

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. X, No. 78, 2nd Waning of First Waso 1385 ME www.gnlm.com.mm Tuesday, 4 July 2023

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

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

Opportunities must be created for women to enjoy gender equality

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing sent a message to the ceremony to mark the Myanmar Women's Day 2023 held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In his message, the Senior General highlighted emergence of outstand-

ing Myanmar women in the economic, social, fine arts and so on from the time of independence struggle period in the colonial era to date, adding Myanmar women can be seen in all sectors, in addition to State defence and security duties in shouldering with men.

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Myanmar foreign trade totals \$7.37 bln in past three months



A photo shows unloading of containers from container vessel at Yangon Intl' Port.

MYANMAR'S external trade between 1 April and 23 June of the current Financial Year 2023-2024 tremendously amounted to US\$7.37 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's export was worth over

\$2.99 billion whereas the country's import was valued at \$4.37 billion in the past three months.

Myanmar exports agricultural produce, animal products, minerals, forest products and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, raw in-

dustrial materials, and consumer goods.

The trade figure in the past three months indicated a drop of over \$200 million from that of the year-ago period.

Myanmar's seaborne trade value crossed over \$5.36 billion this FY.

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Four special civil appeals passed judgment, three more cases heard

A special appeal tribunal consisting of Chief Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union U Aung Zaw Thein, U Myo Tint, U Khin Maung Gyi and U Tin Hone was convened yesterday morning at the Supreme Court of the Union and passed the judgment of four special civil appeal cases: No 16/2022 (Mandalay), 30/2022 (Mandalay), 1/2023 (Yangon) and 2/2023 (Shan).

In addition, a total of three special civil appeal cases: No 32/2022 (Rakhine), 6/2023 (Bago) and 12/2023 (Mandalay), were heard following the Covid-19 prevention and control guidelines. — MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Announcement No 37/2023

1st Waning of First Waso 1385 ME
3 July 2023

Allowing Mro National Development Party to register as political party

AS of 3 July 2023, Mro National Development Party, with its headquarters located at No 202, Sartaik Street, Pyidawtha Ward, in front of Basic Education High School, Kyauktaw in Rakhine State, has been allowed to register as political party under the Section 9 of the Political Party Registration Law.

The Registration number of the Mro National Development Party is 32.

Sd/ Thein Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

20 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 3 July, total figure registers 640,516

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to **640,516** after **20** new cases were reported on 3 July 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of **10,873,007** laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached **640,516**.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **619,446** including **25** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered **19,494** on 3-7-2023 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. — GNL

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

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

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

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



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

National Disaster Management Committee

Systematic paddy cultivation needed

IT is necessary to procure seed paddy of pure stock, fertilizers, farm water and correct growing methods in the systematic implementation of agricultural activities.

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with businesspersons of Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) from Myeik District on 5 November 2022)

Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of SAC Chairman Prime Minister, attends 2023 Myanmar Women’s Day ceremony

DAW Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister and Honorary Patron of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation-MWAF, attended the 2023 Myanmar Women’s Day ceremony at Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It was also attended by Honorary Patrons of MWAF Daw Khin Thet Htay and Daw Than Than Nwe, and invited guests.

First, State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered an opening address by sending a video message to the ceremony. (Excerpts of the message sent by the Senior General are reported on Page 1 and 4.)

Then, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine, Chairperson of the Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs,



MWAF Honorary Patron wife of SAC Chairman Prime Minister Daw Kyu Kyu Hla views products displayed at the ceremony to mark Myanmar Women’s Day on 3 July.

explained the empowerment of women, being member of UN-CEDAW in 1997, the 2nd draft

stage for report, arrangements to hold ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women in Myanmar in

2024, participation in meetings of ASEAN Committee on Women, ASEAN Commission on the

Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children and ASEAN Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare and Development, drafting of National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (2023-2032), national projects for protection of sexual violence and response in conflict, prevention of gender-based violence and activities conducted in commemoration of Myanmar Women’s Day.

Then, the video clip featuring activities of women empowerment was played.

Then, Honorary Patron of MWAF Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and patrons and SAC Member Daw Dwe Bu presented awards to the outstanding women in the related sectors and an outstanding girl who secured the top mark in 2022-23 matriculation examination.

Finally, they observed the products displayed at the event.—MNA/KTZH

Foreign Buddhist societies donate cash to fund for repair of Mocha-hit religious edifices



Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko receives donors from foreign Buddhist societies on 3 July.

LING Jiou Mountain (HK) Buddhist Society Ltd and White Jade Wang Enterprise Co Ltd donated cash to the fund for repairing religious edifices affected by the Mocha at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

U Tin San Myint, Managing Director of White Jade Wang Enterprise Co Ltd, explained the purpose of donations.

After that, Union Minister U Ko Ko accepted the donations: K10 million each donated by Ling Jiou Mountain (HK) Buddhist Society Ltd and White Jade Wang Enterprise Co Ltd handed over by the managing director of White Jade Wang Enterprise Co Ltd and returned certificates of honour. — MNA/TS

Myanmar foreign trade totals \$7.37 bln ...

FROM PAGE-1

Myanmar targets to achieve exports worth \$15.5 billion, imports worth \$14 billion in the 2022-2023 FY and trade surplus of \$1.5 billion, according to the 2022-2023 financial year budget.

The external trade during the last FY 2022-2023 tremendously grew to \$33.9 billion with exports worth \$16.575 billion and imports valued at \$17.349 billion, reflecting a significant increase of over \$3.57 billion as against the year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The figures surged from \$30.35 billion in the corresponding period of the FY2021-2022. — TWA/EM

Opportunities must be created for women to enjoy gender equality

FROM PAGE-1

It was emphasized in the message that the Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs and regional committees are emphasizing improvement of socioeconomic life of women and girls and gender equality.

The message mentioned that women’s literacy rate above 15 years old declined by six per cent, and women’s labour force participant rate of the people above 15 years old slightly dips rather than that of men according to the summarized report of the interim census in 2019. Such data showed requirements of raising the literacy rate for women, especially for socioeconomic life of the girls. It can be seen that it is necessary to improve capacity of workable women to enjoy the job opportunities.

Furthermore, the message stated that efforts must be made for all inclusive women to complete learning of KG+9 scheme. The message underscored that a greater encouragement must be given to women for learning



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivers address at Myanmar Women's Day ceremony in video message on 3 July.

modern education with modern technologies and vocational education including domestic science for having employment opportunities.

Moreover, the message spotlighted that the theme “DigitALL: Innovation

and technology for gender equality” of the International Women’s Day, which fell on 8 March 2023, aims to enable women and vulnerable groups to have technologies as part of fulfilling the requirements of women and creating the good potentials to further improve the gender equality in addition to protection of the rights of women and girls in the digital sector and tackling the on-line and technological gender violence.

Significantly, the message of the Senior General stipulated that women representing more than a half of total population of Myanmar are valuable human resources as well as an important force for building the Union based on democracy and federalism. Myanmar women are taking responsibilities of the society on one hand and initiating the future of youths. In other words, they all are architects to turn out human resources for the future State.

In his message, the Senior General urged all women and men to harmoniously join in the nation-building tasks and expose capabilities of women with rights.—GNLM

Plan under way to grow 24.619 million trees across the nation this year

MEMBER of the National Disaster Management Committee Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi, accompanied by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin, joined the 2023 monsoon tree-planting ceremony at Kandawgyi Lake in Sittway yesterday.

On the occasion, the Union Minister disclosed that it was estimated to grow 24.619 million trees across the nation and over 20.52 million trees have been grown to date. Moreover, it was also estimated to establish 4,287 acres of village firewood plantation including two acres per village in this rainy season to meet the fuel needs of rural people, he added.

The Union Minister inspected the staff housing of Rakhine

State Salt Farming Division. An official reported on the production of raw salt, iodized salt, and repair of office buildings and Deputy Minister U Tun Ohn gave a supplementary report.

The Union Minister stressed the need to upgrade the salt production technique to promote the production rate, cooperate with departments concerned to improve the salt quality for local consumption.

He viewed round at the site to grow trees in Lawkananda pagoda precinct.

At noon, the Union Minister inspected the loading processes of various saplings and timbers from MV Fortune onto vehicles.

He viewed the growing of 1,500 mangrove plants at Shukhintha beach in Sittway at the 2023



Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin join tree-growing ceremony at Kandawgyi Lake in Sittway yesterday.

mangrove plant growing ceremony. The Forest Department will grow 35,000 mangrove plants along Shukhintha beach.—MNA/KTZH



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin tours Sittway Port on 3 July.

Rakhine State CM oversees progress in rehabilitation, school soy milk feeding event

CHAIRMAN of Rakhine State Natural Disaster Management Committee Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin inspected the distribution of relief items and materials from MV Fortune at Sittway port yesterday. He also attended the launching of soy milk feeding project at No 2 BEHS in Sittway.

During the ceremony, the Chief Minister mentioned the

benefits of soy milk nutrition programmes to the children and expressed thanks to Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Federation (MCEF) for launching such programmes to develop the human resources of Rakhine State.

Then, President of MCEF U Shein Win presented the soy milk feeding project and donated soy bean grinding machines and supplies for youth training

school of Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department, No 9 BEHS (Mingan) and BEPS (Baukthisu).

At noon, the Chief Minister and party attended the coordination meeting on rehabilitation processes at Rakhine State government office and discussed rehabilitation activities, completed work and future work plans.—Tin Tun (IPRD)/KTZH

Workshop on ASEAN-Hong Kong (China) FTA Tariffs and Rules of Origin held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE opening ceremony of the workshop on the ASEAN-Hong Kong (China) Free Trade Area Tariffs and Rules of Origin was held at Thingaha hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning and the representatives from Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar were present on the occasion.

In his address, the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Commerce said that the purpose of the workshop was to enable officers and private entrepreneurs from Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar to make the most of tariff reduction on products of the ASEAN-Hong Kong (China) Free Trade Area and that the ASEAN-Hong Kong (China)

Free Trade Agreement would contribute to businesspersons as well as consumers and called on the officers and private entrepreneurs to make effective use of the agreement.

He highlighted understanding the tariff rate and country of origin rules applied under the ASEAN-Hong Kong (China) Free Trade Agreement, and it will be possible to obtain the benefits of tariff concessions under the agreement.

Departmental heads, Mr Kris Shandi Soekatawi of ASEAN Secretariat and Vietnamese experts on respective subjects attended the workshop, which lasted till 4 July. —MNA/KZW



Participants of Workshop on ASEAN-Hong Kong (China) FTA Tariffs and Rules of Origin seen in group photo on 3 July.

Confiscation of illegal goods: foodstuffs, consumer goods, industrial materials, jades and vehicles

THE on-duty teams under the supervision of Shan State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections on 30 July and impounded six kinds of goods worth K14.84 million including 20 heads of scale without official documents from a Nissan AD Van (approximate value of K15 million) going from Muse to Mandalay near Namtu junction on the detour of Lashio, a Toyota Hilux (estimated value of K15 million) carrying 8,000 boxes of Smile tissue worth K2.4 million without official documents heading to Toungoo from Kengtung near Kengphoung village in Kengtung township, 900 Chinese traditional medicines worth K1.8 million without official documents near 24th-Mile village about two miles distance from Wamtapon combined checkpoint, a block of raw jade weighing 1,500 kilogrammes of raw jade worth K70,490,360 from a vehicle heading to Tachilek from Kengtung at the Meyang

combined checkpoint, 1,200 cans of Singha beer worth K1.8 million and three kinds of goods worth K3,033,600 including 19 cartons of Fa Thai energy drink near Welayan combined checkpoint and five kinds of goods worth K3.75 million including 50 ownerless table fans near Meyang combined checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs Procedures.



Smuggle goods seized in Shan State.

Additionally, an on-duty team intercepted a Toyota Hiace (estimated value of K20 million) carrying 6,250 bottles of Lipovitan-D worth K2.5 million without official documents heading to Hpa-an from Myawady at the Kawkaireik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint on 30 June. The operation was conducted in adherence to Customs Procedures.

Similarly, the on-duty teams captured a Toyota Hiace mini bus (approximate value of K15 million) carrying 28,800 boxes of YOGOOD drinking yoghurt worth K4.8 million without official documents travelling from Myawady to Yangon, a Higer express bus (approximate value of K25 million) carrying 11,700 bags of Wai Wai instant rice vermicelli (worth K3.575 million) without official documents heading to Yangon from Hpa-an and two kinds of goods worth K2.59 million including 140 bottles of Gaysorn vegetable cooking oil without official

documents from a Mitsubishi cantre (estimated value of K20 million) heading to Bago from Kyaikto at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint, 25 pieces of car wind screen glass shield worth K15 million that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a Nissan diesel car (approximate value of K35 million) travelling to Mandalay from Muse at the Yepu permanent checkpoint and 26,828 kilogrammes of cable trays worth K10.705 million that exceeded the 61 days of VPA and three kinds of goods worth K16.5 million including 600 spray guns that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from two containers at the MITT port on 30 June. The action was taken under Customs Procedures.

Moreover, the on-duty teams nabbed 68,208 kilogrammes of 3G engine oil worth K180,277,836 that were different from the Import Declaration (ID) from a container

at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint, two kinds of goods worth K1,074,544 including 0.13 kilogramme of brand new blowing machine parts that exceeded the 61 days of VPA and five kinds of goods worth K1.58 million including 10 cartons of Furongwang cigarette without official documents from luggage at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk) and a Volvo tractor head (approximate value of K60 million) and a trailer (estimated value of K10 million) carrying 17,000 kilogrammes of Aluminium frame for constructions without Import Licence at the No 2 junction on Yangon-Mandalay Highway on 30 June. The action was taken under Customs Procedures.

As a result, a total of 26 arrests were made on 30 June, with an estimated value of K612,253,340, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

ARTICLE

Rakhine State Cultural Museum: collection of cultural heritages of four eras

BY NyaungU Phee Photos: Oktha

THE history of Rakhine emerged over five thousand years ago. There were over 200 Rakhine Kings. In Danyawady, Waithali, Lemro and MraukU eras, the second MraukU period has its glory of time. Some heritages of that period are still kept at Rakhine State Cultural Museum and Library at the corner of the main road in Mawleik ward and Yay-dwin street. It was established for the new generations to get proper knowledge, conserve the cultural heritages and support the students.

The Rakhine State Cultural Museum and Library was closed temporarily on 13 May before the Cyclone Mocha that hit Rakhine State on 14 May 2023. It was slightly damaged and repaired. It is a treasure house of Rakhine State as it boasts cultural heritages and various books of four periods. The literature and culture reflect the greatness of a race and the previous cultural heritages of Rakhine State Cultural Museum and Library also reflect the valuable dignity and integrity of Rakhine people.

The Rakhine State Cultural Museum and Library was established in Kyaukpyu Township in 1955 aiming to provide literature for the students of Kyaukpyu College, to conduct thesis for degree and to be supportive one for history. In 1978, it was relocated in Sittway, capital of Rakhine State, with the agree-

ment of executive committee of people's council and Department of Cultural Institute. The groundbreaking ceremony was conducted on 1 December 1990 to conserve the ancient cultural heritage of Rakhine people, to explore the tradition and customs and to share cultural knowledge. The 116ft x 84ft four-storey building with 52ft in height was constructed with the use of K50.20 million by the government and opened on 19 February 1996.

The museum displays the cultural heritages, books and literature of Rakhine Kings in four periods and post these periods. At the living room of the museum, the picture of thousands of rice, flowers and oil lamps donation ceremony (Thinpok meals), culture of Rakhine people that was made on the full moon day of Thadingyut was displayed. At the first floor, there are booths featuring ancient cities, glaze wares and Rakhine literature. The scale models of ancient cities of Danyawady, Waithali, Lemro and MraukU periods are also displayed and the ancient coins of Waithali and MraukU are also there. At the booth of glaze wares, it displays glaze earthen jar, glaze earthen tray, pieces of glaze and stone tray and sculptures.

At the library of museum, it displays photos and history of

Rakhine intellectuals, Ananda-candra Stone Inscription, transformation of Rakhine alphabets, Rakhine stone inscriptions, Stupa (small stone pagoda) and enshrined bronze pagoda and literature. On the second floor of museum, there are displays of Rakhine ethnic groups such as Rakhine, Mro, Khami, Thet and Daingnet, musical instruments, tradition and culture and general booths. There are statues of ethnic people, jewellery, clothes and commodities are also dis-

(Marlakhun fiddle), Dulaung harp, Ozi, crocodile harp, bamboo harp, crocodile xylophone, various flutes, double trumpets, carved trumpet, and gourd flute of Mro people. Moreover, the scale models of Rakhine traditional house, tradition wedding event, traditional carriage pulling festival, Thanakha



A scale model of Stupa.



Statues in Rakhine Kyin wrestling event displayed at Rakhine State Cultural Museum and Library.

played at the booths of Rakhine ethnic people.

At the musical instrument booth, it displays Rakhine Mingala Drum, cymbal, fiddle with a coconut shell sound box

grinding festival, boat racing festival, processes of bronze casting, sculptures, traditional sport festival-Kyin (wrestling) and looms are displayed at the booth of tradition. At the general

display, it shows off hair-styles of MraukU, distinctive fillets worn by servants of Rakhine Kings, statue of Princess Poe Wah of MraukU period, statues of girl and old lady of Rakhine, Byal statue, mythological chimeric creature made of nine animals.

The culture museum in Sittway of Rakhine State conserves 3,447 items including 355 displayed items and 3,092 preserved items. If the repairs of museum are completed, it will be open to public from Tuesday to Sunday except Monday and public holidays as usual. The entrance fee is K200 per adult and K500 per tourist and it is free for monk, nun, children and students. The repair works are being conducted as it was hit by Mocha. The roots, ceiling, windows, drain pipes, staff housings and booths were destroyed in the storm and some maintenance works are completed while some are in progress. Despite the slight damages, the goodwill of officials to make efforts in repairing processes to complete in time shows their appreciation of cultural heritages of ethnic people.

As soon as the visitors arrive at the museum, they can feel the past of the ancient culture of Rakhine people and images of Kings. The ancient heritages displayed at the museum and library highlight the four eras of Rakhine Kings. It is a site with the collection of valuable heritages of Rakhine people and the tradition and culture of ancient kings and people will still remain by conserving it as a heritage.

Translated.



Picture depicts thousands of rice, flowers and oil lamps, the tradition of Rakhine ethnic.

TOURISM

Thantawkyia Buddha Image
built by King Narathihapate
in 13th Century

THANTAWKYIA Buddha image located in old Bagan city of Bagan ancient cultural zone of Mandalay Region was constructed by

King Narathihapate using pale green shale in 13th century (1284 AD). The 19.5-ft-high Buddha im-

age is just north of Thatbyinnyu Temple and King Narathihapate constructed the image in 1284 AD. The palace is located in the



Thantawkyia Buddha image.



Temple of Thantawkyia Buddha image seen in Bagan ancient cultural region.

west and the temple faces west. It was called Thantawkyia temple as it was constructed at a place where everybody could hear the yawning of the King in the palace. The Thatbyinnyu Temple is located in the south of Than-

tawkyia pagoda while Tabetkyia pagoda and Pitaka chambers are in the east, Shwegugyi pagoda or NanU pagoda and Aungmyetha Palace site in the west and north-west.—Dipa Lin/KTZH

World’s rare bird species Vulture inhabiting
Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary

WORLD’S rare bird species Vulture take shelter at Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary in Mohnyin Township of Mohnyin District in Kachin State.

Four types of Vulture species are found in Myanmar and they currently live in Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary. Although there were high number of birds

in the past, the bird population currently drops due to habitat loss and human actions.

Moreover, the death of vultures is because of the human waste and foot-and-mouth disease vaccines. According to the research, the owners of cattle use these vaccines for their cattle and the vulture eat the dead cattle,

and the vulture species decline.

Three types of vulture species— white-rumped vulture, Long-billed vulture and Himalayan Griffon Vulture — can be found at Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary. Of these three species, only the Himalayan Griffon Vulture is a migratory species and the remaining species are



resident birds. The monthly data of water bird species collected at Indawgyi Lake and other wetlands shows that there were 1,629 birds of 21 species of migratory water birds and 4,586 birds of 20 species of resident water birds in April 2023, according to Office of Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary. — Shwe Mohnyin/KTZH

OPINION

Let's eliminate waste from souls and societies

IN the present day, both individual souls and societies are burdened by an abundance of waste, characterized by the tendency to blame others for their shortcomings. Many people hold steadfastly to the belief that their own actions are always right, while condemning the actions of others due to the pervasive pessimism that pervades their souls and communities.

Those who embrace such a pessimistic outlook fail to recognize any glimmer of optimism in others. Consequently, they can never find favor in anything done by someone else. As a result, they bear the heavy burden of perpetual dissatisfaction, without ever allowing themselves a respite from the weight of resentment, blame, accusation, and pessimistic attitudes.

It is imperative, therefore, for individuals within a society to cleanse their souls, freeing themselves from the shackles of hatred, dissatisfaction, blame, accusation, and the wastefulness associated with pessimistic measures. Only when waste is eradicated from their souls can societies break free from the clutches of pessimism, animosity, and remorse.

progress. If everything they do is motivated by pessimism, they will inevitably be plagued by suffering. Their dissatisfactions will consume them, and the blame and accusations they level against others will become an enduring burden on their shoulders.

Each and every person must begin by cleansing their own souls, followed by their societies, by refusing to entertain the disruptive forces of pessimism. When most issues are approached with an optimistic mindset, individuals will experience the reflection of satisfaction and contentment. This immeasurable pleasure is something that everyone desires. Indeed, no one willingly seeks to descend into the depths of despair in their lives. Rather, they strive to make choices that lead to improvement and betterment. Therefore, if someone unintentionally errs, it is incumbent upon others to extend forgiveness for their actions.

