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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 reaches all-time high amid strong foreign demand

THE price of pigeon peas hit a new record of over K3 million per tonne, according to the Yangon Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung).

The prices stood at K2.445 million per tonne on 2 May and then, it rocketed to K3.05 million per tonne on 3 June. The figures showed a sharp rise of K605,000 per tonne of pigeon peas within a month. The prevailing price is at an all-time high in history.

Additionally, the price of black gram was around K2,320,000 per tonne in the domestic market.

Strong foreign demand drove the prices of black gram and pigeon peas in the market.

Strong foreign drove the prices up. India forecast Myanmar's black gram output is estimated at 650,000 tonnes. This year, the yield rate dropped by half owing to a reduction in sowing acres and threats of invasive pests, the growers said.

As a result of this, Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association notified on 12 May 2023 that growers should primarily cultivate green 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



Myanmar's pigeon peas are primarily shipped to India and also exported to Singapore, the US, Canada, Pakistan, the UK, and Malaysia. But, the export volume to other countries rather than to India is extremely small.

also select them as main crops.

India notified that the free import policy of black grams (urad) and pigeon peas (tur) extended up to March 2024, bringing more benefits to the stockholders in the supply chain including growers and exporters. This is why 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 exports in the past financial year 2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

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 green grams are 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 are commonly found only in Myanmar, whereas pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia, stated Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association. — NN/EM

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 STARMART Nay Pyi Taw Yangon- Mandalay Highway Road, Ywar Gauk Ward, Pynmanar. Ph-09 685119077

MTTN

Mobile medical unit provides field healthcare services to people in Sittway



Mobile medical unit is seen ready to render healthcare services in Sittway and its surrounding yesterday.

UNDER the guidance of the National Disaster Management Committee and the Rakhine State government, a mobile medical unit-MMU including medical staff from the Social Security Board of the Ministry

of Labour started rendering medical treatment to locals and insured workers at designated places in Sittway and its vicinity yesterday.

Medical personnel will treat diarrhoea, illness, headache,

running rose and cough that may occur in the aftermath of Mocha as well as will provide preventive measures and health education for secondary diseases and health problems that may arise after Mocha. — MNA/KZW



70 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 3 June, total figure registers 639,122

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to **639,122** after **70** new cases were reported on 3 June 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of **10,674,053** laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached **639,122**. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **618,119** including **78** new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered **19,494** on 3-6-2023 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

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.

3. It has been announced that donations can be made to the previously announced phone number and to the account that was opened, and since it can be confusing to donate with a phone number, we have already made it possible to donate with a QR code instead of the phone number.
4. Donations can be made through KBZ Pay or Wave Money. If you wish to donate, please scan the QR

5. People make donations through CB Pay, AYA Pay, OK \$ and UAB pay which are widely used to enhance convenience for donors. To donate, please scan the QR code and enter the code provided within it.
6. The well-wishers can contact the following persons for further information: -



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

United strength is the strength of the country

AMICABLE cooperation between the people and the Tatmadaw is the best for the future of the country. Both the Tatmadaw and the people will always exist. United strength is the strength of the country. The Tatmadaw is striving to ensure non-disintegration of national solidarity.

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the SAC meeting 9/2022 held on 11 November 2022)

SAC Member DPM Union Minister makes inspection tour in Sittway Township

MEMBER of State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San, together with Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin, inspected collective cleanup activities, loading and unloading processes of relief items at jetties, healthcare services and rice distribution efforts in Sittway Township yesterday morning.

First, the Admiral and party inspected cleanup works conducted by over 600 people including members of the Myanmar Police Force, Fire Brigade, departmental staff, social welfare organizations and locals along Kyaunggyi and Minbargyi roads in Kyaunggyilan Ward of Sittway and instructed the need to cooperate for the cleanliness of the city and clean the drains for a good flow of water.

Then, they inspected the discharging of rescue and relief goods from the MCL 5 ship at Phaungtawgyi jetty of Myanma Port Authority and the MCL 5 and Aquarius vessels at Sittway Port.

The Deputy Prime Minister and party also checked the repair of concrete roads, platforms and stone retaining walls along the Sittway strand road.

Moreover, they participated in the distribution of biryani meal boxes donated by SkyNet, Myanmar Licenced Contractors Association, Myanmar Licenced Contractors Public Company Limited, Myanmar-India-China International Friendship and Economic Development Association and interfaith association to the groups that conducted cleanup operations in Kyaunggyi and Minbargyi roads.

They also inspected healthcare services at Kwitwelkyun Central Tawya Monastery in Kwitwel Village of Sittway Township and comforted disaster victims and provided them with foodstuffs.

They donated biryani Soon (alms meal) and offertories to the Presiding Sayadaw of the Kwitwelkyun Central Tawya Monastery.

They met locals and town elders of Kwitwel Village and asked about the education, health, economy and transport sectors and provided rice bags and foodstuffs to storm victims.

The Admiral accepted K30 million cash donated by Myo Naing from the Nine Group Co Ltd (Yangon) for rehabilitation processes in Rakhine State at the ceremony held at the Rakhine



Member of State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San inspects the multi-purpose tractors at Phaungtawgyi jetty of Myanma Port Authority on 3 June 2023.

State government office and gave the certificate of honour in return.

At noon, the Admiral and party viewed round the selling of electric devices, construction materials, commodities, basic foodstuffs, meat, fish, vegetables and kitchen utensils by the Western Command, Yoma Star shop of MEC and Gandama shop of Myanma Economic Holdings Public Company Limited at U Otama Park in Sittway Township.

Then, they inspected the discharging of 33 multi-purpose tractors using heavy machines

from the MCL 3 at Phaungtawgyi jetty of Myanma Port Authority.

These tractors were sent by the Agricultural Mechanization Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation for the Rakhine State development project and kept in the compound of Myanma Port Authority temporarily.

Then, they met the catering teams, who distributed biryani meal boxes to storm victims in Sittway and provided foodstuffs and consumer goods of MEC and MEHPCL.

The Agricultural Mechanization Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation allotted 33 New Holland 50-Horse Power tractors, 33 sets of six ploughshares and 33 blades to Sittway Township to grow the 2023-2024 monsoon paddy in time, and there are 19 pairs in Rathedaung Township and 14 pairs in Sittway Township for the farmers. Farming processes will be carried out using 80 tractors in Rakhine State. A tractor can plough 220 acres at least in one season. — MNA/KTZH

MoI Union Minister inspects IPRD offices in Ayeyawady Region

UNION Minister for Information inspected the Information and Public Relation Department (IPRD) offices in Danubyu, Zalun townships and Hinthada District of Ayeyawady Region yesterday and instructed responsible personnel to accelerate the functions for information and educating programmes.

On arrival at the IPRD offices in Danubyu, Zalun townships and Hinthada District of Ayeyawady Region, he met with the staff and provided assistance to them.

Speaking at the event, the Union minister said the media plays a key role in providing the people with information ensur-



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn meets staff of Danubyu Township Information and Public Relation Department (IPRD) office in Danubyu Township in Ayeyawady Region yesterday.

ing their rights and true news today. The staff in such oper-

ations are also important and should make efforts to uphold

the ministry's three objectives: to inform, to educate and to en-

tain.

The digital system is also developed at the Public Libraries. It should provide the appropriate books or journals for the youths at the libraries. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, IPRD should organize talk shows to improve their lives.

Today, some young people misunderstand and commit destructive acts against the community and so it is necessary to direct them to the right way using various media ways.

