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

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

Pigeon pea price hits new record of above K2 mln per tonne amid high foreign demands



There is a strong market share of black grams and pigeons pea in India. Most of the growers also select them as main crops. The aerial picture shows container vessels loading and discharging export and import cargoes at Yangon Port.

THE price of pigeon peas hit a fresh new peak of K2.6875 million per tonne, according to the Bayintnaung Wholesale Commodity Centre.

The price of pulses stood at K2,687,500 per tonne of pigeon peas and K2.275 million per

tonne of black grams on 22 May.

The demand from foreign buyers pushed up the prices.

The neighbouring India forecast Myanmar's black gram output was estimated at 650,000 tonnes. This year, the yield rate dropped by half owing to a reduc-

tion in sowing acres and threats of invasive pests. Meanwhile, India's demand for pulses also grew significantly.

As a result of this, Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association notified on 12 May that growers

should primarily cultivate black grams and pigeon peas during this year's pulses season.

There is a strong market share of black grams and pigeon peas in India. Most of the growers also select them as main crops.

India notified that the free import policy of black grams (urad) and pigeon peas (tur) extended up to 31 March 2024, bringing more benefits to the stockholders in the supply chain including growers and exporters.

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Tatmadaw (Navy) transports supplies to people in Mocha-hit Rakhine State

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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 addi-

tional 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.

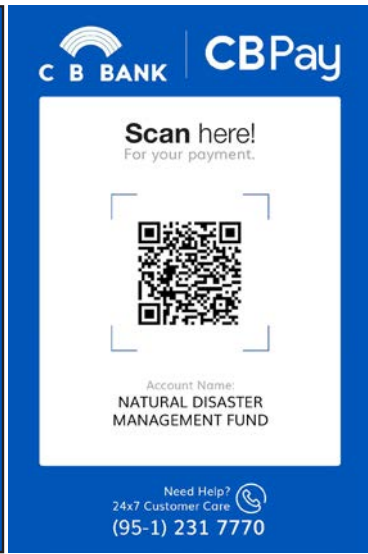
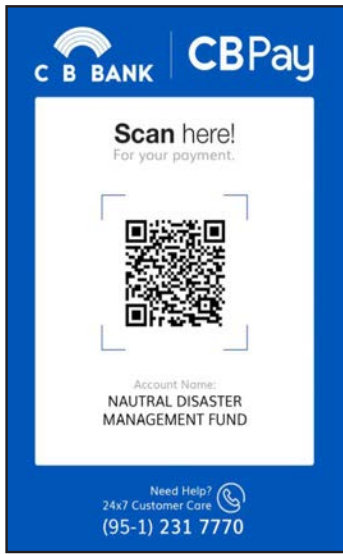
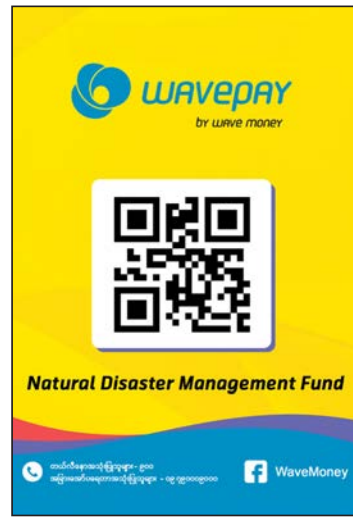
4. Donations can be made through KBZ Pay or Wave Money. If you wish to do-

nate, 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 and OK \$, which are

widely used to enhance convenience for donors. To donate, please scan the QR code and enter the code provided within it.

6. The well-wishers can contact the following persons for further information: -



Nay Pyi Taw	Yangon	Mandalay
Daw Lei Lei Aye Director-General Department of Disaster Management 067-3404050 09-2021491	U Than Soe Director Department of Disaster Management Office of Yangon Region Department 09-250123885	U Aye Min Thu Director Department of Disaster Management Office of Mandalay Region Department 09-420708827
U Win Shwe Deputy Director-General Department of Disaster Management 067-3404048 09-254170011	Daw Than Than Win Deputy Director Department of Disaster Management Office of Yangon Region Department 09-420740160	
Daw Phyu Phyu Win Director Department of Disaster Management 067-3404316 09-43054844		

National Disaster Management Committee

Pigeon pea price hits new record of above K2 mln per tonne amid high foreign demands

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Therefore, they should be selected as the main crops this year, the association mentioned.

Myanmar bagged over US\$1.4 billion from over 1.9 million tonnes of various pulses exported in the past financial year 2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicat-

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

India has growing demand and consumption requirements

for black grams and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2021, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black grams and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-

2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses' annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are also entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that annual quota.

Myanmar yearly produces approximately 400,000 tonnes of black grams and about 50,000 tonnes of pigeon peas.

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

Tatmadaw guards and protects the interests of the people

IN any age and under any government, Tatmadaw has always regarded the people as their parents and itself as the guardian and protector of the interests of the people.

(Excerpts from the discussion of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 1/2023 of the National Defence and Security Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 1 February 2023)

DPM MoTC Union Minister meets departmental staff, locals during inspection tours in Rakhine State

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communication Admiral Tin Aung San, Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin met members of rehabilitation working committees, departmental staff and town elders at Township general administration department of Pauktaw Township yesterday.

During the meeting, in-charge of Pauktaw Township rehabilitation Brig-Gen Sunny Ohn, relevant departmental staff and town elders reported on the measures being taken to return pauktaw to its normal situation and ongoing rehabilitation processes.

Then, the Rakhine state chief minister and Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung highlighted the close supervision of recuse and relief works and rehabilitation processes at the Union level in storm-hit areas of Rakhine State, distribution of supplies, public participation in work processes and intentions to be a better situation than the original one. The Deputy Prime Minister talked about the duty assignment of Tatmadaw senior officers to conduct rescue work and rehabilitation processes in 18 townships, prioritized sectors as per

the number of losses, healthcare services of rapid response teams and special medical units to storm-affected areas, efforts to facilitate communication sector and systematic distribution of supplies.

After the meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister provided supplies and foodstuffs for storm victims to the officials.

The Deputy Prime Minister and party inspected the free healthcare services of specialists in Pauktaw Township and comforted the patients. On arrival at the basic education high school of Pauktaw Township, they observed the repairing works and school enrolment processes for the 2023-2024 academic



Deputy Prime Minister Admiral Tin Aung San accepts cash and kind donations in Sittway yesterday.



At the Basic Education High School Pauktaw.



The Deputy Prime Minister provides relief items for disaster victims in Pauktaw Township.



Heathcare services in Pauktaw Township.

year. After that, they paid homage to the Presiding Sayadaw of Ba Wang Monastery of Pauktaw and donated rice, offerings and CI sheets.

At noon, the Deputy Prime Minister and party attended the cash donation ceremony for Mocha-hit regions held at the Rakhine State government office meeting hall.

At the ceremony, they re-

ceived cash and supplies totalling K225.6 million from the donors and gave certificates of honour in return.

Moreover, the Deputy Prime Minister, Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, Lt-Gen Phone Myat, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin and Deputy Minister U Soe Kyi joined the coordination meeting on rehabilitation processes in Mocha-hit Rakhine State presided over by National

Disaster Management Committee Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win online in the evening.

The Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation also conducted vaccination programmes for the cattle and pigs in Kyettawpyin, and Ohnyayphaw villages in Sittway Township and Sittway station. — MNA/KTZH

SAC Member attends state-level school enrolment day opening ceremony in Shan State (South)

THE ceremony for the state-level school enrolment day of the 2023- 2024 academic year was held at No 1 Basic Education High School in Taunggyi Township, Shan State (South) yesterday.

State Administration Council Member Dr Kyaw Tun, Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Zaw Aye, Deputy Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Win Zaw Moe, Chief Justice of State High Court U Than Oo Lwin and State Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Sein Win cut the ribbon for the ceremony.

Then, the students from No 1 Basic Education High School opened the ceremony by singing the song entitled 'School Enrolment Day' at Daw Khin Thein Hall.

Speaking at the event, SAC Member Dr Kyaw Tun said the last week of May is recognized as school enrolment week yearly. The Ministry of Education also distributes exercise books, pens, pencils, school uniforms and textbooks free of charge



State Administration Council Member Dr Kyaw Tun attends the state-level school enrolment day event yesterday in Taunggyi, Shan State (South).

so that parents can enrol their children without any difficulties and implements a free education system for primary, middle and high school students.

Moreover, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Science and Technology also cooperate to open courses for the students who passed Grade 9 to study

technical, agricultural and livestock breeding skills at 51 basic high schools in 50 districts following the guidance of the Chairman of State Administration Council. Those who complete Grade 9 will have four different subjects to choose from like high-school level technical, agricultural and livestock breeding skills.

Then, Shan State Chief Minister said it is the responsibility

of parents to send their school-age children to school.

The SAC member and party then provided textbooks, exercise books, school uniforms, and teaching aids for Grades 5 and 6 to relevant officials.

Then, students from No 7 BEHS sang the "Zar Ti Marn" song and the SAC member and party inspected the educational booths.

Moreover, SAC Member Dr Kyaw Tun, Shan State Social Affairs Minister U Aye Hlaing and Chairman U Khun Ye Htwe of Pa-O Self-Administered Zone inspected the technical, agricultural and husbandry high school (Paung Lin) to be opened in Paung Lin village-track of Ho-pong Township of Pa-O Self-Administered Zone in Shan State (South) at noon. They also met with the students and locals.

The SAC member and party also met with teachers, students and towns elders at the basic education high school (branch) in Don Mae Kho Village in Paung Lin Village-Tract and basic primary school (Namhu) of Sangaw Village-Tract and highlighted the activities of the Ministry of Education regarding free education system and distribution of stationaries, books, textbooks and school uniforms free of charge.

They then met teachers, students of No 4 and 6 basic education high schools and town elders at Pyinnya Beikman Hall of No 4 BEHS in Taunggyi. — MNA/KTZH

Regional seminar on best practices for promoting inclusive and sustainable investment in Mekong-Lancang countries held

THE Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations held the 'Regional Seminar on Best Practices for Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Investment in Mekong-Lancang Countries' through the hybrid system at the Grand Amara Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Union Minister of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw, People's Republic of China Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai, Chair of Mekong-Lancang Coordination and Supervisory Body, Director-General Daw Marlar Than Htike of the International Organizations and Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs gave

opening speeches. Heads of investment promotion agencies in Mekong-Lancang member countries such as Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam made introductions online.

After the opening ceremony, the discussion continued with the participation of international and local experts. A total of 13 representatives from Mekong-Lancang member countries joined the discussion online.

Deputy Minister Dr Wah Wah Maung, permanent secretaries of the relevant ministries, the directors-general, Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar Mr Mongkol Visitstump, officials, representatives from the Union of Myanmar Federation of

Chambers of Commerce and Industry, representatives from the embassies of the Mekong-Lancang member countries in My-

anmar, representatives from investment promotion agencies and relevant departments in Mekong-Lancang member

countries and businessmen from the private sector attended the ceremony. — MNA/KZW



The Regional Seminar on Best Practices for Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Investment in Lancang-Mekong countries in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, attended by Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw.

SAC members attend financial support, foodstuffs providing ceremony to Mocha victims in Lewe Tsp

THE ceremony was held to provide cash and foodstuffs to the Mocha-affected people who took shelter at the Thirimingala Hall in Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, yesterday morning.

State Administration Council Members Khun San Lwin and U Shwe Kyein, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Tin Oo Lwin, Lt-Gen Than Tun Oo from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Wai Lin, NPT council members, the Deputy Mayor of Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee and departmental personnel, the chairmen and members of the district and township administration bodies, and Mocha victims from Aungmyingon Village and TadaU Village attended the ceremony.

At first, SAC Member U Shwe Kyein said that food do-

nations would be made to 255 households affected by the cyclone in TadaU and Aungmyingon Village in Kantha Village-Tract, Lewe Township, on behalf of Palaung, Danu, Kokang, and Wa self-administered zones in Shan State.

Next, NPT Council Chairman U Tin Oo Lwin said that committees were established to properly rehabilitate the villages that were damaged by the cyclone in accordance with the instructions of the Head of State, and the foodstuffs and cash assistance donated by the SAC, the ministries, and well-wishers are being documented to ensure that there is no wastage. He also expressed his gratitude to the self-administered zones for contributing to the donations.

Then, SAC members and the Deputy Director-General of the Central Bank of Myanmar handed over the foodstuffs do-

nated by the self-administered zones and K4,218,700 donated by the CBM Governor, deputy governors and officials to storm victims. On behalf of the households affected by the disaster, the chairman and officials of

the Lewe Township Administration Body received the supplies, and a resident of the Mocha-hit village gave a word of thanks.

After that, SAC members and officials greeted the people affected by Cyclone Mocha and

gave words of encouragement.

A sum of K4.2187 million and rice and edible oil worth K9.2 million were given to 255 households affected by the disaster. — Tun Tun Win (IPRD)/CT



Union Legal Affairs Minister receives Chinese Ambassador

THE Union Minister for Legal Affairs Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo received Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr

Chen Hai at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union minister mentioned her

attendance of the 59th Asia-Africa Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) held in Hong Kong at the invitation of Mr Wang Yi,

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. She highlighted matters in connexion with the discussion in support of the theme: "Upholding International Law for A Community of Shared Future: The Role of Asian and African Countries" proposed by China at the AALCO conference, preparations being made to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the China-ASEAN Legal Research Centre and the Ministry of Legal Affairs, the cooperation in the field of legislative research in accord with the MoU, the cultivation of legal talents and legal consulting services, the sending of law officers from the Ministry of Legal Affairs to China for capacity strengthening training, the learning of legal matters and gaining international expe-

riences for the students who go on study tours, and discussion between China and Myanmar to host the China-ASEAN Prosecutors-General Conference in Myanmar. She also expressed her special thanks for China's support and assistance to Myanmar.

Afterwards, expressing his sympathy to the local people who were affected by Mocha, Ambassador Mr Chen Hai said that China will provide aid in the rehabilitation works, assist in signing the MoU with the Ministry of Legal Affairs, and further cooperation in legislation, judicial and law enforcement matters. He finally discussed the resumption of the implementation of the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone deep-sea port project in the near future. — MNA/TS



Union Legal Affairs Minister Dr Thida Oo holds talks with Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

81 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 24 May, total figure registers 638,301

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to **638,301** after **81** new cases were reported on 24 May 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

Therefore, a total of **10,596,195** laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached **638,301**.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **617,264** including **169** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered **19,494** on 24-5-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. COVID-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health. — GNLM

MoI Union Minister attends second-day session of 18th Asia Media Summit



MYANMAR delegation led by Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn attended the second-day session of the 18th Asia Media Summit in Indonesia yesterday.

The experts discussed Creating a Sustainable Media Ecosystem, Media Amplifying Global Economic Recovery Efforts, Youth Special Session: Getting Media Active, Talking about AI - Future of Media and CEO Table Talk - The Next Step Forward under the topic of Media Enhancing Economic Sustainability.

Then, the Union minister did an interview with TVRI (Televisi Republik Indonesia) and highlighted the current media

The Televisi Republik Indonesia-TVRI interviews with Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn at the summit yesterday.

sector of Myanmar, threats of disinformation/fake news and cooperation with international media industries.

The Union minister also attended the ministerial meeting on the release of the Bali Declaration 2023 and openly discussed the proper suggestions to work together with regional governments and broadcasting industries, use of social network media conscientiously, responsibility and accountability of founders of social network media together with other information ministers, heads of broadcasting industries, officials of ASEAN Secretary-General Office and AIBD Secretary-General Office.

The closing ceremony of the 18th Asia Media Summit was held in the evening and the officials read the outcomes of the summit for respective sectors. Then, they released the Bali Declaration 2023 on regional

cooperation in combating misinformation/disinformation on social network media.

Then, officials had a documentary photo taken together and concluded the event successfully.

Moreover, the Union minister presented gifts to the ministers, heads of AIBD, ASEAN and TVRI and cordially greeted them.

The Bali Declaration 2023 released at the 8th Asia Media Summit includes regional cooperation with AIBD in combating the dangers of misinformation, fake news and disinformation using social network media like deep cooperation for accountability of social media and check and balance between the founders of social network media and stakeholders to control the one-sided news coverage that is likely to breach and curb the press freedom under the relevant law. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar-China economic expo pre-dinner held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Myanmar-China (Lancang) Economic Expo will take place from 25 to 28 May at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw and the dinner was held at Horizon Lake View Hotel yesterday, the eve of the expo.

Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister U Win Shein, Union Ministers U Aung Naing Oo, Dr Kan Zaw, U Ko Ko Hlaing, U Min Naung, U Hla Moe, U Khin Maung Ye, Dr Charlie Than and Jeng Phang Naw Taung, the minister of economic affairs of the Shan State government, the chairman of the Kokang Self-Administered Zone Administration Body, the deputy ministers, the

mayor of Lancang City, departmental officials from both countries, business associations and businessmen attended the meeting.

Then, Union Commerce Minister U Aung Naing Oo gave a welcome speech and the mayor of Lancang City returned the words of thanks.

During the dinner, Myanmar and Chinese artistes performed dances, and the Union Minister and the mayor of Lancang City honoured the artistes. About 300 businessmen from Myanmar and China were present at the dinner, and businesspersons of the two countries discussed business cooperation. — MNA/KZWH



The dinner for the Myanmar-China (Lancang) Economic Expo that will be held from 25 to 28 May in Myanmar, in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

51st Asian Clearing Union-ACU BODs meeting held

GOVERNOR of the Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Than Than Swe, together with Vice-Governor U Zaw Myint Naing and Director-General Daw Khaing Shwe Wah, virtually attended the 51st Asian Clearing Union-ACU Board of Directors Meeting held in Teheran, Iran, yesterday afternoon.

Attendees at the meeting were the representatives from ACU member countries — In-

dia, Pakistan, Iran, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan and Maldives. In addition, representatives from Russia, Afghanistan, Belarus and the Islamic Development Bank attended the meeting as observers.

During the meeting, the attendees made mutual discussions on the economic development and future prospects of each member state, the ACU's

undertakings and accomplishments in the 2021-2022 financial year, the cross-border payments and further development of central bank digital currency innovations which are recommended by ACU Expert Committee, the implementation of local currency payments between the ACU countries, ensuring and strengthening of the ACU system. — MNA/MKKS



CBM Governor Daw Than Than Swe and the vice-governor join the 51st ACU Board of Directors Meeting virtually.

Handover ceremony of humanitarian aid and relief items donated by Thailand to those affected by Mocha in Myanmar held



The picture shows the arrival of humanitarian aid and relief items donated by the Thai King and Queen, Thai Government, Thai-Myanmar Friendship Association, Thai associations and Thai private sectors.

TWO C-130 Royal Thai Airforce Aircraft carrying emergency aids and relief items including shelter tents and tarpaulin sheets, portable solar cell lamps, survival bags, impregnated mosquito nets, canned fish and instant noodles donated by King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua and Her Majesty Queen Suthida Bajrasudhimalalakshana, the Royal Thai Government, Thai Red Cross

Society, Thai-Myanmar Association for Friendship, Thai private sector and the People of Thailand for those affected by Cyclone Mocha in Myanmar, landed at the Yangon Airport on 23 May.

The emergency aid and relief items were handed over by Mr Mongkol Visitstump, Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar to U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs. The handover ceremony was attended by U

Aung Win Thein, Minister of Social Affairs of the Yangon Region government, responsible officials from the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Around 20 tonnes of humanitarian assistance donated by the King and Queen of Thailand as well as various sectors from Thailand will be reportedly distributed to those affected by Cyclone Mocha.— MNA

IDPs in Myitkyina Tsp return to their original places, other IDP camps

THE Kachin State government provided foodstuffs and arranged vehicles for 125 IDPs of 25 households from Jan Mai Kawng, Pa La Na St John Sat and Nan Kwae Sein Yaw Han IDP camps in Myitkyina township to return to their original places or other IDP camps on 22 May.

In addition, the officials closed the Aungmingala IDP camp in Sinbo, Myitkyina township, because 15 IDPs of three households from that camp had moved to the Roman Catholic IDP camp in Aungmingala ward by their own arrangements.— Zaw Win Htun/MKKS



The photo shows IDP return to their homes in Myitkyina on 22 May.

Political parties allowed to be established continue applying for registration

THOSE who want to establish a political party are applying to the Union Election Commission by stating the name of the party they want to establish.

To date, 13 groups have applied for the right to establish a party. Among the groups that applied, the National Interest Development Party was found to comply with the Political Parties Registration Law and regulations, and the commission approved the application for the establishment of a political party yesterday.

The National Interest Development Party which has the right to establish a party, must apply for registration as a political party to the Commission under Rule 7 of the Registration of Political Parties within 30 days from the date of approval.

Six political parties have been allowed to be established, and the Union Election Commission is processing the verification.— MNA/KZL

Public Notice for Submitting Objection

1. Under Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law, Democratic Forces Labour Party, with its headquarters located at No 12, 85th Street, between 33rd and 34th Street, Aungnan (West) Ward, Malunsayoe Ward, Mandalay Region, submitted to the Union Election Commission on 23-5-2023 that the party's name, flag and emblem will be used as described below.
2. Therefore, those who want to object to the mentioned party name, flag and emblem that will be used by the Democratic Forces Labour Party, can object to the Union Election Commission with valid evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement. It is announced to the public under Rule 14 (d) of the Registration of Political Parties.— MNA/KZL



Flag of Democratic Forces Labour Party



Emblem of Democratic Forces Labour Party

Union Election Commission

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

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

OPINION

ARTICLE WEATHER REPORT

Manage mitigation of disaster impacts for better lives of people

NATURAL disasters terribly hamper duties and obligations that human society must do, leaving casualties of human beings and losses and damage to the property of the people, their businesses and environmental situations.

Any natural disaster leaves losses and damage in society because living beings including human beings do not have the capacity to defiance against natural disasters yet. Naturally, human beings are very weak in comparison with the impacts of any natural disasters. Hence, human beings are affordable to minimize losses and damage in the outbreak of natural disasters.

That is why human beings try hard to prevent natural disasters under proper management so as to ensure disaster risk reduction with preparedness, and responses including rescue and relief measures, rehabilitation, reconstruction and resettlement for the natural disaster-hit people.

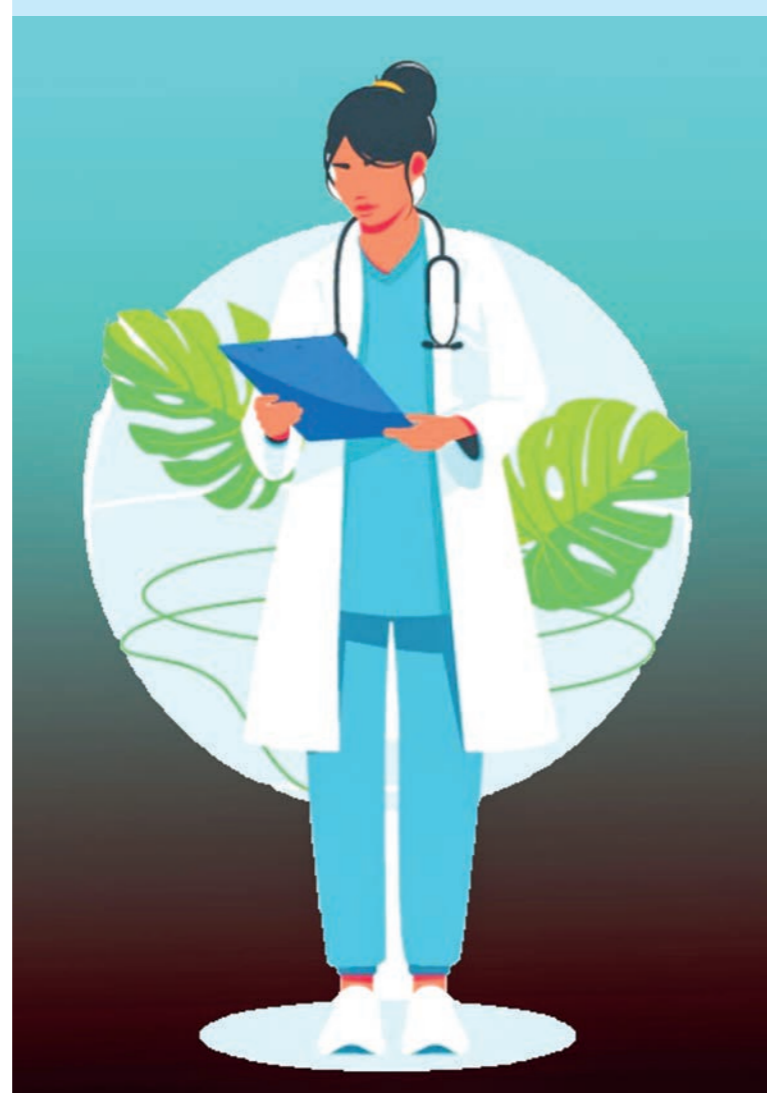
In responding to natural disasters, it is necessary to resume healthcare services, electrification, supply of drinking water, clearing of debris and sanitation of waste, transport and communications halted in impacts of natural disasters. Only when these essential services cannot be resumed in time will the impacts of natural disasters worsen the health, social and economic networks of the people from the disaster-prone areas.

