

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. X, No. 60, 14th Waning of Nayon 1385 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Friday, 16 June 2023

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

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

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects progress of carving Maravijaya marble Buddha Image



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views the progress in carving the Maravijaya marble Buddha image at the Maravijaya Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday afternoon inspected the progress of carving the Maravijaya marble Buddha image which would be the highest among the stone-carved Bud-

dha images across the world, in Maravijaya Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Lt-Gen Kan Myint Than of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Kyaw Swa Lin reported on the

progress of carving measures, decoration of the throne, construction of religious buildings, water fountain square, Gandakuti chambers, Musalinda Lake and Nagayon pagoda as well as stone inscription chamber Cetis.

The Senior General in-

spected the progress of carving the Buddha image, the banner post, Gandakuti chambers, the thriving of Maha Bodhi banyan trees, completion of the Sasana Beikman and Thudamma public rest houses, the square of the water fountain, the stone inscription chamber

Cetis, Nagayon Pagoda and Musalinda Lake, and thriving of Barringtonia plant and gave instructions based on the presentations of the responsible personnel.

Maravijaya Buddha Image is being carved with the aim

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National Disaster Management Committee

Ensuring per acre high yields needed for regional rice sufficiency

IT is necessary to ensure per acre high yields for regional rice sufficiency. Local farmers need to grow high-yield paddy strains with high consuming quality.

(Excerpts from the speech by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at a meeting with departmental officials and town elders in PutaO Township on 13 December 2022)

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects progress of carving Maravijaya marble Buddha Image

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of showing the flourishing of Buddhism to the world, shaping Myanmar as a focal point of Buddhism, ensuring the prosperity of the State, and ensuring peace and prosperity of the world.

The part of Buddha’s image was conveyed onto the throne on 26 January and it was successfully completed on 31 January. Religious objects and jewelled items were enshrined on 27 January and 10 February. Then, part 4 of the image was successfully conveyed onto the throne on 11 February. So far, carving the Buddha image has been 97 per cent completed.

Currently, Pitaka treatises are being carved on the stone plaques in Romanized Language and Pali Language with



The Senior General hears the report on the ongoing carving and relevant measures for the Maravijaya Buddha Image.

the use of modern machinery. These stone plaques will be kept in front of the image for public observation. Moreover, Atthakatha and Tika treatises will be published in Pali and Romanized languages to be distributed to monasteries across the world. So far, the building of religious edifices and Buddha Park are 86 per cent complete. — MNA/TTA



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pays inspection tours round the related chamber and the Nagayon Pagoda yesterday.

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.

Reverends and members have to join hands in rehabilitation tasks as much as they can: Vice-Senior General

CHAIRMAN of the National Disaster Management Committee Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win viewed the renovation of the damaged parts at St Mark Cathedral at the corner of Meyu and Chinpyan roads in Sittway yesterday morning.

Rev of the Cahthedralial U Hlaing Win explained damage in the storm, renovation and religious affairs.

After coordinating necessary measures, the Vice-Senior General said that although everybody is allowed freedom of faith for relevant religions under the Constitution, they all are residing in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, so they have to be loyal to the State. In accord with the guidance of the Prime Minister, efforts are be-



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets displaced persons at the Thetkaepyin IDP camp in Sittway yesterday.

ing made to soonest rehabilitate the Mocha-hit areas. The people managed to encounter a severe storm with the least casualties. He requested that reverends and members have to join hands in rehabilitation tasks as much as they can. Then, the Vice-Senior General presented foodstuffs and aid to Christian organizations.

At Thetkaepyin IDP camp, the Vice-Senior General explained the suffering of everybody regardless of citizens, associate citizens and naturalized citizens in all advantages and disadvantages, said that it was necessary to understand the goodwill of the State and active participation in rehabilitation measures and presented foodstuffs, packets of vegetable seeds and tarpaulin rolls to officials.

— MNA/TTA



The Vice-Senior General meets religious leaders at the Anglican Christian Church.



The Vice-Senior General provides rehabilitation materials.



The Vice-Senior General presents foodstuffs for reverends and members.



Foodstuffs are provided for IDPs at the Thetkaepyin camp.

Families need to take care of using clean drinking water to be free from diseases in the aftermath of the storm: Vice-Senior General

TATMADAW families have to actively participate in rehabilitation tasks, said National Disaster Management Committee Chairman State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the meetings with Tatmadaw members and families in Sittway ad Rathedaung stations yesterday.

Speaking on the occasions, the Vice-Senior General said that as soldiers are serving duties round the clock, they need to serve it without having to worry about families. Hence, officials have to make arrangements for safety and food for their families.

The Vice-Senior General highlighted that manageable-scale agricultural and livestock tasks must be undertaken at the relevant units this cultivation season in accord with the instructions laid down. He promised to hand over the necessary quality seeds of crops to them.



SAC Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win cordially greets Tatmadaw members and families in Sittway Station yesterday.



The Vice-Senior General warmly greets Tatmadaw members and families at the Rathedaung Station.

The Vice-Senior General stressed the need to encourage school-age children to learn for passing the at least KG+9 scheme as implementing the poli-

cy adopted by the Prime Minister. Families need to take care of using clean drinking water to be free from diseases in the aftermath of the storm.



Tatmadaw families have to actively participate in rehabilitation tasks, he noted.

The Vice-Senior General presented foodstuffs, cash assistance and seeds of vegetables to Tatmadaw members, families and relief teams from relevant stations.

The Vice-Senior General also comforted Tatmadaw members and families receiving medical treatment at the local medical battalion in Sittway and inspected the hospital.

At No 6 Basic Education High School in Sittway, the Vice-Senior General viewed the learning of students and fulfilled the requirements of teachers. — MNA/TTA



The Vice-Senior General provides foodstuffs for the patients.



SAC Vice-Chair DPM Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets Rathedaung Township departmental staff, town elders, relief teams, voluntary teams

CHAIRMAN of the National Disaster Management Committee Vice-Chairman of State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win made an inspection tour of Rathedaung to view round rehabilitation tasks yesterday afternoon and met departmental personnel, town elders, relief teams and voluntary teams in the township administrative office.

First, the Rathedaung township administrative body chairman and a senior military officer assigned to supervise rehabilitation tasks reported on the damage, rehabilitation tasks and renovation processes.

Then, the Vice-Senior General offered appropriate instructions saying the visit to Rakhine State is to inspect the rehabilitation activities completed within one month in areas that were badly affected by the storm. The situation during the visit on 18

May and today is totally different, he added.

He then highlighted the management to provide rice seedlings for this season in time, repairing saltwater preventive dykes, pond cleaning measures, arrangement for students to study under safe shelters, current learning sections and distribution of rice using 10,000 tonnes of reserved rice (200,000 bags) stored before the storm in details.

He presented foodstuffs to departmental personnel, relief teams and voluntary teams.

The Vice-Senior General and party paid homage to Sayadaws and monks at Aungmyay Bodhi Dhamma Yeiktha Alotawpyae Monastery in Rathedaung and presented rice and offerings.

The Vice-Senior General and party also viewed repairing the damaged buildings at the public hospital in Rathedaung, comforted patients at the hospital and



The Vice-Senior General presents alms offerings to Sayadaws and monks at the Aungmyay Bodhi Dhamma Yeiktha Alotawpyae Monastery in Rathedaung yesterday.



The Vice-Senior General provides foodstuffs.



Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets departmental personnel, town elders, relief teams and voluntary teams in Rathedaung.



The Vice-Senior General comforts the patients at the hospital in Rathedaung.

presented foodstuffs and cash assistance.

While at BEHS in Rathedaung, the Vice-Senior General and party observed the class session of students, met the teachers and fulfilled the requirements.

— MNA/KTZH



The Vice-Senior General views the classroom of the BEHS Rathedaung yesterday.

Union Ministers meet UN Acting Resident Coordinator, Acting Humanitarian Coordinator



The UN Acting Resident Coordinator and Acting Humanitarian Coordinator calls on Union Ministers Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, U Ko Ko Hlaing and Dr Thet Thet Khine yesterday in Sittway.

UNION Ministers Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, U Ko Ko Hlaing, and Dr Thet Thet Khine received Mr Ramanathan Balakrishnan, Acting Resident Coordinator and Acting Humanitarian Coordinator, and his team at the Rakhine State government office in Sittway.

During the meeting, both sides engaged in cordial discussions regarding the ongoing relief and rehabilitation efforts following Mocha, the systematic distribution of relief materials, the socioeconomic conditions in areas affected

by the storm, and ways and means of managing international aid.

Also present at the meeting together with the Acting Resident Coordinator and Acting Humanitarian Coordinator were Ms Kyoko Ono, Deputy Head of OCHA Office, Daw Su Su Thatun, Senior Advisor to the RC/HC, Mr Riccardo Maia, UN Area Coordinator for Rakhine State, Mr Tom Otunga, Head of OCHA Rakhine Sub-Office, and U Kyaw Nang Win, Humanitarian Affairs Specialist of OCHA. — MNA/TS

Myanmar MoEP delegation visits factories of JSC Atomenergomash (AEM-Technologies ‘Izhora’), Central Design Bureau of Mechanical Engineering

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Electric Power Minister U Thaung Han, currently in the Russian Federation to attend the International Business Forum to be held in Saint Petersburg, observed the factory of JSC Atomenergomash (AEM-Technologies ‘Izhora’) near St Petersburg on the morning of 14 June.

On arrival at the factory of JSC Atomenergomash (AEM-Technologies ‘Izhora’), the delegation studied the production and installation of boiler and turbine equipment used in thermal power plants at Workshop Nos. 33 and 34.

Later, Director-General Mr Kotov Igor of JSC Atomenergomash (AEM-Technologies ‘Izhora’) explained the operation

and production of the factory using PowerPoint at the factory’s meeting hall, and the Union minister posed inquiries regarding the information he sought.

The Union minister and party visited the factory of the Central Design Bureau of Mechanical Engineering (CDBM) in the afternoon and Production Director Mr Alexy Kuzmin explained the production status of the factory to them.

The Central Design Bureau of Mechanical Engineering is a factory with 80 years of experience and it mainly produces thermal equipment, cold water systems, pump systems, and pipeline systems.

In addition to the production of essential equipment



Union Minister U Thaung Han is pictured during his observation tours round the factories in Saint Petersburg on 14 June.

needed in thermal-powered plants, assembly of ships and oil and natural gas production, the bureau engages in design development. — MNA/CT

Donation ceremony organized for families of Cyclone-affected employees from regional audit offices in Rakhine State



MR Liu Wei, Chairman of the Myanmar-China Culture and Tourism Promotion Association, and his family hosted a donation ceremony at the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The ceremony aimed to support the family members of employees from the Office of the Auditor-General of Rakhine State and regional audit offices in Rakhine State who were affected by Cyclone Mocha.

During the ceremony, the chairman explained the purpose of their

generous donation to assist the families impacted by the disaster. Union Auditor-General U Tin Oo accepted the donation of K3.5 million from the donor's family. In return, he presented a certificate of appreciation and gratitude to express heartfelt thanks for the contribution.

Present at the event were the deputy auditor-general, the permanent secretary, directors-general, the deputy permanent secretary, and deputy director-general. — GNLN/KZL

Turn out qualified human resources with education facilities

EVERY student has to learn lessons from relevant grades to obtain knowledge. Only when they pursue school education till designated grades will they have a smooth way of shaping their lives. As the free education system is being implemented in the country, if students do not learn school education till the last grade, it will bring loss to their lives, parents and the State.

Schools, quality of curricula, capacity and pedagogic skills of teachers in relevant subjects, attributes of teachers and attitudes on their professions are of great importance in nurturing children of the State and shaping the future of posterities. Only when the capacity and pedagogic skills of teachers are higher will the qualification of pupils be brighter.

Qualified human resources primarily depend on the education sector. Without knowledge and skills, anybody cannot modernize the country. Youths who are human resources with comprehensive education can thoroughly understand the rights and duties of citizens and will be able to be a powerful force in building the Union based on democracy and federalism.

In building these infrastructures, the State spent a large sum of money. Hence, all students and teachers should focus on learning and teaching without moving useless activities in their professions by taking care of valuable infrastructures. Quality infrastructural facilities can contribute to the improvement of the learning society as well as the development of the academic sector.

In the 20th century, education is taking a leading role in all measures. As the definition of education is very wide, teachers should teach pupils to have qualifications for higher skills and capacity in line with the advancement of 21st-century academic measures. As the country is improving the education sector with new curricula and pedagogic systems for students in the basic education sector, students, parents and teachers have to march towards the goal.

Qualified human resources primarily depend on the education sector. Without knowledge and skills, anybody cannot modernize the country. Youths who are human resources with comprehensive education can thoroughly understand the rights and duties of citizens and will be able to be a powerful force in building the Union based on democracy and federalism.



THAT iconic building in New York! It looks so peaceful! Created to make the world a more peaceful place. It has peace and security as two of the main pillars.

But inside, it is infested with egos. Its core is rotten.

Since pronouns are so popular these days, references will be made in this article as “they”, “them”, “their”, etc.

They are to serve the people. Instead, the arrogance, ignorance and self-interest have so polluted their minds that they are either in denial of how irrelevance their existence has become and or just simply incompetent and incapable of seeing the reality.

This week another one of them “bites the dust”, in connection with Myanmar.

There have been appointments of those who were no longer wanted anymore close to the Ivory Tower in New York. Dump them all on Myanmar! There was one who was appointed so that frequent trips can be made to see family and relatives in a nearby country. Then, there was a lightweight who had no clues whatsoever about Myanmar. One promptly turned up at Davos soon after the appointment. Let’s be honest,

The Picture of Irrelevance

By Kyaw Myint Tun-Paris



The United Nations headquarters in New York is shown in this photo taken 12 August 2003. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE DON EMMERT/AFP/FILE

est, Davos is as far away as it could be with the problems in Myanmar! Whether there is a need or not, they visit the country frequently and put out press

statements just to show they are working hard and justify their employment. Attempts would be made to visit the country especially when their contract is

up for extension.

But once they are removed, there is no shortage of self-proclaimed righteous groups to join. They instantly become

“experts”, regardless of their failures. There is a caravan of these “has beens”, endlessly and tirelessly keeping their names afloat with the hope for future appointments. It’s a clique that thinks of themselves as elitists. They all know each other. Let’s not forget, one of their own, who wrote about how to fix failed states, fled with planeloads of cash to another country and abandoned the long-suffering citizens when his country needed him most. That elitist clique is full of people like that. The more turmoil in the world the better for them. That way, they can go on serving endlessly as “consultants”, and “experts”, join this commission, write a paper for that University, attend this Forum, and be a member of that panel. They are invited to endless “Forums” and Roundtables” hosted by their “Aunties” and “Uncles” in certain capitals, business class trips and first-class accommodation all paid

for by who knows!!! It’s endless! But if the world becomes more peaceful, they become jobless. They won’t be invited to Davos. They can’t go to New York or Geneva for “retreats”!!!

These “has beens”, “wannabes” and washed ups” are appointed to highly lucrative positions. As they travel to the capitals of the regions like Asia and Africa, they demand to meet with Heads of State, Foreign Ministers, etc., etc. Most of the time, their demands are granted. But when they travel to Washington DC (if they are not already declared PNG by powerful capitals!!!) there are lucky to be accorded an audience with shall we say, Deputy Assistant Secretary?

Low and mid-level officers get positions in developing countries, some of the poorest countries in the world. They start to live a life of luxury. Maids! Multiple maids! They instantly become A-listers in the local so-

cial circuit. They are invited to embassy events and events by the local rich and famous. All that goes to their heads and in the process, they begin to forget who they really are and that they are to serve the people. But these people, when they are in London or Paris or Geneva, they do their own laundry. They take the tube to go to work.

The world is strife-torn. Are we seeing what is happening in Sudan? Recent reports say Sudan is on the brink of a full-blown civil war. Isn’t Sudan one of their babies? How many years have they been in Sudan? Let’s not forget one of their other babies, South Sudan. Oh, how about Haiti? In the case of Haiti, they managed to inflict more pain on the Haitian people. The world did in Haiti? Have they brought peace to these countries after so many years/decades on the ground and countless Envoys, Representatives, and Rapporteurs?

They thrive in a crisis. Not to relieve local people of pain and suffering but for their own good. The longer the crisis goes on the longer their relevance remains. They suck up to their “Aunties” and “Uncles” in the western capitals, they kick down governments in less fortunate countries.

Some of their senior officials, western citizens based in western capitals launch scathing reports after scathing reports about Myanmar. How factual, no one crosschecks. One recent “report” blamed China and Russia. Seriously? Blame everything on China and Russia. The usual suspects can do no wrong! Would the solutions for Myanmar be found just by these usual divide-and-conquer suspects in the western countries without China and Russia? What in the world!!! Let’s be real for once. Yet, people of that low IQ continue to hold on to their positions.

What breakthrough do they have to prove in recent memory? Where have they brought lasting peace? Name one! Under their watch record number of people have been forcibly displaced or stateless. So, what have they done? Is the world becoming more peaceful?

These people should be given no role in finding solutions for the problems Myanmar is facing.

Solutions for Myanmar will come from within and with the help, cooperation and understanding of the neighbours and friendly countries.



Researchers discover device that mimics human vision, memory abilities

RESEARCHERS have developed little devices that see and remember in the same manner that people do, in a promising step towards one day having apps that can make quick, complicated judgements, such as self-driving automobiles. The neuromorphic device is a single chip powered by a doped indium oxide sensing element hundreds of times thinner than a human hair and requires no additional parts to function.

Visual information

RMIT University engineers in Australia led the work, with contributions from researchers at Deakin University and the University of Melbourne. The team’s research demonstrates a working device that captures, processes and stores visual information. With precise engineering of the doped

indium oxide, the device mimics a human eye’s ability to capture light, pre-packages and transmits information like an optical nerve, and stores and classifies it in a memory system like the way our brains can.

Collectively, these functions could enable ultra-fast decision making, the team says. Team leader Professor Sumeet Walia said the new device can perform all necessary functions - sensing, creating and processing information, and retaining memories - rather than relying on external energy-intensive computation, which prevents real-time decision making.

“Performing all of these functions on one small device had proven to be a big challenge until now,” said Walia from RMIT’s School of Engineering. “We’ve made real-time decision making a possi-

bility with our invention, because it doesn’t need to process large amounts of irrelevant data and it’s not being slowed down by data transfer to separate processors.”