The Union minister then provided cash assistance to the staff. — MNA/KTZH

SAC Member opens new school building in Pantanaw

STATE Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, and Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win opened the new two-storey building of the affiliated Basic Education High School in Tawgyisaphyusu Village, Pantanaw Township, Maubin District in Ayeyawady Region yesterday morning.

First, the SAC member, the Union minister, the chief minister and well-wishers cut the ribbon to mark the school building opening, sprinkled scented water on the plaque, and took documentary group photos.

Speaking on the occasion, SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung highlighted that building such educational infrastructures will help the future Myanmar society to become an education-based society as the foundation of human resource development is based on the educational work of basic schools; that only when there are societies with high education and a great state with high knowledge will we cease conflicts and build peaceful so-



SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung and dignitaries cut the ceremonial ribbon to inaugurate the new two-storey building of BEHS in Pantanaw Township yesterday.

cieties; that the comprehensive promotion of the education sector to produce the human resources necessary for building a modern, developed, and progressive democratic nation is embodied in the SAC four social objectives.

Afterwards, expressing his pride to attend the opening event, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn said that young students are easy to be moulded like wax, so they need to be nurtured properly so as

to become well-educated and visionary young people; that some are drowning without benefits for themselves and for the country due to their erroneous ideology and behaviour; that seminars and

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn warmly greets schoolchildren at the event yesterday.



talks currently conducted by the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs will raise awareness among youths. He also called for the need to exert all-round efforts to ensure the long-term sustainability of the new school building and the achievement of the educational objectives set by the State.

The SAC member then presented the certificate of appreciation to the well-wishers and the regional chief minister provided school uniforms for the KG children in the school.—MNA/KZL

International Museums Day celebrated in Nay Pyi Taw

THE International Museums Day commemoration ceremony was held yesterday morning at the Mini Theater of the National Museum (Nay Pyi Taw), attended by U Ko Ko, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, and officials.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union minister said that the International Council of Museums has set topics related to the Sustainable Development Goals-SDGs as the theme of World Museums Day every year since 2020; that the theme of 2023 International Museum Day is set as "Museums, Sustainability and Well-Being"; that museums must play a role in ensuring healthy and happy public lifestyle throughout their lives,

climate change and no damage to natural ecosystems.

Then, the Union minister toured the special exhibition on environmental protection displayed at the event and attended a symposium commemorating International Museums Day.

Two papers were read in the morning session of the symposium, and four papers in the afternoon session. Discussions were followed up, and souvenirs were presented to panellists before concluding the celebration.

— MNA/KZL

Union Minister U Ko Ko views the display at the event yesterday.



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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Tatmadaw senior officers oversee recovery efforts in Rakhine State

THE State Administration Council has released announcements for Mocha-hit areas declaring natural disaster-affected regions under Section 11 of the Natural Disaster Management Law and assigned senior military officers to the respective regions to conduct rehabilitation processes.

Lt-Gen Lu Aye of the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army), currently in Kyaukpyu Township, together with officials, checked the cleanup activities at No 1 BEHS in Kyaukpyu Township yesterday.

Similarly, Lt-Gen Aye Win of the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army), who arrived in Buthidaung Township, along with officials, inspect-

ed the cleanup activities and public healthcare services at schools and wards in Buthidaung Township.

Moreover, Maj-Gen Aung Myo Tun, who arrived in Rathedaung Township also observed the collective cleanup activities of departmental staff and locals on Minbargyi Road in Taungyintan Ward.

Meanwhile, Brig-Gen Aung Thu Oo, currently in Kyauktaw Township, met departmental officials in Kyauktaw and provided supplies for rehabilitation processes.

Brig-Gen Win Maung, who arrived in Ponnagyun Township, also inspected the cleanup programmes of departmental staff and locals at post-BHPS.



Senior military officers encourage the students in Rakhine State yesterday.

Moreover, Brig-Gen Tin Swe, together with relevant officials also inspected the clean-

up procedures of departmental staff and locals at the public water tank in Maungtaw Town-

ship and provided the needed assistance. — MNA/KTZH

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

A 29-metre landing craft from Tatmadaw (Navy) transported relief items, foodstuffs and utensils totalling 11 tonnes to Angumaw Port from Yaychanpin Port.

The second landing craft transported 999 bags of rice totalling 50 tonnes from Sittway

Port to Pauktaw Port.

Another 56-metre landing craft transported generators, cement bags and diesel totalling 110.95 tonnes from Sittway Port and Angumaw Port to Rathedaung Port yesterday.

— MNA/KZW



Rice bags are seen being loaded aboard the Tatmadaw landing craft to transport them to Mocha-battered areas yesterday.

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 natural disasters in Rakhine State are being transported by Tatmadaw aircraft, helicopters and vessels.

Three hundred and twenty bags donated by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement were transported from Mandalay International Airport to Kalay Airport by Tatmadaw planes, and foodstuffs, textbooks, exercise books, school uniforms and backpacks donated by the



Relief goods are seen being loaded aboard the Tatmadaw aircraft to transport them to Mocha-battered areas yesterday.

families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) were transported from Sittway Airport to Rathedaung Airport by Tatmadaw helicopters.

A total of 3,134 of Tatmadaw members and departmental staff who will help in rehabilita-

tion works and 463.2 tonnes of supplies were delivered to the storm-battered areas.

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

MoCRD DM inspects rehabilitation efforts in Sittway City

DEPUTY Minister U Myint Soe of the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development and officials inspected the construction of a 50-foot Bailey bridge in place of the concrete bridge that was damaged by the storm

tide on the Mingan-Hmansi village-to-village road. The Bailey Bridge is being rebuilt by the Rural Development Department.

Then, the deputy minister proceeded to the vocation-

al school run by the Sittway Small-scale Industries Department and viewed the restoration of damaged offices, housing, dormitories, bathrooms and restrooms of the school. — MNA/KZW



Deputy Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Myint Soe inspects the construction of a 50-foot Bailey bridge on the Mingan-Hmansi village-to-village road in Sittway Township yesterday.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Japanese companies to recruit over 1,200 Myanmar workers

THE Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo announced there are 1,225 Myanmar workers will be recruited for companies in Japan.

The embassy verified demand letters from 16 to 31 May 2023 and the notification for 357 job offer letters was released.

The statement said the embassy is screening a total of 788 demand letters in May sent by the Ministry of Labour through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a timely manner.

The embassy is verifying, with a labour inspection company, whether the companies and factories recruiting Myanmar workers are legally established. The remarks and findings on those verifications will



Myanmar workers are seen working at the workplace in Japan.

be returned to the Ministry of Labour.

A total of 357 Japanese companies have planned to recruit over 1,225 Myanmar workers, according to the no-

tification.

There are over 15,000 Myanmar workers were recruited to work in Japan within one year when Japan recalled Myanmar workers. — TWA/MKKS

CBM directs importers to use banking transactions only

THE Central Bank of Myanmar has instructed importers to use banking transactions only.

The importers holding licences are mandatory to use only banking transactions for the goods imported via two modes of

transport (border and sea). They must use the banking system with foreign currency purchased from local banks or export earnings deposited in local bank accounts, the CBM directed.

Additionally, importers

need to show a bank statement of Yuan while seeking a licence.

Some traders have concerns over the foreign currency liquidity of the domestic banks. The CBM has already assured that. — TWA/EM

Financial fraud occurs on matric exam results in advance

THE Myanmar Examinations Department announced on 1 June that financial fraud occurred for the matriculation exam results to be known in advance.