If all individuals embrace the understanding that everyone can inadvertently make mistakes, their souls will find peace. Consequently, the society in which these individuals reside will undoubtedly become more tranquil. It is imperative, therefore, for individuals within a society to cleanse their souls, freeing themselves from the shackles of hatred, dissatisfaction, blame, accusation, and the wastefulness associated with pessimistic measures. Only when waste is eradicated from their souls can societies break free from the clutches of pessimism, animosity, and remorse.

Brief History

Long before your time, in 1872 to be exact, in the westernmost city of Sittway, there opened the very first post office, a precursor to the present-day Myanmar Post. Under colonial rules, the post was separated from British India with the creation of Myanmar's own Post and Telegraph administration. Since April 2015, it has been existing as a separate entity for nearly eight years. It is solely owned by the government.

Changes in the recent past

The tracking of the articles (for delivery) already existed since 2009, albeit offline. A delivery monitoring system started in 2017 where customers could start online viewing the status of their parcels via myanmarpost.com.mm. Just like post offices in other parts of the world, services for fund transfers, collection of

behalf, bill payments, and purchasing of various forms of tickets are also available at the post. The other key revenue drivers include international mail and express mail services, where Myanmar Post has won awards at various levels on the quality of delivery management services.

The average customer profile has also changed following the entry of private delivery service providers into the market. A significant portion of the Post customers includes online shops, government departments and banks at present time.

Product development was one area where major changes occurred in the past ten years. Cash collection on behalf of online shops, smart lockers, smart envelopes, post boxes rental, expresses last mile delivery and being an agent for mobile payment providers are new services introduced in the last decade.

Meanwhile, the usual services continued; mail, parcels, stamps sale, etc.

The relevance and competitiveness

In the era of privatization and liberalization, Myanmar Post seems to be restricted in terms of staffing, funding and management compared to private players. From staff incentives to punishments, hiring to firing, and funding to spend, it is not hard to imagine why a government entity would not even be half as agile or competitive as private enterprises.

Yet, when it comes to being accountable, secure and reaching out to unreachable places, Myanmar Post stands out from the crowd. Other than Myanmar Post and companies like rgo47, you would be hard-pressed to find someone to deliver a package to Phakant, the jade mining

By U AC

area in Kachin State. Its reliability and complete tracking ability continue to ensure that the Post is one most relied upon by businesses and the government, especially when it comes to sending important or expensive documents or parcels.

The events of the past two years have not been kind to Myanmar Post. It is one of the entities targeted by NNCP terrorists, particularly through online social punishment and cyberbullying, stirring up and sometimes forcing the population to discourage the use of the nation's Posts. After losing about 80 per cent of its volume immediately after the government changeover (February 2021), it has now mildly recovered, getting back close to half of its 2020 numbers.

Something to you might not be aware

Do you know that Post offices offer volume discounts of up to 20 per cent, to organizations that send out multiple mails or parcels?

Do you know that the Post office sends for free to libraries for the books that you would like to donate to them? Or at minimal rates if you are a publisher?

Do you know that you can see your own postcode on the Post website?

With affordable prices, extensive reach and continuous quality improvements, Myanmar Post would continue to stay relevant for many years to come and be of use to everyone everywhere in Myanmar.



Yangon's General Post Office at the corner of Bo Aung Kyaw Street and the Strand Road. This building was built in 1908. The building has a Beaux Arts portico, and unlike most government buildings, visitors are allowed to enter freely and explore inside. Beaux Arts is a style of architecture that was popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ MYANMARS.NET

Japan's shinkansen bullet trains gearing up for automatic driving



A JR Central employee explains the automatic driving system based on a live video feed of the driver's seat, taken inside a Tokaido Shinkansen train in May 2023. PHOTO: KYODO

AUTOMATICALLY operated shinkansen bullet trains could be right around the bend.

Central Japan Railway Co. and East Japan Railway Co. aim to commercialize driverless systems around 2028 for the Tokaido Shin-

kansen and the mid-2030s for the Joetsu Shinkansen, respectively. But as testing of the systems progresses, the differing goals

of the two JR companies have become apparent, reflecting the characteristics of the route and the level of cost-cutting targeted.

In the early morning on 11 May, a test train on the Tokaido Shinkansen Line equipped with an automatic train operating system, or ATO, departed from Hamamatsu Station in Shizuoka Prefecture, central Japan.

The train accelerated when the driver pushed a green button, then automatically decelerated and re-accelerated in response to sudden instructions and later stopped at Shizuoka Station. There was a deviation of 9 millimeters (0.35 inches) in the stop position and an arrival time error of 2 seconds.

The trial was hailed "a major success" by JR Central officials.

The main challenges for the ATO being developed by JR Central are sticking to standard departure, transit, and arrival times set in 15-second increments at each station and improving passenger comfort and energy-saving oper-

ation by adjusting for the number of acceleration/deceleration cycles and speed fluctuations.

The semi-automatic system includes an advanced feature that allows the train to run at higher speeds than usual until it reaches a slowdown section — established in the event of bad weather along the route or for other reasons — to compensate for the delay caused by a projected slowdown.

JR Central has targeted Grade 2 automation in light of the classification recognized by international organizations, which calls for an operator to always be in the driver's seat. Grade 2 automatic train operation has already been introduced by the Tokyo Metro subway system and other firms and is not a new form of operation.

For now, the company has no intention of aiming for a higher automation grade. Of the five degrees of automation, Grade 4, in which a train is automatically controlled without staff on board, is the highest. The Yurikamome line, Tokyo's first fully automated

transit system connecting Shibashi to Toyosu via the artificial island of Odaiba, runs without staff on board.

"We need a driver to communicate with the command center and to respond to emergencies," a JR Central official said.

Meanwhile, JR East is aiming to introduce Grade 3 automation on the Joetsu Shinkansen, which will allow operation by train attendants who need not be qualified as drivers. The train still needs a crew member on board to operate.

It also plans to extend the system to the Hokuriku Shinkansen, running on the Sea of Japan side of central Japan.

"This will reduce the cost of driver training. Grade 2 requires the operator to be in the driver's seat at all times, even during automatic driving, which makes work conditions harder," said a JR East official. The company has been carrying out tests since October 2021.

SOURCE: Kyodo

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 3 July 2023)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 4 July 2023: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions and Chin State, fairly widespread in Northern Shan State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Taninthayi Region and Kayin and Mon states and isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Kachin and Rakhine states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) mph. Wave height will be about (9-12) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 July 2023: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 July 2023: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 July 2023: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Sittway, Tamu trade posts handled US\$0.444 mln worth of trade in June 3rd week

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Commerce data, trade volumes of US\$ 0.444 million were recorded at the Sittway and Tamu trade posts in the third week of June.

During the period of 17 to 23 June, the Sittway trade camp exported goods worth US\$ 0.021 million to Bangladesh.

The actual import list of the Customs Department showed no import. Exported products were tamarind seeds, jujube paste, fresh ginger, turmeric tuber, coconut, and dried coconuts.

In order to promote trade between Myanmar and Bangladesh, the Sittway and Maungtaw borders of Rakhine State are opened, and trade activities are being carried out across the border.

At the Tamu trade post, there were exports of various groceries valued at US\$ 0.028 million and cigarettes valued at US\$ 0.395 million. The total trade volume amounted to US\$ 0.423 million, with no imports recorded.

— TWA/CT



Some cargo ships docked at the port in Sittway Trade Camp.



An assessor checks quality of jade stone.

Export of mineral products generates over US\$67 million incomes

ACCORDING to the statistics from the Ministry of Commerce, nearly \$68 million was earned from the export of minerals during the period of 1 April to 23 June in the financial year 2023-2024.

The state-owned sector earned US\$20.464 million from the export of minerals, while the private sector contributed US\$47.482 million, totalling over US\$67.946 million.

Various minerals such as gold, jade, pearl, diamonds, lead, tin, silver, copper, zinc, coal, and other metals were exported.

More than US\$200 million were earned from the export of minerals abroad during the nine months from 1 April to 30 December of the 2022-2023 financial year.

The annual exports of mineral products to foreign countries during the 2021-2022 (Mini Budget) reached US\$288.599 million.

—TWA/KZW

Pulses prices volatile in domestic market

THE prices of black gram and pigeon pea in Yangon market are rapidly fluctuating at the end of June and early July 2023, with the big swing of over K100,000 per tonne.

The price of black gram (FAQ/RC) stood at K2.333 million per tonne on 24 June and K2.185 million on 28 June. Then, the price bounced back to around K2.3 million per tonne on 3 July.

Similarly, the price of pigeon pea drastically fell to K2.975 million per tonne on 26 June from K3.2 million per tonne on 19 June. The prices rebounded to K3.2 million per tonne on 1 and 3 July respectively.

The pulses output in India dropped significantly. Therefore, the import quota for various pulses from foreign countries has surged to 1.2 million tonnes in the 2023-2024 FY from 890,000 tonnes last FY. The yield of pigeon pea in India is expected to decline to 3 million tonnes this year from 3.9 million tonnes recorded last year.

As a result of this, the pulses demanded by India have grown. The pulses imported from eastern African countries will arrive in India in August. The price of pigeon pea (tur) was around Rs 12,500 per quintal. The FOB prices decreased to \$935-955 per tonne of black gram (urad in India) and \$1,180-1,200 per tonne of pigeon pea on 3 July.

— TWA/EM



A photo shows sample of black gram and pigeon pea in Yangon's pulses and beans market.

Yangon Region to cultivate more than 10,000 acres of monsoon paddy in contract farming system

DURING the rainy season, contract farming will be carried out in Yangon Region, covering 10,618 acres for cultivating monsoon paddy.

On 1 July, the Yangon Region Chief Minister provided 3,440 bags of urea fertilizer worth about K326.8 million for 1,720 acres in Taikkyi Township, where the contract farming will be implemented. The overall plan is to cultivate 10,618 acres in the rainy season through contract farming, involving 1,100 members from 58 teams in 10 townships in Yangon Region.

Contract farming is a system that carefully negotiates how to share the benefits, including the obligations, commitments, and risks, between farmers and a company in the agricultural business. In addition, when benefits are continuously generated for farmers and the company, the trust between both parties will be strengthened and the business successful. The advantage of this system is that all stakeholders such as sellers of agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilizers, farmers, equipment suppliers, service companies such as rice milling, traders, and banks are integrated into a single group.

— TWA/CT

Some female farming workers are planting monsoon paddy saplings at the farms in Yangon Region.



LOCAL BUSINESS

MGEA sells pure gold at over K3.03 mln per tical on 10th day

MANDALAY Gold Entrepreneurs Association (MGEA) sold pure gold at over K3.03 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) on the 10th day.

The MGEA sold the pure gold by drawing lots. It no longer uses a queuing system. Anyone can buy them freely during the office days, except weekends and bank holidays.

The MGEA will closely observe the purchase as some are selling queue spots.

In order to stabilize the gold price, the MGEA commenced gold sell-off at K3.05 million per tical at noon of 19 June and sold at K3.04 million per tical on 20 June, K3.035 million per tical on 21 and 22 June, and K3.03 million per tical on 23, 26, 27, 28 and 30 June.

The MGEA's price will scale down the price depending on the daily price fluctuation.

Apart from the members of the association, anyone can buy them freely at the office located on 67th street between 40th and 41st streets, Mahamyaing 1st Qt, by presenting the citizenship scrutiny card and household registration document. For fur-

ther details, please contact the office. The MGEA is open for gold trading except the weekends and bank holidays.

The prevailing price of pure gold fetched up to K3.15 million per tical at the gray market, tracking the spot gold price rally at US\$1,912 per ounce and Kyat depreciation to around K3,100 against the US dollar.

Myanmar's gold price is highly correlated with the spot gold price and US dollar exchange rate. The soaring dollar exchanging at over K4,500 pushed the gold price up to a record-high of K3.7 million per tical in late August 2022.

In order to lower the gold price, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has been selling gold ingots under the competitive bidding system in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw.

With an aim of reducing gold price, the YGEA and Mandalay Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association sold gold bullion supplied by the executive members and the members as well. — NN/EM



Buyers seen in a queue to purchase gold at MGEA in Mandalay.

Corn price dips to K1,220 per viss in domestic market



Farmers harvesting corns at their farms.

THE price of corn moved slightly down to K1,220 per viss following decline in FOB price, according to the Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry at Bayintnaung commodity centre.

The FOB price of corn was US\$300-320 per tonne at present.

Myanmar delivered corn to China and Thailand through border posts and also shipped corn to China, India, Viet Nam and the Philippines by sea, according to the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

China is purchasing Myanmar's corn through cross-border trade under the opium substitution program. Legitimate corn trade between Myanmar and China commenced at the end of 2022. A total of 112 companies have been given the go-ahead for corn exports.

Thailand gives green light to corn imports under zero tariff with Form-D, between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand imposed the maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn imports to protect the rights of

their growers if the corn is imported during the corn season of Thailand.

The directive released on 30 June said that transactions for the exports of agricultural produce including corn, rice, bean and oil crops are to be made in dollars instead of Yuan-Kyat/Baht-Kyat. Therefore, 65 per cent export earnings US dollar of the corn have to be exchanged according to the reference rate K2,100 of the Central Bank of Myanmar. Nonetheless, there is a large gap between the reg-

ulated rate and unofficial rate of K3,100 per US dollar.

Myanmar exported more than two million tonnes of corn to foreign trade in the 2022 corn season. The majority of them were sent to Thailand and the remaining went to the Philippines, China, India and Viet Nam.

More than two million tonnes of corn are expected to be shipped to foreign trade partners in the 2023 corn season, said U Min Khaing, chair of Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.—NN/EM



Corns are kept in warehouse for dryness.

Palm oil wholesale reference price for Yangon Region continues rising

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market hiked up this week ending 9 July, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The reference price was set at K4,010 per viss from 26 June to 2 July. For a week ending 9 July, the price was set higher a bit at K4,030 per viss. The figures

showed a small increase of K20 per viss compared to that of the previous week.

The Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia including transportation cost, tariff and banking service, and issuing the

wholesale market reference rate for edible oil on a weekly basis.

Compared to the reference price, the palm oil market price is still too high.

If those edible oil retailers and wholesalers are found overcharging, storing inventory intentionally and attempting unscrupulous action to manipulate the market, they will face

legal action under the Essential Supplies and Service Act, MoC released a statement.

The Ministry of Commerce is striving for the consumers not to worry over the supply of edible oil. The ministry is also trying to secure edible oil sufficiency, supervise the market to offer the reasonable price to the consumers and maintain the price

stability.

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at 1 million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the oil sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/EM

ECONOMY WORLD

Higher land prices add to signs of Japan's recovery from pandemic



People walk across a scramble crossing in Tokyo's Shibuya district on 28 June 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

THE average land price in Japan rose 1.5 per cent in 2023 from a year earlier for the second consecutive year of increase, government data showed Monday, adding to signs of the economy recovering from the coronavirus pandemic.

A recovery in prices for commercial areas led the overall trend, according to the data as of 1 January, after the government eased COVID-19 measures, including immigration controls, stimulating hopes that businesses will be revived with the help of demand from foreign tourists.

Out of the 47 prefectures, 25, including Tokyo and Osaka,

observed higher average land prices. That compares with the pre-pandemic level of 21 prefectures marked in 2020, the National Tax Agency data showed.

The agency's annual survey of prices per 1 square meter of land facing major roads is used to calculate inheritance and gift taxes. It is based on data compiled by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and reflects land transactions.

Hokkaido topped the list of prefectures this year with a 6.8 per cent increase, signalling growing demand for housing and commercial facilities in and around its capital Sapporo.

Fukuoka came in second with a hike of 4.5 per cent, followed by Miyagi's 4.4 per cent. Tokyo observed a rise of 3.2 per cent and Osaka 1.4 per cent.

Average prices dropped in 20 prefectures, meanwhile, with Wakayama seeing a decline of 1.2 per cent, Fukui 1.0 per cent, and Ehime 0.9 per cent. Land prices have increased along with soaring condominium and other property prices as more people now work from home after the pandemic and seek to relocate while banks keep borrowing costs low, said Osamu Nagashima, head of real estate consulting company Sakurajimusyo Inc. — Kyodo

Mercosur summit opens as EU trade deal hangs in the balance

THE South American trade bloc Mercosur opens a two-day summit Monday with a deal with the European Union on the agenda, but few expect leaders to reach consensus on how to fulfill EU demands on environmental protections.

The EU and the Mercosur countries — Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay — are trying to finalize a trade deal after reaching an agreement in principle in 2019, following two decades of negotiations.

But ratification by the EU's 27 members has stalled, notably over European concerns about Mercosur countries' environmental protections — particularly in the Amazon rainforest.

The EU has proposed a "side letter" to the agreement, with extra environmental guarantees, ranking South American leaders and slowing down progress to notching a final agreement.

Brussels wants any deal with Mercosur nations to include compliance with various commitments made as part of the 2015 Paris climate accords, which are currently voluntary.

The Mercosur summit, to be held in Puerto Iguazu, Argentina, will bring together Argentine President Alber-

to Fernandez and the presidents of Uruguay, Paraguay and Brazil: Luis Lacalle Pou, Mario Abdo Benitez and Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who will take up the bloc's pro-tempore presidency until the end of the year.

The bloc represents 62 per cent of South America's population and 67 per cent of the continent's gross domestic product.

Brazil's Lula has led the criticism of the EU's environmental demands, telling reporters last month that "strategic partners should have a relationship of mutual trust, not mistrust and sanctions."

Deforestation in the Amazon surged under Lula's predecessor, far-right ex-president Jair Bolsonaro, in office from 2019-2022.

But although veteran leftist Lula has cast himself as the anti-Bolsonaro on environmental policy, he told European Commission head Ursula von der Leyen in June that he had concerns over the additional environmental guarantees.

Lula accused EU lawmakers of trying to legislate "outside their territory" with measures that "change the balance of the agreement." — AFP

Pakistan inflation eases for first time in seven months

PAKISTAN'S headline inflation eased for the first time in seven months in June, figures released Monday showed, a bright spot for a beleaguered government that must call an election this year.

Year-on-year inflation was 29.4 per cent last month, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics data showed, compared with a record 38 per cent in May.

Years of financial mismanagement have pushed Pakistan's economy to the limit, exacerbated by the Covid pandemic, a global energy crisis and record floods that submerged a third of the country last year.

Pakistan struck a \$3 billion standby deal with the International Monetary Fund on Fri-



Vendors sell vegetables at a market in Karachi on 3 July 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

day, which could provide temporary relief for the country's ballooning foreign debt.

To meet the demands of the deal — which will be considered

by the IMF's board by mid-July — Pakistan scrapped popular subsidies on gas and electricity, which had cushioned the cost-of-living crisis. — AFP

Australian coal earnings expected to plummet

AUSTRALIA on Monday predicted its coal exports will halve in value over the next two years, as prices fall and consumers look to alternative sources of energy.

The Department of Industry forecast shipments of thermal coal — used in electricity production — would be worth US\$20 billion, down from US\$43 billion this year.

The forecasts show a spec-

tacular drop for a sector long championed by politicians and industry figures as a mainstay of the Australian economy.

Australia is currently the world's second-largest exporter of thermal coal, after Indonesia, and the largest exporter of metallurgical coal, which is used in steel making.

"Global supply and demand for thermal coal have peaked,"

the department said, forecasting price declines after spikes caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Demand from China — the world's largest coal importer — is expected to begin a "long-term decline" starting in 2024.

But the Australian forecast noted that the pace of the declines in the coal market "is likely to be uneven" and volatile. — AFP

Markets follow Wall St higher as US inflation eases

DATA showing inflation easing further boosted equity markets Monday, fuelled by hopes central banks could be nearing the end of their interest rate hiking cycle.

All three main indexes on Wall Street rallied Friday — with Apple ending above the \$3 trillion capitalization mark for the first time — on the report, setting up a positive start to the week for Asian investors.

News that the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) index — the Federal Reserve’s favoured gauge — had dropped sharply provided some relief for traders after a series of forecast-beating indicators



A worker walks past an electronic board showing the rate of the Japanese yen versus the US dollar after the closing session on the Tokyo Stock Exchange along a street in Tokyo on 3 July 2023. PHOTO: AFP

suggested the economy remained in rude health.

A strong read on economic growth and a fall in jobless claims had

fanned expectations the Fed would have to keep hiking borrowing costs in order to get a grip on prices.

The PCE figure came along with news that eurozone inflation had also eased, thanks to a drop in energy costs.

The S&P 500 and Nasdaq chalked up big gains to end a strong first half of the year, even after a series of rate hikes as well as a regional banking crisis.

Among the best performers were tech firms, and Friday’s close saw Apple become the first firm to end above \$3 trillion market capitalization.

“Markets are already pricing in further rate hikes this month from the Federal Reserve, as well as the ECB, followed by the Bank of England in August,” said CMC Markets analyst Michael Hewson.

“The bigger question is what comes after these. One suspects we may not see many more after these hikes.” — AFP

Saudi extends oil production cut as Russia reduces exports

SAUDI Arabia said on Monday it was extending a voluntary oil production cut of one million barrels per day, and Russia said it was slashing exports by 500,000 bpd.

The moves were the latest attempts by major producers to stabilize markets rocked by factors including continued fallout from the Russian invasion of Ukraine and China’s faltering economic recovery.

The cut by Saudi Arabia, the world’s biggest crude exporter, was first announced after a June meeting of oil producers and took effect at the weekend.

Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman noted at the time that it was “extendable”.

In a report on Monday announcing that the cut would continue through August, the official Saudi Press Agency said it “can be extended” further, citing an energy ministry source. — AFP

Notice For Changing Of Trade Name

Notice is hereby given that trade name has been changed for the following pesticide manufactured by United Phosphorus Ltd.,(UPL Limited), India.

Myanmar Arysta LifeScience Co.,Ltd. invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, Myanmar Arysta LifeScience Co.,Ltd. shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

No.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration No.
1	Uthane 75 WP	Penncozeb	Mancozeb 75% WP	F 2017 - 1276

Myanmar Arysta LifeScience Co.,Ltd.
Suite #09-02, Crystal Tower, Junction Square Compound, Kyun Taw Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon.
01-9339359, 9339360

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (093N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (093N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-7-2023** 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**

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Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ASIAN ACE VOY.NO. (324W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-7-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GUANGZHOU TRADER VOY.NO. (0UVSXE1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GUANGZHOU TRADER VOY.NO. (0UVSXE1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-7-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
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Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CMA CGM ASIA SHIPPING PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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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 NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES
ASIA

Thailand’s parliament opens ahead of vote for prime minister

THAILAND’S parliament opened Monday ahead of a vote for a new prime minister later this month, with the leading candidate, Pita Limjaroenrat, struggling to gain support from lower and upper house members after the May general election in which his opposition party garnered the most votes.

The liberal opposition Move Forward party won the election as voters rejected the incumbent government of Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha. But it is unknown if Pita will be elected as prime minister as many of the 250 military-appointed Senate members are set to abstain from the vote, according to local media reports.

Following the election on 14 May, Move Forward had hoped



This handout taken and released by Thai Parliament on 3 July 2023 shows Thai King Maha Vajiralongkorn (L), alongside Queen Suthida (2nd L), as he addresses rows of MPs during the official ceremony to open parliament at Thailand’s Parliament in Bangkok. **PHOTO: THAI PARLIAMENT / AFP**

to form a coalition government with seven opposition parties including Pheu Thai, an opposition party made up of supporters of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. Pheu Thai captured the second-largest number of seats in the poll. However, Move Forward and Pheu Thai are still at odds over who will become the House of Representative speaker, a key post that could determine the passage of legislation. The post will be decided Tuesday.

The 312 seats of the opposition alliance are also not enough to secure Pita the premiership as the 42-year-old Harvard University graduate needs at least 376 votes to win the position, under the Constitution enacted by the military in 2017. — Kyodo

Sri Lanka to amend key acts for debt restructuring

SRI Lanka will amend the Inland Revenue Act and the Appropriation Act in line with domestic debt restructuring strategy, State Minister of Finance Ranjith Siyambalapitiya said Sunday.

The state minister made the remarks when talking to journalists about the next steps to be taken by the government after the parliament approved the domestic debt restructuring plan on Saturday evening.

He said the central bank will publish the decisions reached on Saturday through media and the government will hold discussions with heads of pension funds that are affected by domestic debt restructuring.

Siyambalapitiya said there is space for further revisions

in the domestic debt restructuring strategy following these discussions.

Sri Lanka’s total debt is around 83.6 billion US dollars, according to official data. Foreign debt amounts to 41.6 billion dollars, and domestic debt amounts to 42 billion dollars.

Out of the domestic debt, 25 billion dollars are in treasury bonds, 11 billion in treasury bills, 5.6 billion in development bonds and the rest has been taken from various institutions, mainly the Employment Provident Fund.

Sri Lanka’s central bank revealed on Thursday that the country is presenting three options to domestic holders of locally issued dollar-denominated bonds. — Xinhua

Viet Nam farmers planting in the dark as heatwave looms

IT’S 3 am and pitch black when rice farmer Tran Thi Lan heads into water-logged fields on the outskirts of Hanoi to begin planting, desperate to finish before the day’s brutal heat arrives.

Planting in the dark has become a saviour for countless farmers in north and central Viet Nam during increasingly hot summers as South and Southeast Asian nations battle record-high temperatures this year.

“It’s so hard to plant the rice when the strong sun is directly on my back and the warm water in the field splashes my face,” Lan, 47, told AFP.

Lan had managed a few days of daytime planting during a brief respite from the heat.



This photo taken on 2 July 2023 shows Nguyen Hung Phuong (R) and his wife planting rice at night-time in a rice field in Hanoi. **PHOTO: AFP**

But she switched to night work as another heatwave descended on northern Viet Nam in early July, with forecasters

predicting a long stretch where daily temperatures would exceed 37 degrees Celsius (98 degrees Fahrenheit). — AFP



A bridge above a small river running through Yamato, Kumamoto Prefecture, collapses on 3 July 2023, due to heavy rain. (Photo courtesy of Yamato municipal government) **PHOTO: KYODO**

Heavy rain pounds southwestern Japan, evacuation ordered for 360,000

HEAVY rain pounded Japan’s southwestern Kyushu region on Monday, causing a bridge to collapse, with evacuation orders issued for some 360,000 residents in the city of Kumamoto.

The Japan Meteorological Agency warned of torrential rain and thunder continuing across the region through

around Tuesday noon and called on residents to be on alert for mudslides and flooding.

Kumamoto Prefecture saw the development of linear rainbands known to bring torrential downpours. The towns of Yamato and Mashiki in the prefecture registered hourly precipitation of 82 millimeters

and 80 mm, respectively, both July records for the areas, on Monday morning.

The violent rain caused a 37-metre concrete bridge above a small river running through Yamato to collapse, according to local authorities, adding there were no reports of casualties. — Kyodo

No need for new mobilization to replace Wagner: Russian defence official

THERE is no need for further mobilization in Russia to replace Wagner troops who have left the battlefield in Ukraine after a short-lived mutiny, state media said on Monday, quoting a defence official.

Last month the head of the Wagner mercenary group, Yevgeny Prigozhin, led his forces in a rebellion against Russia's top military brass in a huge embar-

rassment for the Kremlin.

Prigozhin later abandoned his advance on Moscow and struck a deal with the Kremlin under which he accepted exile in neighbouring Belarus.

"There is no threat at all regarding a drop in the combat potential, both in the mid-term and long-term perspective," Andrey Kartapolov, head of the State Duma Defence Commit-

tee, was quoted as saying by the state-backed TASS news agency.

"At the time of the (attempted) rebellion, there were no Wagner PMC employees at the forefront, they were all in camps," he added.

"As for replacing them (Wagner PMC) in the reserve, there is something and someone to replace them with." — AFP



Members of Wagner group sit atop of a tank in a street in the city of Rostov-on-Don, on 24 June 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Mayors hold anti-riot rallies in France as arrests fall



Security personnel remove a protester during a nationwide action in Nantes, western France on 3 July 2023, after France's mayors have called on the population and elected representatives to gather in front of all town halls at midday, invoking "civic mobilization" following the violent attack on the home of the mayor of L'Has-les-Roses (Val-de-Marne), which sparked a wave of indignation across the country. **PHOTO: AFP**

DEMONSTRATIONS began at French town halls Monday opposing nearly a week of violent

protests over a teen's fatal shooting by police, even as the first signs emerged that the unrest

was beginning to ease.

The government has battled riots and looting since 17-year-old Nahel M was shot dead by a police officer during a traffic stop on Tuesday, reviving longstanding accusations of racism against the French police force.

During a sixth consecutive night of unrest, a fireman died while seeking to douse burning vehicles north of Paris but it was unclear if there was a link to the violent protests, the interior ministry said.

Monday's demonstrations — called a "mobilization of citizens for a return to republican order" — came after the home of the mayor of a Paris suburb was rammed with a flaming car, prompting widespread outrage. — AFP

Blasts in Khartoum as army renews call for volunteers

EXPLOSIONS again rocked Sudan's capital Khartoum on Monday as the army rallied civilians to take up arms against a renewed onslaught by its paramilitary foes.

The sound of artillery fire shook the dawn in northwest Khartoum and progressed towards the centre and east of the city, witnesses told AFP.

The fighting "began at 4:00 am and is still going," one resident said.

The war-torn capital barely saw a few hours of respite after heavy clashes on Sunday between troops loyal to army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

The army announced Monday it was ready to "receive and prepare" volunteer fighters, after Burhan last week urged Sudanese "youth and all those able to defend" to join the military.

War-weary civilians have largely rejected the call, pleading for an end to the relentless war between Burhan and his former deputy, RSF commander Mohamed Hamdan Daglo.

Apart from Khartoum, some of the worst fighting has been in the vast western region of Darfur, where late on Sunday RSF forces "attacked the military base" in Nyala, the capital of South Darfur. — AFP

Israel launches large-scale military strike on northern West Bank

THE Israeli army launched a large-scale military strike early on Monday on the northern West Bank city of Jenin, according to eyewitnesses and the Israeli military.

Dozens of armoured vehicles backed by drones and helicopters stormed the city and the refugee camp, said Palestinian eyewitnesses, adding that airstrikes were carried out during the exchange of fire between Palestinian militants and Israeli soldiers.

The Israeli military said it struck a "joint operations centre" which served as a command centre for fighters from



Smoke billows from a refugee camp during an Israeli strike in the West Bank city of Jenin on 3 July 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

the Jenin Brigades, an armed unit comprised of fighters from

different militant groups. It declined to specify whether

Monday's strike also involved a drone.

Palestinian eyewitnesses said Israeli forces entered Jenin shortly after the airstrikes began, and armed clashes erupted between the soldiers and the Palestinian gunmen.

Israel Radio reported that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who held a meeting with Israeli security leaders on Sunday night, has been updated as the operation continued.

The Palestinian side on Sunday slammed Netanyahu for his policy of motivating Israeli settlers to commit more

crimes against the Palestinians.

"Netanyahu's boast of killing large numbers of Palestinians since the formation of his government motivates settlers to commit more of their crimes against our people," said the Palestinian Foreign Ministry in a statement.

Since January, 24 people, most of them Israelis, have been killed in a series of attacks carried out by Palestinians, and more than 175 Palestinians, including children and women, were killed by Israeli soldiers and settlers, according to official figures. — Xinhua

Thailand's parliament
opens ahead of vote for
prime minister

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SPORT

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

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

ty 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.

Djokovic helps dry damp Wimbledon court with towel

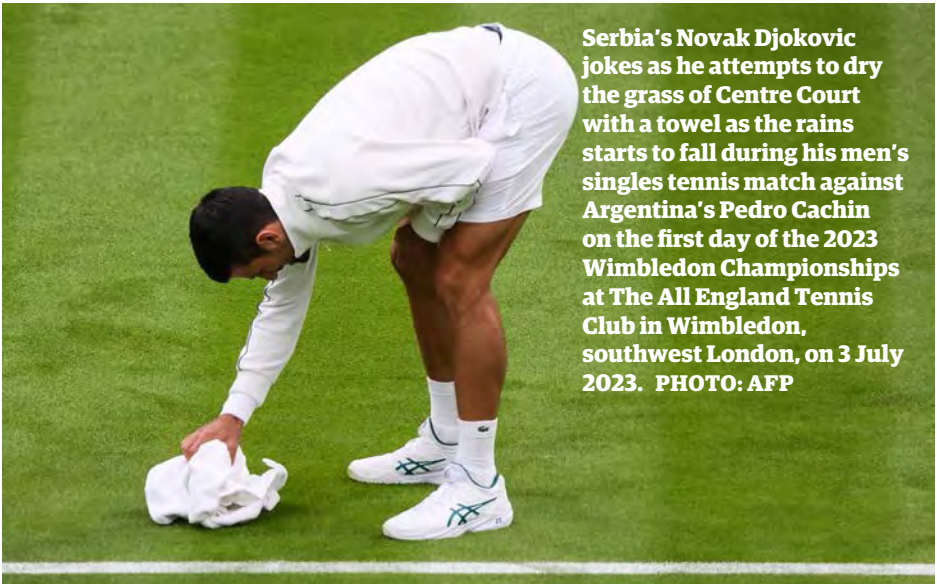
NOVAK Djokovic helped dry Wimbledon's Centre Court with his towel on Monday, appealing to fans to "blow" on the court during a lengthy delay.

The roof was closed just after the Serbian seven-time champion wrapped up the first set 6-3 against Argentina's Pedro Cachin, with rain falling in southwest London on the opening day of the

championships.

The covers came on quickly but the officials and players studied the surface of the lush grass carefully, apparently concerned over damp patches.

One member of the groundstaff swept the surface before three men emerged with hand-held driers, to cheers from the crowd. — AFP



Serbia's Novak Djokovic jokes as he attempts to dry the grass of Centre Court with a towel as the rains starts to fall during his men's singles tennis match against Argentina's Pedro Cachin on the first day of the 2023 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Tennis Club in Wimbledon, southwest London, on 3 July 2023. PHOTO: AFP

Milan at crossroads after favourites Tonali and Maldini shown the door

AC Milan fans have been hit with a painful double whammy after star midfielder Sandro Tonali was sold to Newcastle while they were still reeling from club icon Paolo Maldini's sudden sacking.

Tonali was more than just a key man for Milan, he is a boyhood fan of the club considered a potential future captain who was the connection between the pitch and the San Siro stands.

He was also a player who had repeatedly said in the past that he wanted to become what the Italians call a 'bandiera', a symbol of the club like Maldini and Franco Baresi before him. "I want to stay here as long as I can. If you ask me today I'd say for the rest of my career," he said last winter.

"But it's too early to make those sort of promises, desire isn't the only thing that matters in our lives as footballers, there are a lot of other factors... you can't make long-term predictions." — AFP

Qatar upset Mexico to reach Gold Cup quarters, Ferreira hits another hat-trick



QATAR upset Mexico 1-0 on Sunday to reach the quarter-finals of the CONCACAF Gold Cup while Jesus Ferreira became the first player to score back-to-back hat-tricks for the United States in the 6-0 win over Trinidad and Tobago.

Jamaica also qualified for the last eight from Group A with ease, behind the USA, after beating St. Kitts and Nevis 5-0 in Santa Clara, California.

In Group B, Qatar shocked already-qualified Mexico to qualify in second place and denying Honduras, who were eliminated despite beating Haiti 2-1.

Qatar, who are playing for the second time as a guest team in the tournament for North and Central America and the Caribbean, survived a second half onslaught from Mexico to pull off a famous victory.

The 2022 World Cup hosts, coached by Carlos Queiroz from Portugal, took the lead in the 27th minute when Musaab Khidir whipped in a great cross from the right and Hazem Shehata found the target with a superb angled header.

That proved to be

the only real effort on goal from the Gulf side as Mexico dominated but couldn't find a way through.

Santiago Gimenez, who had survived a red card review for a swinging arm on a Qatari defender, fired wide from a promising position and then Edson Alvarez headed against the post.

Deep in stoppage time, Israel Reyes had another chance to level – and help Honduras into the knockout stage – but his header was also off target.

Qatar, the reigning Asian champions, reached the semi-finals of the Gold Cup in their previous guest appearance two years ago.

Their victory meant Honduras' comeback win against Haiti was in vain, an agonizing outcome for the Central American side, whose players waited on the field as Qatar clung on. It was a different story for the USA, who after an early scare utterly dominated against a poor Trinidad team.

— AFP



Qatar's midfielder Ali Asad (L) fights for the ball with Mexico's defender Gerardo Arteaga (2nd R) during the Concacaf 2023 Gold Cup Group B football match between Mexico and Qatar at Levi's Stadium, in Santa Clara, California, on 2 July 2023. PHOTO: AFP