

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunday, 28 May 2023

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.

Technologies and skills of human resources can contribute to booming the State economy: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presides over the meeting 2/2023 of the Central Committee on Development of MSME Businesses in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 May 2023.

THE central committee has to assist in initiating the digital economy for MSME businesses in applying digital technology, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 2/2023 of the Central Committee on Development of MSME Businesses at the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion,

the Senior General, who is also Chairman of the Central Committee, said that requirement of foreign exchange depends on a large import volume. The products which can be manufactured at home should not be imported. Likewise, although there are many exportable products, the export volume should not be lesser due to weakness in manufacturing. Hence, MSME is encouraged with the purposes of enhance-

So, it is necessary to primarily encourage MSME businesses to use domestic materials. If so, these businesses will create employment opportunities which contribute to raising productivity and increasing the incomes of the State.

ment of manufacturing as well as the local economy, substitution of import goods and increase of export goods. So, it is necessary to primarily encourage MSME businesses to use domestic materials. If so, these businesses will create employment opportunities which contribute to raising productivity and increasing the incomes of the State.

SEE PAGE-3

Pyin Oo Lwin
NAN MYAING
Pure Arabica Coffee

Sales Department- Ph-085 2021740, 09 30529111
 STARMART Nine Mile Showroom- (9)mile, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph-09 30860180
 KHA YAE PIN MART - Mingaladone, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph- 09 671443555
 STARMART MANDALAY Wholesale -Corner of 26th st and 66th st , Mandalay.Ph-09 661702244
 STARMART Nay Pyi Taw Yangon- Mandalay Highway Road, Ywar Gauk Ward, Pynmanar.Ph- 09 685119077

MTTN



The ceremony to receive cash donations by traders and organizations from Myanmar (Nay Pyi Taw)-China (Lancang) Trade Fair in progress yesterday.

Cash donation ceremony for Mocha-affected areas held

A ceremony of cash donations by well-wishers for Mocha-affected areas was held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In the event, merchants and organizations from Myanmar and China who are participating in Myanmar (Nay Pyi Taw)-China (Lancang) Trade Fair (25-28 May) in Nay Pyi Taw donated K30 million to

Mocha-hit areas and Permanent Secretary U Min Min of the Ministry of Commerce accepted the donations.

Afterwards, the permanent secretary returned the certificate of appreciation to the merchants from the two countries and viewed round the booths at the Trade Fair. The Myanmar (Nay Pyi Taw)-China (Lancang) Trade Fair is thronged with visitors. — MNA/MKKS

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

1. AN announcement has been issued that well-wishers wishing to make donations for people who fell victim to the extremely severe cyclonic storm Mocha which hit Myanmar on 14-5-2023 can donate cash to Myanmar account OA-011834 and foreign account 1DA-0300086.
2. In this announcement, it is duly mentioned that our commitment to receiving donations extends to additional electronic payment systems and mobile payment systems. Further updates and notifications will be made in due course.
3. It has been announced that donations can be made to the previously announced phone number and to the account that was opened, and since it can be confusing to donate with a phone number, we have already made it possible to donate with a QR code instead of the phone

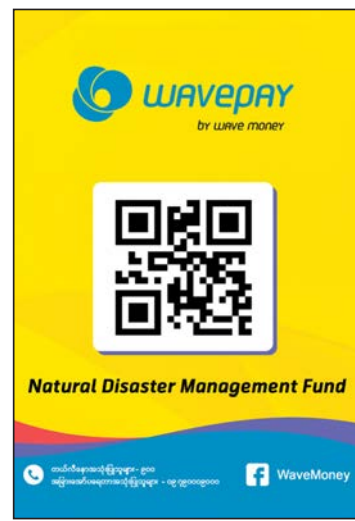
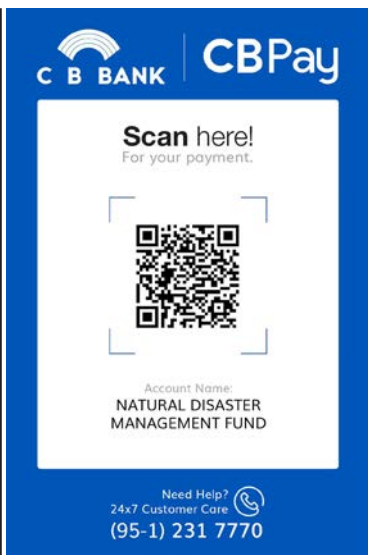
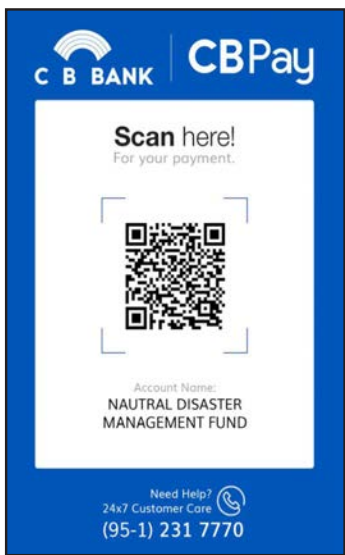
4. Donations can be made through KBZ Pay or Wave Money. If you wish to donate, please scan the QR codes

provided by both KBZ Pay and Wave Money. To contribute, enter the code included within the respective QR codes.

5. People make donations through CB Pay, AYA Pay 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		

Country's current situation – only our internal affairs

IN democracy, Hluttaw is the highest political stage. Ethnic groups for their part must represent the Hluttaw on a larger scale in the political stage. The current situation in the country is only our internal affairs. The forthcoming election is just our nation's election, not a world election. It is just necessary to ensure that the election will be free and fair for our citizens.

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the SAC meeting 2/2023 on 23 February 2023)

Technologies and skills of human resources can contribute to booming the State economy: Senior General

FROM PAGE-1

In the electricity sector, governments in successive eras have approved electric power projects but revoked and suspended some of them for various reasons. As such, the Senior General called for bravely implementing short-term, medium-term and long-term plans for electrification.

The Senior General underscored that it is necessary to emphasize collection between MSME businesses and heavy industries to invite foreign investment. If foreign investment can be invited to manufacturing, agriculture and livestock, textile and garment industries, it can generate jobs for local people to raise per-capita income.

The Senior General stressed that region and state chief ministers have to invite ethnic businesspersons to operate manufacturing industries in livestock breeding zones and industrial zones.

To improve MSME businesses, an economic environment must be created by reducing hindrances to initiating new businesses, smoothening the flow of capital, strengthening awareness and entrepreneurship and joining the international supply chain to speed up the information network and information distribution.

The Senior General pointed out that the central committee has to assist in initiating the digital economy for MSME businesses by applying digital

technology.

Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win explained the formation of the central committee and work committees and undertaking for the development of MSME businesses.

Secretary Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than reported on accomplishments for minutes of previous meetings and future plans.

Central Committee member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister U Win Shein, Union ministers, chief ministers of regions and states, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, the governor of Central Bank of Myanmar and officials report-

ed on undertakings of relevant ministries and organizations for booming MSME businesses and future plans.

After hearing the reports, the Senior General highlighted the encouragement to MSME businesses, firmness of land policies, formation of manufacturing cooperative societies, systematic management of natural resources, betterment of communication system, implementation of the public transport system, and concerted efforts of relevant ministries, region and state governments and partner organizations for encouraging domestic production.

In his speech, the Senior General said that region and state governments have to

secure success in operating businesses suitable for their regions. Relevant governments need to decide the operation of manufacturing in regions and states with the use of domestic raw materials. Human resources must be combined with production technologies. Technologies and skills of human resources can contribute to booming the State economy. The Senior General stressed the need to control the correct ways and means for loans. The Senior General urged authorities of regions and states to generate electricity by using bio-gasifiers and solar systems on their own programmes while the government is implementing the electrification projects. — MNA/TTA

SAC member meets teachers, locals in Hopan Township

STATE Administration Council Member U Yan Kyaw accompanied by Chairman of Wa Self-Administered Division Administration Body U Nyi Nap met residents and teachers at Basic Education High School of Kaungkaw village in Hopan township yesterday morning.