The accounts and phone numbers used by fraudsters who are committing fraudulent acts regarding the 2023 matriculation examination (old system) results are posted on the Myanmar Examinations Department's social media

page.

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

The results for exam 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 Myanmar Examinations Department. — TWA/MKKS



The entrance to the office of the Myanmar Examinations Department in Yangon.

Dengue fever kills 7, infects over 1,700 in Myanmar

THERE were seven people died and 1,717 people have been infected with the dengue virus across Myanmar during the first five months of this year, according to the country's Ministry of Health.

The majority of dengue cases were reported in Yangon, Taninthayi and Ayeyarwady regions and Mon and Kayin states.

"The outbreak occurred from 1 January to 20 May," said Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win at the Dengue

Prevention and Control Coordination Meeting held on 29 May.

According to the Health Ministry, dengue fever killed 97 and infected 24,971 people in 2022, a significant increase compared to 36 deaths and 5,446 infections recorded in 2021 and 68 deaths and 15,131 infections in 2020.

It was not high compared to regional countries because the average yearly death rate of dengue fever in Myanmar was 0.4 per cent, it stated. — TWA/MKKS



Preventive measures were underway in 2020.



One aircraft of the Vietjet fleet.

MNA launches tri-weekly flights from Yangon to Chiang Mai

THE Yangon-Chiang Mai flight will be launched every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, and Thai Vietjet planes will fly UB-019 and UB-020 flights from 1 to 20 June 2023, according to the announcement of the Myanmar National Airlines-MNA.

MNA is selling air tickets for daily Yangon-Singapore-Yangon flights at US\$337. There are two flights on every Sunday, Tuesday and Friday.

Furthermore, with the partnership of Myanmar National Airlines and Chiang Mai

Night Safari, MNA passengers can enjoy a 20 per cent discount on the Tram Ride at Chiang Mai Night Safari by presenting MNA's Yangon-Chiang Mai boarding pass. This offer is valid until 30 December. — TWA/KZW

LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar to ship 500 tonnes of fresh tamarind to Dubai monthly

A company from Dubai, the UAE will purchase 500 tonnes of Myanmar's fresh tamarind every month, according to the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce.

Hermab Group from Dubai proposed to buy 500 tonnes of fresh tamarind from Myanmar every month so the Consumer Affairs Department asked the potential companies and their contact numbers from the Yangon Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung).

Those interested companies which are willing to export fresh tamarind to Dubai are informed to submit the proposal reports in English and Myanmar, including information on the business.

Myanmar has been conveying tamarind to Thailand and Bangladesh beyond self-consumption.

The prices move in the range between K1,400 and 2,500 per viss, according to the Yangon Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung). — NN/EM



Myanmar's tamarinds are seen in the market.

Above 1,200 food companies apply for GACC within 1.5 years

A total of 1,298 Myanmar food processing companies and factories submitted over 2,300 applications to the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) within one and a half years, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

According to GACC Decree 248 and 249, GACC registration is mandatory for food exporters starting from 1 January 2022.

Those individuals executing edible oil, oilseeds, stuffed pastry products, edible bird's nest and related products, edible grains, grains milling industrial products and malt, fresh and dehydrated vegetables, dried beans, plant species, nuts and seeds, dried fruits, unroasted coffee and cocoa bean, special dietary food excluding milk-based formula, functional foods, bee products, aquatic products including farm products, animal products and animal feed and livestock animal businesses need to apply for GACC licences in order to place their goods in China's market.

The relevant authorities for the registration with GACC are the Agriculture Department, the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, the Fisheries Department and the Food and Drug Administration.

Between 1 December 2021 and 26 May 2023, 2,337 applications by 1,298 factories

have been forwarded to the GACC through the Agriculture Department (2,194 applications), the Fisheries Department (120), the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (14) and the Food and Drug Administration Department (nine).

Exporters can directly access China International Trade Single Window through <https://cifer.singlewindow.cn> by creating accounts for those food groups which are not listed on those aforementioned 18 groups.

As of 24 May 2023, a total of 1,854 applications have been successful in registering with the GACC with the approval of the competent authority.

Regarding the registration of the importing companies, the Department of Animal and Plant Quarantine under the GACC will check quarantine access for the imported grains (raw coffee beans, cocoa beans, vegetables, spices, edible grains, pulses, oil crops and herbal animal products and plant for their origins.

Companies cannot directly proceed with registration and they need to carry out this step through competent authorities and departments concerned by sending an email via dapq@customs.gov.cn or submitting a letter to the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar or Myanmar Embassy in China. — NN/EM

Maungtaw border fails to reach trade target in May: MoC

MYANMAR'S Maungtaw border failed to achieve its trade target in May, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The cross-border trade value via Myanmar's Maungtaw border with the neighbouring Bangladesh was targeted to hit US\$1.54 million in May yet the actual trade amounted to \$0.55 million only, comprising exports worth \$0.55 million and import worth \$0.001 million.

The main export items are areca nut, coconut, dried plum, fresh ginger, mango, Marian plum, jengkol, rohu, dried fish, hilsa, footwear, instant vermicelli, clothes, Thanaka and jujube jam, while plastic pipe and PVC tanks are imported in May.

The freight cost from Sit-tway to Maungtaw is K70-110 per viss for up road and for down road, the freight cost is K50-80 per viss. — GNLM/EM



Lorries laden with export cargoes are seen at the Maungtaw border trade zone.

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.

OPINION

ARTICLE BOOKRACK

Overcome challenges of health problems in monsoon

MONSOON always brings in rains to Myanmar but floods, inundation, water erosion, landslides, damage of roads, outage of electricity, system breakdown, lightning, dengue fever and influenza as well as various natural disasters also come to all parts of the county without invitation.

Among various catastrophes, outbreaks of DHF and influenza are various dangerous for children. Hence, people should clean cleaning of unnecessary water in society and fumigate the environment of residences. In fact, the wet situation in monsoon is inappropriate for people with dirtiness as welcoming waterborne diseases.

Hence, preventive measures against diseases should be taken for the health of schoolchildren.

If people are absent to follow health disciplines, they may suffer from elephantiasis, malaria, DHF, diarrhoea, typhoid, hepatitis A, plaque, leptospirosis, food poisoning and waterborne infectious diseases. Foodstuff and vegetables must be washed with salty water before use. They have to avoid too much ripening of fruits. If people suffer from any infectious diseases, they have to inform the health bodies about their health conditions in time not to infect other people so as to overcome health challenges.

People need to have health awareness about symptoms of DHF and fever, and if they themselves and anyone of their families need to take health-care services of health staff in time. Local authorities need to arrange community movements to fight against DHF and clean the environment with spray.

Moreover, people should take care of the continuous danger of Covid-19 with preventive measures of wearing face masks as such an endemic may speedily spread in monsoon. As part of preventive movements, people need to wash their hands and faces after holding anything and whenever they

return home.

In the monsoon, water may be easily unclean. So, people need to take care of drinking water as underground water in Yangon and deltaic areas of Myanmar contain a high percentage of arsenic elements. If necessary, people should drink the boiled water in monsoon.

In addition, human excrement may spread in some parts of the nation in monsoon due to undisciplined disposal. Hence, toilets, as well as latrines, must be safe for users as well as for the environment. People need to systematically dispose of garbage in pits for the prevention of rats and flies.

