

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.

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Notice to Mariners released for Myanmar-Singapore international underwater cable connection project

LOCAL BUSINESS

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Strong demand from oil millers drives chickpea prices to new highs



Local people from Myeik Township grow mangrove seedlings on 21 July 2023 to mark International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem which falls on 26 July. PHOTO: KHINE HTOO (MYEIK)

Nationwide cultivation of 24 mln saplings exceeds 90% completion in 2023

THE Department of Forest recently issued a press release that more than 24 million saplings have so far been grown in mangrove forests and protected public forests across the nation, accounting for more than 90 per cent to prevent deforestation. Primarily, these saplings have been placed in the lower part of Myanmar and coastal areas such as Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Rakhine State. "A plan was adopted to grow more than 24 million saplings in commercial plantations and protected public forests

For the prevention of deforestation up to now, more than 20 million saplings have been planted in the entire nation, accounting for 90 per cent against the target of 24.619 million saplings,"

including mangrove forests in the entire nation for prevention of deforestation. Up to now, more than 20 million saplings have been planted in the entire nation, accounting for 90 per cent against the target of 24.619 million saplings," said Director U Myint Sein of the Ayeyawady Region Forest Department. Preparations are being made to cultivate 24.619 million saplings across the nation in 2023, compared to 23.57 million in 2022, according to the statistics of the Department of Forest. — ASH/TTA

Authentic taste of tea, enjoy

SHWEPHEOO

Sales Department- Ph-09 30861655, 09 420219436
STARMART nine mile Showroom- (9)mile, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph-09 30860180
KHA YAE PIN MART - Mingalardone, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph- 09 671443555
STARMART MANDALAY Wholesale -Corner of 26th and 66th road, Mandalay.Ph-09 661702244
STARMART Nay Pyi Taw Yangon- Mandalay Highway Road, Ywar Gauk Ward, Pyinmanar.Ph- 09 685119077

FDA Certificate
Sa 4/ 14091/Hta La

Black Tea

Lemon Tea

Tea Mix

NATIONAL

Shwedagon to hold Buddha Pujaniya festivals during Buddhist Lent



File photo shows a gold foil offering ceremony held at the Shwedagon Pagoda in 2019.

THE Buddha Pujaniya festivals are planned to celebrate at Shwedagon Pagoda during the Buddhist Lent, according to the Pagoda Board of Trustees. The Dhammacakka Day ceremony, the Waso-robe offering ceremony will be celebrated

on 1 August (the full moon day of second Waso) and the Metta Day ceremony and offering ceremony with 84,000 miscellaneous flowers will be held on 31 August (Wagaung full moon day). In addition, the Garu Dhamma Day on 29 September (Tawthalin full moon day), the lighting festival on 28 October (the day before Thadingyut full moon day) and the Abhidhamma Day ceremony on 29 October (Thadingyut full moon day) will be organized.

Similarly, it is also planned for the pilgrims to take the Sabbath from Shwedagon Ovadacariya Sayadaws between the full moon day of second Waso and Thadingyut full moon day on every Sabbath day. — TWA/MKKS

Low Pressure Area Condition

Issued at (14:00) hours MST on 22-7-2023

ACCORDING to the observations at (12:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over South Odisha-North Andhrapradesh, India and adjoining Northwest and Westcentral Bay of Bengal has weakened. — DMH

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

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

1. AN announcement has been issued that well-wishers wishing to make donations for people who fell victim to the extremely severe cyclonic storm Mocha which hit Myanmar on 14-5-2023 can donate cash to Myanmar account OA-011834 and foreign account 1DA-0300086.

2. In this announcement, it is duly mentioned that our commitment to receiving donations extends to additional electronic payment systems and mobile payment systems. Further updates and notifications will be made in due course.

3. It has been announced that 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

The entire ethnic national people are to keep
Our Three Main National Causes in their soul

IN order to ensure the perpetuity of the regained independence, the entire ethnic national people need to take great care with the national cause so as to prevent instigations and pressure committed by internal and external destructive elements. Moreover, the entire ethnic national people are to keep Our Three Main National Causes in their soul in striving for building the Union based on the genuine, disciplined-flourishing democratic system and federalism for its perpetuity as long as the world exists.

(Excerpts from the message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to ceremony of 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day which falls on 4 January 2023)

Workshop on gasification of paddy husk held

THE Ministry of Industry organized a workshop on the gasification of paddy husks in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister Dr Charlie Than said that biogas production helps reduce the impacts of climate change and is a solution to the need for fuel.

The country adopted the gasifier technology in 1995-96 mainly in inaccessible areas to the national grid and certain areas where do not get adequate power. Moreover, the system is most common in village electrification projects and Ayeyawady Region.

Then, Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw explained the cooperation work among the MSMEs

and experts, the paper reading session of Gasifier as per the international criteria and further cooperation to establish a systematic gasifier. Additionally, the Bago Region chief minister, Ayeyawady Region chief minister and other attendees coordinated the discussion.

Under the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection of the Ministry of Industry, a total of 412 gasifiers made private industrial registrations — 78 in Sagaing Region, 16 in Bago Region, two in Mandalay Region, 13 in Yangon, and 303 in Ayeyawady Region. Of 412 gasifiers, 319 are used in rice mill businesses and 21 in other industries.

The workshop was held aiming at promoting activities at relevant departments, complying with the requirements of MSMEs, fulfilling the electricity needs with



Workshop on gasification of paddy husk in progress in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 July 2023.

locally-produced gasifiers using waste, generating power, avoiding large piles of waste paddy husk and ensuring the benefits of recycling waste materials. — MNA/KTZH

Aid provided to those from IDP camps in Sittway Township



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin provides rice aid to people from IDP camps in Sittway on 22 July 2023. PHOTO: TIN TUN (IPRD)

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Htein Lin, along with deputy ministers and state officials, visited the IDP camps in Sittway Township and provided them

with essential supplies. They also inspected the distribution of relief and rehabilitation materials at the multi-purpose port.

During the visit, the chief

minister attended a ceremony for the distribution of rice aid to the IDP camps, expressing his appreciation for the camp leaders' commendable efforts in managing the camps. He also thanked the camp officials for their cooperation with the government before the cyclone, which caused significant damage in the state. The chief minister emphasized the fair distribution of rice aid and addressed specific needs as required.

They also visited various IDP camps, including Thechaung, Dahpine, Thetkeyyin, Mawthinya, and Basara, providing rice aid to each camp.

They inspected the cyclone shelter in Thechaung village and gave necessary instructions.

In Gaungdukka village, the chief minister met camp officials at the village administration office and attended the rice ration distribution ceremony. He highlighted the ongoing restoration works, including aid and relief distribution, agricultural and livestock activities, fishing business expansion, camp cleanliness maintenance, and efforts in the education and health sectors.

Overall, the Rakhine state government provided 1,400 bags of rice to the people living in the IDP camps in Sittway Township.

The chief minister and his team also inspected relief materials for use in rehabilitation efforts at the multi-purpose port in Sittway.

Additionally, they visited the Myanmar Port Authority's Phaungtawgyi port, where they inspected the loading of goods from various regions and states onto large ships.

The government's initiatives in providing aid and support to the IDP camps demonstrate their commitment to assisting those affected by the cyclone and working towards restoring normality and stability in the region. — Tin Tun (IPRD)/KZW

NATIONAL

MoH to appoint more healthcare staff says Union Minister



Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win provides a patient with nutritious supplements at Taungdwingyi People's Hospital on 22 July 2023.

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win told officials during his trip to Magway

Region that new healthcare workers will be appointed. First, the Union minister

accompanied by officials visited Pyay General Hospital and looked round the construction

site of the five-storey building and laboratory and x-ray departments. Afterwards, the Union minister met health workers working at the hospital, ordered the issues of providing quality medical care, and coordinated to meet the needs.

They also checked the provision of free healthcare to retired civil servants and gave encouraging words.

Next, the Union minister and party visited Aunglan Hospital and met doctors, nurses and healthcare staff. The Union minister highlighted that the Ministry of Health will soon appoint more doctors and nurses. The Union minister urged officials to coordinate with the Department of Health

to meet the needs of doctors in township general hospitals and district hospitals, which are regional focal points.

In the afternoon, they arrived at the Taungdwingyi Hospital and observed the dental treatment department, operation room and medicine storage room and provided nutritional supplements to patients receiving treatment at the hospital and gave encouragement.

They also met the staff of the Public Health and Medical Services Department in Taungdwingyi Township and gave instructions to increase the speed of public health and treatment activities in the rural areas and fulfilled the needs. — MNA/KZL

Labour attache's, agencies to solve labour issues of Myanmar migrant workers abroad (See also the opinion on page 8)

IF Myanmar migrant workers abroad face some labour issues, overseas licensed employment agencies have to cooperate with labour diplomats from relevant embassies to relevant countries in helping those workers solve labour problems, according to the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation-MOEAF.

In managing the Myanmar labourers legally sent to foreign countries, the aforesaid agencies need to solve the disputes between employees and employers at workplaces, injured and dead incidents in relevant countries as quickly as possible. Moreo-

ver, they need to inform officials concerned about occurrences of labour issues, problems and other significant issues in time and cooperate with labour diplomats in solving these problems.

"The licensed employment agencies have to take responsibility for the Myanmar migrant workers they sent from departure to arrival in Myanmar. But, the Ministry of Labour issued a directive that those licensed agencies shall not be involved in the illegal sending of Myanmar labourers abroad. So, our agencies fully follow the directive. Moreover, representatives of agencies will cooperate with

labour diplomats from relevant countries in solving the issues of migrant workers," said U Khin Maung Win of the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation (MOEAF).

Additionally, those licensed agencies have to supervise the remittance of money from Myanmar workers to their families as mentioned in the agreements under the remittance systems and ways approved by the State. Moreover, the agencies need to arrange conducting of the employment guideline courses for Myanmar labourers before their departure. At a time when the agreements on appointment



Myanmar labourers seen at the airport counter before departure for the Republic of Korea.

were signed by employers and employees, the agencies need to help those workers open savings accounts at local banks, transfer

money in approved ways and share knowledge about the legal remittance of salaries to those workers. — ASH/TTA

Nine new cases of COVID-19 reported on 22 July, total figure registers 640,966

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to **640,966** after **nine** new cases were reported on 22 July 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of **10,983,417** laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached **640,966**. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **619,747** including **12** new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered **19,494** on 22-7-2023 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

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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

Confiscation of illegal items: Timbers, petrified, consumer goods, foodstuffs, industrial materials and vehicles

A combined team under Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force made inspections at the 16th-Mile Kyaukhaw checkpoint and confiscated a Mitsubishi Fuso bus (approximately K10 million), heading to Chinshwehaw from Mandalay, carrying 1,000 kilogrammes of suspected fossil wood worth K100,000 without official documents on 21 July. The action was conducted following Customs procedures.

In addition, the Muse District Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force intercepted five kinds of things worth K3.388 million including 2,560 kilogrammes of MDF Board that

were smuggled and piled up by the side of the road over Sinphyu checkpoint in Muse township. The operation was conducted in adherence to Customs procedures.

Similarly, a combined team conducted inspections at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint on 21 July and captured a Toyota Hiace (approximately K25 million), travelling from Myawady to Kyondoe, carrying 1,350 pairs of Panda blue foam slippers worth K2.025 million and two kinds of goods worth K2.2 million including 40 Vee rubber motorcycle tyres with tubes without official documents. The action was tak-

en under Customs procedures.

An on-duty team at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint impounded 5,400 boxes of Lactasoy soy milk worth K1.8 million without official documents from a Mitsubishi Fuso bus (estimated value of 30 million) heading to Mandalay from Mawlamyine on 21 July. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

A total of 1.763 tonnes of illegal teak, 0.470 tonne of hardwood and 2.306 tonnes of other timbers worth K1,560,574 was seized in Toungoo and Pyay districts on 22 July. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

As a result, a total of eight



Confiscated Lactasoy soy milk seen at Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint on 21 July.

arrests were made on 21 and 22 July, with an estimated value of K96,073,574, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Drugs seized in nationwide operations



The offenders, Nyunt Maung, Myint Khaing, Ma Mu Bwar Chaw, and Ma Thant Shin Lay, were apprehended with the seized drugs during the operations.

A joint operation carried out by members of the Anti-Drug Police Force led to significant drug seizures in various townships across Myanmar.

On 21 July, at the combined checkpoint in Nantaing village on the Pinlaung-Aungban road in Pinlaung township, a Pajero driven by Myint Khaing, accompanied by Nyunt Maung, Ma Mu Bwar Chaw, and Ma Thant Shin Lay, was intercepted and inspected at 1:30 pm. The search resulted in the capture of 13 kilogrammes of opium. In Myeik township, a suspected individual named Aung Aung Oo was examined at 5:20 pm on the same day, leading to the seizure of 30,000 stimulant tablets.

In Kengtung township, the police examined another suspect, Aye Saw, on the airport road at 11 am on the same day. This operation resulted in the seizure of nine kilogrammes of Ice. During the investigation, Hla Win was arrested with a Toyota Vigo at the same location at 11:15 am.

All individuals involved in these incidents are now being prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/MKKS

Myanmar movie series to undergo pre-production censorship

THE Myanmar Motion Picture Organization recently issued a statement stating that effective 1 August, the brief stories and plots of Myanmar movies must be submitted to the censor board during the pre-production stage to seek permission for filming.

The Information and Public Relations Department has been tasked with overseeing these procedures. Television broadcasters and producers are now required to submit the brief story of their movies to the censor board to obtain

permission for production, as per the statement.

The statement further warns that movies made without prior submission to the censor board will not undergo the necessary censoring processes. — TWA/KTZH



The office signboard of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization.

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

CURRENT AFFAIRS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Myanmar, Laos collaborate to combat trafficking, smuggling

MYANMAR'S ambassador to Laos and Laos' Minister of Public Security held discussions on 21 July to combat human trafficking, drug cases, and arms smuggling, as announced by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In addition, the two officials also explored opportunities for tourism cooperation between the two nations, in a bid to strengthen bilateral ties.

“Pwekhin” event promises exciting entertainment in August

SKYNET Channel 9 and MC Entertainment are teaming up to present the “Pwekhin” event at Shwe Htut Tin Compound, scheduled every Friday and Saturday on 4 and 5 August until the end of the month. The event will offer a variety of attractions, including stalls, games for all ages, Zatpwe (opera), circus performances, and other fun fairs. The Zatpwe will take place from 7 pm to 10 pm, while the stalls will open at 9 pm.

Made-in-Myanmar products to receive export boost

IN August, the CO Form RCEP will be issued for Made-in-Myanmar products, facilitating their export to certain ASEAN countries under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). MIFER Deputy Minister Dr Wah Wah Maung emphasized that this export opportunity will greatly benefit Myanmar and is essential for enjoying reduced customs duty fees.

Proposal to enhance safety for City Taxi drivers

THE Yangon City Taxi Association has proposed the installation of flashing red lights on the hoods of taxis to signal emergencies for drivers operating in the Yangon Region. This safety measure aims to avert potential dangers and ensure the well-being of city taxi drivers.