Electrical signals

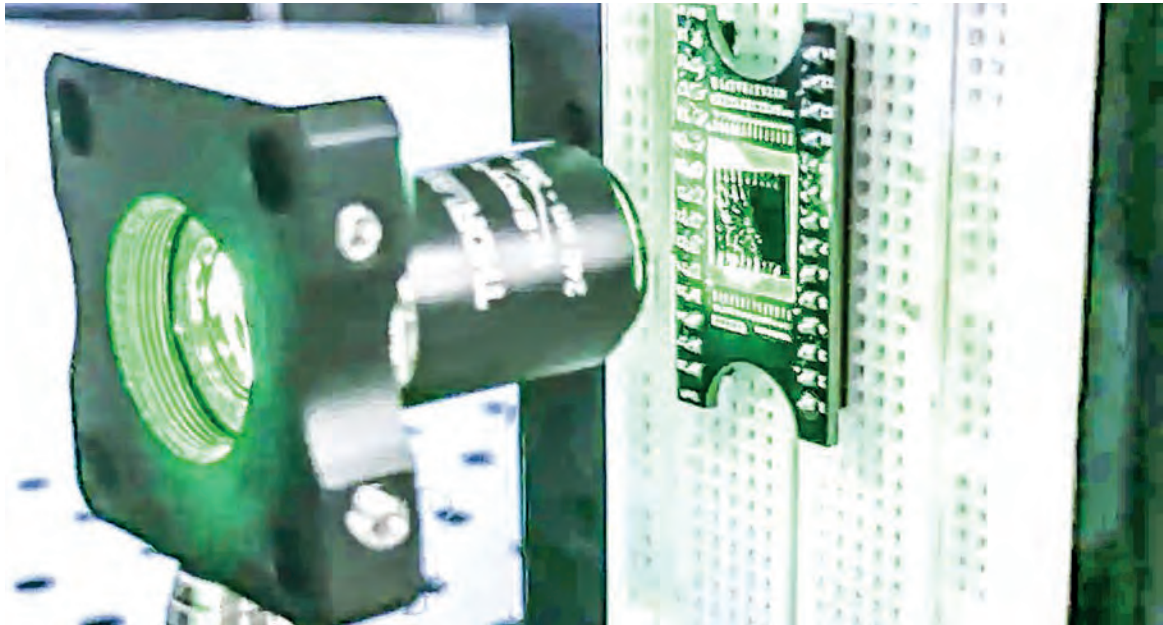
The new device was able to demonstrate an ability to retain information for longer periods of time, compared to previously reported devices, without the need for frequent electrical signals to refresh the memory. This ability significantly reduces energy consumption and enhances the device’s performance. Their findings and analysis are published in Advanced Functional Materials.

First author and RMIT PhD researcher Aishani Mazumder said the human brain used analog processing, which allowed it to process information quickly and

efficiently using minimal energy. “By contrast, digital processing is

energy and carbon intensive, and inhibits rapid information gath-

ering and processing,” she said. SOURCE: ANI



Innovative human eye-mimicking chip has been developed at RMIT. Researchers claim the new electronic chip can mimic human vision and memory, which could help make self-driving cars smarter. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ INTERESTING ENGINEERING/ANI



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 15 June 2023)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 16 June 2023: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, and Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Northern Shan, Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Rakhine, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The Cumulonimbus clouds are starting development in the Sagaing, Magway, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin, and Mon States. The area along the Cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6-8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Moderate monsoon.

Union Information Minister inspects Mocha-hit departments under ministry in Sittway Tsp

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn inspected the rehabilitation processes being conducted at the Mocha-hit IPRD (Information and Public Relation of Department) office, MRTV retransmission station and sub-printing house (Sittway) in Sittway Township of Rakhine State yesterday.

First, the Union minister met officials of the township and district IPRD at the meeting hall of Sittway District IPRD and provided cash assistance.

Then, he visited the MRTV retransmission station and the in charge of the station reported on the losses and broadcasting programmes. He offered appropriate instructions after providing cash assistance to

the staff.

Moreover, he inspected the collapse of a 100-metre self-supporting tower and the erection of a new 30-metre Guyed Tower in the station compound.

At the sub-printing house (Sittway), the officials explained working procedures to the Union minister.

The Union minister gave instructions and provided cash assistance to the staff.

During the visits, the Union minister expressed appreciation as there is no casualty of staff of affiliated departments under the ministry in Sittway and no huge losses of department properties due to Mocha.

He also said the information about the rehabilitation processes should be announced in a timely manner. It should



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn inspects the Sittway Sub-Printing House yesterday.

also conduct maintenance work as quickly as possible, manage to relocate the human and machines to safe locations and resume the work procedures as usual. — MNA/KTZH

MoC Union Minister attends conclusion of BIMSTEC Business Conclave



The documentary group photo of the concluding event.

UNION Minister U Aung Nang Oo from the Ministry of Commerce attended the closing ceremony of the BIMSTEC Business Conclave as the guest of honour. The event took place in Kolkata, Republic of India, from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm local time.

During the valedictory session, Minister of State of India Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Mr Tenzin Lekphell (Secretary-General of the

BIMSTEC countries), Mr Mehul Mohanka (President of the Indian Chamber of Commerce), and U Moe Kyaw Aung (Myanmar Ambassador to India), along with diplomats from emerging countries, delivered speeches.

Additionally, the Union minister participated in two forums, namely the "Textiles and Garments" forum and the "Financial Inclusion, Technology, and Regulatory Frame-

work" forum, held at 10 am local time in India.

At the Textiles and Garments Forum, Daw Khine Khine Nwe, General Secretary of UMFCCI, joined as a panellist and at the Financial Inclusion, Technology, and Regulatory Framework Forum, Daw Chaw Khin Khin, General Secretary of the Myanmar Women's Entrepreneurs Association, joined as a panellist. — MNA/TS

Confiscation of illegal goods: Timbers, jades, fuel oil, electronics, foodstuffs, industrial materials, and vehicles

AT the 16th-Milepost Kyaukchaw checkpoint, an on-duty team successfully seized various illegal items on different occasions. On 11 June, a Toyota HiAce microbus travelling from Mandalay to Muse was found carrying 0.5104 tonnes of timbers (valued at K560,000) without official documents. Additionally, on 13 June, a Mitsubishi Fuso express bus transporting bracelets suspected to be made of jade (worth K7.25 million) and an estimated K30 million Mitsubishi Fuso express bus were intercepted.

Furthermore, during the same operation, various goods totaling K13.24 million, including 272 cartons of Chang classic beer, were confiscated. These actions were conducted in accordance with Customs procedures.

Another joint team from the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force, stationed at the Letpanhla-Singu temporary checkpoint, intercepted an Isuzu Giga truck travelling from Myitkyina to Mandalay on 13 June. The truck was found to be carrying

750 sets of WGP mini-DC UPS (worth K15 million) without official documents. The operation was conducted in adherence to Customs procedures.

Similarly, two unregistered Toyota Noah cars (estimated value of K11 million) were apprehended on Lido Street in front of BEHS 1 in Tanai township, Kachin State. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

An inspection team from the Regional Military Command Headquarters (Kalay) seized 28,450 gallons of illegal

diesel (worth K199.15 million) without official documents from eight vehicles near Htawtha village in Mawlaik township on 13 and 14 June. The action was taken under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

In separate incidents, Customs on-duty teams impounded 1,440 kilogrammes of galvanized iron chain (worth K2,116,800) that exceeded the declared quantity in the Import Declaration (ID) from a container at the Myanmar Industrial Port on 13 June. Additionally, on 14 June, 1,320

sets of Dora door locks (worth K3.3 million), which were not declared in the ID, were seized from a Yadana truck (estimated value of K23 million) travelling from Myawady to Yangon at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

As a result, a total of 20 arrests were made on 11, 13, and 14 June, with an estimated value of K364,616,800, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Tatmadaw (Air) transports foodstuffs, relief items to Rakhine State

RELIEF aid and food items contributed by 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 7.4 tonnes of foodstuffs such as rice, garlic, canned food, pickled tea leave

and mixed beans, household utensils and medicines donated by families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and well-wishers were delivered from Yangon International Airport to Sittway Airport by the Tatmadaw aircraft yesterday.

A total of 532.1 tonnes of supplies and 3,337 Tatmadaw members and departmental staff who are to help in rehabilitation work were transported to the storm-affected areas



Rehabilitation materials seen being discharged from the Tatmadaw aircraft yesterday in Sittway.

by the Tatmadaw aircraft and helicopters. Officials in the respective areas received relief items and will distribute them to storm victims. — MNA/KTZH

Tatmadaw relief teams assist in rehabilitation activities in storm-affected areas



Healthcare services seen being provided to Mocha victims yesterday.

RELIEF teams sent by the Tatmadaw to perform rescue and rehabilitation activities in areas affected by the cyclone are cooperating with local task forces and social organizations to assist actively in the relevant areas.

In so doing, relief groups currently in Maungdaw, along with the mobile medical teams, provided health care services to residents in Pey-one Village yesterday.

Likewise, relief teams in Sittway cooperated with members of the police task force and firefighters to clear the fallen trees, tree branches, and shrubs on both sides of the road in Yaychanpyin Village.

In addition, relief teams in Buthidaung also provided health care services to residents in Myoma Ward in collaboration with mobile medical teams. — MNA/CT

Tatmadaw senior officers oversee rehabilitation efforts in cyclone-affected Rakhine State

THE State Administration Council has issued announcements regarding the areas affected by Cyclone Mocha, invoking Section 11 of the Disaster Management Law. As part of the restoration efforts in these areas, senior military officers were assigned to oversee the rehabilitation work.

Accompanied by officials, Lt-Gen Min Naing arrived in Haka, Chin State, where he witnessed the awarding ceremony held for the students who have passed the 2022-2023 matriculation examination.

Likewise, Lt-Gen Aye Win and party who arrived in Buthidaung observed the mobile medical team providing healthcare services to residents at a religious hall in Lamma Monastery, Myoma Ward.

They visited and observed that the rice transported by the Kaladan II vessel was being inspected by the inspection team and that the rice was properly stored in the consumer affairs warehouse by the military personnel and relevant officials, residents and cargo teams to ensure that it was not being wasted.

Next, they visited Alin-yaung Monastery in Buthidaung and donated foods, relief items CI sheets for monastery restoration and cash to the Sayadaw.

Similarly, Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye and the team who arrived in Matupi Township, Chin State, handed over relief items plus cash needed for school building restoration to officials.

Likewise, Brig-Gen Aung Thu Oo and officials arrived in Kyauktaw, Rakhine State, and donated necessary foodstuffs to the monks of Myoma Mhan Monastery. — MNA/KZL

Essential food items sold at fairer prices for storm victims in Sittway

TATMADAW members of the local battalions under the Western Command and officials are selling the essential foodstuffs at lower 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 electronic devices and construction materials of private businessmen were sold at prices lower than the market price at U Ottama Park in Sittway on 15 June.

Locals and families of departmental staff bought the essential food items and they are grateful to officials for selling groceries at reduced prices. — MNA/MKKS



Locals are buying foodstuffs at reduced prices in Sittway yesterday.

Tatmadaw (Air) training helicopter crashes after engine failure during training flight

A training helicopter belonging to Tatmadaw (Air) encountered an accident during its flight from Nay Pyi Taw to Meiktila yesterday. The helicopter, carrying a pilot and a trainee, suffered an unexpected engine failure and crashed approximately five miles southwest of Ledagyi Village in Lewe

Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Both the pilot and the trainee lost their lives in the incident, while the helicopter sustained damage. The bodies of the victims will be transported to the nearest Tatmadaw Hospital for further procedures. — MNA/KZL

CURRENT
AFFAIRS

Myanmar achieves robust
fishery exports of over 41,000
tonnes in April-May

DURING the current financial year 2022-2023, Myanmar's fishery sector demonstrated its strength by exporting more than 41,000 tonnes of fishery products, yielding a substantial revenue of over US\$73.64 million. The Department of Fisheries' statistics confirms this achievement.

Myanmar's fishery exports encompass a diverse range of freshwater, saltwater, and farmed fish, catering to international markets. The export

breakdown reveals a value of \$11 million from fish exports, \$1.68 million from shrimp exports, and \$16.24 million from other fishery products.

Seaborne trade accounted for a significant portion of Myanmar's fishery exports, amounting to \$49.4 million. Additionally, exports via land borders were valued at \$15 million at Muse, \$0.75 million at Myawady, \$3.2 million at Kawthoung, \$1.8 million at Myeik, \$0.8 million at Maungtau, and \$3.73 million at Kyauinglat.

Myanmar's fishery products find their way to Japanese and European markets through maritime routes while neighbouring countries such as China and Thailand receive deliveries via the border.

With a staggering 480,000 fish and shrimp ponds spread across the country, Myanmar boasts over 120 cold storage facilities, showcasing its infrastructure capabilities in supporting the industry.

Notably, Myanmar exports more than 20 fish species, including hilsa, Mrigal carp, rohu, swamp barb, and river catfish, reinforcing its diversity and contribution to the global fishery trade.

While the fishery export sector continues to thrive, it is worth mentioning that export volumes still remain below pre-pandemic levels. Nonetheless, Myanmar's resilience in sustaining and growing its fishery exports is commendable. — TWA/EM



The photo captures the meticulous processing of fish and shrimps destined for export to foreign markets.



Foreign tourists exploring the heart of Yangon in January 2013.

Top tourist arrivals in
Myanmar: Thailand, Viet Nam,
and Mexico lead the way

ACCORDING to the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar welcomes the highest number of tourists from Thailand, Viet Nam, and Mexico primarily through the Yangon International Airport. From March to May 2023, a total of 2,695 foreign tourists arrived in Myanmar via this airport, as stated by the report.

The majority of visitors originated from Thailand, Viet Nam, and Mexico, with additional tourists hailing from countries such as Indonesia, Spain, the United States, and the United Kingdom, among others.

The statistics reveal that 822 foreigners visited Myanmar in March, followed by 612 in April, and 1,261 in May. This data demonstrates the steady influx of tourists to the country during this period. — TWA/CT

Myanmar chickpea exports
pocket over \$300,000 in
past two months

MYANMAR generated over US\$300,000 from chickpea exports in the past two months (April-May) in the current financial year 2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

Myanmar's seaborne trade saw chickpea exports worth \$0.332 million.

The chickpea export in the 2022-2023 FY amounted to US\$13.139 million.

Myanmar bagged over \$240 million from 310,000 tonnes of pulses exports to foreign countries between 1 April and 2 June of the 2023-2024 financial year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

There are 11.45 million acres of plantations (18 varieties of pulses and beans) across the country, with 26 per cent of green grams, 25 per cent of black grams, 15 per cent of pigeon peas and eight per cent of chickpeas.

The prices of chickpeas jumped to K6,000-6,200 per viss at the Bayintnaung wholesale centre in Yangon. The prices moved in the range between K5,900 and K6,400 per viss in the Mandalay market, the market data indicated. — TWA/EM

Third batch of trafficked Myanmar nationals
returns home from Philippines

ON 14 June, a group of six Myanmar nationals comprising the third batch of Myanmar nationals, returned to Myanmar. These individuals had been victims of trafficking and were forced to work in an online gaming company located near Mabalacat City in Pampanga Province, the Philippines. The Embassy of Myanmar in the Philippines provided this information.

Following a tip-off, the Philippine National Police conducted an anti-trafficking operation on the night of 4 May. As a result, a total of 1,137 foreign individuals, including 42 Myanmar nationals, were rescued from the aforementioned gaming company.

The first batch of returnees, consisting of 15 men and five women, arrived in Myanmar on 27 May. Subsequently, on 2 June, the second batch, comprising nine men and six women, also returned safely.

However, there is still one Myanmar



The photo captures the entrance sign of the economic zone in Mabalacat City of the Philippines.

national who remains in the Philippines as a key witness in an ongoing court case against the online gaming company, along with other foreign individuals. The Myanmar Embassy has

stated that this individual will only be able to return to Myanmar once the court reaches a final decision. — TWA/MKKS

Bill Gates in China to meet with development partners



Microsoft founder Bill Gates speaks at the Global Fund Seventh Replenishment Conference in New York on 21 September 2022. PHOTO: AFP

BILL Gates was in China on Thursday to meet global health and development partners, following a string of recent visits to the Asian giant by US business titans. “I’ve just landed in Beijing for the first time since 2019, where I’m excited to visit with partners who have been working on global health and development challenges with (the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) for more than 15 years,” Gates wrote on

Twitter late Wednesday. “Solving problems like climate change, health inequity and food insecurity requires innovation,” Gates added. “From developing malaria drugs to investing in climate adaptation, China has a lot of experience in that. We need to unlock that kind of progress for more people around the world.” Gates is one of a number of Western executives to visit China since the

country ended strict Covid controls that saw it largely closed off from the world for almost three years. JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon visited China earlier this month, and Tesla CEO Elon Musk, another tech billionaire, travelled to the country in late May, his first visit in more than three years. Musk, who has extensive business interests in China, met senior officials in Beijing and visited Tesla’s Gigafactory on the outskirts of Shanghai for a late-night meeting with staff. In March, Apple CEO Tim Cook visited Beijing, saying his company enjoyed a “symbiotic” relationship with China. The CEOs of other major multinational companies, including Starbucks and General Motors, have also recently made trips to the country and met with officials. — AFP

TikTok’s venture into e-commerce paying off: report

TIKTOK’S nascent venture into online shopping is paying off, with its e-commerce affiliate gaining a substantial market share in Southeast Asia just a year after its launch, a report said Thursday. TikTok Shop capitalized on the legions of users of the popular video-sharing app to expand its business in 2022 after testing the waters in Indonesia in 2021, Momentum Works, a Singapore-based consultancy focused on startups, wrote. While it lagged older rivals Shopee and Lazada, TikTok Shop posted the fastest growth rate, expanding its gross merchandise value (GMV)

— the total value of goods sold, including cancelled, returned and refunded orders — sevenfold to \$4.4 billion last year from just \$600,000 in 2021. “You can think of it as TikTok already having a captive audience coming onboard for entertainment trying different means to convert them and their attention into purchase and GMV,” Weihan Chen, head of insights at Momentum Works, told AFP.—AFP

With TikTok Shopping, businesses can create and showcase their products through short videos and ads on the platform. PHOTO: AFP



Shanghai's foreign trade up 26.2% in May

SHANGHAI, China's economic hub, saw its foreign trade soar 26.2 per cent year on year to 348.1 billion yuan (about 48.6 billion US dollars) in May, customs data shows. In the first five months, the total value of Shanghai's foreign trade was 1.74 trillion yuan, up 15.8

per cent year on year. Taking a closer look, the value of Shanghai's exports totaled 702.4 billion yuan, up 19.8 per cent year on year, and the value of its imports was 1.04 trillion yuan, up 13.2 per cent year on year. — Xinhua

Volkswagen unveils plan to boost flagship brand

GERMAN auto giant Volkswagen unveiled a plan Wednesday to more than double its flagship VW brand’s return on sales and increase earnings by around 10 billion euros (\$10.8 billion) by 2026. It will involve changes across many areas of the brand, with the aim of achieving a return of 6.5 per cent, as well as “synergies” to reduce costs. Returns came in at about three per cent from January to March this year. By comparison, luxury brands Porsche and Audi have margins exceeding 10 per cent while France’s Renault is targeting eight per cent

by 2025 after 5.6 last year. The Volkswagen group has 10 brands, including Audi, Porsche and Skoda. Last year, the VW brand represented just over half the group’s sales but its margins are the weakest. Achieving the higher return “is very ambitious, but feasible if we pool our efforts”, said Thomas Schaefer, CEO of the VW brand, in a statement. “This will enable us to safeguard jobs, finance our future from our own resources and continue to invest in new vehicles and technologies, in the modernization of our plants and in staff training.”—AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC DHANTIA VOY.NO. (SB323B)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MSC DHANTIA VOY.NO. (SB323B) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-6-2023 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. Phone No: 2301185 Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority Agent For: M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (287N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (287N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-6-2023 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

PESTICIDE TRADE NAME CHANGE ADVERTISING

The following three pesticides distributed by Agro Green Land Chemical Co.,Ltd and here we would like to pesticide trade name change advertising. Anyone who would like to object or inquiry about new trade name contact within 14 days to Joint-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon. Agro Green Land Chemical Co.,Ltd Tel:09-401573814

Sr.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration No.
1.	Brabo 47 WP	Transfer 47 WP	Copper Oxychloride 45% + Kasugamycin 2% WP	P2022-5912

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Xi puts forward three-point proposal for settlement of Palestinian question



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds talks with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, 14 June 2023. PHOTO: YIN BOGU/XINHUA

CHINESE President Xi Jinping put forward a three-point proposal for the settlement of the Palestinian question during his talks with visiting Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Beijing on Wednesday.

Xi stressed that the Palestinian question has remained unresolved for over half a century, causing great sufferings to the Palestinian people; justice must be done to Palestine as soon as possible. First, the fundamental solution lies in the establishment of an independent state of Palestine that enjoys full sovereignty on the basis of the 1967 borders and with east Jerusalem as its capital, he said. Second, Palestine's economic and livelihood needs should be met, and the interna-

tional community needs to step up development assistance and humanitarian aid to Palestine, he said. Third, it is important to keep to the right direction of peace talks. The historical status quo of the holy sites in Jerusalem should be respected, and excessive and provocative words and actions should be avoided. A large-scale, more authoritative and more influential international peace conference should be convened so as to create conditions for the resumption of peace talks and contribute tangible efforts to help Palestine and Israel live in peace, he said. "China stands ready to play a positive role to assist Palestine in achieving internal reconciliation and promote peace talks," Xi said. — Xinhua

NEWS IN
BRIEF

US military wins
'unimpeded' access
to Papua New Guinea
bases

THE US military can develop and operate out of bases in Papua New Guinea, according to a landmark security pact underpinning Washington's efforts to outflank China in the Pacific.

The full text of the deal was tabled in Papua New Guinea's parliament on Wednesday evening and obtained by AFP, shedding light on details that have been closely guarded since the pact was inked in May.

With Papua New Guinea's agreement, the United States will be able to station troops and vessels at six key ports and airports, including Lombrum Naval Base on Manus Island and facilities in the capital Port Moresby.

Washington would have "unimpeded access" to the sites to "pre-position equipment, supplies and materiel", and have "exclusive use" of some zones, where development and "construction activities" could be carried out.

Perched at the south-west edge of the Pacific Ocean, Lombrum has in the past been used as a garrison for British, German, Japanese, Australian and US troops. — AFP

Sri Lanka, Russia's Rosatom to build nuclear plant
together - Ambassador

SRI Lanka has reached a deal with Russian nuclear giant Rosatom to build a nuclear power plant that may run two reactors and generate 300 megawatts of energy, the Sri Lankan ambassador in Russia said Wednesday.

"We will go for a nuclear power plant ... There are options actually ... two sources, 300 megawatts," Janitha Abeywickrema Liyanage told Sputnik on the sidelines of the St Petersburg International Economic Forum.

The ambassador said that having its own power plant would

allow the Indian Ocean island nation to overcome the energy crisis. The government will speed up the approval process to begin the construction in the near future.

"There is a proposal and there is approval to follow the procedures from the Sri Lankan cabinet, and the International Atomic Energy Agency is also now looking at it, and they have set up certain working groups. Rosatom has set up four working groups in four different areas," she said. — SPUTNIK



Rosatom is a Russian state-owned corporation and one of the largest nuclear energy companies in the world. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/SPUTNIK

Singapore to put more police robots on the streets



The robots are equipped with cameras, sensors, speakers, a display panel, blinkers and a siren. Singapore's Home Team Science and Technology Agency (HTX) roving robot has hit the streets of Toa Payoh Central as part of a trial to support public officers in enhancing public health and safety. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

SINGAPORE will "progressively deploy" more patrol robots across the city-state, police said Thursday, after more than five years of small-scale trials.

Robots were deployed at Changi Airport's Terminal 4 starting in April "to augment frontline police officers in conducting premises patrol", the Singapore Police Force (SPF) said.

More deployments are expected across the city of 5.6 million people, whose small population and low birth rate mean it has to make use of technology to overcome a lack of

manpower.

"The SPF plans to progressively deploy more patrol robots to augment police's operations across Singapore," the SPF said in a statement, without giving a timeline.

The robots are equipped with cameras, sensors, speakers, a display panel, blinkers and a siren.

An extendable mast with a 360-degree camera gives an on-the-ground view to officers in a situation room, and a two-way channel allows them to talk directly with the public. — AFP

Germany approves funds to buy Israeli air defence system

GERMAN lawmakers on Wednesday approved an advance payment for the purchase of the sophisticated Arrow 3 air defence system from Israel for nearly four billion euros (\$4.3 billion).

The budget committee in the lower house of parliament gave the green light for an initial payment of 560 million euros, a committee source told AFP.

The long-range Arrow 3 system, designed to shoot down missiles above the Earth's atmosphere, is powerful enough to offer protective cover for neighbouring European Union states.

The committee also approved around 950 million euros for the purchase of six German-made Iris-T SLM air defence systems, the source said.

The Arrow 3 system is expected to cost up to 3.99 billion euros in total, according to finance ministry documents seen by AFP.

The money will come from



Israeli soldiers walk near an Iron Dome defence system (L), a surface-to-air missile (SAM) system, the MIM-104 Patriot (C), and an anti-ballistic missile the Arrow 3 (R) during Juniper Cobra's joint exercise press briefing at Hatzor Air Base in central Israel, on 25 February 2016. PHOTO: GIL COHEN-MAGEN/AFP/FILE

a landmark 100-billion-euro fund unveiled by Chancellor Olaf Scholz to bolster the country's defences in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The announcement marked a major turnaround for Germany after years of under-investment in the armed forces.

If the deal goes ahead as planned, a contract will be signed by the end of 2023 and Berlin expects the Arrow 3 system to be delivered in the final quarter of 2025. The 560 million euros are intended to set up manufacturing and production in Israel.

2,400 kilometres

Scholz told a government press conference earlier on Wednesday the investment was "a big project that doesn't just relate to Germany itself".

Asked if he thought there was any risk in making the initial payment, Scholz said things were "progressing bit by bit and we believe that everything will also be approved". According to a report in the Tagesspiegel newspaper, the federal audit office had warned against releasing funds before initial construction work for the system had been completed in Germany. — AFP

Boris Johnson lied to MPs over Covid parties: committee



Johnson would have faced a 90-day suspension from the House of Commons had he not resigned as an MP. PHOTO: PRU/AFP

BORIS Johnson deliberately lied to MPs about lockdown-breaking parties during the Covid pandemic that would have seen him face a 90-day suspension had he not quit as a lawmaker, a parliament committee ruled Thursday.

The Privileges Committee, which probes breaches of House of Commons rules, concluded that Johnson was guilty of "repeated contempts (of parliament) and... seeking to undermine the parliamentary process".

"The contempt was all the more serious because it was committed by the prime minister, the most senior member of the government," they stated in a damning 106-page report.

"There is no precedent for a prime minister having been found to have deliberately misled the House.

"He misled the House on an issue of the greatest importance to the House and to the public, and did so repeatedly." — AFP

Police charge India wrestling chief with sexual harassment

INDIAN police said Thursday they had charged the country's wrestling federation president with sexual harassment and stalking, following a protest by the sport's top figures demanding his arrest.

In April, a group of wrestlers began a sit-in in the capital New Delhi to demand the arrest of Brij Bhushan Singh, who is also a lawmaker for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Singh was accused by Olympic medallists and other Indian wrestling champions of groping female athletes and demanding sexual favours.

Delhi Police said in a statement that "after completion of investigation" they charged Singh with sexual harassment and stalking under the Indian Penal Code.

Vinod Tomar, a Singh acolyte who served as assistant secretary for the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), faced the same charges as well as criminal intimidation and abetment. — AFP



Farmers gather to support demands police investigate wrestling federation chief Brij Bhushan Singh over allegations of sexual harassment. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Australian senator claims parliament assault, says not a 'safe place' for women

AN Australian lawmaker on Thursday detailed allegations that she had been sexually "assaulted" in parliament, stating the building was "not a safe place" for women to work.

In a tearful Senate address, independent Lidia Thorpe said she had been subjected to "sexual comments", cornered in a stairwell, "inappropriately touched" and "propositioned" by "powerful men". Thorpe had on Wednesday accused a fellow senator of "sexually assaulting" her, before being forced to withdraw the remark under threat of parliamentary sanction. — AFP

Germany approves funds to buy Israeli air defence system



SPORT

Man City to open Premier League title defence at Kompany's Burnley



Manchester City are chasing a fourth straight Premier League title.
PHOTO: AFP/FILE

MANCHESTER City will kick off their bid for a record fourth straight Premier League title away to Burnley, managed by their former captain Vincent Kompany.

The fixture list released on Thursday confirmed the Treble winners will visit Turf Moor on 11 August to raise the curtain on the 2023/24 campaign. It will be the second time

Kompany, who won the title on four occasions as City skipper, will have faced his old side as a manager, with City winning 6-0 at the Etihad in the FA Cup quarter-finals in March.

Pep Guardiola's side, who won the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup in 2022/23, are seeking to become the first English team to win four successive top-flight titles.

They have dominated the Premier League in recent years, winning the title in five of the past six seasons.

Premier League debutants Luton will play their first top-flight fixture since 1992 away to Roberto De Zerbi's Brighton the following day.

The other promoted side, Sheffield United, kick off with a home game against Crystal Palace.

The most eye-catching fixture of the opening weekend will be at Stamford Bridge, where Mauricio Pochettino begins life as Chelsea manager against Liverpool, with both sides looking to bounce back after disappointing campaigns. — AFP

Bayern to repay 245,000 euros for breaking minimum wage rules

BAYERN Munich have been forced to repay over 200,000 euros (\$216,560) for failing to meet minimum wage requirements over a five-year period, Bavarian customs authorities announced on Thursday.

The club must also pay approximately 45,000 euros (\$48,700) in unpaid social security contributions.

The investigation found Bayern underpaid employees from 2016 to 2021.

The Munich customs office issued a statement on Thursday saying Bayern had employed workers, mostly in the club's youth training centre, on limited hours contracts, but "the actual level of employment was far higher".

"The club did not pay the minimum wage at the youth training centre it operates" the



Bayern Munich's men's and women's team celebrate winning their respective Bundesliga titles at the end of the 2022-23 season. **PHOTO: AFP**

office said in a statement.

In a press release on Thursday, Bayern apologized for the incident, saying "it was never FC Bayern Munich's intention to withhold employees from their legitimate wages".

Bayern said it has cooperated fully with the investigation and has taken steps to ensure similar incidents cannot happen again. — AFP

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.

Friendly match between Myanmar and China to be shown live on free-to-air channels

MYANMAR men's national football team will play FIFA international friendly matches with China at the stadium in Dalian City, China today and the match will be broadcast live on free-to-air channels, as confirmed by the Myanmar Football Federation.

The match will begin at 5:00 pm Myanmar Standard Time and it will be broadcast live on MRTV Sports, Channel 9, SkyNet Sports HD, SkyNet

Sports channels.

Myanmar team's head coach Michael Feichtenbeiner has announced the selection of players who will represent Myanmar in this FIFA international friendly match, as stated by the Myanmar Football Federation.

The details of the set formation and player names for both sides will be announced before the start of the game. — KZL