If people are absent to follow health disciplines, they may suffer from elephantiasis, malaria, DHF, diarrhoea, typhoid, hepatitis A, plaque, leptospirosis, food poisoning and waterborne infectious diseases. Foodstuff and vegetables must be washed with salty water before use. They have to avoid too much ripening of fruits. If people suffer from any infectious diseases, they have to inform the health bodies about their health conditions in time not to infect other people so as to overcome health challenges.

Your food safety is important

By Saya Norm

FOOD Safety refers to the proper food handling procedures applied during food preparation, processing storage and distribution. Controlling food safety requires knowledge about what could endanger its integrity and stability.

Food safety is negatively affected by contaminations along the food supply chain. These contaminations can be caused by biological, chemical, physical and radiological hazards.

Without proper management and control of food safety, issues

such as food-borne diseases and food-related injuries can occur. So, food safety is very important.

Recent data released by World Health Organization have estimated that at least 600 million people all over the world become inflicted with food-borne illnesses after consuming unsanitary food. Of those people, at least 420,000 people die every year. Economic progress can become affected by productivity loss and medical expenses as a result of food-borne disease burden.

To reduce food safety-related

problems, there are four rules to be followed.

The first rule is washing. You must wash your hands before, during and after preparing food. Also, wash surfaces and utensils after each use. Wash fruits and vegetables but not meat, poultry and eggs.

The second rule is separating. You must use separate cutting boards, plates and utensils for cooked and raw food. Use one cutting board for fresh produce or other foods that won't be cooked before they are eaten and another for raw meat. And replace them when they are worn. Wash those

plates and utensils with hot soapy water after each use. Not only the plates and utensils but also certain types of food should be separated. In the market or shops, you should place raw meat in separate leak-proof bags from other foods. Keep eggs in their organized carton and store them in the main compartment of the refrigerator.

The third rule is to cook the food at the right temperature. All meat including fish should be cooked at least at 145°F. Grounded meat should be cooked at 180°F. All poultry, grounded chicken and leftovers should be cooked at 165°F. If you use a microwave oven

with high wattage (800 watts and more), use the minimum cooking time. For low-wattage microwaves (around 500 watts), use the maximum cooking time.

The fourth rule is chilling. Bacteria can multiply rapidly if food is left at room temperature or in the danger zone between 40-140 degrees Fahrenheit. So, keep your leftovers in the refrigerator at 40°F or below. And keep raw meat and fish in the freezer at 0°F or below. However, most people don't know food safety rules and they had some myths about food. Most common myths are like these.

SEE PAGE-10>>



A food thermometer is a device used to measure the temperature of food. It ensures that food is cooked to the correct temperature to prevent foodborne illnesses and maintain food quality. There are different types of food thermometers available, including instant-read, probe, and infrared thermometers. ILLUSTRATION: FREEPIK

RECENTLY, I have been to the hospitals and dispensaries or clinics for my own healthcare or for those of other people. True, these are the places that ought not to be crowded. Nevertheless, be it the Yangon General Hospital or the privately owned Grand Hantha or the local clinics are all thronged with patients and their attendants these days. There is no need to say that people will not want to go to these places and spend a lot; they will definitely feel sorry to be there. Naturally, people will know the value of good health only when they fall ill. There is a saying health is wealth. In Pali, it is said "Ayogyam paramam labham."



Book Title - Zaya Go Yin Hsaing Gyin Ahnu Pyinnya (The Art of Facing the Ageing)
Writer - Dr Tin Tun Oo
Distribution - Thuta Swezon
Publication Date - April 2023 (1st Edition)
Price - K8,000

Zaya Go Yin Hsaing Gyin Ahnu Pyinnya (The Art of Facing the Ageing)

THE book review section for this month is both about health. The first one is titled, "Zaya Go Yin Hsaing Gyin Ahnu Pyinnya." This book is written by Dr Tin Tun Oo, who is a veteran journalist cum seasoned writer. A prolific writer, he has written many books on different topics. But this book is different. In his foreword, Dr Tin Tun Oo said that he believed that his book would benefit to a certain extent the middle-aged and the old aged people in their fight against ageing.

The term old age is considered to be the retirement age for easy definition. The pensionable age ranges from 50 to 60 across the world. In those days the retirement age was 55 in Myanmar.

Then the age was extended to 60, which was again extended to 62. In countries where there is longer life expectancy, the pensionable age is even 65. Nonetheless, in most countries, the retirement age is 60. Such people are called senior citizens in the United States. The United Nations has prescribed the age of 60 as older people.

There are 18 chapters in the book, dealing with the definition of health, the ageing process, higher longevity, the increasing number of the aged, the causes of ageing, changes in the outside appearance of the aged, the physical changes inside the body, the psychological changes, the common diseases inflicting the older people, the

advantages of the age, living youthfully, prevention of the health problems of the aged, the food and supplementary diet to defy the ageing, the attitude the aged should maintain, the attitude that should be maintained toward the aged and the art of defying the ageing etc.

What the writer points out is that despite old age, people are still able. True, ageing cannot be avoided, but people can be youthful and do things, nevertheless. Additionally, the health problems pertaining to ageing can be either prevented or remedied effectively.

This book is strongly recommended for those who have knocked on the door 40/50.



Book Title - Pahtamadanzar Kyanmaryay (First Class Health)
Writer - Min Kyaw Win
Distribution - Swedaw
Publication Date - April 2023 (2nd Edition)
Price - K6,000

Pahtamadanzar Kyanmaryay (First Class Health)

BEFORE discussing this book under review, I would, first of all, like to share something about Functional Medicine, which has become a popular discipline these days. Our body is functioning properly in general, with each organ and material performing its daily routine tasks. To be able to do so, the most basic cells of our body must be healthy. And for them to be in good condition, people have to eat and live in such a way that there does not occur the biological rusting. Additionally, we need to put the macronutrients and micronutrients. Our body needs the heat for the biochemical processes to perform their tasks fast and well. In fact, the heat is the fuel. The discipline of Functional Medicine is aimed at replenishing and supplementing the necessary chemicals to ensure the proper functioning of the biochemical processes. When the organs and the materials

are functioning properly, the brain, the lungs, the heart, the liver; the bladder, the stomach, the kidney, the pancreas, and the intestines etc are in good condition, performing their respective tasks well. As a matter of fact, the Functional Medicine is the causal relationship.

The First Class Health book provides knowledge for lay persons as to how to dispose of toxic agents as well as how to replenish and supplement vitamins. The readers will know how the toxic agents are infiltrating our body; they are entering our body via cooking oil, oral cavity and cosmetics etc. They are also going into our body through the air, via the ears, from the use of the chemicals. Some poisonous foods are also the trouble makers while the physiological process is also producing the toxic agents. It will also be learnt that immoderate eating, lack of sleep, not

enough intake of water and insufficient sweating can also cause the stockpiling of the poison. Last but not least, the readers will also learn that constipation and indigestion can also produce poison.

Additionally, the writer pointed out that although death cannot be avoided, ageing can be postponed and diseases can be remedied. If we can maintain first-class health, we may die peacefully someday in our old age. If the readers take care and abide by the instructions mentioned in the book under review, they can even escape from such inherent diseases as heart disease, cancer and diabetes be it Type A or Type B.

And what is more, the detox plan is quite useful. There are also ways of replenishing and/or supplementing the vitamins and the correct lifestyle.

