set on the MOPS's price assessment, shipping cost, premium insurance, tax, other general cost and health profit percent. The rates for regions and states other than Yangon are evaluated after adding the transportation cost and the retail reference rates daily cover on the state-run newspapers and are posted on the media and official website and Facebook page of the department on a daily basis starting from 4 May. The committee is inspecting the fuel stations whether they are overcharging or not. The authorities are taking actions against those retailers of fuel stations under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law 2017 if they are found

overcharging rather than the set reference rate. As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. The domestic fuel price is highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss between the importers, sellers and the energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries. Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies and the prices are about 60 per cent cheaper than Myanmar. Every country lays down different patterns of policy to fix the oil prices. Myanmar also levies only a lower tax rate on fuel oil and strives for the energy consumers to buy the oil at a cheaper rate. — NN/EM

MoFA Deputy Minister receives FCC-South Asia President



The MoFA deputy minister receives the FCC-SA president yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

U Kyaw Myo Htut, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received the delegation led by Mr Shirumalla Venkat Narayan, President of New Delhi-based Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the call, they cordially exchanged views on the latest developments in Myanmar and matters pertaining to collaboration for the media sector development, dissemination of news on true situation of Myanmar to International community and capacity enhancement for state-owned media. — MNA

Don't forget gratitude to oceans for daily life

THE water area of the world occupies 70 per cent whereas the land area is some 30 per cent. The larger area of oceans gives food and natural resources to human beings and helps biodiversity species live safely.

Oceans can control climatic conditions which generally affect the planet Earth as well as the lifestyle of humans. The oceans are natural resources for the creation of employment for some 40 million people in ocean-based industries by 2030. Those employees are working in marine product industries which supply foods to humans.

The nature of humans cannot stand tall without land and water. According to global histories, land and water are treating the life of humans as well as the whole world. As such, no one should violate the way of the mundane world as well as the natural environment which comprises water, land, air and fire. Hence, all humans should be grateful to the water, the mother of oceans.

net pages, the United Nations will host a hybrid of the annual event on 8 June 2023, hosted in-person at the UN Headquarters in New York, the United States of America, to be broadcasted live.

As part of efforts to enable global people not to forget the gratitude of oceans, most countries will mark World Oceans Day 2023. Actually, oceans are contributing to the daily lifestyle of humans and easing the impacts of natural disasters. The international day supports the implementation of worldwide Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and fosters public interest in the protection of the ocean and the sustainable management of its resources.

The nature of humans cannot stand tall without land and water. According to global histories, land and water are treating the life of humans as well as the whole world. As such, no one should violate the way of the mundane world as well as the natural environment which comprises water; land, air and fire. Hence, all humans should be grateful to the water, the mother of oceans.

EPISODE:13

THOMAS Henry Digges La Touche (1855-1938) following schooling in Shrewsbury was awarded a degree in Geology in 1880 under Professor Hughes at St. Johns College Cambridge. He joined the Geological Survey of India in October 1881, two years after R. D. Oldham (1858-1936), and was, when he retired, one of the few geologists to complete 25 years in the Geological Survey of India.

La Touche married Anna (Nancy) Handy in 1891. Although Nancy accompanied him on his early fieldwork, the arrival of children and his appointment to remote field areas led to long separations, often exceeding 8 months and on one occasion last two years. Each year fieldwork started in October and continued to March, and the findings of the work were written up in the recess during the hot summer months in headquarters in Calcutta. Throughout the time of these prolonged separations, Tom and Nancy wrote to each other daily. Tom's letters to Nancy and the children, who lived initially in the hill stations of India, and eventually in Ireland, thus form a fairly continuous diary of important events and affairs in the office, and in the field. More importantly, they provide an illuminating view of the lifestyle and personal interactions of the dozen Geological Survey Officers who were based in Calcutta. La Touche was appointed Acting Director when Sir Thomas Holland went on leave on 2 August 1909 until his retirement in 1910. He died in 1938 at Cambridge aged 82, two years after Oldham, having just read the proofs of his final work, a massive compilation of geological locations in India with their geographical coordinates.

Oceans create transport facilities for the shipping of commodities and passengers from one place to another. It can be said that one who can control oceans across the world can be defined as conquering the world. It is because the oceans occupy two-third area of the world. Hence, those who manage their businesses such as maritime transport, fishery industry, exploration of ecotourism, above and underwater natural resources production and so on in the oceans are great bosses in the world economic sector.

The commemorative day was recognized by the United Nations in 2008. According to the information through Internet pages, the United Nations will host a hybrid of the annual event on 8 June 2023, hosted in-person at the UN Headquarters in New York, the United States of America, to be broadcasted live.

Ruby

The ruby mines of Upper Burma have long been known as the principal source of the world's supply of the gem. Caesar Frederick, who visited Pegu in 1569, alludes to the brisk trade in rubies that was then carried on; and reference to the mines was also made about the same time (1586) by the English traveller Ralph Fitch who

The Burma Circle of the Geological Survey of India and their Contributions to the Geology of Myanmar

By THAN HTUN (GEOSCIENCE MYANMAR)

places them in the district 'Caplan' (Kyatpyin), five days journey from Ava. Neither of these travellers was permitted to visit the mines, and the first authentic account of them was given in 1833 by Pere Guiseppe d'Amato. He describes the workings at KYATPYIN (22° 53'30": 96° 28'), and the system of mining practised by the Burmese, which may still be seen in operation in that neighbourhood.

