

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.

Preparation to strengthen social protection system called for

STATE Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, who is also Patron of the Central Census Commission, said that preparations must be made to strengthen the social protection system and create decent employment opportunities for the elderly,

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An aerial view of Yangon Port with container vessels loading and discharging export and import cargoes.

Myanmar's foreign trade climbs to above US\$8.5 bln in Q1 2023-2024FY

MYANMAR'S external trade grew to over US\$8.5 billion in the Q1 (April to June) of the current Financial Year 2023-2024, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's export was worth over \$3.84 billion whereas the country's import was valued at \$4.67 billion in the past three months.

Myanmar's seaborne trade value crossed over \$5.76 billion this FY, while border trade was valued at \$2.75 billion.

The trade figure in the past three months increased from \$8.41 billion recorded in the 2023-2024 financial year, indicating an increase of over \$102 million, compared with the 2022-2023 financial year.

Myanmar exports agricultural produce, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, intermediate goods, raw materials imported by the CMP enterprises and consumer goods.

Myanmar has been implementing National Export Strategy (NES) 2020-

2025 to boost exports and the priority sectors of the NES include agricultural production, garment and apparel, industrial and electronic device, fishery business, forest products, digital manufacturing and service, logistic service, quality management, trade information service, innovation and entrepreneurship sectors. — NN/EM

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MYANMAR GAZETTE

Head of Service
Organization appointed

THE State Administration Council has appointed U Myo Swe from the Ministry of Defence as Director-General of the Prison Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

17 new cases of COVID-19 reported on
12 July, total figure registers 640,842

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to 640,842 after 17 new cases were reported on 12 July 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of 10,931,946 laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 640,842. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 619,631 including 24 new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered 19,494 on 12-7-2023 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. — GNLM

Central Bank of Myanmar
Nay Pyi Taw
Announcement

12 July 2023

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) has revoked the Money Changer licence of the following ten money changers according to its Board of Directors' meeting as they failed to comply with the orders and directives issued by the CBM.

(1) Kannan Trading Co Ltd

(2) Net Change Co Ltd

(3) Thiri Aung Si Trading Co Ltd

(4) Riverwood Group Co Ltd

(5) Global Myanmar Services Co Ltd

(6) D-Gold Trading Co Ltd

(7) Aurum Image Co Ltd

(8) Hi Welcome Travel & Tours Co Ltd

(9) Sweeties Pearls Co Ltd

(10) Chase Travels & Tours Co Ltd

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

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 dona-

tions 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: -

Scan here!
For your payment

NATURAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT FUND

Need Help?
24x7 Customer Care
(95-1) 231 7770

AYA PAY
အာယာပေ
Natural Disaster Management Fund
20034665

OK\$
Natural Disaster Management Fund
09 255001537

uab pay
National Disaster Management Committee
21037253
NDMC
uabpay - Call center +95 94000 5000

Natural Disaster Management Fund

WAVEPAY
by wave money
Natural Disaster Management Fund

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Natural Disaster Management Fund

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

National Disaster Management Committee

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

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

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing at the Passing Out Parade of the 64th Intake of Defence Services Academy on 2 December 2022)

Preparation to strengthen social protection system called for

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As its population will increase in the future.
The Vice-Senior General called for this at the ceremony to mark the 2023 World Population Day held on 11 July.
He also said that, as Myanmar is experiencing population growth in the current period, it is necessary to effectively utilize the power of young people and women in national development projects.

According to the 2014 census data, Myanmar's population will reach over 59.3 million by 2030. — Htun Htun/CT

State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, who is also in the capacity of Patron of the Central Census Commission, is seen giving his speech at the ceremony to mark the 2023 World Population Day on 11 July 2023.



NSPNC holds peace talks with RCSS on second day



The second-day meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee and the Restoration Council of Shan State in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE second-day peace talks between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee-NSPNC and the delegation of the Restoration Council of Shan State-RCSS was held yesterday morning at the National

Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw.
Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein, Secretary of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee-NSPNC, and members, RCSS Secretary 1 Sao Sai Ngin, Central Executive Committee member Sao Saung Han and Central Steering Committee member Sao Sai Han attended the meeting.
During the meeting, both sides continued discussing and negotiating the issues that had not been completed on the first day of the meeting. After two days of discussions and negotiations, final agreements were signed, and NSPNC presented books on world affairs, Myanmar affairs, and ethnic affairs published by the Ministry of Information and gifts to the RCSS delegation. — MNA/TS

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Core Working Group of Rakhine State Stability, Peace and Development Work Coordination Committee holds meeting in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Core Working Group under the Rakhine State Stability, Peace and Development Work Coordination Committee held its meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

First, Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, in his capacity as Committee Chairman, discussed matters related to the resumption of repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine State in accordance with bilateral coordination and relocation processes.

Then, officials of work committees and the Rakhine State Security and Border Affairs minister presented the current work plans and requirements.

The committee chairman and vice-chairpersons offered instructions and concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH



The meeting of Core Working Group of Rakhine State Stability, Peace and Development Work Coordination Committee in progress yesterday, chaired by Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung.

Coordination meeting on livestock farming development in Rakhine State held



The coordination meeting on livestock farming development in Rakhine State underway yesterday in Sittway.

THE coordination meeting on livestock farming development in Rakhine State was held at the state government office yesterday morning in Sittway.

At the meeting, the state chief minister stressed the importance of food security, education and healthcare services.

He also said that, due to the close-up supervision of Union ministers, deputy ministers and senior Tatmadaw officers, rehabilitation tasks were successfully carried out in a short time.

Then, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Gyi explained measures to be taken for the development of the livestock sector in Rakhine State. The secretary of the state government explained the measures to be taken for the rehabilitation of the livestock sector affected by the storm. — MNA/KZW

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission inspect Women Development Department

COMMISSIONERS U Kyaw Soe, Dr Than Myint and Dr Myint Thu Myaing of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission visited the Women Development Department in Thanlwin Street in Kamayut Township yesterday.

During the inspection, the team assessed various aspects, including the healthcare situation, food supply, condition of dormitories, issuance of citizen scrutiny cards, availability of clean drinking water, access to education, communication with family, right to family reunification, access to vocational education and protection of fundamental human rights such as religious freedom for the trainees under the care of the department. — MNA/KZW



The MNHRC members view the activities of the Women Development Department in Yangon yesterday.

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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

Myanmar's Industry Minister meets Russian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industry & Trade

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than attended the Innoprom International Industrial Exhibition in Yekaterinburg in Russian Federation on 11 July morning and viewed the products and machine parts displayed by companies.

Then, the Myanmar Delegation met Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation Mr Denis Manturov. They discussed matters related to Russia-Myanmar co-operation, steel production, pharmaceutical co-production, yarn and fabric manufacturing, cement production, production of medical support equipment

and opportunities to develop MSME businesses.

