

The **Global** **NEW LIGHT** of **MYANMAR**

SAC's unwavering goal to ensure free and fair multiparty democratic general election

Although an election will be held without fail, such an election must be systematic and contribute to strengthening the democratic system

The ultimate aim of the State Administration Council is to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. The Senior General unveiled the ultimate aim of the SAC in his speech delivered at the meeting 3/2023 of the SAC at the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

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Workers busy organizing rice bags for sale and distribution at the Yangon warehouse.

MoC introduces innovative rice export licensing system

Ministry of Commerce's efforts are to stabilize domestic rice prices and avert escalation

The Ministry of Commerce stated that they have started to use the export licence system, which will be applied only after the rice and rice products to be exported are pre-screened and 100 per cent ready, even though the rice export licence will not be suspended. The Ministry is working to stabilize domestic rice prices and prevent further price increases. The Ministry also responded to the Myanmar Rice Federation's submission for a three-month suspension of rice and rice products exports, saying that no suspension will occur. Despite that, they started exercising the export licensing system on 1 September, which will be granted only when 100 per cent of the rice and rice products to be exported are pre-verified and ready. In addition, the implementation of the system of warehouse registration has

already started to stabilize the price of domestic rice, ensure that the price does not rise again, and control the actions of the hoarders to manipulate the market. As of 21 August 2023, there were 3.449 million tonnes of rice left in the country, and if the 2.371 million tonnes needed for domestic consumption in the three months until November were subtracted, there would be 1.077 million tonnes of rice left. As there is a condition to export rice regularly, there is no need to suspend the export of rice. A total of 0.928 million tonnes of rice have been exported from October 2022 to 18 August 2023. — ASH/CT

CBM commits to sustained vigilance in combatting online illegal forex trading

The Central Bank of Myanmar beefed up its crackdown on illegal forex transactions through social media pages, as per its notification released on 31 August. Facebook pages – Dollar Buy/Sell Market and News and Euro Dollar Trading Group are found setting the US dollar exchange to weaken the own currency and involved in unauthorized currency transactions and market manipulation to increase volatility.

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NPT council member inspects local development work in Pyinmana

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Companies in Japan to recruit around 1,200 Myanmar workers

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Surplus supply and weak demand drive peanut prices lower

NATIONAL



Devotees, including monks and nuns, pay homage to the Maravijaya Buddha Image at the Buddha Park in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



Maravijaya Buddha Image attracts throngs of pilgrims

THE Maravijaya Buddha Image, the tallest of its kind in the world and situated within the Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, was full of monks, nuns, and visitors who came to pay homage on 1st Waning of Wagaung.

Pilgrims explored the Maravijaya Buddha Image, traditional Thudhamma public rest houses, Agga Dhipati Sasana Beikman ordination hall, and other religious and leisure areas in the Buddha Park and practised

meditation. Donations from pilgrims, including K240 million donated by well-wishers led by the Secretary Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, were also made.

The health workers provide the necessary health-care services for the monks, nuns, and visitors to pay homage to the Buddha image, and the Myanmar Red Cross and fire brigade members are also assisting the elderly people who have difficulty walking by trans-

porting them with wheelchairs so that they can pay obeisance comfortably.

For the convenience of pilgrims, no entrance fee will be collected. Starting from 4 September, it will collect camera fees for phones bearing cameras, making videos, and other video recording activities. Moreover, there will also be a parking fee for private vehicles that park in the pagoda precinct. The Buddha image is open to the public from 6 am to 8 pm daily. — MNA/CT

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 79/2023

1st Waning of Wagaung 1385 ME
1 September 2023

Substitution of Ministers for Security and Border Affairs

THE State Administration Council has substituted Region or State Ministers for Security and Border Affairs shown against each of their names under Section 419 of the Constitution.

- (1) Minister for Security and Border Affairs of Kachin State government
BC 27351 Colonel Kyaw Thura instead of BC 23758 Colonel Aung Kyi Lin
- (2) Minister for Security and Border Affairs of Kayah State government
BC 26863 Colonel Than Soe Aung instead of BC 22000 Colonel Myint Wai
- (3) Minister for Security and Border Affairs of Kayin State government
BC 27238 Colonel Min Thu Kyaw instead of BC 22617 Colonel Myo Min Naung
- (4) Minister for Security and Border Affairs of Chin State government
BC 29216 Colonel Thein Tun Aung instead of BC 25995 Colonel Han Win Aung
- (5) Minister for Security and Border Affairs of Mandalay Region government
BC 32132 Colonel Nay Lin Soe instead of BC 26109 Colonel Kyaw Kyaw Min

By Order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Myanmar, Laos to advance Buddhism, boost tourism, facilitate border liaison office opening



Ongoing discussions on Myanmar-Laos cooperation unfold in Laos.

THERE will be cooperation between Myanmar and Laos for the spread of Buddhism and they are working together to open border liaison offices as soon as possible according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Myanmar's Ambassador to Laos U Myat Thet Oo announced that on 31 August the Myanmar Embassy to Laos and the Lao-Myanmar Friendship Association held a meeting in Laos to discuss cooperation between Myanmar and Laos in promoting the propagation of Buddhism.

During the meeting, both parties

discussed cooperation on religious development, tourism promotion, and the expedited opening of border liaison offices between Myanmar and Laos.

Myanmar and Laos have a long-standing friendship, and shared traditions, culture, and religion. However, due to the division created by the Mekong River, trade between these two countries has historically been limited.

In August 2022, the Kenglat border trade station in Tachilek district, which has the potential to further increase trade between Myanmar and Laos, was upgraded and opened. — ASH/KZW

NATIONAL



State Administration Council Chair Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presides over the SAC Meeting 3/2023 in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 September 2023.

FROM PAGE-1

The Senior General spotlighted that endeavours must be poured out to ensure peace and stability of the entire nation for the successful holding of the free and fair multiparty democratic general election, urging those present to compile a complete voter list based on correct data for the eligible voters to cast votes across the nation.

... Tatmadaw will firmly stand on NCA in initiating the peace process as an official of an ethnic armed organization irresponsibly expressed his remarks related to the NCA.

The Senior General continued that although an election must be held without fail, such an election must be systematic and a general election, contributing to strengthening the democratic system. The Sen-

SAC's unwavering goal to ensure free and fair multiparty democratic general election

Salient points from the speech by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at SAC Meeting 3/2023

- The ultimate aim of the State Administration Council is to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election
- Democratic rights should not be demanded in terror ways
- All stakeholders building the union based on democratic and federal systems must be intellectuals and intelligentsia
- The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw-approved NCA will be legally valid and never annulled
- Tatmadaw will firmly stand on NCA in initiating the peace process
- A plan is underway to establish a polytechnic institute for students to study applied science subjects
- People have to participate in counter-terrorism and peace and stability for the sake of relevant regions

ior General commented that weakness can be seen in the democratization process, and democratic rights should not be demanded in terror ways, he added.

To hold the election, the Senior General underscored that necessary preparations must be undertaken in late 2023 in order to enumerate the census in 2024. If so, the population of the nation can be approved and the voter list can be compiled.

The Senior General unveiled that handing over the State's responsibilities to the elected government is the primary duty of the current government. With regard to

building the Union, the Senior General noted that the democratic system and federal administration are inseparable in building the Union based on democratic and federal systems, and all stakeholders building the Union based on democratic and federal systems must be intellectuals and intelligentsia.

Regarding the peace process, the Senior General highlighted that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw-approved NCA will be legally valid and never annulled. The Senior General recounted his experience in signing the NCA by representing the government sector, pledging that Tatmadaw will firmly stand on NCA in initiating the peace pro-

cess as an official of an ethnic armed organization irresponsibly expressed his remarks related to the NCA. On 15 October 2015, the NCA was signed on a grand scale by representatives from the government, the Hluttaw, Tatmadaw and ethnic armed organizations in the presence of diplomats from China, India, Japan and Thailand in addition to the UN and local witnesses. As such, the 8th anniversary of NCA will be celebrated on coming 15 October, he added.

