

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.

State aims to achieve four-per-cent GDP growth in 2023-24 Financial Year

No inflation concerns for circulation of K20,000 banknote; assures Senior General



State Administration Council Chair Premier Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presides over the economic committee meeting 6/2023 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

GOVERNMENT'S enterprises are to contribute to the development of the State without focusing on benefit but they should not sustain loss, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the economic committee meeting 6/2023 of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the SAC Chairman Office yesterday afternoon.

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MoTC UM receives governor of Dehong Autonomous Prefecture



Mandatory adherence to rules for EV-importing companies



Sugar price in Yangon reaches K3,350 per viss

NATIONAL

YRHC Chief Justice receives delegation led by Russian Chief Justice



THE delegation led by Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation Mr Vyacheslav Lebedev arrived in Yangon yesterday morning by air from Nay Pyi Taw.

The delegation headed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Russian Federation and Chief Justice Daw Sanda Thwe of the Yangon Region High Court, justices

and legal officers had a frank and cordial discussion on judicial affairs at the meeting hall of the Yangon Region High Court. — MNA/KZW

Statements issued over PDFs in abducting Agriculture Institute (Dawei) principal and 6 persons, killing Agriculture Department official

PDF terrorists abducted the principal of the Institute of Agriculture (Dawei) and her 11-year-old son together with five teachers from Sakhangyi Village of Launglon Township in Taninthayi Region on 20 July. Moreover, those PDF terrorists shot dead a deputy staff officer from Launglon Township Agriculture Department who was lecturing agricultural techniques at the institute, on 22 July.

The Young Men's Buddhist Association (Central), Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central), Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central), Myanmar Press Council, Myanmar Writers' Association, Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, Myanmar Artists and Sculptors Association, Myanmar Comedians' Association, Myanmar Music Association (Central), Pinnaygone Yakhine Jaame Mosque, Buthidaung-Maungtaw region development association, All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ), All Myanmar Hindu Central Council, Sanatan Dharma Swayamsevak Sangh, Islamic Religious Affairs Council Myanmar, The Methodist Church (Lower Myanmar), and Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance, issued statements that they strongly condemned the acts of abducting unarmed teachers and brutally killing them with small arms. — MNA/TTA

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 Re- gion 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

Systematic disciplines envisaged for both civilian and military sectors

Disciplines in civilian and military sectors aim to be systematic for all.

(The excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with officers, other ranks and families of Kalaw Station at the station hall on 6 March 2023)

Families of C-in-C Office (Army, Navy and Air) hold Waso robe-offering ceremony for 2023

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla offered alms and meals to members of the Sangha at the Waso robe offering ceremony for 2023 of families of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) at the hall of the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army), yesterday morning.

The Senior General and wife offered Waso robes and alms to Thanlyin Minkyaung Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa.

SAC Vice-Chairman Dep-

uty Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe also donated Waso robes and alms to Presiding Nayaka of Kyaukme Thiho Pariyatti Buddhist Learning Centre of Shan State Agga Maha Pandita Dr Bhaddanta Candanasara.

The Senior General, his wife and attendees shared merits gained.

After the ceremony, the Senior General and wife, the Vice-Senior General and wife and attendees offered day meals to members of the Sangha led by the Thanlyin Minkyaung Sayadaw. — MNA/TTA



The Senior General and his wife offer Waso robes and alms to the Thanlyin Minkyaung Sayadaw yesterday.

State aims to achieve four-per-cent GDP growth in ...

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Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General underlined that after taking on the State responsibilities, the government did not borrow any loans. Due to receiving some foreign aid in late 2022, the government could implement some projects. It can be seen that local finance and the economy depend on the internal strength of the nation. In its term, the government restricts the selling of natural resources as much as it can.

Concerning the State economy, the Senior General noti-

fied that the GDP of the State increased to 3.4 per cent in the 2022-23 financial year, and it is expected to secure four per cent of GDP in the 2023-24 financial year. If the country emphasizes current manufacturing measures, greater development will come out, he added.

The Senior General highlighted that as Myanmar is an agro-based country, its products based on agriculture and livestock farms can contribute to the food security of the world. Hence, it can be said that agro-based products have firm market

shares and these are expected to obtain greater economic development for the State, he stressed.

The Senior General pointed out that it is necessary to correctly manage land utilization under the prescribed laws as using agricultural lands in other ways causes loss to the agricultural tasks of the country.

The Senior General expressed a policy to ensure the sufficiency of cooking oil from 2025. Meanwhile, the Senior General said that public transport and generating electricity from

renewable energy are being encouraged to reduce the use of fuel.

The Secretary of the committee Union Minister for Planning and Finance, union ministers and region and state chief ministers reported on their respective sectors.

In his response to the reports, the Senior General said that increased incomes can be earned from the manufacturing of improved rubber raw materials. He stressed the need for relevant ministries to generate electricity from gasifiers and

urged all to always research the international market for the market shares of agricultural and livestock products of Myanmar.

In conclusion, the Senior General underscored that the K20,000 banknote aims to be circulated as a commemorative measure. He said that the country will not surely face inflation for the circulation of K20,000 banknotes. Government's enterprises are to contribute to the development of the State without focusing on benefits but they should not sustain loss. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

MoTC UM receives governor of Dehong Autonomous Prefecture

DEPUTY Prime Minister Admiral Tin Aung San, who is a member of the State Administration Council and also the Union Minister of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, welcomed a delegation led by Mr Wei Gang, the Governor of the People's Government of Dehong Autonomous Prefecture of the People's Republic of China, at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed the operation of four weekly flights between Mangshi and Mandalay by Ruili Airline. Myanmar National Airlines will operate three

weekly flights between Yangon, Mandalay, and Mangshi, while also expanding passenger and cargo flights to other potential cities. Additionally, they discussed the connectivity enhancement between China's high-speed rail network and Myanmar's rail network, which is expected to be completed by 2027, connecting with Ruili and boosting bilateral trade. Furthermore, both parties will sign a memorandum of understanding to facilitate cross-border shipments and address transit issues for Chinese products passing through Yangon Port. — MNA/KZW



The Dehong Autonomous Prefecture governor calls on Deputy Prime Minister MoTC Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San yesterday.

MoIP Union Minister seeks Myanmar-India cooperation in e-ID system



MYANMAR'S Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing, along with a delegation, travelled to New Delhi, India, to explore the possibility of cooperation in implementing an e-ID system between the two countries on 24 July. The visit came in response to an invitation from the Indian Gov-

ernment.

Myanmar's delegation visited the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) headquarters on 25 July. During the meeting, UIDAI CEO Mr Amit Agrawal and officials presented information on the organization's efforts and success in implementing the Aadhaar system.

They discussed the effective services the system provides to various government organizations and citizens.

Union Minister U Myint Kyaing extended greetings and raised questions regarding further actions required for the successful implementation of the e-ID system. The managing director and officials addressed the queries, fostering a productive exchange of information and experiences between relevant sectors. The meeting concluded with the exchange of souvenirs.

The visit aimed to explore the potential for collaboration in adopting an e-ID system, reflecting Myanmar's interest in strengthening ties with India in this technological domain. — MNA/TS

UEC delegation departs for study tour in China

AT the invitation of the International Affairs Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, a Myanmar delegation led by Union Election Commission Member U Myint Thein left

Yangon for China by air.

During the visit, they will study China's reform, open-door policy, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and ways of holding elections. — MNA/KZW



The UEC delegation is seen before leaving for China yesterday.

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NATIONAL

Collaboration needed to safeguard people’s right to accurate information, emphasizes Union Information Minister

UNION Minister U Maung Maung Ohn, speaking at the Four Pillars Workshop held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, stressed the critical impact media outlets have on the country’s peace, stability, development, and unity. He highlighted the need for various sectors to work together to ensure the public’s right to accurate information.

In his address, the Union minister emphasized that the media must uphold the three pillars of the country - the legislative, the administrative, and the judiciary - on behalf of the public. Achieving this demands cooperation to guarantee the right to information.

“Mutual respect and understanding the nature of each pillar are essential,” he added, pointing out that transparency can be achieved through cooperative efforts. He urged the four pillars, including the media, to collaborate in ensuring qualified journalists and safeguarding the public’s right to access correct information.