ARTICLE WEATHER FORECAST

Your food safety is important

>>FROM PAGE-9

Leftovers are safe to eat if they look and smell okay

Even if you have the most sensitive sniffer in the world smell alone can't be enough to feel if a food is safe to eat. And even food looks good is not safe to eat. This is because there are different types of bacteria. The types of bacteria that do cause illness don't affect the taste, smell or appearance of food. You can't see the bacteria thus relying on smell or taste is dangerous. Some of the most common food-borne germs and the most dangerous ones don't make food smell bad. On the other side,

spoilage bacteria, the kind that makes your food mouldy, smelly or slimy, won't always make you sick. That is why it is important to freeze or refrigerate food which is to leave three to four days before cooking.

Washing or rinsing raw chicken before cooking removes harmful bacteria

Washing chicken is a good call only if you want to splash potentially harmful bacteria around your kitchen. When you rinse raw meat, bacteria can spread to your sink, countertops and other surfaces in the kitchen. This can contaminate other

foods like salads or fruits.

Research showed that after rinsing, raw meat, harmful bacteria could spread up to an estimated three feet from the sink. Even when washing poultry, 14 per cent of cases still had bacteria in the sink even after cleansing them and 26 per cent of transferred bacteria from poultry to salads that are prepared in the kitchen.

Dropped food on the floor is safe to eat if it is picked up within five seconds.

The five-second rule or other timed variations doesn't prevent bacteria and other germs from getting on fallen food. If

you can't wash the food that has fallen on the floor; don't eat it. It's important to teach children that the five-second rule isn't true that they shouldn't eat food that has fallen on the floor.

It doesn't need to wash hands again because of washing hands with sanitizing gel before. Although hand sanitizer can effectively kill some germs on the hand, they do little to reduce surface tension between skin and dirt, grease and germs. The sanitizer only has an effect on the outer layer of film on the hands. The best way to clean your hands is to wet the hands first with warm water, lather with soap for at least 20 seconds, rinse with warm water, and then dry with a clean towel.

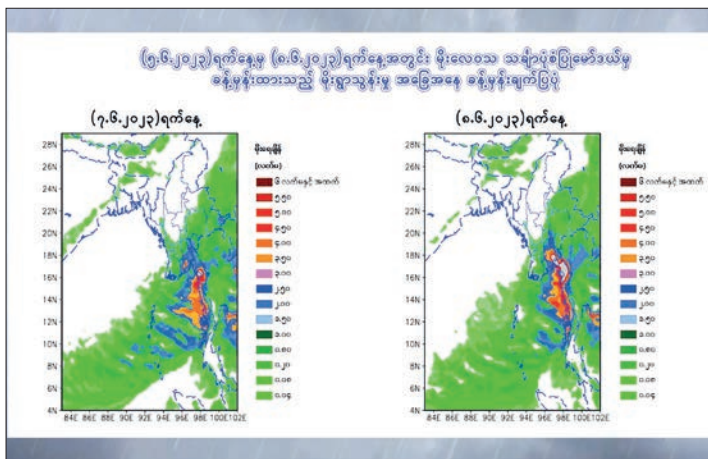
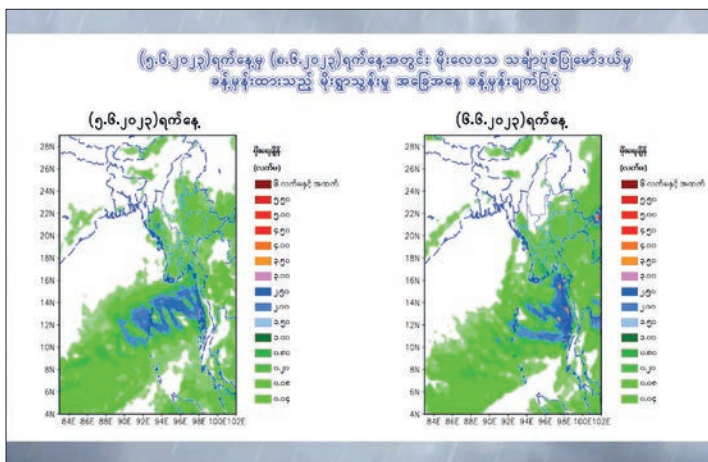
Concerns about food safety at picnics are overblown

Picnics are ripe opportunities for food poisoning. Bacteria thrive between 40°F and 140°F, which is why any food shouldn't stay in that range for more than two hours. If it's over 90 °F out, slash that time in half. This all means that if you're not eating right away cold food should be kept at 40°F or below and hot food at 140°F or above. Keep hot food in slow cookers, warming trays or steam tables; cold food should sit on bowls of ice or in coolers. And wash your hands before you eat or handle food; if you won't have access to soap and running water, moist towelettes or hand sanitizer will do in a pinch.



Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal Condition

Issued at (14:00) hours MST on 3-6-2023



1. According to the observations at (12:30) hrs MST today, a low pressure area possibility may form due to the unstable air condition over the East Central Bay and Southeast Bay of Bengal

and adjoining Andaman sea from (5.6.2023) to (8.6.2023).
2. Due to the unstable air condition and strong monsoon, rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Nay

Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and (Southern and Eastern) Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states with likelihood of regionally and isolated heavy-falls with strong wind from (5.6.2023) to (8.6.2023). Frequently squall with rough sea will be experienced in off and along Myanmar Coast. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (40-45) mph. Wave height will be about (9-13) feet in off and along Myanmar Coast.

Advisory

3. Due to the unstable air condition and strong monsoon, people should be aware of strong wind, heavy rain, flash flood and landslide in the hilly areas and near small rivers and also domestic flight, trawlers, vessels and ships off and along Myanmar Coasts.

4. Department of Meteorology and Hydrology will timely issue the conditions related to the unstable air and strong monsoon.

Department of Meteorology and Hydrology

MYANMAR Daily Weather Report

(ISSUED at 7:00 pm Saturday 3 June 2023)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 4 June 2023: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Lower Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Shan State, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states and scattered in the remaining regions and states with the likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Magway Region and isolated heavy falls in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay regions and Rakhine State. The degree of certainty is 100%.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: Cumulonimbus clouds are developing in the whole country. In the area along the Cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied by rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 mph. Wave height will be about 9-11 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Widespread rain or thundershowers in Naypyitaw, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and (southern and eastern) Shan, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 June 2023: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100%.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 June 2023: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100%.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 June 2023: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100%.

HEALTH/WELLNESS: WORLD

UK drug crime boss in jail after fleeing to Thailand

A British drugs kingpin has been extradited home from Thailand to serve a lengthy jail term after spending years on the run, UK police said on Saturday.

Richard Wakeling, 55, fled Britain in 2018 after he attempted with Dutch accomplices to smuggle £8 million (\$10 million) of liquid amphetamine from Belgium into the UK in 2016.

He was sentenced in absentia to 11 years and placed on the

“most wanted” watch list of the British National Crime Agency (NCA). He had been living in the Thai seaside resort town of Hua Hin for years with a fake Irish passport, according to Thailand’s police force, which arrested him in Bangkok in February.

He was escorted back to London by specialist UK extradition officers on Thursday and immediately jailed after a brief court appearance, according to

the NCA.

“Richard Wakeling thought he could avoid facing justice by leaving the UK,” NCA regional head of investigations Jacque Beer said. “This case highlights the NCA’s global reach, and that we will do everything we can to ensure those who commit serious and organized crime are held accountable for their actions, no matter how long it takes or how far they flee.” — AFP



Richard Wakeling was arrested by Thai police in Bangkok in February. PHOTO: AFP

Texas becomes largest state to ban transgender care for minors



Texas has an estimated 29,800 transgender youth aged 13 to 17, according to the Williams Institute of UCLA. PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES VIA AFP

TEXAS Governor Greg Abbott on 2 June signed a bill that bans transgender healthcare including puberty blockers and hormone therapy for minors, making Texas the largest of the 20 states to have outlawed gender-affirming care.