Three distinct ruby tracts are known to occur in Upper Burma, widely separated from each other; but in all cases, the original source of the gems is found to be a highly crystalline limestone, probably a member of the Archean group. A fourth tract is reported to have been discovered in the Moemeik State in 1913, but as yet no definite information regarding this occurrence has been published.

Mandalay: Sagyin (22° 17' : 96° 7'). About the year 1870, these mines were in charge of a Mr Bredemeyer, whose account of them is referred to by Ball. The locality was reported on by Hayden in 1895. A group of hills, composed of crystalline limestone largely quarried for statuary marble, rises abruptly from the alluvial plain on the left bank of the Irrawaddy, about 16 miles to the N. of Mandalay. Moisture, acting along the joint planes of the rock, has caused it to become scammed with fissures and hollows, filled with the insoluble clayey material supplied by the disintegration of the limestone. These fissures are followed up and the material extracted from them is washed. Sapphires and spinels, as well as rubies, are obtained here.

Myitkyina: Naniazeik (25° 37' : 96° 37'). The ruby tract of Naniazeik was first brought to notice in 1895, when it was examined by Warth, who reported that rabies, sapphires, and spinels are obtained from the detritus afforded by the disintegration of crystalline limestones surrounded by intrusive masses of granite. A full description of the tract has since been given by

Bleek, and the petrology of the area has been studied by Tanatar. Neither ruby nor spinel appears to be very abundant in this tract and no output has been reported for the last twelve years. Bleek also mentions a small ruby tract, worked with poor results by the Kachins, on a hill stream 4 miles to the N. of Manwe (25° 26': 96° 35'), and some deserted ruby pits said to lie 13 miles to the N. W. of Naniazeik.

Mogok: Ruby Mines (22° 55' : 96° 33'). In this district, the crystalline ruby limestones form a series of narrow, parallel, lenticular bands, distributed in echelon along the southern flanks of a range of hills extending from the neighbourhood of Mogok, where the most productive mines are situated, to Thabeikkyin on the Irrawaddy, a distance of about 40 miles in a direct line from east to west. The workings, however, are confined to the eastern half of the calcareous zone, between

visit to the mines, and of the native system of mining.

1895. Barrington Brown and Judd: An exhaustive treatise on the geology and petrology of the district, with a discussion by Prof. Judd of the genesis of the corundum and the minerals associated with it.

1896. Bauer: Describes the mode of occurrence of the ruby and the petrology of the associated rocks and minerals.

1897. Wynne: Notes on the geology of the area and description of the European and native methods of working.

1901. Morgan: Describes the operations of the Ruby Mines Co.

1909. Anon: A brief account of the mines and their development.

1910. Goldschmidt and Schroeder: Describe the crystallographic characters of ruby from Burma.

1915. Claremont: A popular account of the operations of the Ruby Mines Co.

The native workings, as described by Barrington Brown and others, are of three kinds: (a) Loodwin, in which fissures

The rubies of Upper Burma are invariably accompanied by sapphire, derived in the same manner from crystalline limestone. The proportion of blue corundum found in the gem gravels is usually much smaller than that of the red variety, though the stones are often of larger size.

Shwenyaungbin (22° 55': 96° 19) and Mogok, where the condition of the bands suggests that they have been subjected to a more intense degree of compression than further west, where rubies appear to be absent.

The following accounts of the mines have been published since the district was thrown open by the annexation of Upper Burma in 1886: -

1888-1889. Gordon: Popular accounts of the mines and their surroundings.

1889. Streeter: Account of a

and hollows in the limestone, filled with detritus derived from its disintegration by weathering, are followed up and quarried. (b) Hmyawdwin or cuttings driven into the rain-wash on the hill slopes, covering the outcrop of the limestone; and (c) Twinlone, or pits sunk in the alluvial deposits in order to reach the gem-bearing gravel, called byon, which usually lies at a considerable depth. Small rubies are also obtained by washing the sand and gravel in the beds of streams.

In 1889 a lease of the ruby tracts was granted to the Burma Ruby Mines Co. at an annual rent of Rs. 315,000 plus a share of profits, together with the right to levy royalties on the output of native workings in the townships of Mogok, Kyatpyin, and Katha. The operations of the Company have hitherto been confined to a systematic excavation of the alluvial deposits covering the floor of Mogok valley, which was apparently in former times occupied by a lake, and in washing the byon with the aid of most modern appliances. Electric power is largely used for driving the machinery and is obtained from a waterfall at the outlet of the valley.

In addition to the rubies, the byon contains large quantities of spinel, usually of brilliant red colour, and more rarely sapphires and crystals of blue apatite. Tourmaline is also common but is of the black variety and of no value as a gem.

The crystalline limestones are considered by Judd to have resulted from the decomposition at great depths of the lime felspars contained in basic gneisses and granulites, with a subsequent concentration of a portion of the alumina derived from the aluminous silicates, in the form of corundum. A transitional stage was the formation of scapolite gneisses through the wernerization of the felspars in the original rock. The stratigraphical evidence, on the other hand, seems rather a point to the conclusions arrived at in the case of the similar occurrence of rubies, etc., at Naniazeik, viz., that the limestones were originally calcareous sediments, and that they have been altered by contact with igneous intrusions under conditions of great pressure.

Sapphire

The rubies of Upper Burma are invariably accompanied by sapphire, derived in the same manner from crystalline limestone. The proportion of blue corundum found in the gem gravels is usually much smaller than that of the red variety, though the stones are often of larger size.

References: La Touche T. H.



Thomas Henry Digges La Touche (1856-1938)

D. (1918): A Bibliography of Indian Geology and Physical Geography with an Annotated Index of Minerals of Economic Value.

