THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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

1. Priority will be given to fully realizing peace, stability and rule of law throughout the Union to safeguard the socioeconomic life of the people.

2. People-centred development work that enhances socioeconomic well-being will be undertaken to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.

3. Processes will further continue to consolidate a genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system and build a Union based on democracy and federalism.

4. Priority will be accorded to work aligned with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, in order to achieve enduring peace for the entire nation.

5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

Plan to consecrate Maravijaya Buddha Image on 1 Aug

Carving process of the Maravijaya sitting marble Buddha image, the building of religious edifices explained

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... a ceremony to consecrate the Maravijaya Buddha image and hoist umbrellas atop small pagodas on stone plaque chambers will take place on a grand scale on 1 August 2023, the full moon of Second Waso (Dhammacakka Day), adding that more than 70 members of the Sangha from nine countries will consecrate the Buddha image.

90% complete for MraukU region on world heritage list

The photo shows a general view of the MraukU with some activities of people and vehicles.

ACCORDING to the Department of Archaeology and National Museum, 90 per cent of the work for MraukU of Rakhine State to be enlisted as a UNESCO World Heritage Site has been completed.

The enlistment effort has been made since 2015 to have MraukU listed as UNESCO World Heritage Site to be announced in 2024.

"There are 1,128 buildings including city hall, fort, moat, religious buildings and pagodas of Kings in Nantawya of MraukU District. If it is on the list of World Heritage Sites, it will be recognized as the best ancient fortified city of Southeast Asia," said U Aung Aung Kyaw, director of the department.

MraukU is a city with a collection of precious ancient heritage from Rakhine history. Moreover, people can observe the artworks of the MraukU period, which is the last one among the four great eras: Dhannyawadi, Waithali, Lemro, and MraukU. The city boasts ancient heritage, architecture and historic landmarks of Rakhine kings about 1,000 years ago.

The three ancient Pyu cities of Hanlin, Beikthano and Sri Ksetra were designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 2014, while Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone in 2019. — ASH/KTZH

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ME allows renewal for expiring PJ passports in Thailand from 2 August

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Order No 45/2023

4th Waxing of Second Waso 1385 ME

21 July 2023

Transfer and Duty-Assignment of Deputy Minister

THE State Administration Council has transferred and assigned Dr Soe Win, deputy minister of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, to the duties of deputy minister of the Office of the State Administration Council Chairman under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Order No 46/2023

4th Waxing of Second Waso 1385 ME

21 July 2023

Appointment and Duty-Assignment of Deputy Minister

THE State Administration Council has assigned U Zin Min Htet to the duties of deputy minister of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Order No 47/2023

4th Waxing of Second Waso 1385 ME

21 July 2023

Appointment and Duty-Assignment of Deputy Minister and concurrently appointment of Chief of MPF

THE State Administration Council has appointed and assigned Lieutenant-General Ni Lin Aung to the duties of deputy minister of the Ministry of Home Affairs and concurrently assigned him to the duties of Chief of Myanmar Police Force under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

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

NATIONAL

Emphasis needed to improve the public economy

IT is necessary to focus on the improvement of the public economy rather than the economy of a group in order to develop the domestic econmy. Hence, the government is enhancing the work process of businesses beneficial for the majority of the people.

(Excerpts from the speech by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at a meeting with officials from associates of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on 23 December 2022)

Plan to consecrate Maravijaya Buddha Image on 1 Aug

Carving process of the Maravijaya sitting marble Buddha image, the building of religious edifices explained

THE building of the Maravijaya sitting Buddha image aims to show the flourishing of Theravada Buddhism in Myanmar, to Myanmar as a focal point of Theravada Buddhism, ensure the prosperity of the State and contribute to peace and stability of the world, Leader of the Information Team of the State Administration Council Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun explained at the press conference held in the precinct of Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

SAC Information Team Leader Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun is pictured (at the podium) at the press conference in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his clarification, the information team leader continued to say that advice was sought from venerable members of the Sangha from the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee for carving the Buddha image and construction of religious buildings.

He underlined that the Buddha image was carved in four parts with the use of CNC technology and all carving processes were completed on 31 March 2022, including a topic on construction of 720 stone plaque chambers on which small pagodas were built.

Moreover, parts of the Buddha image were connected with each other and conveyed on the throne, he added. Furthermore, the information team leader highlighted holding the ceremony to enshrine religious objects and jewellery items donated by well-wisher people on the throne and install Unnalon holy hair as well as build Sasana Beikman.

Especially, he unveiled that a ceremony to consecrate the Maravijaya Buddha image and hoist umbrellas atop small pagodas on stone plaque chambers will take place on a grand scale on 1 August 2023, the full moon of Second Waso (Dhammacakka Day), adding that more than 70 members of the Sangha from nine countries will consecrate the Buddha image.

Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun replied to queries raised by reporters from news agencies.

Media personnel at the press conference donated cash to the fund for construction of the Buddha image and the park to Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun.

After the press conference, officials conducted attendees round the Maravijaya Buddha Image and the Maravijaya Buddha Park. — MNA/TTA

The workshop on the development of the tourism sector in progress.

Workshop held for development in tourism sector

THE plans are underway for five key tourism issues including human resources, safety, transport, and development in the tourism sector, according to the workshop on Myanmar tourism development held on 21 July in Nay Pyi Taw.

The workshop aims to explore positive results by considering the sector-wise conditions in the tourism sector as it is key to developing political, economic and social issues, and to ensure the cooperation among departmental organizations and the private tourism sector based on these results.

The workshop discussed matters in connexion with tourism-related human resources, safe entry/exit of travellers and transport, facilitation of currency and fundraising for tourism promotion, tourism infrastructures, tourism products and market status.

Relevant departments and representatives of the private sector exchanged views on five key tourism issues that were selected at the workshop. — ASH/KTZH

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

Myanmar delegation led by Chair of UEC departs for Cambodia

AT the invitation of the Chairman of the Election Commission of Cambodia, the Myanmar delegation led by Union Election Commission Chairman U Thein Soe left Yangon for Cambodia yesterday to observe the 7th National Assembly election to be held in Cambodia.

Commission members U Than Tun and U Aung Saw Win and officials of the Yangon Region Election Sub-commission saw off the delegation at the Yangon International Airport.

Cambodia's 7th National Assembly election will be held on 23 July. U Soe Oo, a member of the commission, accompanied the UEC chairman.

By participating as international election observers, they will observe Cambodia's election systems, election procedures, voting process and counting process. — MNA/KZW

UEC Chair U Thein Soe and Myanmar delegation are seen before leaving for Cambodia yesterday.

Social Security-Khine Metta General Clinic (Taunggyi) established for insured workers

The opening event of the Social Security-Khine Metta General Clinic in progress on 21 July in Taunggyi.

SOCIAL Security-Khine Metta General Clinic (Taunggyi) for insured workers was launched in Taunggyi Township of Shan State on 21 July, according to the Ministry of Labour.

The clinic will provide healthcare services to 1,482 workplaces and 16,079 workers.

The Social Security Board (SSB) of MoL is drafting a strategic plan under the Social Insurance system and providing 15 SSB entitlements of two insurance systems out of six to the employees, who are mainly from the country's manufacturing sector, using the SSB contributions of employer, employee and government under the 2012 Social Security Law.

Moreover, it also cooperates with the private sector to open clinics for insured workers to grab health services easily. Currently, it operates 26 Capitation Payment contract clinics, 14 Fee for Service Payment contract clinics, 11 clinics for maternity services and two Mobile Medical Units.

There are 40 clinics including Social Security-Khine Metta General Clinic (Taunggyi) under contracts made between SSB and the private sector. The clinics will be expanded near places close to factories, workplaces, workers' dormitories, and residential areas where most workers live. — ASH/KTZH

CBM governor receives delegation led by Indian ambassador

CENTRAL Bank of Myanmar Governor Daw Than Than Swe received an Indian delegation led by Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Vinay Kumar in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, matters related to direct payment in Indian Rupees/ Myanmar Kyats in bilateral trade were discussed. The discussion focused on allowing the Indian Rupees obtained by any means to be opened in the accounts of Myanmar banks to be opened at the Punjab National Bank. Among the points in the mutual agreement (concept notes) are the continuation of certain issues and the acceptance and inclusion of remittances from foreign workers in India in a specially opened account.

They also discussed the points of agreement between Myanmar and India to support and provide technical assistance in anti-money laundering issues. — MNA/KZW

The Indian ambassador calls on CBM Governor Daw Than Than Swe yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

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

NATIONAL

Second-day peace talks continue

PEACE talks took place yesterday morning 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) on the second day in Nay Pyi Taw.

In the meeting, according to the second-day negotiations, the views of both sides were further discussed, and the final agreements were signed and exchanged.

Afterwards, on behalf of the ethnic armed groups, UWSP Vice-Chair U Lau Yaku and Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae gave closing remarks and the latter gave away books on world affairs, Myanmar affairs and ethnic affairs published by the Ministry of Information and gifts to the UWSP, NDAA, and SSPP delegations. — MNA/TS

The second-day session of the peace talks between SPTT and the UWSP, NDAA and SSPP delegations in progress yesterday.

MoHT UM receives delegation led by ACC Secretary-General

The delegation led by the ACC secretary-general calls on Union Minister U Aung Thaw yesterday.

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Aung Thaw received a delegation led by ASEAN-China Centre Secretary-General Mr Shi Zhongjun at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed increasing tourism cooperation and opening courses on human resource development, to enhance mutual travel and tourism cooperation between Myanmar and China, fostering close collaboration with the ASEAN-China Centre to attract more Chinese tourists to Myanmar and promoting tourism through international travel exhibitions held in China and sending invitations to festivals and trade fairs. — MNA/KZW

11 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 21 July, total figure registers 640,957

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to **640,957** after **11** new cases were reported on 21 July 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of **10,978,165** laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached **640,957**. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **619,735** including **two** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered **19,494** on 21-7-2023 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

China's foundation provides scholarships to Myanmar students

CHINA Foundation for Rural Development (CFRD) has provided scholarships to 112 students from Naypyitaw State Academy in Myanmar under the "Paukphaw Scholarship" project.

Speaking at the event held on Friday, Deputy Minister for Education Dr Zaw Myint expressed thanks to the CFRD for providing scholarships worth K500,000 each to the students.

The CFRD has been providing scholarships to students since 2016 and a total of 1,348 students from 14 universities received scholarships to date.

Moreover, 800 students from five universities were granted scholarships in 2022-2023AY.

Myanmar will beef up cooperation for the development of the education sector and the students should try hard to be reliable human resources of the country, the deputy minister said.

Country Director Ms Lin Yuan of CFRD also addressed the ceremony.

The deputy minister also joined the opening ceremony of PhD courses for Myanmar, Geography and Marine Science subjects and youths and civics training courses launched at Myeik University for the first time online on the same day. – MNA/KTZH

The Paukphaw Scholarship Awarding Ceremony in progress yesterday at the Naypyitaw State Academy.

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NATIONAL

China (Kunming) Import & Export Fair invites Myanmar businesspersons

CHINA (Kunming) Import & Export Fair welcomes Myanmar businesspersons, according to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

This 7th China (Kunming) Import & Export Fair, organized by the Ministry of Commerce and the government of Yunnan Province of the People's Republic of China, will be held between 16 and 20 August at Kunming Dianchi International Convention and Exhibition Centre. Myanmar businesspersons were invited in June.

Mr Xie Ming Gui, chair of the Yunnan Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar and officials of the UMFCCI led by vice president Dr Win Si Thu discussed matters on 17 July for Myanmar's entrepreneurs from the respective sectors to participate in the fair.

Additionally, famous businesspersons will join the fair. Therefore, Mr Xie Ming Gui invited Myanmar's businesspersons to showcase Myanmar's products. Business forums and talk shows will be included in the fair as well.

The photo shows Dianchi International Convention and Exhibition Centre where Kunming Import & Export Fair is to be held.

The fair will be held both online and offline, covering an area of 150,000 square metres with 15 halls. The three-square-metre booth will be charged 6,500 Yuan. — TWA/EM

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

Officials check the confiscated illegal teak logs.

THE combined team under the supervision of the Yangon Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force nabbed a Hino Profia van (approximately K40 million) carrying 3,300 kilogrammes of Diamond Non-Woven Interlining worth K10.395 million that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) near the Inndaing checkpoint and an unregistered Toyota Crown (approximately K3.5 million) near the Mingaladon Police Station on Yangon-Pyay Road in Mingaladon township on 18 July. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Forest Law.

The Mongton District Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force impounded a Toyota Probox (estimated value of K20 million) carrying 580 kilogrammes of frozen chicken in the Thai language labels without official documents on Mongton-Monghsat Road on 19 July. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

An on-duty team under the Customs Department confiscated 45 slim bags worth K1.35 million without official documents from luggage at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk) on 19 July. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The Hpa-an District Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force inspected a Fuso bus and a Voxy vehicle (estimated value of K35 million) heading to Yangon from Myawady near Naunglon bridge in Hpa-an township and captured six kinds of goods worth K16.871 million including 3,600 boxes of Deedo juice and 360 litres of Two Shrimps palm oil without official documents on 20 July. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

A total of 3.872 tonnes of illegal teak and 5.611 tonnes of illegal other timbers worth K1,670,544 was seized in Toungoo and Thayawady districts on 21 July and action was taken under the Forest Law.

According to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, a total of 13 arrests were conducted on four consecutive days from 18 to 21 July, involving items with an estimated value of K133,286,544. — MNA/MKKS

Seizure of illegal items.

Flood Warning

(Issued at 15:00 hrs M.S.T on 21-7-2023)

ACCORDING to the (16:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Nanyin River at Moekaung is observed as about (21/2) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (1) day.

According to the (16:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Nankaung River at Moekaung is observed as about (4) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (1) day. It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas at Moekaung Township, to take precaution measure. — GNLM

K450 mln worth of stimulant tablets captured in Hopong township

A total of over 900,000 stimulant tablets worth K450 million were captured in Hopong township in Shan State, Myanmar Police Force stated.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and examined a HiAce vehicle driven by Win Htun Naing (aka) Myo Tint travelling from Loilem to Taunggyi near Namkhok village in Hopong township at 2:20 pm on 18 July.

According to interrogation, offenders admitted the seized drugs were carried from Shan State to Kayin State.

Legal action has been taken against the offender and an investigation is underway to identify perpetrators of the crime chain. — MNA/MKKS

An offender is seen along with seized drugs and a vehicle.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Black gram, pigeon pea prices plunge tracking weak foreign demand

THE prices of black grams and pigeon peas showed a slump as foreign demand faltered, according to Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Commodity Centre).

The prices touched a high of K3.2 million per tonne of pigeon pea and K2.3 million per tonne of black gram on 1 July. The prices fell to K2.975 million per tonne of pigeon pea and K2.245 million per tonne of black gram on 21 July, showing a sharp drop of K225,000 per tonne of pigeon pea and K55,000 per tonne of black gram.

India's demand is highly correlated with the prices of black grams and pigeon peas as the main buyer of Myanmar's beans. The prices hit a record high of K2.46 million per tonne of black gram on 14 June and K3.33 million per tonne of pigeon pea on 5 June respectively on the back of strong demand by India.

Myanmar shipped more than 420,000 tonnes of pulses, with an estimated value of over US$330 million, to foreign countries in Q1 during the 2023-2024 financial year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's pulses exports crossed over $1.4 billion from over 1.9 million tonnes in the past financial year 2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Myanmar primarily exports black gram, green gram and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Of them, black gram and pigeon peas are mostly conveyed to India while green grams are shipped to China and Europe.

India has growing demand and consumption requirements for black grams and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2021, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black gram and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses' annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are also entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that annual quota.

Traders are pictured evaluating various beans and pulses in the Mandalay market. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG**

Black gram that India primarily purchases are commonly found only in Myanmar, whereas pigeon peas, green gram and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association. — NN/EM

Fuel prices on gradual rise in domestic market

The petrol station is seen with a sign displaying fuel prices in Yangon.

THE prices of fuel oil have regained slightly in the domestic fuel oil market.

The prices stood at K1,985 per litre for Octane 92, K2,085 per litre for Octane 95, K1,950 for diesel and K2,030 for premium diesel on 1 July and then, increased to K2,150 per litre for Octane 92, K2,265 per litre for Octane 95, K2,130 for diesel and K2,210 for premium diesel. The price showed an increase of K165-180 per litre within three weeks.

The domestic fuel prices are set depending on the price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in southeast Asia, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil.

Last August 2022, the oil prices surged to K2,605 per litre for Octane 92, K2,670 for Octane 95, K3,330 for premium diesel and K3,245 for diesel.

The committee is therefore governing the fuel oil storage and distribution sector effectively not to have a shortage of oil in the domestic market and to ensure price stability for energy consumers.

The Petroleum Products Inspection and Supervision Department, under the guidance of the committee, is issuing the daily reference rate for oil to offer a reasonable price to energy consumers. The reference rate in Yangon Region is set on the MOPS's price assessment, shipping cost, premium insurance, tax, other general cost and health profit per cent.

The rates for regions and states other than Yangon are evaluated after adding the transportation cost and the retail reference rates daily covered on the state-run newspapers and are posted on the media and official website and Facebook page of the department daily starting from 4 May.

The committee is inspecting the fuel stations whether they are overcharging or not. The authorities are taking action against those retailers of fuel stations under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law 2017 if they are found overcharging rather than the set reference rate.

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally.

The domestic fuel price is highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss between the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices compared to that of Myanmar. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies and the prices are about 60 per cent cheaper than that of Myanmar. Every country lays down different patterns of policy to fix the oil prices. Myanmar also levies only a lower tax rate on fuel oil and strives for energy consumers to buy the oil at a cheaper rate. — NN/EM

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OPINION

Express gratitude to the State and the people

QUALIFIED healthcare professionals play a vital role in providing effective medical care to patients. The Department of Human Resources for Health oversees the training and education of medical doctors, nurses, midwives, and other healthcare personnel, ensuring a steady supply of skilled individuals to serve the healthcare needs of the nation.

Every year, medical universities in Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi, and Magway produce hundreds of students who undergo internships at teaching hospitals. In July 2023, a total of 604 medical students began their internship courses, paving the way for their future roles as assistant surgeons.

Under the Department of Human Resources for Health, these medical universities have consistently produced a significant number of healthcare professionals. To date, they have trained 47,337 medical doctors, 5,437 dentists, 4,222 pharmacists, 4,529 medical technologists, 9,496 bachelor of nursing science graduates, and 2,366 community health professionals. These dedicated individuals have embraced medical careers based on their aptitude, educational achievements, personal interests, and the support of their families.

Serving as a medical doctor should be a source of pride. Their noble profession focuses on healing and preserving the health of the people. With the support of the State, these professionals must continuously enhance their skills and knowledge to provide more effective and potent treatments. Surgeons, in particular, dedicate their lives to serving the people, sacrificing their youth, talent, skills, and expertise to prevent and treat diseases in society.

Regardless of their chosen path, all healthcare professionals are committed to providing meticulous care and treating patients with compassion. Such professional ethics align with the universal moral principles that underpin a virtuous society.

Following their professional ethics, medical doctors are required to serve in government healthcare facilities. This ensures the provision of effective healthcare services to diverse communities and enables these professionals to gain practical experience, tackle medical challenges, and pursue advanced studies to achieve their goals. Since the government invests substantial resources in their long-term training, it is expected that these medical graduates repay their debts of gratitude to the State and the people by delivering high-quality healthcare services.

Serving as a medical doctor should be a source of pride. Their noble profession focuses on healing and preserving the health of the people. With the support of the State, these professionals must continuously enhance their skills and knowledge to provide more effective and potent treatments. Surgeons, in particular, dedicate their lives to serving the people, sacrificing their youth, talent, skills, and expertise to prevent and treat diseases in society.

In conclusion, healthcare professionals need to express their gratitude to the State and the people by fulfilling their obligations and delivering effective healthcare services. The government's investment in their education and training warrants their commitment to serving the nation. By upholding the principles of their noble profession, healthcare professionals can make a significant impact on the well-being of the population, fostering a healthier and happier society.

ARTICLE

Decoding the Secrets of Ageing

By Min Zan

WHAT are the determinants of how we age? The different systems in our brains age at different rates. Some systems decline as others increase in efficiency and effectiveness. The basic message we hear in popular culture, that ageing is a time of unmitigated decline, is not accurate. Yes, some things do slow down, but our health, happiness, and mental sparkle need not. The latest neuroscientific research suggests an entirely new way of thinking about ageing — about memory, our perceptual systems, intelligence, even motivation, pain, and our social lives. You might think, as I used to, that the story of why some of us age better than others have to do with all of these cognitive and emotional factors. The biggest single determinant of living a productive and happy life is something that you're born with (partly) and something that you can decide to change: your personality.

I visited a daycare centre for preschoolers recently and was struck by how early the differences in children's traits and individual dispositions show up. Some children are more outgoing, while others are shy; some like to explore the environment and take risks, while others are more fearful; some get along well with others and some are bullies — even by age four. Young parents who have more than one child sees immediate differences in the dispositions of siblings, as well as differences between their offspring and themselves.

At the other end of life, there are clear differences in how people age — some people simply seem to fare better than others. Even setting aside differences in physical health, and the various diseases that might overcome us late in life, some older adults live more dynamic, engaged, active, and fulfilling lives than others. Can you look at a five-year-old and tell whether they will be a successful eighty-five-year-old? Yes, you can.

The discovery that ageing and health are related to personality was the result of a lot of work. First, scientists had to figure out how to measure and define personality. What is it? How do you observe it?

accurately and quantitatively? Here, they may have taken inspiration from Galileo, who said, "The job of the scientist is to measure what is measurable and to render measurable that which is not." And so they did.

Among the most solid findings is that a child's personality affects adult health outcomes later in life. Take, for example, a child who was always getting into trouble in elementary school and continued to do so as a preteen. As a teenager, they might have smoked cigarettes, drunk alcohol, and used marijuana. In personality terms, we might say that this teenager was sensation- and adventure-seeking, high on the quality of extraversion, low on conscientiousness and emotional stability. The kid would have been at increased risk for hard drug use, or being killed in a motor vehicle accident while driving drunk. If they survived these increased risks in young adulthood but didn't change their habits, they'd enter middle age with a highly inflated risk of lung cancer from smoking or liver damage from drinking. Even more subtle behaviours can influence many decades later: Early and compulsive exposure to the sun and sun tanning; poor dental hygiene; poor exercise habits; and obesity all take their toll.

The decoding of the ageing process and the fluidity of traits highlight that self-discovery is an ongoing journey throughout life.

One of the pioneers in the relationship between personality and ageing is Sarah Hampson, a research scientist at the Oregon Research Institute. As Hampson notes, "Lack of self-control may result in behaviours that increase the probability of exposure to dangerous or traumatic situations and adversely affect health through long-lasting biological consequences of stress." She has found that childhood is a the critical period for laying down patterns of behaviour with biological effects that endure into adulthood. If you want to live a long and healthy life, it helps to have the right upbringing. Childhood personality traits, assessed in elementary school, predict a person's lipid levels, blood glucose, and waist size forty years later. These three markers, in turn, predict the risk for cardiovascular disease and diabetes. The same childhood traits even predict life span.

Although these correlations between early childhood and late adulthood personality are robust, they tell only a part of the story. People age differently, and part of that story has to do with the interaction of genetics, environment, and opportunity (or luck). Scientists developed a mathematical way of tracking personality, comparing traits as they differ across individuals or change within a person over time. With it, we can talk about age-related, culture-related, and medically induced changes in personality, such as occur with Alzheimer's disease. Often one of the first indications of a problem with your brain is a personality change.

And in the past few years, developmental science has shown that people, even older adults, can meaningfully change — we do not have to live out a life that was paved for us by genetics, environment, and opportunity. The great psychologist William James wrote that personality was "set in plaster" by early adulthood, but fortunately, he was wrong. The idea that people retain the capacity to change throughout their life span didn't take hold until the mid-seventies, when an idea first put forward by psychologist Nancy Bayley was popularized by the German developmental psychologist Paul Baltes: -

Most developmental researchers do accept the notion that developmental change is not restricted to any specific stage of the lifespan and that, depending upon the function and the environmental context, behaviour change can be pervasive and rapid at all ages. In fact, . . . the rate of change is greatest in infancy and old age.

Not everyone takes advantage of this capacity, but it is there, like the ability to adjust your diet or your wardrobe. The events of your childhood can be overcome and transformed based on experiences you have later in life. Bayley and Baltes' big idea was that no single period of life holds supremacy over another. Of course, the idea that people can change is the entire basis of modern psychotherapy. People seek psychiatrists and psychologists because they want to change, and modern psychiatry and psychology are largely effective in treating or curing a great number of mental disorders and stressors, especially phobias, anxiety, stress disorders, relationship problems, and mild to moderate depression. Some of these volitional changes revolve around improved lifestyle choices, while others entail changing our personalities,

Sometimes only slightly, to give us the best chance of ageing well. To implement the changes that will be most effective, each of us might think about the fundamental components of how we are now, how we used to be, and how we'd like to be.

The collection of dispositions and traits that we have in any given period comprise our personalities. All cultures tend to describe people using trait-based labels, such as generous, interesting, and reliable (on the positive side) or stingy, boring, and erratic (on the negative side), along with more or less neutral or context-dependent terms such as boyish and breezy. This "trait" approach, however, can obscure two important facts: (1) we often display different traits as situations change, and (2) we can change our traits.

Few people are generous, interesting, or reliable all the time — opportunity and the fluidly evolving situations in which we find ourselves can exert a strong pull on what may be genetic predispositions toward certain behaviours and certain habitual ways of presenting ourselves to the world. Traits are probabilistic descriptions of behaviour. Someone who is described as high on one trait (having a lot of it) will display that trait more often and more intensely than someone low on that trait. Someone agreeable has a greater probability of displaying agreeableness than someone disagreeable, but disagreeable people are still agreeable some of the time, just as introverts are extraverted some of the time.

In unravelling the secrets of ageing, we have come to understand that our personalities are not fixed and rigid, but rather dynamic and adaptable. The notion of traits as deterministic descriptors has given way to a more nuanced understanding of human behaviour. We are shaped not only by our genetic predispositions but also by the ever-changing tapestry of circumstances that surround us. As we navigate through life's opportunities and challenges, our traits ebb and flow, revealing different facets of our personalities. The decoding of the ageing process reminds us that the journey of self-discovery is ongoing and that our capacity for growth and change knows no bounds. Embracing the fluidity of our traits, we embark on a lifelong quest to harness our potential, continually rewriting the narrative of who we are and who we can become.

Reference: Successful Ageing

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Extreme heat straining health systems: WHO

THE extreme heat in the northern hemisphere is putting an increasing strain on healthcare systems, hitting those least able to cope the hardest, the World Health Organization said Wednesday.

The WHO said the heat often worsens pre-existing conditions, saying it was particularly concerned about those with cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and asthma.

Millions of people across three continents are enduring a sustained spell of dangerous heat on Wednesday as temperature records tumble.

"Extreme heat takes the greatest toll on those least able to manage its consequences, such as older people, infants and children, and the poor and homeless," said WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

"It also puts increased pressure on health systems," he told a news conference.

"Exposure to excessive heat has wide-ranging impacts for health, often amplifying pre-existing conditions and resulting in premature death and disability."

The WHO was working with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), its fellow Geneva-based UN agency, to support countries in developing hot-weather action plans to coordinate preparedness and reduce the impacts of excessive heat on health, he added.

Finding those at risk

Maria Neira, the WHO's public health and environment chief, said the agency was particularly concerned about pregnant women and people with diabetes and cardiovascular diseases, and asthma, as air pollution would be part of the problem.

Local and national governments needed to identify all those potentially at risk, while hospitals should ensure they had an action plan in place, she added.

Neira also said communities needed to get the message out on avoiding sport during the hottest part of the day, finding a cool place indoors, looking out for the vulnerable, and being aware of heat stroke or heat exhaustion.

Experts have blamed the heatwaves on climate change, driven by the burning of fossil fuels releasing the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

"That will be helping us to reduce the heatwaves in a very important way."

City officials needed to think through their urban planning to ensure people had refuges in times of extreme heat, she added.

The UN's WMO weather agency has said repeated high overnight temperatures are a particular health risk because the body is unable to recover from hot days, leading to more heart attacks and deaths.

SOURCE: AFP

In Madrid, Spain, on 18 July 2023, tourists were using umbrellas to protect themselves from the hot sun. The weather was very hot, with temperatures reaching between 38 degrees Celsius (100 Fahrenheit) and 42 degrees. **PHOTO: JAVIER SORIANO/ AFP**

CURRENT AFFAIRS

The launching ceremony of the Bangkok-Yangon flight was held on 16 July.

Thai Airways International operates Bangkok-Yangon flights

THAI Airways International launches flights connecting with the Yangon International Airport.

The Bangkok-Yangon flights by Airbus A320 started on 16 July and the flight aims to promote the services in travelling between Thailand and Myanmar.

The Yangon-Bangkok flights will be operated 14 times a week and the Bangkok-Yangon-Bangkok flight will depart at 9:35 am (local time) and arrive in Yangon at 10:35 am.

Additionally, it will depart from Yangon at 11:25 am and arrive in Bangkok at 1:25 pm (local time). It has also been reported that the round-trip flights between Bangkok and Yangon will be extended from 5 pm to 9 pm.

Currently, there are four round-trip airlines from Yangon to Bangkok, Thailand, with about 1,000 passengers. — TWA/MKKS

Transactions made at four different types of prices in domestic edible oil market

IT is said that consumers are purchasing palm oil at four different prices in the market. The wholesale reference price of palm oil was K4,100 per viss, while the retail reference price reached K4,300 per viss. The palm oil was priced at K5,000 per viss in Bayintnaung, Lanmadaw, and Nyaungpinlay markets and traded at around K7,000 and K8,000 in most retail outlets.

In the Mandalay oil market, the wholesale price was set at K6,900 per viss on 18 July. However, after the holiday on 19 July, on the opening day of 20 July, the wholesale price rose from K7,200 to K7,650 per viss within a day, according to the opening price statements of wholesale outlets in the Mandalay Zaycho Market.

The daily price lists of the Yangon edible oil market were impossible to check, and the oil shops said that there were no stocks of palm oil to sell. Meanwhile, some wholesale outlets in Bayintnaung and Nyaungpinlay markets resell to retailers at a price of K4,800 or K5,000 per viss for a limited number of barrels, an oil trader, Daw Myint San, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

An oil dealer in Htantabin Township, Daw Ama, told the GNLM that she had to purchase a few visses of palm oil from some outlets as a quota at a price range of K6,700 to K6,900 per viss since the wholesale outlet she used to order from was out of stock.

Consumers are seen buying palm oil from the mobile market truck.

Thus, there are two different types of price ranges in most markets, such as around K4,800–K5,000 per viss and around K6,700–K7,000 per viss. Those two types rarely existed in the market, and only those who were selling palm oil at a price of over K7,000 without any limit were said to be more.

Therefore, in July, the domestic edible oil market, including Yangon, was heard criticizing the fact that there was a need to investigate the retail and wholesale prices exceeding the reference price. — TWA/CT

People are seen withdrawing appointment tokens to renew their passports at the Myanmar Embassy in Thailand on 7 January 2023.

ME allows renewal for expiring PJ passports in Thailand from 2 August

THE Myanmar Embassy to Thailand announced on 20 July that PJ passports in Thailand which will expire on 31 March 2024, must be renewed from 2 August. The appointment tokens for the newly issued PJ passports will be given at the old office gate (the former location) from 8 am to 12 pm every Saturday starting from 29 July. Those who come to pick up the appointment token must bring their passport books, and the token will be issued only after the face match is verified. Therefore, it has been notified that withdrawals by agents will not be granted at all. All visitors are requested to come only in the morning because there are only a small number of PJ passport holders expiring on 31 March 2024, and line up in an orderly manner to obtain tokens. — TWA/CT

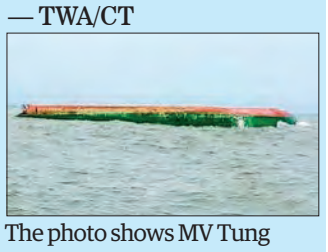
Four Myanmar seafarers missing in sinking of MV Tung Sung in Malaysian waters

ON 20 July, the MV Tung Sung sank in the waters of Pulau Burung in Sebuyau, Malaysia's territorial waters. If family members of four Myanmar seafarers involved in the accident ask help, necessary assistance measures will be provided, Captain Soe Min Aung, in his capacity as president of the Myanmar Seafarers Federation, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM). The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) launched a search and rescue operation (Carilamat) regarding the sinking of the MV Tung Sung on 20 July.

In the sinking of the cargo vessel, four citizens: Chieng Siew Ngiek, Wong Hua Wu, Maxwell Billy Stimba, and Stimba Anak Chuit were killed, and four Myanmar nationals: That Min July, Ye Lin Htet, Hla Win Tun, and Tun Lin Oo, and four Indonesian nationals named Lido Ali Purwanto are still missing. All of them are between the ages of 20 and 52, local sources stated.

Sarawak State Director of Navigation, First Admiral Zin Azman bin Md Yunus of the Marine First Fleet, received the initial notification about the sinking of the ship at 9:40 am on 20 July and started the Carilamat operation at 1:20 pm. The operation was planned to be moved to KM Kinabalu, near the site of the last reported disappearance, and the Royal Malaysia Police (Polis Diraja Malaysia, PDRM) moved the Kilat 35 boat and aviation support to the search area.

Malaysia is still investigating the sinking of the ship, Captain Soe Min Aung added. — TWA/CT


The photo shows MV Tung Sung which sank in Malaysian waters.

LIFESTYLE WORLD

Rapper's Delight as New York celebrates 50 years of hip-hop

Jay-Z lyrics are displayed on the outside of the Brooklyn Library as part of a vast exhibition about his life, which coincides with the 50th anniversary of the birth of hip-hop. **PHOTO: AFP**

FROM a display of Jay-Z lyrics on the facade of the Brooklyn Library to a concert of rap pioneers at Yankee Stadium, New York is celebrating 50 years of hip-hop, a genre born in its ghettos and now dominant around the world.

Inside the library, a vast exhibition retraces the career of one of Brooklyn's most famous sons, charting his rise from "a street-smart hustler to a global revered music mogul".

The artist born Shawn Carter has written about dealing drugs in the Marcy Houses housing project where he grew up, before becoming a billionaire rapper whose marriage to Beyonce created one of the most glamorous couples in pop culture.

"I've never really been to a lot of exhibitions," said 31-year-old warehouse worker Jamarly Thomas, joking that he goes by "Jay-T." "So to witness something like this from my favorite rapper is pretty mind-blowing. For a lot of African American kids coming up here, he can set an example for them that they can be bigger," Thomas added. — AFP

Dutch museum exhibit with Beyonce raises tempers in Egypt

IN a Dutch museum the sound of hip-hop blares out next to sarcophagi and statues, in what curators say is an attempt to show the influence of ancient Egypt on black musicians.

A photo of superstar Beyonce dressed as Queen Nefertiti sits next to ancient busts, while a video of Rihanna channels Egyptian styles.

What appears to be a pharaoh's golden mask turns out to be a modern sculpture based on the cover of an album by the rapper Nas.

But the "Kemet" exhibition at Leiden's Rijksmuseum van Oudheden (National Museum of Antiquities) has enraged Egypt, which has reportedly banned the museum's archaeologists from a dig at a key site.

Egypt's antiquities service said the museum is "falsifying history" with its "Afrocentric" approach, which seeks to appropriate Egyptian culture, Dutch media reported. — AFP

The exhibition, titled 'Kemet: Egypt in hip-hop, jazz, soul & funk', features modern black music alongside ancient sculptures. **PHOTO: AFP**

Fur-ever after: Indonesians sorry after lavish dog 'wedding' backlash

TWO Indonesian women have apologized after a lavish "wedding" for their dogs sparked a backlash in the middle-income country, where wealth distribution is one of the most unequal in the world.

Two Alaskan Malamutes were wedded Friday at a mall in the capital Jakarta, donning traditional Javanese costumes alongside their owners and relatives at a fake ceremony that reportedly cost 200 million rupiah ($13,350). A social media uproar followed after images emerged of the wolf-like dogs taking each other's paws in marriage at the extravagant ceremony, forcing the owners into a contrite news conference. "We regret it very much and we would like to apologize for the Javanese culture enthusiasts and all Indonesians who were uncomfortable and hurt by the event," Indira Ratnasari, owner of female dog Luna, said Wednesday. "We had no intention to insult the Indonesian and the Javanese culture," she said, according to footage posted on her makeup artist's Instagram account. — AFP

Valentine Cahandra, owner of male dog Jojo, claimed the wedding took place to promote Javanese culture. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ VIA INSTAGRAM**

Presumed Beethoven skull fragments return to Vienna

SKULL fragments, presumed to be from Ludwig van Beethoven, have returned to Vienna, where the legendary 19th century German composer was buried, experts said Thursday.

US businessman Paul Kaufmann donated the fragments, which he inherited, to the Medical University of Vienna where researchers will probe the illnesses suffered by the impresario and his cause of death. "This is where the bones belong, back in Vienna," Kaufmann told reporters.

Austrian coroner Christian Reiter said the 10 fragments, including two bigger pieces, one from the back of the head and one from the right side of the forehead, had "great value".

"We have received really valuable material here, with which we hope to continue to research in the next years. That was Beethoven's wish too," Reiter said. The composer battled illness through his life and explicitly asked for his body to be studied, Reiter added.

Beethoven, whose piano, chamber and symphonic works are among the greatest of Western classical music, died at 56 in 1827 after years of struggling with unknown ailments, including increasing deafness in his later years. The fragments are believed to be the only surviving fragments of Beethoven's skull, Reiter added. — AFP

ECONOMY
WORLD

China vows to spur growth of private economy

CHINESE authorities have issued a guideline on boosting the growth of the private economy, promising to improve its business environment, enhance policy support, and strengthen the legal guarantee for its development.

The document was released by the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council.

The country will help grow, improve and strengthen the private economy so that it can play a bigger role in advancing national rejuvenation, the document said.

To provide an improved environment for the private economy, China will work to remove barriers in market access and fully implement policies and mechanisms for fair competition.

The country will protect intellectual property rights, the property rights of private firms, and the legitimate rights and interests of entrepreneurs as part of the legal guarantee for the growth of the private economy.

More policy support will be provided to facilitate financing for companies and meet labour demand, according to the guideline.

In promoting the high-quality development of the private economy, the country will encourage private companies to accelerate their digital transformation and invest more in research and development.

The guideline also pledged measures to promote entrepreneurship in the private economy, and measures to create a nurturing social environment for the private economy. — Xinhua

Workers work at a workshop of Jack Sewing Machine Co, Ltd in Taizhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, 23 March 2023. **PHOTO: WENG XINYANG/XINHUA**

Central Tokyo condo price soars to record high in 1st half of 2023

In Tokyo and the nearby areas, there were fewer new condos for sale compared to last year. **PHOTO: PLAZA HOMES /KYODO**

THE average unit price of a new condominium in Tokyo's 23 central wards in the first six months of 2023 soared to a record high 129.6 million yen ($930,000) due largely to high material prices and construction costs, a research institute said Thursday.

The price rose 60.2 per cent compared to the January-June period a year earlier, exceeding the previous record set in 1991 of 97.38 million yen and surpassing 100 million yen for the first time on the first-half basis, according to the Real Estate Economic Institute. The result was also affected by some high-value property sales, including units directly linked to a train station in Minato Ward, it said.

The average for the capital and the three surrounding prefectures of Chiba, Kanagawa and Saitama for the same period also hit a record high 88.73 million yen, up 36.3 per cent. "While demand, which rose during the COVID-19 pandemic as people spent more time at home, has waned, condominium prices may continue gradually rising due to higher construction costs," the institute said. — Kyodo

Philippines launches its first sovereign investment fund

PHILIPPINE President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos on Tuesday signed into law the Maharlika Investment Fund (MIF) Act, establishing the country's first-ever sovereign investment fund. "For the first time in the history of the Philippines, we now have a sovereign wealth fund designed to drive economic development," Marcos said at the signing ceremony at the presidential palace, stressing the MIF is "a bold step" towards the country's economic transformation.

Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman said the newly-created fund is envisioned to be invested in various assets, including foreign currencies, fixed-income instruments, domestic and foreign corporate bonds, joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions, real estate and high-impact infrastructure projects, and projects contributing to sustainable development." — AFP

Senior doctors in England stage rare walk out

ENGLISH hospitals were braced Thursday for the latest doctors' strike to hit the state-run health service, with managers warning it will leave "routine care virtually at a standstill".

The two-day strike by consultants comes amid record patient waiting times due to a vast pandemic backlog and multiple strikes across the economy over the past year as workers battle a cost of living crisis.

The consultants' strike, only the third time the senior specialist doctors have taken industrial action, began at 7:00 am (0600 GMT) on Thursday and will run until 7:00 am on Saturday.

"This could undoubtedly be the most severe impact we have ever seen in the NHS as a result of industrial action, with routine care virtually at a standstill for 48 hours," said National Health Service (NHS) medical director Stephen Powis. "Consultants will not only stop seeing patients themselves, but they won't be around to provide supervision over the work of junior doctors, which impacts thousands of appointments for patients," he said. — AFP

The two-day strike by consultants comes amid record patient waiting times due to a vast pandemic backlog and multiple strikes across the economy over the past year as workers battle a cost of living crisis. **PHOTO: AFP**

Top rice supplier India bans some exports

THE world's biggest rice exporter India has banned some overseas sales of the grain "with immediate effect", the government said, in a move that could drive international prices even higher. Rice is a major world food staple and prices on international markets have soared to decade highs as the world grappled with the Covid pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the impact of the El Nino weather phenomenon on production levels.

India would ban exports of non-basmati white rice — which accounts for around a quarter of its total — the consumer affairs and food ministry said.

The move would "ensure adequate availability" and "allay the rise in prices in the domestic market", it said in a statement late Thursday. India accounts for more than 40 per cent of all global rice shipments, so the decision could "risk exacerbating food insecurity in countries highly dependent on rice imports", data analytics firm Gro Intelligence said in a note.

Countries expected to be hit by the ban include African nations, Türkiye, Syria, and Pakistan — all of them already struggling with high food-price inflation — the firm added.

Global demand saw Indian exports of non-basmati white rice jump 35 per cent year-on-year in the second quarter, the ministry said.

People plant rice saplings at a water-logged rice field on the outskirts of Amritsar, India, on 19 June 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

The increase came even after the government banned broken rice shipments and imposed a 20 per cent export tax on white rice in September. India exported 10.3 million tonnes of non-basmati white rice last year and Rabobank senior analyst Oscar Tjakra said alternative suppliers did not have spare capacity to fill the gap. — AFP

Amazon expands pay-by-palm service in US grocery stores

CUSTOMERS shopping at Amazon's US-based Whole Foods grocery stores will be able to pay for items by hovering their palm over a scanner, much like shoppers already do with smartphones or credit cards.

The Seattle-based online giant will extend a service that was already available in 200 of the chain's 500-plus outlets, acquired in 2017, according to a press release issued Thursday.

The Amazon One programme is also available to third-party companies, and in March it entered into a partnership with the American fast-food chain Panera Bread, which has begun installing terminals in some of its branches. The service can also be found in several entertainment venues and airport shops, and is also being tested in some Starbucks cafes.

To satisfy clients for whom the collection of personal data is a sensitive issue, Amazon said any palm images recorded by the machines will be stored in a highly secure server on the company's AWS cloud service. Usage depends not only on the image of the palm, but also maps of the vascular network. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V KOTA HAPAS VOY.NO. (KHPS0390N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA HAPAS VOY.NO. (KHPS0390N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-7-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MSC FORTUNE VOY.NO. (SB328A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC FORTUNE VOY.NO. (SB328A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-7-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V CHARITY VOY.NO. (001)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CHARITY VOY.NO. (001)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-7-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AIPT** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S THURIYA SANDAR WIN CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V AMATERAS HARMONY VOY.NO. (13)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AMATERAS HARMONY VOY.NO. (13)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-7-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MCL 11 VOY.NO. (02)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 11 VOY. NO. (02)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-7-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIPLT** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S UNIVERSE LOGISTICS INTERNATIONAL CO LTD

MYANMA Port Authority
"NOTICE of High Tide"

EXCEPTIONALLY high spring from 20.08 feet to 21.33 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of August 1st to August 7th, 2023. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

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ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Seoul says North Korean nuclear attack would mean 'end' of regime

SEOUL told North Korea Friday that using its nukes would mean the "end" of Kim Jong Un's regime after Pyongyang threatened nuclear retaliation over growing US military deployments on the peninsula.

Relations between the two Koreas are at one of their lowest points ever, with the North ramping up weapons testing as Seoul and Washington boost military cooperation.

Pyongyang's defence minister warned Thursday that this week's port visit of a US nuclear-capable submarine to Busan — the first since 1981 — could meet the legal threshold for the North to use its nuclear weapons.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un attends a ceremony at the headquarters of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea in Pyongyang on 31 December 2022. **PHOTO: KCNA / KNS / VIA AFP/FILE**

North Korea last year adopted a sweeping nuclear law, setting out an array of scenarios — some of which are vague — in which it could use its nukes, including pre-emptive nuclear strikes if threatened.

As Seoul and Washington have "made clear" before, "any nuclear attack on the alliance will face an immediate, overwhelming and decisive response", Seoul's defence ministry said in a statement Friday.

Were this to happen "the North Korean regime will face its end", it added.

The US submarine's port visit is only a "legitimate defensive response" to Pyongyang's ongoing nuclear threats, it said.

That visit was agreed during South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's trip to Washington in April when he and US President Joe Biden issued a similarly stern warning to Pyongyang about the terminal consequences of it using nuclear weapons.— AFP

Thai reformist party to back rival after PM vote defeat

The Move Forward Party, the winner of Thailand's recent election, will support the Pheu Thai party to lead the eight-party coalition government. Pheu Thai Party's Paetongtarn Shinawatra speaks to the press after casting her ballot at a polling station in Bangkok on 15 May 2023. **PHOTO: MANAN VATSYAYANA / AFP/FILE**

THE reformist party that won Thailand's recent election said Friday it would back a rival candidate to become prime minister after its own leader was blocked by the military and pro-royalist establishment.

The Move Forward Party (MFP) said it would put its support behind the nominee of Pheu Thai after its own leader, Pita Limjaroenrat, was knocked back in a leadership vote last week by military-appointed senators.

MFP, which rode to victory in May's election on a wave of support from young and urban voters frustrated by a decade of army-backed rule, said its priority was not to take the PM job but to restore civilian government.

"The most important thing is not that Pita will become PM, but the fact that Thailand would be able to become a democratic country," MFP secretary-general Chaitawat Tulathon said.

Pheu Thai — seen as a vehicle for the Shinawatra political clan, whose members include two former prime ministers ousted by military coups in 2006 and 2014 — came second in the election and joined MFP's eight-party coalition.

"MFP will allow the second party, Pheu Thai, to become the main party of the eight coalition parties," Chaitawat said.

"In the next parliamentary meeting, MFP will vote for PT's PM candidate, just like PT voted for MFP's PM candidate."

The kingdom's establishment strongly opposes MFP's reformist agenda, and on Wednesday Pita was suspended from parliament by the Constitutional Court.

The court decided to proceed with a case that could see him disqualified as an MP altogether for owning shares in a media company.

Lawmakers are forbidden from doing so under Thailand's charter, though the television station in question has not broadcast since 2007. Caretaker Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-Cha, who came to power in the 2014 coup, called for calm on Thursday as simmering anger over the thwarting of Pita's PM bid began to give way to street protests. — AFP

Spill of 1,200 barrels of crude blight Ecuadoran beach

A leak at an oil terminal spilled at least 1,200 barrels of crude onto a beach popular with tourists in northwest Ecuador, near the border with Colombia, officials said Thursday.

The leak occurred on Wednesday and oil spread out four kilometres (2.5 miles) from the Balao terminal, reaching Las Palmas beach, Environment Minister Jose Antonio Davalos told broadcaster Ecuavisa.

He said crabs and fish have been found covered in oil, and there were "most likely birds as well".

State company Petroecuador, to whom the terminal belongs, would compensate fishermen left high and dry by the spill, the minister added.

The leak has been stopped, said Petroecuador official Rafael Armendariz.

The beach, in the province of Esmeraldas, has been closed to visitors as Petroecuador is engaged in a massive cleanup, nearly complete, of the sand and surrounding water. — AFP

Members of the Ecuadoran Armed Forces stand guard on the shore of a beach covered with oil after a leak in Esmeraldas province on 19 July 2023. **PHOTO: ECUADOREAN NAVY/AFP**

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russian navy carried out live fire 'exercise' in Black Sea: defence ministry

RUSSIA'S navy carried out a live fire "exercise" in the northwest Black Sea, Moscow's defence ministry said Friday, days after the Kremlin said it would consider ships travelling to Ukraine through the waterway potential military targets.

The Black Sea Fleet "carried out live firing of anti-ship cruise missiles at the target ship in the combat training range in the northwestern part of the Black Sea", Russia's defence ministry said in a statement on Telegram.

"The target ship was destroyed as a result of a missile strike," it said. – AFP

Zelensky sacks ambassador to UK after criticism

UKRAINIAN leader Volodymyr Zelensky on Friday dismissed the country's ambassador to the United Kingdom, Vadym Prystaiko, after he criticized the president's response to a row over British military aid. Prystaiko had criticized Zelensky's sarcastic response to suggestions from British defence minister Ben Wallace that Ukraine should show more gratitude for arms supplies from its allies. Zelensky signed a decree dismissing Prystaiko, published on the presidential website. It did not provide a reason.

The row began when Wallace told journalists at a NATO summit in Vilnius this month that Britain was not an Amazon delivery service for weapons to Ukraine and suggested Kyiv could express more "gratitude". – AFP

Cambodia's ruling party holds massive rally on final day of campaign for general election

THE ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) on Friday held a massive rally to mark the end of a three-week campaign for the general election set to take place on 23 July.

During the rally held at the Diamond Island in Phnom Penh, Hun Manet, the future Prime Minister candidate for the CPP, said that if the CPP wins the election, their party-led government will launch the Pentagon Strategy Phase I for 2023-2028 in a journey to achieve their vision of becoming a high-income country by 2050. Manet, the 45-year-old eldest son of Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen, is a member of the CPP's Standing Committee.

On the closing day of the election campaign, other parties, including the royalist Funcinpec Party and the Khmer National United Party, also gathered in other parts of the capital city.

A crowd of tens of thousands on motorbikes gathered to hear Hun Manet's speech, before he roared off in a motorcade parade around Phnom Penh. **PHOTO: AFP**

Eighteen political parties will contest in Sunday's election for the 125 seats in the National Assembly, the National Election Committee (NEC) said, adding that more than 9.7 million people are eligible to cast their ballots. — Xinhua

Still 'open for negotiations' on judicial overhaul: Israel PM

People take to the streets of Jerusalem to protest against the Israeli government's judicial overhaul bill. **PHOTO: MENAHEM KAHANA / AFP**

ISRAEL'S Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Thursday he is still "open for negotiations" on a key clause of his hard-right government's controversial judicial reforms, as protests intensified ahead of final votes on the bill.

Israel has been rocked by a months-long wave of protests after the government unveiled in January plans to overhaul the judicial system that opponents say threaten the country's democracy.

An Israeli parliamentary committee has already moved to limit the "reasonability" clause that allows the judiciary to strike down government decisions, in a marathon debate that ended late Wednesday.

But Netanyahu, in a statement that was broadcast live on television Thursday evening, attempted to reach out to protesters and critics who have rallied against the reforms.

"I'm prime minister to all of you ... we are still trying to reach an agreement with the opposition," Netanyahu said. "Even now there are efforts to reach an agreement on the reasonability clause. I really hope that the efforts will be successful, but even if not, my door remains open for negotiations." — AFP

Four held over India naked women video, may face death penalty

INDIAN police have arrested four men accused of parading two women naked in front of a mob in a northeastern state where months of ethnic violence have left at least 120 dead.

The suspects were identified from a video clip of the incident in early May that went viral on social media on Wednesday, causing outrage across the country.

"Four main accused arrested in the Viral Video Case," police in Manipur said on Twitter late Thursday.

The video clip showed the women walking naked along a street, being jeered at and harassed by a mob in the state, where the authorities have imposed an internet shutdown. — AFP

A protest for peace and against sexual violence against women in the ongoing ethnic clashes in India's northeastern state of Manipur. **PHOTO: ARUN SANKAR / AFP**

SPORT

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Cambodia's ruling party holds massive rally on final day of campaign for general election

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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.

Rakhine United thrash Dagon Star 3-1 in MNL Week-13

RAKHINE United celebrated a 3-1 triumph over Dagon Star United in the Week-13 of the Myanmar National League played at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday. Both teams tried to play with a back-and-forth style. Rakhine United garnered the opening goal at 15 minutes with a beautiful long kick from Maung Maung Soe. Next, Rakhine made their second goal with a header from Traore at 23 minute-mark. The first half ended with Rakhine United winning. As soon as the second half started, Dagon Star used more energy for the counter-attacking and responded to their rivals strategically. With a tactical show, Suan Lam Mang scored a single consolation goal at 54 minutes.

But just after the score, Rakhine United secured their winning goal with Thet Tun Aung's strike at the 55-minute mark. In the later minutes of the game, both teams lost their stamina, and accurate passes also decreased. At the final whistle, Rakhine United celebrated their 3-1 victory and collected the three points for Week 13. — KZL

Dagon Star player Suan Lam Mang (yellow) tries to pass Rakhine United's Min Khant during the Myanmar National League Week-13 match at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 21 July 2023. **PHOTO: MNL**

Burnley sign former Southampton winger Redmond

Burnley have signed Nathan Redmond on a free transfer. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWLY promoted Premier League club Burnley signed Nathan Redmond on a free transfer on Friday after the former Southampton winger left Turkish club Besiktas.

Redmond agreed a two-year contract with Burnley, who have the option of further season's extension to his deal.

The 29-year-old was a free agent after leaving Besiktas following a single season in Türkiye, where he scored six goals in 28 games.

"I always had aspirations to play again in the Premier League. Burnley's project matches with my ambitions," Redmond said.

"The management team feel like they can enhance my game more and see the value I can bring on and off the field. It feels like a perfect match."

Redmond, who has one England cap, has played 264 times in the Premier League after spending six years at Southampton and three seasons at Norwich.

Burnley manager Vincent Kompany added: "Nathan brings a wealth of experience from playing in the Premier League and more recently from his time in Türkiye where he's been outstanding. — AFP

Harman surges into British Open lead, McIlroy makes move

AMERICAN Brian Harman hit four consecutive birdies to move into a three-shot lead on day two of the British Open at Hoylake, as Rory McIlroy also made a bright start.

Harman started his second round on Friday one shot behind leaders Christo Lamprecht, Tommy Fleetwood and Emiliano Grillo.

The world number 26 surged into the lead thanks to long birdie putts at the second, third and fourth before his chip into the par-five fifth hit the flag to tee up a simple putt for a four.

McIlroy also made the most of the calm early morning conditions to move to two under for the day and the tournament at the halfway stage of his second round. — AFP