



Aung Lin Dwe  
Lieutenant-General  
Secretary  
State Administration Council

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National Disaster Management Committee

The entire ethnic national people are to keep  
Our Three Main National Causes in their soul

IN order to ensure the perpetuity of the regained independence, the entire ethnic national people need to take great care with the national cause so as to prevent instigations and pressure committed by internal and external destructive elements. Moreover, the entire ethnic national people are to keep Our Three Main National Causes in their soul in striving for building the Union based on the genuine, disciplined-flourishing democratic system and federalism for its perpetuity as long as the world exists.

(Excerpts from the message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to ceremony of 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day which falls on 4 January 2023)

Senior General highlights: Those winning athletes are to speed up  
their efforts so as to secure greater victories in the forthcoming  
international competitions



State Administration Council Chair Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing speaks on the occasion to honour medallists from the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games and the 17<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championships, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

**FROM PAGE-1**  
and 19 bronze medals, totalling 56 in XII ASEAN Para Games held in Cambodia in 2023 compared to 43 medals including 14 gold medals in the XI ASEAN Para Games held in Indonesia 2022.

According to the competition records, Myanmar athletes with disabilities could uplift the prestige of the State.

Likewise, a total of 80 athletes from eight countries took part in the 17<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championships in Batam Island of Indonesia from 8 to 12 June 2023. Myanmar bagged one gold, three silver and three bronze medals, totalling seven, and those victorious athletes will be honoured.

Those victorious athletes securing a deserved position among other countries and winners in the 17<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championships would be honoured deservedly.

The Senior General urged entrepreneurs, presidents of sports federations and officials to honour those winners. Moreover, those winning athletes are



State Administration Council Chair Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents cash awards to winner Maung Aung Myint Myat in the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

to speed up their efforts so as to secure greater victories in the forthcoming international competitions.

Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan explained the competition of the athletes in the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games.

The Senior General pre-

sented cash awards to gold medallists, coaches and managers in the swimming, track and field shot put, javelin, discus, 400-metre relay, swimming and weightlifting events in the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games and the 17<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championships.

Council Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo presented cash awards to silver medallists, coaches and managers in the long jump, shot put, javelin and weightlifting events.

Likewise, Council members General Mya Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Soe Htut, Daw Dwe Bu, Mahn Nye-in Maung and Dr Hmu Thang,

Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye, and senior military officers gave cash awards to the medallists, administrative board members and coaches.

Corporal Soe Pay and Maung Nyein Chan, medallists, spoke words of thanks.

At the ceremony, gold medallists were awarded K30 million each, silver medallists K20 million each and bronze medallists K10 million each in the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games, athletes from teamwise events winning bronze medal K3.5 million each, coaches and managers for gold medal-winning events K10 million each, silver medal K5 million each and bronze medal K3 million each. Cash awards for winners amounted to K1,229.5 million. Moreover, K10 million each was presented to gold medallists in the 17<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championships, silver medallists K7 million each and bronze medallists K5 million each. That is why cash awards to the winners amounted to K1,280.5 million. — MNA/TTA

# SAC Member DPM MoTC Union Minister inspects relief, rehabilitation work of, departmental officials, relief teams, locals at Sittway University

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San received Chairperson Prof Dr San San Myint Aung of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MMCWA) at the Rakhine State government of office yesterday.

During the meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister heard the report on maternal and child healthcare services for Mocha victims, systematic distribution of food, and maternal and child healthcare services in Rakhine State and made suitable instructions.

Then, Admiral Tin Aung San, accompanied by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, U Myo Thant and Dr Thet Thet Khine, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin, deputy ministers and relevant officials, went to Sittway University. During the visit, they inspected the relief works and rehabilita-



State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San encourages health workers at the Sanda Yama Pariyatti Monastery in Kyetkinetan Village of Sittway yesterday.

tion processes carried out by relief teams and departmental officials and locals. Meanwhile, the MoE deputy minister and the rector of Sittway University explained the work progress.

The Deputy Prime Minister then stressed the need to maintain the university's unique characteristics and drainage system in the university premises in the rainy season.

Admiral Tin Aung San and party inspected the healthcare services of specialists of Sittway General Hospital at the religious hall of Sanda Yama Pariyatti Monastery in Kyet-

kinetan Village of Sittway and provided medics and patients with foodstuffs.

They then headed to Shwemingan jetty and checked the conditions to transport the trees, which were uprooted by Mocha, to Yangon jetty by the vessel Charities to produce value-added wood carved products.

Then, the Admiral received officials from MPT, MyTel, Atom Myanmar and Ooredoo Myanmar at the Rakhine State chief minister's office.

During the meeting, he expressed gratitude for their efforts to complete the repairing of the communication system in Rakhine State in a short while, installation of new equipment with better techniques that can withstand storms than before, free WiFi, and Internet system under Corporate Social Responsibility-CSR in the education, health, religious and social sectors in storm-hit areas. – MNA/KTZH

# UEC Chair examines Akha National Development Party's activities in line with Political Parties' Registration Law

UNION Election Commission Chairman U Thein Soe met the patron, chairperson, and members of the Akha National Development Party, and inspected the party's processes at the local battalion guest house yesterday.

The party, located at No 281, Akha Market Street, Wainekyauk Ward, Tachilek, Shan State (East), have already received the right to register on 8 May 2023 under the laws and regulations on the registration of political parties.

During the meeting, the UEC chairman emphasized to the patron, chairman and members of the Akha National Development Party to reach 1,000 party members within 90 days from the date of allowing the registration of political parties



Union Election Commission Chairman U Thein Soe, and the patron, chairperson, and members of the Akha National Development Party pose for the documentary group photo in Tachilek Township, eastern Shan State yesterday.

under the laws and regulations.

He stated that party offices should be opened in at least five townships in the state within 180 days, and party flags and the logo should be properly implemented following the requirements.

He also ordered that the party's financial rules and regulations be developed following the instructions and that party officials communicate with the relevant departments of Immigration and Population so that

the trifold national identification cards held by the party members can be replaced with citizenship verification cards.

He stressed that representatives of the respective parties must be elected in the elections to be held with the proportional representation system (PR), and they should work hard to get the right to participate in the state legislative and administrative sectors.

After that, party officials re-explained the working conditions of the party.

Present at the meeting were UEC members U Myint Oo, and U Khin Maung Oo, Akha National Development Party Patron U Min Nyo, Chairman U Tun Aung and members of the party. — MNA/KZL

# Myanmar delegation led by DPM MoPF Union Minister attends 26<sup>th</sup> St Petersburg International Economic Forum

MYANMAR delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein attended the 26th St Petersburg International Economic Forum in Russia yesterday.

Myanmar delegation met General Director Mr Denis Butsaev of the Russian Environmental Operator on 16 June morning and discussed matters to prevent the impacts on health and the environment, the recycling of waste to generate energy, development of municipal disposed waste management system and cooperation in waste classification project in Myanmar.

Moreover, the delegation met Russia-ASEAN Business Council Chairman Mr Ivan Polyaov yesterday morning and

focused on the economic cooperation of Russian and ASEAN countries and the promotion of bilateral trade, investment and economic cooperation between Russia and Myanmar.

At noon, the delegation attended the plenary meeting of the 26th St Petersburg International Economic Forum.

During the meeting, President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation and President of Algeria Abdelmadjid Tebboune made opening speeches.

Over 17,000 people from 130 countries attended the forum.