Jadestone

Myitkyina. Tawmaw (25° 42' : 96° 17'). The mineral jadeite, a silicate of soda and alumina, has been worked for an unknown period in this locality and in the neighbourhood, mainly for export to China, where it is highly prized on account of its supposed magical qualities. The earliest description of the mines was published by Griffith in 1847. The stone, he says, is found in rounded boulders embedded in yellow or orange-coloured clay, and is extracted from pits not more than 20 feet deep. The revenue derived from the mines in 1836, the year previous to his visit, is said to have been about Rs40,000. The mines are also mentioned by Hannay but he does not appear to have visited them.

After the annexation of Upper Burma, the mines were visited and described by Noetting, who observed that in addition to the boulder deposits seen by Griffith,

jadeite had been discovered in situ a dark-coloured serpentinous rock, intrusive in Tertiary (probably upper Miocene) sandstones, and clays.

More recently (1907) a full description of the geology of the area,

and of the mode of occurrence of the jadeite, with remarks on the petrology of the rocks associated with it, has been given by Bleek. The mineral is shown to occur as a compound dyke, consisting of jadeite and albite with an outer border of amphibolite, intruded into serpentine under conditions of high compression. The jadeite occupies the centre of the dyke, and is of pure white colour, with included green patches of varying shades, which are the portions sought for.

Boulders of jadeite are also quarried from Tertiary conglomerates at Hweka (25° 29': 96° 20') and from the alluvial deposits of the Uru (Uyu) River near Mamon (25° 36': 96° 18'). Their occurrence in the Tertiary beds proves as Bleek points out, that jadeite intrusions belong to a far earlier period than that assigned to them by Noetting.

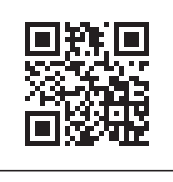
The mineralogical characteristics of the jadeite of Tawmaw, and the rocks associated with it, have been discussed by Bauer, Krenner, and Fischer. Analysis of the mineral has been published by Damour, Farrington, and White (1922). The average annual production of jadeite in Upper Burma, from five years 1909 to 1913, amounted to 2,109 hundredweight. In 1914 and 1915 the amounts produced were 3,764 cwt and 3,692 cwt respectively.

References: La Touche T. H. D., 1918: A Bibliography of Indian Geology and Physical Geography with an Annotated Index of Minerals of Economic Value.

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The Global New Light of Myanmar

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Tatmadaw senior 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 Lu Aye, currently in Kyaukpyu in Rakhine State, along with officials, visited the Aungmingala monastery, encouraged mobile medical teams to give healthcare services to local people and provided foodstuffs.

Lt-Gen Aye Win, currently in Buthidaung Township, together with officials, inspected the medical treatments in Lan Ma monastery and donated rice and cash to Sayadaws. And Lt-Gen Aye Win inspected the delivery process of rice bags carried by the ship namely Kaladan 3.

Brig-Gen Win Ko Ko, currently in Tiddim Township, along with officials, inspected the places which were damaged by the storm in Paletwa Township and provided supplies to the locals.

Similarly, Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Soe attended a coordination meeting held at the guest house of the Township Administration Department to discuss the speedy delivery of relief supplies to the storm victims.

Brig-Gen Tin Swe, currently in Maungdaw, together with officials, inspected the reconstruction of houses in Maungdaw damaged by the storm. And they encouraged the locals currently living in temporary shelters.

Brig-Gen Nay Win Aung, currently in Paletwa, along with officials, provided foodstuffs and 144 family kit boxes donated by the disaster management department to locals from 44 storm-affected villages on 6 June. — MNA/KZW



Public Notice for Elimination of Violence

1. Declaring themselves to be “for the people”, the so-called CRPH, NUG and PDF terrorist groups are lawlessly killing Buddhist monks, civil servants including schoolteachers, and members of the general public, as well as looting and robbing.
2. Not encouraging, supporting, or assisting “CRPH”, “NUG”, and “PDF” terrorists, who are intimidating and killing people and committing destructive activities, is to protect the lives and property of the general public.
3. Giving information secretly to the authorities on terrorists and on the possession and transport of weapons/ammunition is tantamount to protecting the lives and property of innocent people.

Tatmadaw (Air) continues transporting foodstuffs, relief items to Rakhine State



Relief goods and foodstuffs are loaded aboard the Tatmadaw aircraft to deliver them to Mocha-hit areas yesterday.

THE relief aid and food items contributed by the families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and well-wishers, and relief supplies provided by the National Disaster Management Committee for local communities affected by Cyclone Mocha in Rakhine State are being transported by Tatmadaw aircraft and helicopters.

A total of 2.6 tonnes of foodstuffs and relief supplies donated by officers, female soldiers and well-wishers from the mobile relations unit under the management of the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare were delivered from Yangon Airport to Sittway Airport by a plane of Tatmadaw (Air).

A total of 3,191 Tatmadaw members and departmental staff who will help in rehabilitation work and 476.4 tonnes of supplies were also helicoptered to the storm-battered areas.

Officials in the respective areas received relief items and will distribute them to storm victims. — MNA/KZW

Essential food items sold at low prices for storm victims



MEMBERS of the local battalions under the Western Command and officials are selling essential foodstuffs at fairer prices for the convenience of residents and departmental staff affected by Cyclone Mocha in Sittway and to enable them to buy foodstuffs at cheap 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 foodstuffs, electronic devices and construction materials of private businessmen were sold at prices lower than the market price at U Ottama Park in Sittway yesterday. — MNA/KZW



Some yoga activities are seen at the Kandawgyi Amusement Park in Yangon.