Practically, these natural disasters can bear terribly long-term impacts on society even though immediate losses

and damage have lessened. It is very noticeable for all responsible persons in managing the response programmes to natural disasters. The disaster management measures must be better and better in defying the disasters under complete programmes with the attraction to well-wishers and voluntary bodies.

Whenever natural disasters hit any country or any region, various countries especially neighbouring countries and wealthy countries give a helping hand to the disaster-hit countries regardless of powerful or small ones with humanitarian aid. It is a lovely spirit of global countries. At that time, they did not hold up discrimination and hate speech. Even though they are facing crises, they do not delay making donations for the victims. Although they are different from religions, they have genuine white souls for making sacrifices for all.

Natural disaster management cannot ignore the united strength of the people. Such strength of the people is very reliable in remedying the sufferings of the people triggered by the impacts of natural disasters. Utilizing public participation, all the governments need to manage better lives of disaster-affected people to be able to reunite with society. As such, everybody needs not forget a Myanmar saying which goes: Unity is strength.



Patience, Empathy and Care

By Yin Nwe Ko

dation studies have also recognized the impact empathy has on improving health outcomes and its significance in patient care.

Empathy is defined as, "The ability to understand and share the feelings of another." It is the capacity to put one's self in another's shoes and feel what that person is going through and share their emotions and feelings. It is the recognition and validation of a patient's fear, anxiety, pain, and worry. It is the ability to understand patients' feelings and facilitate a more accurate diagnosis and more caring treatment. Expressing patient empathy indeed advances humanism in healthcare – as a matter of fact — expressing empathy in healthcare is THE KEY INGREDIENT to enhancing the patient experience and patient encounter.

Both empathy and compassion in healthcare play vital roles in the patient experience and are key components of the physician-patient relationship. When a patient arrives to see their healthcare provider, the patient's medical condition — whether it is a severe illness or injury, a chronic condition, or simply a routine check-up — will often manifest emotions such as

anxiety, fear, and apprehension. Patients want to know they are receiving the very best care, and that is conveyed when their care team is empathetic and compassionate.

Empathy extends far beyond a patient's medical history, signs, and symptoms. It is more than a clinical diagnosis and treatment. Empathy encompasses a connection and an understanding that includes the mind, body, and soul. Expressing empathy is highly effective and powerful, which builds patient trust, calms anxiety, and improves health outcomes. Research has shown empathy and compassion to be associated with better adherence to medications, decreased malpractice cases, fewer mistakes, and increased patient satisfaction. Expressing empathy, one patient at a time advances humanism in healthcare.

When I first watched the video (The link is below the article), I was reminded, and blown-away, by the notion that the smallest expressions of empathy make huge lasting impressions. Check out the Cleveland Clinic's, Delos "Toby" Cosgrove, MD, President and CEO, as he and his team demonstrate some special moments that exemplify the power

of empathy in healthcare. The video has become a viral sensation, with 4,437,714 views on YouTube, as of this writing. It may be viewed via the link below this article: -

In addition, have you ever sat in a hospital bed and had the assembled doctors talk about you as though you didn't exist? Or a doctor comes up to your bed, looks at your chart, and walks off without saying a word? Or the GP never looks up from their computer screen when they talk to you? If so, then you're not alone. Research into patients' opinions of healthcare has shown that this is all too common, with around a quarter of patients reporting these kinds of experiences. This behaviour makes patients feel belittled and undervalued and is important because it gets to the very root of how patients evaluate the quality of care that they receive.

While doctors like to focus on treatment outcomes, this is not how the general public tends to assess whether or not their doctor is any good. Research from around the world has consistently shown that it doesn't matter which country you live in or how your healthcare is delivered, most patients evaluate their experiences on how polite and empathetic the doctor was, not on the actual quality of med-

icine practised.

My mum, for example, recently started losing her sight. Understandably she was very worried. She went for an urgent appointment with an eye specialist at her local NHS (National Health Service in the UK) hospital. When I telephoned her that evening to see how it went, she replied: "Oh yes, it was wonderful. They were all so lovely and kind." Could she now see? No. Had they been able to treat it? No. In fact, the clinic was running late and she'd had to wait for an hour to see the nurse, and three hours to see the consultant.

Now, from a medical perspective, the consultation clearly hadn't been a success. While they'd ruled out emergency causes for her sight loss, they hadn't really gotten to the bottom of the problem at all. She was now back at home, still unable to see properly and with no idea if she was going to go permanently blind. But that didn't matter. What mattered to her was that a nurse had met her at the door and helped her to her seat. Someone had apologized when the clinic was overrunning and made all the patients wait for a cup of tea.

One of the nurses offered to get my mum a sandwich when lunch came. The consultant touched her knee and listened

to her as she explained what had happened. They'd asked about how the loss of sight had impacted her life and the clinic nurse had asked to see photographs of my new nephew. A junior doctor had understood that the thing my mum was most worried about was that, as an avid reader, she wouldn't be able to read a book again. My mum had been touched by her kind attempts to reassure her. She felt she had received good care simply because the doctors and nurses had listened to her.

Equally, how many times, when asking how things went at the doctor's, have you heard the reply, "Oh, it was awful, he was really rude." Not, "Oh, it was awful, he prescribed the wrong medication, or gave me the wrong treatment." Patients

don't evaluate the actual medicine that's practised; it's the communication skills of the doctor that determine how they evaluate the care. This is important because if doctors listened to their patients, then overnight people's experience of the NHS would improve. That means we can improve the NHS without spending a single penny.

Although it is right money can create almost all things, no one can deny patience, and empathy of medical men are indispensable.

Reference:

1. Reader's Digest UK Aug 2022
2. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDDWvj_q-08

WHAT does it mean to advance humanism in healthcare? According to Arnold P Gold Foundation advancing humanism in healthcare is characterized as, "A respectful and compassionate relationship between physicians, members of the healthcare team, and their patients." A recent article published on 26 January 2019, in Modern Healthcare talks

about the importance of having all members of the healthcare team constantly educated regarding how to utilize patient-communication-best-practices to ensure the best outcomes. This title says it all, "Physician empathy a key driver of patient satisfaction". This article points out that 65 per cent of patient satisfaction was attributed to physician empathy. Additional Gold Found-

Researchers find how liver cells control biological clock

Until today, it was considered that synchronization of the circadian cycle in mammals was a one-way process in which the suprachiasmatic nuclei alone synchronized the peripheral clocks.

TO control their activity according to the time of day, organisms rely on a biological clock known as the 'circadian' clock. A central clock, made up of a collection of brain cells known as suprachiasmatic nuclei (SCN), synchronises the circadian clocks found in all of the body's organs, known as 'peripheral' clocks.

Until today, it was considered that synchronization of the circadian cycle in mammals was a one-way process in which the

suprachiasmatic nuclei alone synchronized the peripheral clocks.

However, researchers from CNRS, Universite Paris Cite1, and the University of Queensland have recently demonstrated that the liver regulates peripheral clocks as part of a collaborative EU effort.

Teams tested a chimeric mouse model with a liver containing human hepatocytes and discovered that the normally nocturnal animals' daily cycle had advanced by two hours.

The mice became active and began feeding two hours before nightfall, thus becoming partly diurnal. The researchers believe this shift comes from the mice's central clock being taken over by the human liver cells in this chimeric animal model.

These cells can thus affect the entire rhythmic physiology of the animals, including the clocks of the peripheral organs.

Findings suggested that a change in liver clock — for ex-

ample in pathological condition such as cirrhosis — could affect the synchronisation function of the central clock.