Discussion on boosting rice production

THE Myanmar Rice Federation engaged in a discussion with relevant organizations at the meeting hall of Pathein Industrial City in Ayeyawady Region on 21 July. The meeting focused on various topics, including rice productivity, short-term loan payment arrangements for MSME rice millers linked with export companies, stability of the rice market, and strategies for achieving high yields per acre with the cooperation of farmers owning over 10 acres. The goal is to enhance rice production rates in the country. — Htun Htun/KTZH

သတင်းစာ ဖတ်ရှုလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်

09 454 237 515

သတင်းစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နှိုင်းငံ့ကာစံချိန်စီ ဖတ်ရှုလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်

01 860 4530

Notice to Mariners released for Myanmar-Singapore international underwater cable connection project

THE Fisheries Department issued a notice regarding the launch of the Myanmar-Singapore international undersea cable connection project in the Myanmar Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The project is set to span over five months, during which time ships, vessels, fishing boats, and motor boats are strictly prohibited from passing through or anchoring, fishing, and deploying fishing devices in the designated project areas.

The cable connection project will utilize the CS



Project location map.



The Myanmar-Singapore international undersea cable connection project underway in Myanmar's EEZ.

Nusantara Explorer, owned by Campana Mythic Co Ltd, at the Unit 1 location with Rov cables in the Myanmar EEZ. The project commenced on 13 July and is expected to conclude in December. Campana Mythic Co Ltd, a multinational data network infrastructure operator headquartered in Singapore, was es-

tablished in 2014. The company boasts an extensive network and infrastructure in Myanmar, Singapore, and Thailand. To ensure smooth execution and avoid any delays during the project period in the Myanmar EEZ, the Notice to Mariners has been promptly released. — TWA/KTZH

Warning: Major rivers, including Ayeyawady River, expected to continue rising water level

THE Department of Meteorology and Hydrology issued a warning regarding the water levels in major rivers, particularly the Ayeyawady River, in the third week of July. The forecast indicates that these rivers may continue to rise above their current levels.

In Myitkyina, Bhamo, Shwegu, Katha, and Thabeik-kyin, the water level of the Ayeyawady River is three to five feet higher than usual. In other areas like Mandalay, Sagaing, Myinmu, Pakokku, NyaungU, Chauk, Minbu, Magway, Aunglan, Pyay, Seiktha, Hinthada, and Zalun, the water levels may rise by approximately one to two feet.

Similarly, the Chindwin River's water levels in Hkhamti, Homalin, Phaungpyin, Mawlaik, Kalewa, Mingin, Kani, and Monywa may rise by half to two feet. In the Kalay area, the Myittha River's water level is about three feet higher than usual.

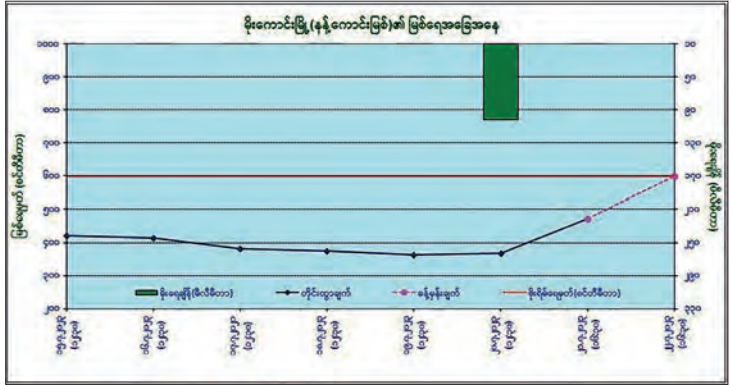
The Dohtawadi River is expected to rise by about one and a

half to two feet in Hsipaw, Shwesayan, and Myitnge. Sittoung River's water levels in Toungoo and Madauk are about three to three and a half feet higher than usual, and the Shwegyin River's water level will rise by three feet in Shwegyin.

The Bago River's water level in Zaungtu and Bago may increase by approximately one and a half to three feet. Meanwhile, the Thanlwin River in Hpa-an, Thaungyin River near Myawady, and Ngawun River in Ngathaingchaung, Thaboung, and Pathein are expected to rise by nearly one and a half to three feet.

The Toe River in Maubin will likely experience a rise of about two feet. Kalatan River is forecasted to increase by two to three feet in Paletwa and Kyauktaw, while Laymyo River is expected to rise by two feet in MraukU. Finally, the Bilin River's water level in Bilin may rise by nearly four feet.

Residents in these areas are advised to stay vigilant and take necessary precautions as river levels may continue to rise beyond their usual heights. The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology is closely monitoring the situation to ensure public safety. — TWA/KZW



LOCAL BUSINESS

Strong demand from oil millers drives chickpea prices to new highs

CHICKPEA prices have experienced a notable surge, fuelled by robust demand from oil millers, reports the Mandalay Commodity Wholesale Centre. As of 22 July, prices reached their peak, hovering between K245,000 and K2520,000 per 56.25/57.25 viss.

Chickpea cultivation takes place between October and November as a winter crop, with harvesting taking place from January to April. The crop is commonly found in regions such as Bago, Ayeyawady, Sagaing, and Magway regions.

Myanmar’s agricultural landscape primarily revolves around paddy, corn, cotton, sugarcane, various pulses, and beans. Notably, pulses and beans are the country’s second-largest agricultural production, accounting for 33 per cent of agro products and covering 20 per cent of cultivated acres. Among them, black beans, pi-

geon peas, and green grams constitute 72 per cent of the total bean acreage. Additionally, the country also grows other beans such as peanuts, chickpeas, soybeans, black-eyed beans, butter beans, and rice beans. Agriculture plays a vital role in Myanmar’s economy, with various beans and pulses being major contributors to the sector.

Myanmar’s chickpea production extends beyond self-sufficiency, with a substantial quantity being exported to foreign markets. Statistics from the Ministry of Commerce indicate that, during the current financial year 2023-2024, over 460 kilograms valued at US\$0.429 million were shipped to international markets between 1 April and 14 July. Last financial year (April to March), the country exported more than 18,000 kilograms worth US\$13.139 million to foreign countries, as



Chickpeas are pictured being displayed at a grocery shop.

per the Ministry of Commerce’s data. These figures reflect the country’s significance as a chickpea exporter on the glob-

al stage.

As the demand from oil millers continues to drive prices upward, the chickpea market re-

mains a critical sector contributing to Myanmar’s agricultural success and trade prospects. — NN/EM

Kyat extends slump against Thai Baht



The photo shows some banknotes of the Thai baht.

MYANMAR Kyat continues depreciating against a Thai Baht to K90 in the local forex market, forex price data indicated.

The Thai Baht was exchanged at K90-91 on 22 July. The Kyat devaluation against the Thai Baht was attributed to a drop in export and a rise in imports via the Myawady border, a major trading point for Myanmar-Thailand cross-border trade. Consequently, there is a relatively high demand for Thai Baht, which depreciates local currency value.

Myanmar’s imports outperformed exports in the Myawady border with the neighbouring country Thailand between 1 April and 14 July in the current financial year 2023-2024, with

exports worth \$164.914 million and imports valued at \$367.612 million. As Kyat weakened to the Thai Baht, the prices of imported goods from Thailand will surge.

The figures plunged from \$1.314 billion recorded in the year-ago period, showing a sharp drop of \$74.372 million.

Myanmar conducts cross-border trade with Thailand via Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee and Mawtaung borders. Of them, the Hteekhee border performed the largest trade.

Myanmar carries out cross-border trade with the neighbouring countries China, Thailand, Bangladesh and India. It brings in agricultural products, livestock products, fisheries, min-

erals, forest products, manufacturing goods and other goods, while capital goods, intermediate goods, consumer goods and raw materials used in CMP enterprises were imported.

Starting from early August 2022, the authorities concerned have been inspecting and interrogating some money changers.

Under the guidance of the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods, the Monitoring and Steering Committee on the Gold and Currency Market was formed on 17 December 2021 as gold and currency market stability play a crucial role in trade facilitation.

The objectives of the committee are inspecting and prosecuting market manipulation, checking if there is compliance with payment rules or not in the domestic market, and proceeding against those unscrupulous traders who intend to interfere with the free and fair operation of the market under the existing laws, by-laws and regulations in line with the official directives, illegal foreign currency holding, illegal trade and taking legal actions against price manipulators. — NN/EM

Online shops mandatory to seek business registration within 6 months

APPLYING for business registration is obligatory for owners of e-Commerce online shops and they will face legal actions if they fail to seek one within six months, as per the notification dated 21 July by the Ministry of Commerce.

The e-Commerce online shopping is selling services or goods through digital platforms. According to section 4 (C) of the Essential Supplies and Services Act, online businesses are identified as essential services, the notification stated.

“The notification mentioned that business registration is mandatory for online business owners. We need to register the business within six months. Failing to do so, we will face actions under Section 5 of the Essential Supplies and Services Act,” Ko Wai Yan, a seller of consumer goods via a digital platform, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The Ministry of Commerce stated that this move is to protect the rights of consumers.

“For the e-Commerce online



The image is a notification of the online businesses identified as essential services.

shop registration, the owners of the shops must register a business online and it is valid for two years. They need to renew the registration 60 days in advance,” Ma Nwe Ni, who sells food online, told the GNLM.

As online businesses are identified as essential services and the power is vested in the Ministry of Commerce, according to Notification 5/2023 dated 4 July 2023 issued by the Union Government. — TWA/EM

Assist migrant workers: Enhancing a reliable workforce

THE global trend of globalization and economic disparities has led to a steady increase in the number of migrant workers seeking job opportunities abroad. The desire for better employment prospects, varying labour costs, socioeconomic gaps, technological advancements, and easy access to migration-related information contributes to this rise.

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2021, there were approximately 169 million migrant workers worldwide in 2019, accounting for 4.9 per cent of the global labour force. During that year, these workers remitted over US\$550 billion to their families.

However, the Covid-19 pandemic severely impacted migrant workers worldwide in recent years. Travel restrictions, job losses, and health challenges prevented many workers from sending money back to their families in their home countries. As the World Health Organization declared the end of the international public health emergency, countries gradually reopened their tourism sectors, leading to a resurgence in employment opportunities for migrant workers. Consequently, their earnings began flowing back to their home countries.

Nevertheless, any income earned by migrant workers and transferred to their home country contributes not only to their families but also to the overall economic growth. By gaining experience abroad, these workers can utilize their skills to alleviate poverty and reduce the unemployment rate in their home country. Therefore, it is crucial for authorities to manage legal working opportunities for migrant workers to ensure their well-being and maximize their potential contribution.

Republic of Korea. These workers sent more than \$6 billion to their families between 2014 and July 2022. Over the past two years, more than 200,000 workers were legally employed abroad.

Unfortunately, millions of Myanmar labourers are working illegally in neighbouring countries. According to the ILO, around 1.5 million illegal Myanmar migrant workers reside in Thailand and Malaysia. Through informal remittance channels like the hundi system, these workers may have sent billions of US dollars back to their families. If the authorities create chances for Myanmar labourers at home, they can work at relevant workplaces conveniently for applying their techniques and experiences with reserved salaries and wages without the need to leave home.

Nevertheless, any income earned by migrant workers and transferred to their home country contributes not only to their families but also to the overall economic growth. By gaining experience abroad, these workers can utilize their skills to alleviate poverty and reduce the unemployment rate in their home country. Therefore, it is crucial for authorities to manage legal working opportunities for migrant workers to ensure their well-being and maximize their potential contribution.



Threads is a cutting-edge application developed by Meta (formerly known as Facebook) with the ambitious aim of becoming a major competitor to Twitter. **PHOTO: AFP**

Threads’ Rollercoaster Ride: Can Meta’s Twitter Killer Bounce Back?

As the competition in the social media landscape intensifies, Threads’ long-term success will depend on its ability to offer something truly unique and appealing to users.

By Dots

THREADS, Meta’s new social media platform, had a remarkable start with over 100 million user account openings in under a week. However, the initial excitement seems to be fading as the number of active users dropped from 49 million on 7 July to just under 24 million. Users are spending less time on the app, with average browsing time decreasing

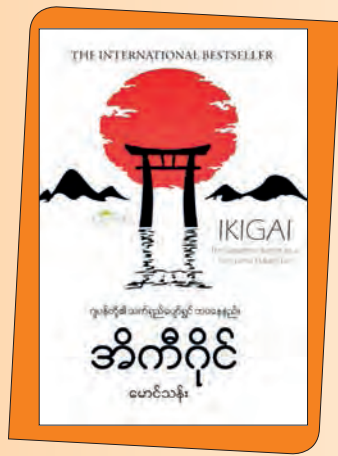
from 21 minutes to six minutes. The drop in active users was expected due to Threads’ similarity to Twitter, but the lack of unique features and accessibility issues give Twitter a significant advantage. To combat spam attacks, Threads recently announced the implementation of rate limits, but users have been complaining about crypto scam advertisements

and spam threads. Meta remains optimistic about Threads’ future, focusing on improving basics and retention. However, experts suggest that the app’s lack of a unique selling proposition and recycled content from Twitter make it less appealing to users. Threads’ engagement in the US and the UK has also declined, and its growth seems to

be stagnating.

While Threads attracted attention initially, it faces challenges to retain users and compete with Twitter’s dominance. Meta needs to go beyond Instagram’s “walled garden” and provide distinctive value to create a loyal and engaged user base. Whether Threads can overthrow Twitter remains uncertain, but the app must offer more

to convince users to switch platforms. Despite the drop in active users, Meta’s CEO believes that Threads can still succeed by tapping into its vast Instagram user base. As the competition in the social media landscape intensifies, Threads’ long-term success will depend on its ability to offer something truly unique and appealing to users.



Book Title	-	Ikigai
Translator	-	Maung Than
Publishing House	-	Pan Hset Lan
Publication Date	-	July 2022 (1 st Edition)
Price	-	K4,000

Ikigai

By He'ctor Garc'ia and Francesc Miralles

THIS book is co-authored by He'ctor Garc'ia and Francesc Miralles. The former is a Japanese man who is the author of the best-seller titled, “A Greek in Japan” whereas the latter is an editor, writer and musician, who was born in Barcelona in Spain. He has created a world-famous book titled, “Love in Lower Case”, which was translated into more than 20 foreign languages.

Before discussing this book, I would like to deal with the definition of the word Ikigai, which in Japanese means satisfaction with being busy. Nonetheless, this word goes

beyond this definition to suggest living healthily and happily till we breathe out last. In addition, Ikigai is the root cause of the commencement of a day. If one knows well what Ikigai means, one will be able to lead a happy life.

To find out what Ikigai is, it is only needed to be patient enough. And the rationale behind the book is to enable the readers to be able to seek themselves as well as to share the Japanese people’s philosophy towards life.

In fact, Ikigai reveals the secrets to longevity and happiness: how they eat, how they

move, how they work, how they foster collaboration and community, and their best-kept secret — how they find the Ikigai that brings satisfaction to their lives. And it provides practical tools to help you discover your own Ikigai.

Ikigai urges individuals to simplify their lives by pursuing what sparks joy for them. Much in the same way that The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up emphasizes choosing what we want to keep, and not what we want to get rid of. Ikigai demonstrates that ageing could be an opportunity to keep working, keep smiling,

keep active, and keep being social.

“Want to live longer? Keep super busy. If hygge is the art of doing nothing, Ikigai is the art of doing something — and doing it with supreme focus and joy. Pack up those cosy blankets and candles you purchased in last year’s hygge-fuelled Ikea spree. Fall’s biggest imported lifestyle trend is Ikigai, and it might help you live to 100. These are only some quotations by certain world-famous writers and publishers and magazines.

There are nine chapters in this book. Chapter I is what Ikigai means while Chapter II deals with the secrets of youthfulness. Chapter III is from logotherapy to Ikigai whereas Chapter IV is to concentrate on things being done. And Chapter V is the words of advice provided by the centenarians while Chapter VI deals with the lessons learnt from the Japanese senior citizens. Chapter VII focuses on the food eaten by those who live long whereas Chapter VIII is about slow-moving style to be able to live long. Lastly, Chapter IX is about the zeal and diligence to be able to overcome all the challenges.



Book Title	-	Ko Hnit Seik Toe Ei Hangyet
Writer	-	Thurein Nyein
Publishing House	-	City Discovery Publishing
Publication Date	-	July 2023 (1 st Edition)
Price	-	K5,500

Ko Hnit Seik Toe Ei Hangyet

By Thurein Nyein

THE writer of the book under review is the founder of Myanmar Resources Network and the managing director of a management consultancy company. He is also engaged in providing data analyses for the market. Additionally, he also deals with human resource development while serving as an executive director of MMRD Trading. This book is a collection of lectures aired on TV under the title, “Road to Success.” It is said that the objective of publishing this book is to encourage the youth who are highly desirous of achieving success.

The book under review has 30 episodes, covering a wide range of topics like social eth-

ics, natural characters, the nature of human beings, pushing the fate of the people, cultivating the active spirit, promoting mental strength, the power of words, anxiety, confidence, knowing oneself, criticism and self-criticism, the persona, the personality and social dealing inter alia.

The book is opened with the phrase, “What is needed to do must be done with the sense of conscientiousness, not waiting for insisting. And refraining from what ought not to do is a matter of ethics.” The mindset and mentality of the people are analyzed clearly and succinctly. Additionally, the youth are encouraged to strike a proper bal-

ance between the heart and the brain. It is said that sometimes the heart should rule the head but most often the brain must overrule the heart. And the youth are urged to lead happy and healthy life because their life is short. It is also worth noting that wealth and poverty cannot come automatically — they are man-made things. In other words, life is what we make of it. We can make it or mar it. We are the master of our fate and captain of our soul as the saying goes. To be able to lead a successful life, we need to do the proper planning first. Without a destination in mind, we will be like a ship sailing in no direction. This being so, we

must be ambitious enough and persist in doing things with undaunted spirit.

Another aspect worth discussing is our mindset and mentality. We must be mentally strong enough, to be able to overcome all the challenges. What matters most here in this regard is having a positive attitude. We should be confident in ourselves, instilling in us the spirit that we can succeed. Additionally, we must harbour love and compassion towards the people we are dealing with.

What also counts is the mentality that we must be grateful to those who are good to us. We can in no way be the ingrates. To achieve success in life, we cannot do everything by ourselves. This being so, we will very often need the help and kindness of others. If we are not good to others, how can we have their kind assistance in times of disaster? We need friends, true and loyal friends. Therefore, we have to establish good relationships with the people particularly those who can provide help, give advice and suggestion and guide us in the right direction.

SCI/TECH WORLD

Iran's ancient 'wind catchers' beat the heat naturally



The wind-catcher of Dowlatabad Garden, the world's tallest standing at 33.8 metres, in Iran's central city of Yazd. **PHOTO: AFP**

TALL, chimney-like towers rise from centuries-old adobe houses in Iran's desert city of Yazd, drawing in a pleasant breeze for residents of one of the hottest cities on earth.

The wind catchers, called badgirs in Persian, are just one of the engineering marvels inhabitants have developed in this ancient city in central Iran — where temperatures reach well over 40 degrees celsius (104 Fahrenheit) in the summer.

And, unlike energy-guzzling air-conditioners, they're cost and carbon-free. "For centuries, before we had electricity, they made it possible to cool dwellings," said Abdolmajid Shakeri, the provincial deputy of Iran's cultural heritage and tourism ministry.

The oldest of the city's 700 wind catchers dates back to the

14th century, but the architectural feature is believed to date back as far as 2,500 years when the Persian Empire ruled over much of the Middle East.

"The badgirs played a key role in the city's prosperity," said Shakeri about the desert city that was a caravan stop on the ancient Silk Road.

"Thanks to them, people lived at ease," he added, describing how the wind catchers pull fresh air into buildings and allow hot air to ventilate out through large vertical slots.

Majid Oloumi, the head of Dowlatabad garden, home to a towering 33-metre (100 foot) wind catcher — one of the tallest in the world — described the cooling method as "totally clean because it uses neither electricity nor polluting materials". — AFP

Asteroid-smashing NASA probe sent boulders into space

WHEN a NASA spacecraft successfully knocked an asteroid off course last year it sent dozens of boulders skittering into space, images from the Hubble telescope showed on Thursday.

NASA's fridge-sized DART probe smashed into the pyramid-sized, rugby ball-shaped asteroid Dimorphos roughly 11 million kilometres (6.8 million miles) from Earth in September last year. The spacecraft knocked the asteroid significantly off course in the first-ever such test of Earth's planetary defences.

New images taken by the

Hubble Space Telescope show that the collision also sent 37 boulders — ranging from one metre (three feet) to seven metres (22 feet) across — floating into the cosmos.

They represent around two per cent of the boulders that were already scattered across the surface of the loosely-held-together asteroid, scientists estimated in a new study.

The finding suggests that possible future missions to divert life-threatening asteroids heading towards Earth could also spray off boulders in our direction. — AFP



The finding suggests that possible future missions to divert life-threatening asteroids heading towards Earth could also spray off boulders in our direction **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

Brazil's Embraer to build flying taxis in Sao Paulo

BRAZILIAN aeronautics company Embraer and its urban mobility subsidiary Eve said Thursday they would build a factory near Sao Paulo to manufacture electric flying taxis that could take off as soon as 2026.

The factory for "electric vertical take-off and landing aircraft" or eVTOL, will be built in the city of Taubate in Sao Paulo state, the companies announced on the 150th anniversary of the birth of Brazilian aviation pioneer Alberto Santos Dumont.

Taubate is a city of some 310,000 inhabitants about 140 kilometres (87 miles) from Sao Paulo, Brazil's economic capital.

The drone-like passenger vehicles, which resemble small helicopters, will initially be used in taxi fleets, with the first flights



Brazil's Embraer and its subsidiary Eve Air Mobility say they will begin manufacturing electric flying taxis, a model cabin of which is seen here at a Paris air show in June 2023, at a factory near Sao Paulo as early as 2026. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

costing about \$50 to \$100 per person per trip, company sources told AFP.

The initial flights will have

a pilot, but a later rollout of self-piloted vehicles is also on the cards. Each eVTOL can carry four to six passengers. — AFP

New technologies enhance freshwater lake preservation

BAIYANGDIAN Lake, the most popular tourist destination in the Xiong'an New Area, gives the public a glimpse of how cutting-edge technologies support the ecological conservation of the "future city."

A water-air-ground integrat-

ed monitoring system has been put into operation to help improve water quality in Baiyangdian, the largest freshwater wetland in northern China. One of the tools is an unmanned ship with multiple uses. Its hull-mounted sonar equipment can monitor buried

pipelines beneath the lake surface and analyze the water quality immediately after sample collection. The carbon-fibre boat can automatically collect data about the surrounding environment in one hour, including air, dirt, and noise. — Xinhua

‘Mission: Impossible’ returns, topping North America box office

THE seventh instalment of the ‘Mission Impossible’ franchise was No 1 at North American box offices this weekend, Sunday estimates showed, scaring off horror flick “Insidious: The Red Door” from last weekend’s top spot. Paramount’s “Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One,” the latest in the long-running series starring Tom Cruise, brought in \$52.6 million, industry watcher Exhibitor Relations reported.

David A Gross, of Franchise Entertainment Research, called the opening “roughly average for an action thriller at this point in its series”.

“Foreign markets are where action movies excel, and the overseas openings are strong, with the exception of China, which is good-not-great,” Gross added.

Coming in at second place this weekend was “Sound of Freedom,” a controversial action thriller from Santa Fe Films and



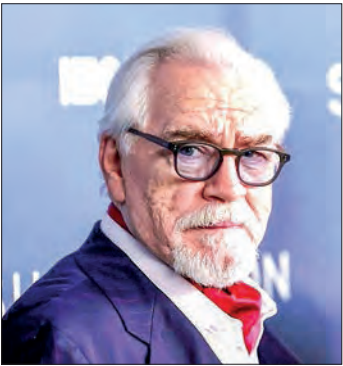
The movie topped the North American box office charts during its opening weekend, grossing \$52.6 million. PHOTO: AFP

Angel Studios. Jim Caviezel stars in a story based on the life of former US government agent Tim Ballard, who says he has rescued more than 100 children from Colombian sex traffickers. The film has found an audience among Christian conservatives.

Critics say “Sound” plays into wild QAnon conspiracy theories about a pedophilic international cabal that kidnaps children and harvests their blood.

Commentators on the conservative broadcaster Fox News, meanwhile, have pushed back against detractors among the “liberal media”. Angel Studios denies that its film warps the truth, though Caviezel and Ballard have both embraced some extreme QAnon claims. Despite the controversy, or perhaps because of it, the film brought in \$27 million over the weekend, bringing its total up to \$85 million so far. — AFP

‘Succession’ star Cox leads UK actors’ fight against AI



Cox, 77, told AFP use of AI in the entertainment industry was a ‘really serious’ threat and had to be halted. PHOTO: MONEY SHARMA/AFP

“SUCCESSION” star Brian Cox on Friday spearheaded a protest by hundreds of UK actors in support of striking US colleagues walking out over low pay and the “existential threat” posed by artificial intelligence.

A-listers Imelda Staunton, Simon Pegg, Hayley Atwell and Downton Abbey’s Jim Carter turned out for the rally in London’s Leicester Square, where

the premeire of the new “Barbie” film was held last week.

Actors chanted “lurvies united will never be defeated” and waved UK acting union Equity banners in solidarity with the US Screen Actors Guild (SAG-AFTRA).

Some 160,000 US movie and television actors walked off the job last week, joining writers who have been on strike for weeks.

The union’s demands have focused on dwindling pay in the streaming era, and the threat posed by artificial intelligence.

The industrial action is the first US industry-wide walkout for 63 years and has effectively shut down Hollywood.

Scottish actor Cox, 77, who stars as media mogul Logan Roy in the HBO hit drama “Succession”, told AFP the use of AI in the entertainment industry poses a “really serious” threat that must be halted. — AFP

Hero or villain? Mexicans remember revolutionary Pancho Villa

THOUSANDS of Mexicans on horseback paraded through the town where Francisco “Pancho” Villa, the outlaw turned revolutionary who inspired countless myths and legends, was killed 100 years ago.

Wearing leather boots and cowboy hats to shield from the blazing sun, riders filled the streets of Parral in the northern state of Chihuahua on Wednesday for commemorations marking the centenary of his death. Shouting “Viva Villa! Viva Mexico!” (Long live Villa! Long live Mexico!), the procession paused next to a statue of the mustachioed icon before filing through the town



Thousands of Mexicans gathered in the town of Parral, Chihuahua, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of Francisco “Pancho” Villa, the notorious outlaw turned revolutionary. PHOTO: AFP

where bands played and crowds lined the streets. — AFP

Cultural heritage sites tapped to carry forward Chinese civilization

Across regions within the sphere of influence of Chinese culture, Guan Yu, an ancient general known for his loyalty and bravery in battles, has been widely deified and worshipped.

The Temple of Guan Yu in Xiezhou, north China’s Shanxi

Province, is the largest one among countless temples that worship the general across the country, and also a major historical and cultural site protected at the national level.

In 2020, a research institute studying the culture behind this folk belief in Guan Yu was inau-

gurated in Xiezhou, and eight graduate students were hired. This summer, researchers of the institute are compiling chronicles for the temple, and delving into the fine elements of traditional culture epitomized in the temple. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Japan, India vow to boost chip supply chains for economic security



Researchers are seen in a clean room developing technologies for the back-end process in semiconductor manufacturing. **PHOTO: RESONAC HOLDINGS CORP**

JAPAN and India have agreed to strengthen semiconductor supply chains for increased economic security in response to China's rising clout in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

Yasutoshi Nishimura, Japan's minister of economy, trade and industry, and Ashwini Vaishnaw, India's minister of electronics and information technology, signed a memorandum of understanding on Thursday in New Delhi.

The agreement came as Japan aims to deepen partnerships with allies and like-minded nations to develop more resilient supply chains for critical products and materials, including chips, batteries and minerals, in the face of heightened geopolitical and economic security challenges posed by China and Russia.

Japan lags behind global rivals in the ability to manufacture complete semiconductor

products, though it has an edge in producing certain materials and chip-making equipment.

India is seeking to increase its own domestic semiconductor production capabilities as it relies on China for most of its imports despite strained relations due to a border dispute.

In line with India's economic growth, the semiconductor market in the world's most populous country is expected to grow. — Kyodo

UK retail sales rise as weather warms, inflation cools

BRITISH retail sales climbed more than expected in June, official data showed Friday, offering respite for the government after heavy defeats overnight in votes centred largely on its economic record.

Sales by volume grew 0.7 per cent in June compared with growth of 0.1 per cent in May, helped by warmer weather and some competitive pricing as inflation cools, the Office for National Statistics said in a statement.

Analysts' consensus forecast had been for a rise of 0.2 per cent last month.

The data comes after Britain's ruling Conservatives on Friday held the former seat of ex-prime minister Boris Johnson but saw hefty majorities in two other seats blown away as scandals and a cost-of-living crisis took their toll.

Rishi Sunak had been expected to become the first prime minister to lose three parliamentary seats on one day, but was spared that humiliation thanks to a narrow victory in the west Lon-

don seat of Uxbridge and South Ruislip. However, heavy defeats in the other two contests leave Sunak increasingly vulnerable ahead of next year's likely general election. — AFP



Pedestrians pass as customers queue to enter a reopened Greggs bakery in London on 18 June 2020 after the chain reopened hundreds of stores around the UK following their coronavirus shutdown. **PHOTO: TOLGA AKMEN / AFP**

'No way out': Ukraine farmers lament collapse of grain deal

VITALIY Bylenko looked ruefully at the mountains of grain in his barn, contemplating the growing obstacles to shifting the stockpiles after Russia this week exited a deal allowing Black Sea exports.

Ukraine, European countries and the United States have lamented Moscow's decision to scrap the landmark accord brokered by the United Nations and Türkiye last July.

But Bylenko said the deal signed in Istanbul had actually barely functioned for months.

"It has been working only on paper," Bylenko told AFP.

Ukraine grows far more wheat than it consumes and

exports contribute to global food security, especially in African countries.

The termination of the deal has renewed fears of shortages or price hikes that could hit vulnerable countries hardest.

Ukraine officials accused Russia of obstructing the deal in recent months, and Bylenko said so few ships were arriving at Ukrainian ports to export grain he was already using alternate routes.

"Offers to buy grain from us in Odesa were scarce and we already took almost all our grain to small river ports," he said. — AFP



Known as the world's "bread basket", Ukraine grows far more wheat than it consumes and it's exports contribute to global food security, especially in African countries, which now fear food shortages. **PHOTO: SERGEI SUPINSKY / AFP**

Putin launches major Arctic liquified natural gas project

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin on Thursday launched the first part of Arctic LNG 2, a massive liquified natural gas (LNG) project at Murmansk, in the Arctic.

Arctic LNG 2 is one of Russia's key projects in its drive to open a northern maritime route linking Asia and Europe, something made possible by global warming and the consequent melting of the glaciers.

"I request authorization to begin transport operations at sea," an operator said during the launch ceremony broadcast on television.

"Permission granted," Pu-

tin replied, activating the lever, as Leonid Mikhelson, the chairman of gas giant Novatek stood beside him.

The project, which has an estimated cost of \$21 billion, aims to achieve a production capacity of 19.8 million tonnes of LNG a year, using three production lines. French energy giant TotalEnergies had been linked to the project but in 2022 announced it was pulling out after Russia launched its military operation in Ukraine. Novatek controls 60 per cent of the project, and its partners are China's CNPC and CNOOC, as well as Japan Arctic LNG. — AFP

After Hollywood strike,
Broadway staves off
industrial action

A tentative agreement was reached in New York Thursday to avert a strike that threatened to shut most Broadway shows, as Hollywood remains on hold over historic industrial action.

The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE), which represents the 1,500 stagehands and other backstage workers involved in the dispute, had begun the process of voting on a walkout.

But the union reached agreement with Disney Theatrical and industry trade group the Broadway League, which represent theater owners and producers, the parties said in a joint statement.

The contract still needs to be ratified by IATSE's rank-and-file and will be put to mem-

bers in the coming days, the statement added.

"The strike has been averted, though the contract must be approved by the membership," said union spokesman Jonas Loeb.

The deal was reached after IATSE on Wednesday authorized a vote on whether to strike that was expected to take a couple of days.

US media reported that any action would have disrupted New York's famous theater district from Friday, delivering a blow to the city's economy during the summer tourist season.

If approved, the walkout was expected to close 28 shows in the Big Apple and 17 performances that are currently touring the United States and Canada. — AFP



An averted Broadway strike would have closed 28 shows. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

China's export
container shipping index
down in June

CHINA'S export container shipping index dropped in June, data from the Shanghai Shipping Exchange shows.

The average China Containerized Freight Index (CCFI) stood at 918.89 in the period, down 3.5 per cent month on month, according to the exchange.

The sub-reading for the Korea service led the decline with a month-on-

month decrease of 11.1 per cent. It was followed by the east coast America service, which fell 6.3 per cent from the previous month.

The CCFI tracks spot and contractual freight rates from Chinese container ports on 12 shipping routes across the globe, based on data from 22 international carriers. — Xinhua

McDonald's opens misconduct unit
after UK allegations

MCDONALD'S United Kingdom has opened a specialist unit to investigate allegations of racial and sexual misconduct exposed by the BBC, its boss announced Friday.

Alistair Macrow again apologized after Britain's public broadcaster on Tuesday reported allegations of sexual misconduct, racism and bullying by staff at the US fast-food giant.

"Today, I am establishing a dedicated Investigation Handling Unit," the regional chief executive said in a statement.

"The Unit will have oversight on all cases



The BBC reported allegations of racial and sexual misconduct, as well as bullying, involving staff at McDonald's in the United Kingdom. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

and the power to refer the most serious cases to a third-party legal team staffed by specialist investigators."

Macrow said the al-

legations were "personally and professionally shocking".

"I would like to reiterate my unreserved apology to, and empathy with, all those affected in any way, and I commend their bravery in coming forward," he added.

More than 100 former and current workers made the allegations, the BBC said after it began investigating in February.

This was after McDonald's signed a legally-binding agreement with Britain's Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), pledging to protect staff from sexual harassment. The EHRC was also examining the allegations at McDonald's UK, which has 177,000 staff. — AFP

Spain's drought-hit
tourism sector seeks
to save water

THERE are no longer showers on the beach in Lloret de Mar which, like many popular tourist resorts in drought-hit Spain, is seeking ways to conserve its increasingly sparse water supplies.

With Spain at the forefront of the climate crisis in Europe, its key tourism sector is facing growing pressure to reduce its environmental impact and become more sustainable.

"It's a shame because it was nice to shower off," said Jonas Johanson, a 28-year-old tourist from Denmark as he took a stroll in the blazing sun along the popular north-

eastern resort's promenade. Rainfall in Spain has been very low for the past year, leaving reservoirs in Catalonia, where Lloret is located, at just 29 per cent of their capacity.

Since March, large swathes of this northeastern region of 7.7 million residents, including its capital Barcelona, have limited water usage for agriculture and industry to ensure that homes remained supplied. But not everyone has welcomed such measures in a country where tourism accounts for 12 per cent of its economic output and 2.5 million jobs. — AFP



Beautiful beaches, green valleys, picturesque vineyards and charming towns are now subjected to the devastating effects of drought. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (046N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (046N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-7-2023** 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.

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ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD



Sri Lanka's President Ranil Wickremesinghe (L) shakes hands with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi before a meeting in New Delhi. PHOTO: MONEY SHARMA/AFP

India and Sri Lanka
to consider land link

INDIA and Sri Lanka agreed Friday to consider building a land link between them, they said during President Ranil Wickremesinghe's first visit to the regional powerhouse, as Chinese influence grows on his island.

Establishing "land connectivity" across the Palk Strait, which in places is only around 25 kilometres (15 miles) wide, would give India access to the key ports of Trincomalee and Colombo and strengthen a "millennia-old relationship", the neighbours said in a strategic document.

Feasibility studies on a land bridge and a petroleum pipeline will be carried out, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said after their talks.

Wickremesinghe's two-day visit came a year after he became president following the toppling of his predecessor during an unprecedented economic crisis.

As Sri Lanka saw daily street protests over shortages of food, fuel and medicines, India poured in nearly \$4 billion in aid, despite Colombo defaulting on its \$46 billion in foreign debt.

"Sri Lanka faced many challenges last year but like a close friend we stood shoulder to shoulder with the people of Sri Lanka in the time of crisis," Modi said.

In the discussions, New Delhi also raised concerns about the "Chinese presence" in Sri Lanka, said India's foreign secretary Vinay Kwatra. — AFP

Portugal tightens border checks
ahead of Pope's visit

IN preparing to welcome Pope Francis along with a million young people for World Youth Day, Portugal has reinstated random border security checks Saturday.

The "exceptional" measure has been implemented "to prevent possible threats to public order and internal security", which will last until 7 August, according to a government de-

cision.

The identity checks at the borders will be "random and not systematic", the Interior Minister Jose Luis Carneiro said Friday, adding there will be coordination with Spanish, French and Italian authorities. Portugal is expecting about a million pilgrims from around the world, according to organizers, to attend the gathering of young Catholics from 1 to 6 August.

Originally scheduled for August 2022, the event was postponed because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Francis, 86, has been recovering from surgery in early June, but has confirmed his attendance. The five-day visit by the head of the Catholic church will be marked by a full agenda with around 20 meetings and 11 speeches. — AFP



Portugal has reinstated random border security checks in preparation for World Youth Day. Officers check the ID of a driver at the border between Portugal and Spain, 5 April 2021. PHOTO: GUSTAVO VALIENTE/XINHUA/FILE

'Lioness' near Berlin
still on the run

GERMAN police extended the search Friday for a wild animal believed to be a lioness roaming the outskirts of Berlin more than 24 hours since the last reported sighting.

In a story that has fascinated Germany and livened up the summer "silly season", two people spotted what appeared to be a lioness early Thursday chasing a wild boar down a street outside the capital and made a short, grainy video.

But their account and a sighting by police officers remain the only evidence so far of the wild animal, more at home on the African savanna than the sandy soils of eastern Germany.

Police continued combing

the streets of suburban communities southwest of Berlin in the small hours of Friday using night-vision goggles and drones but called off a forest search until daybreak, a spokesman said.

The mayor of the town of Kleinmachnow, Michael Grubert, told public broadcaster RBB that professional animal trackers searching for dung or bloody remains of prey had been enlisted alongside police, veterinarians and hunters.

But he acknowledged that the massive operation involving over 100 police officers as well as helicopters and thermal-imaging cameras was stretching his community's resources. — AFP



Police said on Friday that they had found no signs of a lion, or any other large predator, following a massive search around Berlin. PHOTO: AFP

Greece facing 40C weekend while record US
heat wave set to expand

GREECE was Saturday facing its hottest July weekend in 50 years, with temperatures forecast to soar above 40 Celsius (104 Fahrenheit), while a record-breaking heat wave stretching across the southern United

States was expected to expand in the coming days.

Tens of millions of people in the northern hemisphere have been suffering through intense heat this summer as the world appears headed for its hottest

July on record. As temperature records tumble, experts have pointed the finger at climate change driven by the burning of fossil fuels, saying global warming is playing a key role in destructive weather. — AFP

Lula government restricts gun ownership in Brazil

BRAZIL'S left-wing President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Friday signed a decree to limit civilian access to firearms, seeking to undo a boom of gun ownership under his far-right predecessor Jair Bolsonaro.

Under Bolsonaro, private gun ownership nearly tripled as he loosened controls in a nod to his “Bibles, bullets and beef” support base.

“We will continue to fight for fewer weapons in our country. Only the police and the army must be well-armed,” Lula said in Brasilia as he unveiled a series of violence-curbing measures.

The move came after several recent school shootings in a country that registered more than five murders per hour on average in 2022, according to the Public Security Forum, an NGO.



A man holds two posters shaped like guns during a pro-gun demonstration in support of Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro in Brasília, Brazil, on 9 July 2021. PHOTO: SERGIO LIMA/AFP PHOTO: AFP /FILE

Lula’s decree on “responsible arms control” will see individuals limited to two weapons for personal defence, half today’s allowance.

Anyone wishing to acquire a gun would have to prove that they need it.

Hunters, sports shooters and collectors will be limited to six weapons, down from 30.

Ammunition purchases will also be restricted, as will the opening hours of shooting ranges which will no longer be able to operate within a kilometre (0.6 miles) of a school.

According to the anti-violence NGO Instituto Sou da Paz, more than a million civilian-held weapons were on the register in Brazil by July 2022 — nearly three times the number before Bolsonaro took office. — AFP

Monkey business in Pakistan court during smuggling case

A baby monkey caused chaos in a Pakistan court after escaping from a troop presented as evidence in a case of wildlife smuggling, officials said.

Two men were intercepted outside Karachi Thursday trying to smuggle 14 baby monkeys in crates usually used to transport mangos.

But when they were brought to court on Friday, one of the monkeys escaped

— causing chaos as staff tried to tempt it down from a tree.

“The monkeys were kept in the boxes in a bad condition... they could hardly breathe,” said Javed Mahar, chief of Sindh Wildlife Department.

The trade or keeping of wild animals is illegal in Pakistan, but laws are routinely ignored and there is a lively market in exotic pets. — AFP



Monkeys are often trained to perform as street entertainers in Pakistan. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ ZAGHAM/ HIVE BLOG/AFP

N Korea fires cruise missiles towards Yellow Sea: S Korea

NORTH Korea fired several cruise missiles towards the Yellow Sea on Saturday, according to the South Korean military, in an apparent response to recent moves by Seoul and Washington to deter Pyongyang from using nuclear weapons.

The South Korean and US militaries were confirming the details of the launches, which took place at about 4 am and came after Pyongyang fired two short-range ballistic missiles towards the Sea of Japan on Wednesday.

South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said it will closely cooperate with the United States and monitor North Korea’s activities.

The latest missile launches followed the first meeting of the so-called Nuclear Consultative Group on Tuesday in Seoul



North Korea fired cruise missiles into the Yellow Sea between China and the Korean peninsula on Saturday. PHOTO: JUNG YEON-JE/AFP

at which South Korea and the United States agreed to hold joint military exercises and war simulations to deter North Korea from using nuclear weapons.

A US nuclear-powered submarine capable of carrying ballistic missiles also paid a rare visit that day to the port city of Busan in South Korea. — Kyodo

Kyiv drone strikes Crimea munitions depot as attacks escalate

A Ukrainian drone attack on Crimea Saturday blew up an ammunition depot, sparking evacuations on the Moscow-annexed peninsula and halting rail traffic, just five days after drones damaged Russia’s symbolic bridge across the Kerch

Strait.

Crimea, annexed by Russia in 2014, has been targeted by Kyiv throughout Moscow’s 17-month long Ukraine offensive but has come under more intense, increased attacks in recent weeks.

In a counteroffensive launched to retake lands lost to Moscow, Kyiv has increasingly made clear — despite some Western unease — that it aims to also take back the Black Sea peninsula. — AFP

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SPORT

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

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

- (c) To assure support for the 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.

Myanmar engage in Group A for Continental Futsal Championship 2023

CONTINENTAL FUTSAL CHAMPIONSHIP THAILAND 2023 7-13 AUGUST 2023			
GROUP A		GROUP B	
A1	THAILAND	B1	CZECH REPUBLIC
A2	SOLOMON ISLANDS	B2	MOZAMBIQUE
A3	MYANMAR	B3	AFGHANISTAN

MYANMAR Futsal is falling in Group A for the Continental Futsal Championship 2023 following the drawing-lots event held in Bangkok, Thailand on 21 July.

In the event, team Myanmar was placed in pot number three and reached Group A in the drawing-lot, so they will have to compete against host Thailand, and the Solomon Islands. Meanwhile, the Czech Republic, Mozambique and

Afghanistan will compete in Group B. The group stage matches of the Continental Futsal Championship 2023 will be held from 7 to 9 August. Team Myanmar will take on host Thailand on 7 August (7 pm Myanmar Standard Time) and Solomon Islands on 8 August (7 pm MST). The semifinals will be played on 11 August and the third place and final games will be launched on 13 August. — KZL

Guardiola has 'incredible doubts' despite treble success

PEP Guardiola laughed off claims that he was the greatest coach of all time on Saturday, saying he lives with "incredible doubts" despite leading Manchester City to the treble last season. Under the Spaniard, City became only the second English team after rivals Manchester United to win the Champions League, Premier League and FA Cup in the same season. But Guardiola said he was "not a god" when asked if he was the greatest of all time after arriving in Japan for City's pre-season tour. "I live with incredible doubts in my head," said Guardiola. "If I had success in my career, I've said many times I was in Barcelona with the players that you know perfectly, I was in Bayern Munich, and we are here." — AFP



Pep Guardiola led Manchester City to the Champions League, Premier League and FA Cup titles last season. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ayeyawady takes consecutive wins in Myanmar National League



ISPE player Min Khant Kyaw (yellow) tries to keep the ball under balance during the MNL Week-13 match against Ayeyawady United at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 22 July 2023. **PHOTO: MNL**

AYEYAWADY United secured their winning streak after sweeping ISPE FC 3-2 in the Week-13 match of the Myanmar National League played at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday. Third-placed ISPE missed the opportunity to win as they could not control the other team's attack. With the victory, team Ayeyawady is now in good shape to get out of the relegation zone. Both teams, composed of local

players, started with most of their core players and launched attacks from the beginning. However, both teams missed opportunities in the first half and it was a goalless draw. Mutual goals were seen in the second half and thanks to the late goal, Ayeyawady beat their rival. ISPE led the game with Than Toe Aung's goal at 47 minutes and Win Pyae Maung's score at 79 minutes. However, Ayeyawady

made three goals at 76 minutes by Shwe Ko and at 80 and 89 minutes by Peter Aung Wai Htoo to celebrate their victory. The best player award went to Ayeyawady striker Shwe Ko. Ayeyawady United gained 14 points while ISPE collected 20 points after playing 13 matches. Maha United will play against Kachin United at Thuwunna Stadium today. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL