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

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

Maravijaya Buddha image is being carved with resilience of impacts in 120 miles per hour strong winds and 8.8 Richter scale of earthquake: Senior General



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing explains progress of carving Maravijaya Buddha image and park in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 June.

CONSTRUCTION of Maravijaya Buddha image has taken three years and 15 days till today, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the clarification on progress of building Maravijaya Buddha Image which would be the highest carved sitting Buddha image throughout the world, in Dekkhinathiri Township of Union Territory Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General explained that Maravijaya Buddha image is being carved with Bhumi Phassa mudra of Yadanabon era. Marble rocks weighing 7,632 tonnes from Sagyin Hill to Nay Pyi Taw were conveyed seven times starting from 3 July 2020. Advice was sought from State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee member Sayadaws for carving the Buddha image. In line with the advice, Tri Pitakat treatises were carved on stone plaque in Pali and

Rmoanized languages in Maravijaya Buddha Park.

Arrangements are being made to insert application of Tri Pitakat treatises into the tablets for public observation. Such treatises will be donated to religious centres of Buddhism across the world.

Parts of the Buddha image were connected in the modern technologies. These parts of the Buddha image were lifted up by Myanmar Engineering Society and Military Engineers Corps without

foreign experts.

Religious objects were enshrined in the bejewelled throne on 27 January 2023 for the first time and on 10 February for the second time.

Sasana Beikman Aggadipati Withongama ordination hall, 296 feet long, 213 feet wide and 94 feet high, was built to accommodate 900 members of the Sangha and 1,200 laypersons at the religious ceremonies.

SEE PAGE-3

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Elderly people aged 85s and above can apply for social pension

PAGE-2

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Yangon and regional markets see little change in onion price

PAGE-10



LOCAL BUSINESS

Export prices of pulses, rice dip, yet imported palm oil price spikes

PAGE-11





Officials present social pension to an older person through door-to-door service.

Elderly people aged 85s and above can apply for social pension

THE Department of Social Welfare under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement said it will provide the social pension for elderly people starting from 2023-2024 financial year.

Starting from the 2017-2018 financial year, social pension was given to elderly people aged 90 and above and it was provided to those aged 85 and above starting from the 2018-2019 financial year. The amount of pension was K10,000 per month and it was delivered every three months. There were more than 200,000 elderly people all over the country and a total of six billion kyats was spent on social pension.

The social pension will be given out every six months and the elderly people who want to apply for it can do so at the respective Region/State/District/Township social welfare offices together with citizenship scrutiny cards or household registration list (form 66-D). Those who have not received the social pension can contact the phone number 1566.— TWA/MKKS

26 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 29 June, total figure registers 640,417

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to **640,417** after **26** new cases were reported on 29 June 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of **10,850,749** laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached **640,417**.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **619,349** including **39** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered **19,494** on 29-6-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. COVID-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health. — GNLM

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

1. AN announcement has been issued that well-wishers wishing to make donations for people who fell victim to the extremely severe cyclonic storm Mocha which hit Myanmar on 14-5-2023 can donate cash to Myanmar account OA-011834 and foreign account 1DA-0300086.
2. In this announcement, it is duly mentioned that our commitment to receiving donations extends to additional electronic payment systems and mobile payment systems. Further updates and notifications will be made in due course.
3. It has been announced that donations can be made to the previously announced phone number and to the account that was opened, and since it can be confusing to donate with a phone number, we have already made it possible to donate with a QR code instead of the phone number.
4. Donations can be made through KBZ Pay or Wave Money. If you wish to donate, please scan the QR codes provided by both KBZ Pay and Wave Money. To contribute, enter the code included within the respective QR codes.
5. People make donations through CB Pay, AYA Pay, OK \$, UAB pay and

Citizens Pay which are widely used to enhance convenience for donors. To donate, please scan the QR code and enter the code provided within it.

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



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

Integration for harmonizing diversity key to building the Union based on democracy and federalism

IT is necessary to take lessons from the disunity and conflicts among the ethnics and the people due to racism, personal cult and dogmatism in the history of the country in building the Union based on democracy and federalism. Discriminating, setting aside and attacking persons as enemies for different attitudes and concepts are not in conformity with the democratic system. Likewise, localism and personal cult may cause disunity and harm the country to disintegrate, so I would like to urge all to deeply consider integration for harmonizing diversity.

(Excerpts from the message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to 76th Anniversary of Union Day ceremony which falls on 12 February 2023)

Maravijaya Buddha image is being carved with resilience of impacts in 120 miles per hour strong winds and 8.8 Richter scale of earthquake: Senior General

FROM PAGE-1

Construction of Maravijaya Buddha image has taken three years and 15 days till today. Maravijaya Buddha image is being carved with resilience of impacts in 120 miles per hour strong winds and 8.8 Richter scale of earthquake.

Gandakuti chambers of the Buddha image were built with marble stones, and 24 buildings were decorated with different architectural works similar to that of Atumashi Monastery in Mandalay.

The Senior General then accepted cash donations for building Maravijaya Buddha Image and Park from well-wishers. He expressed his thanks to well-wishers for their cash donations to the Buddha image and park, and pledged to express names of well-wishers on the stone plaques.

The attendees to the ceremony paid homage to Maravi-



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing conducts well-wishers round Maravijaya Buddha Park in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 June.

jaya Buddha image and viewed Park. The Senior General and officials conducted them round the image and the park. At the ceremony, 101 well-wishers donated K16.177 billion. — MNA/TTA

Science Festival 2023 continues its second day

THE Science Festival 2023 jointly conducted by the Ministry of Science and Technology and ROSATOM of Russian Federation continued its second day at Yangon Technological University and Nuclear Technology Information Centre yesterday.

First, Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, Deputy Minister Dr Aung Zeya and party watched the powerpoint presentations of students from 11 groups for HackAtom competition regarding their created applications and websites to inform their findings within 24 hours in power generation using nuclear technology and knowledge on peaceful use such as Nuclear



Science Festival 2023 in progress.

Medicine at the Yangon Technological University. The joint judge team comprising of professors of Ministry of Science and Technology and National Research Nucle-

ar University MEPhI (Moscow Engineering Physics Institute) judged the presentations and Deputy Minister Dr Aung Zeya and Director Mr Andrey Belyakov of international cooperation department of ROSATOM presented first, second and third prizes to three teams.

About 500 students from basic education high schools, technological university and University of Computer Studies joined the HackAtom competition.

The talk shows included Overview on the Nuclear Industry Development in Myanmar by Division of Atomic Energy, Nuclear Energy Development from Antiquity to the Present Days by Russian nuclear expert

and Low-carbon Energy Source by undergraduate student of YTU Mechanical Engineering Department.

Moreover, the Union Minister and party proceeded to Nuclear Technology Information Centre and cordially greeted the students who participated in second day of the festival.

About 400 students and supervisors from Dagon BEHS-1 and Ahlon BEHS-4 joined the event. They made nuclear technology and science practicals at Nuclear Sprint Zone, Chronograph Zone, Jenga in Physics Zone and Master Class and participated in quiz games. The officials of ROSATOM awarded the winners.—MNA/KTZH

Rakhine State CM receives cash donations for rehabilitation tasks

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Htein Lin, in his capacity as Chairman of Rakhine State Disaster Management Committee attended the cash donation ceremony for rehabilitation processes in Cyclone Mocha-hit Rakhine State yesterday.

The Chief Minister received K50.8 million cash donation from well-wishers.

Then, he attended the opening ceremony of farm machinery driving course for farmers held at Agriculture Department and highlighted the one-season-free farm machinery rental of 14 power-tillers and 10 mini tractors to cultivate the monsoon paddy in time, purpose of training course to use the machineries systematically and benefits of training for the farmers.

The State Chief Minister handed over the farm equipment for Sittway, Rathedaung and Pauktaw townships and cordially greeted 36 trainees.

At noon, the Chief Minister oversaw the loading of high-yielding paddy seed bags onto Kaladan-6 ship at Mingan jetty of



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin views loading of supply materials aboard vessel at Mingan jetty of Sittway on 29 June.

Inland Water Transport.

Then, they attended the co-ordination meeting on rehabilitation processes at Rakhine State government office. During the meeting, the working committees presented the rehabilitation processes, completed work and future work plans.—MNA/KTZH

Repairing of power cables, power stations inspected in Sittway



Deputy Minister U Aye Kyaw inspects repairs of power cables in Rakhine State on 29 June.

DEPUTY Minister for Electric Power U Aye Kyaw inspected progress of the restoration of Mocha-hit power lines and substations in Sittway yesterday morning.

First, the Deputy Minister inspected the constructions and repairs of damaged power lines and the installation of power cables on the university campus in Sittway of Rakhine State and the No 36 Security Police Branch and transformers and accessories inside Sittway Golf Course and Rakhine State Hluttaw Office, and reinstallation of 11 KV and 400 volt power lines.

Urban and rural areas in Sittway, Ponnagyun, Kyauktaw, MraukU, Minbya and Myebon townships are

being electrified. Yesterday afternoon, power has been distributed through the 100 kVA transformer and 200 kVA transformer into the office of Rakhine State Hluttaw.

The 66 kV Ponnagyun-Rathedaung power line reconstruction work has completed by 72 per cent, the 66 kV Rathedaung-Buthidaung power line 65 per cent; 79 villages had been implemented. Power lines for 79 villages have been repaired, 49 villages were underway. Sittway University was electrified on 10 June, University of Computer Studies on 12 June, Technical High School on 20 June, Technological University on 22 June and No 36 Security Police Branch on 2 June. —MNA/TS

MIFER Deputy Minister joins 8th Meeting of High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision

THE Myanmar delegation led by Dr Wah Wah Maung, Eminent Person (EP) of Myanmar and Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations attended the 8th Meeting of High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision (HLTF-ACV) in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 26-27 June.

The meeting adopted the summary of decisions and summary report of the 7th HLTF-ACV Meeting in Belitung and exchanged of views on the development of ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision and its attendant documents. The meeting further discussed the drafting of ASEAN Vision 2045 under the theme of "Resilient, Dynamic, and People-Centred ASEAN".

The Deputy Minister expressed appreciation to Co-chairs and ASEAN Secretariat for developing zero draft ASEAN Vision 2045 and stressed that the ASEAN's Community Post-2025 Vision should be guided by the Core Elements which was noted by the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits. She also emphasized the importance of the spirit of



Deputy Minister Dr Wah Wah Maung attends 8th Meeting of High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision (HLTF-ACV) in Jakarta.

unity in diversity and togetherness, adhering to the shared principles, purposes, values, and norms enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and other ASEAN instruments which are key ingredients to maintain ASEAN as an international recognized association.

The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Dian Triansyah Djani, Eminent Person (EP) of Indonesia and Special Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on Priority Programmes, as the ASEAN Chair and Mr Dato' Zainuddin Yahya, Eminent Person (EP) of Malaysia and Former Malaysian Ambassador.

The meeting agreed to further discuss the way forward to finalize the draft vision and timely submit to the upcoming ASEAN Summit which will be held in September 2023. —MNA

CRIME NEWS

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

THE combined teams under the supervision of Customs Department impounded 30 Karat Toilet commodes worth K3.6 million that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a vehicle heading to Yangon from Myawady at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint and three kinds of goods worth K885,000 including 240 litres of two-shrimp brand palm oil and 1,080 liters of such oil worth K2.4 million from a Toyota Hiace (estimated value of K20 million) at the Thanlwin Bridge combined checkpoint on 27 June, eight kinds of goods worth K20.376 million including 7,200 bottles of Carabo, two kinds of goods worth K12 million including 1,440 bottles of Brand

bird's nest, six kinds of goods worth K13.85 million including 360 packages of Nescafe Red Cup coffee powder, three kinds of goods worth K2.223 million including 108 boxes of snack and 480 packs of Finline fragrance oil worth K240,000 without official documents from a Mitsubishi Fuso (estimated value of K20 million) near a tollgate on Kyakalay-Zathapyin road on 28 June and 10 sets of Miami PVC cabinet worth K4 million that were not declared in the ID from a vehicle travelling from Myawady to Yangon at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs Procedures.

Additionally, a combined team made inspections at the

Pauktai Bridge checkpoint on 28 June and nabbed nine kinds of medicines worth K3.269 million including 2,400 bottles of Tevax without official documents from a Nissan truck (approximate value of K35 million) heading to Dawei from Myeik. The action was taken under Customs Procedures.

On 28 June, the combined teams on duty at the Latpanhla-Singu temporary checkpoint captured two kinds of goods worth K4.9 million including 1,800 kilogrammes of pieces of wood supposed to be red sandalwood worth K20 million, China-made 3,350 umbrellas and 1,500 kilogrammes of peanut from a Nissan Diesel truck (estimated value of K35 million).



Karat toilet commodes seized at Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) checkpoint on 27 June.

The action was taken under Customs Procedures.

As a result, a total of 17 arrests were made on 27 and 28 June, with an estimated value of K201,093,000, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Drugs seized in Pyigyidagun, Pobbathiri, Dagon Seikkan and Loilem townships

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force examined and searched a suspect by the name of Kyaw Thet Naing (aka) Shan Lay on 128th street in Pyigyidagun township at 5:45 pm on 27 June and seized two cartons of heroin weighing 0.88 kilogrammes from him.

After interrogating him, the combined team searched a car air-conditioner service shop in TadaU village in Pobbathiri township, Nay Pyi Taw, and captured 3.7 kilogrammes of heroin and 1,140 stimulant tablets.

Similarly, the Anti-Drug Police Force examined Tin Zar Min and Thiha Kyaw (aka) Thiha in front of City Mark in Ward 92 of Dagon Myothit Seikkan township at 1 pm on the same day and seized a total of 0.6 kilogramme of prohibited chemical caffeine and 600 stimulant tablets.

According to investigation, the police searched a rented apartment of the offenders in Ward 92 of Dagon Myothit Seikkan township at 1:20 pm on the same day and captured 920 stimulant tablets and 1,000 kilogrammes of caffeine.

In addition, the police raided the house of Myo Nay Zar (aka) Myo Tayza and Ma Chaw Su Hlaing (aka) Su Su Nyein (aka) Su Su in Ward 61 of Dagon Myothit Seikkan township at 2 pm and captured 0.024 kilogramme of Happy Water. At 1:15 pm on 28 June, the Police searched a motorbike driven by Sai Sam Mon near Hotint village in Loilem township and nabbed 3,000 stimulant tablets.

The offenders have been prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/MKKS



K430 million worth of stimulant tablets captured in Lashio township



A total of 860,000 stimulant tablets worth K430 million was captured in Lashio township in Shan State, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team consisting of the members of the Anti-Drug Police Force arrested Tu Naing, Khun Jet (aka) Li Hauk, Archon (aka) Lyo Pein Chon, Yaw Kyein Shant and Lauk Shone together with 860,000 stimulant tablets and three vehicles in No 4 ward in Lashio at 9 pm on 21 June.

After an interrogation, the offenders admitted that the seized drugs were to be carried from Mongyai to Lashio.

Legal action has been taken against the offenders and an investigation is under way to expose those who were involved in the case. — MNA/MKKS

K1.8 bln worth of drugs captured in Pyigyidagun township

A total of 1.2 million stimulant tablets worth K1.8 billion was captured in Pyigyidagun Township in Mandalay Region, said Myanmar Police Force.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force arrested Myint Kyaw (aka) Nyi Pu, Ma Zin Mar Oo and Ma Nan Sandar Soe with 200,000 stimulant tablets and a motorbike on 133rd street in H ward in Pyigyidagun Township at 5:30 pm on 21 June.

Then, the police went to the house of Myint Kyaw (aka) Nyi Pu and his wife Ma Zin Mar Oo in Natyaykan village in Amarapura Township and captured another 1 million stimulant tablets.