During the meeting, the member of SAC spoke to the parents of the students to let their sons and daughters learn education. Only when they are educated can they benefit the community and raise the standard of living. The school enrolment rate also should not be

less than the previous year.

Then, he met locals, teachers and school board of trustees at Basic Education Primary School in Manmaing ward. In the meeting, he exhorted them to ensure that school-age children remain enrolled in school and to foster the emergence of educated individuals in the community.

The SAC member and party arrived at the Basic Education Primary School in Yongon ward, where they assessed the school enrolment situation. — District (IPRD)/KZW



SAC Member U Yan Kyaw is pictured at the school in Hopan in the Wa Self-Administered Division yesterday.

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

DPM MoTC Union Minister makes inspections in Sittway



The photo shows the repair site to prevent saltwater in Sittway.

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San inspected the repaired maintenance work and cleanup activities along Sittway Strand Road in Rakhine State yesterday.

On arrival at Sittway Post Office, he oversaw the damage and repair of office buildings and made instructions to resume operations as usual.

At the Sittway Port, he supervised the loading processes of relief items onto Tatmadaw landing crafts.

At noon, the Deputy Prime Minister attended the coordina-

tion meeting held at the Rakhine State government office together with Western Command Commander Maj-Gen Htin Latt Oo.

During the meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister made proper instructions regarding the rapid rehabilitation processes.

Of 1,233 mobile stations of four telecom operators in Rakhine State, 904 stations failed due to Cyclone Mocha. Only 329 stations and the maintenance of underground and aboveground fibre cables, microwave links and mobile communication stations were conducted and 768 mobile stations (totalling 1,097

stations as 88.97 per cent) have been repaired and communication services have resumed in Rakhine State till 27 May.

In the event of Cyclone Mocha, 32 saltwater prevention embankments of the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department in Rakhine, Chanpyin embankment in Maungtaw, Kalaponkyunpet embankment in MraukU, Ngamanyekyun embankments 1 and 2 in Myebon township were eroded and broken.

There are 32,933 soil saddles in total to be repaired before the rainy season and heavy types of machinery are trans-



Deputy Prime Minister Admiral Tin Aung San inspects Sittway Port yesterday.



ported to the worksites in time where the repair was conducted on 21 May.

It completed 10,365 saddles on 27 May accounting for 31.47 per cent and the efforts are

made to complete on 3 June. If it completes before the rainy season, it can supply water to monsoon paddy fields of farmers in 14,225 acres of water protection areas. — MNA/KTZH

MoBA Union Minister views relief camps in Rakhine State

UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung who is also Chairman of the Rakhine State Stability and Development Coordination Committee, and Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing arrived at Hlaphoekhaung temporary relief camp in Maungtaw via Sittway yesterday to check preparations for rehabilitations.

They went to the Ngakhuya relief camp and coordinated the immigration and healthcare processes.

Then, they visited the Taungpyoletwel relief camp and checked the online and offline

connection of data servers for the personal information of the IDPs, and provided foodstuffs to the staff who are working for the camp.

Afterwards, they arrived at Women's Domestic Vocational Training School in Maungtaw and looked around the training courses and provided cash awards to the trainers and trainees.

Next, they went to the Border Region Ethnic Youth Development Training School and inspected the classrooms, dormitory, and mess rooms and met the students. — MNA/KZL



Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung is seen inspecting relief camps in Maungtaw yesterday.

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Myanmar delegation arrives back from 11th International Meeting of High-Ranking Officials Responsible for Security Matters

THE Myanmar delegation led by State Administration Council Member Union Minister at Union Government Office National Security Adviser Lt-Gen Yar Pyae arrived back at Yangon International Airport yesterday morning after attending the 11th International Meeting of High-Ranking Officials Responsible for Security Matters held in the Russian Federation from 23 to 25 May.

The Myanmar delegation attended the 3rd ASEAN-Russia Consultations of the High Representatives for Security Issues at 7 pm MST on 23 May. During the meeting, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae discussed strategic peace, tranquillity and its impacts on the security of Asia-Pacific regions including arms control and prevention, information exchange regarding political and security issues of Asia-Pacific regions amid the growing tension among powerful countries and potential responses

to conventional and non-conventional security challenges.

Moreover, the Union minister and party attended the opening ceremony of the plenary meeting of the 11th International Meeting of High-Ranking Officials Responsible for Security Matters on 24 May. The senior officials discussed the general issues, new opportunities and challenges and global food security.

Moreover, he held bilateral meetings with the leader of the Thai delegation Deputy-Secretary General of the Thai Security Council Mr Ruchakorn Napapornpipat, Secretary of Russia Security Council Mr Nikolay Patrushev, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee Secretary of the Central Secretariat and Secretary of the Central Political and Legal Committee Mr Chen Wenqing separately on that day and exchanged views on Myanmar-Thai, Myanmar-Russia and Myanmar-China rela-



SAC Member Union Minister National Security Adviser Lt-Gen Yar Pyae holds talks with Mr Nikolay Patrushev, Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation.

tionships and progress in peace processes of Myanmar.

He then attended the dinner hosted by Russian Security Council Secretary Mr Nikolay Patrushev together with the representatives from 103 countries and six international organizations in the evening.

He also conducted the bilateral meeting with the leader of the Indian delegation Deputy National Security Adviser Mr Rajinder Khanna at 8:30 am MST on 25 May and exchanged views on Myanmar-India friendship, peace and stability along the Myanmar-India border and progresses in the peace processes of Myanmar.

At 10 am MST, the plenary meeting of the 11th International

Meeting of High-Ranking Officials Responsible for Security Matters was held under the topic of global food security.

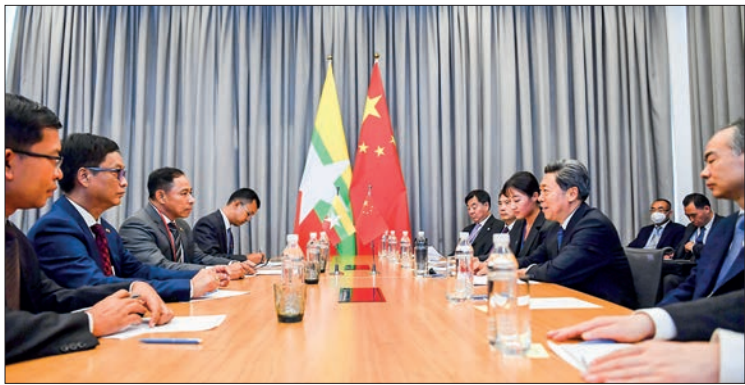
During the meeting, the Union Minister highlighted the impacts of sanctions on global food security, work market status, free trade, the need to prevent bullying of big countries, the geographical location of Myanmar in the Indo-Pacific region in solving the conventional and non-conventional security challenges, many opportunities for economic growth in the country, efforts of government and cooperation with partner countries in world peace, tranquillity and food security.

Similarly, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar Police Force Maj-Gen Zin

Min Htet met Deputy Home Affairs Minister of Russia Mr I N Zubov at 10 am MST on 25 May and discussed cooperation work in combatting drug cases.

At noon, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar Police Force Maj-Gen Zin Min Htet also participated in the roundtable discussion on international cooperation against illegal drug trade.

Then, State Administration Council Member Union Minister at Union Government Office National Security Adviser Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and party attended the closing ceremony of the 11th International Meeting of High-Ranking Officials Responsible for Security Matters on the same evening. — MNA/KTZH



Lt-Gen Yar Pyae meets the Chinese delegation.