In the education sector, the Senior General said that a learning society for the KG+9 scheme will be upgraded to the agriculture, livestock and tech-

nical institutes and then a plan is underway to establish a polytechnic institute for students to study applied science subjects.

He continued to say that there are 13,879 basic education middle schools, 21,550 primary schools in rural areas, and 1,626 middle schools and 3,318 primary schools in urban areas. The ratio of middle schools in rural areas to urban areas is 8:1 and primary schools 6.5:1. Hence, all ethnic people need to have literacy and school education.

The Senior General disclosed the plan to establish universities, colleges and institutes to turn out professionals and human resources skilful for the agriculture and livestock sectors. The number of human resources must be turned out to improve production for the promotion of the State economy.

Concerning the counter-terrorism measure, the Senior General noted that although the government strives for the equitable development of all parts of the entire nation, the regions suffering impacts of terror acts cannot see region-wise development. Practically, residents will have to enjoy the development. Hence, people have to participate in counter-terrorism and peace and stability for the sake of relevant regions, he noted. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Myanmar to provide preferential treatment for EV importers until 2025



Deputy Prime Minister Union Planning & Finance Minister U Win Shein poses for the group documentary photo at the 5th China Quality Conference yesterday.

MYANMAR is stepping up its digital system in the financial sector and encouraging green business development while setting electric car import as

a priority until 2025, Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein said in his speech at the Fifth China Quality Con-

ference yesterday.

The conference is taking place from 1 to 2 September in Sichuan province city of Chengdu, the People's Repub-

lic of China.

The government is giving preferential treatment for EVs and its spare parts importers including reduced taxation and also collaborating with the General Administration of Customs China-GACC to be able to effectively control the registering process of goods produced abroad, according to the minister.

Myanmar follows ASEAN Quality Assurance and Recognition of Competency Certification Systems and the country amended Myanmar National Building Code 2012 in 2016 to encourage environmentally friendly green development, to standardize building construction, to draft town planning projects and to focus on effective consumption of energy, he said.

The Fifth China Quality Conference aims to bolster economic cooperation between

the countries more than expected. It also encourages to sharing of views between the organizations in the areas of quality assurance management and sharing experiences of implementing policies during eight small forums. The Matchmaking Meeting between national technological organizations and business organizations from Sichuan province is also included in the conference.

Mr Zhang Guoqing, Vice-Premier, Mr Luo Wen, Minister of the Department of State Administration for Market Regulation, Mr Huang Qiang, the governor of Sichuan Province and guests from WTO, international standardization organizations, other international organizations and business persons attended the Fifth China Quality Conference. — MNA/TH

MIFER conducts HR development KSP programme

MINISTRY of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, aiming to develop human resources and improve the capacity of staff, held the 28th ceremony of Friday Talk of Knowledge Sharing Programme-KSP at Office No 1, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday, delivered the opening speech by Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw.

The Union minister emphasized that it is a topic of the "Poverty Reduction Programme in China and Developing Countries" that is required to understand all staff to apply in their respective fields. He also explained that the consistency of policies and continuous policy implementation for rural development and poverty reduction are the main important factors and highlighted the State Administration Council currently has laid down the policy priority for the socioeconomic development of the country. Therefore, it is necessary to understand the importance of labour, capital, and agricultural inputs also Total Factor Productivity-TFP for sustainable agriculture development of the country. The Union minister underscored that the lessons, experiences and challenges of rural development from China and developing countries are crucial points for the future country's socioeconomic development so he encouraged the staff to actively participate and frankly discuss today's Talk.

Daw Zar Li Nwe, Deputy Director from the Union Minister's Office presented the topic with the title "Poverty Reduction Programme for Developing Countries" that was gained from the seminar which was supported by the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) Programme of the People's Republic of China. Afterwards, attendees raised questions and openly discussed.

The ceremony was also attended by the deputy minister and nearly 120 persons of senior officials and relevant officials from states and regions via the hybrid system. — MNA

NPT council member inspects local development work in Pyinmana



Household registration certificates and CSCs are provided to locals in Bangbar village-tract.

A collaborative team led by Nay Pyi Taw Council member Col Min Naung made a field study trip yesterday to Bangbar and Seikphutaung villages in Pyinmana township by motorcade in order to ensure regional stability and peace, security, the rule of law, education, health and local development.

Colonel Min Naung first met departmental officials in Seikphutaung village and discussed development activities according to the relevant sectors and improvement of education, health and road communication.

He provided basic consumer goods to monasteries, villages and primary

schools.

Officials from the Ministry of Immigration and Population in Pyinmana township also provided household registration certificates and citizenship scrutiny cards (CSCs) through the Pankhinn scheme to villages in the Bangbar village-tract.

In addition, the mobile medical team from the Nay Pyi Taw Medical Services Department provided free healthcare services to monks and rural people at Seikphutaung Rural Health Centre. The Rural Road Development Department officials also inspected and measured the land to build an inter-village-to-village road in the hard-to-reach areas of Seikphutaung village. Officials from the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department carried out a field inventory of the number of animals raised in Seikphutaung village. — MNA/TS

NATIONAL

THE diplomat mission led by Union Minister at the Union Government Office 2 U Ko Ko Hlaing who is also Vice-Chair 1 of the Rakhine State Stability, Peace and Development Work Coordination Committee visited the Cyclone Mocha-hit Rakhine State yesterday.

During the diplomat visit, the Union minister said the visit to Mocha-hit Rakhine State intends to allow them to show the real situation of the rehabilitation processes and rebuilding procedures and the practical procedural framework for repatriation of people who fled Rakhine State.

He also explained the all-inclusive implementation works to rehabilitate Rakhine State to be better than the original situation, and other repatriation processes.

Then, Dr Yin Yin Nwe, a member of the advisory board of the State Administration Council Chairman briefed all on the report regarding the responses in Mocha-hit regions

Myanmar arranges diplomatic trip to Mocha-hit Rakhine State

Diplomats appreciate Myanmar for its effective rehabilitation processes in storm-hit areas, repatriation of displaced persons



The diplomatic mission views round the Multi-purpose Port in Sittway.

and progress in rehabilitation processes between 6 May and 30 June.

Next, the respective officials of relevant ministries and the secretary of the Rakhine

State government clarified the repatriation processes, ongoing rehabilitation processes and ar-

rangements for safe return under the MoU between Myanmar and Bangladesh.

The diplomats then appreciated the efforts of Myanmar for its rehabilitation processes in Mocha-hit regions and systematic plans for repatriation and relocation of refugees.

They then proceeded to storm-hit St Mark's Cathedral in Sittway to inspect the damages and complete repair works, at Sittway International Port to observe the transport of relief items from MV Mercury Force.

They also paid a visit to Sittway General Hospital (500-bed), U Ye Kyaw Thu monastery, Thakyamuni ordination hall pagoda, selling essential foodstuffs at lower prices for the convenience of residents and departmental staff affected by Cyclone Mocha at U Ottama Park, social harmony and social integration training(multiplier training) and basic sewing training at vocational training school to comfort the trainees-local ethnic females and other women from IDP camps.

They also inspected the completed rehabilitation works at Sittway University, and other places in Thaechaung and Dapaing villages by car. Moreover, they met with the displaced persons at Thetkaepyin IDP camp and the head of the camp and observed the health-care services at Thetkaepyin station hospital. The diplomats had dinner hosted by the Rakhine State chief minister at the Sittway Hotel on the same evening. — MNA/KTZH



At the Thetkaepyin IDP camp.



At the Thaechaung village.

COVID-19 report, 1 September 2023

NEW TESTS	4,239
NEW CASES	2
CASUALTIES	0

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CURRENT
AFFAIRS

Companies in Japan to recruit
around 1,200 Myanmar workers



The photo shows the workers including Myanmar nationals at the electronic factory in Japan.

THE Myanmar Embassy to Japan in Tokyo announced on 31 August that a total of 1,200 Myanmar workers will be recruited again for companies in Japan.

The embassy verified demand letters from 1 to 15 August, assessed the legal status of recruiting companies, and

then reported its findings to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which, on its part, forwarded them to the Ministry of Labour.