After interrogation, the police arrested Tin Maung Soe (aka) Ran Chan Cha (aka) Ah Ti at 8 pm on 22 June as he was involved in drug trafficking. He lived in 41st street in Mahaaungmyay Township.

The offenders admitted the drugs were to be carried from Shan State to Rakhine State.

Legal action was taken against the offenders and an investigation is under way to expose the persons connected with them. — MNA/MKKS

TOURISM



Pilgrims can explore art of floral design using masonry in Shwenanyintaw monastic complex in Bagan

SHWENANYINTAW monastic complex is a must-place to be explored while going on a pilgrimage tour to Bagan-NyaungU Ancient Cultural Zone in Mandalay Region, according to an official of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch).

The brick building of Shwenanyintaw monastery inside the monastic complex is considered to be Theravada Buddhist academy. Although there's no solid proof of inscriptions, architecture of the monastery might appear to be the late 12th Century AD. It is considered to have been constructed in the reign of King Narapati Sithu. The original old stone walls of the monastery have almost disappeared, featuring the small apartments for meditation

and four classic pagodas on a small scale. Mahataygyi Temple is an ancient square pagoda as wooden religious buildings.

Now, only the brick foundation remains intact. The arts of floral design using masonry can be observed at the entrance and the inside of those pagodas.

Pilgrims can explore the arts and pay a visit to small pagodas inside the Shwenanyintaw monastic complex, the Dhammayangyi Temple in the south, Culamani Temple in the south east, Shwenanyintaw lake next to the monastery, Ywahtaunggyi Pagoda in the north and Ananda Temple in the northwest and 3,822 temples, stupas and pagodas in the Bagan cultural heritage site — Dipa Lin/EM



Hindu temple in Bagan ancient cultural zone features paintings for 10 avatars of Lord Vishnu

Nathlaung Kyaung Hindu Temple illustrated with mural paintings is a significant feature in the Bagan ancient cultural zone, capturing the attention of the pilgrims and visitors of Bagan temples in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region, said an official of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch).

Nathlaung Kyaung Hindu Temple is to the west of Thatby-innyu Temple. It is the only Hindu temple in the Bagan zone. It was built in the 11th century. Some structures of the original temple have disappeared and only the main hall and terraces remain.



The 10 incarnations (avatars) of the Lord Vishnu can be observed at the temple. The arts of decorative ornaments on the four panels of the main hall, the statue of the Hindu Lord Vishnu, Hindu deities and stupas can be explored inside the temple.

Visitors can also tour Thatbyinnyu Temple in the east of Nathlaung Kyaung, Shwegugyi Temple in the north, Thantawkyia Temple, Ananda Temple, Pitakat Chamber with Dhamma Archives, Pahtothamya Temple, Bagan most and ancient temples. A total of 3,822 temples, stupas and pagodas in the Bagan cultural heritage site attracts the attention of visitors. — Dipa Lin/ EM

TRAVEL



Taking a tour to a
spectacular sea of flowers

By TWA

IN this article, I would love to take a tour to the epi-center of China's flower market with buzzing activity, Dounan Flower Market, where I visited in the third week of June 2023.

The Dounan Flower Market, located about 18 kilometers from Kunming city, is the largest flower wholesale market in Asia and the second largest world.

Enchanting views depicting women of any age wearing flower crowns in the vast sea of flowers is enhancing a market appeal.

The market stretching as far as the eyes can reach offers the varieties of fresh-cut flowers, ornamental plants, vases, seedlings, bouquets, small potted plants, plant shelves and plant accessories. The florists display the flower boutiques and create unique floral setups in this competitive market to attract the customers.

The 23-year old flower market was forced to shut down during the COVID-19 pandemic and was reopened in January 2023. The market has welcomed over 2.3 million visitors as of 31 May 2023 since the reopening, director Zhang Xian of Dounan Flower Market told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

The market employed 600,000 Chinese including



340,000 locals. The market is thriving, with the trade volume of 10.26 billion flowers worth 10.2 billion Chinese Yuan in 2021

and 16.2 billion flowers valued at 12.1 billion Yuan in 2022.

In addition to face-to-face trading, the market also pro-

vides electronic auctions at its auction house and the live streamers make online sales for the imported flowers at the

bustling market.

The flowers are sold to Thailand, Japan, Singapore, Russia and Australia through auctions. In the first half of 2023, 28 million stems of flowers and 52 million seedlings were transacted, Zhang Xian shared this information with the GNLN.

The florists create unique designs of those flowers that start to wilt to capture the eyes of the visitors. Some cut the prices as well. The dead flowers are recycled for natural fertilizer.

After Shangyi flower wholesale market in the heart of Kunming city was removed, Jingxing flower and bird market, 1st Chajie Street, Dounan, and Jiameng flower markets have become popular spots for buying flowers.

Kunming's Dounan flower market, the largest market in Asia, is a good place for the buyers to find the variety of flowers at wholesale prices. The visitors can be lost in the vibrant sights and beauty of nature's smell and photographers can also capture the stunning photos of flowers in the sprawling market with endless rows of flower shops. This article is written to boast the Dounan flower market that has been blooming over the past two decades.

■

Try to control diarrhoea to save lives

DIARRHOEA is a common disease that can occur throughout the year, although it is more prevalent during the monsoon season due to unclean water on the soil and the presence of insects. Each year, approximately 500,000 people worldwide suffer from diarrhoea, with around 100,000 deaths attributed to the disease, according to the World Health Organization. In Myanmar, statistics from 2013 indicate that approximately 10 per cent of child deaths are caused by diarrhoea.

Diarrhoea is often triggered by the spread of sewage water during rainy periods, leading to blocked drains and the contamination of garbage and waste. Poor hygiene practices can contribute to the outbreak of diarrhoea, as it allows infectious viruses and bacteria to multiply in the environment. Additionally, consuming unhygienic food, such as overripe fruits or meals sold along roadsides in Myanmar, can also increase the risk of contracting diarrhoea.

If someone suspects or knows of an individual suffering from diarrhoea, it is important to contact nearby health units immediately. Diarrhoea outbreaks can occur at any time and can affect anyone. Urging those with the disease to seek timely medical treatment at clinics or health units is crucial to prevent dehydration, which can lead to life-threatening complications.

control fly populations in dirty areas, as flies can contribute to the spread of disease. Community members should also take responsibility for cleaning up dirty and unhygienic places.

If someone suspects or knows of an individual suffering from diarrhoea, it is important to contact nearby health units immediately. Diarrhoea outbreaks can occur at any time and can affect anyone. Urging those with the disease to seek timely medical treatment at clinics or health units is crucial to prevent dehydration, which can lead to life-threatening complications.

Maintaining a hygienic environment is paramount for ensuring good health within a society. Individuals should prioritize personal hygiene practices, including cleaning their surroundings and properly preparing meals. Regular handwashing before and after activities, as well as regular taking a bath, are significant preventive measures. By adhering to these hygienic practices, individuals can reduce the risk of diarrhoea outbreaks and promote a healthy and fit society.

People of all ages can be affected by this disease, although children are particularly vulnerable due to their immature immune systems. Compared to adults, children have lower resistance to diseases, making them more susceptible to the severe consequences of diarrhoea. Therefore, it is essential for parents to ensure that their children maintain personal hygiene, including keeping their fingernails and toenails clean, wearing clean clothes, avoiding unhygienic foods, and following proper meal-time hygiene practices. Older individuals may also be at risk of developing diarrhoea due to weakened immune systems.

To prevent the spread of diarrhoea, authorities should focus on cleaning up garbage landfills and adopting systematic waste disposal practices in accordance with the protocols set by the Ministry of Health. Additionally, measures should be taken to



Professor Myint Myint Khin is an outstanding leader in the field of medical education and has devoted six decades of her life to medical education. **PHOTO: THE BMJ**

A Tribute to Professor MYINT MYINT KHIN

By Dr Aung Than Batu

Director (Research & Human Resources) (Retired) World Health Organization (WHO), Southeast Asia Regional Office, (SEARO), New Delhi, India

PROFESSOR Myint Myint Khin, aged 91 years, passed away at the Shwegondine Specialist Hospital in the afternoon, today the 19th June, Thursday, 2014, in the presence of her loving family and intimate friends.

