BOOST PRODUCTION FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS: A TRIPLE EFFORT

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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People pay tributes to martyr leaders

Families of martyr leaders lay wreaths at mausoleum in memory of martyr leaders

The 76th Anniversary of Martyrs' Day in progress yesterday in Yangon, attended by family members of martyr leaders, SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister MoTC Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San, SAC members, Union-level officials and attendees among others (above and below photos).

THE 76th Anniversary of Martyrs' Day was marked at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Bahan Township of Yangon Region yesterday morning, and U Aung San Oo, the elder son of martyr national leader General Aung San, and families of other martyr leaders as well as representatives laid wreaths at the mausoleum to pay their tributes to those leaders and dispersed Metta.

Similarly, SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San, SAC members Mahn Nyein Maung and Dr Hmu Thang, Union-level officials and attendees laid the wreath of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the Martyrs' Mausoleum to pay their tributes.

Just then, the flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was lowered

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Merit shared for martyr leaders on 76th Martyrs' Day in Nay Pyi Taw

ON the 76th Martyrs' Day, a donation ceremony was held at the Nay Pyi Taw Council Office yesterday morning and merit was shared for the leaders who sacrificed their lives for the country.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Tin Oo Lwin, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Wai Lin and officials received the Five Precepts from Presiding Patron Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Vimala Bodhi of Mingala Zeyon Pali Takkatho monastery.

Then, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and officials donated offerings to Sayadaws and monks and shared merits gained dedicating to fallen leaders after listening to the sermons recited by Presiding Patron Sayadaw of Thukha Vihara Thayetgon monastery of Pyinmana Dr Bhaddanta Muni Kumara.

After the ceremony, they donated a day meal to Sayadaws and monks. — MNA/KTZH

The commemoration and donation ceremony in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

18 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 19 July, total figure registers 640,930

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to **640,930** after **18** new cases were reported on 19 July 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of **10,967,964** laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached **640,930**. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **619,727** including **14** new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered **19,494** on 19-7-2023 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

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

Families of martyr leaders lay wreaths at the mausoleum in memory of martyr leaders

FROM PAGE-1

to half-mast and the Guard of Honour and the bugle troops observed a two-minute silence.

On the occasion, the Yangon Region government, representatives of political parties, heads and charges d'affaires ai of foreign embassies to Myanmar also laid wreaths at the mausoleum for paying their tributes.

As part of paying their tributes to martyr leader General Aung San and other martyr leaders, various associations and organizations laid wreaths at the mausoleum.

People from all walks of life and members of the Sangha paid tributes to those leaders in a queue under the health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health.

People from the whole country hoisted the Union flag at half-mast, and MRTV sounded a siren in memory of the martyrs at 10:37 am.

Many people visited the Martyrs' Mausoleum, the Bogyoke Museum and the Secretariat (former Ministers' Office) yesterday. — MNA/TTA

U Aung San Oo, son of General Aung San pays tribute at the mausoleum.

Family members pay tribute to Thakin Mya.

A family member pays tribute to Deedok U Ba Cho.

A family member lays wreaths to pay tribute to U Ba Win.

Family members pay tribute to Mahn Ba Khaing.

Family members pay tribute to Mahn Ba Khaing.

Families of martyr leaders lay wreaths at the mausoleum in memory of martyr leaders

Family members lay wreaths to pay tribute to Mongpon Sawbwa Sao San Tun.

Family members lay wreaths to pay tribute to U Razak.

Family members pay tribute to U Ohn Maung.

Family members pay tribute to Yebaw Ko Htwe.

The diplomat pays tribute at the mausoleum.

Admiral Tin Aung San warmly greets family members of martyr leaders.

People pay tribute at the mausoleum in Yangon yesterday.

Merit shared for martyr leaders on 76th Martyrs' Day at Yangon City Hall

ON the 76th Martyrs' Day, a merit-sharing ceremony for the leaders who sacrificed their lives for the country was held at the meeting room of the Yangon City Hall yesterday morning.

First, all those present on the occasion took the Five Precepts from State Sangha Maha Nayaka Vice-Chairperson Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Masoeyein Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kasara Bhivamsa and listened to the Sayadaws and Sanghas reciting Paritta.

Afterwards, the guests offered a day meal and donated offerings to the Sayadaws and Sanghas and listened to the sermon from Masoeyein Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kasara Bhivamsa followed by sharing merit to the martyrs. — MNA/MKKS

The commemoration and donation event in progress yesterday in Yangon.

National Flag lowered to half-mast at Secretariat to mark 76th Martyrs' Day

The ceremony to lower the State Flag to half-mast in progress yesterday in Yangon.

A ceremony of lowering the State Flag to half-mast was held at the Secretariat (former Ministers' Office) where General Aung San and leaders were assassinated, to mark the 76th Martyrs' Day on the morning of 19 July 2023.

Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Yangon Mayor U Bo Htay and members, departmental staff and the Guard of Honour attended the event and saluted General Aung San and the fallen leaders. Then, they lowered the National Flag to half-mast and stood in silence for two minutes.

People visited the meeting hall where the leaders fell and the parliamentary building, located in the Secretariat (former Ministers' Office), as a special exhibition, between 8 am and 4 pm yesterday. On other days, the meeting room, the parliamentary building and other historical sites are open to the public from 9 am to 6 pm.

Visitors thronged to the meeting hall where martyred leaders were assassinated, 28 types of exhibits that remained of martyred leaders and other historical records in the parliament building, which is more than a hundred years old yesterday.

People and vehicles on the road stopped and commemorated the fallen leaders by saluting and honking at 10:37 am on the 76th Martyrs' Day. — MNA/KZL

People visit the former Ministers' Office in Yangon.

The meeting hall where the assassination took place.

The display in the parliamentary building.

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

Talks of families of martyr leaders in memory of Martyrs' Day

We collected the talks of the families of martyrs in memory of those martyrs on the occasion of the 76th Anniversary of Martyrs' Day 2023.

By Cho Gyi, Photos: Ye Htut

U Aung San Oo, son of General Aung San

I in my view would always like to place my nation and national races. I don't have any remarks. As those martyrs strived for regaining the independence of Myanmar, I think the constitution drawn in the independence period depending on the trust is very important. In the constitution, Myanmar's people consist of Bamar, Shan, Chin, Kachin and Kayin ethnics. Our country is Myanmar, not Bamar country. Only when we do everything in conformity with Myanmar country can we enjoy the high culture. I would like to see Myanmar as a developed country. Today, I will dispense Metta to the whole country and the people and then to all martyrs for two to three minutes after laying a wreath. It is important to consider all truths. If the inheritance comes out, I will try to enhance my perception of the education system as quickly as possible. Now, someone attempts to wedge an instigation of disunity among the persons with a lack of consideration. Hence, people should consider it and live in unity. It is very important. I had not attended the ceremony to mark the martyrs' day for many years. This year, I came here to attend the ceremony.

U Ye Myint Aung, son of Thakin Mya

I am satisfied with all for remembering the martyrs today. They made sacrifices. They loved the country. They focused on nothing except endeavours to regain independence. Their spirits are honourable. The emergence of Martyrs' Day was based on united efforts to escape from the yoke of another country to regain independence.