Myanmar workers who want to work legally in Japan can inquire at the employment and labour offices in relevant districts, townships, regions

and states, and have to follow the specified procedures.

There was a total of over 350 demand letters – 884 workers on 31 July, 1,065 workers on 14 July, over 400 workers on 30 June and more than 1,000 workers — sent by Japan to recruit Myanmar workers. — TWA/MKKS



YGH outpatient visiting hours
changed on 1 September

New visiting hours for outpatients at Yangon General Hospital are set effective 1 September 2023.

IN the new patient observation schedule, the Radiation Oncology Department will be available on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 am to 12 pm and from 2 pm to 4 pm. On Thursdays (Day Care), it will be open from 9 am to 12 pm and from 2 pm to 4 pm. For patients requiring surgery, surgical ward 1 will be available on Monday mornings and Wednesday afternoons, while surgical ward 2 on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons and surgical ward 3 on Wednesday mornings and Monday afternoons.

The Cardiology Department is open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings. The Department of Cardiovascular Surgery operates on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. The Gastrointestinal Medical Department serves patients on Monday and Thursday mornings, and Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons, according to the Yangon General Hospital.

To schedule an appointment, a booking can be made by scanning the QR code. For former patients, booking confirmation requires presenting previous medical records. It is notified that booking numbers and confirmations are provided during office hours, excluding public holidays. — TWA/KZW

Yangon market sees upward trajectory in jaggery, sugar prices

THE prices of both jaggery and sugar are moving onward in the Yangon market, touching a high of K5,000 per viss of jaggery and K3,720 per viss of sugar on 31 August.

The prices of brown sugar (slab sugar) also rose to K3,000-3,100 per viss.

The prices of sugar were up by K320-K1,200 per viss in August.

In the coming sugarcane milling season, a sugar mill in Shan State will be equipped with one more machine with a sugarcane processing capacity of 10,000 tonnes and the one in Sagaing Region will install two more machines with a capacity of 5,000 tonnes each.

The leading sugar exporting country India can produce 150 tonnes per acre, while the maximum production rate in



The photo shows jaggery baskets to be distributed in the market.

Myanmar is estimated at only 50 tonnes.

The sugarcane was offered at K38,000 per tonne in 2019

while the sugar price was below K1,000 per viss. When the sug-

ar price climbed to K2,500 per viss at the end of 2022, the mill purchased the sugarcane at K95,000 per tonne. In July 2023, with the sugar price rising to K3,250 per viss, the sugarcane price also jumped to K110,000 per tonne.

As the mill offers a higher price for the sugarcane, the sugar price is also relatively higher at K3,720 per viss.

Jaggery from Yesakyo fetches a higher price compared to the one from Nyaung U which is whiter in appearance. It is commonly used in the Dawei area. The delta regions prefer NyaungU's jaggery, U Thein Zan, a trader told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

The new sugar usually flows into the market three months earlier than jaggery. — TWA/EM

LOCAL BUSINESS

Sugar price spikes in domestic market

THE domestic market sees commodity bull market and sugar price surged to over K3,700 per viss, according to the Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Commodity Wholesale Centre).

The low stocks, lack of sugar import, and commodity price rises triggered by the Kyat depreciation in the forex market are contributing factors to the rocketing sugar price.

The price jumped to K3,720 per viss on 1 September from K3,400 on 2 August, which is a one-month increase of K320 per viss.

With the sugar price rising, some companies have reportedly planned to contribute K200,000 per acre in advance for those new sugarcane growers for the 2023-2024 season.

In the 2023-2024 season, new machinery and equipment with better capacity will be installed at the sugar mills. Moreover, soaring prices will prompt the growers to expand

the acreage of sugarcane, as per the Myanmar Sugar and Sugarcane Related Association.

Ngwe Yi Pale Sugar Co Ltd notified the sugarcane growers in early August that it will offer K110,000 per tonne of sugarcane in the upcoming 2023-2024 sugarcane season.

Therefore, the company enticed the growers to ramp up production and expand the cultivation acres.

Myanmar's annual sugar production is estimated at 450,000 tonnes. Myanmar earlier sent sugar to China and Viet Nam beyond self-sufficiency. At present, it is delivered to Viet Nam only, said U Win Htay, vice chair of the Myanmar Sugar and sugarcane Related Association.

Sugar export to China via the land border was conducted under the provincial-level Memorandum of Understanding. However, it came to an abrupt stop due to the COVID-19 policy of China. Therefore, the sugar industry called for a government-to-government agree-



Jaggery balls and sugar are seen in the market.

ment to legally export sugar to China under quota.

At present, Myanmar's sugar is shipped to Viet Nam and tax exemption is granted with the presence of the Certificate of Origin. Only three registered Myanmar companies are en-

titled to sugar exports to Viet Nam so far.

Sugarcane is commonly planted in the upper Sagaing Region, followed by northern Shan State. It is also found in the western and eastern Bago Region, Yangon Region and

Mandalay Region.

The sugarcane is grown in December-January. It can be harvested from November to February of the following years. The sugarcane growing rotation cycle lasts four years in Myanmar. — NN/EM

Surplus supply and weak demand drive peanut prices lower

AN surplus supply with low demand from millers brings down the prices of peanuts, according to the Mandalay Commodity Wholesale Centre.

It is the harvest season of peanuts so they are flooding the Mandalay market. Meanwhile, the demand from the oil millers is pretty low, resulting in the price decreasing.

Furthermore, Chinese buyers make a deal depending on the quality. The peanut prices jumped to K11,000 per viss last 18 August on the back of strong foreign and domestic demand.

The prevailing prices move in the range between K7,100 and K9,300 per viss depending on the varieties, indicating a drop of K300-1,700 per viss.

Despite the decline in peanut prices, the peanut oil price stayed strong at over K15,000 per viss.

Myanmar has been exporting oil seeds (sesame seeds and

peanuts) to foreign countries. In April 2022, the world's top palm oil exporter Indonesia, which is one of the main oil suppliers to Myanmar, declared an export ban on cooking oil export to reduce domestic shortage. Consequently, Myanmar's Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce temporarily suspended exports of oil crops (peanut and sesame) from 9 May 2022 to have oil self-sufficiency.

Exports of Myanmar's ed-

ible oil crops resumed as the world's top palm oil exporters returned to normality, according to a notification dated 5 July 2022 released by the Trade Department.

The country shipped about 90,000 kilogrammes worth US\$13.851 million to foreign markets through seaborne and border trade channels over the past four months of the current financial year 2023-2024. — NN/EM



The peanut prices jumped to K11,000 per viss last 18 August on the back of strong foreign and domestic demand.

CBM commits to sustained vigilance in combatting online illegal forex trading

FROM PAGE -1

An individual was arrested with solid evidence for selling the US Dollar via a Facebook page and further interrogation is underway.

The authorities are stepping up inspections on illegal currency transactions as the disguised buyers to tackle non-compliance with the Foreign Exchange Management Law.

Under Section 9 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, only those entities holding foreign exchange dealer licences are allowed to deal in foreign currency and travellers' cheques.

Additionally, under Section 15 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, domestic residents are allowed to keep US\$10,000 in a maximum or equivalent amount of foreign currencies for six months.

If those foreign currencies that have been unused for over six months have to be exchanged in local currency at the market price through authorized dealers or deposited into bank accounts.

Therefore, amounts of foreign currency must be declared on arrival. CBM notified the public of transactions to be made through authorized dealers holding the relevant licence. — NN/EM

OPINION

Sympathize with the struggles of consumers amid rice price fluctuations

THE essential role of rice in the daily lives of Myanmar’s populace underscores the urgent need to address the escalating prices of rice varieties and alleviate the burden on consumers. The Myanmar Rice Federation recently made a significant move by announcing a suspension of new licenses for rice export, aimed at curbing the surge in domestic rice prices.

The federation has permitted the continuation of rice exports using existing licenses until the end of August this year. However, the issuance of new licenses is set to be put on hold for a period of 45 days. This strategic pause is geared towards devising effective measures to counter the escalating rice prices within the domestic market.

The ongoing consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with climate change and ongoing conflicts, play a pivotal role in the global food scarcity predicament. The looming threat of El Niño weather patterns and food crises looms large. El Niño’s impact tends to exacerbate dry conditions worldwide, detrimentally affecting crop yields. Consequently, several nations are actively bolstering their rice stockpiles in anticipation of potential shortages.

coupled with the instability in certain rice-cultivating regions, collectively impact rice production and overall price stability.

The ongoing consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with climate change and ongoing conflicts, play a pivotal role in the global food scarcity predicament. The looming threat of El Niño weather patterns and food crises looms large. El Niño’s impact tends to exacerbate dry conditions worldwide, detrimentally affecting crop yields. Consequently, several nations are actively bolstering their rice stockpiles in anticipation of potential shortages.

In light of these challenges, the critical pivot is for business entities to prioritize local rice sufficiency, thereby easing the financial strain on consumers grappling with elevated rice prices. Recognizing the importance of ensuring food security at the domestic level, authorities have judiciously opted to temporarily curtail rice exports. This year, roughly 320,000 tonnes of rice were exported between April and July.

Rasping the daily crises consumers face due to volatile rice prices underscores the need for calculated measures. By suspending new rice export licenses, the federation acknowledges the urgency of stabilizing domestic rice prices. This step, coupled with a broader consideration of global factors, has the potential to bring relief to consumers and enhance the overall food security landscape.

Despite being a substantial rice producer, Myanmar grapples with persistently rising prices across various rice varieties. Premium rice options such as Pawsan and Kyapyan have breached the K100,000 mark per bag, while the esteemed Shwebo Pawsan commands prices exceeding K150,000 per bag. Additionally, Aemahta rice is no exception, commanding prices exceeding K70,000 per bag within the local market.

The ramifications of soaring rice prices extend as a pressing concern for low-income individuals and those in the foundational economic strata. Factors such as elevated costs of agricultural inputs, fuel prices, and other commodities exacerbated by foreign exchange rate fluctuations,

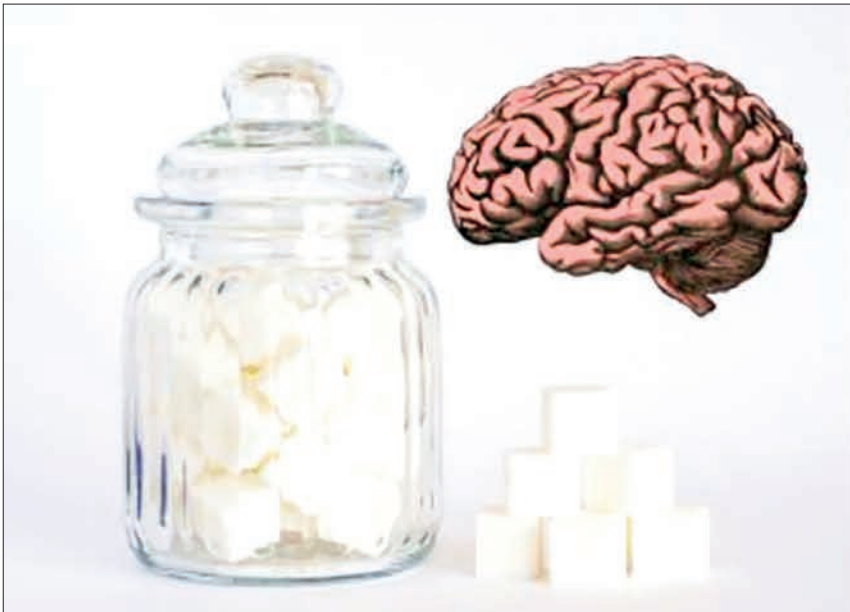
IN A shocking revelation, recent studies have unearthed a disturbing truth: sugar, once considered a harmless indulgence, possesses an addictive grip on the brain that rivals that of cocaine. Lab rats, when given a choice, are shown to prefer sugary treats over potent drugs like cocaine, underlining the power of sugar’s pull. This addiction is underpinned by the brain’s relationship with dopamine, the “pleasure and reward” chemical.

Our brains are hardwired for pleasure, with dopamine acting as the conductor of this symphony. This ancient mechanism reinforces behaviours crucial for survival, a trait honed over millennia. However, substances like drugs manipulate the brain, tricking it into believing these substances are essential for survival. Gradually, dependence develops, leading to addiction.

Much like sex and dopamine, sugar and dopamine are closely intertwined. The synergy between sugar and dopamine mirrors that observed with illicit substances. Sugar consumption triggers substantial dopamine surges, akin to the highs experienced with cocaine and heroin. This connection might stem from our evolutionary past, where seeking high-calorie foods was essential for survival. Modern availability and technology have disrupted this balance, leaving our brains out of sync with our dietary reality. This mismatch fosters a propensity to view sugary,

high-calorie foods as vital, leading to intense dopamine releases. This cycle echoes addiction, complete with tolerance, cravings, and withdrawal symptoms upon sugar elimination.

In the realm of recovery, early sobriety often sparks intense sugar cravings. Alcoholics, accustomed to alcohol’s high sugar content, may wrestle with sugar cravings upon abstaining. Similarly, those transitioning to sobriety might miss the dopamine rush



It’s important to remember that setbacks can happen, but with perseverance and support, you can overcome sugar addiction and live a healthier life. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY

from substances, driving them towards sugary alternatives. While daunting, it’s crucial to prioritize sobriety over drastic lifestyle changes.

The food industry’s hidden

Is Sugar More Addictive Than Cocaine?

By A Pattern



hand complicates matters further. As the fight against sugar addiction escalates, a covert battle brews within the food industry. Ingredient labels often mislead, concealing true sugar content.

Complex terminology disguises high-fructose corn syrup, glucose, and other hidden sugars. This deceptive manipulation keeps consumers unaware and the industry in control.

Research sheds light on sugar’s potential to dominate brain functions and fuel addiction. Striking parallels emerge between sugar and drug behaviours — bingeing, craving, tolerance, with-

drawal, and reward systems. An intriguing absence is sugar’s lack of an aversion signal, a mechanism warning against overconsumption. This deficiency paves the way for excessive indulgence, mimicking drug addiction.

Startlingly, studies reveal sugar might be the most consumed addictive substance globally, with researchers asserting its addictive pull is eight times stronger than cocaine!

Breaking free from sugar’s

to success:

1. Goal Setting: Declare a 90-day sugar-free period as a crucial milestone in your recovery journey.

2. Naming the Foe: Concede your sugar addiction and embrace the need for change.

3. One Goal, One Focus: Prioritize conquering sugar above all else.

4. Real Foods Only: Bid farewell to even natural sugars; berries and honey won’t suffice.

5. Acknowledge Vulnerability: Embrace your susceptibility to addiction, fostering self-awareness.

6. Snacks as Allies: Arm yourself with high-fat, high-protein snacks to quell hunger.

7. Banish Temptations: Purge your surroundings of sugary triggers.

8. Outsmart Cravings: Employ simple tricks like salt, butter, or water to curb urges.

9. Introduce “Ketoade”: Hydrate and distract with a keto-friendly electrolyte drink.

10. Mineral Boost: Prevent deficiency-driven cravings through mineral supplements.

11. Activate Dopamine: Engage in mood-enhancing activities such as exercise and meditation.

12. Replace Habits: Swap out sugary indulgences for unsweetened beverages.

13. Gimmick Alert: Steer clear of quick-fix pills and sprays.

14. Medication Assessment: Evaluate medications that may in-

tensify cravings with a healthcare provider.

15. Seek Professional Aid: Consult addiction specialists or mental health professionals if struggles persist.

16. Embrace Forgiveness: Show compassion for setbacks on your journey.

17. Persevere: Rise after failures; setbacks are stepping stones to success.

In the grand tapestry of life, this struggle against sugar is a quest for control, a journey toward a healthier and more harmonious existence. It’s a path that demands unwavering perseverance and the gift of patience, yet the treasures it bestows are beyond measure. Remember, you’re at the helm of your own ship, charting the course to freedom!