Indian Embassy to hold International Day of Yoga (IDY 2023) celebrations, competitions

THE Indian Embassy in Myanmar has announced that activities and competitions will be conducted to celebrate the International Day of Yoga (IDY 2023).

As the preliminary activities for the IDY 2023 celebration that falls on 21 June 2023, yoga drills will be done all over the country throughout the month of June, the embassy stated.

The Swami Vivekananda Cultural Department of the Indian Embassy in Myanmar conducted collective yoga practices at the Kandawgyi Amusement Park during the days off.

In addition, the Ministry of Ayush (MoA) under the Government of India is organizing a quiz competition to raise public awareness about the importance and advantages of yoga to public health and to celebrate Yoga Day.

Those who want to compete in the quiz competition can visit the embassy's website and do so until 21 June. — TWA/CT

AGD, AYA Banks to sell US\$300-500 each for outbound travellers

ASIA Green Development Bank (AGD) and Ayeyarwady Bank (AYA) announced on 5 June that those who will go abroad for various reasons such as work, medical treatment, or scholarship will be allowed to purchase from US\$300 to US\$500 for small expenses at the banks.

The programme was introduced with the approval of the Ministry of Labour, and it has been announced that each Myanmar national can purchase between US\$300 and US\$500 at the foreign exchange counters in AGD Bank (Sule Branch) in Kyauktada Township, Yangon, and in AYA Bank branches such as No 26 Branch in Kyauktada Township, Yangon, No 8 Parami Branch, No 83 River View Branch, No 30 Branch in 2nd Street, Mandalay, and No 1 Branch in Nay Pyi Taw. — TWA/CT



The picture shows the Ayeyarwady Bank No 8 Branch in Mayangon Township.



The Department of Myanmar Examinations.

2023 matriculation exam results to be released on 9 June

THE Myanmar Examinations Department of the Ministry of Education has announced that the 2023 university matriculation exam results will be posted at the same time in schools in various regions and states at 6 am on 9 June.

The results can also be accessed on the website of the Department of Myanmar Examinations, www.myanmarexam.org, at 4 am on 9 June. In addition, the results of examination centres in remote areas and those that do not have good internet connections will also be announced on the same day through the Myanmar Radio National Service.

The Myanmar Examinations Department has announced that one can contact 01 653509 and 01 653467 on the day of the announcement if they are not clear about the results.

The department also issued a notification on 1 June that there are fraud cases with phone numbers and social media accounts requesting money to let people know the results of the matriculation exam in advance. — TWA/CT

Earthquake kills one nun, one woman in Maubin Township



Disaster relief teams and residents are seen helping to deal with the damage and casualties caused by the earthquake in Maubin Township yesterday.

THE Department of Meteorology and Hydrology announced that an earthquake with a Richter Scale 4.8 occurred at a depth of 10 kilometres at a latitude of 16.98 degrees north and a longitude of 95.67 degrees east, about 33 miles west-northwest of Kaba Aye seismological observatory, and about five miles south-southeast of Nyaungdon at 4:23 pm on 7 June 2023.

As a result of the earthquake, the historical Shwebonmyint Pagoda in Maubin, Ayeyawady Region, was destroyed, and the monastery building of Mogok Meditation Centre 44 and some parts of Maubin University collapsed. A nun and one woman were killed, according to a local.

“The earthquake lasted

some time. It was a little strong earthquake. What we know recently is the collapse of the Maubin Mogok Meditation Centre building. One nun and one woman aged about 60 were crushed by broken bricks and died. There is damage in other places,” a rescue official said.

“At around 4:30 pm, the earthquake struck. A nun and

cleaning work was being done. The nun is Daw Wimala, I don't know who the woman is. At around 5 pm when aftershocks followed, the diamond orb atop the Shwebonmyint Pagoda tilted to the right. The Maubin University's convocation was partly damaged, but no one was injured,” said a local person.

There were five earthquakes

in Maubin Township yesterday, once at 2:50 pm, once at 4:20 pm, once at 4:30 pm, once at 4:55 pm and once after 5:00 pm.

The earthquake also hit Nyaungdon, Bogale, Pantanaw, Mawlamyinekyun, Wakema, Pyapon, Hinthada, Kyaiklat, Kyonmangay, Kyonpyaw, Danubyu, and Yangon. — Htun Htun/KZL



a meditation practitioner were crushed to death by bricks. The building collapsed while the



ECONOMY WORLD

Mumbai costliest city to live for expatriates in India: Mercer Report

BY S VENKAT NARAYAN
Our Special Correspondent

MUMBAI emerged as the most expensive Indian city to live for expatriates for the second year in a row, a new report showed on 7 June. Mumbai and Delhi were among the top 35 most expensive cities in Asia for expatriates.

According to Mercer's 2023 Cost of Living survey, Mumbai has witnessed an increase of 13 to 15 per cent in rental prices in 2023 as compared to 2022. This was the highest among all other cities surveyed for the report.

In Bengaluru (Bangalore), New Delhi, Pune, and Chennai, housing rentals rose five to seven per cent. In Hyderabad and Kolkata, the rents rose a modest two to three per cent. Notably, Kolkata had the lowest cost of living for expatriates in India.

The survey was based on an analysis of 227 cities across five continents. Hong Kong retained its spot as the most expensive city to live in as an expat. It was



Chhatrapati Shivaji Railway Terminal in Mumbai.

followed by Singapore and Zurich.

The least expensive was Cuba's Havana. It was followed by Pakistan's Karachi and Islamabad.