Republican lawmakers

across the country have promoted similar bills, saying they mistrust the consensus among major medical associations that endorse gender-affirming care as needed and even life-saving for trans youth after extensive evaluation.

Texas, the second

most-populous US state, has an estimated 29,800 transgender youth aged 13 to 17, according to the Williams Institute of UCLA.

The American Civil Liberties Union and other groups have pledged to fight the law in court, as they have similar legislation in other states.

“They (Texas lawmakers) are hellbent on joining the growing roster of states determined to jeopardize the health and lives of transgender youth, in direct opposition to the overwhelming body of scientific and medical evidence,” the ACLU said in a statement when the bill passed the legislature.

The Texas law creates exceptions for minors who began treatment before 1 June or for those who attended 12 or more sessions of mental health counseling or psychotherapy for at least six months. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Major US firms agree to US\$1.2 billion ‘forever chemicals’ settlement

THREE major chemical manufacturers announced Friday they will pay nearly \$1.2 billion to settle claims that they contaminated water sources across the United States with harmful “forever chemicals” known as PFAS.

Chemours, DuPont and Corteva said in a joint press release that they had “reached an agreement in principle to resolve all PFAS-related drinking water claims” for areas serving “the vast majority of the United States population”.

A total of \$1.185 billion will be given to a settlement fund, with Chemours contributing \$592 million, DuPont paying \$400 million and another \$193 million added by Corteva. — AFP

US woman to stand trial over abortion clinic fire

A college student who allegedly set fire to a building that was set to be Wyoming’s only full service abortion clinic will stand trial for arson, a court ruled Friday.

Lorna Roxanne Green, 22, had pleaded not guilty to a single charge in connection with a fire in May last year at Wellspring Health Access, which was being built in Casper. The clinic, whose opening was delayed by several weeks because of damage, is the only clinic to offer surgical abortions in conservative Wyoming. Abortion remains legal in the state, but it is one of several where conservative lawmakers are trying to restrict it. — AFP

Experts warn bird flu virus changing rapidly in largest ever outbreak

WHILE emphasising that the risk to humans remains low, the experts who spoke to AFP said that the surging number of bird flu cases in mammals was a cause for concern.

Since first emerging in 1996, the H5N1 avian influenza virus had previously been confined to mostly seasonal outbreaks.

But “something happened” in mid-2021 that made the group of viruses much more infectious, according to Richard Webby, the

head of a World Health Organization collaborating centre studying influenza in animals.

Since then, outbreaks have lasted all year round, spreading to new areas and leading to mass deaths among wild birds and tens of millions of poultry being culled.

Webby, who is a researcher at St Jude Children’s Research Hospital in the US city of Memphis, told AFP it was “absolutely” the largest outbreak of avian

influenza the world had seen.

He led research, published this week in the journal Nature Communications, showing how the virus rapidly evolved as it spread from Europe into North America.

The study said the virus increased in virulence, which means it causes more dangerous disease, when it arrived in North America. The researchers also infected a ferret with one of the new strains of bird flu. — AFP



Outbreaks of avian influenza have spread to new areas and lead to mass deaths among wild birds. PHOTO: MARTIN BERNETTI / AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

RCEP agreement in effect for all 15 members

THE Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement took effect on 2 June for the Philippines, confirming that the RCEP agreement is now in effect for all 15 members.

The full RCEP implementation reflects the determination and actions of its 15 members — 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia and New Zealand — in supporting an open, free, fair, inclusive and rules-based multi-lateral trading system, China's commerce ministry commented.

The RCEP agreement was signed in November 2020 by the 15 Asia-Pacific countries after eight years of negotiations. It entered into force on the first day of 2022, creating the world's largest trade bloc.

The full implementation will inject strong momentum into regional economic integration, comprehensively enhance the



Engineering machinery is loaded at Yantai Port, Shandong province, for export to Indonesia. **PHOTO: TANG KE/FOR CHINA DAILY**

level of trade and investment liberalization and facilitation in East Asia, and contribute to the

long-term stable development of the regional and global economy, said the commerce ministry.

In 2022, trade between China and other RCEP members increased 7.5 per cent year on year to 12.95 trillion yuan (about 1.82 trillion US dollars), while their investment in China, in actual use, went up 23.1 per cent to 23.53 billion US dollars, data showed.

China will continue to ensure solid RCEP implementation to give full play to its role in facilitating supply chain and industrial chain cooperation, as well as promoting high-standard opening up and high-quality development, the ministry said.

China will also work with other parties to fulfil its obligations, strengthen the RCEP mechanism, enhance the overall implementation of the agreement, and provide a strong guarantee for the steady development of RCEP cooperation, it said. — Xinhua

Saudi-Russian discord clouds OPEC+ talks

SIGNS of discord between top crude oil producers Saudi Arabia and Russia are set to

overshadow an OPEC+ output policy meeting on Sunday that will test their alliance.

The in-person ministerial meeting of the 13 OPEC members led by Riyadh and their 10 allies headed by Moscow will be the second at the OPEC headquarters in the Austrian capital since March 2020.

Adding to the apparent tensions, OPEC did not invite journalists from three major financial news outlets — Bloomberg, Reuters and The Wall Street Journal — to cover the talks, according to Bloomberg.

An OPEC spokesman declined to comment.

Oil producers are grappling with falling prices and high market volatility amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which has upended economies worldwide. — AFP



Analysts are now divided over whether Saudi Arabia and Russia will keep the group on course with its current output policy, or further curtail production in a bid to prop up prices. **PHOTO: AFP**

German households' purchasing power continues to drop despite record wage growth

DESPITE a significant increase in wages, German households experienced a marked decline in purchasing power during the first quarter of 2023. However, economists still expect real wages to fall in 2023.

Data released on Tuesday by the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis) revealed that despite the largest gain in nominal wages since 2008, real wages in Germany, which reflect the purchasing power of wages and salaries,

were 2.3 per cent lower than a year ago. The trend observed in 2022 is persisting, as high inflation is expected to significantly offset wage growth for employees, leaving them with limited real income gains, Destatis said. — Xinhua

Sri Lanka's economic recovery remains challenging: IMF

CASH-STRAPPED Sri Lanka's economy showed "tentative signs of improvement" but recovery remains challenging and Colombo must pursue painful reforms, the IMF said Friday.

The International Monetary Fund's Deputy Managing Director Kenji Okamura said the country was emerging from its unprecedented crisis thanks to reforms including the doubling of taxes, spending cuts and the scrapping of subsidies.

A currency crisis since late 2021 led to severe shortages of food, fuel and medicines and triggered months of protests that led to the toppling of former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa in July.

"The current economic crisis has its genesis in policy missteps aggravated by external shocks," Okamura said in a statement Friday, after meeting President Ranil Wickremesinghe and other leaders on Wednesday. — AFP



This picture taken on 12 September 2022, shows the city skyline as pictured from the observation deck of the Lotus Tower in Colombo. **PHOTO: ISHARA S. KODIKARA / AFP**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL TRUST VOY.NO. (1308S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL TRUST VOY.NO. (1308S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-6-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

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Invitation to Join Myanmar Tourism Federation

Representing the private sector of the tourism industry, Myanmar Tourism Federation (MTF) is formed with tourism related associations. Now, we would like to invite the following types of tourism related members to cooperate widely in the tourism industry.