Take heart, you’re not alone on this journey. A united front of warriors stands strong beside you, bound together in the pursuit of a sweeter, healthier tomorrow. With knowledge as your compass, determination as your wind, and a shared spirit as your guiding star, together we conquer the challenges of addiction, forging a bedrock of lasting well-being. Let sugar’s grip unravel, step by step, as our spirits unite in this journey towards a brighter, better life.

In this journey we tread, one step at a time we spread, Embrace the path ahead, breaking free from sugar’s thread!



Paris fumigates for tiger mosquitoes as pest spreads in Europe

HEALTH authorities in Paris fumigated areas of the French capital for the first time on Thursday to kill disease-carrying tiger mosquitoes whose rapid advance through northern Europe is thought to have been accelerated by climate change.

Roads were closed and people asked to stay in their homes in southeast Paris during the early hours of Thursday as pest control contractors sprayed insecticide in trees, green spaces and other mosquito-breeding areas.

Such scenes are a regular occurrence in tropical cities and becoming increasingly common

in Europe as the tiger mosquito, which can carry the dengue, chikungunya and zika viruses, spreads from its native south-east Asia.

“It was a first in Paris, but it’s not the first in France,” deputy Paris mayor Anne Souyris, who is in charge of health policy, told BFM television. “The south of France has been affected by tiger mosquitoes for some years.”

The regional health body for the capital, ARS Ile-de-France, said the area targeted for fumigation was 150 metres (500 feet) around the home of a person in the 13th district of the capital who had contracted dengue fe-

ver while travelling.

“These operations are being carried out to reduce the risk of transmission of dengue after a case was detected,” it said.

A second fumigation operation has been planned overnight Thursday-Friday in the Colombes suburb northeast of central Paris, after a second person fell sick with dengue fever after returning from a foreign trip. City authorities are trying to prevent a chain of transmission developing in the Paris region, which is home to an estimated 12 million people.

If a tiger mosquito stings a person who has imported a virus from abroad, it then becomes a

carrier of the disease.

Rapid spread

The tiger mosquito, also known as Aedes albopictus, arrived in southern Europe in the first decade of this century and has been pushing rapidly north ever since, establishing itself in France, Germany and Switzerland.

Health experts say it has thrived on the continent in part because of climate change, with warmer weather shortening the incubation period for its eggs while winters are no longer cold enough to kill off the pests.

After first being spotted in France in 2004, it is now present

in 71 of its 96 departments on the mainland, even in areas close to the northern Channel coast, according to health ministry data.

People are encouraged to report sightings, with a special website collecting evidence.

“We are convinced that it is a risk that is going to get bigger,” Marie-Claire Paty, head of a vector-borne disease monitoring unit at the public health body Sante Publique, told AFP in April.

Dengue and chikungunya have similar symptoms of fever, cramps and headaches and both can have serious complications, with chikungunya affecting the nervous system and dengue fe-

ver sometimes causing haemorrhaging.

Zika often causes no symptoms in infected people, but the virus can be dangerous for fetuses and cause severe brain problems and malformations in children.

Andrea Ammon, director of the EU’s European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), said in June that if the spread of the tiger mosquito continues “we can expect to see more cases and possibly deaths” from mosquito-borne diseases.

France had 65 locally acquired cases of dengue in 2022, according to the ECDC.

SOURCE: AFP



A photograph taken on 29 June 2023 shows plastic containers with sterile male Tiger mosquitoes that will be released, in Zagreb, Croatia. The purpose of releasing sterile male mosquitoes is to disrupt the natural reproductive cycle of the Tiger mosquito population. PHOTO: DENIS LOVROVIC / AFP

ARTICLE

NATIONAL

Myanmar joins 7th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports

UNION Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan who is also a chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee attended the 7th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports and related meetings held from 30 August to 2 September in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

In the keynote speech, Mr Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn, Minister of Sports and Tourism of the host country, Thailand, who is acting as the alternate chairman of ASEAN clarified the situation of the work to be carried out concerning the 7th ASEAN Sports Ministerial Meeting, previous meetings and other related meetings.

The representatives of the ASEAN member countries discussed the sports status plus issues related to prohibited



Union Minister U Min Thein Zan poses for the group documentary photo at the event in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

drugs. Delegates at the 6th SOMS+ Japan and 4th AMMS+ Japan meetings emphasized the participation of physical education teachers, coaches and women in sports in line with the ASEAN-Japan Cooperation

Programme. The delegates presented complementary discussions on the promotion of sports for

people with disabilities and the anti-doping campaign and capacity building.

In the afternoon, the representative of China, on behalf of the member countries, spoke about the issues related to the ASEAN-China cooperation under the ASEAN-China Action Plan 2021-2025 for the development and success of traditional sports. He discussed the presentations of the 1st AMMS+ China meeting and pointed out that the proposal is continuing with the comments of the member countries.

According to the meeting, Viet Nam will be the host country in 2024-2025. The general presentations of the ASEAN representatives were also coordinated during the meeting.

— MNA/KZL

Confiscation of illegal items: Industrial materials, foodstuffs, consumer goods and vehicles



Seized illegal goods.

THE combined on-duty team under the supervision of Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force captured an Isuzu tractor head and a trailer (approximately K63 million), headed to Mandalay from Muse, carrying 41 kinds of goods worth K191,171,459 including 690 sets of fuel pump assembly and 3,790 kilogrammes of cleaning liquid for carburetor that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) at the Milepost 25/6 on Muse-Man-

dalay Road on 29 August. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The Customs on-duty teams made inspections on 29 August and confiscated nine kinds of goods worth K13,715,100 including 8,800 kilogrammes of Ion exchange resin without Import Licence from a container at the Myanmar Industrial Port, 27,374.88 kilogrammes of Hup Seng cream crackers that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from four containers at

the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint, four mobile phones worth K12.2 million including iPhone 12 Pro (256G) without official documents from luggage at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk) and 64 bottles of Fuzhiqian edible oil made in China that were piled up near Naungsai village at the Yepu permanent checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Similarly, an unregistered Toyota Alphard (approximately K7.5 million) was seized near a market on Zaykalay Street in Dawei on 30 August and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

A total of 2,018 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K1,009,200 was captured in Toungoo district on 31 August and action was taken under the Forest Law.

As a result, a total of nine arrests were made on three consecutive days from 29 to 31 August, with an estimated value of K392,336,199, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Manulife Myanmar introduces new life insurance plan

MANULIFE Myanmar has introduced a new life insurance plan that everyone can afford.

The new insurance plan is intended to provide relief for future family life by protecting low-income breadwinners from unexpected events and financial difficulties.

“There is still very little knowledge about life insurance in Myanmar compared to ASEAN and South Asian countries, and there are still many families who lack knowledge of life insurance and have financial difficulties. Manulife’s life insurance programme was launched to support and help families facing income difficulties,” said Gaurav Sharma, CEO and General Manager of Manulife Myanmar.

With the launch of the new life insurance policy, Manulife Myanmar, in line with its commitment to carry out social welfare activities that will bring many benefits to the Myanmar community, has donated 55 life insurance policies to the families of children with Down syndrome through the Myanmar Down Syndrome Association.

The new life insurance can be purchased at the age of 18, and the maximum age for a 3-year policy term is 62 years and 60 years for a five-year policy term. By purchasing an average premium of K600,000, one can get life insurance protection of up to K60 million. It will depend on the age, gender, payment methods, and type of life insurance package selected.

Double protection, insurance coverage for bodily injury due to an accident, and a refund of 25 per cent of the premium paid as an annual benefit are the main benefits of Manulife’s new life insurance policy.

Since 2019, Manulife Myanmar has been providing financial consultancy, management solutions, and complete and exquisite life insurance for families all over Myanmar. — TWA/CT

Gen Z animal enthusiasts propel China’s booming pet economy

The pet economy has a significant economic impact, contributing to job creation, retail sales, and investment opportunities.