This tribute is hastily and briefly written so as to be in time for the imminent publication of this issue of the Support Group for Elderly Doctors (SGED) Newsletter by her devoted and admiring pupil whose life she touched and greatly influenced as teacher, mentor, friend and scientific colleague.

She was an outstanding Burmese lady in many respects and a towering dynamic personality, passionate in her convictions about the issues in Myanmar Medicine and Myanmar Medical Education and Myanmar society that she took up, and passionate and forthright in expressing them.

She was a brilliant and inspiring teacher, competent and sympathetic physician, systematic medical researcher and a great supporter of medical research, influential social worker and advocate, and author of many books and articles that contributed to a better public understanding of health and medical science.

She was the prime mover and one of the founders of the Support Group for Elderly Doctors (SGED) to which she devoted much of her time, energy and resources as Chairperson. Her personality and altruism attracted many contributors in cash and kind and service to this very worthy cause, the first of this kind in Myanmar, and a model to many others elsewhere. The activities of the SGED and the Day Care Centre, which she initiated have benefitted and improved the quality of life of many elderly doc-

tors, and they, their families and professional colleagues will always be grateful to her for her initiative and her efforts.

Professor Myint Myint Khin founded and had continued to support the Dr San Baw Research Fund as Patron and financial contributor. The Fund promotes and supports medical research in Myanmar and its activities include the award of Prizes for systematic, high-quality health research and the publication of the Myanmar Handbook of Health Research as well as other publication one of which is the publication of the definitive History of Medical Education in Myanmar. Dr Myint Myint Khin was awarded the title of “Emeritus Medical Researcher” by the Ministry of Health for her support of medical research in Myanmar.

Professor Myint Myint Khin is an outstanding leader in the field of medical education and has devoted six decades of her life to medical education, about which she has written in her article “Six Decades of Medical Education:

An Overview” published in one of the publications of the University of Medicine, Mandalay. She was also the co-editor of the “Educational Handbook for Trainers in the Health Profession”, the first and most comprehensive work on Education Science and Technology, so far, pertaining to the training of teachers in medicine. She will be the Chief Editor posthumously of the forthcoming History of Medical Education in Myanmar which she has initiated and to which she has devoted much of her efforts in the last few years of her life. (Update: History of Medical Education in Myanmar, 1885-2010 was published around December 2015. The cover of the book merely contains the phrase ‘Edited by Dr Aung Than Batu and Dr U Ko Ko’ -both of whom had passed away. My late mother’s name is mentioned in the Preface by Dr Aung Than Batu and there is an article which my mother wrote in the book. But her name is not mentioned as one of the Editors far less ‘Chief Editor, posthumously’. I donated about 60 lakhs, (6 million Burmese Kyats) for the production of the book and was asked to give a ‘speech of thanks’ (in Burmese Kyayzoo Tin Zagar) at the book launch. I would now comment that since my mother’s name contrary to what Uncle Dr Aung Than Batu had written in his tribute of June 2014 is not mentioned as ‘posthumous

Chief Editor’ and because I have donated the rough equivalent of 4500 United States dollars towards the production of the book my speech should have been stated as ‘Speech of Joy’, in Burmese Wun Myat Zagar). Still, I gave the speech at the book launch. Myint Zan, June 2023)

She has also written, what I am told by her son, will be a comprehensive account of the Role of Myanmar Women in Myanmar Society Through the Ages, for the posthumous publication of which her son is taking full responsibility. Professor Myint Myint Khin has made great efforts to write this book and was much concerned that this book will not be finished in time her son was able to help her put the finishing touches to the manuscript during the last few days of her life and was able to give assurance to the mother that it will be published. This book will be an outstanding contribution to the recognition of the equal role of women in Myanmar society – a fact that is a rarity in Asian societies. (Update Due to many factors including the fact that for more than 8 years after my mother’s passing I was unable to find the ‘soft copy’ of my late mother’s drafts I have been able to collate, read and edit my mother’s book draft only a few months ago. I am in the process of collating, editing and processing my late mother’s book draft. Myint

Zan. June 2023)

Dr Myint Myint Khin has recently established the Myint Myint Khin Foundation, the aim and purpose of which will be to support many activities to further health and medical science in Myanmar, to improve the life of elderly doctors in Myanmar, and to promote better public understanding of the societal importance of science in Myanmar.

She will be remembered with love and admiration for all her sincere and many beneficial contributions to medicine, medical education, medical science and the health of the Elderly Doctors in Myanmar and all of us wish, prays, and also know that she will benefit from all kuthos [meritorious good deeds] in her Afterlife.

To commemorate the 9th anniversary of the passing of my late mother Professor Dr Daw Myint Myint Khin (15 December 1923-19 June 2014) on 19 June 2023 I reproduce the tribute article by the late Dr Aung Than Batu (21 June 1931-7 October 2020) which first appeared in the June 2014 issue of SGED (Support Group for Elderly Doctors). When Uncle Dr Aung Than Batu passed away in October 2020 I published a tribute article ‘Sayagyi (Uncle) Dr Aung Than Batu’ in the 13 October 2020 issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar:

WHO warns Covid ‘has not gone away’

THE World Health Organization’s European office warned on Tuesday the risk of Covid-19 has not gone away, saying it was still responsible for nearly 1,000 deaths a week in the region. And the real figure may be much higher.

The global health body on 5 May announced that the Covid-19 pandemic was no longer deemed a “global health emergency.”

“Whilst it may not be a global public health emergency, however, Covid-19 has not gone away,” WHO Regional Director for Europe Hans Kluge told reporters.

WHO’s European region

The WHO’s European region comprises 53 countries, including several in central Asia.

“Close to 1,000 new Covid-19 deaths continue to occur across

the region every week, and this is an underestimate due to a drop in countries regularly reporting Covid-19 deaths to WHO,” Kluge added, and urged authorities to ensure vaccination coverage of at least 70 per cent for vulnerable groups.

Kluge also said estimates showed that one in 30, or some 36 million people, in the region had experienced so called “long Covid” in the last three years, which “remains a complex condition we still know very little about.”

“Unless we develop comprehensive diagnostics and treatment for long Covid, we will never truly recover from the pandemic,” Kluge said, encouraging more research in the area which he called an under-recognised condition.

Covid safety restrictions

Most countries in Europe have dropped all Covid safety restrictions but some face mask rules remain in place in certain countries in places like hospitals.

Although Spain announced this week that face masks will no longer be required in certain healthcare settings, including hospitals and pharmacies, with a couple of exceptions.

Sweden will from July 1st remove some of its remaining Covid recommendations for the public, including advice to stay home and avoid close contact with others if you’re ill or have Covid symptoms.

The health body also urged vigilance in the face of a resurgence of mpox, having recorded 22 new cases across the region in May, and the health impact of heat waves.

SOURCE: AFP



Tourists visiting the Acropolis in Athens in July, 2022. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ LOUISA GOULIAMAKI/AFP/FILE**



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 29 June 2023)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and moderate elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 30 June 2023: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay Regions and Kachin, Northern Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with Likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Tanin-thayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (30-35) mph. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (30-35) mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (7-9) feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Tanin-thayi Coasts and (5-7) feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal.

CURRENT AFFAIRS



Some female farming workers are seen planting monsoon paddy saplings.

Plans underway to sell fertilizers and inputs needed in four regions at special prices

FERTILIZERS and inputs needed for 530,000 acres of the monsoon paddy in four regions, including Yangon Region, will be sold at special prices, the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development stated.

The monsoon paddy project will be implemented in Yangon, Ayeyawady, Sagaing and Mandalay Regions.

A total of 79,500 tonnes of fertilizer will be required for the

project acreage. The MoCRD and the Myanmar Fertilizer, Seed, and Pesticide Entrepreneurs Association (MFSPEA) negotiated and decided to sell urea fertilizer at a particularly low price of K75,000 per bag and K115,000 per 50-kg bag of compound fertilizer.

According to the Cooperative Department, the MoCRD and the MFSPEA are working in coordination to sell the ferti-

lizers to farmers at a very low price. The sale requires recommendations from the relevant authorities.

Myanmar imported more than 2.2 million tonnes of fertilizers from abroad in the 2022–2023 financial year to meet the demand of local farmers, and the largest imports were nitrogen urea fertilizers and compound fertilizers. — TWA/CT

Local entrepreneurs have chance to register for ASEAN Business Awards 2023 by 14 July

LOCAL entities and entrepreneurs can make registration for the ASEAN Business Awards 2023 by 14 July, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry notified.

The “ASEAN Business Awards (ABA)2023” will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 4 September 2023 during the ASEAN-BAC event under Indonesian Chairmanship. Outstanding regional enterprises and individual entrepreneurs committed to promote regional SMEs and the regional development and contributing to regional economic growth through ASEAN Economic Community can register for the ABA 2023.

There are many award categories including Enterprise (Large Corporations and

MSMEs) Award, Digital Transformation (The Bionic Company/ The Best CX), Sustainable Development (Net-Zero Leader/ Plastic Waste Circularity), Food Security (Sustainable Crop Production/Tech for Sustainable Agriculture), Health Resilience (Health Innovation/ Corporate Health Achievement), Trade & Investment Facilitation (Export Growth/Innovative Investment), Individual Award Categories (Women/ASEAN Women Leader), Youth (ASEAN Under 40) and Friends of ASEAN.

For further details of qualifications to be eligible for the awards, please browse <https://aseanbacindonesia.id/event/aba-2023/how-to-apply>. They can submit the registration by 14 July, the UMFCFI notified.—TWA/EM



Arsjad Rasjid, Chair of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) and Chairman of Kadin, announced that registration for the ASEAN Business Awards 2023 (ABA 2023) has officially launched.

Yangon and regional markets see little change in onion price

FROM the middle to the end of the year 2022, the prices of onions in the domestic onion market rose sharply. However, the wholesale price of onion in mid-2023 have stood around K2,000 per viss, with little change in Yangon and regional markets, according to buyers and the Yangon onion brokerage houses.

About 78,000 visses of onion from various regions entered the Yangon market on 28 June 2023, at a price of K1,800 per viss for Seikphyu onions and K1,850 per viss for Monywa onions. In regional markets, the highest price of onion per viss was over K2,000 in the previous days, but on 28 June, it was only around K1,950.

It is known that the price

of onion has not increased significantly, even in the days when the supply was less than 100,000 visses in the Yangon market. In early May 2023, the price of large-sized onions increased to K2,300 per viss, but it has not returned to this price until around the end of June.

Based on their experiences, most of the onion growers are waiting for the time when the price will go up this year and are selling inventory of onions based on the daily market price in regional markets. If the opening price of onions at the regional market decreases, prices of onions fell again.

Onion prices rose to record highs in the last months of 2015, 2019, and 2022. As it was in 2022, the newly-harvested



Monsoon onions are seen before sending to the market.

monsoon onion may be cultivated earlier than usual this year.

Therefore, U Myint Swe, a buyer, told the GNLM that there is still time to predict whether onion prices will hit a record high this year, as hap-

pened in early December 2022.

These days, the prices of potatoes and onions are almost the same, but the price of Shan garlic is four times higher than the price of onions, said Ko Htut, a dealer, to the GNLM. — TWA/CT

YRIC gives green light to seven foreign investment enterprises

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee approved seven foreign investment projects valued at US\$7.114 million on 28 June. According to the YRIC, such an approval is expected to generate employment opportunities for more than 4,000 local workers.

The approved projects include garment manufacturing using the Cut-Make-Pack (CMP) system, bed manufacturing, footwear production and the manufacturing and export of construction materials.

In addition, during the 6/2023 meeting held at the YRIC office in Yankin Township, Yangon Region, on the same day, the committee addressed various general matters raised by 14 companies. — TWA/CT

LOCAL BUSINESS

Rubber price on steady increase

THE price of rubber is gradually increasing. The prevailing price hit above K1,500 per pound in Mon State’s rubber market, tracking rise in international price.

The prices of rubber were approximately K1,365 per pound of sundried Local 3 and K1,385 per pound of Ribbed Smoked Sheet on 1 June and went up to K1,520 per pound of sundried Local 3 and K1,540 per pound

of RSS local 3 at present, indicating a sharp rise of K155 per pound within one month.

Global demand for rubber, rubber production of the South-east Asian nations and the market supply weigh on the rubber price condition of Myanmar

The rubber price in Mon State, a major rubber-producing state in Myanmar, is positively related to those factors as well, the traders elaborated.

Myanmar aims to export about 300,000 tonnes of rubber to foreign markets in the current financial year 2023-2024, according to Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association.

The rubber production in the last FY 2022-2023 reached over 360,000 tonnes and more than 200,000 tonnes of rubber were shipped to foreign trade partners. — NN/EM



The photo shows rubber produced in Myeik, Taninthayi Region.

Export prices of pulses, rice dip, yet imported palm oil price spikes

EXPORT prices of pulses and rice are significantly falling while the imported palm oil prices jumped surprisingly in late June 2023 amid the changes in the local foreign exchange market.

The prices of low-grade rice were down by K2,000 per bag in the Yangon market. Some consumers have concerns over possible price hikes in mid-2023.

As the authorities concerned are collecting data of rice warehouse storage conditions to estimate the rice stock volume in the domestic market, the remaining stock and rice security can be evaluated before the supply of new monsoon rice in September. This move aims to prevent price hikes for benefits rather than the reasonable price.

The prices of black gram and pigeon pea are also declining. The prices dropped to K2.185 million per tonne of black

gram (FAQ/RC), K2.42 million per tonne of black gram (SQ/RC) and K2.9 million per tonne of pigeon pea (red gram) on 28 June. The prices showed a sharp decrease of K300,000 per tonne of black gram and over K400,000 per tonne of pigeon pea within June.

Meanwhile, the wholesale price of palm oil rose to K7,900 per viss on 28 June. The international palm oil price was US\$860 per tonne on 27 June. The local forex market circumstance pushed up the palm oil prices despite the decrease in international prices.

The wholesale prices touched a high of K8,200 per viss in Meiktila market on 28 June.

The wholesale price of palm oil was up by K1,000 per viss these days. The traders are closely observing the market to store the oil in case they might make a loss.—TWA/EM

Myanmar-Thailand border trade value surpasses \$1 bln over past two months



The Myanmar-Thailand border is seen being crowded with vehicles.

THE value of Myanmar’s bilateral trade with the neighbouring country Thailand through the border amounted to US\$1,037.665 million between 1 April and 16 June in the current financial year 2023-2024, the statistics issued by the Ministry of Commerce indicated. The figure is however down by \$82.826 million compared to \$1,120.491 million recorded in a year ago.

Myanmar conducts border trade with Thailand via Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Htikhee and Mawtaung border posts. Majority of trade was carried out through Htikhee border among them, with \$572.061 million.

Trade values stood at \$389.859 million via Myawady,

\$43.106 million via Tachilek, \$21.261 million via Myeik, \$9.063 million via Kawthoung and \$2.315 million via Mawtaung over the past two and half months.

Myanmar carries out border trade with the neighbouring countries Thailand, China, Bangladesh and India. It exports agricultural products, livestock, fisheries, minerals, forest products, finished goods and other goods, while capital goods, consumer goods, intermediate goods and raw materials by the CMP enterprises are brought into the country.

Thailand’s demand for Myanmar’s kitchen groceries (onion, rice powder, chili pepper) has risen as it resumed the tourism businesses in the

post-COVID period and the restaurants and food businesses widely use them.

Fishery products are directly sent to Bangkok, Thailand through Mae Sot. The fast and fresh delivery service is the priority. There is a timely transport arrangement for the perishable green items like onion, chili pepper and cabbage at the border points.

The cloth roll, construction materials, industrial raw materials, pharmaceuticals, motorcycle parts, footwears, clothes, fruits, food products, cosmetics, gas, lubricants, household goods, feedstuff, bicycles, stationery, auto parts, tiles, feedstuff, fertilizer and electronic devices are imported.—NN/EM



A file photo shows Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers’ Association directly selling oil to the consumers in 2022.