Reflecting on the past, the Union minister noted that the relations between the media



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn speaks at the Four Pillars Workshop yesterday.

and the three pillars were smooth during the early years of democracy. However, with the outbreak of COVID-19 and political changes, the proliferation of false information, disinformation, and the rapid spread of news via social media platforms have made it challenging to provide true and reliable news to the public.

In light of this situation, he emphasized the importance of providing accurate information to the public and creating opportunities for them to discuss

their concerns openly. This way, people will increasingly rely on the three pillars and media for credible information.

The Union minister called for a collaborative effort between the government and media to develop a Professional Development Programme for media personnel to ensure their growth and skills enhancement.

During the workshop, State Administration Council Member Daw Dwe Bu, Union Minister U Maung Maung

Ohn, Chairman of Myanmar Press Council U Ohn Maung (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe), Union Minister Dr Thida Oo, and Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo, discussed ways to promote cooperation among the four pillars.

The workshop, moderated by Myanmar Media Development Group Member U Ko Ko (Ko Ko-RIT), also saw participation from Deputy Ministers, advisory board members of the SAC Chairman, departmental officials, and journalists.

They engaged in discussions on finding proper solutions to ensure the right to information for citizens, conducting training courses by Myanmar Press Council, supporting journalism career growth, facilitating fast flow of information, and upholding freedom of the press while addressing challenges in digitalization, illegal satellite use, and online media.

The primary objectives of the workshop were to foster mutual respect based on media ethics among the legislative, administrative, and judiciary branches, and to explore ways to enhance cooperation within the Myanmar media sector while ensuring the public’s right to information. The participants aimed to build better relations among the four pillars and develop effective future work plans through suggestions and information exchange.

The Ministry of Information and Myanmar Press Council jointly hosted the workshops, on 30 December 2016, 21 February 2018, 30 April 2019, and 21 August 2020. — MNA/KTZH

Union Education Minister attends Ministers’ Dialogue, AHEC 2023 Webinar in Indonesia

UNION Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe recently participated in two significant events: the ASEAN Education Ministers

Dialogue on Early Childhood Care and Education Reform Policy in Southeast Asia and the ASEAN Higher Education

Conference (AHEC) 2023 Webinar.

During the ASEAN Education Ministers Dialogue, the Union minister highlighted the importance of early childhood care and education for cognitive and overall development in children. Myanmar expressed its commitment to establishing an ASEAN regional network to exchange experiences and ideas in this domain. He also shared Myanmar’s enactment of the Early Childhood Development Law (2014) and the implementation of a five-year strategy for early childhood care and development. The participating countries jointly made a declaration on early childhood care and education.

Later, Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe attended the AHEC 2023 Webinar and delivered an online speech on “Government’s Role in Linking Maritime Sector and Education” for technology-based

maritime trade 5.0. He emphasized that nearly 90 per cent of global trade is conducted through maritime routes and highlighted the crucial role of the government in bridging the gap between the maritime sector and education. The speech discussed policies, funding support, curriculum development, and fostering relations between the sector and training schools to enhance vocational education.

The events aimed to raise awareness about quality early childhood care and education and to foster cooperation among ASEAN member countries. The webinar saw the participation of over 800 high-ranking officials.

Overall, Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe’s involvement in these events demonstrates Myanmar’s dedication to promoting education and collaboration within the ASEAN region. — MNA/TH



Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe participates in the ASEAN Education Ministers Dialogue on Early Childhood Care and Education Reform Policy in SEA in Indonesia.

NATIONAL
ARTICLE

Yangon commodity market sets new price opening conditions

By TWA / Translated by CT

TRADERS are closely monitoring the Yangon beans and pulses market, as the prices fluctuate almost daily for these exported goods.

Currently, buyers request dealers to present sample packs of beans and pulses for evaluation, unlike the practice before 2010 when they were openly displayed. After the commodity depot's closing hours, some traders engage in price negotiations over the phone during the evening and night.

In the morning, the lower hall of the Bayintnaung Commodity Depot is bustling with the sale of commodities like onions and potatoes. During this time, onion, jaggery, and chilli pepper traders set their opening prices at certain streets and brokerage house meeting points. Potato traders set their opening prices around 10 am, while bean traders open their markets at noon, and edible oil traders start trading at 1 pm.

The commodity prices for the day are available both online and in paper form, published



The commodity depot in Yangon opened at No B/81 on Khayay Street in the Bayintnaung Commodity Depot.

lished by the commodity depot after compiling the price list for Yangon and the export FOB price sheet. However, the prices of rice and palm oil are not mentioned in the daily price list of the Bayintnaung Commodity Depot as they belong to specific non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Before 7 am, some broker-

age houses register the daily supply of onions and potatoes, noting the number of truckloads and the origin regions. They use this information to set their opening prices at the rallying place in front of the brokerage house on Yattama Road. Regional traders, especially those from Nyaungpinlay Market in Lanmadaw Town-

ship, closely monitor these opening prices for fluctuations.

For those who cannot visit the Bayintnaung Market in person, the daily prices can be observed through social media posts around 7 am. Some regional traders may pay more than the official opening price to buy rare goods. When demand is low at the market's

opening, the brokerage houses may sell at an adjusted price below the opening price.

In the market, both sellers and buyers must establish mutual trust, not only regarding the goods but also the prices. Buyers often prefer to purchase goods on credit rather than make immediate payments. Although the commodity depot sets the credit period for goods to be not more than two weeks, the actual credit period is often longer, depending on agreements between the seller and the buyer. To access the commodity trading area, a recognized membership card is required. The Bayintnaung Commodity Depot, being the largest trading centre in Yangon, holds great importance for traders.

The brokerage houses in the Bayintnaung Commodity Depot were relocated from Lanmadaw and Latha Townships. The depot was established around 1993, making both the depot and brokerage houses nearly 30 years old.

China invites Myanmar entrepreneurs to new energy vehicle plant, relevant forum

MYANMAR entrepreneurs can visit the new energy vehicle plant and study the forum on new energy vehicles in Liuzhou of China, according to Myanmar Consul-General U Kyaw Soe Thein in Nanning.

The consul-general met Ms Cai Xuping, Director of the Guangxi Institute of Science and Technology at the Myanmar Consulate-General in Nanning on 24 July.

During the meeting, Ms Cai Xuping said arrangements will be made for Myanmar entrepreneurs and vehicle manufacturing-related representatives of ministries to visit China on study tours to the new energy car plant in Liuzhou and a forum in connexion with the new energy vehicle will be organized shortly.

She also invited the Myanmar consul-general and repre-

sentatives to attend the third China-ASEAN Standardization Cooperation Forum to be held in Liuzhou on 12 and 13 October.

Myanmar's attendance at the panel discussion titled "New Energy Vehicle" included in the China-ASEAN Standardization Cooperation Forum as well as the study tour of the new energy car plant will bring benefits to the country that imports electric vehicles mostly from China.

Moreover, it can boost the business connections between Myanmar and Chinese entrepreneurs who mainly operate electric vehicle production.

Additionally, the consul-general also invited Chinese entrepreneurs to make investments in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone to manufacture new energy vehicles in Myanmar. — ASH/KTZH



Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

300+ non-operational small industries deregistered in 3 months



The picture shows an SME workplace.

A total of 338 small-scale industries which could not operate for various reasons were cancelled from the registration list and a total of 463 businesses were registered during the three months from April to June of the financial year 2023-24, according to the Department of Small-Scale Industries under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development.

During the financial year 2022-2023, a total of 100 non-operational small-scale industries were cancelled from the registration list.

Currently, a total of 19,526 small-scale industries registered with the Department of Small-Scale Industries up to June of the financial year 2023-2024 are in operation. — TWA/MKKS

LOCAL BUSINESS

Mandatory adherence to rules for EV-importing companies

A committee on the development of importation, installation and investment of electric vehicles and associated businesses emphasized that actions will be taken if EV importing companies fail to comply with the rules regarding EVs and related components.

Some companies are found to be making pre-order sales at showrooms and through social networks.