“LET’S see, which one of you will join me in my office today?” Every day, Wang Jingqi would bring one of her dog companions to work at her newly-opened Marsmart pet store in THE BOX Youth Energy Centre in Beijing’s Chaoyang District.

The 28-year-old Wang is the co-founder of two pet stores in the Chinese capital and a caregiver of six adorable dogs.

Her story with her canine friend began in 2015 when she set out for her studies in the United States, accompanied by her very first dog.

“The dog became an integral part of my family, a source of immense solace in the foreign land”, Wang reminisced.

This overseas adventure gave Wang a unique outlook on the future of China’s pet economy. Espying its immense potential, she transitioned her career from education and technology to pet retail upon returning to China in 2020. Teaming up with three partners who had quit their jobs in nightclubs and music festivals,



Pet owners shop with their pets at Marsmart pet store in THE BOX Youth Energy Centre in Chaoyang District of Beijing, capital of China, 12 August 2023. PHOTO: ZHANG ZHAOQING / XINHUA

Wang seized the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to this burgeoning industry.

Wang currently serves as the Chief Product Officer at Mars-

mart pet stores, which feature a captivating Martian aesthetic. She pointed out that the selection of the Martian visual icon is aligned with Generation Z’s

modern retail preferences of “art + technology + individual experience”.

Born between 1995 and 2009, Chinese Gen Zers are synony-

mous with the internet and social media boom.

According to the China Pet Industry Annual Report 2022 released by the Asia Pet Alliance Institute, the number of pets and pet owners in China continues to expand, with young people aged between 19 and 30 being the main pet-keeping population.

Apart from dogs and cats, Gen Z keeps a diverse range of unconventional pets. “We’ve even welcomed lizards, ducks, parrots and hamsters to pick up their toys,” Wang enthusiastically shared. As digital natives, Gen Zers are increasingly connected through social media, and Marsmart’s social platform is flooded with young enthusiasts inquiring about pet products and relevant information and posting self-made cute pet memes.

According to Wang, the landscape of pet ownership in China has been reshaped by the increasing number of young people living alone, leading to a rise in pets becoming cherished family members. — Xinhua

Strike-hit German stunt performers train kids during filming freeze

TEN-YEAR-OLD Nathaniel squeezes his eyes shut, straightens his back and sucks in his breath as he plunges backward from the reinforced steel roof of a stunt car.

The stacked blue mats that catch his fall release a loud hiss as two burly men give the blond primary school pupil high-fives

for his successful first attempt at being an action hero.

While the actors’ and writers’ strikes in Hollywood freeze up film production around the world, stunt performers in Germany are biding their time putting on “adrenaline-packed” workshops for kids. — AFP



Seventy-five children between the ages of six and 16 are allowed to take part in each workshop. PHOTO: AFP

Rights court agrees to hear French prostitution law appeal

THE European rights court said Thursday it would hear an appeal by sex workers against a French anti-prostitution law which they say has shattered their livelihoods and driven them underground.

Sex workers technically operate legally in France, but the country in 2016 moved against their clients by outlawing the purchase of sexual acts in the hope of curbing the sex trade.

Arguing that their livelihood is unjustly threatened by the law, 260 sex workers backed by several groups filed an appeal with the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in 2019 after exhausting all legal recourse in France. Sex workers and their associations regularly protest against the law with action days and street marches.

The Strasbourg-based court said it agreed to rule on



Sex workers and their associations regularly protest against the law with action days and street marches. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

the matter after hearing several statements from sex workers — French and foreign — about how precarious their lives had become since clients stayed away because of fear of the law.

“According to the claimants who legally work as prostitutes, the criminalization of prostitu-

tion clients has pushed prostitutes into clandestinity and isolation, has exposed them to a heightened risk to their physical integrity and their lives, and impacts their freedom to decide on how to lead their private lives,” the court said in a statement. — AFP

New canal project expected to deepen China-ASEAN trade ties



This aerial photo taken on 22 July 2023 shows Qinzhou Port Station and a nearby industrial park in Qinzhou, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. **PHOTO: CAO YIMING/XINHUA**

The canal will have locks that can accommodate large vessels of up to 5,000 tonnes. Technicians in Nanning, the regional capital, monitor the project using a digital replica created through twinning technology. The canal is expected to be operational by the end of 2026.

THE tranquillity of the serene hillside in Qinzhou, nestled in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, has been replaced by the persistent reverberations of dredgers, excavators, and dump trucks, serving as a resounding testament to the ongoing Pinglu Canal project.

About 120 kilometres away from this bustling construction scene, technicians sitting inside an operation centre located in the regional capital Nanning were monitoring the digital replica of

the ongoing project. This replica, created through twinning technology, is constantly updated using real-time data gathered from various construction sites of the canal project.

Initiated in August last year, the Pinglu Canal boasts a planned investment of 72.7 billion yuan (about 10.1 billion US dollars). The 134.2-kilometre-long waterway stretches from the Xi-jin reservoir in the city of Hengzhou to Qinzhou port in the south of Guangxi. — Xinhua

Eurozone inflation stagnates in August

EUROZONE inflation remained unchanged in August, official data showed Thursday, leaving the European Central Bank faced with a conundrum over whether to continue hiking interest rates amid fears of a deepening economic downturn.

The ECB has hiked interest rates to their highest level since May 2001 to tame red-hot inflation, but its president Christine Lagarde has suggested there could be a pause at the next rate-setting meeting on 14 September.

Analysts don't agree on what the ECB will do. Some

avoided making a prediction that the data would not dramatically change the ECB's trajectory, but others said they still expect a hike.

Consumer prices reached 5.3 per cent in August after a smaller drop in energy prices and despite a slowdown in the rise of food and drinks costs, the EU's statistics agency said.

A consensus forecast by analysts compiled by FactSet and Bloomberg had predicted a slight drop in consumer prices to 5.1 per cent.

The figure is far higher than the ECB's two-per-cent target. — AFP



Some analysts said the inflation data would not dramatically change the ECB's trajectory on 14 September. **PHOTO: AFP**

Japan FY 2024 budget requests hit record at around 114 tril yen

BUDGET requests by Japanese government offices for the next fiscal year likely hit a record of around 114 trillion yen (\$780 billion), a Kyodo News tally showed Thursday, as increased debt-servicing costs added to the uptick in defence and social security spending.

The general account budget for fiscal 2024, starting next April, could surpass the 114.38 trillion yen allocated for the current year. The Finance Ministry will screen the requests before drafting the budget in December.

Ministries and agencies had to submit their requests to the ministry by Thursday. While the exact size of spending on priority areas has yet to be determined by the administration of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, some requests were submitted without specifying amounts.

It is the first time in two years that the total size of requested spending has hit a record. Previously, the 111.66 trillion yen sought for fiscal 2022 was the largest.

Despite its goal of reining in spending that has swelled in recent years amid the COVID-19 pandemic and a cost-of-living crisis, the government faces a high



Kishida has vowed to double childcare spending over the next three years in a bid to help reverse the country's dwindling birth rate. **PHOTO: AFP**

hurdle in achieving a shift away from crisis-mode stimulus and reducing its heavy reliance on debt.

A substantial portion of this increased expenditure needs financing through the issuance of government bonds despite Japan's fiscal health already being the worst among developed nations.

The Finance Ministry estimates debt-servicing costs at 28.14 trillion yen, up 2.89 trillion yen from fiscal 2023, based on an assumed higher interest rate.

At a time when overseas bond yields have been on the rise due to aggressive rate hikes

aimed at controlling surging inflation, the Bank of Japan has also begun permitting a greater increase in the benchmark 10-year Japanese government bond yield.

Kishida plans to expand the budget for child care support in a bid to reverse the nation's declining birth rate. He is looking to double the size of such spending by the early 2030s.

In the meantime, Japan is also bolstering its defence capabilities to counter security threats from China, North Korea and Russia by spending a total of 43 trillion yen in a five-year period to fiscal 2027. — Kyodo

Sri Lanka records lowest inflation since economic crisis

INFLATION in crisis-hit Sri Lanka eased to 4.0 per cent in August, the lowest since before last year’s unprecedented financial crisis, official figures showed Friday. The island nation endured months of food, fuel and medicine shortages after a foreign exchange crunch that sparked widespread protests culminating in the ouster of its president. But the crisis has since eased, with headline inflation down from 6.3 per cent in July and 69.8 per cent at its peak last September.