Almost all the Indian cities surveyed showed a rise in the cost of living. It is mainly due to a rise in rents and the cost of essential commodities like fruits, vegetables, and milk.

Rahul Sharma, India mobility leader at Mercer, said: "We have observed a change in the relative positioning of Indian cities in the global ranking, which can be attributed to multiple factors. In particular, the shifting order is partly influenced by currency volatility and the inflationary increase in prices of goods and services in other regions, such as Europe, that has

played a role in pushing down the overall rankings of Indian cities."

The cost of essential food items at home, including fruits, vegetables, milk, and dairy products, has risen across all cities, with Kolkata and Pune being the most budget-friendly options.

Meanwhile, Bangalore, Chennai, and Hyderabad have experienced an increase in alcohol prices, with Chennai having

the highest prices in this category.

Personal care expenses have increased in all cities, with Mumbai being the most expensive and Kolkata offering more affordable options.

Additionally, utilities such as electricity and internet/broadband have seen an upward trend in most surveyed Indian cities. Finally, Delhi and Mumbai have the highest costs for dining out, while Pune provides the most economical options, followed by Bengaluru and Hyderabad.

However, despite a rise in costs, Indian cities continue to be less costly as compared to other countries globally.

"Mumbai (147) and Delhi (169), offer a cost-efficient destination for global multinational corporations (MNCs) looking to set up operations overseas, with a lower cost of living and expat accommodation costs compared to major cities in the Asia Pacific region like Shanghai, Beijing, and Tokyo," the report said.

OECD slightly raises world GDP growth forecast to 2.7%

THE OECD slightly raised its growth outlook for the world economy on Wednesday as inflation eases and China has dropped Covid restrictions, but it warned the recovery faces a "long road".

The Paris-based organisation forecast an economic expansion of 2.7 per cent, up from 2.6 per cent in its previous report in March, with upgrades for the United States, China and the eurozone.

But it is still under the 3.3 per cent growth recorded in 2022.

"The global economy is turning a corner but faces a long road ahead to attain strong and sustainable growth," OECD chief economist Clare Lombardelli wrote in the OECD's Economic Outlook.

"The recovery will be weak by past standards," Lombardelli wrote.

The growth forecast for

2024 remains unchanged at 2.9 per cent.

Signs of stress

A drop in energy prices, the untangling of supply chain bottlenecks and China's sooner-than-expected reopening are contributing to the recovery, the OECD said.

But core inflation, which strips out volatile energy and food prices, is higher than previously expected, according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The OECD said this may force central banks, which have already raised interest rates in efforts to tame consumer prices, to further hike borrowing costs.

"Central banks need to maintain restrictive monetary policies until there are clear signs that underlying inflationary pressures are abating," Lombardelli said. — AFP

Energy efficiency investments need to triple: IEA

INVESTMENTS in improving energy efficiency must triple this decade if the world is to keep the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) within reach, the IEA said Wednesday.

The investments would allow a doubling of annual gains in energy efficiency to four per cent, resulting in a drop in energy demand and fuel consumption that would benefit consumers and provide greater energy security to nations.

The efficiency gains would "deliver vital reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and at the same time create jobs, expand energy access, reduce energy bills, decrease air pollution, and diminish countries' reliance on fossil fuel imports — among other social and economic benefits," the International Energy Agency said in a report.

The IEA, which advises nations on policy, was hosting



In this file photo an employee makes a final check on a solar panel at the Renewable Energy Corporation (REC) integrated solar manufacturing facility in Singapore. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Wednesday an energy efficiency conference outside Paris bringing together officials and businesses from over 80 countries.

The agency noted that if existing government policies on energy efficiency were accelerated and fully implemented, that would cover about three-quarters of the necessary effort to double annual efficiency gains.

And while energy efficiency

investments are expected to reach record levels this year of over \$600 billion, the IEA noted that growth in slowing due to higher interest rates, saying the level needs to reach \$1.8 trillion by 2030. "Often governments don't give (energy efficiency) as much focus as we think they should," the head of the IEA's energy efficiency division, Brian Motherway, told AFP last week.—AFP

China’s exports fall 7.5% in May, adding to stimulus talk

CHINA’S exports fell in May for the first time since February, data showed Wednesday, breaking a two-month growth streak as a post-Covid rebound faded and adding to speculation that officials will unveil fresh stimulus measures.

Rising global inflation, the threat of recession elsewhere and geopolitical tensions with the United States have weakened

demand for Chinese products.

That resulted in overseas shipments sinking 7.5 per cent on-year last month, Customs figures showed, marking a sharp drop from an increase of 8.5 per cent in April and much steeper than the 1.8 per cent forecast in a Bloomberg survey.

China’s exports grew in March and April, snapping a run of five straight declines, when production was disrupted by sweeping lockdowns and delays at ports when authorities enforced their strict zero-Covid policy.

And the Chinese economy expanded by 4.5 per cent in the first quarter of the year.—AFP



Containers are transported by trucks at the Pacific international container terminal of Tianjin Port in north China’s Tianjin, April 11, 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

Turkish lira hits new dollar low after election

THE Turkish lira sank to a new low against the dollar on Wednesday, more than a week after the re-election of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The currency, which was propped up by the central bank before the presidential election, fell five per cent to 22.77 lira per dollar at around 0645 GMT. Erdogan was sworn in on Saturday after winning a historic election runoff on 28 May and named a new cabinet appointing market-friendly politician Mehmet Simsek as finance minister.

The former Merrill Lynch economist is known to oppose Erdogan’s unconventional policies.

He served as finance minister between 2009 and 2015 and deputy prime minister in charge of the economy until 2018, before stepping down ahead of a series of lira crashes that year. Simsek said: “We have no choice but to return to rational ground” soon after he took office, a sign of shifting away from the unorthodox policy of lowering interest rates in order to fight inflation.—AFP



The currency, which was propped up by the central bank before the presidential election, fell five per cent to 22.77 lira per dollar at around 0645 GMT. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP/FILE

Heavy industrial enterprises eye green, innovative shift

IT only took a few years for a private company in north China’s Tianjin Municipality to make the transition from the steel industry to the big data sector.

This transformation stands as an example of the city’s heavy industrial sector embracing a green revolution.

“Faced with challenges including the steel overcapacity and environmental protection pressure, we made up our mind to change our business,” said Zhang Jian, general manager of the Tianjin GiantDC Data Technology Co Ltd.

Founded in 2019, the company’s predecessor is a steel enterprise with decades of history in the Beichen District.

Both the steel and big data industries demand high in the sup-

porting electricity facilities, making the shift possible.

In recent years, the district, a traditional industrial hub of Tianjin, has been looking for eco-friendly innovative upgrades, especially in its private sector, in a bid to respond to China’s top design of sustainable development and to attract more investors. In the first quarter of this year, Beichen’s private sector posted more than nine billion yuan (about 1.27 billion US dollars) in output value, accounting for 55 per cent of the district’s total GDP in the period.

At the production workshop of the Masterwork Group Co Ltd a world-leading die-cutting machine, newly developed by the company, can make 9,000 sheets of products per hour.—Xinhua

First restaurants in Viet Nam awarded Michelin star

Vietnamese booming food scene was awarded its first ever Michelin stars Tuesday, with four restaurants selected by the prestigious dining guide.

Three eateries in Hanoi — Gia, Tam Vi and Hibana by Koki — and one in Ho Chi Minh City — Anan Saigon — were each awarded one Michelin star.

Although there were no stars handed out to traditional street food eateries serving classics such as pho — a noodle soup — or bun cha — a vermicelli noodle dish with grilled pork — Vietnamese flavours feature heavily among the winners.

Tam Vi largely focusses on northern Vietnamese dishes including ham with periwinkle snails

— served with fresh herbs, rice vermicelli noodles and fish sauce — and crab soup with spinach, a popular summer meal.

Nguyen Bao Anh, whose mother, Tam, owns the restaurant and named it after herself, said her mum “had a dream of opening a restaurant where customers could come and feel like they were eating a home-cooked meal”.

“The restaurant serves traditional food and I think now not many restaurants serve that kind of food that remind people of familiar flavours,” Bao Anh told AFP after the awards ceremony in Hanoi.

“This award is for my mum and I’m proud of her,” she added.—AFP



Four restaurants in Viet Nam have earned a coveted Michelin star — the first time the country has been so honoured. PHOTO: NHAC NGUYEN / AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (785N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (785N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-6-2023 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.

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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

Secret cable debunks Biden claim of being caught off guard by Kabul’s sudden 2021 collapse



The NATO Resolute Support Mission included troops from various NATO member countries and partner nations. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ AFP/FILE**

THE United States and its NATO allies were forced to accelerate their withdrawal from Afghanistan in the late summer of 2021 after the Taliban launched a Blitzkrieg offensive and overran all of the country’s major cities in less than two weeks, prompting the NATO-backed puppet government and security forces to disintegrate.

A classified State Department assessment written on the eve of Kabul’s fall to the Taliban in July 2021 challenges publicly-stated claims by Biden administration officials that the White

House didn’t expect the Afghan government and security forces to crumble as quickly as they did.

“What we saw was their prediction, with great accuracy, of exactly what was going to happen and what the outcome would be if they did not change their directions,” House Foreign Affairs Committee member Representative Darrell Issa told media of the document, which the Biden administration agreed to let committee lawmakers look at after a months-long struggle.

According to Issa, the document also indicated that the

State Department appeared to have pretty much resigned itself to the fact that billions of dollars in US military hardware would be seized by the Taliban. The battle over the so-called ‘dissent cable’ – an outlet for officials to express views which are contrary to official policy, was waged in Washington over the space of several months, with the House Foreign Affairs Committee threatening to hold Secretary of State Antony Blinken with contempt if he did not allow lawmakers investigating the Afghanistan withdrawal to view it.— SPUTNIK

Record 13 mln Chinese take college entrance exam



Students line up to enter a school on the first day of China’s national college entrance examination, known as the gaokao, in Beijing on 7 June 2023. **PHOTO: WANG ZHAO/AFP**

THIS year’s college entrance exam in China, also known as the

“gaokao”, began on Wednesday.

According to the Ministry of Education, the exact number of applicants for this year is 12.91 million, a record high since matriculation resumed in 1977.

Their exams will last from two to four days, depending on their choice of subjects.

The annual exam is deemed the most important event for high school graduates, as it provides an opportunity to set the direction for their future careers.

This year’s college entrance exam is the first one after China adjusted its COVID-19 response measures.—Xinhua

‘World’s best restaurant’ to reopen in Spain as museum

SPAIN’S elBulli, repeatedly voted the world’s best restaurant before it closed over a decade ago, is set to reopen as a museum dedicated to the culinary revolution it sparked.

Nestled in an isolated cove on Spain’s northeastern tip, the museum is dubbed “elBulli1846” — a reference to the 1,846 dishes ground-breaking chef Ferran Adria says were developed at the eatery.

“It’s not about coming here to eat, but to understand what happened in elBulli,” the 61-year-old told AFP near the kitchen of the restaurant he ran for over two decades.

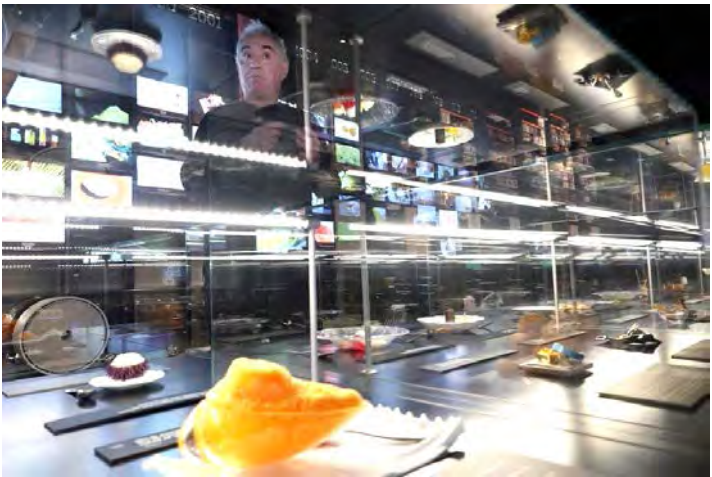
The museum will open on 15 June, nearly 12 years after

the restaurant served its final dish to the public.

Visitors will be able to see hundreds of photos, notebooks, trophies and models made of plastic or wax that emulate some of the innovative dishes which were served at the eatery.

Adria pioneered the culinary trend known as molecular gastronomy, which deconstructs ingredients and recombines them in unexpected ways.

The results are foods with surprising combinations and textures, such as fruit foams, gazpacho popsicles and caramelized quails.—AFP



Spanish chef Ferran Adria poses next to plastic reproductions of dishes in the former kitchen of the El Bulli restaurant transformed into ‘elBulli1846’ Museum. **PHOTO: AFP**

WORLD: TOP HEADLINE

UK PM heads to Washington to meet Biden and talk tech

PRIME Minister Rishi Sunak headed to Washington Tuesday lobbying for Britain to take a lead role in regulating artificial intelligence, after a dire warning of the technology’s existential dangers.

Sunak will meet President Joe Biden on Thursday for a White House summit, pledging unstinting support for Ukraine after Russia was accused of blowing up a major dam to thwart an apparent counter-offensive. But while the United States and Britain are inching closer on giving Ukraine air support, and on a robust approach to China, Sunak faces a harder sell with Biden about the UK’s post-Brexit relevance elsewhere.

The need for a coordinated response on AI was underlined by Downing Street task force advisor Matt Clifford, who warned the chances of the fast-learning systems wiping out humanity within two years were “not zero”. Interviewed on TalkTV, he said the world needed “to regulate them on a global scale, because it’s not enough I think to regulate them nationally”.— AFP

UK court rejects bid for legal review of Saudi arms sales



Saudi Colonel Turki bin Saleh al-Malki (Center-L) shows US Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs David Schenker (C) purportedly Iranian weapons seized by Saudi forces from Yemen's Houthi rebels, during a visit to a military base in Al-Kharj in central Saudi Arabia, on 5 September 2019. **PHOTO: FAYEZ NURELDINE/AFP/FILE**

LONDON'S High Court on Tuesday rejected a bid for a judicial review of the UK government's decision to renew arms sales to Saudi Arabia that could be used in the war in Yemen.

A pair of judges at the court dismissed the case brought by the Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT), after hearing arguments earlier this year.

The UK-based NGO accuses the government of contributing to breaches of international law and the world's largest humanitarian disaster in Yemen, where conflict

has claimed tens of thousands of lives in recent years.

But the judges sided with the British government, concluding there had been "continuing rationality" in a risk assessment performed by officials before restarting arms sales to Saudi Arabia in 2020.

Riyadh has intervened militarily in Yemen since 2015, leading a regional coalition supporting pro-government forces opposed to the Iran-backed Houthi rebels.

The NGO launched the legal challenge after Britain an-

nounced the sales resumption, with ministers insisting there was no clear risk that weapons would be used in a serious violation of international humanitarian law.

The government has licenced sales to Riyadh of weaponry including combat aircraft, guided bombs and missiles, with a published value since 2015 of £7.9 billion (\$9.8 billion), according to CAAT.

Emily Apple, a spokesperson for the NGO, said it was "obviously disappointed with the verdict".—AFP

Beyond sushi: Japan expands veggie options to tempt tourists



Vegetarian dining options aren't easy to come by in Japan, but that is beginning to change. **PHOTO: RICHARD A. BROOKS / AFP**

EVEN on a weekday, there's a queue at Tokyo's vegan Izakaya Masaka, including many tourists

eager to try meat-free versions of Japanese classics like fried chicken and juicy dumplings.

While millions of visitors have happily savoured Japan's fish- and meat-heavy cuisine, options for vegetarians and vegans are harder to find. Now, Tokyo and other cities are on a mission to show the country's renowned gastronomy is not off-limits to those who don't eat meat. Tina Bui, a 36-year-old vegan from San Francisco, said she was very excited to order the signature "karaage" soy fried chicken at Izakaya Masaka. She said plant-based options were limited in Japan compared to the United States, with just "enough for me to survive" a short trip.—AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Mexico authorities confirm human remains belong to eight missing coworkers

MEXICAN authorities said Tuesday that human remains discovered in bags in a ravine in the western state of Jalisco last week belong to eight call centre employees reported missing.

The gruesome discovery was made last week 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 six men, all aged around 30 years, who had been reported missing since around 20 May. —AFP

2 dead, 5 injured in US school graduation shooting

TWO people were killed and five injured Tuesday during a shooting near a high school graduation in the US state of Virginia, police said, the latest in an epidemic of mass shootings plaguing the country. The shooting took place around 5 pm (2100 GMT) outside a theater in the state capital of Richmond, where students from a local high school were celebrating their graduation, Richmond interim police chief Rick Edwards told reporters.—AFP

Prince Harry's past drug use at issue in US visa case



The 38-year-old Harry will not be in court for the hearing -- he was in London's High Court on Tuesday complaining about the "incredibly invasive" media coverage that he has endured from the British press. **PHOTO: AFP**

A US court on Tuesday will hear a case filed by a conservative think tank seeking to know more about the awarding of a visa to Britain's Prince Harry despite the admission in his memoir that he had used illegal drugs.

The hearing will address a complaint filed by the Washington-based Heritage Foundation under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) asking for the release of the British royal's immigration records.

The 38-year-old Harry will not be in court for the hearing — he was in London's High Court on Tuesday complaining about the "incredibly invasive" media coverage that he has endured

from the British press.

The younger son of Britain's King Charles III accuses Mirror Group Newspapers — publisher of The Mirror, Sunday Mirror and the Sunday People tabloids — of illegal information gathering, including phone hacking.

In its complaint being heard in US District Court, the Heritage Foundation noted that Harry "has publicly admitted to the essential elements of a number of drug offences in both the United States and abroad."

"United States law generally renders such a person inadmissible for entry to the United States," the complaint says.—AFP

UK court rejects bid for legal review of Saudi arms sales

PAGE-15



SPORT

XII ASEAN Paralympic Games: Myanmar wins more medals in track & field, swimming, weightlifting

MYANMAR secured more medals in the track and field, swimming and weightlifting as the sport events were held at Morodok Techo National Stadium Complex, and various stadiums in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 6 and 7 June.

Myanmar's Aung Tun Lin grabbed one gold medal while Tin Nyo garnered the silver medal during the Men's Petanque Event of the track and field held at the Morodok Techo National Stadium Complex.

Similarly, Maung Lin picked one silver medal for Myanmar during the Men's 400-Metre event of track and field, while Wai Wai Thin gained one more silver in the Women's 200-metre event.

Likewise, Sithu Htet won one silver medal for Myanmar in the Men's javelin event and Soe Pe secured one bronze medal in the Men's 400-metre event of track & field.

In the women's 200-metre event, Nanda Lin grabbed another bronze medal for Myanmar.

Next, weightlifting competitions were held at National Paralympic Committee Hall and Myanmar's Win San Aung won one silver medal in the Men's



One of Myanmar's gold medallists receives the medal in the XII ASEAN Paralympic Games. PHOTO: MNA

72 kg Total Lift Event, and one bronze in the Men's Best Lift Event.

Meanwhile, Myanmar's Min Zaw Win secured one bronze medal in the Men's 80 kg Total Lift event.

In the Men's 200-Metre Swimming Event held at Morodok Techo National Stadium Aquatic Centre, Myanmar's Aung Myint Myat won one silver medal while Soe Win garnered one bronze each in the men's 200-metre and men's 100-metre events.

In the Men's 50-Metre Swimming Event, Kaung Myat Kyaw

secured one more bronze for Myanmar.

After the competitions, the awarding ceremony continued, and the gold, silver and bronze medallists were awarded by Maj-Gen Hla Moe, chairman of the Myanmar Paralympic Sports Federation and officials.

Myanmar competed in Chess, Swimming, Volleyball, Goalball, Weightlifting, Football, Table Tennis, and Track and Field on 7 June.

Myanmar has secured 14 gold medals, 22 silver medals, and 18 bronze medals totalling 54 medals until now. — MNA/KZL

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.

Asian Tour says PGA Tour-LIV Golf merger 'a great result'

THE Asian Tour called it "a massive stride forward" for golf Wednesday after the PGA Tour announced a shock merger with the Saudi-backed LIV circuit, ending the sport's two-year civil war. Tuesday's stunning announcement took many in the sport, including players, by surprise and means that all litigation between the feuding parties is over.

The Asian Tour said the agreement "validates" its decision last year to link up with LIV Golf, which made an initial commitment of more than \$200 million to the tour.

LIV is bankrolled by Saudi

Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) and had sparked accusations of "sportswashing" — using sport to deflect from the country's human rights record.

"The Asian Tour welcomed and embraced yesterday's news concerning the landmark announcement between the Public Investment Fund, the PGA TOUR and the DP World Tour," Asian Tour commissioner and chief executive Cho Minn Thant said. "This is a massive stride forward for the game and a great result for all parties concerned: the fans, brands, broadcasters, the tours and their membership. — AFP

Guardiola closes in on silencing critics for good

MANCHESTER City are on the brink of a historic treble as Pep Guardiola targets Champions League vindication in Saturday's final against Inter Milan.

Inter stand in the way of City matching the greatest ever achievement in English football by emulating Manchester United's class of 1998/99 in winning the Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League in the same season.

For Guardiola, meanwhile, a moment of personal validation awaits in Istanbul after his 12-year drought in the competition.

The Catalan is widely regarded as the greatest coach of his generation with 11 league



Pep Guardiola is aiming to end a 12-year Champions League drought in Saturday's final. PHOTO: AFP

titles to his name in just 14 seasons in charge of Barcelona, Bayern Munich and City. — AFP