The St Petersburg International Economic Forum has been held annually since 1997. The forum mainly discusses key issues on the global economic agenda, practical sessions and challenges to exchange among



Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein meets Russia-ASEAN Business Council Chairman Mr Ivan Polyaov in the Russian Federation yesterday.

the Russian Federation and international organizations. A total of 24 representatives from UMFCCI and private banks attended the forum together with the Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance. — MNA/KTZH



## MoRAC Union Minister departs to attend 18th China-ASEAN Cultural Forum

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko and a delegation departed to participate in the 18th China-ASEAN Culture Forum. The forum is scheduled to take place from 18 to 22 June in Nanning, Guangxi Autonomous Region, the People's Republic of China. They boarded a flight from Yangon to Nanning yesterday.

Officials from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and embassy officials of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar saw them off at the Yangon International Airport. — MNA/KZW

Union Minister U Ko Ko and party are seen off by officials from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and officials from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar at the Yangon International Airport.

# MoEP Union Minister attends third day of SPIEF'23 in Russia

UNION Minister for Electric Power U Thaung Han attended the third day of the St Petersburg International Economic Forum 2023 (SPIEF'23) held in St Petersburg, Russia on 16 June.

At the plenary meeting under the theme of the Role of the Nuclear Industry in "Achieving Technological Sovereignty and Technologies of the future", the Union minister talked about the key role of the nuclear industry in future technology development and an organization with technological sovereignty, the effectiveness of the nuclear industry to over-

come challenges in scientific and technical sectors, application of nuclear technology in other sectors in addition to power generation and benefits of safety and efficiency increases of the nuclear power plant.

He also stressed the need to reduce carbon dioxide in all sectors that rely on fossil fuel to ensure CO2 free for the global economy and mentioned the importance of nuclear energy for that situation being the second-largest source of low-carbon energy following hydropower, the need to invest in research development programmes, education and

training sections to achieve technological sovereignty, produce new generation scientists, engineers and skilled persons, provide the knowledge and abilities to the youths in nuclear science and technology sectors to move towards the future of continuous improvement and technical potential of the nuclear industry by making investments in research and development programmes and producing a new generation of experts.

At noon, the Union minister met with Mr Ferdor Opadchiy, Chairman of the Management Board of System



Union Minister for Electric Power U Thaung Han attends the third day of the St Petersburg International Economic Forum 2023 (SPIEF'23) held in St Petersburg, Russia on 16 June.

Operator of the United Power System, a Joint-stock Company, together with Nova Wind JSC and discussed cooperation in Power System Planning. — MNA/KTZH

# Union Information Minister observes MRTV's procedures, watches fundraising football match

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn inspected the working procedures of the MRTV (Yangon) and ordered necessary matters yesterday.

Next, the Union minister watched fundraising football matches for recovery from the natural disaster caused by the storm Mocha.

First, the Union minister inspected the completion of repair work on the damage caused by the collapse of the roof of the main building of MRTV (Yangon) due



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn instructs officials for upgrading the National Orchestra in Studio-A, MRTV (Yangon) yesterday.



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn presents the winning prize to the Music team at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

to strong winds on 14 May.

In order to upgrade the National Orchestra in Studio-A, the Union Minister jointly watched video footage of orchestras from other countries.

The Union minister reviewed and discussed the performances and gave guidance on the recommendations and fulfilled the needs.

In the afternoon, the Union minister and party along with officials and invited guests watched the fundraising football matches plus entertainment programmes at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon. Chairman of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization U Kyi Soe Tun and Chairman of Myanmar Music Association (Central) U Lwin Myint cordially greeted

the players who will compete in the third-place match and artistes presented a bouquet of flowers to the players. Old Star team and Forever team played against each other in the third-place match, drew 2-2 in the ordinary time, but Old Star beat Forever 5-4 in the penalty decision.

Next, Chairman of MMPO U Kyi Soe Tun and Chairman of

MMA (Central) U Lwin Myint cordially greeted the players who will compete in the final match and artistes presented a bouquet of flowers to the players.

In the final match, the Music team beat the Movie team 2-1.

Then, a donation ceremony was held where the Yangon Region government donated K30 million and businesspersons donated K25 million.

The Union minister received the donations and returned the certificates of honour.

Next, Yangon Region Advocate-General U Htay Aung, Chairman of MMPO U Kyi Soe Tun and Chairman of MMA (Central) U Lwin Myint, and Chairman of the competition organizing committee U Nay Lin Oo accepted the cash donations contributed by well-wishers and returned the certificates of honour.

An awarding ceremony was held after the football matches and MMPO Chairman U Kyi Soe

Tun presented awards to the Winner of the cleanest award and third-placed Forever FC.

Next, Chairman of MMA (Central) U Lwin Myint presented the most scoring award to player Arkar from the Music team, while Yangon Region Advocate-General U Htay Aung gave awards to the second-placed Movie team.

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn presented the winning prize to the Music team and cordially greeted the players.

Singers performed before the start of the football matches and during the short break, and the fans who came to support the competition contributed amounts of cash to the restoration work of the areas affected by the Mocha storm. A donation of K59.55 million was received from the fundraising football tournament, which will be used for the rehabilitation of areas affected by the Mocha storm. — MNA/KZL

## Fans enjoy fundraising football matches for recovery efforts from Mocha

FOOTBALL fans gathered at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon to enjoy charity football matches aimed at raising funds for the recovery efforts from the devastating Cyclone Mocha. The event featured an entertaining programme before the start of the competition, which excited the attendees and filled the stadium with cheers and enthusiasm.

The final match was played between Movie FC and Music FC, while the third-place match saw Old Star FC competing against Forever FC. Old Star FC boasted a lineup of veteran footballers, including Nay Lin Oo, Aung Kyaw Kyaw, Sein Aye, Kyi Lwin, Tin Myint Aung, Than Wai, Kyaw Min, Aye Naing, Tin Win, Maung Maung Htay, Soe Myat Aye, Yan Paing, Aung Myo,



Football fans gather at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon to enjoy charity football matches aimed at raising funds for the recovery efforts from the devastating Cyclone Mocha yesterday.

Maung Maung Myint, Myint Ko, Tun Kyaw, Moe Kyaw, Kyaw Myo Han, Htay Lwin, and Yin Min Lwin.

On the other hand, Forever FC consisted of models such as Kaung Htet Zaw, Aung Yay Chan,

Kyaw Su, Lin Myat, Mahn Hein, Sithu Win, Nakhat, Mue Thiha Thu, Shin Mwela, Moe Thura, Min Bhone Myat, Aung Paing, Saw Minya, Nat Shine Ko, Wai Zar Kyaw, Nay Wun, and Moe Kaung Kin. These two teams

faced each other in the third-place match, which ended in a 2-2 draw during regular time. However, Old Star FC emerged victorious, defeating Forever FC 7-6 in a penalty shootout.

Celebrity film stars, in-

cluding Nay Thurein, Thu Htoo San, Kaung Khant, Min Khant, Moe Yan Zon, Nay Dway, Kyaw Kyaw, Bhone Hlyan, Thahtet, Min Khant Kyaw, Eain Eain, Ei Si Kway, Phoe Nyan, Nay Zhan,

SEE PAGE-7

# Tatmadaw senior officers, officials oversee 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 inspected cleaning processes at the beach of the city's entrance.

Lt-Gen Aye Win currently in Buthidaung in Rakhine State along with officials inspected the clearing of fallen trees and bushes in the wards and schools in Buthidaung. Furthermore, they inspected the health care services given by the mobile medical team at Ngakyeetauk village-tract.

Similarly, Maj-Gen Soe Nang Oo currently in Thandwe along with officials inspected cleaning progressions in the compound of Thandwe general hospital and they inspected

the application of pesticides for dengue fever prevention at monasteries and primary schools in Ngapali Street.

Maj-Gen Aung Myo Tun currently in Rathedaung along with officials inspected the cleaning of bushes and garbage at a basic high school in the city.

Furthermore, Birg-Gen Khin Maung Aye currently in Matupi along with officials provided rice, edible oil and cash to the storm victims at the local battalion hall. — MNA/KZW



Lt-Gen Aye Win comforts a patient at the healthcare services provided by the mobile medical team at Ngakyeetauk village-tract in Buthidaung yesterday.

## Affordable prices for essential goods, commodities in Mocha-affected Sittway

LOCAL battalions under the Western Command, along with officials, have taken the initiative to sell essential foodstuffs at reduced prices, providing convenience to residents and departmental staff affected by Cyclone Mocha in Sittway. This effort aims to ensure that individuals have access to food at fair and affordable prices during these challenging times.

A wide range of foodstuffs, including rice, edible oil, salt, meat, fish, eggs, dairy products, vegetables, onions, and garlic, as well as products from Tatmadaw factories and MEC such

as instant noodles, biscuits, and canned food, were available for purchase at lower prices compared to the prevailing market rates. Additionally, electronic devices and construction materials from private entrepreneurs were also offered at discounted prices at U Ottama Park in Sittway.

Locals and families of departmental staff expressed their gratitude for being able to buy essential foodstuffs at affordable prices during this difficult period. They appreciated the efforts of the officials in providing relief and support through the provision of necessary goods. — MNA/KZW



Locals are seen purchasing foodstuffs at fairer prices in Sittway.

## Tatmadaw Relief Teams exert rehabilitation efforts



Clear-up measures are underway by relief teams in the Mocha-hit area.

TO facilitate relief and rehabilitation activities in areas affected by natural disasters, Tatmadaw has deployed relief teams consisting of local security forces. In cooperation with social relief organizations, they are actively assisting in the affected areas.

Relief teams in Sittway along with Myanmar Police Force members cleaned trees

and bushes in Padalake and Yaychanpyin villages. And they cooperate with mobile medical teams and provided healthcare services to locals in Yaychanpyin village.

Similarly, relief troops in Ponnagyun cooperate with the mobile medical team which provided healthcare services to locals in Phatkya village. And

they cleared fallen trees and bushes in the monastery of Phatkya village.

Rescue teams in Kyauktaw are cooperating with mobile medical teams to give healthcare services to locals in Kyauktaw, and they distributed purified drinking water to locals.

Relief teams in Buthidaung cooperated with departmental staff to clean trees and bushes in the basic middle school in Thabyaygon ward and provided healthcare services to locals in Ngakyintauk village

Similarly, relief troops in MraukU cleared fallen trees and bushes at the Shwetaung Monastery.

Next, relief teams in Maungdaw cooperate with mobile medical teams which provided healthcare services to locals in Kyaukpantu village. — MNA/KZW

## Fans enjoy fundraising football matches for recovery efforts from Mocha

**FROM PAGE-6**

Myat Pyue, Htet Oo Htut, Moe Mhan, Sue Sha, Hein Htet, and Tay Za Aung, were seen showing their support for Movie FC. On the other hand, Music FC was backed by renowned singers such as Kyaw Kyaw Htun, Sotay, D Phyo, Issani, Nyi Min Khaing, Wai Hlyan, Okka, Rawnaa, Yawywat, Monsan Aung, Thiha Hlu, Tha Htoo Aung, Nay Lin Kyaw, ZG, Bo Bo Mya

Thein, Aung Aung Oo, Mon Htwel Aung, Latt Ko Ko Aye, Han Htun Za, and Ye Kaung Satt.

In an intense final match, Music FC secured first place with a 2-1 victory over Movie FC. Movie FC claimed the second spot, while Old Star FC secured the third position in the fundraising football tournament. The event drew a large number of passionate fans who came to support the cause and a musi-

cal performance added to the excitement during breaks in the matches.

All the proceeds generated from ticket sales for the football matches will be donated to support the rehabilitation efforts in the areas affected by Cyclone Mocha. This charitable initiative aims to provide much-needed assistance to the affected communities. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KZL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

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# Polish image of the State with victories in sports

MYANMAR athletes with disabilities showcased their incredible skills and talent at the XII ASEAN Para Games, which took place in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, from 3 to 9 June. These victorious athletes not only demonstrated their prowess but also uplifted the prestige of our nation.

The Myanmar sports contingent consisted of a total of 82 athletes. Among them were 10 male athletes participating in swimming, 25 male and female athletes in the track and field events, seven male and female athletes in weightlifting, 12 males in volleyball, six males in Goalball, two males in table tennis, six males in chess, and 14 males in football.

The achievements of these athletes go beyond mere medals. Their performances serve as a testament to the indomitable human spirit and the power of determination. They inspire individuals across the country, showing that disabilities are not barriers to success. Through their participation in international sporting events, they bring honour to Myanmar and raise awareness about the potential and capabilities of people with disabilities.

ities in serving the interests of our nation.

Every Myanmar athlete bears the responsibility of achieving victory in all sporting events as a national duty, striving to enhance the prestige of our country. They refuse to surrender to their opponents until the last minute, exerting vigorous efforts in competitions while embodying the spirit of sportsmanship. Their dedication and perseverance contribute towards polishing the image of our nation.

The achievements of these athletes go beyond mere medals. Their performances serve as a testament to the indomitable human spirit and the power of determination. They inspire individuals across the country, showing that disabilities are not barriers to success. Through their participation in international sporting events, they bring honour to Myanmar and raise awareness about the potential and capabilities of people with disabilities.

The success of our athletes with disabilities at the XII ASEAN Para Games is a source of immense pride for our nation. It highlights the importance of creating inclusive opportunities for individuals with disabilities and celebrating their achievements. As a society, we must continue to support and empower these exceptional athletes, recognizing their invaluable contributions and striving for a more inclusive and equitable future for all.

# Gentle cleansers kill viruses just like harsh soaps: Research

A RECENT study by University of Sheffield specialists discovered that gentle cleansers are just as efficient as hard soaps in eliminating viruses, including coronavirus.

Healthcare professionals often substitute harsh soaps or alcohol-based hand sanitisers with skin-friendly cleansers in order to treat or prevent irritant contact dermatitis - a common skin disease which causes red and swollen skin with a dry and damaged surface.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, incidence and severity of the disease amongst healthcare professionals increased from 20

per cent to 80 per cent.

Despite the widespread use of gentle cleansing products for handwashing, there has been limited evidence to show the antiviral efficacy of the products to prevent the spread of viruses such as human coronavirus, herpes simplex virus, norovirus and influenza.

Scientists from the University of Sheffield's Sheffield Dermatology Research (SDR) group tested multiple handwash products as part of the study.

These included antibacterial soap, natural soap, foam cleansers and bath wash products, with the team investigating their ability to kill both enveloped viruses;

such as human coronavirus and influenza, which have an additional layer of structural protection; compared to non-enveloped viruses, such as norovirus and adenovirus.

The findings, published in the journal Frontiers in Virology, show gentle cleansers were effective in killing enveloped viruses, but non-enveloped viruses displayed resistance against skin-friendly cleansers, as well as harsh soaps.

Lead author of the study, Dr Munitta Muthana from the University of Sheffield's Department of Oncology and Metabolism, said: "Washing our hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds was a

fundamental message advocated in the UK to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

But for healthcare professionals, who can wash their hands as many as 100 times during a 12 hour shift, this may cause unintended adverse effects.

"Not only does irritant contact dermatitis cause the skin to become inflamed, blister and crack, which increases transmission of bacteria and viruses, it can also lead to less compliance with personal protective equipment (PPE) and inadequate hand washing for fear of making symptoms worse. The disease can also significantly impact workplace pro-

ductivity.

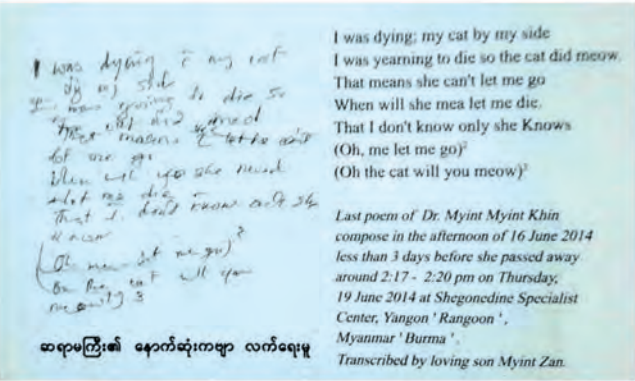
"For the first time, our study has shown substituting harsh soaps with milder wash products such as gentle cleansers is effective in fighting against enveloped viruses, including human coronavirus, which is very encouraging - especially for those in jobs in which irritant contact dermatitis is an occupational hazard.

We also found that using additional agents such as moisturisers to help protect the skin didn't prevent the products' antiviral activity, which means we don't have to use very harsh products on our skin in order to kill viruses. "

SOURCE: ANI

# POEM

I was dying; my cat by my side  
I was yearning to die so the cat did meow.  
That means she can't let me go  
when will she mea let me die.  
That I don't know only she knows  
(Oh, me let me go)<sup>2</sup>  
(Oh the cat will you meow)<sup>3</sup>



Last poem of Dr Myint Myint Khin composed in the afternoon of 16 June 2014 less than 3 days before she passed away around 2:17-2:20 pm on Thursday, 19 June 2014 at Shegonedine Specialist Centre, Yangon 'Rangoon', Myanmar 'Burma'.

Transcribed by loving son Myint Zan.



|                  |   |                                    |
|------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Book Title       | - | Ahmay Ga Nge Thay Dai De Shin      |
| Writer           | - | Maung Tha Ya                       |
| Publishing House | - | Linn Lun Khin                      |
| Publication Date | - | May 2023 (3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition) |
| Price            | - | K3,500                             |

# Ahmay Ga Nge Thay Dai De Shin

THE writer started to enter the field of literature in 1955 with a magazine story titled Hnya Shwe Ta Khet Kyway Yet Saw. His first writing was carried in a famous magazine called Shumawa. In 1970, he won the National Literary Award with the novel titled, "Mattat Yat Loe Lan Hmar Ngo." He also published a magazine. During his lifetime, he has written 60 novels and over 300 short stories with some of them translated into foreign languages while some turned into movies domestically.

It is seven years now that he has passed away. Despite his physical death, his name is still a topic that people from the field of art and literature are talking about. His writings are still alive and dynamic with the availability of many publishers who are always willing to publish his novels and short stories. His works are always welcomed by the publishing houses. This is the reason why Linn Lun Khin has decided to publish this book under review again without any hesitation whatsoever. If you

look at the last page of this book, you will see an advertisement, declaring the third impression of the popular book titled, "Nauk Hson Dawt Kyaw Hein Ga Kyaw Hein Bar Bai." And what impresses me is that Linn Lun Khin is publishing his books not simply for monetary benefits. This fact is obvious even on the front cover on which the publisher has spent a lot. Instead of using cheap illustrations for the cover, the publisher had the great artist Saya Mothon draw the illustration at a much higher cost.

The novel started with the mother's scolding of the daughter if the latter stood by the window, singing a song, if she wore her nether garment, revealing her inside the body, if she shouted to her friends at the top of her voice and burst into laughter. In such cases, her mother would scold her, saying, "Do you think you're still a young maid? I hate such behaviour." But you see, the title of the novel is, "Mother Said I'm Still Young." So, the title of the novel and the words of admonition by her mother are

diametrically opposite to each other. This dramatic contrast is bringing the readers to the end of the novel to satisfy their curiosity. This is the way of writing Saya Maung Tha Ya employed to attract the readers. He is used to writing in a spoken style.

The way the main character revealed her first experience of menstruation is quite unusual. Her excitement and concern over the commencement of her period circle are depicted vividly and vibrantly. When this news reached the ears of her mother, she became worried, and if possible, she wanted to slow down the speed of her daughter's growing up. Her daughter was only in the Seventh Standard. The novel reached its climax when her daughter declared to her mother that she was keeping a guy. Hearing her daughter's revelation, she shed tears in her sorrow. But she said that her daughter is still young in her eyes despite forgiving her for keeping someone special.



|                  |   |                                    |
|------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Book Title       | - | Minn Hmu Htan                      |
| Writer           | - | Tet Toe                            |
| Publishing House | - | Seikku Cho Cho                     |
| Publication Date | - | May 2023 (5 <sup>th</sup> Edition) |
| Price            | - | K5,000                             |

# Minn Hmu Htan (A 1950 Sarpay Beikman Literary Award-Winning Book)

This book is written by Sayagyi Tet Toe, a luminary in the field of literature. He passed away at 91. He has worked as a tutor at the English Department, an editor with Ganda Lawka Magazine, a translator with the Office of the Detective-General and the Deputy Chief Editor of the Translation Division under the Ministry of Information. Later, he also became the Myanmar Language Department under the Ministry of Education, Assistant Editor-in-Charge of Pyinnya Swezon Kyan, the Research officer, the Editor of Oway Magazine, the Vice-Chairman of the Printers and Publishers Association and the first resident correspondent of the Time Magazine. He became the Chief Editor of the Burma Press Syndicate from

1950 to 1952. In 1963, when the News Agency Burma-External was established, he became the Chief Editor. He also served as the Managing Director of the News and Periodicals Corporation. He also became a People's Hluttaw Representative.

His first book is Mata Hari which was published in 1940. In 1950, he won the Sarpay Beikman Award with this book under review. This novel was based on the ten-year experience he gained in his capacity as a clerk with a government department. He presented case studies in which the methods of bribery and corruption were mentioned.

The main character is a Township Officer from the General Administration Department. His name is U Tin Thein. He wrote

that Tin Thein was not alone. There were so many Tin Theins across the country. Not only the Tin Theins but also other people having the same characters as Tin Theins can be seen everywhere. This special Township Officer abhorred bribery and corruption. Thus, he fought graft to his utmost. Although many people like him were disgusted by graft and corruption, it was extremely hard to annihilate bribery and corruption because of the weak monitoring system as well as the people's laziness to struggle with the bureaucratic red-tape rules and regulations.

The main character was reluctant to please the superiors, playing the part of a sycophant. As a result, he was always trodden down by his superiors.

The novel ended with a conversation between Mr and Mrs Tin Thein. Mr Tin Then said to his wife, "I am getting old, Myint. That's enough. Things are not changed. The old practices are still in existence. What has changed is only the colour—the white is replaced with Myanmar. Not more than that. And some Myanmar officers follow the steps of their predecessors, white-faced guys. I'd like to give up now, Myint. We need to promote awareness of the evil consequences of graft and corruption. Plus, we also need to educate the people to change their mindset and mentality. It takes time to effectuate a change. I'm fed up, and so, let me give up, Myint."

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## Over 3,600 YBS buses equipped with CCTV

THE Yangon Region Transport Committee (YRTC) has successfully installed CCTV cameras aboard over 3,600 YBS buses.

However, there are still more than 2,000 buses in the YBS fleet that are yet to be equipped with CCTV. In response, the YRTC has issued an instruction to install CCTV systems on all YBS buses.

THIS installation will enable effective monitoring and control of criminal incidents, fare collection, and adherence to traffic rules on YBS buses.

Furthermore, the YRTC will take necessary action to address complaints regarding fare collection exceeding the prescribed rates.

— TWA/MKKS

## MRF-led delegation holds meetings with 8 Philippine companies during visit

DURING their visit to the Philippines, a delegation led by the Chairman of the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) engaged in separate meetings with officials from eight Philippine companies. The Philippines stands as the second-largest rice procurement country among the 20 nations that demand Myanmar rice, following China.

The 15-member delegation, headed by the MRF chairman, held discussions with representatives from Philippine companies involved in the purchase of rice, broken rice, maize, and mung beans from Myanmar. The purpose of these meetings, which took place between 6 and 9 June, was to promote trade opportunities, foster relations between businesses in both countries, facilitate communication between organizations, and exchange market data.

One of the notable encounters was with USEC



Progress made during the meetings between the MRF and trade and business organizations during their visit to the Philippines.

Emmie Liza Perez-Chiong DMD, President & CEO of the Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC) under the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). During this meeting, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed between PITC and MRF, signifying their collaboration.

Additionally, the delegation met Mr George Barcelon, Chairman of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), and other businesspeople at the PCCI Head Office in Manila on 9 June. The discussions primarily revolved around enhancing bilateral trade, promoting private sector development, and fostering

communication among business communities in both countries within the ASEAN Economic Community, considering their membership in ASEAN.

The MRF expressed satisfaction with the progress made during these meetings with trade and business organizations in the Philippines. — TWA/KTZH

## 44 prisoners achieve success in 2022-2023 matriculation examination



Exceptional achievements from 29 examinees at the Mandalay Central Prison.

THE Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) has announced the release of 44 prisoners who successfully passed the 2022-2023 matriculation examination.

The matriculation exam results for the 2022-2023 academic year were declared on 9 June. Among the 161,850 students who appeared for the examination, 44 prisoners — including

10 from Insein prison, 29 from Mandalay prison, and five from other regional or state prisons — achieved success along with 109,851 other students.

These prisoners showcased outstanding academic performance, with one distinction in five subjects, two distinctions in four subjects, 25 distinctions in three subjects, seven distinctions in two sub-

jects, and six distinctions in one subject.

The MNHRC has expressed its commitment to support and facilitate the continuation of education for these prisoners who have excelled in the matriculation examination. Remarkably, the pass rate for prisoners in the matriculation exam stood at an impressive 91.67 per cent. — TWA/MKKS

## Multiple injuries reported in Sawbwagyigon CB Bank fire incident



SOCIAL assistance organizations have reported that five firefighters and philanthropists sustained minor injuries during the fire incident at CB Bank in Sawbwagyigon, Yangon.

The fire occurred in the courtyard of CB Bank, located in Insein Township, Yangon, at

approximately 10 pm on 16 June. The Myanmar Fire Service Department successfully brought the fire under control by 11 pm, and it was fully extinguished at 11:33 pm.

At present, the cause of the fire and the extent of the damage remain unknown. — TWA/KZW



Firefighters are seen struggling to put out the fire (top and above photos).

HEALTH/WELLNESS:  
WORLD

Canada’s population  
reaches 40 million

CANADA’S population reached a milestone of 40 million as of 16 June 2023, Statistics Canada announced Friday.

Canada’s population is currently growing at a record-setting pace. In 2022, the number of Canadians rose by 1,050,110, which marks the first time in Canadian history that the population grew by over 1 million people in a single year with the annual growth rate reaching 2.7 per cent.

While the previous growth rate record in the 1950s was

mostly attributed to the high number of births during the post-war baby boom, international migration accounted for nearly all growth recorded in 2022, the national statistical agency said.

Canada is by far leading the G7 countries for population growth and this has been the case for the last two decades, the agency said. If this rate of population growth was to stay constant in the years to come, the Canadian population could double in about 26 years, Statistics Canada said. — AFP



Canada’s population reached a milestone of 40 million as of 16 June 2023. Founded by the French in 1608, Quebec City is one of North America’s oldest European settlements. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Night owls die earlier due to drinking and smoking: study

PEOPLE who tend to stay up late are not more likely to die younger than early risers -- as long as they don’t use those longer nights for drinking and smoking, a 37-year-long study suggested on Friday.

Previous research has shown that night owls, who stay up later and struggle to drag themselves out of bed in the morning, are more likely to suffer from a range of health problems.

In 2018, a large study in the UK found that evening people had a 10 per cent higher risk of dying than morning people over a 6.5-year period.

While that was potentially worrying news for the world’s night owls, that research did not take into account factors, such as alcohol-consumption, that could be behind those deaths. — AFP

Japan raises age of consent from 13 to 16 years old

JAPAN’S age of consent was raised from 13, among the world’s lowest, to 16 years old on Friday as lawmakers passed key reforms to sex crime legislation.

A new bill, which also clarifies rape prosecution requirements and criminalizes voyeurism, cleared parliament’s upper house in a unanimous vote.

The age of consent — below which sexual activity is considered statutory rape — is 16 in Britain, 15 in France, and 14 in Germany and China. — AFP

Peru health minister resigns over dengue crisis

PERU’S health minister resigned Thursday following criticism over her handling of a dengue crisis that has left at least 248 people dead and around 147,000 infected, a presidential statement said.

Peruvian President Dina Boluarte accepted Rosa Gutierrez’s resignation and vowed to “redouble all efforts to bring quality healthcare” to all citizens, according to a post on the Peruvian presidency’s Twitter account.

Gutierrez announced her departure during a congressional meeting in which she was questioned over her management of the dengue outbreak.

Several parties had called for her resignation after she attributed the increase in dengue cases to high temperatures and rains in the first quarter of the year.

Peru has the second-highest dengue mortality rate in Latin

America after Brazil, according to the Pan American Health Organization, with cases overwhelming hospitals in the north of the country this year.

Dengue is a disease endemic to tropical areas that causes high fevers, headaches, nausea, vomiting, muscle pain and, in the most serious cases, haemorrhag-

es that can lead to death.

It was first detected in Peru in 1984 and has since become endemic. The World Health Organization warned in April that dengue and other diseases caused by mosquito-borne viruses are spreading much further and farther under the effect of climate change. — AFP



A member of a health brigade fumigates a street against the dengue virus on the hills of Lima, Peru, in May. **PHOTO: CRIS BOURONCLE/AFP**

Meta guru says ChatGPT-style AI is out-of-date

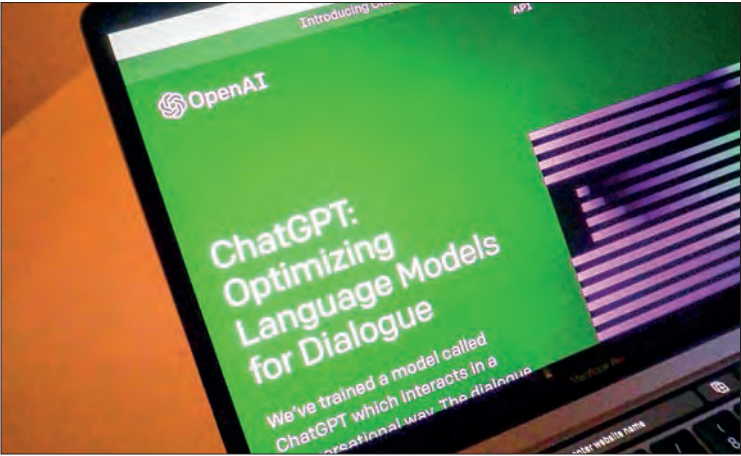
THE chief scientist for Facebook-owner Meta on Tuesday said that generative AI, the

technology behind ChatGPT, was already at a dead end, instead promising new artificial intelligence resembling human rationality.

“Today AI and machine learning really sucks. Humans have common sense, machines don’t,” Yann LeCun told reporters at a Meta launch event in Paris.

LeCun spoke as Meta announced its latest AI project — called image-based Joint Embedding Predictive Architecture, or JEPA.

The project seeks to move beyond ChatGPT-like generative AI and give machines the ability to conceptualize abstract ideas and not just regurgitate what exists online. — AFP



Generative models can be used in various domains, including image generation, text generation, and even music generation. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ ROLF VAN ROOT ON UNSPLASH**

ECONOMY  
WORLD

Japan promotes tourism at international expo in Beijing



Photo shows the Japan National Tourism Organization's PR booth at the Beijing International Tourism Expo in Beijing on 16 June 2023. PHOTO: KYODO

JAPAN is promoting tourism at a major international exposition that opened in Beijing on Friday, with demand for overseas trips recovering among local people after China lifted its stringent “zero-COVID” policy and reopened its borders earlier this year.

At a booth set up by the Japan National Tourism Organization, prefectures including

Tokushima, Okinawa and Kumamoto showed promotional videos to introduce local tourist attractions. There was also a performance featuring the Okinawan “sanshin” string instrument while visitors could also try their hand at painting Japanese “furin” wind bells.

Events such as weddings at Japanese shrines, kimonos photo sessions as well as

medical tourism, skiing and golf tours were promoted at another booth.

About 100,000 visitors are expected at the three-day Beijing International Tourism Expo, which features more than 70 booths of Chinese tour companies, local provinces and cities as well as foreign countries including Russia, the Philippines, Viet Nam and Cuba.

Shintaro Chaya, chief representative of the JNTO Beijing office, said while visas for individual Japan-bound Chinese travelers are available, group tours and the combined sale of air tickets and hotels have yet to resume.

“Even though group tour participants only accounted for some 30 per cent of all Chinese visitors in Japan before COVID, the overall Japan-bound travel trend will not gain momentum without the lifting of restrictions on group tours,” Chaya said. — Kyodo

Overfishing pushes reef sharks towards extinction: study

OVERFISHING is driving coral reef sharks towards extinction, according to a global study out Thursday that signals far greater peril to the marine predators than previously thought.

That matters to humans because the species act as managers of their marine ecosystems, maintaining delicately balanced

food webs on which hundreds of millions of people rely.

The research, published in the journal Science, is the result of the Global FinPrint project, which collected more than 22,000 hours of video footage from reefs across Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Australasia and the Americas.



A team of more than 100 scientists found that five of the most common coral reef shark species — grey reef, nurse, Caribbean reef, blacktip reef and whitetip reef — declined by 70 to 60 per cent. PHOTO: AFP

A team of more than 100 scientists found that five of the most common coral reef shark species — grey reef, nurse, Caribbean reef, blacktip reef and whitetip reef — declined by 70 to 60 per cent.

The depletion data was derived from a computer model that estimated what shark numbers would have looked like without human pressures.

Sharks were entirely absent in 14 per cent of reefs where they had been previously documented.

Lead author Colin Simpfendorfer of the James Cook University and the University of Tasmania told AFP that prior to the study, coral reef sharks — unlike their bigger cousins that dwell in deep oceans — were not thought to be doing badly.

“But when you sat down and looked at the overall results, it was quite stunning,” he said. — AFP

Paris Air Show returns with climate, defence in focus

AFTER a Covid-induced break, the Paris Air Show returns next week with the aerospace industry bouncing back from the pandemic but facing pressure to slash its carbon footprint.

Organizers are promoting the biennial event as the “recovery airshow” after the coronavirus ravaged the sector and forced the gathering’s cancellation in 2021.

The aerospace industry is flocking back to Le Bourget airport on the outskirts of Paris with a spring in its step, as aircraft makers field hundreds of orders and airlines brace for a near-record number of

passengers this year.

Russia’s war in Ukraine has also prompted countries to step up their military spending, which could benefit aerospace defence firms.

The airshow is a chance for companies to show off their wares, announce deals and do more business, with some 2,500 firms showing off their latest planes, drones, helicopters and prototypes such as flying taxis.

With some 125,000 square metres of exhibition space — the equivalent of nearly 18 soccer fields — around 320,000 visitors are expected during the week-long event starting Monday. — AFP



People walk amongst aircraft exhibited on the tarmac during the opening of the Paris Air Show at Le Bourget on 15 June 2015. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

NEWS  
IN BRIEF

BOJ sticks to monetary easing, unconvinced about price, wage growth

BANK of Japan Governor Kazuo Ueda on Friday warned of “extremely high” uncertainty over the sustainability of recent inflation and wage growth, as the central bank decided to keep interest rates extremely low to support the economy.

After a two-day policy meeting, Ueda acknowledged that the pace of inflation has been slowing more moderately than expected, underscoring the challenges faced by the BOJ as rising prices of everyday goods put “big burdens” on consumers. — Kyodo

Over 1,500 to attend Summer Davos Forum, centring on entrepreneurship

MORE than 1,500 representatives will attend the 14th Annual Meeting of the New Champions, also known as the Summer Davos Forum, scheduled to be held in north China’s Tianjin Municipality from 27 to 29 June. Themed “Entrepreneurship: The Driving Force of the Global Economy”, this year’s Summer Davos Forum has attracted over 1,500 participants from politics, business, academia, social organizations and international organizations, said its organizer at a press conference on Thursday. — Xinhua

# France to push shipping carbon tax at finance summit



The shipping industry transports around 90 per cent of traded goods worldwide and accounts for around three per cent of global carbon emissions, which are currently unregulated. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ LUIS ACOSTA/AFP**

FRANCE said Friday it would throw its weight behind an emissions tax on the heavily polluting shipping industry, adding

momentum to a campaign long championed by Pacific island nations and environmental campaigners. French President

Emmanuel Macron will push the issue at an international conference next week to discuss revamping the global development aid

system where Brazilian leader Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman as well as a host of African heads of state are expected.

The shipping industry transports around 90 per cent of traded goods worldwide and accounts for around three per cent of global carbon emissions, which are currently unregulated. Two Pacific nations exposed to the risk of rising sea levels, the Marshall and Solomon islands, have been pushing over the last decade for a \$100-per-tonne tax on maritime industry emissions which would create incentives for operators to cut their pollution. — AFP

# European leaders host Musk, chase Tesla investment

BILLIONAIRE Elon Musk is set to meet French President Emmanuel Macron in Paris on Friday as part of a European trip, with national leaders jostling for investment from his electric car firm Tesla.

The maverick tech titan, who also owns SpaceX and Twitter, met Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on Thursday, and she later tweeted that they had a “fruitful meeting” discussing “innovation and opportunities”.

Macron confirmed during a visit to France’s biggest technology trade fair VivaTech earlier this week that he would meet the businessman to “tout the attractiveness of France and Europe”.

Musk will also visit VivaTech later, appearing before an audience of thousands for what is billed as an hour-long “conversation” with the event’s French founder Maurice Levy. — AFP



Brand new Tesla cars sit in a parking lot at the Tesla factory in Fremont, California, US, 19 October 2022. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AFP**

# UK approves Amazon buy of robotic vacuum maker iRobot

BRITAIN’S Competition and Markets Authority regulator said Friday it has approved Amazon’s \$1.7-billion purchase of iRobot, the US maker of robotic vacuum Roomba.

The CMA “has now concluded that the deal would not lead to competition concerns in the UK”, it announced in a statement.

The transaction, announced in August 2022, aims to expand Amazon’s artificial intelligence and smart home ambitions.

The US retail titan

welcomed Friday’s news. “We’re pleased with

the UK CMA’s decision and are committed to

supporting regulatory bodies in their work. We look forward to similar decisions from other regulators soon,” said a spokesperson.

Massachusetts-based iRobot builds robots and “intelligent home” innovations, having introduced the Roomba self-operating vacuums a decade ago. Amazon’s deal to buy iRobot for \$61 per share along with acquiring the company’s debt was subject to approval of shareholders and regulators. — AFP



Amazon’s deal to buy iRobot for US\$61 per share along with acquiring the company’s debt was subject to approval of shareholders and regulators. **PHOTO: AFP**

# UAE cinemas scrap Spider-Man film featuring trans flag

SONY’S latest Spider-Man animation will not hit the silver screen in the United Arab Emirates, a cinema company said Friday, following backlash over an expression of support for transgender rights.

“Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse” was

originally scheduled to screen across the UAE as of 22 June, but it has since been scrapped from lists of upcoming films on the websites of major cinema operators in the Gulf state. “Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse” will not be releasing in the

UAE,” VOX Cinemas said in response to an enquiry on Facebook.

The cinema company, which operates in the UAE and much of the Gulf region, did not provide a reason for the decision.

Majid Al Futtaim Entertainment, which owns

VOX Cinemas, did not respond to a request for comment.

The superhero film, which premiered late last month, has sparked controversy online in the UAE for a scene featuring a flag with the writing “protect trans kids”. — AFP

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NITHI BHUM VOY.NO. (274N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NITHI BHUM VOY.NO. (274N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-6-2023** 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES**

သတင်းစာ မှာယူလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်

**09 454 237 515**

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**01 860 4530**

# Russia maintains economic stability despite challenges: Putin

RUSSIA has successfully maintained economic stability in the face of “unprecedented challenges”, President Vladimir Putin said on Friday.

“Positive macroeconomic trends are gaining momentum and becoming increasingly apparent,” Putin said during a plenary session of the 26th St Petersburg International Economic Forum. Russia’s GDP could achieve a growth rate of about 1.5 per cent to two per cent this year, which will enable the country to retain its place among the world’s leading economies, he said. Inflation stays close to a historical low of 2.9 per cent and unemployment stands at a record low of 3.3 per cent, according to the Russian leader.

While many foreign brands have long been selling products completely manufactured in Russia, those de facto Russian goods only with foreign logos



This photo shows the booth of St Petersburg at the 26<sup>th</sup> St Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) in St Petersburg, Russia, 14 June 2023. The 26th SPIEF began on Wednesday at the ExpoForum exhibition centre in Russia’s second-largest city St Petersburg. **PHOTO: IRINA MOTINA/XINHUA**

now continue to be supplied after the departure of the brand owners and profits remain, Putin noted. He told the audience that Russia continues to pursue an open economy and will never

turn onto the path of self-isolation despite all the difficulties.

“On the contrary, we have expanded contacts with reliable, responsible partners in countries and regions that today act as locomotives and drivers of the global economy. I want to repeat: these are the markets of the future,” he underlined.

“The ugly, essentially neo-colonial international system has ceased to exist, while the multipolar world order, on the contrary, is being strengthened. This is an inevitable process,” Putin added.

The St Petersburg International Economic Forum has been held annually in Russia’s second largest city since 1997, and the theme of this year’s event, scheduled from Wednesday to Saturday, is “Sovereign Development as the Basis of a Just World: Joining Forces for Future Generations.” — Xinhua

## Canada court upholds pact on returning asylum seekers to US



Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers greet asylum seekers as they arrive at the Roxham Road border crossing in Champlain, New York, on 25 March 2023. **PHOTO: LARS HAGBERG / AFP/FILE**

CANADA’S Supreme Court on Friday upheld an immigration agreement that allows authorities to bar asylum seekers from enter-

ing the country from the United States. The Safe Third Country Agreement, which came into effect in 2004, says that asylum seekers must make their application in the first safe country in which they arrived once they left their country of origin. The judges unanimously ruled that the accord did “not infringe refugee claimants’ rights to liberty and security”. In July 2020, a Federal Court judge invalidated the agreement, ruling that it violated the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms because those returned to the US faced poor detention conditions. — AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### China warns US against ‘strategic misjudgement’ as Blinken heads to Beijing

BLINKEN is arriving in Beijing this weekend in what will be his first trip to China as secretary of state, a visit that was delayed in February, when Washington tracked a suspected Chinese surveillance balloon in US airspace.

The US views China as its “primary rival” and “the most consequential geopolitical challenge”, which is “a major strategic misjudgement”, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin has stated.

Speaking to reporters ahead of US Secretary Antony Blinken’s visit to China slated for this weekend, Wang said that while there is a competition between the two countries in such fields as economics and trade, there should be “no vicious zero-sum competition,” as well as no attempts to contain or suppress one another in the name of rivalry and deprive China of its legitimate right to development. — SPUTNIK

## Kidnappers use grisly tactics as Ecuador crime spirals

CRIME has taken a sadistic turn in Ecuador, where kidnappers now regularly amputate the fingers of their victims and send images to pressure relatives to pay higher ransoms.

For decades, Ecuador was a refuge of peace wedged in a dangerous region. But these days, it increasingly resembles nearby Peru and Colombia, two huge producers of cocaine with violent criminal histories.

In March, the wife of a businessman in the port city of Guayaquil received images of someone snipping two fingers off her husband’s left hand, threatening to mutilate him further unless they were paid \$100,000.

At the end of 2022, police released a photograph of a mem-

ber of the Chilean navy who’d had two fingers lopped off during a kidnapping while he was in the country visiting a girlfriend.

Social media lit up in April when an x-ray of a hand with no fingers made the rounds. The image was of an Ecuadoran migrant to the United States ensnared in a kidnapping during a vacation back home. — AFP



Soldiers stand guard outside the overcrowded and violent Guayas 1 Prison in Guayaquil. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Japan emperor, empress to visit Indonesia for 7 days from 17 June

EMPEROR Naruhito and Empress Masako will visit Indonesia for seven days from 17 June, the Japanese government said Friday, marking their first official goodwill visit abroad since the emperor ascended the throne in 2019. The couple will attend events including a luncheon with Indonesian President Joko Widodo where the emperor will deliver a speech. The planned visit, approved by the Cabinet, comes as Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations mark this year the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of friendly ties. Indonesia is the 2023 ASEAN chair. The emperor received an invitation from Widodo in August 2019, according to the Imperial Household Agency.

Empress Masako, who has long battled a stress-induced illness, will determine whether

to attend individual events depending on her condition, the agency said.

The couple is scheduled to meet with the president and his wife and have luncheon at the palace in Bogor, near Jakarta, on 19 June. They will offer flowers the following day at the Kalibata Heroes' Cemetery, which honours those who fought for Indonesia's independence. From 21 June, the emperor will travel alone to Yogyakarta, an ancient city in central Java, to attend a dinner hosted by the governor of the special province in which it is located. The plan also includes visits to a high-speed railway constructed with Japan's economic assistance and a university engaging in Japanese-language education, as well as a meeting with Japanese residents in Indonesia. — Kyodo



Japan's Emperor Naruhito (L) and Empress Masako board a plane in Tokyo on Saturday headed for Indonesia. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN  
BRIEF

Pentagon Papers whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg dead at 92

DANIEL Ellsberg, the whistleblower who leaked the "Pentagon Papers" about the Vietnam War — changing public perceptions of the conflict — died on Friday, his family announced. He was 92.

Ellsberg was a military analyst when he released thousands of documents to US media in 1971 that revealed successive United States administrations had lied to the public about the Vietnam war.

The 7,000 classified pages determined that, contrary to the public assertions of US government officials, the conflict was unwinnable.

The leak was recounted in the 2017 Hollywood thriller "The Post", which detailed the nail-biting behind-the-scenes story of the papers' publication. Ellsberg announced in March that doctors had told him on 17 February that he had terminal pancreatic cancer and only around six months to live. "He was not in pain, and was surrounded by loving family," his wife and children said in a statement announcing his death. — AFP

African leaders prepare to meet Putin after Zelensky rules out talks

A high-level African delegation was preparing to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday, a day after its calls for talks between Moscow and Kyiv were rebuffed by Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky.

The diplomatic team had gone to Kyiv on Friday to voice the concerns of a continent that has suffered from the fallout of Russia's invasion — in particular rising grain prices — with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa insisting "there should be peace through negotiations".

But Zelensky ruled out that possibility during a joint press conference with the delegates, telling reporters: "I clearly said several times at our meeting that

to allow any negotiations with Russia now that the occupier is on our land is to freeze the war, to freeze pain and suffering".

Shortly after the African

leaders' arrival, air raid sirens sounded across the country as Russian missiles were detected, forcing the delegates to take shelter in the capital. — AFP



South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa addresses media after talks in Kyiv. PHOTO: AFP



Uruguay to melt Nazi bronze eagle, recast it as peace dove

URUGUAY will melt down a bronze eagle found on a sunken World War II-era German destroyer off its coast 13 years ago, and recast it as a dove of peace, the South American country's president said Friday. The 350-kilogramme (770-pound) "symbol of violence and war" will be turned into a "symbol of peace and union," President Luis Lacalle Pou told journalists in the capital Montevideo. The two-metre (6.5-foot)-tall bird with a Nazi swastika gripped in its talons adorned the stern of the Admiral

Graf Spee, a battleship involved in one of the first naval skirmishes of World War II. The Graf Spee's captain, Hans Langsdorff, scuttled the battleship — one of the Third Reich's largest — on 17 December 1939 following the Battle of the River Plate. The sculpture was found in 2006 after a 10-year hunt in the River Plate off Montevideo. — AFP

Japan emperor,  
empress to visit  
Indonesia for 7 days  
from 17 June



# SPORT

## Rodri aiming to bring back Spain's 'winning culture'



Spain midfielder Rodri Hernandez (CL) helped his team overcome Italy and reach the final of the Nations League. **PHOTO: AFP**

SPAIN midfielder Rodri Hernandez hopes to restore his team's "winning culture" by beating Croatia on Sunday and winning the Nations League.

Manchester City's goalscoring hero in their Champions League final triumph over Inter Milan last weekend noted only two players in Spain's squad had won trophies with the national team — Jordi Alba and Jesus Navas. Sevilla wing-back Navas lifted the 2010 World Cup with La Roja, while Alba was part of

the side which won Spain's last trophy at Euro 2012, over a decade ago. "It will be very important to win again, after all this time, bringing Spain back to the highest point," Rodri told a news conference Saturday, ahead of the final in Rotterdam.

"We only have two players who know what it's like to win. It's not just important to win but to create a winning culture, we have to understand that we have a unique opportunity. "We had the chance to win against France

in the (2021) final but we couldn't do it. This will allow us to recover that winning culture." Spain also reached the Euro 2020 semi-finals but were beaten by Italy on penalties. Rodri has become a key figure for coach Luis de la Fuente in midfield and the Man City player believes he is at a career level high.

"I think I am, in terms of maturity, winning titles, it's a moment I want to extend in the national team," continued Rodri. — 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.

## Fowler rides rollercoaster to US Open lead over Clark as McIlroy lurks

RICKIE Fowler got off to a blistering start then held on tight as Los Angeles Country Club struck back on Friday, taking a one-shot lead at the US Open in search of his first major championship.

The former world number four, had eight birdies and six bogeys in his two-under-par 68 for a 10-under total of 130.

Wyndham Clark carded a three-under-par 67 for 131 and was one stroke in front of Xander Schauffele and Rory McIlroy, who had six birdies in his last nine holes on the way to a 67 that left the Northern Ireland star poised to strike at the weekend for a fifth major title and his first in nine years. — AFP

## Kayan Fighter Vero Nika to take on Vietnamese Fighter Trieu Thi today



TODAY, fans of Lethwei will witness an exciting match as Vero Nika, a renowned fighter, takes on Trieu Thi, a talented Vietnamese female fighter, in the Thai Fight Event. According to the event organizers, the anticipated fight is scheduled to begin around 6:00 pm. "The event featuring Vero Nika will commence at 5:30 pm on Sunday, and Vero Nika's match is set for Round 4, likely between 6:10 pm and 7:00 pm," stated one of the event organizers. Vero Nika has gained a reputation for defeating opponents one after another, achieving an impressive string of victories. "Finding suitable opponents for Vero Nika in Thai Fight hasn't been easy. This week, she will face off against

a Vietnamese fighter who represented her country in the Cambodian Khun Khmer competition during the last SEA Games," the organizer added. The Vietnamese fighter has participated in seven bouts in Muay Thai Events, securing three wins and suffering four losses. While she has competed in national competitions, her experience in Muay Thai is relatively limited compared to Vero Nika. Kayan Fighter Vero Nika, driven by her hunger for triumph, recently changed her Facebook cover photo to an image of the ONE World Champion belt on 30 May. Alongside the picture, she wrote on her timeline: "I love you, baby... I'll be by your side soon." — Htun Htun (GNLM)/KZL