Sri Lanka’s central bank has said it expects the figure to continue its downward trend in the medium-term. The country defaulted on its \$46 billion foreign debt last year but secured a four-year, \$2.9 billion bailout from the International Monetary Fund in March. An IMF team is due in Colombo this month to review Sri Lanka’s progress in repairing its ruined finances and to decide on releasing another \$330 million loan tranche. — AFP

NZ dairy giant Fonterra eyes massive cost cuts

NEW Zealand farming giant Fonterra said Friday that it plans to slash around US\$598 million in costs over the next seven years following a fall in global dairy prices. Chief executive Miles Hurrell foreshadowed future job cuts, saying the “focus on efficiencies will have implications for staff numbers”. But he gave no further details about how many of Fonterra’s 20,000-strong workforce may be cut. With around 9,000 farmer-shareholders, Fonterra is one of the world’s largest dairy exporters, producing 16 billion litres



Dairy was New Zealand’s biggest export commodity last year with milk powder, butter and cheese accounting for 28 per cent of total exports, worth US\$12.3 billion. PHOTO: AFP

of milk per year, exporting to more than 140 countries. Dairy was New Zealand’s biggest export commodity last year with milk powder, butter and cheese accounting for 28 per cent of total exports, worth

US\$12.3 billion, according to Stats NZ. However, dairy prices fell sharply last month, led by a 10.9 per cent drop in the cost of whole milk powder. Fonterra has twice cut its forecast for milk pricing in recent weeks, increasing pressure on its farmers, which Hurrell said “made the outlook for the year even more challenging”. The Fonterra boss said a reduction in demand for imported whole milk powder from China, one of the dairy producer’s three regional markets, has been a key driver of falling prices. — AFP

Scandinavian Airlines reports 1st quarterly pretax profit since 2019

SCANDINAVIAN Airlines (SAS) on Friday reported its first quarterly profit since 2019, marking a significant turnaround from its filing for bankruptcy protection in July 2022. SAS reported a pretax profit of 457 million Swedish kronor (42 million US dollars) for its fiscal third quarter (Q3) from May to July, with the total operating revenue up 54 per cent year-on-year to nearly 13.2 billion kronor; it said in a press release. These positive fig-

ures stand in contrast to the same period last year when the airline incurred a loss of 1.99 billion Swedish

kronor. Following the quarterly report, share prices of SAS rose 14 per cent to 0.42 kronor. — Xinhua



Scandinavian Airlines (SAS) on Friday reported its first quarterly profit since 2019, marking a significant turnaround from its filing for bankruptcy protection in July 2022. PHOTO: AFP

Member’s’ Voluntary Winding-up & Appointment of a Liquidator for NGK Energys Myanmar Co., Ltd. (Registration No. 114366358) pursuant Articles 147(a)(ii) and 152(a) of Insolvency Law 2020

&

Notice to Creditors

With respect to NGK Energys Myanmar Co., Ltd. (Registration No. 114366358) (the “Company”) which is located at Second Floor, TRENDY CASA, No.5, Mingalar Lane, Bauktaw, Yankin Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar, it is hereby noticed that:

- According to Article 147(a)(ii) of Insolvency Law, the Company unanimously passed the following resolutions:
 - to wind up the Company voluntarily effective on 31 August 2023; and
 - to appoint the following liquidator (the “Liquidator”) pursuant to Article 152(a) of Insolvency Law, effective on 31 August 2023:
 - Name: Daw Nilar Thwin
 - Name of the Company/Title: Global United Myanmar Ltd./Managing Director
 - MAIP member serial: 00120
 - Phone number: 095049113
 - Address: #14-11, Level 14, Sule Square, 221 Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar 11182
- Any creditors who have any debts or claims against the Company are required to submit their names, addresses, and details of their claims, together with any documentary evidence in their possession, to the Liquidator on or before 30 September 2023.

Daw Nilar Thwin
Liquidator
Global United Myanmar Ltd./Managing Director
#14-11, Level 14, Sule Square, 221 Sule Pagoda Road,
Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar 11182
Phone number: 095049113

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HAPAS VOY.NO. (KHPS0394N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA HAPAS VOY.NO. (KHPS0394N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-9-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0302-751N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0302-751N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-9-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KENZEN VOY.NO. (0623)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KENZEN VOY. NO. (0623)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-9-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S RAFFLES SHIPPING INTERNATIONAL PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES: WORLD

Russia’s Sarmat strategic missile system put on combat duty - Roscosmos head

Russian President Vladimir Putin has emphasized the importance of maintaining combat readiness and improving Russia’s nuclear triad, which includes land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles like the Sarmat system.



The Sarmat system is meant to replace RS-20 Voevoda missile systems. The new missile is capable of striking targets at long ranges using various flight trajectories **PHOTO: YOUTUBE / SPUTNIK**

RUSSIA’S Sarmat strategic missile system has been put on combat duty, Yuri Borisov, the head of Russian state space corporation Roscosmos, said on Friday.

“The Sarmat strategic complex has been put on combat

duty”, Borisov said during an educational event.

Russia tested the nuclear-capable Sarmat missile throughout 2022. Last December, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Russia will maintain com-

bat readiness and improve the country’s nuclear triad, which he called the main guarantor of its sovereignty.

The Sarmat system is meant to replace RS-20 Voevoda missile systems. The new missile

is capable of striking targets at long ranges using various flight trajectories and is guaranteed to overcome any existing and prospective anti-missile defence systems.

Having the longest range

of target engagement, Sarmat is also expected to reinforce the combat capabilities of the Russian strategic nuclear forces.

The first test launch of the Sarmat missile was carried out on 20 April. — SPUTNIK

Heat records topple across sweltering Asia



People outside Shinjuku station in Tokyo using umbrellas to seek relief from the blistering heat. **PHOTO: AFP**

TEMPERATURE records are being toppled across Asia, from India’s summer to Australia’s winter, authorities said Friday, in fresh evidence of the impact of climate change.

The sweltering temperatures match longstanding warnings from climate scientists and come as countries from Greece to Canada battle record heat and deadly wildfires.

In India, the world’s most populous country, officials said this August was the hottest and driest since national records began more than a century ago.

The month falls in the mid-

dle of India’s annual monsoon, which usually brings up to 80 per cent of the country’s yearly rainfall.

But despite heavy downpours that caused deadly floods in the country’s north earlier this month, overall rainfall has been far below average.

August saw an average of just 161.7 millimetres (6.4 inches), 30.1 mm lower than the previous August record in 2005, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

Authorities in Japan also said Friday that the country had experienced its hottest summer since records began

in 1898.

Temperatures from June to August were “considerably higher” than average across the north, east and west of the country, the weather agency said.

And in Australia this winter was the warmest on record, with an average temperature of 16.75 degrees Celsius (62.15 Fahrenheit) for the season running from June to August.

That is a hair above a record set in 1996, and the highest average winter temperature since the country’s records began in 1910, the Bureau of Meteorology said. — AFP

BRICS can create viable currency options as dollar dethroned - US economist Sachs

THE US dollar will eventually be dethroned as the dominant global currency and the BRICS can create viable alternatives, Jeffrey Sachs, a world-renowned economist and President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, told Sputnik.

“The BRICS can create viable alternatives to the dollar. In this sense, yes, the dollar will be dethroned as the overwhelmingly dominant global currency,” Sachs said. “That is inevitable in the long run in any event, given the declining share of US GDP and global trade”.

The BRICS will hasten the transition to a multi-currency system, and the US dollar will still have its role, but a much smaller one among many currencies, Sachs added.