Myanmar (Nay Pyi Taw)- China (Lancang) Trade Fair thronged with visitors on third day



Entrepreneur Ma May Zaw Khaing

THE third day of Myanmar (Nay Pyi Taw)-China (Lancang) Trade Fair held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw was packed with business people, departmental staff and people yesterday.

At the event, various jewellery items, house decoration furniture, bags, Rakhine traditional wears of Nay Pyi Taw Pon Yeik Thit Wood Laster Engraving, Cutting and Souvenir Shop, garments of Moe Thiri Garment & Distribution and various furniture were exhibited.

The souvenir, products, cosmetics and foodstuffs shops of the Kokang Ethnic Entrepreneurs Association were also crowded with visitors.

Moreover, the booths of the Myanmar side also showcased Wah Lah instant noodles, Happy Coffee, KFC fried chicken and drinks, other snacks made of marine products and local foodstuffs and products of regions and states and cosmetics of Mistine Myanmar.

The Mandalay Region government also sold land plots at special prices and the Myanmar New Power Motorcycle Co Ltd sold various types of motorcycles.

Ma May Zaw Khine, an official of Danu Mel Coffee and Food Industry from Ywangan of Shan State (South) said, "I exhibit the products of Ywangan of southern Shan State at the event. The main

products of the Ywangan area are coffee, macadamia, sweet granadilla, green tea and chia seeds. Now, the Ywangan products are exported to the US, Japan and European countries. We also try to make large volumes of export as our coffee is a high-quality product. The main intention of exhibiting at the event is that we want to export to China. In the

past, our coffee was not exported to China. Now, we receive an offer to export quality coffee from Ywangan to China. The main products that we want to export to China are coffee, macadamia, sweet granadilla, green tea and chia seeds.

"We grow the Danu Mel coffee and also buy from coffee farmers. It aims to make income

for coffee farmers and expand the quality coffee market. I want the people to consume local products including products of Ywangan in addition to quality coffee at fairer prices," she elaborated.

The Chinese booths showcased electronic materials, washing machines, soft drinks, traditional alcohol, LED bulbs and lights, solar-related materials, inverters, batteries, EV chargers and other items. Moreover, Henan Feibo Vehicle Industry Co Ltd introduced about K12 million worth of Boma-X9 EVs and K6.5 million worth of Boma-X5 EVs at the event. The Myanmar (Nay Pyi Taw)-China (Lancang) Trade Fair will be organized from 25 to 28 May. Myanmar merchants can visit the event and discuss or exchange experiences with suitable companies. — Aye Aye Thant/KTZH



Visitors throng in the Myanmar (Nay Pyi Taw)-China (Lancang) Trade Fair yesterday. PHOTO: KYAW YE SWE

MoI Union Minister arrives back after attending 18th Asia Media Summit



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn is seen on his arrival back at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn who attended the 18th Asia Media Summit in

Indonesia arrived back in Yangon by Singapore Airlines yesterday and was welcomed back by Yangon Region Advocate-General U

Htay Aung, officials of the Information Ministry and Myanmar Motion Picture Organizations at Yangon International Airport.

The Union minister and party then arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw on the same evening.

The 18th Asia Media Summit was co-chaired by AIBD and TVRI from 23 to 25 May and it released the Bali Declaration regarding the agreement on regional cooperation in combatting the spreading of fake news and misinformation through social media, which was the discussion point by the Union minister.

The Bali Declaration 2023 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, regional encouragement on accountabilities and responsibilities of social network media founders and stakehold-

ers regarding wrong, misleading and false information and the 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.

Moreover, the Myanmar delegation also distributed English-language books such as voting fraud and findings in 2020 Multiparty General Election issued by the Union Election Commission and the terrorist attacks, killings, destructive elements of terrorist organizations and arresting between February 2021 and January 2023 for the summit and memory sticks bearing features of these books to attendees to know the real situation of Myanmar. — MNA/KTZH

Illegal teak, foodstuffs, industrial materials and vehicles confiscated

A special inspection team seized four Dong Feng prime mover heads (estimated value of 100 million) and four trailers (approximately K40 million), three prime mover heads (estimated value of K75 million) and three trailers (approximately K30 million) and a Dong Feng prime mover vehicle (estimated value of K20 million) that carried illegal goods at the Muse 105th-mile border trade zone on 23 May. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

A combined team captured two kinds of shrimp (worth K3,279,870) including 366 kilograms of sea white shrimp

without official documents that were piled up on the side of the road in Muyaung village on 24 May. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

In addition, a combined team led by the District Forest Department captured a total of 13.051 tonnes of illegal teak (worth K5,922,576) in Toungoo district on 26 May. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 17 arrests (estimated value of K274,202,446) were made on 23, 24 and 26 May, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS



25-5-2023

Officials check confiscated illegal teak.

Second meeting held to organize concert in support of Mocha storm victims



The second meeting to raise funds for disaster victims in progress at the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization office yesterday.

THE second meeting was held to conduct a fundraising concert in support of the people affected by the Mocha storm at the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization in Wingaba Street in Bahan Township yesterday afternoon.

Advocate-general of Yangon Region U Htay Aung, the chairman and members from Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, officials from

Film, Music, Theatrical and Comedian associations and guests attended the meeting.

First, the advocate-general said that the regional government will support the needs of the people affected by natural disasters. Afterwards, U Kyi Soe Tun, Chairman of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, expressed thank to all the organizations that contributed

to the collective donations. During the fundraising event, the remaining books from the Myanmar Film Centenary event will be sold and the proceeds will be donated.

Finally, members of the Movie, Music, Theatrical, and Comedian Associations discussed the ticket sales, security measures, and the handling of donations and materials. — MNA/KZW

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

TATMADAW (Navy) is distributing the necessary relief materials, foodstuffs, rehabilitation materials, and rescue teams to various places with navy ships for the storm-affected people in Rakhine State.

A 56-metre landing craft from the Tatmadaw (Navy) carrying relief items and foodstuffs totalling 194.5 tonnes docked at Essar Jetty, Sittway and transported them to Rathedaung yesterday.

Another 56-metre landing craft from the Tatmadaw (Navy) transported rehabilitation materials, and foods totalling 70.5 tonnes to Myebon Port via Sittway.

Similarly, a 29-metre land-

ing craft from Tatmadaw (Navy) carrying Tatmadaw members and firefighters totalling 186 persons transported them to Yechanpyin via Rathedaung Port.

Likewise, the naval vessel Myitkyina transported relief items donated by Myanmar Police Force, South-West Command, Yangon Command, Ministry of Electric Power, Myanmar Economic Corporation, Ministry of Health, Yangon Region RTAD, Directorate of Military Engineers, and Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare totalling 455 tonnes to Sittway via Yangon. The relief materials transported by the navy vessels will be handed over to officials in an



Relief supplies are being unloaded from the Tatmadaw landing craft on its arrival in Sittway yesterday.

orderly manner, and distributed to the people affected by the storm effectively.

Afterwards, the aid and relief task forces went to schools and people's homes that were

damaged by the storm and carried out relief works. —MNA/KZL

Tatmadaw senior officers oversee rehabilitation efforts in Mocha-hit Rakhine State



Senior military officers and officials inspect collective cleanup activities in Manaung.

THE State Administration Council has issued announcements on the areas affected by Cyclone Mocha as natural disaster areas under Section 11 of the Disaster Management Law and assigned senior military officers to carry out restoration work in the areas of these announcements. Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Soe,

who has arrived in Myebon Township, MraukU District along with officials, inspected the volunteering works of local battalions and department staff on the Kaladan 6 vessel belonging to the Inland Water Transport carrying rice and food items sent by the Rakhine State government, Disaster Recovery Commit-

tee and donors. Similarly, Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Oo, currently in Manaung, and officials viewed collective clean-up activities in front of the Basic Education High School and mosquito disinfectant spraying measures in classrooms to prevent dengue fever. — MNA/KZL

Tatmadaw (Air) continues transporting foodstuffs, relief items 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.

Foodstuffs, medical accessories, rehabilitation accessories, and solar lamps donated by the families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) were transported from Nay Pyi Taw Airport to Sittway Airport one

time by Tatmadaw plane. Tatmadaw members, police force, relief teams, departmental officials, rice bags, edible oil barrels, electrolyte salts packs, purified water bottles, medicines, LED solar bulbs and foodstuffs were also transported from Mingaladon Airport to Sittway Airport six times by Tatmadaw plane. The Yangon Region chief minister and officials checked the donations and donated food and cash. Officials in the respective areas received relief supplies and will distribute them to storm victims. — MNA/KZW



Combined relief task forces are seen embarking the Tatmadaw aircraft.

73 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 27 May, total figure registers 638,564

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to 638,564 after 73 new cases were reported on 27 May 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of 10,617,829 laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 638,564. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 617,547 including 92 new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered 19,494 on 27-5-2023 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

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OPINION

ARTICLE BOOKRACK

Take severe action against those who commit illegal trade

AS THE government imports basic personal goods from foreign countries to meet the local demand, it is necessary to strive for manufacturing the same products for domestic consumption as well as exporting the surplus to foreign markets.

Every manufacturing industry needs raw materials. If such materials cannot arrive in the market in time, finished goods production industries will face disadvantages, causing high prices for products. At the same time, basic personal goods at cheap prices from other countries will flow into the domestic market through illegal ways and means, harming the standing of SME businesses in Myanmar.

That is why it is necessary to effectively eradicate illegal trade in continuity. As part of conducting faster examining the cargo trucks along the trade routes, officials from checkpoints and posts have to apply QR codes and E-lock systems in examining the products and whether they were imported illegally or not.

Authorities need to effectively take action against those who repeatedly committed illegal trade measures. Moreover, severe action must be taken against those who did not stop committing offences in illegal trade, under the Customs Law and other related laws. Such an action must be punishment for those offenders not to dare commit more offences due to the deterrent action.

In the past, authorities seized restricted goods in illegal trade and smuggled goods but allowed the owners to pay these items in ransom money. Currently, such a way will not be an effective action for offenders. In taking severe action, if authorities arrest

smuggled commodity owners and vehicle owners who intentionally commit illegal trade again, they have to close companies and confiscate vehicles. Moreover, those owners have to sign the assurance not to commit illegal trade again.

On the other hand, people should not purchase and consume smuggled products as a national duty. Even if domestic products are expensive, they have to use them as encouraging the domestic industries in order to give a helping hand to MSME businesses for their long-term standing. Only when MSME businesses boom at home, the prices of products manufactured at home will decline for a long time.

Now is the time for all citizens of Myanmar to understand the legal and illegal trade process which benefits the whole nation and the people. Domestic manufacturing industries based on legal trade are based on the encouragement of the people for their booming economy as well as for the booming State economy so as to alleviate poverty in all walks of life.



Ahead of World No Tobacco Day on Wednesday, the WHO said it had teamed up with other United Nations agencies to support farmers wishing to convert from growing tobacco to growing food **PHOTO: JEKESAI NJIKIZANA / AFP/FILE**

WHO backs farmers to grow food instead of tobacco

THE World Health Organization said Friday it was helping a growing number of farmers turn away from tobacco to help strengthen food security, particularly in Africa.

Ahead of World No Tobacco Day on Wednesday, the WHO said it had teamed up with other United Nations agencies to support farmers wishing to convert from growing tobacco to growing food.

The scheme's pilot in Kenya has proved successful and now the UN wants to export it to other countries and continents.

"A record of 349 million people face acute food insecurity and that is up from 135 million in 2019," Ruediger Krech, the WHO's director for health promotion, told reporters in Geneva.

"Then we have 124 countries which grow tobacco as a cash crop, covering an estimated 3.2 million hectares of land. Approximately 200,000 hectares of land are cleared every year for tobacco crop growing."

Beyond its effects on the health of smokers and farmers, tobacco growing poses a problem for food security, according to the WHO.

The UN health agency is concerned that tobacco companies are gaining an increasing foothold in Africa, with a rise of nearly 20 per cent in tobacco plantations across the continent since 2005.

"It is often said that tobacco farming would be so important for economic growth. This is a myth that we urgently need to dispel," said Krech. He said it only accounts for more than one per cent of gross domestic product in five countries: Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and North Macedonia.

"So the profits go to the global tobacco companies."

Dependency 'trap'

The WHO accuses the tobacco industry of trapping farmers in a "cycle of dependency", giving them little control over product prices and quality.

"They're trapped. They need to repay the debt before they can discontinue the work for big tobacco," said Krech.

Three UN agencies — the WHO, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Food Programme — have set up a credit programme to help farmers pay

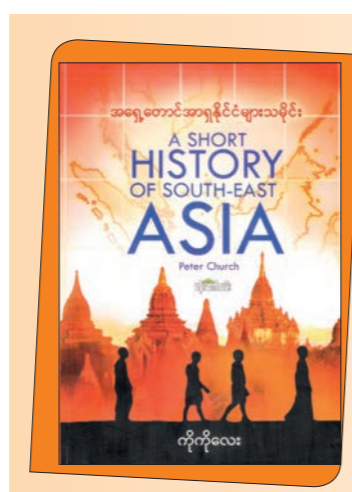
off their tobacco industry debts and change their crop.

The scheme was launched in Migori county in southwest Kenya, where 2,040 farmers have been helped in the first year.

"We were really positively surprised to see so much interest," said Krech. "But they saw that this is a viable alternative," making triple the profits.

"They have already shifted to growing high iron beans. This moving away from growing also meant that children can go to school instead of growing tobacco.

SOURCE: AFP



Book Title - Ahshay Taung Asia Naing-Ngan Myar Thamaing (A Short History of South-East Asia by Peter Church)

Translator - Ko Ko Lay

Publishing House - Panhsetlan

Publication Date - May 2023 (1st Edition)

Price - K8,000

Ahshay Taung Asia Naing-Ngan Myar Thamaing (A Short History of South-East Asia by Peter Church)

Peter Church, the writer of the book under review, said that he wrote this book as he was urged by Mr Lee Kwan Yu, who said that he should compile a book of the profiles of all ASEAN member nations.

The region of South-East Asia (SEA) is located in the southeast of Asia, to the South of China, to the East of India and to the North of Australia. And South-East Asia is divided into two parts – the mainland and the peninsula. The South-East Asia Peninsula or the Indo-China Peninsula is part of the South-East Asia Region. This region is located adjacent to Mainland Asia, to the East of India, to the South of China, to

the West of the Indian Ocean and to the East of the Pacific Ocean. The countries located on the mainland/peninsula are Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam while the countries located on the peninsula are: Brunei, East Timor, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore.

When people talk of nations, history and policy are generally the main topics to discuss. Nonetheless, there are certain people who prefer to talk about the institutions of the nations. Yet there is another topic, which requires a deep understanding, geopolitics. To develop the economy of a nation, the geography of that nation

is needed to be well aware. Likewise, it is also of vital importance to understand the geopolitics of the neighbouring nations as well as to be well aware of the associations or the regional groupings. To build up an ideology, the geopolitics of the neighbouring nations and also their geoeconomics must be understood. As geopolitics has become important, the following factors and facts must be known: how the people of a nation are distributed or spread; what their cultures are; what their natural resources are; the cultivable acreage; the production system and their products; their geographical conditions; their climates;

their river systems; whether they have the coastal areas or not, the delta areas or not or the deserts; their trade routes; and their forest and industrial raw materials. This book will be of great help for the readers to know the above-mentioned facts and factors. Only the salient points were stated in the book as the writer had to cover all 10 members and the observer status nation. The writer is found not to be biased in mentioning the historical facts. He is not subjective in his presentation. Regarding the history of Myanmar, he is found to have been honest. He touched on the history of Maung Pauk Kyaing fairly and squarely. However, he was rather straightforward in depicting Dabinshwehtee, the King of Hanthawady. He said the King was a drunkard, who died of drunkenness. And when he criticized the First Anglo-Burmese War, Peter Church was rather direct, attributing the Burmese defeat to its lack of international experience. He was honest in saying that the Burmese soldiers were rather proud and overconfident in themselves. This is the reason why they were defeated. Burmese failed to employ the diplomatic channel. Instead of making the negotiations, the Burmese were belligerent. This mentality had caused their defeat by the British.



Book Title - Conversations with Lee Kuan Yew

Translator - Do J San

Publishing House - Seikku Cho Cho

Publication Date - March 2023 (2nd Edition)

Price - K5,500

Lee Kuan Yew Hnit Zagar Samyi: Citizen Singapore: How to Build A Nation (Conversations with Lee Kuan Yew by Tom Plate)

Zakir Hussain, the political editor of the Strait Times, has provided his opinion on this book under review. This book is basically the transcripts of dialogues with Mr Lee Kuan Yew, who is a utilitarianist. He is known to be a Confucian, who believes in Wu-Lun (Five Relationships). His definition of Public Policy is the greatest good for the greatest number. His son Hsien Loong has become the Prime Minister of Singapore. Tom Plate concluded that Lee Kuan Yew can be characterized as 'Plato meets Machiavelli,' in that, he's searching for utopia on earth but also realistic enough to get things done.

The writer said Mr Lee has a brilliant insight into the personality of the people, that he was

rather open and candid, that he can provide guidance in many aspects with his experience as a veteran politician and that he has participated not only in the regional affairs but also in the global issues.

This book has 24 episodes. And the way of presentation is vibrant. In addition to the interviews with Mr Lee, Mr Plate has also included his own views. Additionally, the book includes remarks by international leaders and academicians and also the management science researchers. The remarks include those of Dr Henry Kissinger and ex-premier of Singapore Mr Goh. Not only their remarks but also those of John Major, the British Prime Minister (1990-1997), Dr Ma-

hathir, the Malaysian Prime Minister (1981-2003), an ex-Vietnamese Ambassador to the European Union, and Jimmy Carter, the President of the United States of America (1977-1981). They have all good opinions about Mr Lee Kuan Yew.

The original writer of this book is an American named Tom Plate. He has been a columnist with the Los Angeles Times since 1955. He has conducted four personal interviews with Mr Lee Kuan Yew before he wrote this book under review. And these interviews are exclusive. He said that the objective of his interviews is to find out how intelligent he is and how deeply he knows things in many aspects.

How Mr Lee is frank can be

seen in his conversation with Mr Ban Ki Moon. Once Mr Ban invited Mr Lee to a big lunch during which the former asked the latter whether Mr Goh will contest the United Nations Secretary-General position. Mr Lee replied that Mr Goh would not apply for the UNSG position because he was not cut out for a diplomat, who is required to exercise great restraint and show patience in doing the negotiations. He also said that Mr Goh is suitable for Singapore only.

This book will also be good for reporters who need to know how to conduct a good interview.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

JICA to loan K1.5 bln for farmers to purchase Agri equipment

A total of K1.5 billion will be earmarked and lent to farmers in 23 townships in Mandalay Region this financial year via a JICA (Two-Step Loan) to purchase and use agricultural implements, according to the Myanma Agricultural Development Bank Branch in Mandalay

Region.

A K70 million loan will be disbursed to each farmer at a cheaper interest rate this financial year to buy and use various types of farming machines and other agricultural equipment.

The government has further informed that K89.96 billion

will also be loaned this year to farmers who have paid back the loan which was lent in 2022. — TWA/MKKS

A farm worker is seen together with agricultural implements.



Nearly 200,000 seeds to be broadcast from hot-air balloons in PyinOoLwin

ALMOST 200,000 seeds and humus balls with seeds inside will be scattered across PyinOoLwin Township in Mandalay Region as part of the cultivation activity during the rainy season, according to the Green Challenge Association, a group formed by Pyin OoLwin residents who love the environment.

Taung village-tract, the precinct of the Lemyethna Pagoda, and Ward 10 in PyinOoLwin Township.

Each hot-air balloon will bear around 65,000 seeds, and it is reported that the seeds will be shot with catapults from the hot-air balloons.

Nature lovers can donate the seeds of all types of trees, plants, flowers, and seedlings and help mix the seeds with humus, according to the Green Challenge Association.

The scattering of seeds by using three hot-air balloons is planned to be carried out from 2 July to the end of September. It will be scattered around the Meethatkyaw Pagoda, Paypin village-tract on the Mandalay-Pyin OoLwin Road, Thantaung village, Pyinsa-Yeywa Road, Thasi Mountain, Sinphyuinn village, PanOo

The second scattering of seeds will be held on 2 August and the third will be held on 1 September in PyinOoLwin Township. — TWA/CT



The cultivation activity of the Green Challenge Association is shown in the picture.

MRCCI to hold Mandalay Green Energy Fair 2023



MANDALAY Region Chambers of Commerce & Industry-MRCCI and EV Myanmar Group will jointly organize the Mandalay Green Energy Fair 2023 in June to sell electronics including the latest battery electric vehicles (BEVs).

the various kinds of latest EVs and electric motorcycles, solar and electrical equipment.

The fair will be held from 8 am to 6 pm on 10 and 11 June at the Mandalay Convention Centre (MCC) hall. — TWA/MKKS

The exhibition will show

Matric exam 2023 results to be released in June

THE results of the 2023 matriculation exam will be released on 12 June, according to education officials.

The results will be announced at designated schools in respective townships, as well as at <https://www.myanmarexam.org/index.html>.

In addition, the results of examination centres in remote areas and no Internet coverage areas will be announced via the MRTV radio programme on the day of results are released, according to the Ministry of Education.



Students seen after the previous matriculation examination 2023.

A total of 161,850 students reportedly took all subjects of the 2023 matriculation examination. — TWA/MKKS

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

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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.

LOCAL BUSINESS

YGEA lowers gold reference price as spot gold price dips

THE spot gold price declined below US\$1,946 per ounce, prompting the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) to reduce the reference price to K2,292,600 per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme).

When spot gold price climbed to \$2,040 per ounce, the YGEA hiked the reference rate to above K2.4 million per tical in early May 2023.

Meanwhile, pure gold hovered at approximately K3 million per tical in the unofficial market.

Consequently, there is a large price difference of over K700,000 per tical between the YGEA's reference price and the price in the unofficial market.

YGEA calculated the price depending on the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference exchange rate of K2,100, with some addition, while the US dollar is exchanged

at K2,890 in the unauthorized forex market.

The US dollar exchange rate weighs on domestic gold prices. The YGEA requested sellers to make gold transactions below K2.9 million per tical on 27 April when the gap between the reference price and the market price is wide. Following the bankruptcy of the US bank, the gold price soared. Despite the gold gain in the global market, Myanmar's forex market sees no movement at all. Consequently, YGEA requested its members not to buy them competitively, tracking the upward trend in the gold spot price, as per YGEA's statement released on 20 March.

Afterwards, the YGEA called for the members to make gold transactions with only immediate payment and avoid verbal transactions over calls without having

any physical stocks.

The YGEA is not bound to have any responsibilities for market manipulation in the unofficial market. As a result of this, its members are asked to strictly adhere to the rules and regulations of the association while making gold transactions.

At present, the authorities concerned are attempting to deal with market abuse and inspecting and prosecuting market manipulation is being undertaken.

Moreover, the Central Bank of Myanmar will inspect those manipulators to interfere with market stability through digital platforms, according to the notification dated 20 March.

The soaring dollar exchange rate at over K4,500 drove the pure gold price up to a record-high of K3.7 million per tical in late August 2022.



Gold ornaments are seen at one gold outlet.

For the gold price to decline, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has been selling gold ingots under the competitive bidding system in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw.

With an aim at reducing gold prices, the YGEA and Mandalay Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association sold gold bullion supplied by the executive members and the members as well. — NN/EM

CBM says no plan to change reference exchange rate

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) has no plan to change the reference exchange rate and it will maintain USD liquidity and Kyat Liquidity providing operations, according to the CBM's notification released on 26 May.

Additionally, the CBM will sell more foreign currencies at the FX counters of the relevant banks.

To stabilize and enhance the FX market, the CBM has been providing liquidity through local banks. It helps reduce the need for US dollar liquidity and Kyat liquidity for the businesspersons and stabilize the exchange rate, the

statement mentioned.

However, those unscrupulous are attempting to take advantage of some people by manipulating the FX market with false rumours.

This being so, the CBM announced that it has no plan to change the reference exchange rate. The CBM will continue to provide USD liquidity and Kyat liquidity.

Those studying abroad, working abroad under the foreign recruitment program of the Ministry of Labour and going abroad for medical treatment are entitled to buy large amounts of foreign currencies at the banks' FX counters and

the CBM has planned to sell the cards for international payment during the set period.

The CBM warned the people of malicious rumours regarding the FX market.

Investigation and prosecution of market manipulation to hike the exchange rate in the local forex market by disseminating incorrect information will be undertaken under the provisions stipulated in the Central Bank of Myanmar Law and Foreign Exchange Management Law. Tipping off about the manipulators can be done through the CBM's email: gov.office@cbm.gov.mm. — NN/EM

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 27 May 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K1,975
Octane 95	K2,080
Diesel	K1,895
Premium Diesel	K1,975

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,292,600 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K3,080,000 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	K2,940 to K2,955

The above prices may change from time to time.

Annual commercial tax return for 2022-2023FY to be submitted by 30 June

ANNUAL income tax return, annual report of the salaries and annual commercial tax return for the 2022-2023 financial year are required to be submitted by 30 June 2023, the Internal Revenue Department notified.

The date of the receipt issued

by the Department will be considered as submission day if the returns are submitted in person. For sending them through post offices, the postmark indicating the date will be the submission day. For online reporting, the received date is the day of submission.

The stipulated form of the Internal Revenue Department is mandatory to use in filling in the returns. It can be available via www.ird.gov.mm and the respective tax offices. The taxpayers must complete the form for the correct information, along with

the sign.

Those who amend the tax returns must be signed as well.

The deadline is 30 June 2023. Those who fail to do so will be fined five per cent of the liable tax amount and one per cent of tax for every month until the

director general conducts the assessment.

If taxpayers find some difficulties to submit the returns in time for some valid reasons, they can request an extended period to the relevant tax office in advance. — TWA/EM

ECONOMY WORLD

14 Indo-Pacific nations to strengthen supply chain for critical items



Trade ministers from the economies that form the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum meet in Detroit on 25 May 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

MINISTERS from the United States, Japan and 12 other Indo-Pacific nations will agree at their meeting Saturday in Detroit to bolster supply chains for chips, medicine and other critical items in the event of an emergency under a US-led economic initiative, sources familiar with the matter said Friday.

The enhanced supply chain resiliency will be the first agreement among 14 member countries of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, representing 40 per cent of global gross domestic product, and could help counter China's economic influence in the region.

Supplies of food, energy and key industrial products, such as semiconductors, were disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's war in Ukraine.

The IPEF partners, also

including Australia, Indonesia, India, South Korea and Thailand, aim to respond to emergencies more promptly, ensuring the procurement of vital goods and sharing of information, under a new scheme, according to the sources.

The US led initiative covers four pillars — fair trade, supply chain resilience, clean energy and proper taxation and anti-corruption — and is also regarded as a symbol of the world's biggest economy's reengagement in the fast-growing region after its withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade deal in 2017.

Russia and China, which are deepening their economic and security partnership amid increasing tensions with the United States and other countries, are not part of the IPEF — AFP

Japan PM vows to set up digital research centre at ASEAN institute

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida pledged Thursday to set up a research centre on digital innovation at the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, aiming to enhance reliable data collaboration and utilization in the region.

At the three-day Group of Seven summit through Sunday in Japan's western city of Hiroshima, the leaders from the advanced economies confirmed

the importance of security in data collaboration involving personal information and intellectual property across borders.

Kishida made the latest proposal regarding digital innovation in a speech at an event in Tokyo. The research institute of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations is based in Indonesia's capital of Jakarta.

Earlier in the day, Kishida

held bilateral talks at his office with Lao President Thongloun Sisoulith, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said.

Kishida told Thongloun, who became president in March 2021, that Japan will make efforts to promote infrastructure investment in Laos, as the two countries will mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2025. — Kyodo



Data security measures must be taken to ensure that the data is protected from unauthorized access, modification, or destruction. Cybersecurity includes a variety of security measures, such as firewalls, antivirus software, and encryption, that are used to protect data and systems from malicious attacks. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ AFP/FILE**

Energy majors go slow on green transition despite pressure



Since 2021 the International Energy Agency (IEA) has called for a stop to new oil projects, to ensure the world meets the goal of keeping global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP**

MOST oil majors are stepping up investment in green energy amid rising activist pressure but without abandoning fossil fuels, putting at risk reaching carbon neutrality in 2050.

During the annual shareholders' meeting of British group Shell on Tuesday, activists shouted out "Go to hell Shell!" BP got similar treatment, as did banking giant Barclays, which is accused of financing oil extraction. French oil and gas company TotalEnergies will likely be targeted by activists at its shareholders' meeting on Friday. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

S Korea freezes policy rate at 3.5% for 3rd time

SOUTH Korea's central bank on Thursday froze its policy rate for the third successive time this year on the back of lower inflationary pressure and greater worries about an economic downturn.

Bank of Korea (BOK) Governor Rhee Chang-yong and other monetary policymakers decided to leave the benchmark seven-day repurchase rate unchanged at 3.50 per cent.

It was in line with market expectations. According to the Korea Financial Investment Association's poll of 100 fixed-income experts, 89 per cent predicted the rate freeze this month.

The BOK put the rate on hold in February and April after delivering seven back-to-back rate hikes by 3.0 percentage points between August 2021 and January 2023. The successive rate freeze came amid lower inflationary pressure. The country's consumer prices rose 3.7 per cent in April from a year earlier, falling below four per cent in 14 months. — Xinhua

Toyota puts liquid hydrogen-powered car into 24-hour race

TOYOTA Motor Corp on 27 May entered a racing car powered by liquid hydrogen into a 24-hour endurance race in central Japan, making it the first such car in the world to participate in an official race.

The move is the latest endeavour by the Japanese automaker to popularize hydrogen as a cleaner alternative to fossil fuel amid tightening environmental regulations worldwide since it does not emit carbon dioxide when burnt.

Toyota, the developer of the world's first mass-produced fuel cell vehicle, Mirai, has said



Photo shows a Toyota racing car powered by liquid hydrogen during a 24-hour endurance race at Fuji Speedway in Oyama, Shizuoka Prefecture, central Japan, on 27 May 2023. PHOTO: KYODO

offering a wide range of green vehicles, including hybrid cars, is more effective in cutting their carbon footprint than just focusing

on electric vehicles. The entry comes as the use of hydrogen gains popularity across industries. Four major motor-

cycle makers in Japan, including Kawasaki Motors Ltd., said earlier this month they will jointly develop hydrogen-powered engines with an eye to launching them on two-wheelers.

The race at Fuji Speedway in Shizuoka Prefecture will be held through Sunday.

Toyota started to run a hydrogen engine car in a race in May 2021, using gaseous hydrogen. It initially aimed to enter a liquid hydrogen vehicle into a race this March, but the plan stalled after a vehicle caught fire during a test run. — Kyodo

Google withdraws 'Slavery Simulator' game app after Brazil outcry

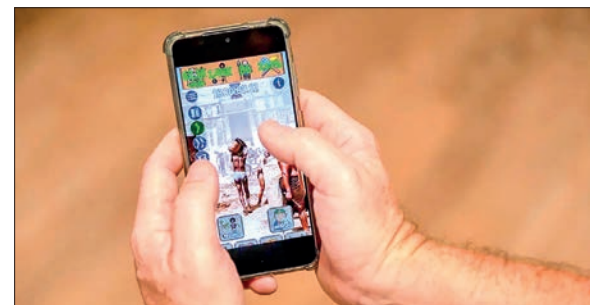
GOOGLE has withdrawn a gaming app that allowed players to buy, sell and torture black virtual "slaves" after a racism outcry in Brazil.

Dubbed "Slavery Simulator," the Portuguese-language game saw players trade in slaves and strategize to prevent the abolition of slavery in order to amass virtual riches. The prosecutor's office said it had opened an investigation for "hate speech" related to the game downloaded

by hundreds of people.

The app itself had come with a disclaimer condemning "all types of slavery" and insisting the game was "solely for entertainment purposes."

After withdrawing the app from its Play-store, Google said in a statement that "applications that promote violence or hatred against groups of people or individuals because of their skin color or ethnic origin" would not be allowed on its platform.—AFP



Google has removed an online game called "Slavery Simulator" from its app store after people said it was racist. PHOTO: AFP

OpenAI chief seeks to calm fears on job losses



The boss of OpenAI, Sam Altman, has been on a global tour to charm national leaders and powerbrokers.

PHOTO: AFP

THE boss of OpenAI, the firm behind the massive-ly popular ChatGPT bot,

said on Friday that his firm's technology would not destroy the job mar-

ket as he sought to calm fears about the march of artificial intelligence (AI).

Sam Altman, on a global tour to charm national leaders and powerbrokers, said in Paris that AI would not — as some have warned — wipe out whole sectors of the workforce through automation.

"This idea that AI is going to progress to a point where humans don't have any work to do or don't have any purpose has never resonated with

me," he said.

Asked about the media industry, where several outlets already use AI to generate stories, Altman said ChatGPT should instead be like giving a journalist 100 assistants to help them research and come up with ideas.

ChatGPT burst into the spotlight late last year, demonstrating an ability to generate essays, poems and conversations from the briefest of prompts. — AFP

Chinese commerce minister meets US trade representative

CHINESE Commerce Minister Wang Wentao met US Trade Representative Katherine Tai on Friday, on the sidelines of the two-day 2023 APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting in Detroit, the United States.

The two sides had "candid, pragmatic and in-depth" exchanges on the China-US economic and trade relationship, as well as regional and multilateral issues of common concern.—Xinhua

<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V HAIAN BELL VOY.NO. (0UV22E1NC)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HAIAN BELL VOY.NO. (0UV22E1NC) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-5-2023 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For:</p> <p>M/S CMA CGM ASIA SHIPPING PTE LTD</p>	<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (784N/S)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (784N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-5-2023 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For:</p> <p>M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES</p>	<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0294-749N)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0294-749N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-5-2023 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For:</p> <p>M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD.</p>
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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Pakistan welcomes first direct cargo ship from Russia



A big ship called the Crystal Saint Petersburg has arrived in Pakistan with 2,000 containers. It will help Pakistani exporters who want to sell their products in Russia. **PHOTO: TIMES OF KARACHI/SPUTNIK**

As Russian exports to Asia continue to rise, a Russian container ship, Crystal Saint Petersburg, just docked at Karachi Port after making a maiden journey in just 21 days.

On 25 May, a landmark event took place in Pakistan's southern port city as the Russian cargo vessel arrived at Karachi International Container Terminal (KICT) marking the beginning of a direct shipping link between

the two nations.

Loaded with 2,000 transshipment containers, Crystal Saint Petersburg's arrival is highlighting the profound market access and cost-saving benefits it brings to Pakistani exporters targeting Russia's extensive consumer market.

It's worth noting that India and China became the largest buyers of Russian energy last month, accounting for more than

two-thirds of the country's coal exports sent to Asia. Meanwhile, South Korea, Viet Nam, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka have also become significant buyers of Russian energy items, with Saudi Arabia and the UAE stepping up their purchases of Russian fuel. The ceremonial welcome that Crystal Saint Petersburg received upon her arrival is a testament to the budding trade ties between the two nations. — SPUTNIK

Epic Cannes of strong women and ageing icons to decide Palme

IT has been a year of Hollywood icons and ground-breaking women's perspectives, but as an epic edition of the Cannes Film Festival draws to a close on Saturday, eyes turn to the jury for who will win a tight race for the Palme d'Or.

There have been several strong contenders among the 21 entries in the main competition at the French Riviera festival, but no clear front runner.

Arguably the two critical favourites both star the same woman, German actress Sandra Hüller.

In "The Zone of Interest" from British director Jonathan Glazer, she chillingly plays the



DiCaprio, Scorsese and De Niro brought the hottest ticket in town, the premiere of 'Killers of the Flower Moon'. **PHOTO: AFP**

wife of a Nazi camp commandant, proud to be known as "the queen of Auschwitz".

The unique film never shows the horrors of the

camp, leaving them implied by background noises and small visual details, and has drawn near-unanimous praise from critics. — AFP

Al-Shabaab strikes African Union army base in Somalia

AL-SHABAAB fighters raided an African Union military base housing Ugandan troops in Somalia on Friday, triggering a fierce gun battle.

It was not immediately known if there were any casualties in the attack, which was claimed by the Al-Qaeda-linked jihadist group.

A car laden with explosives was driven into the base in Bulo Marer, 120 kilometres (75 miles) southwest of the capital Mogadishu, leading to a gunfight, local residents and a Somali military commander told AFP.

Pro-government forces backed by the AU force known

as ATMIS launched an offensive last August against Al-Shabaab, which has been waging an insurgency in the fragile Horn of Africa nation for more than 15 years.

ATMIS said the Bulo Marer camp came under attack at 5 am (0200 GMT) by Al-Shabaab militants "using Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (VBIEDs) and suicide bombers".

"Reinforcements from ATMIS' Aviation Unit and allies managed to destroy weapons in possession of the withdrawing Al-Shabaab militants," it said in a statement. — AFP



Soldiers of African Union's peacekeeping mission in Somalia search for explosive devices next to their base in Ceeljaale, southern coastal Somalia, on 19 September 2019. **PHOTO: TINA SMOLE/ AFP/FILE**

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Thousands converge in Belgrade for pro-govt rally after mass protests

THOUSANDS of government supporters took to the streets of the Serbian capital, Belgrade, on Friday to rally behind President Aleksandar Vucic, following a string of big demonstrations against his administration in the wake of two mass shootings this month.

The "Serbia of Hope" rally is widely perceived as a government response to the opposition-led protests that have seen tens of thousands demonstrate in one of the largest mass demonstrations to rock the Balkan country in decades.

Vucic's supporters arrived by bus and train from across Serbia throughout Friday, sparking accusations from human rights groups that people were being pressured into attending.

"I trust these people who lead the country and that is why I am here, to support this gathering," Branko Marovic, 82, told AFP.

The president hailed Friday's event as "a gathering where we will try to unite Serbia and show that it has a future".

The protests against the government first took shape earlier this month following back-to-back shootings within 48 hours — including a massacre at an elementary school in Belgrade. — AFP

France, Netherlands ink deal on Caribbean ‘footrace frontier’

FRANCE and the Netherlands have signed a historic accord demarcating the border between the two countries on the island of Saint Martin in the Caribbean.

Around 400 years ago, two groups of runners — one Dutch, one French — are said to have set off from the same point on the Caribbean island of Saint Martin to trace the border between their nations.

Starting from a bay on the east coast and running in opposite directions, the runners in 1648 eventually met on the west coast of the island, with a straight line between the two points forming the international border ever since.

According to the legend, the Gallic runners were faster, handing France by far the larger share of the roughly 90-square-kilometre (35-square-mile) tropical paradise, which they called Saint Martin.

The Netherlands took the southern part, which they named Sint Maarten, with the athletic feat and the peaceful coexistence of the two colonial powers leading



France and the Netherlands have now agreed to officially recognize the border that was drawn up 400 years ago. This agreement will make sure that the border between the two countries on Saint Martin will stay the same. A newer border monument, crossing from Saint Martin to Sint Maarten, dedicated in 2008. **PHOTO: JBS2/WIKIPEDIA/FILE**

to the territory being dubbed the “friendly island”. The agreement

was signed for France on Friday by Interior Minister Gerald Dar-

manin and for the Netherlands by Silveria E. Jacobs, prime minister

of the autonomous government of Sint Maarten.

“This historic agreement will help facilitate the process of rebuilding the island, which was severely affected by Hurricane Irma in 2017,” the French interior ministry said in a statement.

The text of the agreement “preserves the principle of free movement of goods and persons established by the Concordia accords of 23 March 1648”.

The agreement also “establishes a joint monitoring commission charged with monitoring and maintaining the border” which had been disputed at its eastern end. “It illustrates the quality of the friendly relations between France and the Netherlands, eager to reinforce their trusting cooperation on the island of Saint Martin,” it said.

It stressed “the shared desire of the territorial council of Saint Martin and the autonomous government of Sint Maarten to continue to develop their close ties and their joint projects of cross-border cooperation,” it said. — AFP

Nord Stream sabotage clues point to Ukraine

INVESTIGATORS looking at the explosions on the Nord Stream gas pipelines from Russia have evidence that could link the attack to Ukraine, according to German

media reports.

Metadata from the emails used to rent a sailboat suspected to have been used in the attack tie them to Ukraine, Spiegel weekly



Investigators looking at the explosions on the Nord Stream gas pipelines from Russia have evidence that could link the attack to Ukraine, according to German media reports. **PHOTO: AFP**

reported Friday.

The president of the presumed shell company through which the “Andromeda” yacht was hired also lives in Kyiv, according to research by broadcasters NDR and WDR, daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung and international media partners.

German investigators had also identified a Ukrainian man in his mid-twenties with ties to the military who they believe may have been part of the six-person team manning the yacht, according to the joint report.

The links to Ukraine corresponded with assessments by multiple intelligence services, according to Spiegel. — AFP

Drones damage building in Russia’s Pskov region: governor

TWO drones damaged an administration building of an oil pipeline in Russia’s western Pskov region, the regional governor said Saturday.

The explosion is the latest in an escalating series of attacks

in Russia amid the Ukraine offensive.

“Early morning, an explosion damaged the administrative building of the oil pipeline near Litvinovo, Nevelsky district,” governor Mikhail Vedernikov

said.

Shortly after, he said that, according to preliminary information, the building was “damaged as a result of an attack by two unmanned aerial vehicles.” — AFP

Pakistan establishment closes ranks in crackdown on Khan

WITH military courts, intimidation of the press and mass arrests, Pakistan’s rulers are seeking to destroy former prime minister Imran Khan’s support ahead of elections, analysts say. Khan’s brief arrest earlier this month sparked days of street protests freighted with anger at the powerful army perceived to have orchestrated his downfall.

Islamabad has labelled the violence “anti-state”, justifying

huge roundups and the revival of army courts to try civilians who targeted government and military buildings.

Journalists, lawyers and activists in Khan’s Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party report campaigns of intimidation and influence which they blame on the “establishment”, a euphemism for the military backing the civilian government. — AFP



Paramilitary soldiers deploy outside an anti-terrorism court before the arrival of former Pakistan’s prime minister Imran Khan. **PHOTO: AFP**



Ex-FIFA vice-president Temarii charged over 2022 World Cup vote

FIFA'S disgraced former vice-president Reynald Temarii of Tahiti has been charged with corruption by French prosecutors probing Qatar's 2022 World Cup bid process.

The charge, the first to emerge from the years-long investigation, is for passive corruption and was confirmed by France's financial crimes prosecutors (PNF). Temarii is a former president of the Oceania Football Confederation (OFC).

But he was forced out in 2010 after being implicated in a vote-selling scandal during an undercover newspaper sting before the controversial awarding to Qatar of last year's football showpiece.

Temarii was banned for a year by FIFA on 17 November



The award of the 2022 World Cup to Qatar has been dogged with allegations of corruption since it was announced in 2010. **PHOTO: AFP**

2010, ruling him out of the infamous 2 December vote at FIFA's headquarters in Zurich.

The OFC were entitled to organize someone to vote in his place, with the first of their votes designated for Australia then if necessary to the United States, the favourites for the 2022 staging

rights over Qatar.

But Temarii appealed his ban on the night of 30 November, having initially accepted his suspension. His appeal, as per FIFA rules, deprived the OFC of a vote on 2 December, with Qatar eventually winning the ballot over the USA 14-8.—AFP

Myanmar striker Win Naing Tun joins Indonesian Football Club

MYANMAR national team star striker Win Naing Tun has joined Borneo Samarinda Football Club in Liga 1 Indonesia, according to the team statement.

The young Myanmar forward player moved from Yangon United to start his new football journey.

The 23-year-old is set to become the very first player from Myanmar to play in the Indonesian top league.

"I congratulate Win Naing Tun on joining the Borneo FC family and his presence adds to the attack options for next season," said Borneo president Nabil Husein in an official statement posted on the Indonesian football club's website.

"Although the contract with Win Naing Tun is till the end of the year, Yangon United allowed him to play in Borneo to expand his career life and would like to support the growth and development of the Myanmar National League and Myanmar National Team," his former club Yangon United posted on their official website.

Win Naing Tun is considered as the young talented striker in Myanmar, having played 25 matches for the Myanmar National League with one goal scored. — KZL

Former Yangon United star player Win Naing Tun. **PHOTO: YUFC**

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

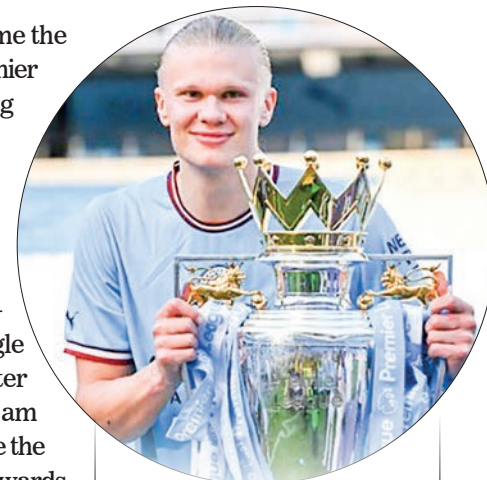
- (a) To enhance development based on agriculture and livestock using modern production techniques and to strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the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

Haaland picks up Premier League player and young player prizes

ERLING Haaland became the first man to win both Premier League player and young player of the year awards in the same season on Saturday. The 22-year-old has taken just 35 appearances to set a new Premier League record of 36 goals in a single season to help Manchester City retain the title. "I am honoured to have become the first player to win both awards in the same season – thank you to everyone who voted for me," said Haaland in a City statement. "It has been an incredible first season in the Premier League and lifting the trophy last weekend in front of our fans at the Etihad was a very special moment for me." The Norwe-



Erling Haaland has been named both Premier League player and young player of the season. **PHOTO: AFP**

gian, who was also named the football writers' player of the year this week, has scored 52 goals in all competitions as City close in on a treble.—AFP