U Thant Zin Cho, grandson of Deedok U Ba Cho

My mother told me when she was alive to attend the Martyr's Day ceremony. One of our siblings has to attend the ceremony. We attend the ceremony without absence yearly while taking pride in our grandfather. I take pride for all in paying our tributes to fallen martyrs till the 76th-anniversary ceremony. I firmly believe such a ceremony can be marked yearly.

Nant Soe Soe Khaing, granddaughter of Mahn Ba Khaing

Thanks to God, I am in good health and can attend the ceremony. I thank all and take pride in grasping a chance to attend the Martyrs' Day ceremony. My grandfather sacrificed for the State to secure the post of martyr leader. As his strong spirit, my grandfather strived for the State and became a martyr. I take pride in it. My father told me to love the State whatever we do anything. I also served the State in the respective sector with the spirit of loving the country. This is a ceremony organized by the State. Especially, health is the most important for all age-group of people. I thank God as we are in a Christianity family. I came here with the spirit. My grandfather built loving-kindness. My family built loving-kindness. If everybody can build loving-kindness, it will be the best. My grandfather came back to heaven as a martyr. I take pride in it as a granddaughter.

Myint Myint Khaing, daughter of Mahn Ba Khaing

My father Mahn Ba Khaing was a Kayin national leader who strived for initiating the Kayin-Bamar friendly relations and fraternity. I lost my father, so I have felt a great loss for our country. I take pride in my life as a family of the martyred leader. I have served the State duties for 42 years and then took retirement. Now, I am still serving everything in relevant sectors. While trying to have a nationalistic spirit and friendship spirit like my father, I would like to urge all to build a peaceful and stable country.

Sao Kai Pha, son of Mongpun Saopha Sao San Tun

I would like to express thanks a lot to all for organizing the ceremony yearly. I attended the ceremony without an absence. Today, I came here to attend the ceremony by wheelchair due to my health condition.

U Hla Kyi, son of U Razak

I yearly attend the ceremony as usual. I have to talk about nothing special. The annual ceremony is good. Teachers from schools can fully share knowledge about Martyrs' Day with new generation youths. They can talk about a wider range of knowledge about Memorial Day. Those teachers have to feel and comprehensively understand it. It will be good if teachers recount facts about martyrs. In my student life, most people did not know me as a child of a martyr.

When I was an adult, teachers as well as service personnel treated me with respect. So, I was satisfied with it. Presidents Sao Shwe Thaik and Dr Ba Oo did not take care of us. In his tenure, President Mahn Win Maung invited our family to attend the ceremony in memory of the State funeral service. The President himself paid tributes and saluted the martyrs. So, we were glad to see it and thanked him.

Dr Min Myint, son of U Ohn Maung

I attend the event to pay respect every year. The government holds it systematically yearly. Before my mother died, she instilled in me that the national leader Bogyoke Aung San and martyrs leaders including my father were instrumental in securing the independence. We should attend the event on Martyrs' Day

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Bogyoke Aung San Museum bustling with visitors on Martyrs' Day

MORE than 3,000 visitors, including Buddhist monks, people and students, visited the Bogyoke Aung San Museum located in Bahan township, Yangon, on the 76th Martyrs' Day that falls on 19 July 2023.

The museum which was once the house of General Aung San who was a linchpin in attempting independence of Myanmar is slated to open as a special show starting on 19 July up till 21 July from 7 am to 5 pm. The museum is normally open to the public from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm daily except on Mondays and days of special significance.

"The Bogyoke Aung San Museum is open as a special show, on 76th Martyrs' Day. The signpost is placed in the museum. The car the general used is on display around the entrance of the museum. You can view the historic documents and photos of the general on 18 boards along the driveway to the museum. On the balcony of the museum, you can see the silicon replica of the general reading in the deck chair. The books the general read, the lighter bearing his name and the ashtray and the cigar box are among the display items. From there on, you can see the furniture in the dining room of the family of the general. There are 5 boards depicting his childhood, his university student life, and his life as a political and military leader and state leader. Following the study in the dining room, there are two boards on which the life events of the general are described briefly in both Myanmar and English and are waiting for you. Besides, the brief history of Bogyoke Aung San Museum (Yangon) described in English, Myanmar bilingually is displayed in the exterior corridor of the museum. On the way back inside lies the settee and furniture which the family of the general used, the long coat given as a present by Mr Jawaharlal Nehru who was a great leader of India, the radio, the oil painting by artist U Ngwe Gaing which portrayed the general growing plants, the photograph of the family of the general, the bust of the general, the painting and the family photo, and the chair where the general sat," explained Daw Nyo Nyo Yin Mauk, an official of the Bogyoke Aung San Museum (Yangon).

Visitors are seen viewing the display at the museum in Yangon yesterday.

The bed, the dressing table, the wooden cupboard and the appliances of the general exist in the bedroom of the general and his spouse is on the upper

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Talks of families of martyr leaders in memory of Martyrs' Day

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as long as we are in good health to honour the independence, as a gesture of gratitude. The Martyrs' Day event is celebrated by the government and we are ready to attend, no matter who the leader of the occasion is. I attended last year. I also attend this year. I will attend the coming year if I am in good health. There is nothing special to say. It is a well-organized event on a grand scale. If we are patriots, once I said… Bogyoke Aung San is a martyr and he is totally different from other martyrs in international countries. He is unique, brave, qualified and smart. In addition, he did two unique actions. Japan invaded China in World War II. Then, it occupied Asia and Myanmar. It invaded Myanmar again and ruled it. The Japanese did not grant independence. Bogyoke Aung San led 30 commanders who attended military training in Japan. Then, they launched a revolution on 27 March. Bogyoke Aung San led these 30 commanders and attacked the Japanese. Afterwards, the British did not grant independence and procrastinated. Bogyoke tried for the Panglong conference. My father served as commissioner in Myitkyina as he completed ICS in a foreign country. Bogyoke knew about that. He called my father and appointed as secretary and relied on him. He was treated like his brother. Based on the Panglong conference, Bogyoke Aung San went to England and urged the British Prime Minister. After Aung San-Attlee Agreement, he was assassinated. Then, Prime Minister U Nu kept on implementing it. Then, it became Nu-Attlee Agreement. Finally, Myanmar regained its independence. In short, the new generations should look up the martial power and wisdom and bravery of Bogyoke Aung San and try hard like him if necessary.