This in turn could affect the entire circadian physiology, including the sleep/wake cycle, and contribute to the development of metabolic disease.

It also suggests that restoring disrupted liver biological rhythm could benefit the entire body metabolism.

SOURCE: ANI



Organisms have a special clock inside their bodies that helps them know when to do certain activities. This clock is called the circadian clock and it is made up of brain cells called suprachiasmatic nuclei. These cells work together to tell the body's organs when it's time to do something. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/APP/FILE**



SPECIAL FEATURE CONDITION No 1/2023

Issued at 4:00 pm MST on 24- 5-2023

According to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, due to the Easterly waves, the development of convective clouds and the remanent of clouds from typhoon "Mawar" over the Philippine Sea, rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayah, Kayin, Mon States with the likelihood of regionally and isolated heavy falls with strong winds from (28.5.2023) to (30.5.2023).

Squalls with rough seas are likely at times in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. — Department of Meteorology and Hydrology

Condition of El Nino in June 2023

Issued at 22-05-2023

(a) The Sea Surface Temperature (SST) over the Tropical Pacific Ocean near the Equator and atmosphere phenomena is weak condition. According to the Numerical Weather prediction models of the International Meteorological Agency, it is forecast to reach weak to moderate El Nino conditions in June.

(b) Although the El Nino condition occurs in the Pacific Ocean, the effect of El Nino may cause generally irregular rainfall patterns, rising temperatures and irregular storm formation.

(c) El Nino's Condition will be updated in time.— Department of Meteorology and Hydrology

Senior military officers oversee rehabilitation processes in respective Mocha-hit areas

THE State Administration Council has released announcements declaring natural disaster-affected regions under Section 11 of the Natural Disaster Management Law and assigned duties to senior military officers in these regions.

Lt-Gen Aye Win from the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army) who arrived in Buthidaung Township to carry out rehabilitation processes inspected the destroyed schools, healthcare services of mobile medical teams and water distribution processes, and provided foodstuffs yesterday.

Similarly, Lt-Gen Min Nang from the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army) who arrived in Haka of Chin State also provided foodstuffs and CI sheets to the 82 households, the victims of Cyclone Mocha together with State Chief Minister Dr Wong Hsun Htan, Deputy Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Myo Htut Hlaing and departmental officials.

Moreover, Maj-Gen Aung Myo Tun from the Office of Com-

mander-in-Chief (Army) who arrived in Rathedaung Township also checked the cleanup activities of fallen trees and power line maintenance together with the officials.

Meanwhile, Brig-Gen Zaw Min Aye from the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army) who arrived in Yanbye Township oversaw the destroyed schools, libraries, religious buildings and departmental buildings and provided cash assistance, and made proper instructions.

Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Soe from the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army) who arrived in Myebon Township also observed the damage to religious buildings and made cash donations. Moreover, he comforted the patients at the township People's hospital and provided eggs and noodles to them.

Brig-Gen Khin Zaw who arrived in Minbya Township of MraukU District oversaw the cleanup activities of refuse teams at U Ottama Park and No 2 BEHS. Then, he inspected the



Lt-General Aye Win inspects the rehabilitation work at the school in Buthidaung Township yesterday.

work competition conducted by disaster management working committees at the township General Administration Department and healthcare services of the mobile health unit in the compound of Zeya Thukha Pariyatti

Monastery.

Moreover, Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Oo who arrived in Manaung Township of MraukU District also made inspection tours to the destroyed traditional medicine department, township weather

station, court, stadium and stage together with relevant officials. At that time, Brig-Gen Win Ko Ko who arrived in Tiddim Township of Chin State also provided relief items to the storm victims for the second time. — MNA/KTZH

Foodstuffs sold at fair prices to people in Mocha-hit Sittway



The photo shows foodstuffs being sold to Sittway residents at reasonable prices yesterday.

MEMBERS of the local battalions under the Western Command and officials are selling foodstuffs at low prices for the convenience of residents and departmental staff affected by Cyclone Mocha in Sittway, and to be able to buy the food they want at a fair price.

Foodstuffs including rice, edible oil, meat, fish, egg, dairy products, vegetables, onions, garlic, and products of Tatmadaw including instant noodles, biscuits, and canned food were sold at lower prices than the ordinary market at U Ottama Park, Sittway

Township.

The local people and the families of the departmental staff enjoyed buying foodstuffs and are very grateful to officials for selling them at low prices during the difficult time. — MNA/KZL

On-site inspection made for price-check at construction material stores

CHAIRMAN of the Rakhine State Basic Foodstuff Price Supervisory Committee State Economic Affairs Minister U San Shwe Maung made an on-site inspection yesterday morning at construction material stores in Sittway to check whether materials are sold at reasonable prices.

The inspection team met the owners of the stores to verify the prices of materials and viewed the statistics of sold items after the inspection. They also made

the owners sign a pledge not to increase the prices of the goods during times of difficulties due to the storm.

Afterwards, the minister and party met merchants and entrepreneurs in Sittway to discuss the expansion of the Rakhine State Basic Foodstuff Price Supervisory Committee, speeding up the flow of goods, and setting reasonable prices for basic foodstuffs. — Tin Tun (IPRD)/CT



An on-site price-check is underway at the construction materials store yesterday.

Tatmadaw (Navy) transports supplies to people in Mocha-hit Rakhine State

RELIEF materials and foodstuffs for the people affected by natural disasters in Rakhine State are being delivered daily by Tatmadaw aircraft, helicopters and vessels.

A 29-metre landing craft from the Tatmadaw (Navy) carrying 45 tonnes of relief items docked at the Sittway harbour and left for Rathedaung yesterday afternoon.

Similarly, another 29-metre landing craft from Tatmadaw (Navy) carrying 42 tonnes of supplies including foodstuffs and construction materials docked at Mingan Port and transported them to Rath-

edaung.

Next, the third 29-metre landing craft from Tatmadaw (Navy) transported rescue teams, and construction items including one wheel loader and three excavators totalling 30 tonnes to Sittway via Angumaw port.

Likewise, a supply vessel named Pyitawaye III carrying 696 tonnes of rehabilitation materials transported them to Sittway via Yangon.

The relief items have been properly handed over to officials and will soon be distributed to the people affected by the storm. —MNA/KZL



The Tatmadaw vessel carrying relief goods is seen transporting them to Rakhine State.

Tatmadaw (Air) continues transporting foodstuffs, relief items to Rakhine State



Relief goods are loaded aboard the Tatmadaw plane to transport them to Rakhine State.

THE relief materials and food items contributed by the families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and well-wishers and relief supplies provided by the National Disaster Management Committee for local communities affected by the natural disaster in Rakhine State are being transported by Tatmadaw aircraft, helicopters and vessels.

Donated building materials and clothes from donors were

transported from Nay Pyi Taw Airport to Kalay Airport one time by Tatmadaw plane.

Medical equipment and supplies, clothes, personal goods, food, and rescue equipment were also transported from Mingaladon Airport to Sittway Airport three times by Tatmadaw plane.

Officials in the respective areas received relief supplies and will distribute them to storm victims. — MNA/KZL

Above 1.3 mln students admitted on first day of enrolment

ACCORDING to the Basic Education Department, there were 1,343,037 school enrolments nationwide on 23 May, which is the beginning of the school enrolment week for the 2023–2024 academic year.

In terms of school enrolment by region and state, Ayeyawady Region had the highest number with 297,174 students, followed by Yangon

Region with 183,172 students, 171,018 in Mandalay Region, 154,122 in Bago Region, 128,415 in Magway Region, and 107,482 in Shan State.

In addition, a total of 78,494 students were enrolled in Nay Pyi Taw, 37,929 in Sagaing Region, 37,197 in Kachin State, 5,729 in Kayah State, 6,741 in Chin State, 63,165 in Mon State, and 35,725 in Rakhine State. Ac-

cording to the statistics of the Department of Basic Education, there are 1,069,847 primary school enrollees, 207,335 middle school enrollees, and 65,855 high school enrollees.

Enrolment is underway in basic education schools in various regions and states, and stationery and school uniforms for students are being provided. — TWA/CT



School enrolments are in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Cash assistance provided to drill five wells in five villages

PRESIDING Abbot Chen Zhang from the Lincoln monastery in Beijing, China, donated cash for drilling five wells in five villages at a ceremony held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development in Nay Pyi Taw.