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ECONOMY WORLD

Boosting innovation to drive global economic recovery

AS the world seeks a path forward in the post-COVID-19 era amid headwinds, innovation emerges as a pivotal solution.

The ongoing 14th Annual Meeting of the New Champions, known as the Summer Davos, in north China's port city of Tianjin, has released a report listing new technologies poised to positively impact the world in the next three to five years. The emerging technologies include generative artificial intelligence, sustainable computing and flexible batteries. New technologies have been developing rapidly and transforming people's lives. Artificial intelligence (AI) stands out as one of the bright spots of innovation. The growing demand for AI across various fields has facilitated the emergence of new economic models that integrate China's physical and virtual economies, leading to a more intelligent economy and society.

The rapid development of



Participants walk to the venue of the 14th Annual Meeting of the New Champions, also known as the Summer Davos, in north China's Tianjin Municipality, 27 June 2023. The 14th Annual Meeting of the New Champions opened here on Tuesday. **PHOTO: LI XIN/XINHUA**

computing power and intelligent technologies, including digital twins, artificial intelligence and machine learning, augmented reality, and cloud and edge computing, are bringing enormous opportunities for

manufacturing and productive services to re-configure and re-engineer, said Rui Wang, senior vice president and chair of Intel China during the Summer Davos.

The industry can work to-

gether in pivotal areas such as AI to innovate, empowering the industrial metaverse and further promoting the integration of the digital economy and the real economy, he added. — Xinhua

EU to take one giant leap towards digital euro

THE EU will take the next crucial step on Wednesday towards launching a digital version of the euro, a controversial project that has come under attack from the public, politicians and banks before it even exists.

From China to the United States, Jamaica to Japan, dozens of central banks worldwide are exploring or have already put in place digital currencies as electronic payments dominate the way people spend their money and cash usage dwindles.

The move to create a digital version of the single currency began in 2020 when European Central Bank (ECB) President Christine Lagarde suggested the idea and the Frankfurt-based body launched a public consultation. — AFP

Japan reveals guidelines to urge firms to develop defense technology



Visitors browse the displays at the Defence and Security Equipment International exhibition at Makuhari Messe in Chiba Prefecture on 18 November 2019. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

THE Japanese government on Wednesday revealed guidelines for the development of its defense technology with the aim of urging private firms and research institutes to join in creating cutting-edge equipment such as insect-sized robots and

self-reparable materials.

The guidelines, which gave examples of technologies expected to be put to practical use in a decade's time, were drawn up based on three key documents on security policies updated last December, including the long-

term National Security Strategy.

The examples mentioned in the 12 technology fields that the guidelines said are important to defend the nation included high-powered microwaves and lasers to shoot down drones, as well as barriers that utilize electromagnetic waves to reduce the impact of attacks.

While underscoring the need to take "new approaches different than before" due to the government's limited financial and human resources, the guidelines also said the Defense Ministry aims to share the course of its defense-related development with companies to enhance "predictability" for them.

Among other examples listed in the guidelines are the use of holograms to display stereoscopic images to confuse enemies and the utilization of brain and cognitive science when training commanding officers. — Kyodo

In inflation hit UK, hunger could become 'new normal': study

GOING hungry in the UK due to historically high levels of food inflation risks becoming "the new normal" for millions of people, according to a study released on Tuesday.

The study by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at the University of Sussex said it was "concerning" that 14 per cent of the population was now

suffering from food poverty.

"Access to food in the UK is very inequitable, and we believe that more attention needs to be placed on overcoming these inequities than simply focusing on increased food production through ever more industrialised agriculture," said IDS director Melissa Leach said in a statement. — AFP



The study comes as soaring food prices are up more than 18 per cent in the year to May, according to latest official figures, despite a slight slowdown in the rate of increase. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Three French airports paralysed as air controllers strike

FRANCE’S civil air authority said Thursday it had ordered airlines to cancel flights to and from three airports because of a strike by air traffic controllers.

The airports include Beauvais — the main French hub for Irish carrier Ryanair and other budget airlines — as well as Brest, in the far west of the country, and Carcassonne, in the south.

The DGAC air authority had asked Wednesday for half the Beauvais flights to be cancelled, but Thursday called for a complete grounding of planes “given the widespread support for the strike seen at air traffic controller unions in Beauvais, Brest and Carcassonne”.

The strike, over working conditions, follows sporadic stoppages by air traffic controllers seen

between March and May in protest against the government’s reform of the French pensions system.

Thursday’s strike did not affect the main French airports, the DGAC said, or carriers flying over France.

Beauvais, some 80 kilometres (50 miles) north of Paris, is France’s 10th busiest airport with 4.6 million passengers in 2022. — AFP



Beauvais is a favourite for low-cost airlines. PHOTO: AFP

EU could squeeze S Africa orange exports by one-fifth: growers

NEW European Union health safety requirements on citrus exports from South Africa could reduce by up to 20 per cent the volume of oranges sold to the bloc by the country, growers warned Wednesday.

The rules, which came into effect in January, require South Af-

rican farmers to apply ultra-cold treatment to all Europe-bound oranges and keep the fruits at temperatures of two degrees Celsius (36 degrees Fahrenheit) or lower for up to 25 days.

The restrictions aim to prevent the potential spread of the false cod-

ling moth, a pest native to sub-Saharan Africa that feeds on fruits including oranges.

“We estimate that of the normal amount we would send to the EU, that we would probably send maybe 15 or 20 per cent less oranges to the EU this year, simply because we can’t treat and cool the volume of fruit that’s needed,” Citrus Growers’ Association CEO Justin Chadwick told AFP. If the quantity of oranges South Africa typically exports to the EU annually were cut by a fifth — around 80,800 tonnes — it would mean European supermarkets needing to make up a shortfall of 5.4 million 15 kilogrammes boxes. — AFP



Oranges account for more than half of South Africa’s total citrus exports. PHOTO: AFP

Hurt felines: Japanese app aims to detect cat pain

CATS are considered lucky in Japan, and owners of the popular pets spend big on their care. But how do you know when they’re feline down?

A tech firm and university in Tokyo have teamed up to produce an app trained on thousands of cat photos that they say can tell you when puss is in pain.

Since its release last month, “Cat Pain Detector” has racked up 43,000 users, mostly in Japan but also in Europe and South America, said Go Sakioka, head of developer Carelogy. The app is part of a growing array of tech for pet owners concerned for their furry friends’ well-being, including similar



A Japanese app says it can detect with 90 per cent accuracy whether a cat is in pain. PHOTO: AFP

mood and pain trackers made in Canada and Israel.

Carelogy teamed up with Nihon University’s College of Bioresource Sciences to gather 6,000 cat photos, in which they carefully studied the positions of the animals’ ears, noses, whiskers and eyelids. They then used a scoring system designed by the University of Montreal to measure minute differences between healthy cats and those suffering pain due to hard-to-spot illnesses.— AFP

German consumer mood falls for first time since October

GERMAN consumer confidence has fallen for the first time since October, a key survey showed Wednesday, after Europe’s largest economy fell into recession and while inflation remained stubbornly high.

Pollster GfK said its forward-looking survey of around 2,000 people fell to minus 25.4 points in July from 24.4 points in June.

The drop is the first since October when the barometer hit a low of minus 42.8 points, as inflation soared and consumers worried about the cost of heating their homes over the coming winter.

Consumer confidence bounced back as energy prices stabilised, but the economic outlook has remained clouded.— AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY.NO. (N154)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (N154)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-6-2023** 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 INTER ASIA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC DHANTIA VOY.NO. (SB324R)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC DHANTIA VOY.NO. (SB324R)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-6-2023** 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

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

EU presses Tunisia in bid to stem Med migrant flow

EU leaders meeting in Brussels on Thursday are to look at ways to press aid on Tunisia in a bid to stem migrant boat departures for Europe.

The discussion will come two weeks after a boat believed to have been carrying hundreds of migrants capsized off Greece in one of the worst such tragedies in years. At least 82 people died and many more remain missing in the sinking, which occurred in unclear circumstances.

Amnesty International and other rights groups say the tragedy resulted from Brussels' "Fortress Europe" policy implemented over the past seven years, since experiencing a huge inflow of Syrian war refugees.

"The recent tragic shipwreck in the Mediterranean, and the many lives lost, is a stark reminder of our need to continue work-

ing relentlessly on our European migratory challenge," European Council chief Charles Michel said in his letter inviting leaders to the Brussels summit.

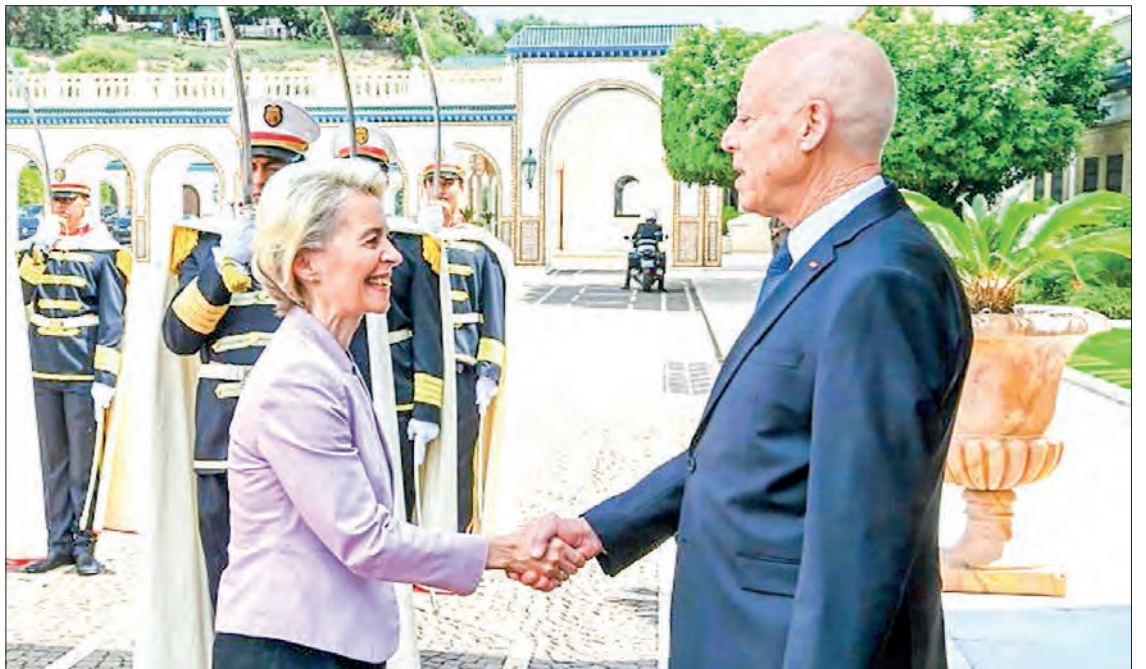
"We will review the migratory situation and progress in the implementation" of decisions made in a previous summit in February, he said.

EU asylum rules

In early June, European Union countries reached agreement on a long-stalled revision of the bloc's asylum rules.

It aims to share the burden of hosting asylum seekers across EU countries, with those refusing to do so having to pay money to the ones that do.

Poland and Hungary, which were outvoted on the plan, have come out strongly against it and intend to have it discussed at Thursday's summit, EU diplo-



European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen has offered €1 bn to Tunisia, if it carries out IMF reforms. **PHOTO: TUNISIAN PRESIDENCY/AFP**

mats said. It also needs buy-in from the European Parliament.

Poland's European affairs

minister, Szymon Szynkowski vel Sek said on Tuesday that being forced to pay other EU countries

to host migrants was a violation of his country's "sovereign rights". — AFP

Guard, gunman dead in shooting at US consulate in Saudi



The US consulate in the Red Sea city has been the target of previous attacks, including one on 4 July 2016 — American Independence Day — when a suicide bomber blew himself up. **PHOTO: AFP**

SAUDI authorities were investigating Thursday after an assailant and a security guard were killed in an exchange of gunfire outside the US consulate in Jeddah, the gateway city

for the massive hajj pilgrimage taking place in Mecca.

The gunman and a Nepalese security guard both died after the exchange of fire outside the consulate on Wednesday

evening, officials said, giving no possible motive for the incident.

"At 6:45 pm (1545 GMT), a man stopped in a car in front of the consulate building and got out with a weapon in his hand," the official Saudi Press Agency quoted a police spokesman as saying.

"Security forces reacted... resulting in an exchange of fire that killed the assailant," it said, adding that the Nepalese guard later died of his wounds.

The shooting coincided with the final day of the hajj at nearby Mecca. More than 1.6 million foreign pilgrims arriving on planes and boats have streamed through coastal Jeddah en route to the rituals. — AFP

French foreign minister visits Mongolia with eye on minerals

FRENCH Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna arrived in Mongolia on Thursday for a visit aimed at strengthening ties and boosting her country's access to the Asian nation's vast rich mineral resources.

"I've arrived in Mongolia, a democracy three times the size

of France, landlocked between China and Russia," Colonna said in a tweet.

France and Mongolia, she said, share a "partnership that strengthens the sovereignty and strategic autonomy of our two countries".

The visit will build on a

trip to the country by President Emmanuel Macron last month, a diplomatic official told reporters.

"Mongolia is full of resources which are not sufficiently exploited and which are not all identified," the official said. — AFP

UN troops set to leave Mali, but how fast?

WITH the imminent end of the UN's Mali peacekeeping mission seemingly no longer in doubt, negotiations at the UN are still foundering over the timetable for their departure, which Bamako wants "without delay", according to diplomatic sources.

On June 16, taking everyone by surprise, Mali's Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Diop, while denouncing the "failure" of the UN mission, suddenly demanded before the Security Council its immediate withdrawal.

The peacekeeping operation, known as Minusma, was the most expensive mission on the UN's books, costing \$1.2 billion per year, now appears set to

wind down, plunging Mali — a country struggling with jihadist attacks — into the unknown.

As recently as early June, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres had deemed the continued presence of Minusma "invaluable," despite the high cost, highlighting regional fears of an expansion of extremist groups in the event of a withdrawal.

However, one of the key principles of peacekeeping is the consent of the host country.

Therefore, the latest draft resolution from France on Wednesday, seen by AFP, suggests the Security Council will "terminate Minusma's mandate under resolution 2640 (2022) as of June 30 2023." — AFP



An aerial view shows the United Nations Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) camp in Douentza, Mopti region on 11.5.2021. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

‘Godfather of AI’ urges governments to stop machine takeover

GEOFFREY Hinton, one of the so-called godfathers of artificial intelligence, urged governments on Wednesday to step in and make sure that machines do not take control of society.

Hinton made headlines in May when he announced that he quit Google after a decade of work to speak more freely on the dangers of AI, shortly after the release of ChatGPT captured the imagination of the world.

The highly respected AI scientist, who is based at the University of Toronto, was speaking to a packed audience at the Collision tech conference in the Canadian city.

The conference brought together more than 30,000 startup founders, investors and tech workers, most looking to learn how to ride the AI wave and not hear a lesson on its dangers.

“Before AI is smarter than us, I think the people developing it should be encouraged to put a lot of work into understanding how it might try and take control away,” Hinton said.

“Right now there are 99 very smart people trying to make AI better and one very smart person trying to figure out how to stop it taking over and maybe you want to be more balanced,” he said.— AFP



Computer scientist Geoffrey Hinton, known as the ‘godfather of AI’ speaks during the Collision Tech Conference in Toronto, Canada. **PHOTO: AFP**

‘Presumed human remains’ discovered in Titan sub wreckage

EXPERTS have recovered presumed human remains from what is left of the Titan sub that imploded during a dive to the Titanic wreck, with the death of five people, the US Coast Guard said Wednesday.

“United States medical professionals will conduct a formal analysis of presumed human remains that have been carefully recovered,” the agency said.

On board were British explorer Hamish Harding, French submarine expert Paul-Henri Nargeolet, Pakistani-British tycoon Shahzada Dawood and his son Suleman, and Stockton Rush, CEO of the sub’s operator OceanGate Expeditions.

They presumably died instantly when the Titan sub, about the size of an SUV car, imploded under the crushing pressure of the North Atlantic at a depth of more than two miles.

Mangled debris recovered from the small submersible was offloaded earlier in the day in eastern Canada, bringing to an end a difficult search-and-recovery operation. That debris will now be taken aboard a US Coast Guard cutter to a US port for further analysis, the organization said.— AFP

Cambodian PM Hun Sen dumps Facebook on eve of poll campaign

CAMBODIAN leader Hun Sen, a prolific Facebook user, vowed on Thursday to quit posting on the platform, days before he launches a re-election campaign.

Cambodia will go to the polls on July 23 in an election that has been widely dubbed a sham after authorities denied registration to the chief challenger to Hun Sen’s ruling Cambodian People’s Party.

Hun Sen is among the world’s longest-serving leaders and, after 38 years in power, is on the cusp of retiring.

His son Hun Manet is slated to lead the kingdom in the future.

Hun Sen announced Thursday he’ll now use the Telegram app to relay his political messages to supporters and TikTok to engage with youth.

“From now on, I will no longer post on Facebook,” Hun Sen told thousands of garment workers at an event.



Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen speaks at a press conference during the EU-ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) summit at the European Council headquarters in Brussels on 14 December 2022. Cambodian leader Hun Sen vowed on 29 June 2023 to quit posting on Facebook, days before he launches a re-election campaign. **PHOTO: JOHN THYS / AFP**

His Telegram channel has 860,000 followers and he has ramped up activity in recent months posting pictures and political messages.

Hun Sen, who will kick off his re-election campaign on Saturday, said the Telegram app was “more efficient compared to Facebook”. His Facebook page — which remains online — was launched in 2015 after his opponents, particularly exiled opposition leader Sam Rainsy, used the platform to successfully reach younger voters. — AFP

UK appeal court ruling due on controversial Rwanda asylum plan

APPEAL court judges in London will on Thursday rule on whether the UK government’s controversial plan to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda is lawful, after a legal challenge by migrants and campaigners.

Former prime minister Boris Johnson brought in the proposal to try to tackle record numbers of migrants crossing the Channel from northern France by small boats.

But it triggered a wave of protests from rights groups and charities, while last-gasp legal challenges successfully blocked the first deportation flights last June. Several individuals who arrived in small boats, and organisations supporting migrants, brought a case to the High Court in London, arguing that the policy was unlawful on multiple grounds, including the assessment of Rwanda as a safe third

country.

Two High Court judges in December dismissed the claims, saying its only remit was “to ensure that the law is properly understood and observed, and that the rights guaranteed by parliament are respected”.

The claimants then took their case to the Court of Appeal.

Whoever loses is likely to take the case to the UK Supreme Court, meaning the plan is unlikely to be implemented any time soon.

The High Court concluded last year that the relocation of asylum-seekers to Rwanda was “consistent with the (UN) Refugee Convention and with the statutory and other legal obligations on the government including the obligations imposed by the Human Rights Act 1998”.

The judges, however, said Interior Minister Suella Braverman — an immigration hardliner — had not properly considered the circumstances of the eight claimants in the case and referred their cases back to her. — AFP



A demonstrator holds a placard during a protest against Britain’s Rwanda asylum plan outside the High Court in London on 13 June 2022. **PHOTO: NIKLAS HALLE’N / AFP/FILE**

Cambodian PM Hun Sen dumps Facebook on eve of poll campaign

PAGE-15



SPORT

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council: Twelve Objectives

1. Political affairs

- (a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
- (b) To prioritize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
- (c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active, and non-aligned foreign policy.
- (d) To ensure peace, stability, rule of law, and the safe and smooth functioning of transport networks across the Union.

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance development based on agriculture and livestock using modern production techniques and to strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To assure support for the sustainability of Micro-, Small- and

Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) that prioritize import substitution, export production, and the use of domestically produced raw materials, in order to increase domestic production and generate employment opportunities.

- (d) To advance the socioeconomic life of the people, in order to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.

3. Social affairs

- (a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- (b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National people and preserve and safeguard their faiths, beliefs, culture, and characteristics of patriotic nationalism.
- (c) To strengthen basic health care in order to achieve the emergence of a health system that enhances the longevity and health of the entire nation.
- (d) To comprehensively promote the education sector to make it capable of producing the human resources necessary for building a modern, developed, and progressive democratic nation.

Myanmar team prepares for 2023 ASEAN U-19 Women's Tournament

THE Myanmar U-19 Women's Team is preparing for the 2023 ASEAN U-19 Women's Football Tournament to be held in the first week of July.

The Myanmar U-19 women's team consists of 28 players on the short list. U Tin Myint Aung will take responsibility as a manager, Tetsuro Yuki as a technical advisor, Daw Thet Thet Win as head coach, Daw San San Maw as an assistant coach, U Sein Aye as a goalie coach and U Tun Zaw as a fitness coach.

The 2023 AFF Women's U-19 Tournament will be held in Palambam, Indonesia, from 5 to 17 July. Host Indonesia, Cambo-



Women footballers seen in training session.

dia, Laos, and Timor-Leste are in group A; Viet Nam, Malaysia, and Singapore are in group B; and Thailand, Myanmar, and the Philippines are participating in group C.

According to the format of the com-

petition, a total of four teams — the three first-placed teams from each group and the best second-placed team — will participate in the semi-finals. — Shine Htet Zaw/CT

Ferreira hat-trick as USA hit six, Jamaica crush Trinidad



Jesus Ferreira scored a hat-trick as the United States routed St. Kitts and Nevis 6-0 in the CONCACAF Gold Cup on Wednesday. **PHOTO: AFP**

JESUS Ferreira struck a hat trick as the United States crushed St. Kitts and Nevis 6-0 in the CONCACAF Gold Cup on Wednesday while Group A rivals Jamaica beat Trinidad and Tobago 4-1 with Demarai Gray scoring twice.

The Caribbean island, playing in the North, Central America and Caribbean tournament for the first time, saw hopes of frustrating the Americans quickly vanish as they fell to 3-0 inside 16 minutes.

Midfielder Djordje Mihailovic began the rout in the 12th minute when he slotted home after a smart pull-back from Gianluca Busio. A screamer from Bryan Reynolds made it 2-0, the right-back unleashing a fierce drive from 20 yards out after pounding on a clearance.

Ferreira opened his account two minutes later, bursting through the middle and then angling a low shot into the far corner. It was one-way traffic but amid the onslaught, Tyquan Terrell went close to pulling one back for St. Kitts with a volley that flew just over the bar.

St. Kitts keeper Julani Archibald had been helpless for all three goals but showed his ability when he tipped over a powerful blast from Ferreira.

But Archibald was beaten again in the 25th minute when Ferreira beat the offside trap to collect a through ball from Mihailovic and then slipped the ball through the keeper's legs to make it four.

Ferreira completed his hit-trick, with Mihailovic the provider again slipping the ball inside to the Colombia-born striker whose quick feet created space for a clinical finish. — AFP

Tottenham buy Maddison from relegated Leicester



James Maddison (L) scored for Leicester against Tottenham in February. **PHOTO: AFP**

TOTTENHAM Hotspur on Wednesday completed the signing of creative midfielder James Maddison from relegated Leicester in a deal worth 40 million pounds (46.3m euros) plus add-ons.

The 26-year-old England international signed a five-year deal.

Maddison began his career with Coventry City before joining Norwich City in January 2016. He moved to Leicester in 2018 and in five seasons made 203 appearances, scored 55 goals and helped win the FA Cup. He scored 10 goals last season as Leicester were relegated from the Premier League. He has three England caps.

Maddison's creativity will boost a Spurs squad that has lacked a player in his mould since Christian Eriksen left in 2020. — AFP