- (1) Associations formed by Myanmar citizens
- (2) Myanmar national-owned companies
- (3) Foreign owned companies
- (4) Valid licensed businesses
- (5) Individuals (Professionals & employees)

For the detailed information on member benefits, membership application and membership fee payment, please visit the following Myanmar Tourism Federation's official website and Facebook page.

Website: www.facebook.com/myanmartourismfederation.org

Facebook page: www.myanmartourismfederation.org

Myanmar Tourism Federation
01-8203861~2

London Design Biennale explores design-led collaboration

THE fourth edition of the London Design Biennale opened in the British capital on Thursday, bringing together exhibitors from around the globe, invited to explore new forms of collaboration through design.

“What you’re seeing is how to make the world a better place through the lens of design,” director Victoria Broackes told AFP at the opening of the international exhibition.

“There’s often a belief that design is sort of like,

you know, nice to have but not absolutely necessary. And I think what this exhibition shows is that design and designers’ thinking is something absolutely at the core of producing objects that address challenges,” Broackes added.

Projects from over 40 participants will be on display at Somerset House until 25 June, showcasing various design techniques and exploring subjects ranging from the environment to artificial intelligence.

In the Chilean pavilion, the “Borrowed Matter” installation of bio-textile sheets suspended from the ceiling looks at ways of using wood cellulose — a renewable and biodegradable material — to create natural fibres and reduce the impact of logging on rainforests.

Some of the textile works are also sensory and emit the sounds of birds and running water, reminiscent of rainforests, when touched by visitors. — AFP



The London Design Biennale is a prestigious international event that showcases innovative and thought-provoking design installations from countries around the world. **PHOTO: THE LONDON ECONOMIC/AFP**

Ford US sales rise 10.7% in May



Ford Motor Company announced on Friday that it sold 170,933 vehicles in the United States in May, a 10.7-per-cent increase from 154,461 sold in May 2022. **PHOTO: GREG BAKER/AFP**

FORD Motor Company announced on Friday that

it sold 170,933 vehicles in the United States in May, a 10.7-per-cent increase from 154,461 sold in May 2022.

To be specific, sales of internal combustion engine vehicles went up 11.1 per cent in May, hybrid vehicle sales rose 20.5 per cent, while electric vehicle sales dropped 13 per cent.

For the year to date, the Dearborn, Michigan-based automaker’s sales in the United States have gone up 8.8

per cent.

Ford attributed its strong sales growth to trucks.

The US automaker’s truck sales were up 31.6 per cent to more than 98,000 units in May. F-Series posted a 42.7-per-cent year-over-year increase in sales, and sales of the F-150 soared nearly 50 per cent.

Sales of the electric F-150 Lightning totalled 1,707 for May. — AFP

China’s NEV sales surge 82% in May

RETAIL sales of new energy vehicles (NEVs) in China jumped 82 per cent year on year in May, latest data from the China Passenger Car Association (CPCA) showed.

A total of 483,000 NEVs were sold in China during 1-28 May period, according to the CPCA.

As of 28 May this year, retail sales of NEVs in China rose 43 per cent year on year to a total of 2.33 million units, the CPCA said. Meanwhile, retail sales of passenger vehicles added up to 7.29 million units, up two per cent year on year. The CPCA attributed the growth mainly to sales promotions during May Day holiday and consumption subsidy policies introduced by the central and local governments. — Xinhua

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Pope Francis to visit Mongolia from 31 August to 4 September



Buddhism is the largest religion in Mongolia practised by 51.7 per cent of Mongolia's population. Ulan Bator, Mongolia is the capital and largest city of Mongolia. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/XU BIN/XINHUA**

POPE Francis will go to Mongolia in early September in the first visit by a pontiff to the Buddhist-majority Asian nation, the Vatican announced Saturday.

The 86-year-old pontiff will tour the vast nation, sandwiched between Russia and China, from 31 August to 4 September at the invitation of the country's president and church authorities, the head of the Vatican's press service Matteo Bruni said.

The announcement of the trip comes just two months after Francis was hospitalized for three nights with bronchitis, after which he returned to his busy schedule.

Mongolia has one of the world's smallest Catholic com-

munities, estimated at just 1,500 people among the more than three million residents.

But Francis has long championed trips to smaller or more far-flung nations.

Last August, he made a cardinal Italian missionary Giorgio Marengo, who as apostolic prefect of Ulaanbaatar is the most senior Catholic official in Mongolia.

China will likely loom large over the visit, given its close economic ties with Mongolia.

Francis led a years-long effort to build ties with Communist Beijing and in 2018 the Holy See reached a two-year agreement on the thorny issue of the appointment of bishops. — AFP

Erdogan to be sworn in for third term as Turkish president

PRESIDENT Recep Tayyip Erdogan is set to be sworn in on Saturday as head of state after winning a historic runoff election to extend his two-decade rule for another five years as Türkiye's economic woes worsen.

The inauguration in parliament will be followed by a lavish ceremony at his palace in the capital Ankara attended by dozens of world leaders.

Türkiye's transformative but divisive leader won the May 28 runoff against a powerful opposition coalition, and despite an economic crisis and severe criticism following a devastating February earthquake that killed more than 50,000 people.

Erdogan won 52.18 percent of the vote while his secular rival Kemal Kilicdaroglu 47.82 percent, official results show.

Türkiye's longest-serving



Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Türkiye's longest-serving leader, faces immediate and major challenges in his third term driven by a decelerating economy and foreign policy tensions with the West. **PHOTO: DIA IMAGES/AFP/FILE**

leader faces immediate and major challenges in his third term driven by a decelerating economy and foreign policy tensions with the West.

"From a geopolitical point of

view, the election will reinforce Türkiye's recent pursuit of an independent foreign policy," said Matt Gertken, chief geopolitical strategist at BCA Research. — AFP

Zelensky says NATO membership 'impossible' before end of Russia war

PRESIDENT Volodymyr Zelensky acknowledged on Friday that Ukraine would not be able to join NATO before the end of the Russian invasion.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February last year has galvanised the Western military

alliance, set up almost 75 years ago, to face off against the Soviet Union.

But members of the military bloc are split over Ukraine, with NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg saying all members agree to stick by a 2008 pledge that Ukraine

will become a member at some undefined point.

"We are reasonable people and we understand that we are not going to drag a single NATO country into a war," Zelensky said during a briefing along Estonian President Alar Karis. — AFP

Over 280 dead, 850 hurt in India horror rail crash

AT least 288 people were killed, more than 850 more were injured and many others are feared trapped after a horrific three-train collision late Friday in eastern India's Odisha state, local officials said.

AFP reporters at the scene saw smashed train compartments torn open with blood-stained holes of twisted metal near Balasore, about 200 kilometres (125 miles) from the state capital Bhubaneswar.

Carriages had flipped over entirely and rescue workers searched to pull out survivors trapped in the mangled wreckage, with scores of bodies laid out under white sheets beside the tracks. "We have already counted 207 dead and the toll will still go up further," Sudhanshu Sarangi, director general of Odisha Fire Services, told AFP

from the accident site.

"The rescue work is still going at the site and it will take us a few more hours to finish here."

Odisha state's chief secretary Pradeep Jena confirmed that about 850 injured people had been sent to hospitals, with rescue work ongoing.

"Our top priority now is rescuing (the passengers) and providing health support to the injured," he said. Amitabh Sharma, executive director with the Indian Railways, told AFP that two passenger trains "had an active involvement in the accident" while "the third train, a goods train, which was parked at the site, also got (involved) in the accident". India is no stranger to railway accidents and has seen several such incidents in the past, but the scale of the latest crash sparked shock. — AFP



At least 288 people were killed, more than 850 more were injured and many others are feared trapped after a horrific three-train collision late Friday in eastern India's Odisha state. **PHOTO: AFP**

China willing to send 2nd mission on Ukraine peace: envoy

A Chinese special envoy who recently visited Ukraine and Russia as part of a mission to help facilitate a political settlement to the Ukraine crisis said Friday that Beijing is willing to consider sending another delegation to relevant countries for further peace efforts.

Li Hui, China's representative in charge of Eurasian affairs who was also dispatched last month to Poland, France, Germany and the European Union, told reporters that his delegation's visits were "not for any quick results or delivery" and that their trip "will not be the last one".

The envoy, who held talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov

among others during his visit, said he believes it is now "rather difficult" for all sides to sit down at the negotiating table.

But he sounded optimistic about the possibility that the crisis will eventually be resolved peacefully, saying, "My impression is that neither side has shut the door on peace talks."

The Wall Street Journal reported last week that Li proposed to US allies in Europe that they should leave Russia in possession of the parts of Ukraine that Moscow currently occupies, quoting Western officials familiar with the talks. The envoy flatly denied the report, saying it is "not in line with the facts" and labeled it as a move to "sow discord between China and Ukraine". — Kyodo



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov welcomes Li Hui, China's special representative on Eurasian affairs, at the Russian Foreign Ministry headquarters in Moscow on 26 May 2023. PHOTO: RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY

Far-right party at new high as climate issues split Germany

LONG an anti-immigration party, the Alternative for Germany (AfD) has scaled new heights in national polls as discontent with the government in Berlin and its climate agenda grows.

The far-right party would receive 18 per cent of the vote if elections were held tomorrow, according to the most recent survey by national broadcaster ARD. The figure is the AfD's best in the closely watched election monitor, putting it level with Chancellor Olaf Scholz's Social Democrats and behind only the conservative CDU-CSU on 29

per cent of the vote.

The AfD was also topping polls in the eastern regions of Saxony, Thuringia and Brandenburg. While the party continues to leverage anti-immigration sentiment, it has also increasingly sought to capitalize on dissatisfaction with Scholz's ruling coalition with the Greens and the pro-business FDP. In particular, the AfD has taken aim at the government's plans to clean up the Germany's energy system amid a painful cost of living crisis triggered by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. — AFP



The AfD's rise has sparked debates in Germany about the limits of acceptable political discourse and concerns over the potential normalization of far-right ideologies. It has also led to increased attention on issues such as immigration, multiculturalism, and national identity within German society. PHOTO: TOBIAS SCHWARZ/AFP

Japan, US, S Korea to launch system to share N Korea missile info

JAPAN, the United States and South Korea agreed Saturday to launch a system that will allow information about North Korean missiles to be shared in real-time by the end of this year, amid Pyongyang's repeated ballistic missile tests.

In a joint statement issued following their talks on the sidelines of the Asia Security Summit in Singapore, Japanese Defence Minister Yasukazu Hamada and his US and South Korean counterparts, Lloyd Austin and Lee Jong Sup, said they will "make further progress" towards making the new system operational "over the next few months".

The first talks between the three countries' defense ministers since June last year took place on the fringes of the three-

day summit in the Southeast Asian city-state, also known as the Shangri-La Dialogue, which began Friday.

The planned information-sharing system will enable

the three nations to detect and track projectiles fired by the North more accurately and swiftly, and will be "a major step for deterrence, peace and stability," the statement said. — Kyodo



A general view of fire assault drill at an undisclosed location in North Korea 10 March 2023 in this photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). PHOTO: KCNA/KYODO

Russian border region residents flee as shelling kills four

FOUR civilians were killed on Friday in shelling on Russia's Belgorod region bordering Ukraine, a local official said, while Moscow's forces attacked Kyiv for a sixth day in a row.

Over the past few days, thousands of residents have fled villages near Russia's south-

western border as shelling has intensified.

Residents from the town of Shebekino, which has been hard hit, have poured into the region's main city, also called Belgorod.

At Belgorod's sports arena, which has become the city's biggest centre for displaced people,

AFP journalists saw volunteers organizing the transfer of displaced people to smaller dormitories.

Belgorod governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said 2,500 people were being accommodated in temporary shelters, including the sports arena. — AFP

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SPORT

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

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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



The Myanmar goalkeeper catches the ball in the air during her training session at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon. PHOTO: MFF

Team Myanmar train hard ahead of AFC U-20 Women's Qualifiers

THE Myanmar Women's U-20 team is taking their special training ahead of the 2024 Asian Women's U-20 Championship second-round qualifiers starting from 2 June, according to yesterday's statement with the Myanmar Football Federation.

The Myanmar Women's U-20 team's qualifiers for the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup

will start on 6 June.

Myanmar will host the Group B qualifiers and all the matches will be played at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon starting from 6:30 pm.

The Myanmar Women's U-20 team is in Group B with China, Nepal, and Chinese Taipei, while Australia, Viet Nam, Iran, and Lebanon are in Group

A.

Myanmar will play against Nepal on 6 June, Chinese Taipei on 8 June, and China on 10 June.

The teams that will compete against the Myanmar team also arrived in Yangon yesterday and are staying at various hotels designated by the Myanmar Football Federation. — KZL

Sergio Ramos joins Messi in leaving PSG



Sergio Ramos won Ligue 1 twice with Paris Saint-Germain. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

FRENCH champions Paris Saint-Germain announced on Friday that veteran former Spain defender Sergio Ramos will join Lionel Messi in leaving the club at the end of the season.

Ramos, 37, arrived in French capital in 2021 after a trophy-lad-

en spell with Real Madrid, lifting the Champions League on four time. "We would like to express our immense gratitude to Sergio Ramos for the two years he has spent with us," PSG president Nasser Al-Khelaifi said in a statement. "Sergio's leadership,

team spirit and professionalism, combined with his experience at the highest level, make him a true football legend, and it was an honour to have him in Paris.

"Everyone at the club wishes him all the best," Al-Khelaifi added. The announcement came less than 24 hours before PSG's final game of the Ligue 1 season as they host Clermont. Ramos follows Argentina's 2022 World Cup winner Messi out of the Parc des Princes door with reports also linking Brazil's Neymar with a departure. "Tomorrow is a special day, tomorrow I will say goodbye to another stage of my life, goodbye to PSG," Ramos said on social media. "I don't know in how many places one can feel at home, but without a doubt PSG, the fans, and Paris were one of them for me. "Thank you for two special years in which I was able to play in every tournament and give my all," he added. — AFP

Australia's Lee leads LPGA Americas Open

AUSTRALIAN Minjee Lee fired eight birdies in an eight-under par 64 on Friday to grab a share of the lead alongside Cheyenne Knight in the LPGA Mizuho



Australia's Minjee Lee lines up a shot on the way to the 36-hole lead in the LPGA Mizuho Americas Open. PHOTO: AFP

Americas Open at Liberty National in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Lee roared out of the gate with birdies at the first three holes, and was six-under at the turn after birdies at the fifth, eighth and ninth.

The world number five added birdies at the 10th and 12th for a 36-hole total of seven-under par 137. Knight joined her with a four-under par 68. The American teed off on 10 and was even par through her first nine after two birdies and two bogeys.

She, too, birdied the first through third holes, and capped her round with her sixth birdie of the day at the ninth.—AFP