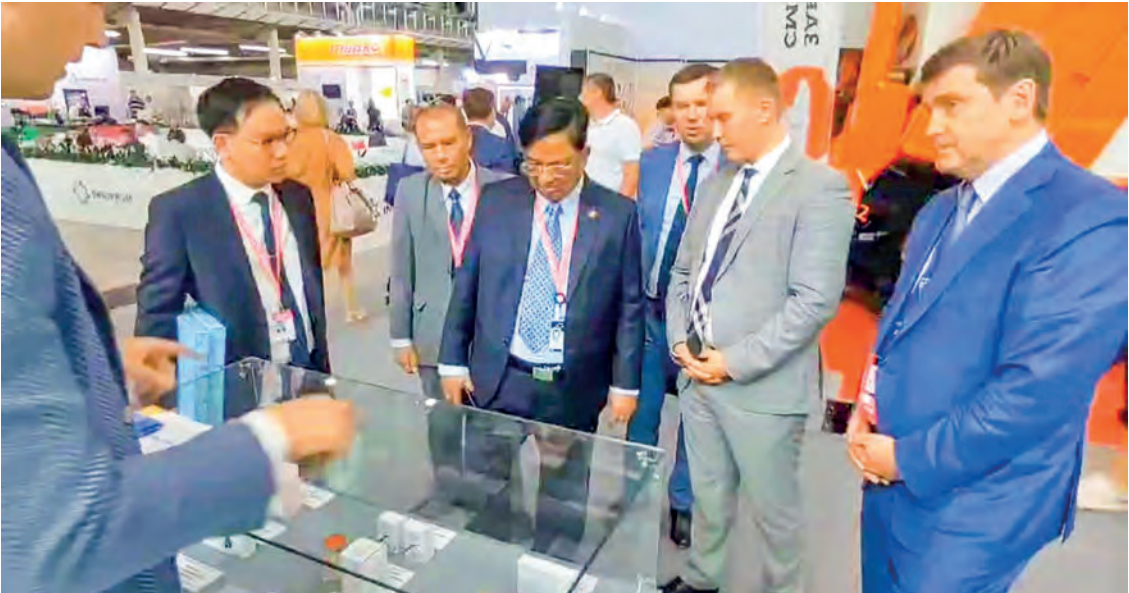
Deputy Minister of the

Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation Mr Alexey V Gruzdev, Director of

the Department of the Countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America Mr Nosov Sergey

Sergeevich, Director of the Department of Machine Tool Building and Heavy Machine Building Mr Piven Valery Vyacheslavovich, assistant to the Deputy Prime Minister Mr Alexey A Mednikov, commercial attaché of the Russian Federation to Myanmar Mr Kazadaev Vladimir Sergeevich and Myanmar delegation members were present at the meeting.

— MNA/KZW



Union Minister Dr Charlie Than views the display at the Innoprom International Industrial Exhibition in the Russian Federation on 11 July.

MIFER Deputy Minister receives business delegation led by Vice-President of Russia-Myanmar Association for Friendship and Cooperation



DR Wah Wah Maung, Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations received the business delegation led by Mr Vitaly Solonetsky, Vice-President of the Russia-Myanmar Association for Friendship and Cooperation, yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on the

investment of Russian companies in the areas of information and communications technology (ICT), cybersecurity and banking technology and the development of technological cooperation between Russia and Myanmar.

The meeting was also attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations. — MNA

Deputy Minister Dr Wah Wah Maung holds talks with the Russian business delegation yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

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

THE combined team under the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force nabbed three kinds of goods worth K154,320,000 including 59,600 pairs of child sandals (made in China) without official documents from a warehouse at the 72-A street in Pyigyidagun township and a warehouse at the 63-A street in Chanmyathazi township, on 9 July. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

In addition, the Myawady Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force impounded 525 kilogrammes of shrimp worth K2.625 million without official documents from a Nissan Conдор vehicle (estimated value

of K15 million) in 5 Ward of Myawady township on 10 July. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The on-duty team captured six kinds of goods worth K2.276 million including 36 bags of instant noodles without official documents from a vehicle heading to Kengtung from Tachilek at the Tachilek-Maeyan combined checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The on-duty teams at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint sized 4860 boxes of Lactasoy Soy Milk worth K1.62 million that were not declared in the Import Declared (ID) from a Mitsubishi Canter (approximate

value of K20 million) travelling from Mawlamyine to Yangon.

In addition, 64 baby electric cradle beds with remote controls worth K5.12 million were seized from a container at the MITT Port, 10 kinds of goods worth K30,191,700 including 5,800 electric LED bulbs 10W and 11 kinds of goods worth K32,857,440 including 4,000 sets of hotel bathroom without Import Licence from two containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port, 375 kilogrammes of Weizza labels worth K1,341,860 without Import Licence at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk).

Illegal goods confiscated at the Nyaungkhashay X-Ray

checkpoint included three kinds of goods worth K8,620,000 including 276 litres of Galand Uria Paints Urethane G-500 and two kinds of goods worth K29,530,000 including 41,400 boxes of Lactasoy Plain Sweetened UHT soymilk that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a Nissan Diesel tractor head (approximate value of K45 million) and a trailer (estimated value of K10 million), 20 kinds of goods worth K96,427,200 including 19,392 sets of A+ Shine multi-purpose foam cleaner for car and house from a Nissan diesel tractor head (approximate value of K45 million) and a trailer (estimated value of K10 million) and 19 kinds of goods

worth K62 million including two sets of Hino diesel engines from a Mitsubishi Fuso tractor head (approximate value of K65 million) and a trailer (estimated value of K10 million). The action was taken under Customs procedures.

A total of 2.423 tonnes of illegal teak and 1.978 tonnes of hardwood worth K5,453,358 was seized in the Pyay district on 10 and 11 July and action was taken under the Forest Law.

A total of 22 arrests were made on three consecutive days from 9 to 11 July, with an estimated value of K652,383,358, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Sale of palm oil at retail reference price resumes in Bayintnaung market



Some palm oil on sale is seen in the market.

SOME brokerage houses in the Bayintnaung market have resumed selling palm oil at the retail reference price, leading to daily queues of people eager to purchase it. However, U Win Soe from Yaytama Road mentioned that the queues had disappeared for several months due to a slight price difference between the retail reference price and the market price of palm oil.

In the Yangon edible oil market, the price of palm oil, which started at K6,400 per viss

in early July 2023, suddenly increased on 9 July. The retail price surpassed K7,500 per viss on 10 and 11 July. As a result, large crowds have once again formed, lining up to buy palm oil at the retail reference price from mobile trucks and brokerage houses.

Furthermore, imported oil is currently priced at \$875 per tonne, and there have been ongoing oil imports from abroad. Retail outlets in the Bayintnaung market are reportedly

facing challenges in purchasing palm oil.

While the availability of palm oil at retail reference prices has returned to the Bayintnaung market, benefiting those working in Bayintnaung and some residents of Hlinethaya Township, oil dealers remain cautious about potential profit losses. The price of palm oil is highly volatile, often reaching approximately twice the reference wholesale price. — TWA/CT

Another 55 electric vehicles arrive at Yangon Port

ANOTHER 55 EVs arrived at Yangon Port on 10 July, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

With the approval of the Steering Committee on National-Level Development of Electric Vehicles and Related Industries, NPK Motors Co Ltd imported 47 MG and MG4

(Mulan) electric vehicles, three MG Marvel R electric vehicles and five MG and MG5 electric vehicles.

These vehicles were legal for claiming following the required procedures, and the import of these EVs is exempted from Customs duties. — TWA/MKKS



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

MED allows students of old system to sit for new system matriculation exam

ALL students who passed Grade 10 (old system) and did not take the old system matriculation examination due to various reasons and all those who failed the old system Grade-11 examination (matriculation examination) will be allowed to take the new system Grade-12 matriculation exam that will be held in 2024, according to the 11 July statement by the Myanmar Examinations Department.

In the 2023 matriculation examination, five foreign exam centres and 858 local exam centres for a total of 863 exam centres were opened. Out of 179,843 registered students, 109,851 students passed the exam with a pass rate of 67.87 per cent, according to the statistics of the Myanmar Examinations Department of the Ministry of Education. — TWA/CT

Myanmar speciality coffee fetches approximately K10 mln per tonne in global market

MYANMAR'S speciality coffee bean swells in a handsome amount of K10 million per tonne in foreign markets, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization (MTPO).

The coffee bean of poor quality fetches about K5 million per tonne.

As per the remark made by the Union Minister of the Min-

istry of Commerce on 3 June, Myanmar's coffee beans are mainly shipped to 14 foreign countries including England, the US, Japan, China, Thailand, and Australia.

Moreover, Japan, China, Saudi Arabia and UAE offer import tariff exemption benefits for Myanmar's coffee, according to MTPO.

At present, half of Myanmar's coffee output goes to foreign countries. Myanmar's speciality coffee beans are highly demanded in the global market due to the cultivation of pedigree coffee seed, value-added production and organic production.

The local consumption is also pretty high. Myanmar

coffee association aims to meet a production target of 60,000 tonnes in 2030. Although Myanmar's coffee enjoys high demand and good prices, high production costs pose a major challenge to export, said the association.

The stakeholders in the coffee supply chain including coffee bean growers, producers and roasters have been joining hands for Myanmar's coffee to achieve speciality coffee with grade scores since 2014. Yet, they are facing a high input cost challenge for this perennial plant.

Shan State is the main producer of Myanmar's coffee beans. They are also found in some regions and states. There are over 50,000 coffee plantation acres, with an annual yield of over 10,000 tonnes of coffee beans.

Myanmar's coffee export bagged US\$2.5 million per year, the association stated. — TWA/EM



Two workers are seen harvesting coffee beans.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Increasing rice hoarders cause price high

ONE of the reasons causing rice prices high is the hoarding of rice, U Ye Min Aung, chairman of the Myanmar Rice Federation told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Currently, the transaction of rice and broken rice at Muse rice wholesale is slack and the export via the China-Myanmar border is also coming to a standstill, said the rice merchants of Muse.

These cases occur for various reasons including the increasing prices in local and export earning 65-35 cases and export via sea route from Yangon, said U Ye Min Aung.

“The export volume to China falls a little. But we are still exporting to China. It is very rare to export to Yunnan via the border. There are various reasons for such cases. The main reason is that the price is high locally. It can be due to 65-35 cases. But it is not just for that case. The local prices are on the rise and the local rice prices are high as the number of people who store the products are increasing. The number of hoarders is high as they intend to resell at high prices. It also exports to Guangzhou and other Chinese ports from Yangon via sea. Then, it is also in the rainy season. Normally, I think it can



Rice bags are seen being organized at the warehouse.

be in May, it exports only 50,000 tonnes or 100,000 tonnes in June and July, and about 200,000 tonnes in the rest months and open seasons.

“One of the reasons is the rainy season. The volume is low in June, July and August. The local rice price is high when compared to the same period. The broken rice is exported via the border. The need for broken rice locally is high for the breeding sector as well as the industrial sector. When the broken rice price is high and the country’s need is also on the rise, it cannot be a reasonable

price. Therefore, for such cases, the volume through the border drops. We are figuring out the solution to solve it. The rice is exported quota system and it is rarely exported via border.

“Now, we are discussing with the Yunnan government to be able to export the rice via land borders. Although the volume via sea is falling, the income doesn’t show a decrease in income. We receive high income this year. It is over \$300 or \$400 per tonne this year. There is no change in income although the amount is decreasing. It is between 50,000 tonnes and 100,000

tonnes during these months. We expect to export two million tonnes per year,” he said.

Although the rice price is high in the country, the Chinese offer lower prices and so it does not make good profits. Therefore, the Muse rice merchants do not export rice and broken rice to China via land borders. Moreover, the changes in financial policy also affect some sectors. “As Muse rice wholesaler, the entry of rice and broken rice is very low. The transaction is slack at all. The export volume to China becomes lower and the sales are at a standstill. We face

such a situation in late April. The Muse rice wholesale centre mainly focuses on rice and broken rice and now the operation of the centre is cool.

“The transaction will start in the monsoon paddy season in October. When the financial policy is changed, the licences are not revoked and the Myanmar side can export and China side accept starting 1 March. However, the prices of rice and broken do not make good profits just for the reason of financial policy changes.

“The next one is that the rice and broken rice are out of stock locally. The price is high locally and the China side does not offer a high price. Then, there are changes in financial policy. Although we can trade and the licences are not revoked, the merchants might not export to China as it does not make any profits for them,” U Min Thein, vice-chairman told the GNLM. State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing mentioned the arrangement to ease the 65 per cent and 35 per cent of export earnings during the meeting with business people held at Kanaung Hall of Hlinethaya Industrial Zone on 5 February. — Saya/KTZH

Inferior quality pushes down Myanmar rubber prices in global market

MYANMAR’S rubber is under-priced in the global market owing to inferior quality that does not meet international standards, according to Mon State’s rubber market.

Myanmar’s rubber is priced lower than international market

value as it fails to attract buyers and still cannot be produced to meet international standards, rubber producers stressed.

Only foreign partner companies have received the internationally recognized certificate that they can supply high inter-

national standards of rubber for the buyers. Myanmar’s rubber exporters build trust with those accredited companies to place Myanmar’s rubber in the global market.

The majority of the Myanmar rubber producers are working on a small scale and it is hard to maintain the quality with the raw material variability, rubber producers highlighted.

Furthermore, rubber farmers prioritize the domestic market and supply rubber varieties that are highly demanded locally. They eye short-term investment rather than long-term benefit.

Rubber is an industrial crop so a developing country like Myanmar needs to maintain its global market share. If Myanmar fails to produce rubber

of international standard and meet demand, the global market share for Myanmar’s rubber will shrink for sure.

Myanmar must step up to ramp up production of high-grade rubber, ensure a state of uniformity and enter into long-term contracts to penetrate the global market, rubber processors emphasized.

Seventy per cent of rubber produced in Myanmar goes to China. It is also shipped to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea, India, Japan and other countries.

Myanmar aims to export about 300,000 tonnes of rubber to foreign markets in the current financial year 2023-2024, according to Myanmar Rubber Plant-

ers 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.

Rubber is commonly produced in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions in Myanmar. As per 2018-2019 rubber season data, there are over 1.628 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar, with Mon State accounting for 497,153 acres, followed by Taninthayi Region with 348,344 acres and Kayin State with 270,760 acres.

Myanmar bagged more than US\$449 million in revenue in rubber exports in the financial year 2020-2021. — NN/EM



A worker is seen loading rubber onto the vehicle to transport them to the market.

Emphasize renovation and preservation of cultural heritage in Bagan

RENOVATION and preservation of cultural heritage in Bagan are of paramount importance, considering the historical significance of the region. Bagan boasts over 1,000 years of ancient buildings, making it a World Heritage Region that captures the attention of the international community.

Throughout its history, the Bagan cultural region has endured the impact of natural disasters. Earthquakes of high intensity have repeatedly struck Bagan, causing damage to ancient stupas, temples, and religious edifices. In August 2016, a powerful earthquake shook the region, resulting in the damage of 389 ancient stupas and temples.

More recently, the Bagan region was hit by the severe storm Mocha in May 2023. Heavy rains caused flooding in the precincts of 15 stupas and temples, including Sulamani and Dhammayangyi temples, and resulted in minor damage to 45 ancient buildings. Such natural disasters emphasize the urgent need for the preservation

and protection of Bagan's cultural heritage.

Preserving the ancient cultural heritage in the Bagan World Heritage Site requires the concerted efforts of relevant ministries, local and foreign experts, and concerned departments. Yearly plans, guided by the technical assistance and advice of local and foreign experts, should be implemented to efficiently spend the fund contributed by local and foreign well-wishers on the renovation and preservation of religious edifices, aligning with the year-wise action plans to ensure their long-term sustainability. By emphasizing the preservation of cultural heritage in Bagan, everybody needs to preserve the rich history and architectural wonders of this ancient region for generations to come.

The Department of Archaeology and National Museum has taken responsibility for the maintenance of seven out of eight ancient stupas and temples in the Bagan cultural region. Chinese experts are currently involved in renovating the damaged parts of the wall of Thatbyinnyu Temple. Additionally, authorities have undertaken land preparations at the inundated precinct of Sulamani Temple and repaired drains without causing harm to the valuable cultural heritage.

Preserving the ancient cultural heritage in the Bagan World Heritage Site requires the concerted efforts of relevant ministries, local and foreign experts, and concerned departments. Yearly plans, guided by the technical assistance and advice of local and foreign experts, should be implemented to efficiently spend the fund contributed by local and foreign well-wishers on the renovation and preservation of religious edifices, aligning with the year-wise action plans to ensure their long-term sustainability. By emphasizing the preservation of cultural heritage in Bagan, everybody needs to preserve the rich history and architectural wonders of this ancient region for generations to come.

WASTE management is a critical issue in today's world, and it is essential to find innovative solutions for sustainable waste management. The world is generating an ever-increasing amount of waste, and if we don't take action, we will soon be overwhelmed by it. Let us explore some innovative solutions for sustainable waste management.

Recycling

Recycling is one of the most effective solutions for sustainable waste management. It involves turning waste into new products, which helps to reduce the amount of waste that ends up in landfills. Recycling can help to reduce the need for raw materials, which means that we can conserve natural resources. It also reduces energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, and pollution.

There are many different types of materials that can be recycled, including paper, glass, plastic, and metal. Recycling is an excellent solution for waste management because it is cost-effective, and helps to create a circular economy.

Composting

Composting is another innovative solution for sustainable waste management. It involves breaking down organic waste, such as food waste and yard waste, into nutrient-rich soil. Composting is a natural process that can be done on a small or large scale, and it can be done at home or in industrial settings.

What is more, composting is a sustainable solution for waste management because it reduces the amount of waste that ends up in landfills, and it helps to create healthy soil that can be used for gardening and farming. Composting also reduces greenhouse gas emissions, as organic waste that ends up in landfills releases methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

Waste-to-Energy

Waste-to-energy is an innovative solution for sustainable waste management that involves converting waste into energy. This process can be done through incineration, gasification, or pyrolysis. Waste-to-energy can generate electricity, heat, or fuel, and it can help to reduce the amount of waste that ends up in landfills.

Besides, waste-to-energy is a sustainable solution for waste management because it helps to reduce the need for fossil fuels, and it can generate clean energy. However, waste-to-energy is not without its challenges, as it can be expensive, and it can produce air pollution.

Upcycling

Upcycling is an innovative solution for sustainable waste management that involves turning waste into new products of higher value. Upcycling can be done with many different types of materials, including textiles, plastics, and metals. It involves taking waste that would otherwise be discarded and turning it into something new and useful.

Furthermore, upcycling is a sustainable solution for waste management because it

helps to reduce the amount of waste that ends up in landfills, and it can create new economic opportunities. Upcycling also helps to conserve natural resources, as it reduces the need for new raw materials.

Waste Reduction

Waste reduction is an innovative solution for sustainable waste management that involves reducing the amount of waste that is generated in the first place. This can be done through a variety of strategies, such as reducing packaging, promoting reusable products, and encouraging consumers to buy less.

It is also a sustainable solution for waste management because it helps to reduce the amount of waste that ends up in landfills, and it can help to conserve natural resources. Waste reduction can also save consumers money, as they can save money by buying less and using reusable products.

Zero Waste

Zero waste is an innovative solution for sustainable waste management that involves eliminating waste altogether. Zero waste is a holistic approach that involves reducing waste, reusing products, recycling, and composting. Zero waste aims to create a circular economy in which resources are conserved and waste is eliminated.

Moreover, zero waste is a sustainable solution for sustainable waste management because it reduces the amount of waste generated, promotes a circular economy, conserves natural resources, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and leads to cost savings for businesses and individuals. This approach to waste management is critical for achieving long-term sustainability and mitigating the negative impacts of waste on the environment and human health.

In addition to the issues mentioned above, there's more to sustainable waste management than recycling. It's about focusing on the entire life cycle of products: minimizing the amount of waste and keeping as many materials as possible in the resource loop. Ultimately, sustainable waste management aims to reduce the negative impacts of our modern consumption.

In recent years, efforts to shift from a linear to a circular economy have become an integrated aspect of our waste services. A circular economy is a system without waste (or with very minimal waste). In other words, waste becomes a resource – just like it does in nature. And this circularity is essential for building future-proof waste services.

Here, we'll dive into the realm of sustainable waste, including the waste hierarchy and different ways you can transition to greener waste management.

The waste hierarchy ranks waste management strategies and options according to what is best for the environment. The system

prioritizes ways to use resources efficiently. It emphasizes the least wasteful practices at the top of the pyramid, while the last resort options of disposal and treatment are listed at the bottom.



Prevention

Rethinking and redesigning products is top of the waste hierarchy. We can prevent waste from occurring at the source by using fewer materials in the design and manufacturing process. It's also important to use products for longer and use less hazardous materials.

For example, cutting out single-use products and minimizing packaging are key steps to preventing and reducing waste.

Reuse

This involves checking, cleaning, repairing, and/or refurbishing entire items or spare parts.

This also includes education about how to reuse waste products. Reusing is preferred to recycling or other options lower down the hierarchy because it doesn't involve processing new materials or using new resources.

Reusing waste products can be as simple as having shoes repaired, donating clothes to charity, or getting creative with food leftovers.

Recycling

Recycling takes waste materials out of the cycle. It turns them into usable materials so we can create new products. Recycling requires energy, money, and resources. But it does negate some of the adverse impacts of waste disposal because it keeps materials in the loop.

According to an explanation presented, the process consists of many stages, including:

- Separation
- Collection
- Sorting at a treatment facility
- Producing recycled raw materials at a factory
- Using the materials to create new products

Recovery

This stage involves converting waste into energy, such as fuel, electricity, and heat. There are a range of different types of energy recovery, including:

- Combustion (incineration)

- Gasification (a process that converts biowaste into fuel gas)
- Anaerobic digestion (the bacterial breakdown of organic matter that generates biogas)
- Landfill gas recovery (the process of collecting methane gas from solid waste in landfill sites)

Combustion

Also known as “confined and controlled burning”, combustion recovers energy from the waste-burning process and generates a renewable energy source. It also helps reduce carbon emissions, as it decreases the amount of waste going to landfill. This offsets the need for energy from fossil fuels.

Mass burning or incineration is an example of combustion technology. Here, waste is burned at very high temperatures in special facilities. This creates energy for electricity and heating, as well as for the process itself. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the country currently has 75 combustion facilities, located in 25 states. While in Denmark, bioenergy is “The most



Turning municipal solid waste into energy through the waste-to-energy process is one of the popular strategies of solving the rise of generated waste. A waste-to-energy plant in Suzhou, People's Republic of China has helped create better living conditions in the city. **PHOTO: CHINA EVERBRIGHT ENVIRONMENTAL ENERGY LIMITED**

widely used renewable energy source.”

Disposal

The final step of the waste hierarchy is disposal. This means sending waste to landfill or incineration without energy recovery. This is inevitable for some waste. But we can take steps to avoid it by implementing more sustainable waste practices and methods.

Making Your Waste Management More Sustainable

Data-driven solutions are the key to sustainability. Why? Because it provides deep insights and an objective foundation for all of your operational decisions. After all, you can only manage what you can measure.

What is a Data-Driven Waste Management Solution?

A smart waste management solution uses smart sensors and data to optimize the way you deal with waste. Smart sensors monitor the fill levels of bins and provide you with digital updates on waste generation behaviour.

This empowers you to only service bins when they are full, instead of wasting resources on empty collection services or using more resources to take care of overflowing bins. All of the data collected enables you to improve operations. So, you will not only become more efficient and transparent, but also more sustainable.

Carbon-Efficient Waste, Recycling, and Reuse Collections

A data-driven waste management system provides you with full transparency of your col-

By Yin Nwe Ko

based on data can completely change this. It means that waste collectors can prioritize their collections and skip the empty bins. This can result in significant savings in terms of driving distance, fuel, and carbon emissions – all contributing to more carbon-efficient waste, recycling, and reuse collections. And you'll be able to see your saved mileage and carbon emissions in your dashboard.

Increasing Recycling Rates

Getting people involved in recycling is no easy feat. The key is to make sorting trash convenient. And data can be a very useful tool for this. A data-driven waste solution enables you to measure and understand recycling behaviour. You can use the data to gain an overview of how people are using their recycling bins. And you can utilize the information to improve bin capacities, locations, and service times. All in an effort to make recycling easier for the end user. After all, the more bins in easy and convenient locations, the more people will recycle.

Get Started with Sustainable Waste Management

More sustainable waste management starts with data. These digital insights can accelerate your journey towards more environmentally friendly waste services, keeping them at the top of the waste hierarchy. It empowers you to not only measure your operations but also manage your efficiency and sustainability.

Reference: <https://nordsense.com>

SCI/TECH WORLD

India shoots for the moon with latest rocket launch

INDIA on Friday launches its latest attempt at an unmanned moon landing, the next frontier of a burgeoning, cut-price aerospace programme rapidly closing in on the milestones set by global superpowers.

If successful, the mission would make the world's most populous nation only the fourth country after Russia, the United States and China to achieve a controlled landing on the lunar surface.

The latest iteration of the Chandrayaan ("Mooncraft") programme comes four years after an earlier attempt ended in failure, with ground crew losing contact moments before landing.

This time around, there is optimism that the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)



Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) completes the 'launch rehearsal' for Chandrayaan-3, which will be launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, on 14 July. **PHOTO: ANI**

will succeed, as it sets its sights on a future manned lunar mis-

sion.

"We're sure this one will be

successful and will bring pride and recognition to everybody

who has worked for it," Anil G. Verma of Godrej & Boyce, ISRO's principal engine and components supplier, told AFP.

The 14-day mission comes with a price tag of \$74.6 million, according to media reports, and aims to successfully land a rover to explore the lunar surface.

A huge crowd is expected to attend the launch, scheduled for 2:35 pm local time (0905 GMT) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre north of Chennai.

"I am very happy and hopeful," K. Sivan, the ISRO chief during India's last lunar landing attempt, told AFP.

India's space programme has grown considerably in size and momentum since it first sent a probe to orbit the moon in 2008. — AFP

Canadian lake ground-zero for Anthropocene epoch



Professor Patterson collects sediment samples from the bottom of Crawford Lake near Milton, Ontario. **PHOTO: AFP**

SCIENTISTS on Tuesday designated a small body of water near Toronto, Canada as ground-zero for the Anthropocene, the pro-

posed geological epoch defined by humanity's massive and destabilising impact on the planet. Layered sediment at the

bottom of Lake Crawford — laced with microplastics, fly-ash spread by burning oil and coal, and the detritus of nuclear bomb explosions — is the single best repository of evidence that a new, and challenging, chapter in Earth's history has begun, members of the Anthropocene Working Group concluded.

"The data show a clear shift from the mid-20th century, taking Earth's system beyond the normal bounds of the Holocene", the epoch that began 11,700 years ago as the last ice age ended, working group member Andy Cundy, a professor at the University of Southampton, told AFP. — AFP

Visitors flock to Iceland's recently erupted volcano

DESPITE warnings to stay away from Iceland's latest volcanic eruption near Reykjavik, a group of curious visitors told AFP they couldn't resist the lure of lava that is "orange like the sun".

While volcanologists say the eruption remains "low intensity" for now, initial estimates

indicate that its flow is significantly more powerful than the two previous eruptions in 2021 and 2022 on the Reykjanes peninsula. "When the wind is coming in this direction, it's not so hot... it's warm like a campfire," said Niall Lynch, a 23-year-old Irish guide AFP met in front of the fresh lava flows next to the

small peak of Litli Hrutur.

But on the other side of the fissure, the gas released by the eruption makes the area "unbearably hot".

"It's much too hot to stay there for any extended amount of time. I mean it's like 1,000 degrees Celsius (1,800 degrees Fahrenheit)," he added. — AFP

Dinosaur bones evoking Loch Ness monster to be auctioned: Sotheby's

TWO mounted dinosaur skeletons — one a fierce flying reptile of the kind seen in the "Jurassic Park" movies and the other evocative of the Loch Ness monster — will be auctioned off this month in New York, Sotheby's said Tuesday.

The latter, called Nessie after the legendary elusive beast plying the depths of a Scottish lake, is estimated to draw between \$600,000 (543,840 Euro) and \$800,000 (725,120), Sotheby's said. A kind of dinosaur called a plesiosaur, it was last auctioned in Paris in 2010 and at the time had come from a private museum in Germany.

The remains, which are nearly 11 feet (3.4 metres) long,

were found in a quarry in England in 1990. The skeleton is about 75 per cent complete and in exceptional condition, said Cassandra Hotton, Sotheby's head of Science and Popular Culture.

With its small head, long neck and flippers, the plesiosaur lived in the Lower Jurassic period about 190 million years ago. "The history of the Plesiosaur is also intertwined with the elusive Loch Ness monster of Scottish folklore, as many have drawn morphological comparisons between the Plesiosaur and the infamous 'Nessie,' whose sightings stretch back to the sixth century," Sotheby's said in a news release. — AFP



The mounted skeleton of a dinosaur called a plesiosaur is seen on display on 10 July 2023 at Sotheby's in New York. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ex-Japanese teacher tackles desertification in China’s Inner Mongolia



Japanese volunteers and local residents plant trees together in the Mu Us Desert in China’s Inner Mongolia in October 2009. **PHOTO: TAKESHI SAKAMOTO /KYODO**

A Japanese entrepreneur who once taught in a school in China’s Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region has spent the past two decades helping local people tackle the problem of desertification through greening projects, aiming to give something back to a place he considers his “second home”. Takeshi Sakamoto, 57, decided to make greening his life’s work after hearing that the home of a former student had become engulfed by sand in the northern China region, already home to several major deserts and grass-

lands that supported once-prevalent nomadic lifestyles. Another reason was the impact of the traveling sand further afield. “I’ve learned that sand and dust stirred up (in Inner Mongolia) have reached Japan and become an environmental problem concerning our country. That awareness made me think this was a task I should tackle,” he said. Sakamoto, who taught at a local high school in the early 1990s as a Japan International Cooperation Agency volunteer, has so far succeeded in green-

ing a sanded area of about 700 hectares — the size of 150 baseball stadiums — in the Inner Mongolia city of Ordos, some 600 kilometres west of Beijing, working with local people including his former ethnic Mongolian students. The teacher-turned-entrepreneur, now based back in Japan in the country’s southwestern Saga Prefecture, helps fund his activities with the proceeds of a business he runs in Japan selling rock salt mined at an Inner Mongolia lake. Pitching the product to Japanese customers under the slogan “Salt That Becomes Trees”, he diverts some 10 per cent of sales revenue to his desert reforestation efforts. Local people traditionally engaged in nomadic herding but by the time Sakamoto was dispatched to Ordos as a JICA volunteer, most herdsmen had abandoned the nomadic life, he said. “Desertification accelerated in the 1990s with decreasing rainfall caused by climate change, the cutting down of trees, and the keeping of too many sheep and goats that eat grass for the lucrative cashmere business,” Sakamoto explained. — Kyodo

Mexican volcano crater home to ‘unique’ football pitch

A volcano crater is not an obvious venue for a football match, but that’s where a referee blows the whistle for kick-off each weekend on the outskirts of Mexico City. “It’s a unique pitch,” said 32-year-old player Adrian Garcia, a graphic designer by profession. “It’s very nice to come here to distract yourself, to relax, with friends and family,” he added. The inactive Teoca volcano rises around 2,700 metres (roughly 8,900 feet) above

sea level in the district of Xochimilco, a green lung in the southeast of the sprawling megacity. About 10 teams belonging to an amateur league play in its crater on weekends. The area was once a ceremonial centre, but after falling into disuse, it was transformed into a football venue. “The pitch must be about 70 years old,” said league representative Joel Becerril. “They used to carry me up here when I was a child,” he added. — AFP



About 10 teams play football on weekends in the crater of the inactive Teoca volcano on the outskirts of Mexico City. **PHOTO: AFP**

Study look into behaviour patterns of people who achieve weight loss clinically

A recent study that looked at information on more than 20,000 American adults found that eating better and exercising more leads to weight loss that lowers the risk of heart disease, but that skipping meals and taking diet pills leads to only little weight loss, weight stabilization, or weight gain. The research was published recently in the Journal of the American Heart Association. However, the findings of the study indicated that many of the study sample did not have their risk factors for cardiovascular disease eliminated even after dropping a “clinically significant” 5 per cent of their body weight. In actuality, regardless



A recent study analyzed data from over 20,000 American adults to investigate the relationship between lifestyle factors, weight loss, and heart disease risk. **PHOTO: MANAN VATSYAYANA/AFP**

of reported weight changes, either up or down, the average composite score on eight heart disease risk factors was the same across the whole study sample. — ANI

France to pay bonus for shoe, clothes repairs to cut waste

FROM October, France will pay a bonus to encourage people to have their clothes and shoes repaired rather than throwing them away, the government said. The move aims to cut down on the 700,000 tonnes of clothes thrown away by French people each year, two-thirds of which ends up in landfills. “From October, consumers will be able to be supported in the repair of their clothes and shoes,” secretary of state for ecology Berangere Couillard said Tuesday during a visit to the Paris premises of La Caserne, a hub for responsible fashion. She invited “all sewing workshops and shoemakers to

join the system”, to be labelled by eco-organization Refashion. Under the scheme, customers will be able to claim seven euros (\$7.7) for mending a heel and 10-25 euros for clothing repairs from a 154 million euro fund set up to cover 2023-2028. In France, 3.3 billion pieces of clothing, shoes and household linen were put on the market in 2022, according to Refashion, which has been instructed by the government to support a more sustainable industry. “The goal is to support those who do the repairs,” Couillard said, referring to sewing workshops but also those brands which offer repair services. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Gripes in Grimsby over Brexit fishing failure

GRIMSBY, perched on the southern side of the River Humber, near Kingston-upon-Hull in northern England, was built on the fishing industry.

Some 70 per cent of people in the town voted for Brexit, hoping that the UK's departure from the European Union would boost its flagging fortunes.

But seven years on from the landmark referendum, those who banked on a turnaround are disappointed, while those who feared it are not taking it lying down.

At 7:00 am, the auction at Grimsby's wholesale fish mar-

ket in the heart of the town's vast docks is in full swing.

"We have mackerel. 1.5 (pounds) a kilo? 1.7? 1.8? 1.9?" shouts the auctioneer.

For an island nation, fishing is surprisingly small fry, accounting for just 0.03 per cent of the British economy. But it still stirs passions.

Then-prime minister Boris Johnson visited the wholesale fish market on the 2019 general election campaign trail, in which he vowed repeatedly to "Get Brexit Done" as divorce negotiations continued three years after the referendum.

Johnson had also said that leaving the EU would bring a "massive boost" to the local fishing industry.

Indeed many of the current traders gathered under the market's strip lighting voted "Leave", hoping it would end European quotas and competition.

But Patrick Salmon, owner of a craft smokehouse, said that hasn't happened.

"The French and the Spanish come to the UK, fish our fish, and then they take it home, process it and sell it back to us," he told AFP. — AFP



In the mid-20th century, Grimsby was one of the world's leading fishing ports, until the fleets of trawlers began to disappear in the 1970s.

PHOTO: AFP

N Zealand holds rates, says inflation to fall further



This is New Zealand's first recession since 2020, when the pandemic shuttered borders and choked exports.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

NEW Zealand's central bank left its key interest rate unchanged Wednesday and said it expected inflation to ease further in coming months.

The decision to keep the official cash rate at 5.5 per cent comes after government figures

in June showed the economy had tipped into recession.

The Reserve Bank of New Zealand said interest rates were "constraining spending and inflation pressure as anticipated and required". The freeze will come as a relief to the country's

mortgage holders, who have seen their monthly repayments rise rapidly over the past year.

Rates would need to "remain at a restrictive level for the foreseeable future" to return inflation to the 1-3 per-cent target, the bank added. — AFP

Bank of America ordered to pay \$250 mln for consumer violations

US regulators ordered Bank of America to pay \$250 million in fines and restitution for unfair fees and other banking violations that harmed consumers, authorities said Tuesday.

Bank of America "double-dipped" on fees on customers for holding insufficient funds, repeatedly charging them a \$35 penalty for the same transaction, said the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

The US bank also withheld promised cash and points to consumers who signed up for credit cards, the CFPB said.

In a third violation listed by the agency, Bank of America employees illegally applied for and enrolled consumers in credit card accounts without the consumer's knowledge; these actions were tied to "now disbanded sales-based

incentive goals and evaluation criteria," the CFPB said.

"Bank of America wrongfully withheld credit card rewards, double-dipped on fees, and opened accounts without consent," said CFPB Director Rohit Chopra.

"These practices are illegal and undermine customer trust. The CFPB will be putting an end to these practices across the banking system."

Under the orders, Bank of America will pay \$90 million in penalties to the CFPB, \$60 million in fines to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and \$100 million in customer restitution.

Bank of America eliminated non-sufficient fund fees in the first half of 2022 and reduced overdraft fees from \$35 to \$10. — AFP



Regulators ordered \$250 million in fines and restitution from Bank of America over violations of banking consumers. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

France riot damage racks up \$700 mln insurance bill: industry body

DAMAGE from riots sparked by the police killing of a teenager in France has resulted in a \$715 million insurance bill, an industry body said Tuesday.

The government battled days of unrest after a police officer shot dead 17-year-old Nahel M. during a traffic stop in a Paris suburb on 27 June.

Nahel had Algerian roots, and the killing rekindled long-standing accusations of systemic racism in France. — AFP

China’s summer box office tops 7 bln yuan

CHINA’S box office revenue for the summer movie season, which runs from 1 June to 31 August , has exceeded seven billion

yuan (about 975 million US dollars) as of Wednesday. Data from box office tracker Maoyan shows that the country’s total summer

box office earnings had amounted to 7.4 billion yuan thus far. The total revenue generated during the three-month period in 2022 and 2021 was 9.14 billion yuan and 7.38 billion yuan, respectively. Currently, the top two spots on China’s summer box office chart belong to the Chinese suspense crime film “Lost in the Stars” and drama film “Never Say Never”, also known as “Octagonal”, with respective earnings of 3.18 billion yuan and 1.04 billion yuan to date. — Xinhua



Moviegoers enter a cinema in Shanghai on 5 April, 2023. PHOTO: VCG/CHINA DAILY

‘Meta loses more’: Zuckerberg takes Threads fight to EU

US tech titan Mark Zuckerberg has plunged into a high-stakes game of brinkmanship with the European Union by withholding his new Threads app from users in Europe, but analysts say he will struggle to win the fight.

Threads, billed as the killer of Twitter, a platform that has tumbled into chaos under the leadership of mercurial tycoon Elon Musk, has added more than 100 million users in its first week in app stores.

But Zuckerberg’s firm Meta said it could not be released in Europe because of “regulatory uncertainty” around

the Digital Markets Act, an antitrust regulation that will not come into force until next year. — AFP



Facebook behemoth Meta officially will launch Threads, its text-based rival to Twitter. PHOTO: AFP

Polluting firms to face unlimited fines: UK govt



An aerial view shows the Thames Water Long Reach water treatment facility on the banks of the Thames estuary in Dartford, east of London, on 3 March 2023. PHOTO: AFP

POLLUTING companies will be liable for unlimited fines as a result of a UK government decision to lift the current £250,000 (\$320,000) ceiling on penalties.

The decision will allow environmental regulators to impose large penalties without having to go through lengthy criminal prosecutions.

Environment Secre-

tary Therese Coffey announced plans to allow unlimited fines for polluting water companies in April, a policy that has now been expanded to include others from energy firms to waste operators.

“Polluters must always pay. We are scrapping the cap on civil penalties and significantly broadening their scope to target a much wider range of of-

fences — from breaches of storm overflow permits to the reckless disposal of hazardous waste,” Coffey said in a statement on Tuesday.

“It builds on action being taken right across Government to stand up for our environment — tackling pollution, protecting delicate ecosystems and enhancing nature,” she added. — AFP

German investor mood sours in July

GERMAN investor confidence slipped in July, a key survey showed Tuesday, adding to fears of a deeper downturn in Europe’s biggest economy.

After a slight rebound in June, the ZEW institute’s economic ex-

pectations index shed 6.2 points to reach minus 14.7 points.

The reading was worse than analysts had expected, with experts at financial data firm FactSet having pencilled in minus 10 points. A nega-

tive reading means most investors are pessimistic.

ZEW president Achim Wambach said in a statement the survey was “shifting even more noticeably into negative territory”. — AFP

<div>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE</div> <div>M.V CHERRY VOY.NO. (206N/S)</div> <div>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CHERRY VOY. NO. (206N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-7-2023 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.</div> <div>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.</div> <div>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.</div> <div>Phone No: 2301185</div> <div>Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</div> <div>Agent For:</div> <div>M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES</div>	<div>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE</div> <div>M.V ITALIDA VOY.NO. (103995)</div> <div>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ITALIDA VOY. NO. (103995) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-7-2023 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIPL where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</div> <div>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.</div> <div>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.</div> <div>Phone No: 2301928</div> <div>Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</div> <div>Agent For:</div> <div>M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO LTD</div>	<div>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE</div> <div>M.V TAOKAS WISDOM VOY.NO. (135)</div> <div>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TAOKAS WISDOM VOY.NO. (135) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-7-2023 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of IBTT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</div> <div>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.</div> <div>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.</div> <div>Phone No: 2301928</div> <div>Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</div> <div>Agent For:</div> <div>M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S’PORE) PTE LTD</div>
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ROLLING UPDATES

ASIA

Thai election body recommends PM frontrunner’s suspension

THAI election chiefs on Wednesday asked the country’s top court to suspend Pita Limjaroenrat, the frontrunner in the race to become prime minister, over allegations he broke campaign rules as an MP.

The recommendation is the latest hurdle thrown into the path of the progressive candidate, whose Move Forward Party (MFP) scored the most votes in May’s election by tapping into Thais’ appetite for change.

The Election Commission’s referral to the Constitutional Court was announced just a day before parliament was due to vote on a new premier.

While popular among voters, Pita’s bid for the premiership faces stiff opposition over his plans to amend Thailand’s royal defamation laws, which protect King Maha Vajiralongkorn and his family. Following the commission’s announcement, MFP



The recommendation is the latest hurdle thrown into the path of the progressive candidate, whose Move Forward Party (MFP) scored the most votes in May’s election by tapping into Thais’ appetite for change. **PHOTO: AFP**

secretary-general Chaithawat Tulathon said the party still wanted the vote to go ahead. “Tomorrow is a day of cross-roads to see if we will continue to disregard the people’s politics,

or a chance to return to normal democracy and move Thailand forward,” he said.

“I believe people will not accept it any more.”

Pita told reporters at parliament after the announcement that he was in “good spirits”, adding that “the process tomorrow continues as planned”.

The kingdom has endured a dozen coups in the past century, with political instability a regular danger and progressive movements often abruptly curtailed.

May’s election was the first since huge pro-democracy demonstrations swept the capital Bangkok in 2020, with tens of thousands making unprecedented calls for reform to the royal defamation laws. The EC’s investigation into Pita centred on his ownership of shares in a now-defunct media company. Legislators are not allowed to own media shares. — AFP

Japan named 2024 chair of OECD ministerial council



The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an intergovernmental organization with 38 Member countries, founded in 1961 to stimulate economic progress and world trade. **PHOTO: OECD**

JAPAN will chair the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development’s ministerial council next year, the country’s

Foreign Ministry said Wednesday following a decision the same day by the Paris-based organization.

The selection means Japan will assume the chairmanship of the OECD’s top decision-making body for a third time, 10 years after its most recent chairmanship in 2014. Japan announced its candidacy at the June meeting of the council, as 2024 will mark 60 years since it joined the organization in 1964.

The ministerial council typically meets annually in Paris in May or June, and is attended by leaders and top government ministers from member countries. — Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

North Korea fires long-range ballistic missile

NORTH Korea has fired a long-range ballistic missile, the South Korean military said Wednesday, days after Pyongyang threatened to down US spy planes that violated its airspace.

Relations between the two Koreas are at one of their lowest points ever, with diplomacy stalled and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un calling for increased weapons development, including tactical nukes.

In response, Seoul and Washington have ramped up security cooperation, vowing that Pyongyang would face a nuclear response and the “end” of its current government were it to ever use its nuclear weapons against the allies.

South Korea’s military said it had detected the launch of a long-range ballistic missile fired from the Pyongyang area around 10 am (0100 GMT). “The ballistic missile was fired on a lofted trajectory and flew 1,000 kilometres (620 miles) before splashing down in the East Sea,” the Joint Chiefs of Staff said, referring to the body of water also known as the Sea of Japan. — AFP

South Korea welcomes birth of first giant panda twins

A South Korean zoo has announced the birth of two giant panda twins — the first to be born in the country — triggering an outpouring of excitement online.

The female twins were born at the Everland theme park near the capital Seoul on Friday, the zoo revealed in a video posted on its YouTube channel.

The video, uploaded Tuesday, shows the mother, Ai Bao, in labour, rolling around her cage before giving birth to two tiny panda cubs. The first twin weighed 180 grammes and the second 140 grammes, the zoo said.

“Both the mother and the twin pandas are in good health,” a representative from the zoo said in a statement.

“Ai Bao is taking good care of her cubs, putting her experience with Fu Bao to use.” — AFP

A South Korean zoo, located at the Everland theme park near Seoul, has proudly announced the birth of twin giant pandas, marking the first time such an event has occurred in the country. **PHOTO: HANDOUT/AFP**



Uncle investigated in missing Vatican teen case: report



Emanuela Orlandi, the 15-year-old daughter of a Vatican employee, was last seen leaving a music class in Rome on 22 June 1983. PHOTO: AFP

ROME prosecutors investigating the disappearance of a teenager 40 years ago are looking afresh at the possible involvement of her uncle following information supplied by the Vatican, Italian media reported Tuesday — a move relatives rejected as a diversionary tactic.

Emanuela Orlandi, the 15-year-old daughter of a Vatican employee, was last seen leaving a music class in Rome on 22 June 1983.

Decades of speculation followed over what happened to her, with suggestions that mobsters, the secret services or a Vatican conspiracy were to blame, theories which sparked a hit Netflix series.

The Vatican has been accused of obstructing investigation efforts over the decades, but

eventually launched an inquiry into its most famous cold case in January. Rome prosecutors in May then opened their own fresh probe — the third so far.

The Vatican recently passed its case files to Rome, saying they included “some lines of inquiry worthy of further investigation”.

Those include a letter in which a priest told the Vatican’s then secretary of state that Orlandi’s older sister Natalina had revealed during confession that her uncle, Mario Meneguzzi, had sexually abused her, Italian television channel La 7 said Monday.

Orlandi’s brother Pietro, who has for years campaigned for the truth and believes the Vatican knows what happened to Emanuela, reacted angrily to the La 7 report. — AFP

‘Extremely angry’ BBC star in sex pictures scandal faces new claims

ALLEGATIONS mushroomed Wednesday against a star BBC presenter accused of paying a teenager for sexually explicit pictures, as three more people came forward with complaints.

Fellow BBC star Jeremy Vine urged the presenter to publicly identify himself to prevent further reputational damage to the broadcaster and false accusations against others.

“I know his survival instinct has kicked in... but my God look at the damage to the BBC, look at the damage to his friends, to those falsely accused — and the longer he leaves it the worse it will be for him,” the radio show host said Wednesday on a television show he hosts for another channel.

Former BBC North Ameri-



The scandal has now been frontpage news and the lead story on radio and television news bulletins for six successive days. PHOTO: AFP

ca editor Jon Sopel, meanwhile, described the star at the centre of the scandal as “extremely angry” over how the story had unfolded. “It is fair to say that the presenter at the heart of this

is also extremely angry over a lot of The Sun coverage and is convinced they’re trying to dig and find new dirt,” Sopel said on LBC Radio’s The News Agents podcast. — AFP

Kenya police fire tear gas as protesters defy ban

KENYAN officers on Wednesday fired tear gas on protesters who defied a police ban to join a demonstration against tax hikes called by opposition leader Raila Odinga. Shops were shut and security was tight in the capital Nairobi, where police deployed tear gas against stone-throwing demonstrators in the slum of Mathare. Tear gas was also used to disperse crowds in the port city of Mombasa.

The clashes followed rallies in several cities last week that turned deadly. Six people were killed according to the interior ministry, and rights cam-

paigners accused police of being heavy-handed.

On the eve of Wednesday’s protests, the country’s police chief warned opposition supporters from holding “illegal demonstrations”, saying that organizers had not provided the authorities with any “notifications” about their planned rallies this week. “In this regard, no such demonstrations/gatherings/protests will be allowed tomorrow... All lawful means will be used to disperse such demonstrations,” Inspector-General of Police Japhet Koome said in a statement. — AFP



Tax demo: A police officer firing tear gas to disperse protesters in Nairobi. PHOTO: AFP

Lavrov says no end to Ukraine war until West stops trying to defeat Russia

THE war in Ukraine will not end until the West stops trying to defeat Moscow, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said in an interview with Indonesian media on Wednesday.

His comments came ahead of Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky’s symbolic talks with NATO leaders at their summit in Lithuania on Wednesday.

In an interview with the Indonesian newspaper

Kompas ahead of meetings with his Southeast Asian counterparts in Jakarta this week, Lavrov lambasted the United States and its allies for supporting Ukraine. “It will continue until the West abandons its plans to maintain dominance and its obsession with inflicting a strategic defeat on Russia through the hands of its puppet, Kyiv,” he said of the Ukraine conflict. — AFP

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SPORT



PHOTOS: UTHAI THANI FC

Thai club Uthai Thani signs two Myanmar forward players

UTHAI Thani FC, which has qualified for the 2023-2024 season in the Thai League-1, has signed two Myanmar national team strikers: Aung Thu and Aung Kaung Mann.

Official news was released on 12 July that Aung Kaung Mann was recruited again after the signing of striker Aung Thu.

Aung Thu moved to Uthai Thani FC after his contract with former club

Lamphun Warria expired.

Aung Kaung Mann moved to Thai League-1 club Chon Buri in the half of last season, and in the second round, he was loaned to Thai League-2 club Customs United.

Aung Kaung Mann, who has completed his loan deal, has rejoined the Chonburi club but made a sudden move to Uthai Thani FC despite being allowed to play in the club for the

pre-season games.

Aung Thu has been playing in Thai clubs since 2018, including Police Tero FC, Myung Taung United, Buriram United and Lamphun Warria before moving to Uthai Thani as his fifth team.

Aung Kaung Mann began moving to overseas clubs in 2020, playing for clubs in Thailand and Malaysia. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Messi lands in Florida ahead of Inter Miami move

ARGENTINE star Lionel Messi landed in Florida on Tuesday ahead of putting the final touches on his move to US Major League Soccer club Inter Miami.

Argentine television footage showed Messi, with members of his family, walking off a private jet at a small, executive airport adjacent to Inter Miami's stadium in Fort Lauderdale.

The World Cup winner is expected to put pen to paper on a two and a half year deal, reported to be worth \$60 million a year, before being presented to fans at a stadium event on

Sunday.

"We are happy with the decision we made. Prepared and eager to face the new challenge, the new change," Messi said in an interview with Argentine TV show, Llave a la eternidad, released on Tuesday.

"My mentality and my head are not going to change and I am going to try, wherever I have to be, to give my best for myself and my new club and continue to perform at the highest level," he added.

Messi is the biggest

name to ever move to MLS and the greatest player to head to the United States since Brazilian great Pele signed for the New York Cosmos in 1975.

MLS hope that Messi will massively increase the profile of the league and boost subscriptions to their streaming broadcast deal with Apple TV. Ticket prices for games likely to involve Messi have already sky-rocketed.

Fans had begun to gather at the club's DRV PNK stadium early in the morning ahead of his expected arrival. — AFP



Fans of Argentina's Lionel Messi wait for his arrival at the DRV PNK Stadium in Fort Lauderdale, Florida on 11 July 2023. PHOTO: AFP

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

- 1. Political affairs**
- (a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
 - (b) To prioritize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
 - (c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active, and non-aligned foreign policy.
 - (d) To ensure peace, stability, rule of law, and the safe and smooth functioning of transport networks across the Union.
- 2. Economic affairs**
- (a) To enhance development based on agriculture and livestock using modern production techniques and to strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
 - (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
 - (c) To assure support for the sustainability of Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) that prioritize import substitution, export production, and the use of domestically produced raw materials, in order to increase domestic production and generate employment opportunities.
 - (d) To advance the socioeconomic life of the people, in order to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.
- 3. Social affairs**
- (a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
 - (b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National people and preserve and safeguard their faiths, beliefs, culture, and characteristics of patriotic nationalism.
 - (c) To strengthen basic health care in order to achieve the emergence of a health system that enhances the longevity and health of the entire nation.
 - (d) To comprehensively promote the education sector to make it capable of producing the human resources necessary for building a modern, developed, and progressive democratic nation.