The ceremony was attended

by Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe, the permanent secretary, the directors-general, the deputy directors-general and donors led by Mr Liu Wei and officials.

First, Mr Wei, head of the donor team, donated cash as-

sistance for five villages in Bago and Magway regions to drill wells, to build water tanks and solar-powered water pumps.

Union Minister U Hla Moe received the cash assistance, expressed words of thanks and gave the certificate of honour to the Abbot. — MNA/MKKS



The provision of cash assistance to drill wells is underway, attended by Union Minister U Hla Moe.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar manufacturing sector attracts \$3.7 mln in April

MYANMAR'S manufacturing sector drew over US\$3.7 million in April 2023, including capital expansion by the existing enterprises, as per the statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

One enterprise listed from China put a foreign direct investment of \$2 million in the manufacturing sector in April.

Myanmar attracted foreign direct investments of \$1.64 billion from 87 enterprises last financial year 2022-2023 (April-March). The majority of the investments were brought into the manufacturing sector, drawing \$271.8 million from 64 enterprises. The agriculture sector drew \$3.5 million from two projects. The power sector received \$820.27 million from 11 projects, while one enterprise put \$29 million in the real estate sector and five other foreign enterprises made an investment of \$504 million in the service



The office of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration-DICA in Yangon.

sector respectively. The hotels and tourism sector attracted \$2.8 million with two projects. The mining sector received \$7 million from one project. Additionally, the livestock and fisheries sector attracted one enterprise with over \$2 million

in investments.

The manufacturing enterprises and businesses that need a large labour force are prioritized to create job opportunities for the local community. Manufacturing of fertilizer, cement, iron and steel, value-added

foodstuff, electric vehicle and pharmaceutical and medical devices, agriculture and livestock farming and related industries and public transportation services will be prioritized for investment. The commission welcomes both foreign direct

investment and domestic investments made by Myanmar citizens in those sectors. Myanmar Investment Commission and the related ministries will also ensure investment facilitation.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in garment and textiles produced on the Cutting, Making, and Packaging basis, and it contributes to the country's GDP to a certain extent.

There are active 541 factories operated under Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association. The majority of them are from China, followed by Myanmar and the Republic of Korea.

Myanmar has drawn foreign direct investment of more than \$647.127 million from 49 enterprises in the past mini-budget period (October 2021-March 2022). Of them, 40 foreign enterprises put investments in the manufacturing sector, pumping an estimated capital of \$202.667 million. — KK

Declining palm oil wholesale reference price for Yangon Region persists



A vendor organizes the edible oil for sale at the grocery in Yangon.

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market for the week ending 28 May indicated a sharp drop of K255 per viss compared to that of the previous week, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The reference price was set at K4,420 per viss from 15 to 21 May. For the week ending 28 May, the price was set lower at K4,165 per viss.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and

Indonesia including transport costs, tariffs and banking services, and issuing the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil every week.

Regardless of the reference price, the current market price is too high at over K6,000-7,000 per viss.

If those edible oil retailers and wholesalers are found overcharging, storing inventory intentionally and attempting unscrupulous action to manipulate the market, they will face legal action under the Essential Supplies and Service Act, MoC released a statement.

The Ministry of Commerce is striving for consumers not to worry over the supply of edible oil. The ministry is also trying to secure edible oil sufficiency, supervise the market to offer reasonable prices to consumers and maintain price stability.

At present, mobile market trucks operated by oil importing companies, in coordination with Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, were back to business in some townships on 17 July 2022 to offer palm oil at a subsidized rate. They offer palm oil at a fairer price to the consumers directly depending on the reference price. However, there are limited sources of supply although they directly sell the palm oil at reference rate depending on the volume quota.

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the oil sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/EMM

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 24 May 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,005
Octane 95	K2,095
Diesel	K1,925
Premium Diesel	K2,005

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,327,900 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K3,024,000 per tical

US Dollar Vs Kyat

A US dollar set by the Central Bank of Myanmar	K2,100
A US dollar in the forex market	K2,865 to K2,880

The above prices may change from time to time.

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Honda to supply Aston Martin engines from 2026

HIGH-FLYING Aston Martin will be powered by Honda engines from 2026 in what the Formula One team says is “the last piece of the jigsaw”.

This represents a return to F1 for Honda, who left in 2021 but retain links with Red Bull and AlphaTauri.

The tie up, announced on Wednesday, comes in the run-up to this weekend’s Monaco Grand Prix with Aston Martin a surprise second to world champions Red Bull in the constructors’ standings.

That lofty position is in no small part down to Fernando Alonso, the two-time former champion who has made the podium in four of this season’s five races as he revels in his switch from Alpine.

Hailing the Honda link-up, Martin Whitmarsh, Group CEO of Aston Martin Performance Technologies, said: “Our future works partnership with Honda is one of the last parts of the jigsaw puzzle slotting into place for Aston Martin’s ambitious plans in Formula



Aston Martin and Honda are joining forces to make a high-speed car for a racing competition. **PHOTO: AFP**

One.”

Aston will continue to be powered by Mercedes power units until 2026 when there is a sizeable shift in F1’s technical landscape.

“One of the key reasons for our decision to take up the new challenge in F1 is that the world’s pinnacle form of racing is striving to become a sustainable racing series, which is in line with the direction Honda is aiming towards carbon neutrality,” said Honda CEO Toshihiro Mibe. — AFP

Lawsuits pile up over Credit Suisse bonds write-down

SWITZERLAND’S justice authorities said Tuesday that 230 complaints had been filed over a decision by financial regulators to cut the value of high-risk Credit Suisse bonds to zero, to facilitate the stricken bank’s takeover by UBS.

Switzerland’s biggest bank bought out its rival for \$3.25 billion on 19 March, under strong pressure from the regulators FINMA, the government and the central bank, to prevent Credit Suisse from collapsing.

FINMA required that 16 billion Swiss francs (\$17.9 billion) of so-called additional tier 1 (AT1) bonds be rendered worthless in the mega-merger.

The order infuriated bondholders, who are typically better protected than shareholders.

Investors challenged the decision. “The Federal Administrative Court has received approximately 230 appeals, involving roughly 2,500 appellants, against FINMA’s ruling of 19 March 2023, regarding the write-down of the AT1 instruments,” the court said in a statement.—AFP

EU battles in court to overturn Apple tax bill ruling



The EU alleged that Apple parked untaxed revenue earned in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and India in Ireland, which is a European hub for US-based big tech. **PHOTO: PHILIPPE HUGUEN/ AFP**

APPLE and Brussels butted heads in a top EU court on Tuesday as the bloc battled to overturn a ruling against its whopping 13-billion euro order on the iPhone-maker to pay Ireland in back taxes. The landmark case remains one

of the most bitter between the European Commission and a big tech firm, dating back to 2016 when the EU’s executive arm accused Ireland of allowing Apple to escape 13 billion euros (\$14 billion) in taxes between 2003 and 2014. — AFP

S Korean experts begin 2-day inspection of Fukushima nuclear plant

SOUTH Korean experts began a two-day inspection of the disaster-hit Fukushima nuclear power complex Tuesday in connection with Japan’s plan to discharge into the sea treated water from the plant containing low concentrations of radioactive substances.

The 21 experts in fields such as radiation and nuclear reactors intend to share the outcome of their inspection with the South Korean public amid concern about the potential impact of the discharge on the ocean environment.

On the first day of the

inspection, the delegation observed an advanced liquid processing system set up at the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant and confirmed its function — how it removes radionuclides other than tritium.

The experts also

inspected facilities to measure concentrations of tritium, water tanks and the control room, among others, according to delegation chief Yoo Guk Hee, chairman of the Nuclear Safety and Security Commission.— Kyodo



Photo taken on 19 January 2023, shows tanks storing treated radioactive water on the premises of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Fukushima Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SEOUL GLOW VOY.NO. (318W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SEOUL GLOW VOY.NO. (318W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-5-2023** 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

Transferring Registered Pesticides

Registered pesticides distributing by **Myanmar Golden Byter Co.,Ltd** in the territory of Myanmar for the product as following are transferring from **Thinkagro Co.,Ltd** former producer to **Anhui Byter Agriculture Technology Co.,Ltd** as per mutual consent from both parties. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within (14) days.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1	Super-Difen 250 EC	Difenoconazole 250g/l EC	P2018-4195
2	Super-Thia 25% WDG	Thiamethoxam 25% WDG	P2018-4064
3	Super-Ema 5% WDG	Emamectin Benzoate 5% WDG	P2018-4065

Myanmar Golden Byter Co.,Ltd.

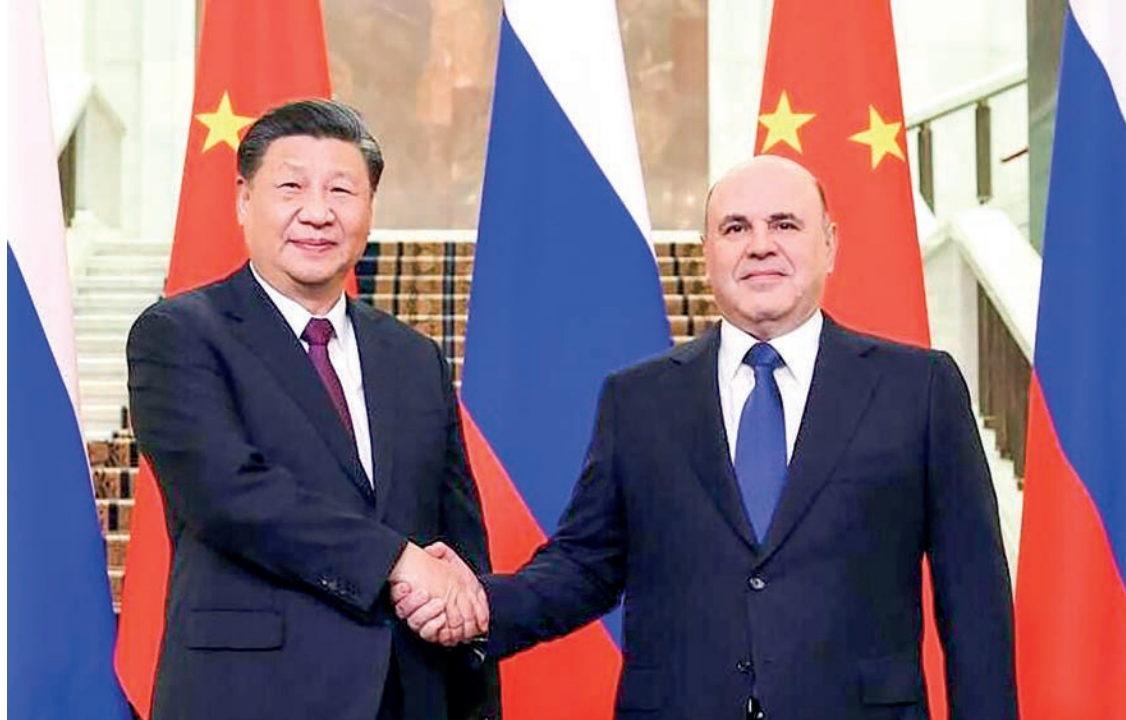
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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

China's Xi offers Russia 'firm support' in 'core interests'



CHINESE President Xi Jinping offered Beijing's support on Moscow's "core interests" at a meeting with Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin on 24 May.

China and Russia have in recent years ramped up economic and diplomatic cooperation, growing even closer since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine despite Beijing's insistence that it is neutral in that conflict.

Mishustin's trip this week is the highest-level visit by a Russian official to China since last

year's invasion of Ukraine. Xi told Mishustin China and Russia would continue to offer each other "firm support on issues concerning each other's core interests and strengthen collaboration in multilateral arenas," according to a readout by the official Xinhua news agency. China and Russia should "push cooperation in various fields to a higher level," he said, and "raise the level of economic, trade and investment cooperation." Mishustin also met with Premier Li Qiang on 24 May, saying that "relations between Russia and China are at an unprecedented high level" following a grand welcoming ceremony outside Beijing's Great Hall of the People.— AFP

Chinese President Xi Jinping (left) meets Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin in Moscow, Russia, 21 March 2023.
PHOTO: XINHUA

India PM says 'separatists' must not harm Australia ties

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi warned Wednesday that "separatist elements" should not be allowed to hurt India-Australia relations, after he was lavished with a rockstar welcome in Sydney.

Lured by the world's most populous market and the promise of a counterweight to a rising China, Australia has batted away questions about India's treatment of opponents and

minorities, suggesting they are domestic issues.

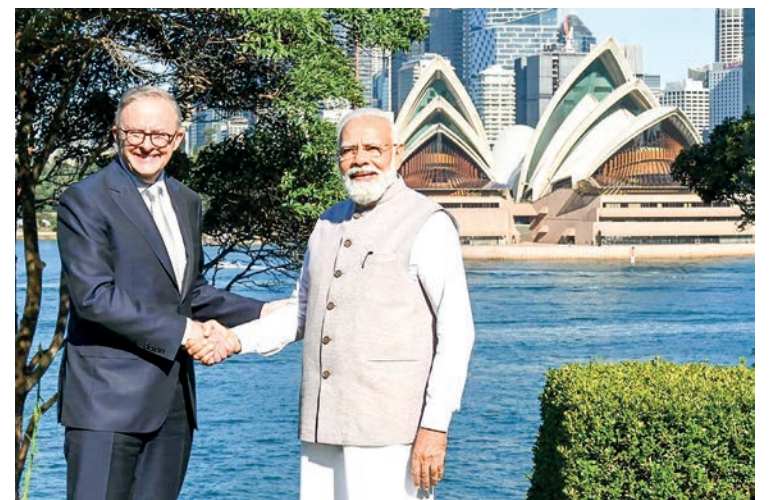
Modi appeared to have no such qualms.

The Indian leader hit out at recent "attacks" on Hindu temples in Australia — vandalism allegedly committed by Sikh separatists — after his summit with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese at Admiralty House on Sydney Harbour.

"We will not accept any el-

ements that harm the friendly and warm ties between India and Australia by their actions or thoughts," Modi told reporters, saying the pair had discussed "activities of separatist elements" in the past.

"Prime Minister Albanese has once again assured me today that he will take strict actions against such elements in the future," Modi said according to an official translator.— AFP



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (right) shakes hands with Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in front of the Sydney Opera House at Admiralty House in Sydney on 24 May 2023
PHOTO: AFP

Denmark joins EU military cooperation as it drops historic opt-out

IN a historic milestone, Denmark has ended its 30-year-long opt-out on EU's military collaboration and joined the Permanent Structured Cooperation programme, also known as PESCO. This is a result of a referendum held in June 2022, in which Danes voted in favour of joining the EU's common security and defence policy and contributing to the bloc's military missions and operations. To complete this shift, Denmark also joined the European Defence Agency. According to Denmark's acting Defence Minister Troels Lund Poulsen, with this move, Denmark has become a full member of the EU's joint defence policy. "Now we have

cleared all obstacles from the table in relation to being able to cooperate on the EU's defence

dimension. So it's a really good day for Denmark," Poulsen told local media.— SPUTNIK



Soldiers carry the Danish flag (Dannebrog) as they parade through the city of Aalborg, Denmark, during the Flag Day for Denmark's emissaries, on 5 September 2021. **PHOTO: HENNING BAGGER/RITZAU SCANPIX/AFP/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sri Lanka navy finds 14 bodies in capsized Chinese boat

SRI Lanka's navy said Wednesday it had located 14 bodies inside a Chinese fishing boat that had capsized last week with 39 crew on board.

The discovery came a day after a preliminary Chinese government probe concluded there were no survivors.

The Lu Peng Yuan Yu 028 overturned on 16 May, with 17 Chinese, 17 Indonesians and five Filipinos on board within Australia's vast search-and-rescue region, 5,000 kilometres (2,700 nautical miles) west of Perth.

The Sri Lankan navy said its divers had recovered two bodies and spotted 12 more on Tuesday, releasing photos showing the upturned red hull of the vessel and bodies being hauled out of the water.

"Due to decomposition and the potential health hazards posed by operating in contaminated waters with limited protective gear, it was determined that retrieving those bodies would be exceedingly dangerous," the navy said in a statement.— AFP

South Korea to launch homegrown rocket for third test



Nuri was transferred and erected at the launch pad on Tuesday. PHOTO: YONHAP

SOUTH Korea was set to launch its homegrown Nuri rocket Wednesday and try to put a working satellite into orbit — potentially a key development for the country's burgeoning space programme.

This is the third launch of Nuri, following a failed first attempt and a successful second mission last year, but during those tests the rocket carried payloads mainly designed for verifying the performance of the launch vehicle.

This time, the rocket will be topped with eight working satellites, including an actual "commercial-grade satellite", according to the country's science ministry.

The three-stage rocket, more than 47 metres (155 feet) long

and weighing 200 tonnes, will be launched from the Naro Space Centre in the country's southern coastal region at 18:24 local time (0924 GMT).

Nuri was transferred and erected at the launch pad on 23 May.

"The third launch is aimed at putting a domestically developed satellite with observation missions into the target orbit," Ko Jeong-hwan, director of the Nuri rocket project at the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI), told reporters.

The 179.9-kilogramme NEXTSat 2, developed by the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), is the first and main payload that will be placed in orbit at an altitude of 550 kilometres, KARI said.— AFP

Greek president taps judge to lead interim government

A senior Greek judge, Ioannis Sarmas, will be formally asked Wednesday to lead an interim government tasked with organizing a second national election by late June, the presidency announced.

"President Katerina Sakellariopoulou will receive... Ioannis Sarmas to charge him with forming a government and organizing elections," it said in a statement.

Outgoing Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis has called for a fresh election as early as 25 June after securing his party's biggest electoral triumph in years, but five seats short of being able to produce a single-party government. The announcement about Sarmas, 66, comes three days after Mitsotakis's conservative New Democracy party secured a 20-point lead over its nearest contender, Syriza, led by leftist Alexis Tsipras, at national elections on Sunday.

It was the Greek conservatives' best result since 2007, crediting the party with bringing economic stability back to a nation once known as an EU laggard. Mitsotakis, 55, on Monday told Sakellariopoulou that he could not form a coalition and called for elections "possibly on June 25". — AFP



Senior Greek judge Ioannis Sarmas will serve as prime minister until a government declared in the second election. PHOTO: THEODORE MANOLOPOULOS / GREEK PRESIDENCY OFFICE/AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINE

Drone attacks overnight in Russian border region: governor

A Russian official in the southern Belgorod region bordering Ukraine said Wednesday that the territory was targeted by numerous drones overnight, following an armed incursion into the territory from Ukraine.

"The night was not entirely calm. There were a large number of drone attacks. Air defence systems handled most of them," governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said in a post on social media.

"The most important thing is that there are no casualties," he added.

The statement came a day after Moscow announced it had deployed jets and artillery to destroy the armed group that penetrated its border from Ukraine and the Kremlin ordered its military to prevent any repeat attack.

Members of two anti-Kremlin groups, the Freedom of Russia Legion and the Russian Volunteer Corps, claimed responsibility while Kyiv denied official Ukrainian involvement.

The border region of Belgorod has been targeted by attacks since the beginning of Russia's invasion of Ukraine but the days-long skirmish was the most significant since Russian began large-scale hostilities in Ukraine last year.

Gladkov said the drone barrage overnight had damaged several private homes, offices and vehicles but that the full extent of the damage was still being assessed.—AFP

Court rejects case opposing restart of Miyagi Pref nuclear plant

A Japanese court on 24 May rejected local residents' calls to halt the restart of a nuclear reactor in northeastern Japan, ruling their concerns about flaws in emergency evacuation plans are not relevant as it cannot be assumed a serious accident is likely.

The Sendai District Court ruling came as Tohoku Electric Power Co aims to resume operations at the No 2 unit of the Onagawa plant in Miyagi Prefecture in February 2024, becoming the first in the area hit by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami to restart.

"It cannot be assumed that a specific danger of an accident exists that leads to the abnormal release of radioactive materials," said Presiding Judge Mitsuhiro Saito.

Given the uncertainty over the potential danger, the judge also said there is no need to

take into account whether the evacuation plans are effective when handing down his decision.

The lawsuit was filed by 17 residents of the city of Ishinomaki. The plaintiffs argued the evacuation plans prepared by the city and prefectural gov-

ernments are insufficient.

If an evacuation order is issued following a nuclear accident, residents will be unable to escape a 30-kilometre radius of the plant for an extended period due to traffic congestion, posing a high risk of radiation exposure, they argued.—Kyodo

South Korea to launch homegrown rocket for third test
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SPORT

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

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance development based on agriculture and livestock using modern production techniques and to strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To assure support for the sustainability of Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) that prioritize import substitution, export production, and the use of domestically produced raw materials, in order to increase domestic production and generate employment opportunities.
- (d) To advance the socioeconomic life of the people, in order to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.

3. Social affairs

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

Drawing-lots ceremony for Team Myanmar's Asian Qualifiers to be held today

THE drawing-lots ceremony for the 2023 Asian Cup U-23 Qualifiers, in which the Myanmar team will compete, will be held today at 1:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time.

A total of 43 teams will compete in the qualifiers, divided into 11 groups.

Japan, Australia, Iran, Turkmenistan, and the UAE are placed in Pot1, while Myanmar is placed in Pot2 with Iran, Malaysia, Cambodia, Syria, India, and Singapore.

Laos is placed in Pot3 with Kyrgyzstan, Palestine, Yemen, Timor Leste, Chinese Taipei, Lebanon, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, China, Maldives, and Oman.

The Philippines is in Pot4 with Mongolia, Afghanistan, Brunei, North Korea, Guam, Macau, Pakistan, and Qatar.

Three ASEAN powerhouses Indonesia, Thailand, and Viet Nam are in Host Pot with Bahrain, Jordan, South Korea, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Uzbekistan.

Qatar, which will host the



Myanmar team footballers are seen celebrating their victory in the previous XXXII SEA Games. PHOTO: MFF

final stage of the 2024 AFC U-23 tournament, will compete in the qualifiers, but will not count towards qualifying.

The group matches of the qualifiers will be held from 4 to 12 September.

According to the qualifying format, the top 11 teams from the 11 groups plus the best four second-placed teams totalling 15 teams will qualify for the next

stage. The Myanmar team participated in the qualifiers in 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2022, but only succeeded in qualifying once in 2014.

Team Myanmar will use semifinalists of the XXXII SEA Games Men's Football Event and will be handled by Germany's Michael Feichtenbeiner as the head coach. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Eze the new face in England squad as Sterling misses out

CRYSTAL Palace's Eberechi Eze received his first call-up to the England squad on Wednesday as Raheem Sterling was omitted for Euro 2024 qualifiers against Malta and North Macedonia.

Brighton captain Lewis Dunk is rewarded for his fine season with a first call-up for four-and-a-half years.

Sterling, who has won 82 caps, has endured a difficult first season since joining Chelsea from Manchester City.

A representative for the forward said his absence was part of a mutual decision to allow him to focus on "recuperat-

ing his body in preparation for the upcoming season".

England are well on course to qualify for Euro 2024 in Germany after beating Italy and Ukraine in their opening Group C fixtures.

Gareth Southgate's men travel to Malta on June 16 before hosting North Macedonia at Old Trafford three days later.

Eze's performances have caught the eye, with six goals in eight games under Roy Hodgson, who returned to Selhurst Park as coach in March.

Dunk's only previous cap came against the United States in November 2018. — AFP

'Good' first season at Man Utd not enough for Ten Hag



Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag is close to securing a top-four Premier League finish in his first season. PHOTO: AFP

ERIK ten Hag said Manchester United must strive for more even though his team look set to clinch a place in next season's Champions League. United need just one point from their final two Premier League games against Chelsea and Fulham to secure a top-four finish after a season

out of Europe's elite club competition. Ten Hag also ended the club's six-year wait for a trophy in his first season in charge by lifting the League Cup in February.

The Dutchman could even end his debut campaign in England with two trophies as United

face local rivals Manchester City in the FA Cup final.

But Ten Hag insisted the Red Devils' targets must be even higher next season as they seek to rekindle former glories.

"We are in a project, we want to go back and win trophies," Ten Hag said at his pre-match press conference ahead of Chelsea's visit to Old Trafford on Thursday. "We win one trophy but we want more trophies, (to) compete with the best. We are still in a journey, we think we are in the right direction but it can always be better because good is not good enough."

United's goal-shy attack has missed the firepower of Marcus Rashford for the past two games, but the England international is likely to return against Chelsea.—AFP