

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. X, No. 95, 4th Waxing of Second Waso 1385 ME www.gnlm.com.mm Friday, 21 July 2023

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

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

Maravijaya Buddha image
to be consecrated on 1 Aug

The world's tallest Maravijaya Buddha image plus its throne will be 81 feet high weighing 5,292 tonnes:
Vice-Senior General

VICE-SENIOR General Soe Win, Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister, praised all technicians, officials and well-wishers for their contributions to the completion of the Buddha image and the throne within 1,143 days till 1 August 2023 by overcoming unprecedented

challenges at the coordination meeting on holding the consecration of the Maravijaya Buddha image, hoisting umbrellas atop the small pagodas on the stone plaque chambers and sharing merits gained at the hall of the Buddha image in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

SEE PAGE-3

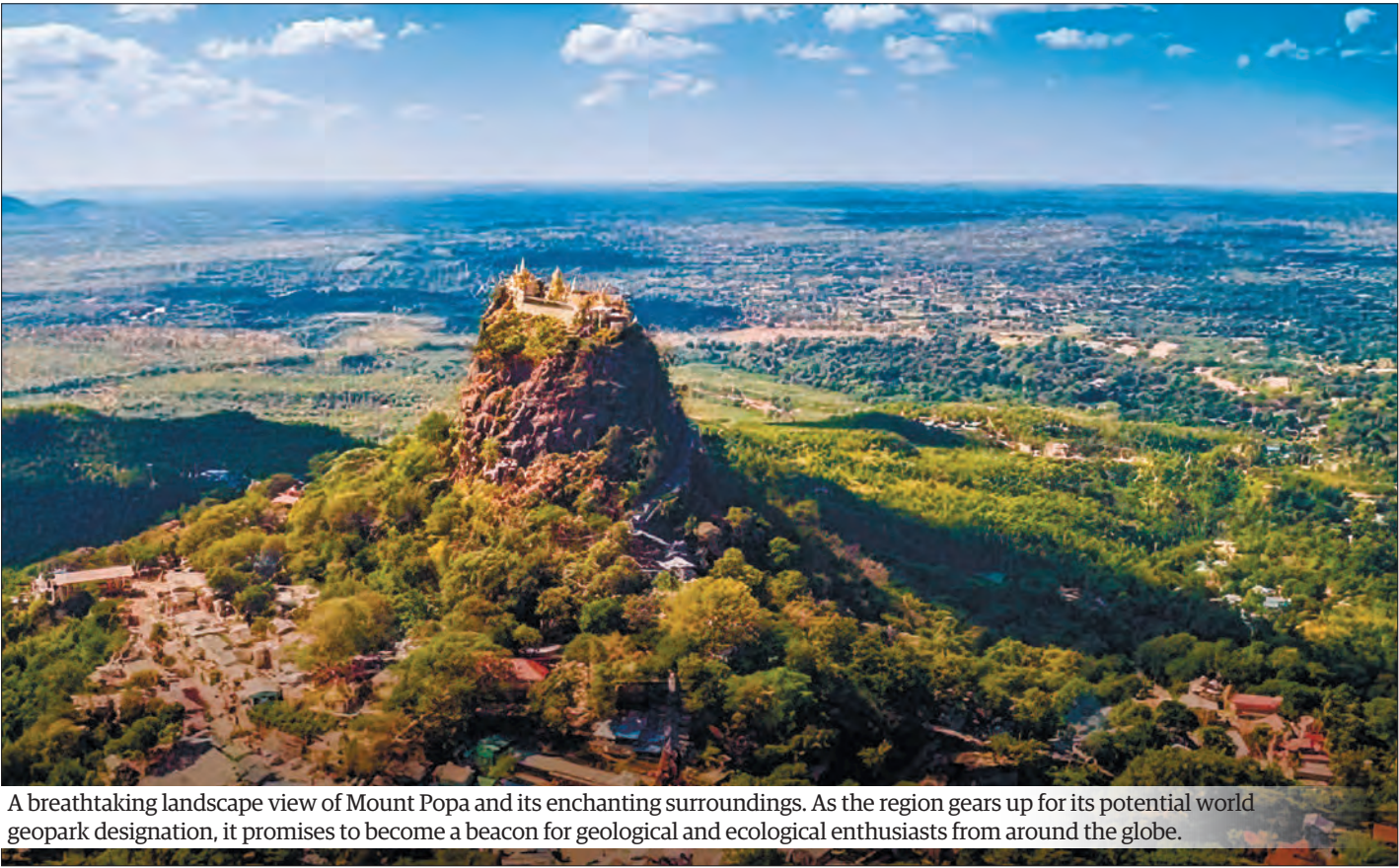
Mount Popa to earn coveted designation
as a world geopark

MoNREC discloses the government's plan to develop 15 geosites in Mt Popa region

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MoNREC) has taken a momentous step towards designating Mount Popa as a world geopark. With its historical significance, ancient iron furnaces in Bagan era, rare biodiversity, and fossilized jaws of Gomphotheres, the area has caught the attention of authorities who plan to implement 15 geosites as a first measure in this prestigious endeavour.

During the 1/2023 meeting of the National-level Committee on Geoparks held in Nay Pyi Taw on 18 July 2023, the Union Minister for of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation disclosed the government's plan to develop 15 geosites in the Mount Popa region, seeking to secure its status as a world geopark. This initiative aligns with the Global Geoparks Programme, launched by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2001, which currently boasts 195 global geoparks across 48 countries.

SEE PAGE-3



A breathtaking landscape view of Mount Popa and its enchanting surroundings. As the region gears up for its potential world geopark designation, it promises to become a beacon for geological and ecological enthusiasts from around the globe.

NATIONAL

Three ASEAN Community Pillars on development of ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision coordinated among relevant ...

PAGE-5

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

SPTT engages in peace talks with UWSP, NDAA, and SSPP delegations

PAGE-6

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Authority to take action against land uses in PyinOoLwin, Taunggyi

PAGE-11



Myanmar & American traders to boost cooperation in economy, personality development, and international relations

MYANMAR and American traders will enhance cooperation in the economy, personality development and international relations, according to the UMFCCI.

To do so, the UMFCCI and the US-based Junior Chamber International held a meeting at the UMFCCI office on 19 July, said U Aye Win, president of UMFCCI.

“We mainly discussed three sectors like economic growth,

The documentary group photo of the meeting between the UMFCCI and the US-based Junior Chamber International held on 19 July in Yangon.



personality development and international relations, including seeking opportunities to ensure the long-term development between the UMFCCI and JCI Myanmar as a priority. Moreover, we discussed the holding the holding of business matching events among the global JCI members, JCI Myanmar members and UMFCCI at the meeting,” he said.

Similarly, the two sides will cooperate to invite the members of UMFCCI and young entrepreneurs through the UMFCCI network to international trade fairs and discussion panel and training courses organized yearly in the countries where the JCI is located. — ASH/KTZH

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		

Ensuring per acre high yields needed for regional rice sufficiency

IT is necessary to ensure per acre high yields for regional rice sufficiency. Local farmers need to grow high-yield paddy strains with high consuming quality.

(Excerpts from the speech by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at a meeting with departmental officials and town elders in PutaO Township on 13 December 2022)

Maravijaya Buddha image to be consecrated on 1 August

FROM PAGE-1

Tatmadaw cut four parts for the Buddha image and five parts for the throne with decisions to convey relevant parts of the marble rock.

Conveyance of marble parts for the Buddha image and the throne took a period from July 2020 to April 2021, and the connection of parts, carving, and keeping the parts on the throne from October 2021 to 13 February 2023. Moreover, the Vice-Senior General explained finishing the work process from 14 February to 31 July 2023 and installing the Holy Unnalon hair on 1 May 2023.

The Vice-Senior General praised all technicians, officials and well-wishers for their contributions to the completion of the Buddha image and the throne within 1,143 days till 1 August 2023 by overcoming unprecedented challenges.

The Vice-Senior General unveiled that the consecration of the Maravijaya Buddha image will be held on 1 August 2023 (the second full moon of Waso) for the people to have a chance to pay homage to the world's tallest sitting Buddha image, and such Buddha image will be located on Thephyu Hillock in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

At the front wing of the Buddha image, the Vice-Senior General continued to say



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win chairs the coordination meeting on the holding of the consecration ceremony for the Maravijaya Buddha image in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

that each of two stone plaques bearing Pitakat treatises in Pali and Romanized languages are kept in stone plaque chambers, built from 16 March to 30 June 2022. Such work process of stone plaques was done by those from Myanmar Engineering Council and military engineers.

In this regard, he recounted that well-wishers have donated more than K16 billion to the fund for building the Buddha image and all facilities at the Maravijaya Buddha Park.

The Vice-Senior General disclosed that the Head of State will make the third clarification on the construction process of the Maravijaya Buddha image and stone plaque chambers as well as religious edifices on 23 July 2023.

The Buddha image with Bhumi Phassa Mudra in the Yadanabon era will be 63 feet high weighing 1,782 tonnes and the throne will be 18 feet high weighing 3,510 tonnes. As such, the world's tallest Maravijaya

Buddh image plus its throne will be 81 feet high and weigh 5,292 tonnes.

Officials reported on holding the consecration ceremony, hoisting umbrellas atop the small pagodas on the stone plaque chambers and a ceremony to share merits gained, preparations for successful completion of the ceremonies and invitation to members of the Sangha.

The meeting process ended with a concluding remark from

the Vice-Senior General.

Anglo Mining Co Ltd handed over a marble rock from its block at Sagyin Hill near Sagyin Village of Madaya Township to Tatmadaw through Shwe Foundation to carve the Buddha image as Tatmadaw is capable to do so with abundant human resources. Moreover, a 228-acre land was also handed over to Tatmadaw to keep the Buddha image for public obeisance. — MNA/TTA

Mount Popa to earn coveted designation as a world geopark

FROM PAGE-1

Before Mount Popa can be nominated as a global geopark, it must first be designated as a national geopark. This process involves a comprehensive exploration of the area by a combined team of relevant ministries and organizations, as explained by the Union Minister.

Myanmar already treasures several conservation areas with international and regional recognition. Among them are eight ASEAN Heritage Parks, two Man and the Biosphere Reserves, six Ramsar sites, and six East Asian-Australasian Flyway Network areas. — TWA/CT

ISR Vovinam Tournament 2023 concludes with medallists smiling

THE sweet smiles of the medalists were seen yesterday during the award ceremony after the Inter-State/Region Vovinam Tournament 2023.

The final matches of the Men's and Women's Double Sword Events of 65 kilogrammes and 55 kilogrammes were held before the award ceremony.

Next, winners of the final matches received first, second

and third prizes respectively.

Officials presented awards to the male and female athletes who won first, second and third places in the 60-kg and 65-kg swords events, and individual and double events of empty-handed, sword, and long stick.

The most talented male athlete award went to Kyaw Zin Maung from Mandalay Region while the female award belonged

to Ei Ei Mon from Chin State.

Nay Pyi Taw Team grabbed the championship trophy for the male team, while Mandalay Region Team earned the championship trophy for the female squad, and the championship trophy for the mixed event. A total of 221 athletes from 13 male and 13 female teams participated in the tourney, which was held from 17 to 20 July. — MNA/KZL

MoFA Union Minister receives ACC Secretary-General

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe received Mr Shi Zhongjun, Secretary-General of the ASEAN-China Centre (ACC) and members of the delegation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the courtesy call, they exchanged views on ASEAN-China dialogue relations and the crucial role of the ASEAN-China Centre in deepening mutual understanding and friendship under the six priority cooperation areas which are trade, investment, education, culture, tourism, information and media. Both sides highlighted the successful milestones marked under the ASEAN-China partnership

agenda which has been actively supported by Myanmar as the Country Coordinator for ASEAN-China dialogue relations. Both sides discussed promoting cooperation in various areas of the ASEAN-China Plan of Action 2021-2025 and its annex to effectively implement the ASEAN-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP). Union Minister and the Secretary-General also cordially discussed projects and activities to be conducted by the ASEAN-China Centre and looked forward to making the ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations more substantive, meaningful, and mutually beneficial. — MNA



Secretary-General Mr Shi Zhongjun of the ASEAN-China Centre calls on Union Minister U Than Swe yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.



Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing receives Indian Ambassador Mr Vinay Kumar in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

MoIC Union Minister receives Indian Ambassador

UNION Minister for International Cooperation U Ko Ko Hlaing received Mr Vinay Kumar, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of India to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the call, they cordially exchanged views on the promotion of existing friendly bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries, India's humanitarian assistance as well as the provision of necessary construction materials

for repairing and rebuilding works in Cyclone Mocha-hit areas, the possibility of expanding India's investment as well as exporting rice, and beans and pulses to India and the progress on India-Myanmar-Thai Trilateral Highway project. — MNA

MoSWRR Union Minister receives Indian Ambassador to Myanmar

UNION Minister for Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine received a delegation led by Mr Vinay Kumar, the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, the ambassador discussed various topics, including India's scholarship assistance, and humanitarian aid for the areas affected by Cyclone Mocha, the accepting of internally displaced persons (IDPs), human trafficking issues, and economic development projects

being implemented in Rakhine State as per the Myanmar-India MoU.

The discussion also touched on the humanitarian aid provided by India for Cyclone Mocha victims, the visit of the ERAT Team representatives from the AHA centre to the cyclone-affected areas of Rakhine State, relief supplies from the AHA centre, and the rehabilitation of human trafficking victims and individuals who have successfully overcome drug addiction. — MNA/MKKS



Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine holds talks with the delegation headed by the Indian ambassador yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

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.

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 454237515

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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.

newsroom@gnlm.com.mm, gnlmnews@gmail.com
www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

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.

Three ASEAN Community Pillars on development of ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision coordinated among relevant ministries

A coordination meeting among relevant Ministries under the three ASEAN Community Pillars was held yesterday on the development of the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision in Nay Pyi Taw.

U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, delivered the opening remarks expressing his satisfaction with the progress made by the High-Level Task Force on the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision (HLTF-ACV) and encouraged the representatives from respective Ministries to identify the current and anticipated challenges in respective sectors and to propose future actions in overcoming those challenges. The Union minister further stressed the need for the representatives to explore the future directions of ASEAN in

line with the national plans of relevant Ministries to achieve national interest through regional cooperation.

Then, Dr Wah Wah Maung, Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and Eminent Person (EP) of Myanmar, briefed the meeting on the background, process, progress, challenges and future plan of the High-Level Task Force on the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision (HLTF-ACV) in the development of the ASEAN Vision 2045.

Afterwards, representatives from the relevant Ministries reviewed the progress and challenges of the implementing processes in their relevant sectors and shared their visions under the three ASEAN Community pillars. Representatives from 27 Ministries in total attended the meeting. — MNA



The coordination meeting among relevant ministries under three ASEAN Community Pillars on the development of the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 version in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

IPRD celebrates 7th anniversary of CMAS

Policymakers emphasize research-based recommendations in drafting policies, stresses MoI Union Minister



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn views the publications displayed at the celebration yesterday in Yangon.

THE 7th anniversary of the Centre for Myanmar Affairs Studies (CMAS) of the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) under the Ministry of Information was held in Yangon yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn said that the IPRD established the Centre for Myanmar Affairs Studies on 15 June 2016. Since its establishment, it has been

conducting research on political issues, economic and social affairs of the country and impacts from various points of view for seven years.

Moreover, it publishes journals – Myanmar Affairs

once every three months, Global Affairs once every two months and Ethnic Affairs once every four months featuring the progress in political, economic and social affairs of the country, traditions, cultures, and cultural heritage of ethnic people and prominent cases of the world.

He also appreciated the efforts of the Centre for Myanmar Affairs Studies for publishing as usual despite the challenges.

He then pointed out the research sector as one of the requirements for the development of the country. He added that the neighbouring countries and international countries currently focus on the research in relevant sectors and policymakers also emphasize research-based recommendations in drafting policies.

In November 2021, the Centre for Myanmar Affairs Studies was recognized and it also updated the quality of articles and publishing qual-

ity of the journals. Books and journals are published not for profit but for the public to gain knowledge and make references or research.

“In 2022, experts of the Centre for Myanmar Affairs Studies organized talk shows such as ‘Myanmar and ASEAN Relations: Pros and Cons’ by Saya Ko Ko, ‘How to move the current trend’ by Saya U Yan Kyaw and ‘Russia-Ukraine Conflict and global economic implications’ by Saya U Maung Maung Myint Thein and we received positive and effective recommendations,” said the minister.

After the ceremony, the Union minister hosted a dinner for participants.

On the same evening, the Union minister attended the ceremony to honour the artistes of the “Way Ma Nay Chin Bu” movie that won the best movie academy award for 2022 held at Western Park in Bahan of Yangon and cordially greeted the performers. — MNA/KTZH

SPTT engages in peace talks with UWSP, NDAA, and SSPP delegations

PEACE talks took place yesterday between the State Peace Talks Team (SPTT) and delegations from the United Wa State Party (UWSP), National Democratic Alliance Army (NDAA), and Shan State Progressive Party (SSPP) in Nay Pyi Taw.

Leading the discussions, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Member of the State Administration Council and Union Minister at the Union Government Office and Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC), warmly welcomed the peace delegations from the UWSP, NDAA, and SSPP.

The meeting was attended by several key figures, including

SAC Member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein and members, UWSP Vice-Chair U Lou Yaku, NDAA Vice-Chair U San Pae, and SSPP Vice-Chair 3 Sao Sae Paing Pha.

The discussions primarily focused on the implementation of previously agreed-upon points, the convening of a peace conference, local development activities, and issues to be addressed by ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) among others before concluding the first-day meeting.

The second day of talks is scheduled to continue on 21 July. — MNA/TS



The peace talks between the State Peace Talks Team and delegations from the United Wa State Party, National Democratic Alliance Army and Shan State Progressive Party in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Chinese universities to cooperate in enhancing Myanmar's education sector



Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe presents the gift to the ACC secretary-general.

UNION Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe received a delegation led by Secretary-General Mr Shi Zhongjun of the ASEAN-China Centre (ACC) yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Union minister discussed the sending of Myanmar language visiting professors to Chinese universities, enhancement of student and teacher exchange programmes

and cooperation in research sectors.

The ACC secretary-general talked about the promotion of joint ventures among ASEAN states in trade, investment, education, culture, tourism and media, and pledged that Chinese universities are ready to cooperate in the development of Myanmar's education sector. — MNA/KTZH

MHRC attends SEANF Working Group 2nd meeting

THE second meeting of the Working Group of the Southeast Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum-SEANF was held in a hybrid format by the Thailand National Human Rights Commission, the alternate chair, on 19 and 20 July in Bangkok.

The representatives of the human rights commissions from member countries – Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Timor-Leste – attended the forum in person, while representatives from the Indonesia National Human Rights Commission and the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission joined the forum via videoconferencing.

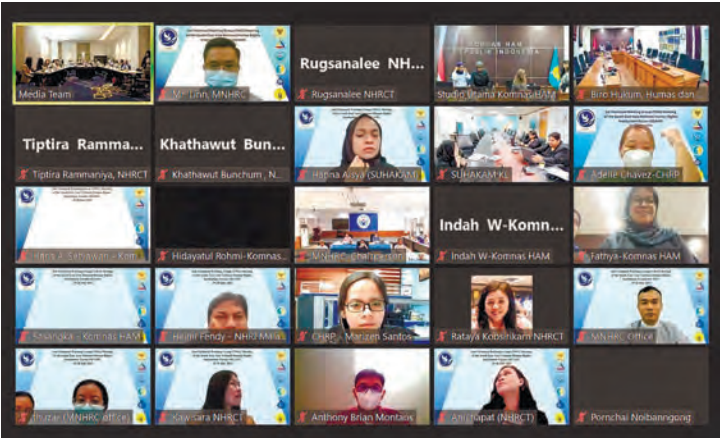
The meeting discussed the undertakings and progress of the SEANF after the first meeting of the working group, the implementation of five priority tasks included in

the SEANF strategy (2022-2026) and the cooperation between ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and SEANF, and the cooperation with World Justice Project (WJP).

At the meeting, commission member Dr Than Myint discussed the activities and achievements of the Myanmar

National Human Rights Commission regarding the protection and enhancement of human rights after the first working group meeting of the forum.

The working group meeting reached an initial agreement for holding the 20th annual meeting of the forum and related meetings in November 2023. — MNA/KZT



The second meeting of the SEANF Working Group in progress online.

16 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 20 July, total figure registers 640,946

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to 640,946 after 16 new cases were reported on 20 July 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of 10,973,245 laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 640,946. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 619,733 including six new recovery. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered 19,494 on 20-7-2023 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

Third day of third liver transplant operation underway at military hospital

THE third liver transplant operation took place at the special treatment centre of No 1 Defence Services General Hospital (1,000-bed) in Mingaladon Township, Yangon, yesterday.

The procedure involved patient U Myo Myint Oo receiving a liver transplant from his nephew, Maung Aung Khant Kyaw. The operation commenced at 9:30 am with the extraction of the required part of the liver from the donor, and the transplant surgery for the recipient began around 4:30 pm. The entire operation lasted approximately 11

hours.

Both the liver donor and the recipient are currently in stable health condition, receiving expert care from a medical team consisting of specialists, pharmacists, nurses, and technicians in the Intensive Care Unit. Officials from military hospitals also visited the centre to observe the liver transplant operation. — MNA/KZT

The third liver transplant operation continues for the third day yesterday.



CRIME NEWS

K295 mln worth of stimulant tablets captured in Lashio township

THE Myanmar Police Force reported the seizure of stimulant tablets worth K295 million in Lashio township, Shan State (North).

Following a tip-off, a joint team of Anti-Drug Police Force members conducted a search of a Wish vehicle driven by Sai Li (aka) Seng Li, accompanied by Ganfan (aka) Mabaran, at 9 pm on 17 July. The police discovered a total of 590,000 stimulant tablets in the vehicle.

After questioning Sai Li, the police arrested Ma Sai Khaung and Ma Mah Khaung in the No 2 ward of Lashio at 10 pm. The two individuals were found in possession of a



Four offenders are pictured along with seized drugs, a car and a motorbike.

motorbike and K36.5 million, suspected to be proceeds from drug trafficking.

The offenders have been subjected to legal action, and

an ongoing investigation aims to identify other members involved in the illicit drug trade. — MNA/MKKS

Illegal teak, consumer goods, foodstuffs, industrial materials and vehicles confiscated

THE combined on-duty team at the 16th-Mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint captured four kinds of goods worth K4,800,280 including a total of 0.696 tonne of teak doors and 1,200 kilogrammes of raw industrial materials (used) without official documents from a Toyota Dyna and a Nissan station wagon (estimated value of K40 million) heading to PyinOoLwin from Mandalay and a total of 0.620 tonne of timbers worth K682,880 and 330 bags of rice worth K16.5 million without official documents from a Hino Profia truck (estimated value of K40 million) on 17 July. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

A combined team at the Thanlwin Bridge combined checkpoint nabbed nine kinds of goods worth K11,128,000 including 2,400 bottles of Singha beer and 480 bottles of SPY wine cooler from a Mitsubishi Canter vehicle and a Toyota Hilux car (approximate value of K35 million) travelling from Hpa-an to Yangon on 18 July. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 18 July, the on-duty teams under the Customs Department impounded two sets of Alpha display showcase worth K714,000 that were different from the items mentioned in the Import Declaration (ID) and 106 Porcelain tiles worth K10,378,368 without Import Licence from two containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint and 25 kinds of goods worth K62,735,274 including 380 mini lamp holders and 130 kilogrammes of electric bulb assy without Import Licence from two containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

According to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, a total of 17 arrests were conducted on 17 and 18 July, involving items with an estimated value of K221,938,802. — MNA/MKKS



Confiscated illegal goods in Kayin State.

Drugs seized in Tachilek and Nawnghkio townships



Two arrestees are seen together with confiscated drugs and a vehicle.

ON 19 July, a joint team comprising members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a house in Phanmin village,

Tachilek township, which was rented by Chan Lon. The search took place at 11:30 am and resulted in the seizure of

338,000 stimulant tablets.

Additionally, on the same day at 8:30 am, another combined team intercepted a Landcruiser Prado vehicle driven by Sai Than Htwe Lay, accompanied by Kyaw Zay Ya (aka) Shwe Kuu, near Oriental Tollgate in Nawnghkio township. Following the search, the police confiscated 240,000 stimulant tablets along with K300,000 in cash.

As a result of these operations, the offenders are being prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/MKKS

OPINION

Try hard to overcome
the challenge of
forex changes

OVERCOMING the challenges posed by fluctuations in foreign exchange rates is a significant endeavour. The US dollar serves as the dominant international currency, accounting for over 60 per cent of global trading. Given its widespread use in investments and currency circulation worldwide, changes in foreign exchange rates have a profound impact on the economic landscape.

In Myanmar, the disparity between the foreign exchange rate set by the Central Bank of Myanmar and the rate outside the official channels is causing concern among importers, individuals involved in US dollar transactions, local businesspeople, foreign investors, and entrepreneurs. The daily fluctuations in the forex rate of the US dollar have created an atmosphere of uncertainty.

In a recent report, the World Bank highlighted the ongoing challenges faced by Myanmar's economy. While the foreign exchange rate remained relatively stable during the past six months, allowing businesses to operate smoothly, other issues such as power outages, internal conflicts, declining household incomes, escalating prices of essential food items and fuel, and limited job opportunities have created a critical situation for Myanmar's economic recovery, exacerbated by the devaluation of the Myanmar kyat.

the overall economic arena. It is crucial for business owners to have a conducive environment to conduct their operations, as their success contributes to the long-term development of the state. Although there are existing laws and regulations pertaining to foreign exchange management measures, some restrictions are not effectively implemented in practice.

In a recent report, the World Bank highlighted the ongoing challenges faced by Myanmar's economy. While the foreign exchange rate remained relatively stable during the past six months, allowing businesses to operate smoothly, other issues such as power outages, internal conflicts, declining household incomes, escalating prices of essential food items and fuel, and limited job opportunities have created a critical situation for Myanmar's economic recovery, exacerbated by the devaluation of the Myanmar kyat.

Addressing the challenge of forex changes requires concerted efforts from policymakers, regulators, and market participants. Implementing effective measures to stabilize the foreign exchange rate, improving the enforcement of existing regulations, and addressing underlying issues that hinder economic growth are crucial steps towards mitigating the adverse impacts of forex fluctuations and fostering a more robust and resilient economic environment.

IN A world where the concept of education itself is being challenged by the speed of ai development, it may be worth re-examining the value of our education in this world.

The first misconception that a lot of us have, especially true in Myanmar, is the mistaken belief that even if you do not have an education, you can still become a boss who employs educated people. Fact: only one in a hundred thousand people, without an education would be smart enough to accomplish that. If it is so effortless to become a boss, why would people even want to be employees in the first place? Simply put, having no education is not equivalent to becoming a boss in the near or far future.

Not just in Myanmar, but even in the US, 56 per cent of Americans now believe a degree is no longer worth the time or money spent on it. (WSJ, March 2023). Yet the investment return stats do not support that survey result. 1970,

Americans with a university degree earned 35 per cent more than a typical high school graduate. In 2021, this college wage premium has risen to 66 per cent. The typical return for a bachelor's degree is now around 14 per cent, dropped from a peak of 16 per cent in the early 2000s.

We always wonder whether the choice of subject or the selection of school matters. Based on research, the choice of subject and timely education matter hugely, and the choice of institution less so. As empirical evidence, those who studied programming or IT-related degrees in prestigious universities four or five years ago, are not getting internships in any of FAANG (Facebook, Apple, Am-

azon, Netflix, Google) companies. These companies aren't offering any internships this year, due to a significant portion of low-level or starting IT jobs now being in the hands of AI. Adding to that, a hundred thousand IT-related re-trenchments last year, it is fathomable why the wrong choice of subject might end you up being out of work. The same reasoning held up for studying IT ten years ago. Those graduates from even middle-ranked universities ended up having good jobs, as the demand exceeded supply in that industry sector at the point of their qualification.

The third point to highlight is the dropping out misjudgement by youngsters. Those nonchalant

Getting Money Worth Your Education

By U AC



Information Technology plays a vital role in the curriculum, equipping students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the digital age, promoting innovation, and preparing them for the challenges of the future job market. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY

'Geneva patient' the latest in long-term remission from HIV

AMAN dubbed the "Geneva patient" is the latest person with HIV to be declared in long-term remission -- however he did not receive a transplant with a virus-blocking gene mutation like previous cases, researchers said Thursday.

Five people have previously

been considered "cured" of HIV: the Berlin, London, Duesseldorf, New York and City of Hope, California patients.

All had bone marrow transplants to treat serious cases of cancer, receiving stem cells from a donor with a mutation of the CCR5 gene. This mutation is

known to block HIV from entering the body's cells.

In 2018, the Geneva patient similarly received a stem cell transplant to treat a particularly aggressive form of leukaemia.

But this time the transplant came from a donor who did not carry the CCR5 mutation,

French and Swiss researchers told a press conference in the Australian city of Brisbane as part of an AIDS conference that begins at the weekend.

This means that the virus is still able to enter the patient's cells.

However, 20 months after the man stopped taking antiretroviral treatment -- which reduces the amount of HIV in the blood -- doctors at Geneva University Hospitals have not found a trace of the virus in his system, the researchers said.

While they cannot rule out that the man's HIV will return, the researchers said they consider him to be in long-term remission.

"What is happening to me is magnificent, magical," the Geneva patient said in a statement.

The patient, a white man who chose not to be named, was diagnosed with HIV in 1990.

He had been on antiretrovirals until November 2021, when his doctors advised him to stop taking the treatment after the bone marrow transplant.

'Promising'

Two previous cases, known

as the Boston patients, had also received normal or "wild type" stem cells during their transplants. But in both cases, HIV returned a few months after they stopped taking antiretrovirals.

Asier Saez-Cirion, a scientist at France's Pasteur Institute who presented the Geneva patient case in Brisbane, told AFP that if there was still no sign of the virus after 12 months "the probability that it will be undetectable in the future increases significantly".

There were a couple of possible explanations for why the Geneva patient remains HIV free, Saez-Cirion said.

"In this specific case, perhaps the transplant eliminated all the infected cells without the need for the famous mutation," he said.

"Or maybe his immunosuppressive treatment, which was required after the transplant, played a role."

Sharon Lewin, the president of the International AIDS Society holding the HIV science conference in Brisbane, said the case was "promising".

"But we learned from the Boston patients that even a single" particle of the virus can lead to HIV rebounding, she cautioned.

"This particular individual will need to be watched closely over the next months and years."

While these cases of long-term remission raise hopes that one day HIV can truly be cured, the brutal and risky bone marrow transplant procedure is not an option for the millions of people living with the virus around the world.

It is instead a last-ditch attempt to treat life-threatening cancer in people who also have HIV.

However, there are hopes that the remission cases could point towards new avenues of research, such as the potential role played by immunosuppressive treatments.

Saez-Cirion said the case had also encouraged the researchers to continue studying innate immune cells, which act as the first line of defence against various pathogens, and could help control the virus.

For his part, the Geneva patient said he was now "looking to the future".

SOURCE: AFP

ARTICLE
WEATHER REPORT

about dropping out would often cite Mark Zuckerberg or Steve Jobs as role models of success after dropping out. Yet, just like Colonel Saunders who only found success at the ripe old age of 80, these specimens are one in a billion. Dropping out is an obvious way for you to make a big loss, based on empirical findings. In addition, taking longer than usual to graduate also destroys the value of education. Based on global statistics, less than 40% of undergrad complete their courses in an expected number of years. About one quarter still have no qualifications three years after that.

With Covid finally, in oblivion, 98 per cent of public schools were teaching all lessons in person by 22 June. However, we now realize Covid has a negative impact on educational standards overall. In 2021, pass rates for English and math tests fell by six & 12 per cent and 25 per cent decline compared to the results from 2019. The cause

was mainly attributed to online teachings, during the two years of Covid. The consequences of learning lost during the pandemic still linger till now.

With regard to our own country, Myanmar has seen its heyday in its education. From being the centre of learning in Asia from the early to mid-1900s to now being ranked 6,500+ globally for our then famous University of Yangon, lack of investment in educational infrastructure and years of mismanagement has left the country graduates in an undesired pool of young professionals, lacking skills to add value to companies in the contemporary world. Incorporating soft skills, such as presentation, public speaking, fact-checking, etc., and hard skills such as programming, information technology, second language, etc., into the present-day curriculum would definitely enlarge the value created out of our current educational system in the shortest possible time horizon.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 20 July 2023)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (17:30) hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over Northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining Odisha Coast, India stills persists. It is likely to move West-Northwestwards and will cross Odisha, India during next (48) hours. It is likely to move West-Northwestwards and will cross Odisha, India during next (48) hours. Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 21 July 2023: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Magway Region, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay Regions and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at time off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35- 40) mph. Wave height will be about (8-11) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of moderate to strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 July 2023: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 July 2023: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 July 2023: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

LOCAL BUSINESS

Failing to renew will cancel gem trading licence: MGE



Gem merchants are seen evaluating jade.

THE gem trading licence will be revoked unless it is renewed, according to Myanma Gems Enterprise — MGE (Nay Pyi Taw) under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Myanma Gems Enterprise (Nay Pyi Taw) released a notification on 14 July 2023 to extend licences for gems and jewellery trading licences, manufacturing licences for finished gems and carvings and rough gemstone and finished products trading licences.

As per the notification, those holding available licences

need to proceed to the renewal process three months before the expiry date. They must renew them at least one month before the expiry.

Also, they can notify Myanma Gems Enterprise of winding down a business with one-month notice before ceasing the operation.

Licence renewal applications can be processed at Myanma Gems Enterprise (Nay Pyi Taw), Gems and Jewellery Museum in Yangon, Mandalay Station, mining departments in Mogok, Lonkhin/Phakant, Mongshu and Myitkyina areas,

in line with the rules and regulations. The licence will get revoked unless it is renewed. Those businesspersons holding expired licences in 2020 and 2021 are urged to reinstate them with the relevant departments at the soonest.

Those who want to terminate the business are also notified of the aforementioned departments one month in advance. They must also present a cash memo to those departments at least one month before the expiry date, Myanma Gems Enterprise notified. — NN/EM

Corn price continues to plunge

THE price of corn is on a downward trend in the domestic market as the FOB corn prices fall to US\$280-300 per tonne, according to Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bay-intnaung Commodity Depot).

Corn prices stand at K1,153-1,150 per viss in the domestic market. Myanmar delivered corn to China and Thailand through the border and also sent corn to China, India, Viet Nam and the Philippines by maritime shipping, Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

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

Thailand gives the go-ahead to corn imports under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand imposed a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn imports to protect the rights of their growers if the corn is imported during the corn season of Thailand. There is only over one month remaining to export Myanmar's corn to Thailand under the Form D customs tariff benefit.

The directive released on 30 June 2022 said that transactions for the exports of agricultural products including corn, rice, bean and oil crops are to be made in dollars instead of Yuan-Kyat/Baht-Kyat. Therefore, 65 per cent of export earnings (US dollars) of the corn have to be exchanged according to the reference rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar (K2,100). The CBM eased the foreign currency conversion order to 50 per cent from 65 per cent for the exporters on 13 July 2023, according to its Notification 15/2023.

At present, the CBM sets the reference exchange rate at K2,100 whereas the US dollar is transacted at K3,100 in shady dealings, showing a large gap between the reference exchange rate and the grey market rate.

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

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

The corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons – winter, summer and monsoon. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year. — NN/EM

Myawady border trade records above US\$530 mln in Q1 2023-2024FY

ACCORDING to data from the Ministry of Commerce, trade volumes at the Myawady border amounted to US\$530.643 million in the first three months of this financial year.

During this period, exports of corn, onions, shrimp, flounder, carp, cabbage, chilli pepper, tamarind, dried ginger, and clothes contributed to earnings of US\$165.038 million. On the other hand, imports of animal feed, animal medicine,

bicycles, construction materials, electrical equipment, foodstuffs, machinery and equipment, raw materials, liquefied petroleum gas, and cosmetic products reached US\$365.605 million.

When compared to the same period last year, exports decreased by US\$132.901 million, imports declined by US\$23.794 million, and the total trade volume reduced by US\$156.695 million. — TWA/CT



Truckloads are seen waiting to cross the Myawady border.



Myanmar ships US\$2.74 mln worth of goods to Bangladesh as of 7 July

MYANMAR exported goods worth US\$2.749 million to Bangladesh through Sittway and Maungtaw borders between 1 April and 7 July of the current financial year 2023-2024, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Myanmar shipped goods worth \$0.95 million to Bangladesh through the Sittway border post and goods valued at \$1.84 million via Maungtaw as of 7 July this FY.

The value of border trade with Bangladesh over the past three months was \$3.678 million, which plunged from \$36.113 million in the corresponding period last FY.

Next, Myanmar's exports to Bangladesh via Sittway and Maungtaw amounted to over \$1 million in the second week of July. Tamarind, plum and

fresh ginger were mainly exported via the Sittway border, while the main export items through Maungtaw were agricultural products, fisheries and manufacturing goods. The PVC Pipe and PVC Tank were imported via Maungtaw.

Yangon-Sittway Road has a capacity of only 12-wheel and 6-wheel trucks. Despite the distance of 70 nautical miles between the two countries, climate conditions in the rainy season sometimes hinder vessel transport.

Myanmar conducts cross-border trade with Bangladesh via Sittway-Buthidaung-Maung-taw and Sittway-Angumaw-Maungtaw trade channels, mostly from Kanyinchaung Economic Zone in Maungtaw. — TWA/KK

Two-month-long Kalay-Tamu Road traffic jam causes shortages, price hikes

THE Kalay-Tamu Road, which has been experiencing traffic congestion for more than two months, is still facing the same issue. Both sides of the road have been closed, leading to disruptions in transportation and supply chains. As a result, the prices of Indian goods have surged, and the market is experiencing shortages due to prolonged road closures.

A local seller of Indian goods expressed their concerns, stating that the flow of goods has been severely affected, leading to a scarcity of items in the market. The remaining goods are being sold at higher prices due to the limited supply. Although buses are operating from Kalay to Khampat, reaching Tamu from Khampat has become challenging. The seller added that the bus fare for the Kalay-Khampat trip is now around K20,000. — TWA/CT



The photo shows a part of Kalay-Tamu Road that faces a two-month-long traffic jam.



A bird's-eye view of Taunggyi.

Authority to take action against land uses in PyinOoLwin, Taunggyi

RELEVANT district administration bodies issued a notice that action will be taken if there is no compliance regarding land uses in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Region and Taunggyi, Shan State.

It is being systematically implemented to ensure that environmental ecosystems are not damaged and to make PyinOoLwin a green city, a clean city, and a smart city. Although the public has been notified to comply with the law regarding land uses, compliance on the ground is weak.

Real estate agents and brokers are announcing the sale of va-

cant land, fallow land, uncultivated land, land for cultivation, forest land, village land, and the common land owned by the villages in Taunggyi Township at low prices without any consent on social networking sites. It is mentioned in the statement that the public may suffer losses when purchasing from them.

The statement also stated that such lands are being sold or purchased in illegal ways without permission and action will be taken under the law as authorities have warned many times about the use of the land. — TWA/CT

Onion market sluggish amid lack of foreign demand

ONION trading at the main commodity centres in Pakokku and Myingyan areas is moving at a slow pace owing to the lack of foreign demand. As the prices are still on the low side, the supply significantly declines in July.

The prices touched a high of around K1,800 in the Pakokku market, with the supply of over 37,000 visses of onions. Meanwhile, the Seikphyu market saw an entry of 3,000 visses of onions on 18 July and the highest price was K1,775 per viss. Yangon's market

has a regular demand from residents and those from delta regions. Despite low supply, the price did not rise, U Myo Win, a trader who sends the goods to regions outside Yangon, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The wholesale prices of onions moved in the range between K1,750 and K2,100 depending on the sizes. The prevailing price is up by K250-450 per viss compared to those recorded in the year-ago period, Daw Tin Win, a seller told the

GNLM.

There is no regular onion supply in those markets in July this year.

Yangon market saw an influx of 150,000 viss of onions on 20 July with the onion fetching K1,750-2,100 per viss.

The onion price is expected to go up in September, a veteran trader shared his opinion.

Onion cultivation costs over K3 million per acre due to high input costs and labour wages, which soared from K2 million last year. — TWA/EM



An undated picture shows the Pakokku onion market.

ECONOMY WORLD

China's blanket seafood testing deals blow to Japanese firms



File photo taken in April 2019 shows seafood at a fishing port in Soma, Fukushima Prefecture in northeastern Japan. **PHOTO: KYODO**

CHINA'S blanket radiation testing on seafood imports from Japan introduced earlier this month is estimated to cause some 100 million yen (\$720,000) in damage to five Japanese companies, with the losses expected to widen, sources familiar with the bilateral relationship said Thursday.

The five firms had fresh fish and other imported items kept in southern China for prolonged procedures that require about two weeks for chilled seafood and about one month for frozen ones to clear customs, the sources said.

The newly implemented testing is seen as a move to pressure Tokyo over its plan to begin releasing treated radioactive wa-

ter from the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant into the sea from this summer.

It has prompted some businesses in China to forego importing seafood from Japan and find alternative procurement sources. The Japanese government has been collecting information on possible damage from the step and discussing how to address the issue, the sources said.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno acknowledged Wednesday that some of Japan's seafood exports to China have been stopped at Chinese customs. He stressed at a press conference that the safety of Japanese food "has been scientifically proven". — Kyodo

US Fed fines Deutsche Bank \$186 mln over 'unsafe' practices



The US Federal Reserve has given a big fine to Deutsche Bank's New York branch. The bank did not make enough progress in fixing problems related to money laundering and breaking sanctions. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE US Federal Reserve has fined German lender Deutsche Bank \$186 million for sanctions violations and what it called "unsafe and unsound" banking practices at its US subsidiaries.

The fines announced by the Fed on Wednesday are the latest in a string of financial penalties levied against the German bank on both sides of the Atlantic for violating anti-money laundering laws over the last few years.

The Fed said on Wednesday that it had fined the bank's New York branch after concluding the bank had "made insufficient remedial progress under the 2015 and 2017 consent orders", relating to money laundering and sanctions violations.

The bank was also fined for

what the Fed called "unsafe and unsound" practices in its relationship with the Estonian branch of the Denmark-based Danske Bank. Deutsche Bank had "deficient anti-money laundering internal controls and governance processes," in its relationship with Danske Bank, for which it processed more than \$267 billion in transactions between 2007 and 2015, according to the Fed.

The fine unveiled on Wednesday comes after the German lender shelled out almost \$630 million in 2017 to end probes by the United States and the UK over Russian equity trades. It was fined a further \$41 million by the Fed in the same year for failing to comply with anti-money laundering practices. — AFP

Aluminum recycling in Brazil: Scraping by in a billion-dollar industry

SHIRLEI Aparecida de Souza uses her foot to crush the empty cold drink cans she collects in the alleys of a poor Sao Paulo neighborhood: a precarious livelihood critical to Brazil's environmental protection goals.

It is thanks to about a million collectors like her that the country recycled as many aluminum cans as it produced for the first time in 2022, according to data from Recicla Latas, a recycling industry body.

Brazil is a world leader in recycling drinks cans: its new record beats out the European Union, which recycles 73 per cent, and the United States with 60 per cent, according to

their own databases.

Recicla Latas says the country's recycling efforts have prevented about 16.5 million tonnes of planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions in the last 10 years.

But for Aparecida de Souza, collecting cans is a matter of survival.

She gathers them off the street, from garbage cans or landfills, and sells them to collection centers that send the cans to recycling plants.

She earns about 20 real, or just over \$4, a day: "Just enough to buy the necessities, a packet of rice, black beans and sometimes meat," the 38-year-old told AFP. — AFP



Brazil's can collectors make mostly subsistence livings. **PHOTO: NELSON ALMEIDA / AFP**

ADB forecasts 4.8% growth for developing Asia in 2023 as predicted

DEVELOPING Asian economies are expected to grow 4.8 per cent this year, the Asian Development Bank said Wednesday, maintaining its earlier forecast as robust consumption and investment are likely to boost growth while exports weaken amid slower global demand.

The ADB said in its 2023 outlook that growth in East Asia is projected at 4.6 per cent, in line

with its earlier estimate. Southeast Asia is forecast to grow 4.6 per cent, down from 4.7 per cent in the earlier outlook, due to weaker global demand for exports of manufactured goods.

Inflation forecasts for the developing Asian economies were revised down from 4.2 per cent to 3.6 per cent, with price increases easing to levels more comparable with pre-pandemic averages.

Declining inflation in China played a large part in the downward revision of the figure, the bank said.

"With lower inflation in developing Asia and more moderate monetary tightening in the United States, most central banks in the region have kept policy rates steady this year, with signs emerging of a shift towards easier money," the ADB said. — Kyodo

EasyJet says to land record profits despite disruption

BRITISH airline EasyJet on Thursday said it expected record pre-tax profits during the current peak summer season despite strike action by air traffic controllers and other disruptions. During its third quarter to the end of June, EasyJet posted profit before tax of £203 million (\$262 million), compared with a loss of £114 million one year earlier. “We continue to see good momentum as we move into Q4 where we... expect to deliver another record profit-before-tax performance,” chief executive Johan Lundgren said in the earnings statement.

“We are absolutely focused on mitigating the impact of the challenging external environment on our customers and flying them on their well-earned holidays,” he added. EasyJet, which flies mainly throughout Europe, recently cancelled about 1,700 flights for the summer season owing to air traffic control disruption. The airline blamed strike action by air traffic controllers as well as “constrained air space” owing

to the war in Ukraine. The bulk of cancellations, equivalent to almost the number of daily flights operated by the carrier, concern trips to and from London’s Gatwick airport. France in particular has been hit by air traffic control strikes, while Gatwick is facing its own summer of industrial action by ground staff. Despite EasyJet’s upbeat outlook as the aviation sector recovers from Covid-fuelled turbulence, the company’s share price dropped 1.3 per cent in early London trading. — AFP



EasyJet, which flies mainly throughout Europe, recently cancelled about 1,700 flights for the summer season owing to air traffic control disruption. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Tesla earnings rise to \$2.7 bln on increased sales, lower prices



Elon Musk’s fast-growing electric vehicle company reported profits of \$2.7 billion, up 20 per cent on the year-ago level. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

TESLA reported a jump in second-quarter profits Wednesday as a series of price cuts translated into sharply higher car sales.

Elon Musk’s fast-growing electric vehicle company reported profits of \$2.7 billion, up 20 per cent on the year-ago level.

Revenues surged 47 per cent to \$24.9 billion — a record for the company as auto deliveries surged 83 per cent to 466,140 vehicles. Total gross margin came in at 18.2 per cent, down from 19.3 per cent in the prior quarter and below the 18.8 per cent expected by analysts. Tesla characterized the profit margins as “healthy,” citing more efficient operations at the newer plants of Berlin and Texas. The results topped analyst estimates for earnings per share and revenues. — AFP

Netflix adds 6 million subscribers after password crackdown

NETFLIX on Wednesday said subscriptions to the media streaming service climbed by nearly six million in the wake of its crackdown on password sharing. The streaming giant finished the recently ended quarter with a total of 238 million subscribers and a profit of \$1.5 billion, according to an earnings release. The pickup in subscribers came as a potentially crippling writers and actors strike hits the US entertainment industry, but with analysts saying Netflix is better positioned than its rivals to weather the storm. “We are constantly at the table negotiating

with everyone across the industry,” Netflix co-chief executive Ted Sarandos said during an earnings presentation. “We need to get to this strike to a conclusion so that we can all move forward.” Revenue came in lower than expectations with Netflix posting \$8.2 billion in sales over the April to June period, pushing the company’s shares down more than eight per cent in after hours trading on Wall Street. — AFP



Netflix, a popular streaming service, gained almost six million new subscribers after cracking down on password sharing. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

United Airlines triples Q2 profits on strong demand

UNITED Airlines reported on Wednesday that second-quarter profits more than tripled, benefitting from robust travel demand and a surge in international capacity. The big US carrier raised its full-year profit forecast following the better-than-expected results, even as total seat capacity lagged expectations for the period. Profits were \$1.1 billion compared with \$329 million in the year-ago period, while revenues rose 17 per cent to \$14.2 billion. International travel capacity jumped 27 per cent compared with the year-ago level. The results showed no financial hit from the difficulties that befell the company in the final week of the quarter at its Newark, New Jersey hub as bad weather in the New York area prompted thousands of flight cancellations at Newark and the other two New York area airports. — AFP

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

သတင်းစာ နာယူလုပ်ပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်

09 454 237 515

သတင်းစာ ပြန်လည် စာစောင်များကို နိုင်ငံတကာခံချိန်စီ ပုံနှိပ်လုပ်ပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်

01 860 4530

ကြော်ငြာခွင့်များနှင့် ကြော်ငြာအခွင့်အလမ်းများ ကြော်ငြာ ထည့်သွင်းလုပ်ပါက ဆိုက်ရိုက်ဆက်သွယ် ဆွေးနွေးနိုင်ပါတယ်

09 974 424 848

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SEOUL GLOW VOY.NO. (236W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SEOUL GLOW VOY.NO. (236W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-7-2023 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD.

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Thai govt calls for calm after reformist’s PM bid fails

THAILAND’S caretaker prime minister Prayut Chan-o-cha called for calm Thursday after a popular progressive candidate’s bid to succeed him was thwarted by military and pro-royalist lawmakers.

Pita Limjaroenrat’s party won the most seats in May elections, but on Wednesday he was dramatically suspended from parliament, which then refused to grant him a second vote to become the kingdom’s next premier. About 1,000 people gathered for a protest that night to express their anger over the Harvard-educated liberal leader’s foiled bid for power, before dispersing peacefully.

Thailand is no stranger to political unrest, and Prayut — who took power in a 2014 coup — “understood” the frustration of Pita’s supporters, his office said.



Move Forward Party supporters flash three-finger salutes during a protest at the Democracy Monument following the suspension of party leader Pita Limjaroenrat. **PHOTO: AFP**

But he also implored the public to “move Thailand forward in a democratic way alongside the monarchy”, spokesperson Rachada Dhnadirek said.

“The expressions of opinion and political activities need to be peaceful, without violence, and without destroying the economy, trade and investment.”

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 Thailand’s establishment vehemently opposes its agenda.

The party has refused to compromise on its pledge to revise the kingdom’s strict royal defamation law, which can allow convicted critics of the monarchy to be jailed for up to 15 years.— **AFP**

Two killed in shooting as New Zealand city hosts World Cup opener



Police officers cordon off the site of a shooting in central Auckland on Thursday. **PHOTO: AFP**

A gunman killed two people and wounded at least five at a building site in central Auckland Thursday, just hours before New Zealand’s biggest city hosts the opening game of the football

Women’s World Cup.

New Zealand’s prime minister said the gunman also died at the scene, there was no national security threat, and that the marquee tournament would go ahead as planned.

The unnamed man tore through the facility with a pump-action shotgun in the early morning, killing two, injuring at least five and plunging a large portion of New Zealand’s largest city into lockdown.

A police officer was among those injured and rushed to hospital. His condition was said to be stable.

It was not immediately clear how the shooter died or his motive. — **AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia hits Ukraine’s Odesa for third night after grain deal exit

RUSSIAN strikes hit the Ukrainian port of Odesa for a third consecutive night since Moscow pulled out of a grain export deal, officials said Thursday, as Crimean authorities said a teenager had died in Kyiv’s latest attack on the peninsula.

At least 20 people were wounded following strikes on Odesa and the southern port city of Mykolaiv, local officials said, posting images showing buildings in flames with facades partially destroyed.

An “administrative building” in Odesa’s city centre was destroyed and others damaged, according to a spokeswoman for Ukraine’s southern military command, who said details were still being clarified. A previous round of overnight strikes on Odesa destroyed 60,000 tonnes of grain meant for export, Kyiv said on Wednesday, with President Volodymyr Zelensky accusing Moscow of “deliberately” targeting the supplies. Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine last year saw Black Sea ports blocked by warships until the gain agreement, brokered by the United Nations and Türkiye in July 2022. — **AFP**

Spanish court opens new tax probe into singer Shakira

A Spanish court said Thursday it has opened a new probe into Colombian music superstar Shakira for alleged income tax fraud.

The 46-year-old “Hips don’t Lie” singer is already due to stand trial at the end of the year in Spain for allegedly failing to pay 14.5 million euros (\$16.3 million) in taxes on income earned between 2012 and 2014. Now a court in the northeastern town of Esplugues de Llobregat near Barcelona said it had agreed with prosecutors to investigate two possible cases of tax fraud by Shakira from 2018.

The court did not provide further details in its statement.

Prosecutors have requested an eight-year sentence and fine of

24 million euros in the first case after Shakira rejected a plea deal over the accusations of tax evasion. — **AFP**

Shakira, a famous singer, is being investigated for not paying taxes in Spain. She is already going to trial for not paying taxes on money she earned between 2012 and 2014. **PHOTO: AFP**



Italy’s ‘miracle’ of the pizzas spurs Vatican to action

ON the third of every month, hundreds of the faithful gather in a windswept field in a village near Rome where they believe a statue of the Virgin Mary is crying tears of blood.

They also come to see the 53-year-old woman who they believe has been performing miracles and healing the sick since she brought the statuette home from a pilgrimage to Medjugorje in Bosnia Herzegovina, where many Catholics believe the Virgin Mary has been appearing since 1981. Gisella Cardia claims the statue was responsible for a modern twist on Christ’s miracle of the loaves and fishes, feeding visitors to her home in Trevignano Romano from a never diminishing pizza.

“It was a pizza for four and



The hilltop at Trevignano near Rome where pilgrims gather once a month to pray for miracles.
PHOTO: AFP

25 of us ate from it. It never got any smaller,” she told an Italian YouTube channel. “We were shocked!”

On another occasion Cardia claimed to have fed others with

leftover gnocchi that never ran out no matter how much she dished out.

Believers say Cardia is a visionary, claiming she predicted the war in Ukraine and the Covid pandemic, her body marked by the stigmata of Christ’s wounds from the crucifixion.

In a country where three-quarters of the population still identify as Catholic, the case has rekindled public fascination with the supernatural -- even more so since it has echoes of a hit television series, “The Miracle”.

But many in wealthy, picturesque Trevignano are deeply sceptical of what they call a “giant scam”, with some almost coming to blows with droves of pilgrims who turn up every month. — AFP

Hong Kong holds events to mark 50 yrs since death of Bruce Lee



A visitor strikes a pose imitating martial arts star Bruce Lee in front of his statue at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum in Hong Kong on 13 July 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

A series of events are being held in Hong Kong to mark Thursday’s 50th anniversary of martial arts icon Bruce Lee’s death, with the city paying tribute to the Asian-American film star.

Lee died in 1973 in the territory at the age of 32. The Hong

Kong Heritage Museum is hosting commemorative events in honour of the late kung fu legend, including a special exhibition, film screenings and the launch of Asia’s first “Camp Bruce Lee”, a day camp where 30 primary students can learn about his legacy.

A collaboration with the Bruce Lee Foundation, the camp was originally launched in the United States in 2018. The five-day event, to be held through Saturday, includes various workshops and features as well as an online meet-and-greet with Bruce Lee’s daughter, Shannon Lee.

A free pop-up display entitled “Bruce Lee: A Timeless Classic,” featuring memorabilia of the kung fu star, including publications, commemorative stamps and action figures, is also held at the museum. — Kyodo

No stars? Comic-Con returns to roots as Hollywood strikes

A-LISTERS are skipping this week’s Comic-Con due to a historic Hollywood strike — but while some ticketholders are disappointed, long-standing comic book fans are delighted to have their world-famous event back.

The giant pop culture gathering in San Diego, California often draws headlines for the thousands of cosplaying fans who camp in line for days to see stars from Tom Cruise to Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson.

With actors last week joining writers on strike —

and therefore banned from promoting their movies and shows — celebrities and studios from Amazon to Warner Bros have pulled the plug on Comic-Con appearances.

But not everyone is bothered.

“I am probably more excited this year than any year in recent memory,” said Chris Gore, owner of the “Film Threat” website and director of “Attack of the Doc!”

“San Diego Comic-Con is gonna get back to its roots — which is celebrating the art of comic books,” he said. — AFP



The Comic-Con fan convention brings 130,000 visitors a year to San Diego. **PHOTO: CHRIS DELMAS / AFP/FILE**

One dead, 48 injured in unexplained Johannesburg blast

A body was found in central Johannesburg early Thursday after an unexplained blast ripped through a busy street at rush hour the previous evening, the emergency services said.

The explosion blew a hole in

the road and gouged out cracks, skittling pedestrians and cars.

“(In the) early hours of this morning, we managed to recover a body of a male person on site where the explosion occurred,” Emergency Management Ser-

vices spokesman Robert Mulaudzi said.

Panyaza Lesufi, the premier of Johannesburg’s Gauteng province, told a media briefing that 48 people were injured. — AFP

Italy's 'miracle' of the pizzas spurs Vatican to action
PAGE-15



SPORT

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

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

- (c) To assure support for the sustainability of Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) that prioritize import substitution, export production, and the use of domestically produced raw materials, in order to increase domestic production and generate employment opportunities.
- (d) To advance the socioeconomic life of the people, in order to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.

3. Social affairs

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

Tears, cheers and hugs as New Zealand celebrate first World Cup win

NEW Zealand coach Jitka Klimkova described seeing her team claim the country's historic first World Cup win — men or women — as “an incredible feeling” on Thursday.

The Women's World Cup co-hosts defeated former champions Norway 1-0 to open the tournament in front of a near-capacity crowd at Eden Park in Auckland.

“We waited for this moment for such a long time. Hearing our fans behind us was just an unforgettable moment, for me as a coach and for all the play-

ers involved,” Klimkova said after Hannah Wilkinson scored the only goal of the game.

“It is an incredible, incredible feeling.”

New Zealand kept Norway's former Ballon d'Or-winning striker Ada Hegerberg quiet and could have won by more, but Ria Percival hit the bar with a 90th-minute penalty. The match was watched by over 42,000 fans, a national record crowd for football in the country. — AFP



New Zealand defender Catherine Bott (L) celebrates victory over Norway. PHOTO: AFP

MFF selects boys' squad for Soccer World Challenge

MYANMAR Football Federation (MFF) has selected 40 young players to compete in the U-12 Junior Soccer World Challenge 2023, which will be held in Chiba, Japan from 24 to 27 August, as stated by the federation.

These young players were systematically selected in the cities of upper and lower Myanmar zones from 14 to 17 July. Among the 40 boys, 23 are young enthusiasts and 17 are from academies. They will be properly trained and 25 players will be shortlisted.

The 25-boy roster will take part in the further training sessions and MFF will release the final 18 players in the second week of August ahead of the U12 Junior Soccer World Challenge 2023 tournament in Japan. — KZL

Inter sign free agent Cuadrado to fan fury

JUAN Cuadrado has signed for Inter Milan, the Serie A club announced on Wednesday as fans protested the arrival of the Colombia winger after being released by bitter rivals Juventus.

In a statement Inter said that the 35-year-old had signed a one-year deal with the San Siro club after eight years at Juve, where he won five league titles and reached the Champions League final in 2017.

“It's an honour to be here at one of the biggest teams in Europe,” Cuadrado told Inter TV. “I had many offers, but Italy is a second home for me. My family is very attached to this country, and there was

the opportunity to stay here and play for a big team with a fantastic history.

“I chose Inter because we all know what they represent on a global level.

“The important thing is for my family and I to feel good. We had the opportunity to remain in a place that, for us, is home. It'll definitely be the best choice.”

Cuadrado has also played for Italian clubs Udinese, Lecce and Fiorentina. He made his move to Juventus permanent in 2017 after initially joining on loan from Chelsea.

Cuadrado, who has played 115 times for his country, will slot in as a deputy to Netherlands international Denzel Dumfries at right wing-back in Simone Inzaghi's side. — AFP

Juan Cuadrado moves to Inter after eight years at rivals Juventus. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