Lt-Col Aung Ko Ko (retired), nephew of Yebaw Ko Htwe

On 76th Martyrs' Day, I felt sorry for losing the State leader, and national leaders of those days including nine martyrs who fell 76 years ago. Because these national leaders carried out three main duties. The first one is to achieve independence and sovereignty in Myanmar, the second one is to ensure national solidarity and the third one is to make efforts for the prosperity of the country after the country regained its independence. Although they could not implement these operations at that time, they set plans. They passed away unexpectedly while they were performing these three causes. However, successive governments carried out these three duties after achieving independence. They served with their own ways and policies. But, what we face after 76 years is that there are people who disturb these three main duties. When we consider why they do that, Myanmar occupies a critical geostrategic position between China and India. Therefore, the Western countries that compete with China surround China politically … through containment policy. Under this policy, they tried to make Myanmar reach under their containment. Meanwhile, Myanmar did not accept and so they made Myanmar weak. To do so, they made Myanmar encounter the politics of loneliness first. Secondly, to be in the red and thirdly, to destroy the social tradition and customs. Besides these three matters, they launched an invasion. It is the beginning of the eastern parts of the country. In doing so, they obviously conducted these doings and they persuaded those who were unpatriotic and power-mad persons. Some locals received their assistance and killed innocent people today. The number is nearly one hundred thousand including the staff, teachers and doctors. Then, they also torched the basic infrastructure, launched bomb attacks and destroyed the roads and bridges. They also killed the monks. Therefore, they make the customs and religious culture weaken socially. We are very sad whenever we hear about these cases. Bogyoke is a young man. He was only 32 years old when he passed away. Ye Baw Ko Htwe was under 18 years of age. These young men tried for their country. Bogyoke tries many things for the country. Ko Htwe did only a few cases. He was not 18 years old man. The youths made efforts. Currently, the people oppose these three main duties. I am really sad about it. Young men should be the ones who make efforts for the country. They should be in unity for the development of the country by knowing the destructive elements of foreign countries. — MNA/TTA, KTZH

OPINION

Boost production for present and future generations: A Triple Effort

INCREASING production levels for the betterment of the nation's economy requires a multifaceted approach encompassing three crucial aspects: domestic consumption sufficiency, expanding export volumes, and prioritizing import-substitute manufacturing. It is imperative to prioritize meeting the local demand for agricultural and livestock products to ensure the majority of the population's needs are met. Products exceeding domestic consumption can be exported to foreign markets.

Myanmar, being a least-developed country, exhibits a significant disparity in Gross Domestic Product when compared to neighbouring countries with similar geographical and climatic conditions. So as to bridge this gap, all stakeholders and participants involved in elevating the nation's GDP must strive diligently in their endeavours.

> On the path to building the Union in unison and enhancing productivity, all citizens must exert their utmost efforts in introducing new products, increasing production volume in order to meet domestic demands and consumption, generating higher incomes not only for the government but for the private sector, and boosting export volumes. These endeavours are not only for the current welfare of the state and its people but also for the benefit of future generations.

In the quest for increased productivity, it is essential to focus on industries that are based on the agricultural sector. A key factor in enhancing agriculture and livestock farming practices is the cooperative system. Therefore, forming cooperative societies for relevant sectors is crucial to foster a culture of collaboration whenever necessary.

Additionally, the government must ensure that farmers in the agriculture and livestock sectors reap the benefits they deserve. To achieve this, the agricultural, industrial, and service sectors must be implemented, as the agriculture sector serves as a pivotal force in all these measures to be able to modernize the country.

Significant emphasis should be placed on achieving target crop yields per acre and maximizing agricultural output. By reducing manufacturing costs, increasing crop yields, creating more job opportunities, ensuring local food sufficiency, and promoting export volumes, the state's economy can experience substantial growth.

Producing an ample volume of goods domestically and implementing a systematic approach to exporting agricultural and livestock products will greatly benefit the state. Regions and states with high production capacity should prioritize the development of manufacturing sectors related to agriculture and livestock farming. This will not only result in increased incomes for both the state and private sector but also contribute to the overall prosperity of the national economy.

On the path to building the Union in unison and enhancing productivity, all citizens must exert their utmost efforts in introducing new products, increasing production volume in order to meet domestic demands and consumption, generating higher incomes not only for the government but for the private sector, and boosting export volumes. These endeavours are not only for the current welfare of the state and its people but also for the benefit of future generations. ■

ARTICLE

A diet that saves the planet

By Saya Norm

IT'S been a harsh summer in the northern hemisphere. People literally died of the heat during the past few weeks. There were about 16 per cent more deaths in the UK than normal for that time. Elsewhere, there has been immense climate-related suffering horrific heat waves in India and China, and devastating floods in Pakistan, China and Uganda.

About everyone got the message by now combatting climate change is not something we can put off until the future - it is already starting to bite when it comes to putting some teeth behind our actions, however, what kind of diet might help?

What is the most climate-friendly diet and what is the trade-off of malnourishment?

According to the latest report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a plant-based diet is the biggest behavioural shift a person can make to reduce their individual greenhouse-gas emissions. Food choice falls into the "shift" rather than "avoid" category, because the global food system is responsible for about a quarter of human emissions.

But the exact definition of the term" plant-based" is still unclear. To some people, it means cutting out all animal products, but to many, it encompasses a low-meat diet. It can mean vegan, vegetarian or flexitarian. Whatever the rules do, the plant-based food-eating society is booming. Vegetarians have increased from seven to nine per cent over the past year, while those declaring themselves are up from two to five per cent. Nearly a third of the surveyed want to eat less meat, whereas seven per cent plan to eat more.

Australians are the world's biggest red meat and milk consumers, outpacing even high-income North Americans. People in South Asian countries eat, on average about a 20th of typical red meat intake. Red meat sits at the pinnacles of greenhouse-gas-producing foods. Beef consistently leads the pack, followed by lamb, processed meats, pork and cheese. Milk in its unprocessed form falls lower on the scale. But product emissions depend on how they are produced.

Research shows that cutting out meat still significantly lowers diet-related emissions. A University of Otago study found that compared with most European diets, vegetarianism cut emissions by 30 per cent and veganism by 33 per cent. Another study showed that meatless but dairy-rich fare cut dietary emissions by nearly a quarter. A century from now, when the eater will have died, the methane emissions associated with will have largely finished exerting their powerful warming effect and broken down.

However, if younger generations keep eating meat, they're likely to keep methane levels elevated. The important message is that changing your diet to reduce your meat intake can significantly reduce dietary emissions. As with all trends, individual changes may not make a huge difference on their own, but collectively they have a multiplier effect. And they can also have important ramifications for other issues, such as land use, health, and animal welfare.

Land use matters because if people can be fed from the land, there's more space to restore or preserve native forests and wetlands. Those ecosystems sequester more carbon than land

When people reduce meat, they typically eat far more plant-based foods if they can choose healthy options. **PHOTO: FREEPIK**

comparatively denuded for agriculture or crops. Because it takes a lot of land to feed cattle, beef production is considered particularly tough on the environment, regardless of whether the cattle graze pasture or are fed crop and crop residues. Such calculations also rate a portion of food as more climate-friendly if its production is more intensive and therefore spares land. However, this assumes that freed-up land is actually used for carbon-sequestering ecosystems.

There are other consequences to eating less meat that are so positive and it's crazy not to consider it. For most people in the developed world, eating less meat is a good idea. Moreover, cutting back on meat lessens the harmful effects on health. Most studies show vegetarian, vegan and low-meat diets reduce the risk of developing what most Westerners die of cardiovascular disease, cancer and type 2 diabetes.

The evidence from numerous studies showed that a decrease in meat consumption in many countries would benefit both human and planetary health. All the food and nutrition guidelines being developed in countries around the world are shifting their emphasis towards a plant-based diet and reducing the consumption of meat. Diet is by far the biggest risk factor in the world for disease and early death. Diets high in salt. , sugar and low in fruits and vegetables account for about 18 per cent of disease outbreaks and that's twice the impact of tobacco.

The global food system is responsible for human and environmental health*"syndemic". Of the types of food that have health impacts,ultra-processed foods are the worst. Sugar, confectionery, French fries and chocolate biscuits are plant-based but definitely not whole foods.

Plant-based needs to be qualified as whole foods. A massive amount of international data showed that a diet high in red meat is, indeed, a risk factor for disease and early death. Processed meat is the worst.

When people reduce meat, they typically eat far more plant-based foods if they can choose healthy options. Those food productions come at. A much lower greenhouse gas cost than red meat, but sometimes uses more water. Research of Otago showed that vegetarianism and especially veganism, cut diet-related emissions.

When we change the average diet towards a low-emission one, we are not only changing the intake of dietary risk factors but also planetary health.

Moving towards a more plant-based diet is a no-brainer. But it has to be a gradual shift. If we had meat every day, for example, shift to one day a week without it, then two, then three. One thing is clear without targeted efforts to reduce food-related emissions, it will become impossible to restrain global heating within the" safe limit" – even if we rapidly reduce fossil fuel use and achieve global net zero carbon dioxide emission by the middle of the century. It depends on us real-time implementation. If we all do wish, we can do it. ■

Study provides further insight into hypertension that is resistant to therapy

MANY individuals use medicine to control their hypertension, which is excessive blood pressure that can lead to a heart attack or stroke. This form of high blood pressure, known as apparent resistant hypertension (aRH), demands extra medication and medical care.

Researchers observed that those with well-controlled aRH were more likely to be treated with a common medicine known as mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist, or MRA. **PHOTO: AFP**

Researchers at Cedars-Sinai's Smidt Heart Institute discovered that, while aRH prevalence was lower in a real-world sample than previously assumed, it was still very frequent, impacting roughly one in every ten hypertension patients. The findings were published today in the peer-reviewed journal Hypertension.

Well-controlled aRH

Researchers observed that those with well-controlled aRH were more likely to be treated with a common medicine known as mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist, or MRA.

"Apparent resistant hypertension is more common than many would anticipate," said Joseph Ebinger, MD, assistant professor of Cardiology in the Smidt Heart Institute and corresponding author of the study. "We also learned that within this high-risk population, there are large differences in how providers treat high blood pressure, exemplifying a need to standardize care."

Study findings were based on a unique design, which used clinically generated data from the electronic health records of three large, geographically diverse healthcare organizations.

According to Ebinger, treating aRH can be just as tricky as diagnosing it.

In fact, the "apparent" in apparent resistant hypertension stems from the fact that before diagnosis, medical professionals must first rule out other potential reasons for a patient's blood pressure to be high.

These reasons might include medication non-adherence, inappropriate medication selection, or artificially elevated blood pressure in the doctor's office — known as "white coat hypertension".

"Large amounts of data tell us that patients with aRH, compared to those with non-resistant forms of hypertension, are at greatest risk for adverse cardiovascular events," said Ebinger, director of Clinical Analytics in the Smidt Heart Institute. "Identifying these patients and possible causes for their elevated blood pressure is increasingly important."

Antihypertensive medications

The takeaway, Ebinger says, is awareness – for both medical professionals and patients. He says providers should be mindful that if it's taking four or more antihypertensive medications to control a patient's blood pressure, they should consider evaluation for alternative causes of hypertension, or refer patients to a specialist.

Similarly, patients should lean on their medical providers to help them navigate the complex disease, including having a conversation around strategies for remembering to take their medication and addressing possible treatment side effects.

SOURCE: ANI

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The second-day operation of the liver transplant underway at No 1 Tatmadaw General Hospital(1,000-bed) in Yangon.

Liver transplant continues second day

THE second day of the third liver transplant conducted by Tatmadaw took place at No 1 Tatmadaw General Hospital (1,000-bed) in Mingaladon Township, Yangon, yesterday. The surgical team, consisting of Tatmadaw medical professionals, performed the liver transplant on patient Daw Nyo Pya Lwin and her daughter, Ma Nyo Ya Wai Htoo, who also acted as the donor. The liver extraction process commenced at 10:30 am, and the transplant surgery was successfully completed after an intense 11-hour operation at 5 pm. Currently, both patients are receiving specialized care from a team of experts, paramedics, and nurses in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), and their condition is stable and showing promising signs. — MNA/KZW

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.

Tatmadaw (Air) continues delivering foodstuffs, aid to Rakhine State

RELIEF aid and food items contributed by the families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and well-wishers, and relief supplies provided by the National Disaster Management Committee for local communities affected by Cyclone Mocha in Rakhine State are being transported by Tatmadaw aircraft and helicopters.

A total of 1.3 tonnes of furniture donated by the families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and well-wishers, and medical aids donated by the Ministry of Health were delivered from Yangon International Airport to Sittway Airport by planes of Tatmadaw (Air).

A total of 3,588 Tatmadaw members and departmental staff who will help in rehabilitation work and 577 tonnes of supplies were helicoptered to the storm-battered areas.

Officials in the respective areas received relief items and will distribute them to storm victims. — MNA/KZW

Relief supplies are seen being discharging from the Tatmadaw aircraft.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, crude oil, animals, consumer goods, electronics and vehicles confiscated

ON 14 July, at the Ywathagyi Dry Port, the Customs Department's special inspection team intercepted a Mitsubishi Fuso truck valued at around K40 million, transporting 150 Bonny track bicycles (worth K7.2 million) from Muse to Yangon. The quantity of bicycles exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) limit, leading to the action being taken under Customs procedures.

On 16 July, a joint team at the 16th-Mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint intercepted a Toyota Hilux approximately valued at K30 million, transporting various goods worth K4,347 million, including a teak settee without proper documentation, destined for Pyin Oo Lwin from Mandalay. The confiscated goods were handed over to the Patheingyi Township Forest Department, and appropriate action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 17 July, the on-duty teams seized two types of goods valued at K14,831,313, which included 10,595 kilograms of solar mounting and accessories. These goods exceeded the 60-day validity of the VPA and lacked proper license approval. The seizure took place at the Myanmar International Terminals (Thilawa). Additionally, at the Yangon International Airport, two types of goods valued at K3.75 million, consisting of 50 East watches (women), were confiscated due to the absence of official documents. The actions were carried out by Customs procedures.

Furthermore, an unregistered Honda Odyssey vehicle (estimated value of K5 million) was seized near the entrance to Shwebo, and two unregistered Lifan tricycles were apprehended in Monywa township. The actions were conducted under the Export and Import Law.

Likewise, the inspection teams seized an Isuzu truck and a Hino truck (estimated value of K160 million) transporting smuggled cattle (25 buffaloes and 21 oxen) valued at K17 million at the Anawrahta Bridge checkpoint in Chauk township. Additionally, a Toyota Probox (estimated value of K3 million) carrying 144 gallons of illegal petroleum and crude oil (worth K342,000) was intercepted on Minbu-Kyauktan-Maungmakan Road in Minbu township, and a total of 0.265 tonne of illegal timber (worth K54,000) was discovered near Pathein-Monywa Road in Mindon township. These actions were taken under the Essential Supplies and Service Law, Public Property Protection Law, and Forest Law.

On 18 July, a joint team, headed by Bago Township Forest Department, confiscated a total of 9.321 tonnes of illegal teak and other timbers valued at K5,140,272 near the banks of Shwedaung Creek in Bago township. The action was carried out under the Forest Law.

According to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, a total of 17 arrests were conducted on 14, 16, 17, and 18 July, involving items with an estimated value of K291,964,585. — MNA/MKKS

Confiscated illegal items in Magway Region.

Drugs seized in Thazi, Kutkai townships

ON 18 July, a joint team comprising members of the Anti-Drug Police Force inspected a motorbike operated by Thet Paing Htun (aka) Sanshay on Taunggyi-Thazi Road in Thazi township around 12:30 pm. During the search, they confiscated 9.6 kilograms of raw opium.

Similarly, on the same day at 6:30 pm, another combined team intercepted and examined a motorbike driven by Ma Khamphaung on Kutkai Kaungkha road in Kutkai township. The inspection led to the discovery of 6,000 stimulant tablets.

Both offenders involved in these cases have been charged and are facing legal action under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/MKKS

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Bogyoke Aung San Museum bustling with visitors on Martyrs' Day

FROM PAGE-7

storey of the museum. Next to the bedhead, the picture of the Dekkhina Thiri Buddha Image and the shrine where the general and his family worshipped is displayed. The Wall of the bedroom of the general is poised with the portrait picture of the general and the picture of him and his wife. The reading room lying next to it is also for observation. The hand-written script of Maung Aung San Linn who died on 16 January 1953, along with three bedsteads, a wardrobe, a dressing table, photographs and manuscript books of Maung Aung San Linn, toys and reading books are exhibited in the bedroom of the children.

The digital display shows documentary pictures of the general as well as his speech and history bilingually in the bedroom that reveals family photos and the photographs of the general's mother and family members. In the special meeting room next to the bedroom of children, a set of settees and excerpts from the speeches by the general are displayed. When you go downstairs from the corridor near the back door of the children's bedroom, you can see the statute of the general growing kitchen crops in the yard. Displayed along the exit way around the lake are 14 boards with a VR system in which martyrs' pictures, and historical events of the general and scenic landscapes of the museum, Bagan and Myanmar are included.

"Measures aligned with covid-19 rules are in place for visitors to Bogyoke Museum. Taking into account the healthcare matter, township and municipal healthcare teams, and volunteers from Myanmar Red Cross Society are in ready situation. Officials of the museum and departmental entities have taken concerted efforts for the convenience of visitors," said Daw Nyo Nyo Yin Mauk.

The museum is more crowded than the previous years. — MNA/KZT

Heavy rainfall causes only little damage to paddy cultivation in Shwebo

The photo shows rain paddy cultivation in Shwebo District.

EL Niño might cause less rainfall and could disrupt the rice supply across Asia, which accounts for 90 per cent of global production of rice, experts warned. However, Myanmar has had heavy rainfall in recent days and only little damage occurs.

Flooding triggered by Cyclone Mocha in May 2023 negatively affected the crops stored along the river in the Sinphyukyun area, Magway Region, leaving some residents dead as well.

Heavy rainfalls usually lead to flooding, landslides, and damage to road systems and crops. However, it has been many years since flooding does not happen in delta regions. Flooding hindered road transportation before 2010 on Yangon-Pathein Road, Ko Phoe Cho, a former owner of Pathein's highway express, told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

Some delta regions experience two high tides and low tides a day. But the residents can use other roads instead.

There is normal rainfall in Myanmar's rice-producing areas Ayeyawady, Bago, Yangon and Sagaing regions. The paddy growing season is going to end and rice plants can survive floods for a few days.

Despite the El Nino climate pattern this year, Myanmar experienced heavy rainfalls as a consequence of Cyclone Mocha. Rainfalls fed well some upper Myanmar regions in need, making growing activities go well. However, there are some warnings for crops grown under an intercropping system which require a high irrigation water supply in the late monsoon season.

In early 2023, rainfalls destroyed some garlic at harvest time, pushing the price to the highest of K9,000-10,000 per viss in history.

Consumers have concerns over the possible inflation if the weather has an impact on the crops. – TWA/EM

3 children dead in floods in Mawlamyine, affecting 56 households in Mudon

FLOODING in Mawlamyine Township has tragically claimed the lives of three children, while 56 households in Mudon have been affected, as reported by social assistance organizations.

The heavy rains that persisted since 17 July caused floods in Mawlamyine. A one-and-a-half-year-old girl was found drowned in her yard after going missing while with her grandmother on 19 July around 10 am.

Similarly, two 13-year-old children were reported missing after drowning in the lower part of Thirimyine 8 Street. After an extensive search by social rescue teams, their lifeless bodies were discovered after 3 pm.

The rescue operation by the social assistance association is in progress during floods in Mawlamyine (above and left photos.)

In Mudon, including Mawlamyine, Mon State, continuous rain since 18 July resulted in water entering houses in Myoma Ward 4, Okekyin Village, and Beyan Village. To provide emergency relief, 56 households comprising 230 individuals were temporarily relocated to Mudon Oo Basic Education Primary School and Aungthaindi Monastic School, as informed by Ko Latt, a member of the local social assistance association, to the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Efforts are being made by responsible personnel, relevant administration bodies, social assistance members, and residents to support the affected people and their livelihoods. Additionally, the Health Department is actively providing healthcare services to the flood victims. — TWA/CT

ECONOMY
WORLD

US industrial output declines in June for second straight month

Production at US factories dropped for a second straight month in June as output of motor vehicles and a range of other goods declined, suggesting that higher interest rates were hurting the manufacturing sector. **PHOTO: AFP**

US industrial production fell by more than analysts expected last month, the Federal Reserve said Tuesday, with a sharp contraction in output seen in consumer durables like automotive products and carpeting. June marked the second consecutive monthly decline, reversing some of the positive figures seen earlier this year and providing further evidence of slowing production as the Fed prepares to weigh another interest rate hike next week.

The 0.5 per cent dip in industrial production was driven by a steep contraction in the index for consumer durables—like appliances, furniture and carpeting—which fell by 2.7 per cent, according to the Fed.

Consumer nondurables also contracted by 0.9 per cent due to decreases in clothing, energy, as well as food and tobacco production. The monthly decline was below the median expectation of economists surveyed by MarketWatch. The only gain last month came from defence and space equipment, which rose by 1.5 per cent. "In short, overall industrial production and manufacturing output were weaker than expected" to end the second quarter, High Frequency Economics' chief US economist Rubeela Farooqi wrote in a note to clients. — AFP

EU digital chief urges TikTok to quickly adopt new rules

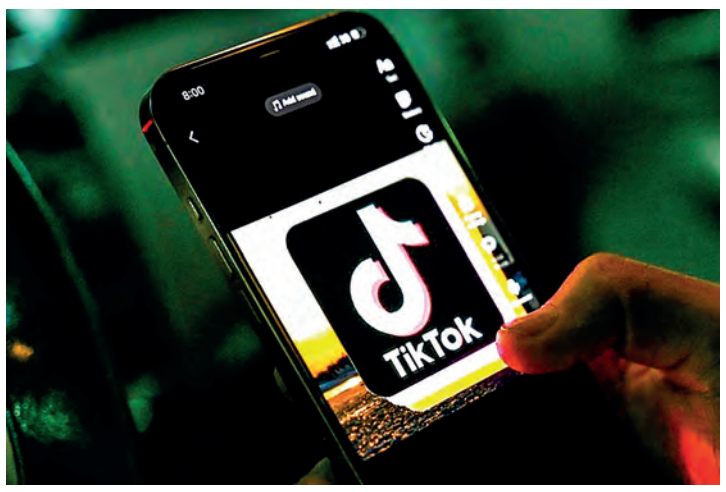
THE European commissioner overseeing the digital market on Wednesday urged Chinese video-sharing platform TikTok to accelerate its adoption of new EU standards.

Strict new European rules on transparency, data privacy, child protection, disinformation and hate speech come into effect next month, and internet giants are racing to comply.

On Monday, TikTok conducted a "stress test" on its systems at it European headquarters in Dublin, to find out if it could adapt to comply with the EU Digital Services Act.

Afterwards, European Commissioner Thierry Breton called TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew to hear how it went, warning him: "Now is time to accelerate to be fully compliant." In June, Breton sent the same message to US platform Twitter after it performed a similar stress test, designed to check its own ability to moderate suspect content.

The DSA became law in November, but the web's 19 biggest players — platforms such as Amazon, Apple, Google, Meta and Microsoft — have until 25 August to get in line. — AFP



Strict new European rules on transparency, data privacy, child protection, disinformation and hate speech come into effect next month. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Steep drop puts S Africa inflation back within target range

SOUTH African inflation dropped to the lowest level in 20 months in June, slipping back within the central bank's target range, official data showed Wednesday.

Annual consumer price inflation slowed to 5.4 per cent last month, down from 6.3 per cent in May, national statistics agency StatsSA said in a statement.

Consumer boost: Inflation in South Africa has fallen to the lowest level in 20 months. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

The drop was the steepest since May 2020 and brought the rate within the Reserve Bank's three per cent to six per cent target range for the first time since April 2022, the agency said.

"The rate in June is the lowest reading in 20 months," it said.

Price rises for food and non-alcoholic beverages slowed to 11 per cent from a high of 14 per cent in March.

Prices of oils and fats also decreased for a tenth consecutive month. Wine and beer were instead on the up, pushing prices for alcoholic beverages and tobacco to 6.1 per cent from 5.9 per cent in May. — AFP

US economist renounces EU job after Macron doubts

A US economist has decided not to take up a job advising the European Commission, after French president Emmanuel Macron expressed doubts about hiring an American for the role.

Yale University professor and big tech expert Fiona Scott Morton had been hired as chief economist by EU competition commissioner Margrethe Vestager, to advise on anti-trust strategy.

But her appointment was later criticized by French politicians as well as by several EU lawmakers from both the right and the left. On Tuesday, Macron weighed in.

This was followed by the intervention of five of Vestager's colleagues on the commission, who broke ranks to urge EU chief Ursula von der Leyen to reconsider the appointment.

Macron said that the EU executive hiring an American had raised "many questions" — noting that neither the United States nor China would hire a foreigner to such a job.

He suggested that, whatever Scott Morton's qualifications, having her advise the commission on how to regulate US tech giants was not "coherent" with his vision of EU strategic autonomy. — AFP

Volvo Group truck sales jump, but orders drop

SWEDISH truck maker Volvo Group reported Wednesday a sharp uptick in quarterly sales that beat expectations, but orders for new vehicles declined.

The company, which also makes buses and construction equipment, reported an 18 per cent increase in revenue to 140.8 billion kronor ($13.8 billion) in the second quarter, compared to the same period a year earlier.

"We are gradually entering into a more normalized demand situation with record strong profitability and high operational performance," Volvo Group CEO Martin Lundstedt said. Analysts surveyed in separate reports by Bloomberg and financial data firm FactSet had forecast net sales of around 135 billion kronor. — AFP

Foreign arrivals to Japan top 10 mln, 1st time since pre-COVID era

FOREIGN arrivals to Japan from January to June topped 10 million for the first time since the same period in 2019 before the coronavirus pandemic, as the country sees a continued recovery in inbound travelers, government data showed Wednesday.

Japan saw 10.71 million arrivals in the six months, equivalent to 64.4 per cent of the level seen from January to June in 2019 and exponentially higher than the 507,630 logged in the same period in 2022, the Japan National Tourism Organization said.

Tourists walk along the Nakamise shopping street in Tokyo's Asakusa district on 19 July 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

By country or region, the most arrivals came from South Korea at 3.13 million, followed by 1.77 million from Chinese Taipei, 972,200 from the United States and 909,700 from Hong Kong, it said.

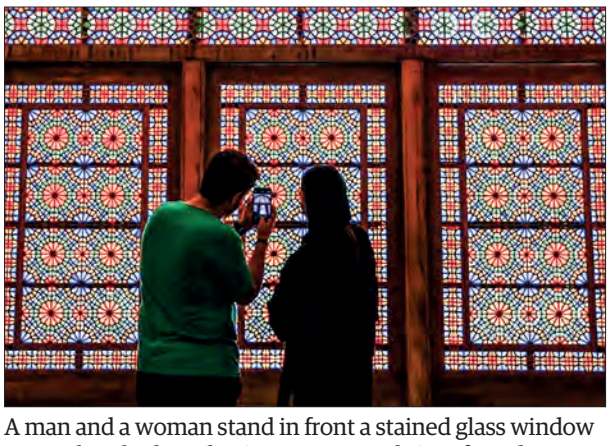
Arrivals from China, which continues to restrict overseas group travel for its citizens, remained at 594,600, with a recovery level of 13.1 per cent compared to the January to June period in 2019, it said. — Kyodo

Hoping to attract tourists, Iran looks to neighbours

IRAN, largely shunned by western tourists, is making a push to attract visitors from wealthy Gulf Arab states and other nearby countries to boost its sanctions-hit economy.

The Islamic republic is also drawing more visitors from Russia and China to its ancient sites that date back to the Persian empire and the fabled Silk Road, industry figures say.

Iran's Beijing-brokered diplomatic thaw this year with Saudi Arabia paved the way for direct flights, and Tehran is also seeking closer ties with other countries from Egypt to Morocco.



A man and a woman stand in front a stained glass window at Dowlat Abad Garden in Iran's central city of Yazd on 3 July 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

The slow but steady change is noticable at major tourist sights where more visitors can now be heard speaking not English, French or German, but Arabic, Chinese and Russian.

"In the past, we were receiving many tourists from Europe but now those numbers have seen a sharp decline," said one Tehran travel agency owner, 46-year-old Hamid Shateri.

Europeans are "afraid of visiting Iran", he said, after years of tensions over the country's contested nuclear programme and after Western government warnings against travelling there.

"These days, mostly Chinese and Russian people visit Iran's historical sites and spectacular scenery and Arab tourists, especially from Iraq, come to attend religious ceremonies." — AFP

Kidswear brand Catimini to close 44 stores

FRENCH childrenswear brand Catimini is set to close 44 stores across France, Belgium, and Luxembourg, as part of a business recovery plan.

On Tuesday, the brand announced plans to close 44 stores by December as part of a recovery plan proposed to reduce losses suffered by the company, which was already in financial difficulty when it joined the IDKIDS group in 2020.

"On 18 July, the management team presented staff representatives with a company recovery plan, which should reduce losses and allow the brand to be redeployed, " Catimini said in a press release. The plan foresees the closure of 44 stores in France, Belgium and Luxembourg, while five other stores would be converted into concessions as part of Jacadi. — AFP

Catimini, a childrenswear brand, is going to close 44 stores in France, Belgium, and Luxembourg. This is part of a plan to help the company recover from financial difficulties. **PHOTO: THE NIX COMPANY/AFP**

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRIC POWER
DEPARTMENT OF HYDROPOWER IMPLEMENTATION

Invitation to tender for the Design, Supply and Supervision of erection and commissioning of Hydraulic Steel Structue and Electromechanical Works for Hwe Htike Small Hydropower Project.

1. The Ministry of Electric Power of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, **Department of Hydropower Implementation (DHPI)**, hereinafter called the Employer, seeks to invites qualified Contractors and/or Joint Ventures to submit Tenders for the **design, supply and supervision of erection and commissioning of Hydraulic Steel Structure and Electromechanical works for Hwe Htike Small Hydropower Project (Delivered Duty Paid – Belin (DHPI-Basecamp), KyaukSe Basis)**.
2. The project is located at latitude 26° 18' 50.4018" N and 95° 25' 02.5416" E and about 1.875 Mile away from South West of Lahe Town in Naga Autonomy Region of Sagaing Region of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
3. A complete set of Tender documents can be purchased with the contractor's requested letter at the following address within (10:00~15:00) hours upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **300,000 MMK (Three Hundred Thousand in Myanmar Kyat)** no later than **18th of August, 2023**.

Procurement Branch
Department of Hydropower Implementation
Office Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Telephone: 009567-8104191, 009567-8104190, 009567-8104189
E-mail : procurement.dhpi@moep.gov.mm

4. **Tender Submission Date is 31st of August, 2023 at 13:00** (Myanmar Standard Time).
5. Tenderers must be submitted the proposals to the address above on Tender Submission Date. Any late proposal shall be rejected.
6. All tenders shall be rejected if they submit their proposals by electronic or express services.
7. Technical envelope will be opened in the presence of tenderer's representatives, who choose to attend at the address above after **13:00 hours** (Myanmar Standard Time) on **Tender Submission Date**.
8. Any request for the extension of **Tender Submission Date** shall not be allowed.

Tender Committee
Department of Hydropower Implementation
Ministry of Electric Power
Nay Pyi Taw

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Thai reformist Pita's PM bid crashes on establishment opposition

THAI reformist leader Pita Limjaroenrat's bid to become prime minister ended Wednesday, despite his party winning the most votes in May elections, after the military and pro-royalist establishment blocked his bid for power.

Pita's Move Forward Party (MFP) has ridden high on the support of young and urban Thais frustrated by nearly a decade of army-backed rule, but its efforts to form a government have stumbled. The 42-year-old was dramatically suspended from parliament while seated in the chamber for discussions on his candidacy, which came to an end when lawmakers voted to refuse considering him for a second ballot.

"I would like to say goodbye until we meet again," he said, raising his fist as he left the assembly floor to the cheers of party allies.

Pita's suspension came when Thailand's Consitutional Court said it would proceed with a case that could see the leader disqualified from parliament altogether for owning shares in a media company.

Lawmakers are forbidden from doing so under Thailand's constitution, though the television station in question has not broadcast since 2007.

Pita, Harvard-educated and wealthy from a family-run agri-food business, has said the shares were inherited from his father. He has 15 days to respond to the case. After he left the parliament, lawmakers voted by a large margin to rule that he could not be considered for the post a second time. — AFP

MFP supporters react after hearing about the suspension of leader and prime minister candidate Pita Limjaroenrat as they gather outside the Thai Parliament. **PHOTO: AFP**

Search for missing paused in Colombia after landslide kills 15

RESCUE teams temporarily suspended efforts to search for survivors Tuesday after a landslide triggered by heavy rains left at least 15 people dead and more than a dozen missing in central Colombia, authorities said.

Several homes were destroyed and a major trade artery blocked after torrential rains hit the Quetame municipality in Colombia's Cundinamarca department late Monday.

"We have at this moment a count of 15 people who were found lifeless," firefighting captain Alvaro Farfan said in a video sent to the media Tuesday night, adding that there were six people injured.

Farfan said nightfall had forced rescue teams to suspend their search for potential survivors but that they would resume in the morning. Thirteen people remained missing.

As the death toll and number of missing rose throughout the day, civil defence director Jorge Diaz told AFP earlier Tuesday that authorities were trying to find out how many residents lived in the 20 houses that were razed in the deluge. — AFP

Rescue teams with drones search for landslide survivors. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ukraine says Russia targeting grain sites after deal exit

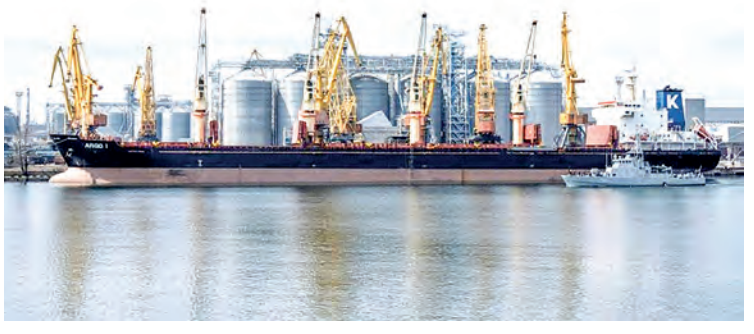
UKRAINE accused Russia on Wednesday of deliberately striking its Black Sea grain facilities — and destroying tonnes of food — since Moscow quit an export deal meant to stave off a global crisis.

Kyiv's allegations came as a fire of unclear origin broke out at a military site in Russian-annexed Crimea, prompting local officials to call for the evacuation of thousands of civilians.

Military sites on the peninsula, a key supply artery for Russia's war in Ukraine, have been hit repeatedly in recent months.

Russia, for its part, fired strikes at Ukraine's Odesa for the second night in a row, with the defence ministry claiming to have struck fuel and ammunition facilities near the Black Sea port.

But Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky claimed Russia was taking aim at the very basis of the now-lapsed grain deal, which was brokered last by the UN and Türkiye amid fears of food shortages in vulnerable nations. — AFP



Ukraine's agriculture ministry said the grain was meant to be "sent through the grain corridor 60 days ago". **PHOTO: AFP**

US soldier who crossed into North Korea had served time in S Korean jail: official

A US soldier who served around two months in a South Korean jail on assault charges was believed to be in North Korean custody Wednesday after crossing the heavily fortified border without authorization, officials said.

The soldier — identified by the US military as Travis King, a private second class who has been in the army since 2021 — crossed the border "willfully and without authorization," US Forces Korea spokesman Colonel Isaac Taylor said.

The United Nations Command said he had been on a Joint Security Area (JSA) orientation tour, adding he was believed to be in North Korean custody and that it was working with Pyongyang's military to "resolve this incident". — AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Senior Chinese diplomat meets Henry Kissinger

WANG Yi, director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, met with former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in Beijing on Wednesday.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, said that Kissinger has made historic contributions to the ice-breaking development of China-US relations and played an irreplaceable role in enhancing mutual understanding between the two countries. "China cherishes its friendship with old friends."

China maintains a high degree of continuity in its policy towards the United States and follows the guiding principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation, Wang said.

"These three principles are fundamental and long-term, and are the way for China and the United States to get along correctly as two major countries," he added.

Wang Yi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee, meets former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in Beijing, capital of China, 19 July 2023. **PHOTO: ZHAI JIANLAN/ XINHUA**

China's development has strong internal dynamics and inevitable historical logic, Wang pointed out, adding that it is impossible to try to transform China, and it is even more impossible to contain China.

Expounding China's position on the Taiwan question, Wang emphasized that one China is the fundamental status quo of the Taiwan question.

"Taiwan independence" is incompatible with peace across the Taiwan Strait, and the one-China principle set out in the Shanghai Communique must be strictly adhered to, Wang said. "If the United States sincerely hopes for stability across the Taiwan Strait, it should clearly and openly oppose 'Taiwan independence' and draw a clear line with 'Taiwan independence' separatist activities."

Kissinger said both the United States and China have the ability to influence the world, and maintaining stable relations between the two countries has a bearing on world peace, stability and the well-being of humanity.

No matter how difficult it is, both sides should treat each other as equals and maintain contact, Kissinger said, adding that it is unacceptable to try to isolate the other side. — Xinhua

More than 700 sentenced to prison over French riots: minister

MORE than 700 people have been sentenced to prison over riots in France late last month, the country's justice minister said Wednesday, lauding the "firm" response of magistrates.

In total, 1,278 verdicts have been handed down, with over 95 per cent of defendants convicted on a range of charges from vandalism to attacking police officers.

Six hundred people have already been jailed.

"It was extremely important to have a response that was firm and systematic," Justice Minister Eric Dupond-Moretti told RTL radio. "It was essential that we reestablish national order."

The most intense urban violence in France since 2005 began on 27 June after a police officer shot dead a 17-year-old boy with North African roots during a traffic stop west of Paris, in an incident recorded by a passerby.

The riots were contained after four nights of serious clashes thanks to the deployment of around 45,000 security forces, including elite police special forces and armoured vehicles.

Dupond-Moretti had led calls for courts to hand down harsh sentences as a deterrent, with some staying open over the weekend of the clashes to handle a backlog of cases. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Herzog to address US lawmakers amid anti-Israel tensions

THE US Congress prepared to welcome President Isaac Herzog Wednesday for a speech celebrating 75 years of Israeli independence, as a row over anti-Semitism highlighted fissures in Democratic Party support for the Middle Eastern ally.

Herzog holds a largely ceremonial role and is far less controversial than the country's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, but President Joe Biden's party has nevertheless been convulsed by infighting over the visit. A handful of congressional Democrats are longstanding critics of the conservative-leaning Israeli government, accusing it of disenfranchising Palestinians, and have vowed to skip the joint meeting of the Senate and House. – AFP

Watchdog finds 'serious' Tunisia abuses against migrants

TUNISIAN security forces have committed "serious abuses" against black African migrants, Human Rights Watch said on Wednesday, calling on the European Union to suspend migration control funding to the country.

The New York-based watchdog said it had interviewed, since March, more than 20 migrants and asylum seekers, almost all of whom reported suffering "human rights violations at the hands of Tunisian authorities".

Seven were among "up to 1,200 black Africans expelled or forcibly transferred by Tunisian security forces" to the country's desert border regions with Libya and Algeria this month.

AFP correspondents reported on Sunday that Libyan border guards rescued dozens of migrants who were visibly exhausted and dehydrated, and who said Tunisian authorities had taken them there. This followed testimony from NGOs and witnesses to AFP a few days after hundreds were expelled from the Tunisian port city of Sfax in early July. — AFP

Sub-Saharan migrants rest under the shade of a tree in Sfax, Tunisia. **PHOTO: AFP**

Senior Chinese diplomat meets Henry Kissinger

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20 JULY 2023
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

SPORT

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

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

(a) To enhance development based on agriculture and livestock using modern production techniques and to strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
(b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
(c) To assure support for the sustainability of Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) that prioritize import substitution, export production, and the use of domestically produced raw materials, in order to increase domestic production and generate employment opportunities.
(d) To advance the socioeconomic life of the people, in order to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.

3. Social affairs

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

Infantino says 'seize moment' in last-minute World Cup ticket plea

FIFA president Gianni Infantino on Wednesday urged fans to "seize the moment" and snap up Women's World Cup tickets, with most games yet to sell out on the eve of the tournament.

There have long been concerns about sales in New Zealand, which will stage the opening game on Thursday in Auckland when the co-hosts face Norway. Tickets were still available on Wednesday for the match.

Australia, the other host nation, face the Republic of Ireland in the second game on Thursday in a sell-out at Sydney's Stadium Australia, which can hold about 80,000 fans. FIFA secretary-general Fatma Samoura said that 1.375 million tickets have been sold for the month-long tournament in total, surpassing the overall figure for the 2019 Women's World Cup in France. That tournament however had 24 teams, compared with 32 for the upcoming one. — AFP

FIFA president Gianni Infantino speaks during a press conference in Auckland. **PHOTO: AFP**

Onana confirms 'irresistible' United move

ANDRE Onana said that he couldn't resist the chance to play at Manchester United as the Cameroon goalkeeper prepares to join the Premier League giants after one season at Inter Milan.

Onana is set to sign for United in a deal worth a reported 55 million euros ($62 million) after joining Inter last summer as a free agent and starring in their run to the Champions League final.

In an interview with the Gazzetta Dello Sport published on Wednesday he confirmed his transfer to Old Trafford, saying he couldn't wait to rejoin his former Ajax coach Erik ten Hag.

"I really want to begin this new exciting adventure with a coach who as far as I'm concerned is a maestro," said Onana.

"I'm going to play in a great league and for a great club which has an enormous amount of history just like Inter. — AFP

Drawing-lots event for World Cup Qualifiers of Myanmar to kick-start on 27 July

A drawing-lots ceremony for the World Cup Qualifiers of team Myanmar will be convened on 27 July according to FIFA.

Myanmar, Indonesia, China Taipei, Maldives, Yemen, Afghanistan, Singapore, Nepal and Cambodia are falling in Pot 1 while Macao, Mongolia, Bhutan, Laos, Bangladesh, Brunei, Timor, Pakistan and North Mariana Island are placed in Pot 2.

The Asian Zone Qualifiers for the World Cup will be organized by the Asian Football Confederation and will be divided into stages.

According to the Asian Football Confederation, the lowest-ranked 18 teams released for July will play from the first round, while the nine winners will qualify for the second round qualifiers.

The 27 teams that have the opportunity to play directly in the second-round qualifiers and the nine teams that participated in the first round totalling 36 will be divided into nine groups of four teams.

The Asian Football Confederation will hold the first and second rounds of the Asian Zone 2026 World Cup qualifiers together with the 2027 Asian Cup qualifiers, and only the third round qualifiers will be held separately.

The first-round qualifiers will be held on 12 October while the second round will be on 17 October. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Myanmar star players are seen during an international football competition. **PHOTO: MFF**