Last week, the BRICS group of major emerging economies - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - announced that its membership is more than doubling. Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Saudi Arabia were invited to join the group. Their membership will take effect on 1 January 2024. — SPUTNIK



Signboards of the 15th BRICS summit are seen on a street of Johannesburg, South Africa, 17 August 2023. **PHOTO: WANG GUANSEN/XINHUA**

SPORTS

Medvedev muscles into US Open third round

DANIIL Medvedev recovered from a mini meltdown to beat Australia’s Christopher O’Connell 6-2, 6-2, 6-7 (6/8), 6-2 and reach the US Open third round.

The third seed and 2021 champion looked to be cruising into the last 32 in New York for the seventh year running after moving a break up in the third set against his 69th-ranked opponent.

But O’Connell hit back and then saved two match points in the tie-break as Medvedev grew increasingly rattled, the Russian double-faulting twice to send the contest to a fourth set.

In a sign of Medvedev’s fraying nerves he called the doctor out after the third set, sarcastically replying “Yeah, I lost the set” when asked if he was experiencing any symptoms.

Medvedev regrouped and surged 4-1 ahead, saving three break points in the seventh game as O’Connell received treatment to his knee, before finally sealing victory past 1am local time Friday. “Tough match. I don’t know why but one moment in the match he decided to play much better. I don’t know why was the reason, but it became much tougher for me,” said Medvedev.

“I had opportunities in the third (set) and I managed to use them in the fourth. You kind of don’t know when you get frustrated, you never know you could be. I felt today maybe it helped me a little bit”. — AFP



Team Myanmar beat ISPE 2-0 in domestic friendly

A Myanmar team player (green) vies for the ball against ISPE player during their friendly match at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 1 September 2023. PHOTO: MFF

THE Myanmar national football team, which is preparing for the September international week, won a friendly match against the domestic Myanmar National League Club, ISPE 2-0 yesterday evening at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

The winning goals for team Myanmar were scored by Suam Lam Mang and Zin Ko Htet.

Team Myanmar is preparing for a friendly match against the Nepal national team on 8 and 11 September.

The Myanmar national team is

playing against ISPE as the second friendly match after playing against Dagon Star in the last few days.

Some of those playing in foreign clubs are unable to come and join, so the Myanmar national team does not have enough players yet. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Liverpool get kind Europa League draw, Brighton to face Ajax and Marseille

LIVERPOOL were handed a kind draw on Friday for this season’s Europa League group stage while their Premier League rivals Brighton and Hove Albion can look forward to meeting European giants Ajax and Marseille in their first ever foray into continental competition.

Jurgen Klopp’s Reds will play LASK of Austria, Union Saint-Gilloise of Belgium and French Cup holders Toulouse in Group E.

The Anfield club are appearing in the Europa League for the first time since 2015/16, when they lost the final to Sevilla, after finishing fifth in last season’s Premier League.

Brighton finished sixth domestically last season to qualify



The Europa League group-stage draw was held in Monaco on Friday. PHOTO: AFP

for Europe for the first time in their history and have been rewarded with a glamour draw in Group B. The Seagulls will play Ajax, the four-time former Eu-

ropean champions and UEFA Cup winners in 1992, as well as 1993 Champions League winners Marseille and Greek champions AEK Athens. — AFP

Liverpool reject Al-Ittihad offer for Salah: reports

LIVERPOOL have rejected a blockbuster £150 million (\$190 million) offer for Mohamed Salah from Saudi Arabian side Al-Ittihad, according to reports on Friday

Egypt star Salah has been linked with a move to the Gulf State for several weeks and it is believed a verbal offer was made to Liverpool by Al-Ittihad on Friday. The bid is understood to have been £100 million up front with a further £50 million in add-ons.

However, the Premier League club are determined to keep Salah and plan to reject all offer no matter the size of the fee.

Salah, who joined Liverpool from Italian side Roma in 2017, signed a new three-year contract with the Reds last year.

His agent had publicly ruled out a switch to Saudi Arabia during the close-season amid a host of Premier League stars opting to accept lucrative offers from the Gulf State. “Mohamed remains committed to Liverpool,” Salah’s representative Ramy Abbas Issa said in August. “If we considered leaving Liverpool this year, we wouldn’t have renewed the contract last summer.” The 31-year-old has scored 138 goals in 221 appearances during six seasons at Anfield, winning the Premier League Golden Boot on three occasions. Even if Liverpool had considered the possibility of life without Salah, the bid’s arrival just before Friday’s 2200 GMT transfer deadline would have left them with little time to find a replacement. — AFP



Pope Francis begins first visit to Mongolia, sending message of “unity and peace” to neighbouring China

POPE Francis arrived in Mongolia on Friday for the first papal visit to the Asian nation, as he sent a message of “unity and peace” to neighbouring China in a bid to improve ties.

The 86-year-old pontiff’s trip through Monday to the Buddhist-majority nation is a gesture of support for the tiny community of Catholics numbering about 1,400 -- but at the same time a strategic move to improve Vatican ties with neighbours China and Russia.

Francis, who arrived Friday morning local time following a nine-hour journey from Rome, told journalists aboard the papal plane that the vast, sparsely populated country of Mongolia was one that “can be understood with the senses”.

Asked by a journalist whether he found diplomacy difficult, the pope answered: “Sometimes you need a sense of humour”.

The plane passed over Chinese airspace and the pontiff,

The papal visit is a strategic move to enhance Vatican ties not only with China but also with Russia, as Mongolia shares borders with both nations.



Pope Francis was received by Mongolia’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Batmunkh Battsetseg (R, in red) during his arrival in Ulaanbaatar. PHOTO: AFP

following custom, sent a telegram to President Xi Jinping, bearing “greetings of good wishes” to him and the Chinese people.

“Assuring you of my prayers for the well-being of the nation, I invoke upon all of you the divine blessings of unity and peace”, he wrote.

China and the Holy See do not have official ties.

Responding to the Pontiff’s message, Beijing said it was keen to “strengthen mutual trust” with the Vatican.

“The blessings from the Vatican side reflect friendship and goodwill”, foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said.

“China is ready to continue working with the Vatican side in the same direction to engage in constructive dialogue, enhance understanding, strengthen mutual trust and promote the process of improving relations between the two sides”, Wang added. — AFP

Thai king cuts ex-PM Thaksin’s jail term to one year

THAILAND’S jailed former premier Thaksin Shinawatra had his prison sentence cut from eight years to one by the king on Friday, just days after he returned from 15 years in exile.

The move came a day after the billionaire ex-prime minister, 74, applied for a royal pardon over graft and abuse of office convictions amid widespread speculation about a backroom deal to allow him clemency.

Thaksin, twice elected PM and ousted in a 2006 military coup, was sent to prison last week immediately after returning to the kingdom for the first time since 2008. The partial pardon from King Maha Vajiralongkorn was confirmed by the official Royal Gazette, with the announcement pointing to his service to the country as prime minister. — AFP

Chinese carmakers confront European industry at Munich show

This event takes place amid challenging circumstances for the European automotive sector, particularly in Germany.

CHINESE manufacturers will be out in force at next week’s IAA auto show, one of the industry’s biggest, revving their new electric models on the turf of German carmakers, which have been lagging in the e-mobility race.

Elon Musk’s Tesla, usually a hold-out from such events, will also make an appearance at the show in Munich, joining the jostle to steal the spotlight from Europe’s biggest brands.

The industry fair, which opens Tuesday with a speech from Chancellor Olaf Scholz, comes with clouds gathering for the automotive sector in Europe and in particular, Germany.

While suffocating supply chain problems have eased from the pandemic years, European auto giants are struggling to cope with increased energy costs in the wake of the Ukraine war last year.

Although sales in the European Union have steadily improved over the last 12 months, they remain around 20 per cent below their pre-coronavirus levels as inflation and higher interest rates dampen appetite for new vehicles.



The number of Chinese automakers exhibiting at IAA will double compared to 2021, when Munich last hosted the show. People experience a BYD Han electric car during a media preview of the 100th Brussels Motor Show in Brussels, Belgium, 13 January 2023. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ ZHENG HUANSONG/XINHUA

At the same time, European manufacturers are facing increasingly stiff competition from Chinese carmakers which are touting their vehicles at far lower prices. — AFP