The committee held coordination meetings with EV importing companies in April and June and has already notified them that they are not to make more than 20 per cent profit on CIF price, not to advertise online and not to make pre-orders without vehicles arriving at the Port.

If the companies violated those policies, they will get their export/import licence revoked and face legal actions under the Consumer Protection Law, the committee warned.

Importation, manufacturing and trading of the battery electric vehicles (BEVs) and their components are exempted from commercial tax, according to Notification 4/2023 released by the Union Government on 8 May



Officials routinely check new arrivals of battery electric vehicles (BEVs).

2023, in the exercise of the power conferred by Section 37 of the Union Tax Law 2022, under the approval of the State Administration Council.

Also, the Customs duty exemption on electric vehicles (EVs) and their components was extended until the end of March 2024, according to the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

Myanmar Investment Commission also released a statement on 15 February that electric vehicles and related businesses will be promoted as the priority sector, according to its notification dated 15 February.

In the exercise of the power conferred by Sections 43 and 100 (B) of the Myanmar Investment Law, the MIC issued this state-

ment with the approval of the Union government.

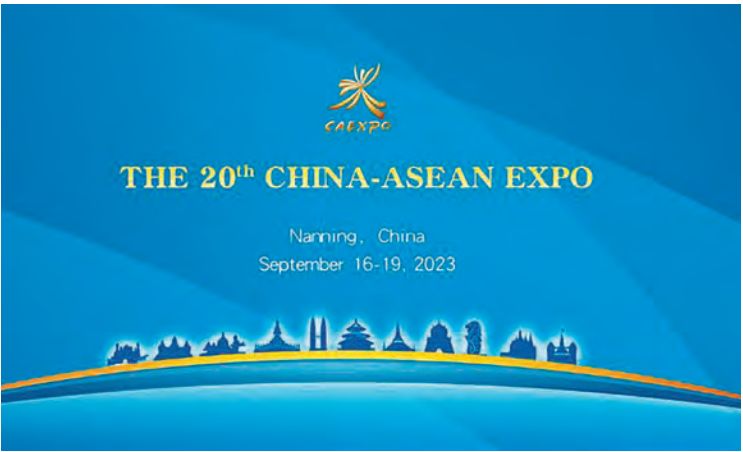
Enterprises executing installation, manufacturing and restoration services of the EVs, renewable electricity generation, EVs charging service businesses, electric vehicle battery production, EV battery and related service business, electric bus operation services, electric taxi and

transport service businesses and scientific research development business are included in those priority sectors.

During the establishment and ideation phase for incorporation and operations, those businesses can seek permits from the MIC to enjoy tariff relief or zero-customs tariff status and the exemption for other taxes levied in the country under Section 77 (A) of the Myanmar Investment Law and income tax exemption under Section 75 (C) of the Myanmar Investment Law for the importations of machinery, essential equipment and accessories, spare parts and construction raw materials that cannot be found in domestic markets.

Myanmar has been bringing in electric vehicles (EVs) under the Customs tariff relaxation through seaborne and border trade routes, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

As of 30 June, 3,206 EVs were registered with the Road Transportation Administration Department, including 467 private EVs, two light load trucks, 2,474 two-wheel vehicles and 263 three-wheel vehicles. — NN/EM



Myanmar businesspersons prep to join 20th China-ASEAN Expo

MYANMAR businesspersons are endeavouring to participate in the 20th China-ASEAN Expo that will be held in Nanning, Guangxi autonomous region, China from 16 to 19 September.

Myanmar will showcase its products at Hall B2, Hall City of Charm and Hall 14, Zone D, at Nanning International Convention & Exhibition Center (NICEC), with 80 booths.

Businesspeople started to submit lists on 21 July through <https://mitc.myantrade.gov.mm/member/trade-fair/new>. The participants will be selected in order.

For further details, one can call up via the contact numbers 067 408622 of Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization and 01 385323 of Myanmar Convention Centre (Yangon). — NN/EM

Kyat weakens to K3,280 against US dollar, contrary to CBM reference rate of K2,100

KYAT against greenback appreciated at approximately K3,280 in the grey market although the Central Bank of Myanmar set the reference exchange rate at K2,100, the traders involved in the forex market said.

CBM has set the currency trading band at 0.3 per cent for the Kyat to fluctuate between these two specified upper and lower exchange rates for transactions, selling or buying, according to a directive issued by the CBM on 10 August 2022.

Therefore, financial institutions including the banks and informal money exchanges are instructed to set a dollar value at K2,094 for buying and K2,106 for selling. However, the over-the-counter Kyat-dollar exchange rate was K3,230 for buying and K3,280 for selling on 26 July.

There is a large price difference between the reference rate of the CBM and the unofficial market rate. Yet, there is no way for the CBM to set the new price, as per the notification released in May 2023.

The CBM announced on 23 July that it will issue the new K20,000 notes from 31 July 2023. The new currency notes will be issued in a limited number in exchange for the torn, defective and damaged notes.

However, the prices of gold and the dollar exchange rate are gaining, following the news of new currency notes. Pure gold was priced at K3.61 million per tical, while a US dollar is exchanged at K3,460 in recent days.

In a bid to halt gold market manipulation as a consequence of the Central Bank

of Myanmar issuing the new K20,000 notes, Mandalay Gold Entrepreneurs Association (MGEA) temporarily stopped gold trading. Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association asked on 24 July that the traders not stimulate commodity price volatility with malicious rumours and requested the members and gold shop owners to cooperate in price stability.

The CBM's notification regarding the information about the new K20,000 notes showing the albino elephant stated that it will work jointly with the law enforcement authority to investigate and take action against those unscrupulous persons who attempt to hike the commodity prices and the forex exchange rate as they aim to damage the interest of the public. — NN/EM

Raise dairy cattle to meet local milk and dairy product demands

THE agricultural and livestock sectors play a crucial role in providing food for local consumption and generating income for various industries. Among these sectors, cattle farming, particularly raising dairy cows, holds significant importance in food production.

Local animal breeders focus on dairy cow farms to produce milk and dairy products. However, the current domestic production is insufficient to meet the local demand. Consequently, businesses import substantial quantities of dairy products like condensed milk and milk powder, spending over US\$5 million annually from countries such as Singapore, Malaysia, Lithuania, New Zealand, the United States, and Ukraine.

To overcome the current limitations and pave the way for future growth, a national dairy cattle improvement program is essential. This comprehensive program should encompass aspects like genetics, nutrition, and management to enhance milk quality and production efficiency. By doing so, it will be possible to meet the growing demands for milk and dairy products in Myanmar.

demand.

The Myanmar dairy sector is still in its early developmental stage, facing challenges such as limited knowledge, skills, infrastructure, food safety standards, genetics, funding, and data recording systems. To support the farmers and expand the dairy product industry, institutions like the Myanmar Dairy Association have been established.

To overcome the current limitations and pave the way for future growth, a national dairy cattle improvement program is essential. This comprehensive program should encompass aspects like genetics, nutrition, and management to enhance milk quality and production efficiency. By doing so, it will be possible to meet the growing demands for milk and dairy products in Myanmar.

In conclusion, the agricultural and livestock sectors, particularly cattle farming and dairy cow breeding, play a vital role in food production and economic growth. Although Myanmar has made significant strides in milk production, it still relies on imports to satisfy local demand. To achieve self-sufficiency and support the domestic dairy industry, concerted efforts are underway to enhance breeding practices and genetic improvements. Additionally, investments in knowledge, infrastructure, food safety, and data recording systems are crucial for the sustainable growth of the dairy sector in Myanmar.

To address this issue, relevant ministries and the Myanmar Dairy Association are collaborating to reduce the reliance on imports, cut foreign exchange spending, promote local dairy milk producers, and protect domestic businesses in the milk and dairy product sector. To achieve these goals, they are implementing a five-year plan that involves increasing the breeding of pedigree dairy cattle and focusing on genetic improvements.

With this initiative, approximately 300,000 milch cows are being raised across the nation, resulting in annual milk production of about 800,000 tonnes. Despite this progress, Myanmar citizens consume an average of 26 kilogrammes of milk per year, leading to the continued need for imports to meet the local

ARTIFICIAL Intelligence (AI) is a branch of computer science that deals with the development of algorithms that can simulate human intelligence. These algorithms can be used to solve complex problems, make decisions, and learn from data. AI is often classified into two categories: Narrow AI and General AI.

Narrow AI, also known as weak AI, is designed to perform a specific task or a set of tasks. Examples of narrow AI include image recognition software, voice assistants, and predictive analytics tools.

General AI, also known as strong AI, is designed to perform any intellectual task that a human can do. General AI is still largely in the realm of science fiction and is not yet a reality.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has revolutionized various industries, and healthcare is no exception. With its ability to analyze large amounts of data, recognize patterns, and make predictions, AI has the potential to transform the way healthcare is delivered, improving patient outcomes, reducing costs, and enhancing the overall efficiency of healthcare systems. Please let us explore the applications of AI in healthcare, highlighting its benefits, challenges, and future prospects.

Diagnosis and Medical Imaging:

One of the most promising applications of AI in healthcare is in the field of diagnosis and medical imaging. AI algorithms can analyze medical images, such as X-rays, MRIs, and CT scans, with remarkable accuracy. These algorithms can detect subtle abnormalities that may be missed by human radiologists, leading to early detection and diagnosis of diseases like cancer. Moreover, AI can assist in triaging cases, prioritizing urgent cases, and reducing wait times for patients.

Personalized Treatment and Precision Medicine:

AI enables personalized treatment plans by analyzing patient data, including medical history, genetic information, lifestyle factors, and treatment outcomes. By integrating this data, AI algorithms can identify patterns and predict the effec-

tiveness of different treatment options for individual patients. This approach, known as precision medicine, ensures that patients receive tailored therapies that are more likely to be effective, minimizing adverse reactions and optimizing treatment outcomes.

Drug Discovery and Development:

The traditional drug discovery process is lengthy, expensive, and often inefficient. AI is revolutionizing this process by analyzing vast amounts of biomedical data, including scientific literature, clinical trial data, and genomic information. Machine learning algorithms can identify potential drug targets, simulate molecular interactions, and predict the efficacy and safety of new compounds. AI-driven drug discovery holds the promise of accelerating the development of new drugs and reducing the costs associated with bringing them to market.

Virtual Assistants and Patient Monitoring:

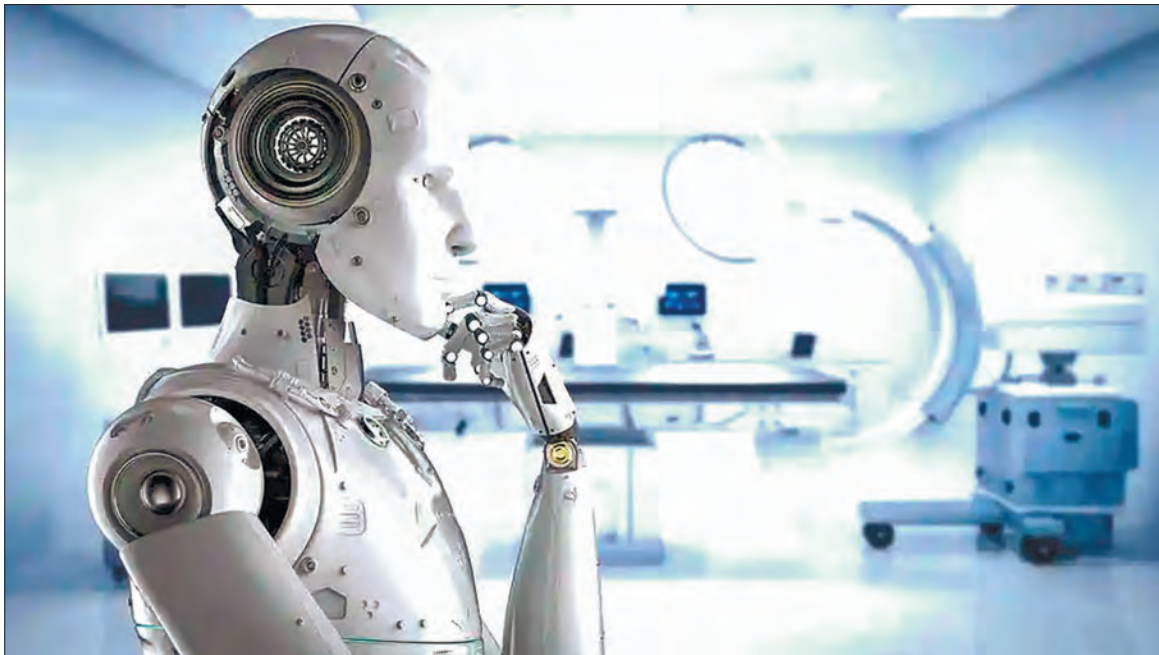
AI-powered virtual assistants, commonly known as chatbots, are transforming the way patients interact with healthcare systems. These chatbots can provide instant responses to patient queries, offer basic medical advice, and assist in scheduling appointments. Furthermore, AI algorithms can monitor patients remotely, collecting data from wearable devices and sensors, and alerting healthcare providers to any anomalies or changes in a patient's condition. This continuous monitoring improves patient safety and enables early intervention.

Administrative Efficiency and Cost Reduction:

Healthcare systems are often burdened with administrative tasks that consume valuable time and resources. AI can automate administrative processes, such as appointment scheduling, billing, and documentation, reducing the administrative burden on healthcare professionals. By streamlining these tasks, AI frees up time for healthcare providers to focus on patient care, leading to improved efficiency and reduced healthcare costs.

Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare

By Yin Nwe Ko



AI-powered diagnostic tools can assist healthcare professionals in making more precise diagnoses and treatment plans by analyzing patient data, symptoms, and medical history.

Benefits of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare

Improved Diagnostics: AI algorithms can analyze medical images with high precision and accuracy, assisting radiologists in detecting early signs of diseases. This can lead to faster and more accurate diagnoses, reducing the chances of misdiagnosis and enabling timely interventions.

Enhanced Treatment Planning: AI algorithms can analyze patient data to recommend personalized treatment plans based on factors such as genetic information, medical history, and treatment response patterns. This individualized approach improves treatment outcomes and reduces the likelihood of adverse events.

Increased Efficiency and Productivity: AI can automate routine administrative tasks, allowing healthcare professionals to focus more on patient care. Virtual assistants can schedule ap-

pointments, manage medical records, and handle billing, freeing up valuable time for healthcare providers.

Cost Savings: By streamlining processes and optimizing resource allocation, AI can lead to significant cost savings in healthcare delivery. Predictive analytics can help identify high-risk patients and intervene early, preventing costly hospital admissions and readmissions.

Expanded Access to Healthcare: AI-powered tools can bring healthcare services to underserved areas with limited access to healthcare providers. Virtual consultations and remote patient monitoring enable patients to receive medical care regardless of geographical constraints.

Challenges and Ethical Considerations:

While AI has immense potential in healthcare, it also poses several challenges and ethical considerations. One of the primary concerns is the

privacy and security of patient data. As AI algorithms rely on vast amounts of patient information, ensuring data privacy and protection from unauthorized access becomes crucial. Striking a balance between data access for AI research and protecting patient privacy is a complex challenge that healthcare systems must address.

Another ethical consideration is the potential for bias in AI algorithms. If the training data used to develop these algorithms is biased, it can lead to disparities in healthcare delivery. For example, AI algorithms used for diagnosis may be less accurate for certain demographics or minority groups, leading to inequities in healthcare outcomes. Ensuring that AI algorithms are trained on diverse and representative data is essential to mitigate bias and promote fairness in healthcare.

The Future of AI in Healthcare:

Though the popularity of AI in our society has not been long, it has a much prospective and prosperous future in health. Therefore, there will be some

progresses that the experts expect.

Enhanced Diagnosis and Personalized Treatment

One of the most promising applications of AI in healthcare is the improvement of diagnostic accuracy. AI algorithms can analyze vast amounts of medical data, including patient records, lab results, and medical images, to identify patterns and detect diseases at an early stage. By leveraging machine learning algorithms, AI can provide more precise and timely diagnoses, leading to improved patient outcomes.

Additionally, AI can play a crucial role in delivering personalized treatments. By considering individual patient characteristics, such as genetic information and medical history, AI algorithms can assist healthcare professionals in developing personalized treatment plans. This approach has the potential to increase treatment efficacy, reduce adverse effects, and optimize healthcare resources.

AI-enabled Remote Monitoring and Telehealth

Telehealth and remote patient monitoring have gained significant traction in recent years, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. AI can further enhance these practices by providing real-time monitoring and analysis of patient data. Wearable devices equipped with AI algorithms can continuously monitor vital signs, detect anomalies, and alert healthcare providers in case of emergencies. This technology enables early intervention and allows patients to receive prompt medical attention, even from the comfort of their homes.

Predictive Analytics and Disease Prevention

AI's ability to analyze vast amounts of data makes it a valu-

able tool for predictive analytics and disease prevention. By identifying patterns and correlations in large datasets, AI algorithms can predict disease outbreaks, understand risk factors, and develop preventive strategies. This proactive approach can help healthcare organizations allocate resources effectively, implement targeted interventions, and mitigate the impact of epidemics.

Furthermore, AI-powered predictive analytics can aid in identifying individuals at high risk of developing certain diseases. By analyzing genetic data, lifestyle factors, and medical history, AI algorithms can provide personalized risk assessments and recommend preventive measures. This proactive approach has the potential to reduce the burden of chronic diseases and improve population health outcomes.

Streamlined Healthcare Processes and Administrative Efficiency

AI technologies can automate routine administrative tasks and streamline healthcare processes, allowing healthcare professionals to focus more on patient care. Natural Language Processing (NLP) algorithms can extract relevant information from medical records, assist in coding and billing processes, and improve the accuracy of

documentation. Intelligent chatbots powered by AI can provide patients with instant responses to their inquiries, schedule appointments, and offer basic medical advice.

Additionally, AI can optimize resource allocation and improve operational efficiency within healthcare facilities. Predictive analytics can forecast patient admission rates, optimize bed management, and assist in inventory management. By leveraging AI, healthcare organizations can reduce costs, improve patient flow, and enhance overall productivity.

In sum, the future of AI in healthcare holds tremendous potential for improving patient outcomes, enhancing personalized medicine, and transforming healthcare delivery. From enhanced diagnosis and treatment to remote monitoring and predictive analytics, AI technologies are poised to revolutionize the industry. However, it is essential to address challenges related to data privacy, algorithm transparency, and ethical considerations to ensure the responsible and beneficial integration of AI in healthcare. With continued research, collaboration, and innovation, AI has the power to reshape healthcare and create a brighter future for patients worldwide, as almost everyone guesses. ■

Well Marked Low Pressure Area Condition

Issued at (19:00) hours M.S.T on 26-7-2023

ACCORDING to the observations at (17:30) hrs M.S.T today, the Well Marked Low Pressure Area over the West Central Bay of Bengal and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal off North Andhra Pradesh-South Odisha Coasts (India) still persists. It is likely to move slowly Northwestwards across North Andhra Pradesh-South Odisha Coasts (India) during next (24) hours.

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlnm.com.mm

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CURRENT AFFAIRS



The photo of the Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur increases passport fine to 480 Ringgit

STARTING from 24 July, the Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, has announced an increase in the fine for Myanmar passports from 330 ringgit to 480 ringgit.

The embassy pointed out a rising number of Myanmar citizens applying for passport services (renewal/lost/new) and appointments are issued daily. Passport appointment dates are announced promptly on the embassy's website and Facebook page, and Myanmar nationals must bring the required documents on their appointed dates to complete passport procedures. – TWA/MKKS

Sugar price in Yangon reaches K3,350 per viss

SUGAR prices in the Yangon market is cool in July and prices on 25 July remained unchanged as those on 24 July. The prices rose K50 per viss and it became K3,350 per viss while K3,400 for fixed jaggery and K3,500 for normal jaggery, purchaser Ko Aung told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

On 29 May, the sugar price reached K3,280-3,320 per viss and it dropped again. On 5 June, it was K3250-3300 per viss and K3,230-3,270 between 30 June and 23 July.

Although the wholesale price was set at K3,270 per viss, the Htatesa is K3,300 per viss and K3,270 per viss for ones that contain a little moisture, said a sugar miller from the Aungthapyae road of Bayintnaung.

The sugar price is cool for nearly the whole month and it rose again like the prices of onion, palm oil and rice in the Yangon market on 24 July.

The sugar was permitted to be re-exported to China via land borders in 2016. At that time, the sugar wholesale price rose to

K1,600 per viss and K1,500 in 2017.

After such operation was suspended, about four million bags of sugar and rice exported by various countries were stacked at the border areas in 2019, the media reported.

The sugar prices fell in 2019 and 2020 and bounced again in 2022 and it reached K3,350 per viss in mid-2023.

While the sugar price was high, the sugarcane was priced at K40,000 per tonne and reached about K90,000 per

tonne by the end of 2022.

The local sugar consumption rate is about 450,000 per year and the local production rate is about 500,000 tonnes a year. It also exported 50,000 tonnes of sugar surplus. The international sugar price was \$600 per tonne in 2022 while \$700 in June 2023 and \$650 during this month.

India's sugar production is estimated up to 36 million tonnes in the 2023-2024 marketing year and domestic sugar consumption is estimated at

around 27.5 million tonnes.

There are about 20 sugar mills in the country and the sugar brands produced from the sugar mills of northern Shan State occupied the first place in the market. The Yangon market sets sugar prices depending on the prices of the Mandalay sugar market.

Farmers earn higher incomes as the prices of rice, cooking oil, onion, garlic, tomato, sugar and beans and pulses rose in 2022 and 2023. – TWA/KTZH



The photo shows workers carrying sugar bags.

Weekly update prices of Bayintnaung Commodity Market

Onion

The Yangon market saw a supply of 120,000 visses of onions from various regions on 25 July 2023. The wholesale price per viss of Seikphyu and Monywa onions ranged from K1,900 to K2,300, depending on size and quality.

The onion price continued to rise on 24 and 25 July. The highest price per viss of onion was below K1,900 in regional markets. Regional markets were closed on the Sabbath day (25 July). A total of 19,978 visses of onions entered the Pakokku depot on 24 July, with the highest price of K1,850 per viss. The Myingyan depot received around 20,000 visses of onions on 24 July at a price range between K1,600 and K1,900 per viss.

Garlic

In the Yangon market on 25

July, the price per viss of Shan garlic was K7,000 for S2, K7,500 for S3, K7,800 for S4, K8,300 for S5, and K8,450 for SS, while Kyukok garlic price fetched K7,200-K7,400 per viss.

Potato

The Yangon potato market opened the price of only Chinese potatoes from 11 to 25 July. The wholesale price of Chinese potatoes was K3,000 per viss on 13 July and K2,850 per viss on 25 July.

Chilli pepper

On 25 July, in the Yangon chilli pepper market, Einme and Panye long chilli peppers were priced around K10,000-K12,000 per viss, while Sinphyukyun and delta region bell peppers were valued at K15,000-K16,000 per viss.

Rice

The price of a bag of rice

soared by K2,000-K3,000 in the Yangon market on 24 July. Due to high retail demand, the rice price per bag was K64,000 for rice grown under multiple cropping, K74,000 for the 90-day rice variety, and K85,000 for the Pawkywe rice variety. Pawsan rice varieties ranged between K88,000 and K112,000 per bag, depending on the rice-producing regions.

Palm oil

Although the wholesale reference price of palm oil was K4,230 per viss from 24 to 30 July 2023, the market wholesale price was K8,300 per viss on 25 July, according to an edible oil trader from the Nyaungpinlay market, Lanmadaw.

The price has risen again since 8 July, and on 10 July, the wholesale price rose to K7,300 per viss. In the Mandalay mar-

ket, the price was K7,200-K7,300 per viss in the afternoon and K6,900 per viss in the evening on 23 July. On 25 July, the wholesale price of palm oil was K8,500 per viss and K90,000 per barrel carrying 10 visses in the Mandalay market.

Beans and pulses

The price of black gram was K2,257,000 per tonne for RC and K2,477,000 per tonne for SQ/RC, while a tonne of pigeon pea was valued at K3,050,000 per tonne on 25 July 2023. The price per tonne of pigeon pea surged above K3 million on 25 July after dropping below K3 million before.

The price of green gram (Kayan Shwewah variety) fetched K3,665 per viss, and that of the half of chickpeas was K5,700-K5,900 per viss. — TWA/CT

MoH appoints 391 doctors as gazetted officers

ON 24 July, a total of 391 doctors, including dentists, were appointed as civil service gazetted officers.

Union Health Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win stressed the importance of healthcare facilities, medical supplies, and well-trained personnel to ensure quality healthcare for the public. He called on the newly-appointed doctors and dentists to regard the people in their assigned regions as their family members and provide excellent healthcare services to them. — TWA/MKKS

TikTok rivals Twitter with new text format

TIKTOK, the social platform known for its addictive video content, announced Monday that it will offer text-only posts, becoming the latest tech giant to offer an alternative to embattled Twitter.

The text posts on TikTok will most closely resemble similar offerings on Instagram, which earlier this month also launched a challenge to Twitter — which owner Elon Musk renamed X — called Threads.

Like Meta-owned Threads, TikTok benefits from its size, with around 1.4 billion monthly active users, according to specialist site Business of Apps.

But unlike Facebook’s parent company, it has chosen to integrate its new text-only feature

into its app rather than launch a separate product, as Meta did with Threads.

TikTok’s version will remain more visual than a Twitter or Threads post, with users able to add a colour background, music and stickers to the post.

The Chinese-owned company said the new format will expand “boundaries of content creation for everyone on TikTok” and tap into the “creativity” seen in comments and captions, the company said.

In addition to Threads, smaller platforms such as Mastodon, Bluesky and Substack Notes have emerged as potential rivals to Twitter, but none have so far dethroned it despite its troubles. — AFP



TikTok, whose parent company ByteDance is Chinese, is under pressure on both sides of the Atlantic. **PHOTO: PUNIT PARANJPE/AFP**

Thousands of Afghan parlours close as Taliban deadline bites



An Afghan woman beautician paints the nails of a customer at a beauty salon in Kabul on 23 July 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

THOUSANDS of beauty parlours across Afghanistan closed permanently on Tuesday following an order by Taliban authorities that cuts off one of the few revenue streams available to women, as well as a cherished space for socializing. Since seizing power

in August 2021, the Taliban government has barred girls and women from high schools and universities, banned them from parks, funfairs and gyms, and ordered them to cover up in public. But an order issued last month forces the closure of thou-

sands of salons nationwide run by women—often the only source of income for households and one of the few remaining places for them to gather away from home.

“We used to come here to spend time talking about our future together. Now even this right has been taken away from us,” said Bahara, a salon customer in the capital Kabul. “Women are not allowed to enter entertainment places, so what can we do? Where can we go to enjoy ourselves? Where can we gather to meet each other?” Last week, security officials shot into the air and used firehoses in the city to disperse dozens of women protesting against the order. On Tuesday, many salons in Kabul had already closed, while others were staying open until the last possible minute. — AFP

Iran’s Zoroastrians keep ancient, sacred flame burning

A Zoroastrian priest dressed in white carefully added wood to a fire that has burned for centuries inside an Iranian temple, sacred to one of the world’s oldest religions. The fragrant holy fire, kept in a large bronze goblet, “has been burning for more than 1,500

years”, said Simin, a tour guide welcoming visitors to the Zoroastrian fire temple in Iran’s central Yazd province. Zoroastrianism dates back some 3,500 years, but centuries of persecution have dwindled its numbers and a fast-changing modern world

has left it struggling to adjust.

Founded by the prophet Zarathustra, it was the predominant religion of the ancient Persian empire, until the rise of Islam with the Arab conquests of the seventh century. — AFP

Tupac Shakur ring sells for record \$1 million

A gold, ruby and diamond crown ring worn by rap legend Tupac Shakur during his last public appearance sold for \$1 million at auction in New York Tuesday.

The winning bid was well above Sotheby’s pre-sale estimate of between \$200,000 and \$300,000 and becomes the most valuable hip-hop artifact ever sold, the auction house said.

The New York-born rapper wore the ring during his final public appearance at the MTV Video Music Awards on September 4, 1996.

He was shot dead by an unidentified assailant in a drive-by shooting in Las Vegas just days later on 13 September. He

was 25.

Shakur, whose hits included “California Love”, designed the ring over the course of a few months, Sotheby’s said.

He did so through his godmother Yaasmyn Fula, who put the ring up for sale.

Shakur was influenced by 16th century Italian philosopher Niccolo Machiavelli’s political manifesto “The Prince” which he read while in prison on sex abuse charges.

He modeled the design on the crowns of the medieval kings of Europe, Sotheby’s added.

The ring is engraved “Pac & Dada 1996,” a reference to his girlfriend Kidada Jones. — AFP



A gold, ruby, and diamond crown ring once worn by the rap legend Tupac Shakur during his final public appearance was sold for an impressive \$1 million at an auction in New York on 25 July 2023. **PHOTO: ED JONES / AFP**

ECONOMY
WORLD

Record grain harvest eyed as market under pressure

THE world is heading for a record grain harvest in the 2023-2024 season thanks to gains for maize and rice, but the market remains under pressure thanks to El Nino and risks due to the war in Ukraine.

The International Grain Council (IGC), which includes both major producer and consumer nations, now forecasts 2.3 billion tonnes of grains excepting rice, slightly higher than the 2021-2022 season.

Maize production continues to rise, with a 5.5 per cent rise to 1.2 billion tonnes, thanks to more acreage in the United States and a record harvest expected in Brazil.

The IGC expects the production of rice, the top grain consumed by people, to rise by



The wheat harvest is expected to come in at 784 million tonnes. PHOTO: AFP

2.5 per cent to 527 million tonnes. But the wheat harvest is ex-

pected to come in at 784 million tonnes. That is stable in compar-

ison to the last five years, but a reduction of 2.4 per cent from last

year when Russia and Australia had bumper harvests.

Hard time for hard wheat

“The pressure on wheat is due to the consumption forecast which is 20 million tonnes more than production,” said Damien Vercambre, a trader at Inter-Courtage commodities brokerage.

Demand for maize is even stronger, with consumption up by 30 million tonnes over the past year, but is covered by production. The increase is essentially for animal feed and is a sign of “the return of economic growth in Asia, where people eat more meat when their income permits,” said Vercambre, but he noted the uncertainty around China’s recovery. — AFP

Australia to remain as reliable gas supplier for Japan: minister



Japan imports more than 40 per cent of its LNG from Australia. PHOTO: AFP

THE Australian energy minister said Wednesday the country will remain a “reliable energy supplier” for Japan after the resource-poor country expressed concern over Canberra’s new rule restricting carbon emis-

sions.

“We are committed to working with Japan, one of our most important partners,” Climate Change and Energy Minister Chris Bowen said in his speech in Tokyo, vowing that Austral-

ia will continue to supply the country with resources such as liquefied natural gas and coal.

His remarks came after a new Australian law came into force on 1 July, requiring new LNG facilities to be carbon neutral, while facilities already in operation need to lower their carbon emissions by 4.9 per cent a year until 2030 and more after that year.

Japan imports more than 40 per cent of its LNG from Australia.

While assuring that Australia remains committed to its energy exports to Japan, Bowen also said his country will endorse renewable energy solutions as a way to reduce carbon emissions. — Kyodo

As West fears Tunisia collapse, hopes of IMF bailout fade

WESTERN nations fear an economic collapse in Tunisia could trigger even greater migrant flows to Europe and have offered financial assistance. Yet prospects of Tunisia’s sealing the biggest deal of all — a \$1.9-billion bailout from the International Monetary Fund — seem increasingly remote.

The inflation-ravaged and heavily indebted country reached a tentative deal for the loan from the Washington-based IMF in October.

It would require Tunis to undertake what the IMF calls a “comprehensive economic reform programme” that would

phase out subsidies on fuel and electricity.

But President Kais Saied has repeatedly rejected “foreign diktats that will lead to more poverty”.

In March, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned Tunisia urgently needs to reach an IMF deal because its economy “risks falling off the deep end”. That followed European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell’s concern that a collapse “economically or socially” in Tunisia would trigger a new flow of migrants to Europe — an assessment rejected by Tunis. — AFP



The crucial tourism sector has taken a hit amid the Covid pandemic. PHOTO: AFP

US consumer confidence rises to two-year high amid easing inflation, tight labour market

US consumer confidence in July rose to its highest level in two years, amid easing inflation and continued optimism for the labour market despite worries about a recession.

The Consumer Confidence Index climbed to 117 this month, up from 110.1 in June, according to the latest survey released by

The Conference Board, a business research group, on Tuesday. It was the highest level since July 2021.

The Present Situation Index improved to 160 from 155.3 last month, and the Expectations Index surged to 88.3 from 80.0 in June, the monthly survey showed. Economists believe

despite rising interest rates, US consumers are more upbeat, likely reflecting lower inflation and a tight labour market. The consumer confidence increase in July reflected pops in both current conditions and expectations, said Dana Peterson, chief economist at The Conference Board. — Xinhua

Nissan to invest up to 600 mln euros in Renault’s new EV unit



Under the new partnership, Renault will reduce its stake in Nissan to 15 per cent from 43.4 per cent while the Japanese firm will retain its 15 per cent stake in the French partner.
PHOTO: KYODO

NISSAN Motor Co will invest up to 600 million euros in Renault SA’s new electric vehicle unit, after they signed an agreement to revamp their decades-old capital alliance to allow for more management flexibility and meet growing demand for zero-emission cars, the two automakers said Wednesday.

Under the new partnership, Renault will reduce its stake in Nissan to 15 per cent from 43.4 per cent while the Japanese firm will retain its 15 per

cent stake in the French partner.
The Japanese carmaker could take a less than 10 per cent stake in the new EV business called Ampere to be spun off from Renault, according to people familiar with the matter.
Nissan had been cautious about participating in the joint venture due to concern over the terms of the deal, including how its EV-related intellectual property would be handled, and that had delayed

the deal being agreed to from the originally planned end of March.
Nissan’s investment in Ampere had been widely seen as a prerequisite for Renault’s agreement to shed its stake in Nissan, analysts say.
The reshaped alliance, a significant change from the structure of the tie-up formed more than two decades ago, comes after resentment grew at Nissan, where it was felt Renault was too dominant despite the fact that Nissan sells more cars than the French automaker.
Renault initially took a 37 per cent stake in Nissan in 1999 to rescue the Japanese carmaker from the brink of bankruptcy. Since then, Nissan has regained its financial soundness and became the main growth driver in the alliance under former CEO Carlos Ghosn who was sent in by Renault. — Kyodo

UK bank NatWest CEO resigns after Farage ‘error’

THE chief executive of Britain’s NatWest bank, Alison Rose, stepped down Wednesday after admitting a “serious error of judgement” in speaking to a reporter about the banking affairs of arch-Brexiteer Nigel Farage.
Farage, former leader of the Brexit Party and the anti-immigration party UKIP, had complained about the closure of his account with the upmarket Coutts, the bank used by the late Queen Elizabeth II and subsidiary of NatWest.
He said he was removed as a client for his political views.
But, in a report which it has since apologized for, public broadcaster the BBC suggested Farage’s accounts were closed because he did not have sufficient funds to remain a client of the prestigious establishment.

Rose previously admitted she was the source for the story, and acknowledged “a serious error in judgement” in discussing Farage’s relationship with the bank.
NatWest’s board on Tuesday gave its backing to Rose, a 30-year veteran of the company. But by early Wednesday it announced she was stepping down.
Farage, a Euroscep-

tic politician and now a television presenter, campaigned for decades for Britain’s withdrawal from the European Union and was a key figure in the 2016 Brexit referendum.
“The Board and Alison Rose have agreed, by mutual consent, that she will step down as CEO of the NatWest Group,” board chairman Howard Davies said in a statement. — AFP



NatWest provides a wide range of financial services, including personal and business banking, mortgages, loans, credit cards, and investment products.
PHOTO: AFP

TotalEnergies drills first oil wells for huge Uganda project

TOTALENERGIES announced Tuesday it had started drilling wells for oil in Uganda as part of a huge project condemned by environmental and rights groups.
The French oil major and the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) signed a \$10-billion agreement last year to develop Ugandan oil-

fields and ship the crude via a 1,445-kilometre (900-mile) pipeline to Tanzania’s Indian Ocean port of Tanga. Drilling began in July “to start production in 2025”, TotalEnergies said. In Kampala, however, the Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU) said “the drilling of development wells” began on 28 June. — AFP



Under construction: An oil well at Murchison Falls National Park in western Uganda, pictured in February this year. **PHOTO: BADRU KATUMBA / AFP/FILE**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC CHENMING VOY.NO. (2310S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC CHENMING VOY.NO. (2310S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-7-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AS SOPHIA VOY.NO. (327W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS SOPHIA VOY.NO. (327W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-7-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

PESTICIDE TRADE NAME CHANGE ADVERTISING

We, OMO Family Co.Ltd is distributing the following pesticide and we would like to change the pesticide trade name. If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days.
OMO FAMILY CO.LTD 09-5029796

Sr.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration No.
1.	Marga Amine	Idol Amine	2,4-D dimethyl amine salt 720g/l SL	P2022-5933

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ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

N Korea to mark war anniv with China, Russia delegations



Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu (3rd from L) is greeted by his North Korean counterpart Kang Sun Nam (2nd from L) and others upon his arrival at Pyongyang International Airport in Pyongyang, North Korea, on 25 July 2023. PHOTO: KCNA/KYODO

NORTH Korea is set to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Korean War armistice Thursday with Chinese and Russian delegations, in an apparent show of unity amid their respective rivalries with the United States.

Pyongyang could stage a military parade in the early hours of Thursday, according to sources familiar with inter-Korean relations. The delegations sent by Beijing and Moscow are the first known foreign groups to be invited to North Korea since the country's 2020 COVID border closure.

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, who is leading Moscow's delegation, held

talks with his North Korean counterpart Kang Sun Nam and agreed to strengthen bilateral defence cooperation, calling Pyongyang an "important partner", Russia's Defence Ministry said Wednesday.

The Chinese group is headed by Li Hongzhong, a member of the ruling Communist Party's Political Bureau.

There is a possibility that Shoigu and Li will meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during their stay. If realized, their talks will be the first contact between Kim and senior foreign officials since the leader met with then US President Donald Trump at the Demilitarized Zone dividing the two Koreas on 30 June 2019. — Kyodo

US probe opened over Harvard's 'legacy' admissions policy

THE US Department of Education has opened a civil rights investigation into Harvard University's policy of giving family members of former students and donors preference in admissions decisions, documents showed

Tuesday.

The probe into the prestigious university's so-called "legacy admissions" policy, a practice used by many colleges across the United States, comes less than a month after a major Supreme

Court decision banned the use of race in college application decisions.

That decision, in which Harvard was also one of the targets, prompted fresh debate over the fairness of admissions policies at America's top universities, and the extent to which those policies contribute to inequities.

The probe by the Education Department's civil rights wing is in response to a complaint filed by three organizations representing minority students.

They argue that due to Harvard's historically white student body, legacy admissions pulling from alumni discriminate against minority applicants.

In their complaint, the groups argue that nearly 70 per cent of Harvard applicants with family connections or links to donors are white. — AFP



The probe by the Education Department's civil rights wing is in response to a complaint filed by three organizations representing minority students. PHOTO: AFP

N Zealand 'open to conversations' about role in AUKUS defence pact

NEW Zealand is "open to conversations" about a possible role in the AUKUS defence pact, its prime minister said Wednesday, opening the door to cooperation that could rile trade partner China.

Speaking to reporters in Wellington after meeting his Australian counterpart, Chris Hipkins said New Zealand could participate in the Australia-UK-US pact as long as it did not relate to the development of nuclear submarines. "I think there's no question that we have a different position around nuclear, in terms of nuclear propulsion (which is) also covered by New Zealand's nuclear-free arrangements," Hipkins said.

New Zealand has been nuclear-free since the mid-1980s. But he indicated that cooperation with AUKUS could take place on defence technologies such as cyber, artificial intelligence and hypersonic weapons — the agreement's so-called "pillar two".

New Zealand's participation had been "an ongoing topic of conversation between our two countries over the last couple of years, and particularly in the last six months", Hipkins said.

"But in terms of pillar two... we're open to conversations with the AUKUS partners around what New Zealand's involvement might look like." — AFP



Guest of honour and submarines sponsor Lady Zambellas, attends a ceremony as Astute Class submarine HMS Artful is commissioned into the Royal Navy on 18 March 2016 in Faslane, Scotland. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ JEFF J MITCHELL/AFP/FILE

One dead as typhoon Doksuri batters Philippines

TYPHOON Doksuri was packing maximum sustained wind speeds of 175 kilometres an hour (110 mph) as it hovered over waters around Dalupiri Island, off the northern tip of the main island of Luzon, the state weather agency said in its latest update at 0300 GMT.

The agency warned of "vio-

lent, life-threatening conditions" as severe winds and heavy rain pounded the lightly populated region. A woman selling bread rolls died when she was hit by a falling coconut tree in Ramon municipality in the northern province of Isabela on Wednesday, provincial disaster official Constante Foronda told AFP.

Rey Aguinaldo, a retired government official in the coastal municipality of Pasuquin in Ilocos Norte province, said: "The wind and rain were so strong overnight I could not sleep well."

"When I got up today I saw fallen trees and broken branches outside. We have no electricity," Aguinaldo told AFP. — AFP

Cambodia PM Hun Sen to resign, pass power to son in few weeks

CAMBODIAN Prime Minister Hun Sen said he will resign in a few weeks and hand power to his son Hun Manet, in a televised address Wednesday.

Hun Sen ruled the country for 38 years. The announcement of his resignation comes after his Cambodian People's Party won a landslide victory in Sunday's general election, held in the absence of viable challengers.

"I announce that Hun Manet will become prime minister on 22 August," said Hun Sen, now aged 70, adding that he will not be retiring from politics but will

instead continue to serve as the head of the CPP. Hun Manet, 45, contested and won a parliamentary seat for the first time in Sunday's election.

It was the second consecutive National Assembly election to be held without a viable opposition force, with the previous one having taken place in 2018. The main opposition Candlelight Party was barred from taking part after they were disqualified by the country's election committee in May. The committee said the party failed to submit proper registration documents. — Kyodo



Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen waves to supporters during a campaign rally in Phnom Penh. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

China's top legislature holds session, foreign minister, central bank governor appointed

CHINA'S top legislature voted to appoint Wang Yi as foreign minister and Pan Gongsheng as central bank governor, as it convened a session on Tuesday.

Qin Gang was removed from the post of foreign minister he concurrently held; Yi Gang was removed from the post of governor of the People's Bank of China, according to a decision adopted at the fourth session of the Standing Committee of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC).

President Xi Jinping signed a presidential order to effectuate the decision.

Zhao Leji, chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, presided over the session, which



China's top legislature convened a session on Tuesday to review a draft criminal law amendment and vote to decide on official appointments and removals. The key appointment was reappointment of State Councillor Wang Yi as China's Foreign Minister, removing Qing Gang. PHOTO: XINHUA

opened on Tuesday morning.

A draft amendment to the Criminal Law was reviewed at the session. The amendment focuses on better implementing the Party Central Committee's principles and policies regarding the fight against corruption and the protection of private enterprises in accordance with the law.

It refines stipulations concerning the crime of offering bribes as well as corruption conducted by private enterprise personnel. On Tuesday afternoon, Zhao presided over a meeting of the Council of Chairpersons of the NPC Standing Committee before the closing meeting of the session. — Xinhua

Ex-PM Thaksin to return to Thailand on 10 August from exile: daughter

FORMER Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra will return to Thailand on 10 August, his youngest daughter Paetongtarn Shinawatra said Wednesday, after 17 years in self-imposed exile.

Thaksin fled the country during the 2006 military coup, escaping trials for tax evasion and corruption cases. Paetongtarn expressed her delight at her father's planned return in a social media post, adding he will arrive at Don Mueang International Airport in Bangkok.

But Paetongtarn noted that she is aware of public concern about Thaksin's safety. The 74-year-old, who spent most of his self-exile in Dubai and remains popular in Thailand, told Kyodo News in March that he was ready to spend a few years in prison provided he can spend the rest of his life with his family.

Thaksin said in May in a Twitter post he plans a return to Thailand in July, but it has been delayed. Paetongtarn is a possible prime minister candidate from the Pheu Thai Party, which was founded by Thaksin in 2007 and garnered the second-most votes in the 14 May election this year. — Kyodo

Japan sees record drop in population



With Tokyo and surrounding prefectures making up 30 per cent of the nation's population, electoral districts are expected to be realigned to better reflect the demographic shift. PHOTO: KYODO

JAPAN'S population fell by a record in 2022, government data showed Wednesday, as the country struggles to reverse its perennial low birthrates.

While many developed countries face low birthrates, the problem is particularly acute in Japan where the population has now fallen for 14 straight years.

The country has the world's second oldest population, after tiny Monaco, and in January, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida

warned Japan was "on the verge of whether we can continue to function as a society".

Last year, the number of Japanese fell by 800,523, or 0.65 per cent, to 122,423,038 from a year earlier, a survey by the internal affairs ministry shows.

For the first time, the population fell in all 47 prefectures.

The overall drop was the steepest decline recorded since 1968, when the government survey began, the ministry said. — AFP



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

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

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

3. Social affairs

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

Japan and rampant Spain roll into Women's World Cup last 16

RAMPANT title contenders Spain and former champions Japan became the first teams to reach the Women's World Cup last 16 on Wednesday as both won with ease.

Two-times Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas started for Spain following her serious knee

injury and played her part in a 5-0 demolition of Zambia.

Japan had been on the brink of reaching the knockout rounds following their 2-0 win over Costa Rica earlier in the day and the Spain result sent both of them sailing through.

Japan and Spain meet on

Monday to decide who wins Group C, and with it a theoretically easier draw. Both have a perfect six points from two games and are yet to concede a goal. Costa Rica and Zambia play the same day in the fight to avoid finishing bottom of the pile. — AFP



Myanmar star players are seen celebrating during an international football match. PHOTO: MFF

Tun Tun Min to rematch against Thway Thit Win Hlaing in August

MYANMAR'S Lethwei icon Tun Tun Min will rematch against Lethwei star Thway Thit Win Hlaing at Theinbyu Lethwei Stadium in Yangon on 20 August 2023.

According to initial reports, the two of them will face again for the title of world Lethwei champion and will fight by knockout without a scoring system.

The two fighters competed in January 2023 and Thway Thit Win Hlaing won by points.

During that meeting, the fight was intense, and due to Thway Thit Win Hlaing's combination of punches, Tun Tun Min was counted twice in the fourth round. At the end of the fifth round, Thway Thit Win Hlaing won by a point. — Bala Soe/KZL



Tun Tun Min (left) lands the knee on Thway Thit Win Hlaing during their previous fight at Theinbyu Indoor Stadium in Yangon on 29 January 2023. PHOTO: BALA SOE

Drawing-lots event for 2026 World Cup Qualifiers of Myanmar to kick-start today

A drawing-lots ceremony for the 2026 World Cup Qualifiers (Asian Zone) of team Myanmar and first and second round qualifiers for 2027 Asian Cup will be convened today according to the FIFA.

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

A total of 18 teams will participate in the first round of qualifiers, and the nine teams that win at both home and away stadiums will qualify for the second-round qualifiers. Team Myanmar will play from first round of qualifiers.

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

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

The first round qualifiers will be held on 12 October while the second round will be on 17 October. The next round of qualifying will be held from November 2023 to June 2024. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL