

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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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.

Pulses surpass rice in export earnings, boosting Myanmar's agricultural trade

PULSES have emerged as the leading contributor to Myanmar's agricultural export earnings, surpassing the value generated by rice exports. The demand for black gram, pigeon pea, and green gram has driven their prices to approximately US\$1,000 per tonne in 2023, outperforming rice and rice products that were offered at around \$400 per tonne.

During the 2020-2021 financial year, rice exports amounted to \$578.94 million (1.66 million tonnes), while pulses exports reached an impressive \$1.57 billion (2,029,695 tonnes). Specifically, various pulses accounted for \$1.47 billion with 1.919 million tonnes in the last financial year.

Looking ahead to the 2023-2024 financial year, Myanmar aims to achieve 2.5 million tonnes of rice exports worth \$1 billion. In the Yangon market, broken rice prices were recorded at K44,000 per bag, while low-grade rice for foreign markets was priced at K55,000 per bag. The country boasts a significant agricultural capacity, with 17 million acres dedicated to monsoon and summer paddy plantations, as well as 9.63 million acres allocated to pulses and beans cultivation. Rice remains a staple food in



During the 2020-2021 financial year, rice exports amounted to \$578.94 million (1.66 million tonnes), while pulses exports reached an impressive \$1.57 billion (2,029,695 tonnes). Workers are pictured organizing red grams to pack them into bags at the warehouse in the Bayintnaung market.

Myanmar: Despite the expanding rice acreage, the volume of rice and broken rice exports during the past two months (April-May) 198,354 tonnes, partially due to this financial year reached only **SEE PAGE-3**

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

SSID to test 4,330 types of foodstuffs, consumer goods, and cosmetics

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Appointment of Brazilian Ambassador to Myanmar agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr Gustavo Rocha de Menezes as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr Gustavo Rocha de Menezes was born on 4 March 1967 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

He holds a degree in Economics from Pontifical Catholic University and a Master's degree in International Relations from the Institute of International Relations. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil as Third Secretary in 1995. From 2000 to 2019, he served in various capacities at the Brazilian Embassies in London, Santiago, Beijing,

Rome and the Consulate-General of Brazil in Barcelona. From 2019 to 2020, he served as Minister Counsellor at the Mission of Brazil to the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries. From 2020 to 2022, he served as Deputy Chief in the cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and as Chief of Staff at the Office of the Minister of Health. — MNA

POSCO releases notice to mariners

POSCO International Corporation (Myanmar E&P) will conduct the environmental monitoring seawater sampling survey at A-1 & A-3 blocks by MV Jenny (Call Sign PNRZ) from 14 July to 31 August 2023.

The survey area will be between 19°45'19.02"N and 92°26'53.64"E at point A; between 19°45'21.39"N and 92°46'50.68"E at point B; between 19°13'38.79"N and 92°27'54.87"E at point C; and between 19°13'50.55"N and 92°47'34.83"E at point D.

During the period, a notice to mariners was released that vessels of various sizes and trawlers should not pass the aforesaid area and anchor there or do fishing. — GNLM

68 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 20 June, total figure registers 640,160

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to 640,160 after 68 new cases were reported on 20 June 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of 10,794,965 laboratory samples were examined and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 640,160. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 618,978 including 37 new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered 19,494 on 19-6-2023 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

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 increase of death rate due to the disease.

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

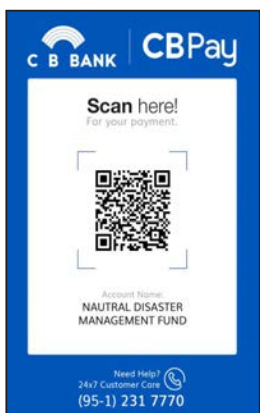
1. AN announcement has been issued that well-wishers wishing to make donations for people who fell victim to the extremely severe cyclonic storm Mocha which hit Myanmar on 14-5-2023 can donate cash to Myanmar account OA-011834 and foreign account 1DA-0300086.
2. In this announcement, it is duly mentioned 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 dona-

tions can be made to the previously announced phone number and to the account that was opened, and since it can be confusing to donate with a phone number, we have already made it possible to donate with a QR code instead of the phone number.

4. Donations can be made through KBZ Pay or Wave Money. If you wish to donate, please scan the QR codes provided by both KBZ Pay and Wave Money. To contribute, enter the code included within the respective QR codes.
5. People make donations through CB Pay, AYA Pay, OK \$, UAB pay and

Citizens Pay which are widely used to enhance convenience for donors. To donate, please scan the QR code

and enter the code provided within it. 6. The well-wishers can contact the following persons for further information: -



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

National Disaster Management Committee

Conservation and rehabilitation measures needed for previous environmental degradation

While striving for development, natural resources must be utilized in a prudent and sensible manner giving due consideration to the future of the State and the next generations. As such, it is necessary to conduct environmental conservation and rehabilitation measures for past environmental degradation.

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudamma Min Aung Hlaing on 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day ceremony on 4 January 2023)

SAC Member DPM MoTC Union Minister presides over coordination meetings on recovery measures for Mocha-hit livestock and marine industries, rehabilitation processes in Rakhine State

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San, accompanied by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, Dr Thet Thet Khine, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin, Deputy Ministers and relevant officials attended the coordination meeting on recovery measures for Mocha-hit livestock and marine industries held at Rakhine State government office yesterday.

First, the Deputy Prime Minister talked about the vision of meeting, meeting attendance of senior military officers assigned in storm-affected areas online and plans to provide techniques to revive the Mocha-hit agriculture, livestock and marine industries.

He then called on the departmental officials and business people to cooperate for food security in storm-affected areas



Deputy Prime Minister Admiral Tin Aung San presides over the coordination meeting on recovery tasks for Mocha-battered agriculture livestock and marine industries yesterday in Sittway.

by drafting long and short-term plans.

Afterwards, the business people reported on the losses in livestock and marine industries after Mocha and the assistance they want.

The Union ministers, the Rakhine State chief minister,

deputy ministers and officials stressed the need to submit the inventory of losses and procedures to be conducted.

After the presentation, the Deputy Prime Minister said that business people should try hard for their losses as much as they can while the government

provides the needed assistance. The damaged boats and fishing materials will be repaired and it will also provide the needed materials.

At noon, Admiral Tin Aung San and party inspected the Mocha-hit Rakhine State Hluttaw meeting hall, guesthouse and

staff housing and made proper instructions.

Then, they attended the coordination meeting on rehabilitation processes held at the Rakhine State government office and offered directives. — MNA/KTZH

Pulses surpass rice in export earnings, boosting ...



The photo showcases various lucrative pulses that contribute to Myanmar's foreign income.

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price hikes. Consequently, the focus has shifted towards pulses exports, as local consumption of pulses remains relatively low compared to rice. Furthermore, India's anticipated decrease in pulses output due to a late monsoon will likely fuel demand for Myanmar's pulses.

The mid-June 2023 prices for pulses were as follows: K2.4 million per tonne for black gram, K3.2 million per tonne for pigeon pea, K2.3 million per tonne for green gram (equivalent to K3,830 per viss), and K3.6 million per tonne for chickpeas (K6,000-6,200

per viss). The FOB prices were reported as \$990-1,010 per tonne for black gram (FAQ), \$1,095-1,115 for black gram (SQ), \$1,240-1,260 for pigeon pea (red gram), and \$1,020-1,040 for green gram.

As the earnings from pulses have outperformed the value of rice exports, farmers are increasingly showing keen interest in pulses and beans cultivation. While summer paddy is flowing into the markets of upper Myanmar regions, farmers are also preparing for monsoon paddy cultivation. The market will soon witness the influx of newly harvested short-mature monsoon

paddy (90 days). However, the remaining stocks of low-grade rice are expected to be sold in the domestic markets within the next three months. Although the rice market is generally sluggish during the monsoon season, some rice varieties cannot be stored for long periods, yet the price remains strong. Meanwhile, the prices of pulses continue to rise, prompting farmers to expand their cultivation efforts. Given the growing demand from India and a low possibility of a price decline in the pulses market, the future looks promising for Myanmar's pulse exports. — TWA/EM

MoFA Union Minister and delegation come back home



Union Minister U Than Swe seen being welcomed back on his arrival at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe and party, who attended the informal meeting on Myanmar held in Pattaya on 19 June at the invitation of Thailand Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Don Pramudwinai, arrived back at Yangon International Airport at 8:05 pm yesterday. —MNA/KZL

Relief items continue to be delivered to Rakhine State

THE vessel Mercury Force loaded with relief items of 300 tonnes of lumber, 154,588 corrugated zinc sheets of zinc, 90,230 plain sheets for the roof, 6,905 vises of zinc nails, 7,265 vises of household nails, 30,000 bricks, one crane, 60 hand-tillers, 60 engines, 300 drums of fuel, 200 water purifier boxes, 11.4 tonnes of foodstuffs and consumer goods, weighing a total of 1,463.28 tonnes, provided by

the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Construction and Mon State government, left the Myanmar Terminal (TMT) wharf for Sittway yesterday evening. — MNA/TS



Public Notice for Elimination of Violence

1. Declaring themselves to be “for the people”, the so-called CRPH, NUG and PDF terrorist groups are lawlessly killing Buddhist monks, civil servants including schoolteachers, and members of the general public, as well as looting and robbing.
2. Not encouraging, supporting, or assisting “CRPH”, “NUG”, and “PDF” terrorists, who are intimidating and killing people and committing destructive activities, is to protect the lives and property of the general public.
3. Giving information secretly to the authorities on terrorists and on the possession and transport of weapons/ammunition is tantamount to protecting the lives and property of innocent people.

Sectoral Risk Assessment Workshop on Property & Gold Businesses held



The Sectoral Risk Assessment Workshop on Real Estate and Gold Businesses in progress in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 June.

THE General Administration Department, which is the supervisory authority, held a Sectoral Risk Assessment Workshop for Real Estate Agents and Precious Metal trading businesses on 19 June 2023 at Hotel Max Nay Pyi Taw.

In the workshop, U Myint Than, Director-General of the General Administration Department, gave an opening speech. Then, U Ko Ko Maung, Deputy Director-General of the Financial Regulation Department who

is also the Head of the CIASC, and U Thu Rein Aung, Deputy Director of the Special Investigation Department explained the purpose of the workshop and the tasks and procedures of the Anti Money Laundering and Combatting the Financing of Terrorism. A total of 216 participants including 26 General Administration Department employees from nine Nay Pyi Taw/Region/State GADs, 145 real estate agents and 45 precious metal (gold) dealers

attended the workshop. Afterwards, the director and deputy director of the Land Division of the General Administration Department discussed the questionnaires of Sectoral Risk Assessment Questionnaires, and the questionnaires are answered by the real estate agents and precious metal (gold) dealers who attended. The answered questionnaires were recollected, reviewed and discussed before the conclusion of the workshop.

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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.

Senior military officers, officials oversee rehabilitation tasks in Rakhine, Chin states

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, currently in Kyaukpyu in Rakhine State, along with officials, inspected the clearing of garbage from drains in Thanpanchaung Ward yesterday, and giving medical services to locals at Ngalapwe Monastery in Ngalapwe Ward.

Similarly, Lt-Gen Aye Win, currently in Buthidaung in Rakhine State, together with officials, also inspected the drainage system in Myothit Ward and provided supplies to the residents from 16 Mocha-hit village-tracts at U

Ottama Hall.

Moreover, Maj-Gen Thuang Htike Shwe, who is in MraukU, together with officials paid homage to Sayadaws at Maha Pyanyar Thiha Rama Pariyatti Monastery in Alezay Ward and Yadana Tayza Ramma Monastic School in Sinchaseik Ward and donated cash provided by Disaster Management Department on 19 June.

Brig-Gen Nay Win Aung, currently in Paletwa of Chin State, along with officials, handed over cash assistance to repair the schools and religious buildings in Hmonetanone, Mawson-egyi, Kyetmaaine (East), Kyaukpyinhtaunt and Kyaukphyar villages to the relevant village officials at township General Administrative Department office yesterday. — MNA/KTZH



Healthcare services are provided to the Mocha-affected victims.

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



A 29-metre landing craft of Tatmadaw (Navy) transported 1,357 cartons of canned food, 450 cartons of beans and 568 poles of small trees donated by the Rakhine State government weighing 34 tonnes from Yaychanpyin to Buthidaung yesterday morning and relief supplies and equipment will be distributed to the victims as soon as possible. — MNA/KZW

Relief goods are loaded onboard Tatmadaw vessels for Mocha victims.

Tatmadaw (Navy) rescues cargo ship with engine failure in Myanmar Sea

SECURITY forces from Tatmadaw (Navy), who are conducting security operations in the Myanmar Sea near Kyaukpyu, Rakhine State, at around 4:00 pm on 18 June, went to search for a cargo ship in the Myanmar Sea, about 30 miles northwest of Kyaukpyu, according to the report.

The cargo vessel named MV Shwe Nann Shin, which broke down and floating, was found with 17 crew members, and the cargo vessel was towed to Kyaukpyu and the necessary help was given to the crew. —MNA/KZL



Relief items are provided to the saved crew members from MV Shwe Nann Shin.

Tatmadaw Relief Teams exert rehabilitation efforts

TO facilitate relief and rehabilitation activities in areas affected by natural disasters, the Tatmadaw has deployed relief teams consisting of local security forces. They are actively assisting in the respective areas in cooperation with social organizations.

The relief teams worked together with mobile medical teams, provided healthcare services to the locals in the Ngalapwe ward and cleaned garbage from the drainage near the No 3-port bridge in Kyaukpyu.

Similarly, relief troops in Buthidaung cleaned fallen trees and bushes in the downtown areas.

Relief teams in Rath-



Clear-up operation of fallen trees and debris is underway.

edaung are cooperating with the mobile medical teams to give healthcare services to locals in Sasana Beikman.

Relief teams in Sittway along with Myanmar

Police Force members cleaned trees and bushes in Padalake village. They also provided healthcare services to the locals in Aungmingala village.

Relief teams in Pon-

nagyun cooperated with Myanmar Police Force members, and fire brigade members to clean trees and bushes in the basic high school (branch) in Ponnagyun. — MNA/KZW

Essential foodstuffs sold at fair prices in Mocha-hit Sittway, Rakhine State

TATMADAW members of the local battalions under the Western Command and officials sell essential foodstuffs at lower prices for the convenience of residents and departmental staff affected by Cyclone Mocha in Sittway to buy foodstuffs at fairer prices.

Foodstuffs including rice, edible oil, salt, meat, fish, egg, dairy products, vegetables, onions, garlic, and products of Tatmadaw including instant noodles, biscuits, and canned food in addition to the foodstuffs, electronic devices and construction materials of private entrepreneurs were sold at lower prices than the market prices at U Ottama Park, Sittway Township yesterday.

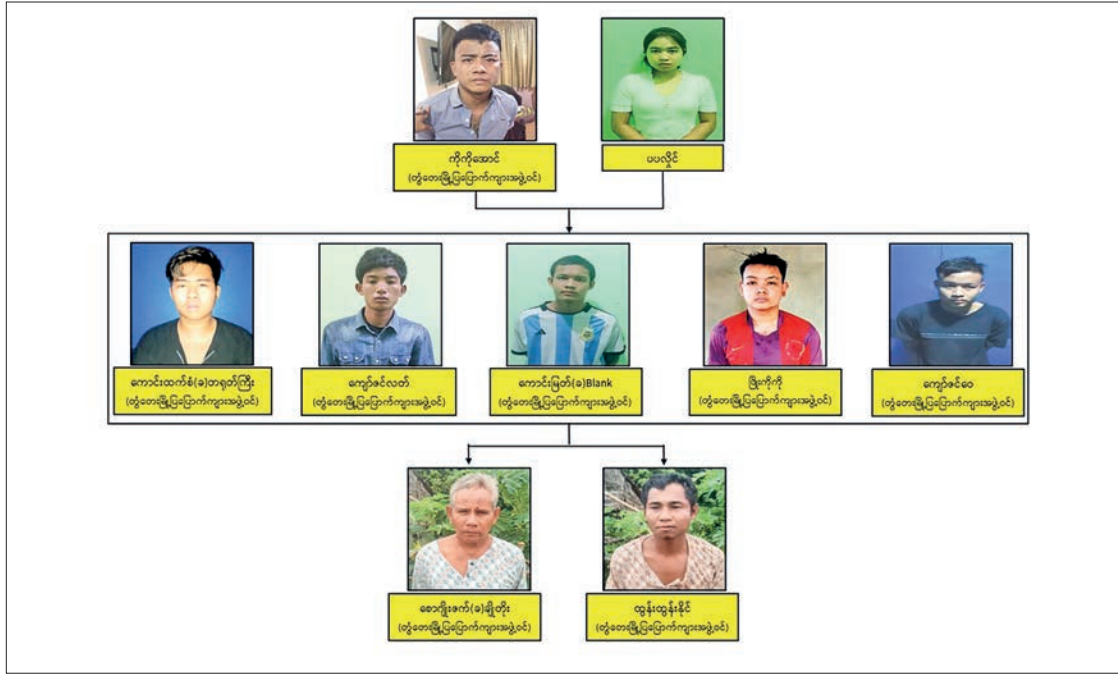
Locals and families of the departmental staff enjoyed buying foodstuffs and expressed thanks to officials for selling them at low prices during difficult times.— MNA/CT

TUG members arrested following Myat Maung gold shop robbery

THREE terrorists robbed Myat Maung diamond and gold jewellery shop located in Maydawi Street of (Zamyinzwe) ward of North Okkalapa Township on 18 June evening. It has already announced on 19 June that a total of nine suspects — eight males and one female were arrested along with the arms within five hours after the case.

According to the investigation, suspect Phyo Ko Ko attended the explosive training at KNLA Brigade 6-controlled area in November 2021. Ko Ko Aung, Kaung Myat, Kyaw Zin Wai and Kaung Htet San also attended the explosive training conducted by the Twantay Urban Guerrilla terrorist group in Gayatletmee village of Twantay Township in January 2022. The Twantay Urban Guerrilla was organized by San Shay (Ko Htet) and Chan Myae Aung who are still at large with 25 members including Ko Ko Aung, Phyo Ko Ko, Kaung Myat, Kyaw Zin Wai, Kyaw Zin Latt and Kaung Htet San to launch a terrorist attack and kill the innocent civilians in Yangon in January 2022.

According to their confessions, Phyo Ko Ko took two M4A1s, one M-16, two Sig Sauer pistols, eight magazines, two grenades, 340 5.56 bullets and



This diagram indicates nine members of Twantay Urban Guerrilla terrorist group linked to the robbery case. It has already announced on 19 June that a total of nine suspects – eight males and one female — were arrested along with the arms within five hours after the case.

300 9MM Luger bullets from Chan Myae (still at large) near Nyaungtaga village of Twantay under the instruction of San Shay (aka) Ko Htet (still at large) in February 2022.

The suspects committed 10 murder cases and three robberies in Twantay and Yangon under the instruction of Twantay Urban Guerrilla leader San Shay (aka) Ko Htet and Chan Myae Aung.

- Phyo Ko Ko shot Talote Htaw

Auk Kyin Village administrator of Twantay U Kyaw Lwin Oo and his wife on 3 March 2022

- Phyo Ko Ko and Ko Ko Aung shot U Kyi Lay, in-charge of 100-household of Shwe San Daw ward of Twantay, on 10 March

- Phyo Ko Ko and Ko Ko Aung shot innocent civilian Daw Khin Moe Thu dead on Kyai-khtaw-Kanyinngu road in Twantay on 13 March

- Phyo Ko Ko also shot Bekho village administrator of Twantay U Thein Win to death on 1 August

- Phyo Ko Ko, Kaung Myat and Ko Ko Aung shot six people including Zeephyugone village administrator U Khin Nyunt at Mya Kan Thar village junction in Twantay on 22 August

- Phyo Ko Ko and Kaung Myat also opened fire on two civilians U Tun Tun and his wife

from Malpyay village of Twantay on 8 October

- Phyo Ko Ko, Ko Ko Aung and Kaung Myat also shot five civilians including U Thein Zaw to death in Thamban-seik village of Twantay on 5 November

- Phyo Ko Ko and Ko Ko Aung shot U Toe Min Htike and his wife to death in Larkapon Village of Twantay on 6 November

- Phyo Ko Ko, Ko Ko Aung and Kaung Myat robbed the house of Ma San Pa Pa Aung and killed her in Kapingyi village of Twantay on 7 February 2023

- Phyo Ko Ko, Ko Ko Aung and Kaung Myat also killed Paukkone village administrator U Soe Lwin and in-charge 100-household U Than Lwin on 4 March

- Phyo Ko Ko, Ko Ko Aung and Kaung Myat robbed the house of U Tun Tun Oo in Malpyay village on 10 April

- Phyo Ko Ko, Ko Ko Aung and Kaung Myat also robbed Myat Maung gold shop in Maydawi Street of (Zamyinzwe) Ward of North Okkalapa Township on 10 June.

Action will be taken against the suspects under the law and further investigation is underway.— MNA/KTZH

Drugs seized in Hpa-an, Mogok and Dagon (South) townships

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched the house of Tin Ko Ko (aka) Kala in 53 Ward in Dagon (South) township at noon on 18 June and arrested Tin Ko Ko (aka) Kala and Myo Ko Ko (aka) Pho Thee together with 2,000 stimulant tablets.

Moreover, the police force stopped and searched a motorbike driven by Ahsar on Hpa-an-Myawady road near Toungna village in Hpa-an township at 9:30 am on 19 June and seized 2,000 stimulant tablets.

A combined team including

members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and searched a motorbike driven by Jaw Rain Gon near Satinpyant village in Mogok township at 5:30 pm on the same day and caught 4,750 stimulant tablets.

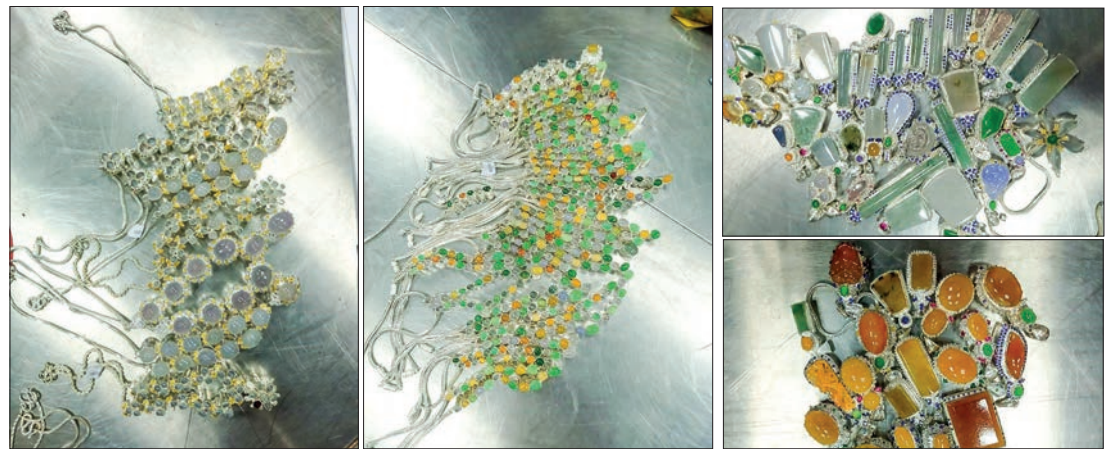
After making some interrogations, the police also arrested Kyi Khaing who waited to accept the drugs at a bridge near Bawbadan village in Mogok at 7:30 pm on the same day.

Offenders have been prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/MKKS



Two offenders are seen along with seized drugs and a motorbike.

Illegal timbers, consumer goods and vehicles confiscated



Confiscated illegal commodities at the Mandalay International Airport.

A combined team led by the Lewe Township Forest Department conducted inspections on 17 June and impounded a total of 5.29 tonnes of illegal timbers (worth K370,314) in Lewe Township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Similarly, an on-duty team confiscated a Mazda Tian car (approximately K15 million) carrying four kinds of goods (worth K6.47 million) including

9,000 boxes of Lactasoy without official documents at the Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) on 18 June. The action was taken in adherence to Customs procedures.

Additionally, an on-duty team at the Mandalay International Airport (Import Desk) captured five kinds of jewellery (worth K9.61 million) including 20 necklaces studded with precious stones without Import approval documents from

luggage. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

A total of 5.455 tonnes of illegal timber (worth K381,850) was seized in DaikU township on 20 June and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

As a result, a total of five arrests were made on 17, 18 and 20 June, with an estimated value of K31,832,164, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

LOCAL BUSINESS

Japanese white sesame gains prominence in Mandalay market

SESAME traders in Mandalay have reported flourishing trade activity as Japanese white sesame floods the market at a favourable price. The supply of this sesame variety mainly originates from Kyaukse Township. Over the past year, the price has surged from K270,000 to K373,000 per three-basket bag, indicating a significant rise in value, according to U Soe Win Myint, owner of the Soe Win Myint Commodity Depot in Mandalay.

The Japanese white sesame, introduced in Japan a decade ago, stands out for its exceptional qualities. It boasts a whiter colour and thicker seeds compared to regular white sesame, making it more marketable and lucrative. Among the various sesame varieties available, Japanese white sesame and black sesame (specifically the Samone variety) enjoy high



One of the notable features of this sesame variety is its year-round cultivation capability, with a harvest time of approximately 100 days. This commercially valued product is commonly cultivated in Mandalay, Magway, and Sagaing regions.

demand in the market. Chinese buyers eagerly purchase the entire supply of Japanese white sesame, utilizing it extensively in the cosmetic, snack food, and traditional medicine industries.

With abundant harvests expected in July, the demand for Japanese white sesame is projected to increase further, driving the price upwards.

One of the notable features

of this sesame variety is its year-round cultivation capability, with a harvest time of approximately 100 days. This commercially valued product is commonly cultivated in Mandalay, Magway, and

Sagaing regions. Among these regions, the Japanese white sesame from Kyaukse and Ledwin districts holds the highest preference among buyers. — Min Htet Aung/EM

Palm oil wholesale reference price for Yangon Region rebounds this week ending 25 June

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market bounced back to K3,860 per viss this week ending 25 June, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The reference price was set at K3,750 per viss from 12 to 18 June. For the week ending 25 June, the price was set a bit higher at K3,860 per viss. The figures showed an increase of K100 per viss compared to that of the previous week.

The Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia including transport costs, tariffs and banking services, and issuing the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil every week.

Compared to the reference price, the palm oil market price is too high. If those edible oil retailers and wholesalers are found overcharging, storing inventory intentionally and attempting unscrupulous action to manipulate the market, they will face legal action under the Essential Supplies

and Service Act, MoC released a statement.

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

At present, mobile market trucks operated by oil importing companies, in coordination with Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, were back to business in some townships on 17 July to offer palm oil at a subsidized rate. They offer palm oil at a fairer price to the consumers directly depending on the reference price. However, there are limited sources of supply although they directly sell the palm oil at reference rate depending on the volume quota. The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at 1 million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the oil sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported from Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/EM

Fuel prices gain above K2,000 per litre in domestic market

THE prices of fuel oil (diesel and Octane 92) rebounded to above K2,000 per litre in the domestic fuel oil market.

The prices increased to K2,025 per litre for Octane 92, K2,125 per litre for Octane 95, K2,005 for diesel and K2,085 for premium diesel.

The domestic fuel prices are set depending on the price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in southeast Asia, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil.

In August 2022, the oil prices surged to K2,605 per litre for Octane 92, K2,670 for Octane 95, K3,330 for premium diesel and K3,245 for diesel.

The committee is therefore governing the fuel oil storage and distribution sector effectively not to have a shortage of oil in the domestic market and to ensure price stability for energy consumers.

The Petroleum Products Regulatory Department, under the guidance of the committee, is issuing the daily reference rate for oil to offer a reasonable price to energy consumers. The reference rate in Yangon Region is set on the MOPS's price assessment, shipping cost, premium insurance, tax, other general cost and health profit per cent.

The rates for regions and states other than Yangon are evaluated after adding the transportation cost and the retail reference rates daily covered on the state-run newspapers and are posted on the media and official website and Facebook page of the department daily starting from 4 May.

The committee is inspecting the fuel stations whether they are overcharging or not. The authorities are taking action against those retailers of fuel stations under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law 2017 if they are found over-

charging higher than the set reference rate.

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. The domestic fuel price is highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss between the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices compared to that of Myanmar. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies and the prices are about 60 per cent cheaper than that of Myanmar. Every country lays down different patterns of policy to fix the oil prices. Myanmar also levies only a lower tax rate on fuel oil and strives for energy consumers to buy the oil at a cheaper rate. — NN/EM

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OPINION

Support Emerald (Mya Sein Yaung) village project for rural people

THE Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development has implemented the Emerald (Mya Sein Yaung) village project, a reliable initiative aimed at benefiting rural communities and promoting socioeconomic development. Launched in the 2014-2015 financial year, this project seeks to increase financial resources in villages, foster democratic negotiation and coordination among rural residents, create employment opportunities, and raise family incomes.

Across the nation, a total of 14,668 villages in 289 townships in all regions and states have received disbursements totalling more than K490 billion. These funds have reached more than 1.4 million rural households engaged in agriculture and livestock farming. This

represents the project coverage of 23.1 per cent nationwide.

The Emerald (Mya Sein Yaung) village project engages in various activities that are visible in state-owned and other private media outlets. These activities include providing loans to rural residents at favourable interest rates, undertaking development projects such as constructing rural roads, bridges, and parks, as well as cultivating manageable-scale seasonal crops to ensure food supply for the people. Additionally, the project facilitates the repayment of loans to project officials.

Up to now, the project fund has accrued over K248 billion in interest from disbursements. Out of this amount, more than K44.56 billion has been allocated to carrying out over 4,000 development projects across the country with the active participation of the local population.

This has further solidified the Emerald (Mya Sein Yaung) village project as a dependable endeavour supported by the government.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development has been implementing the Village Development Project (VDP) since the 2015-2016 financial year. Through this initiative, the project assesses the actual needs of rural communities for development endeavours, fosters public-centred initiatives, and formulates prioritized rural development plans. As a result, more than 15,000 projects have been implemented in 11,677 villages across various regions and states.

In addition to these efforts, the Emerald (Mya Sein Yaung) village project has taken the lead in establishing smart villages as part of comprehensive village development. This pilot programme commenced in the 2022-2023 financial year, and to date, 43 villages have been transformed into smart villages, showcasing the project's commitment to innovation and progress.

The Emerald (Mya Sein Yaung) village project, in conjunction with the Village Development Project and the smart village initiative, demonstrates the government's dedication to uplifting rural communities and improving their socioeconomic conditions. These initiatives have empowered rural residents, provided financial assistance, and facilitated infrastructure development, ultimately contributing to the overall welfare and progress of the nation.

IN these modern days, vaping commonly means electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes). The cigarette is invented aiming to reduce the bad effects of traditional cigarettes. The history of smoking dates back thousands of years. The act of smoking various substances for medicinal, ritualistic and recreational purposes has been documented in different cultures throughout history.

It is believed that the practice of smoking tobacco originated in America. Indian people in America, such as the Mayans and the Aztecs, were known to have used tobacco for religious and medicinal purposes long before the arrival of Europeans. The use of tobacco in smoking pipes and cigars were an integral part of their culture.

Tobacco was introduced to Europe in the late 15th century. It gained popularity among Europeans, especially in the 16th and 17th centuries. By the 19th century, the production and consumption of tobacco particularly in the form of cigarettes, became more widespread. The invention of the cigarette rolling machine in the late 1800s significantly increased cigarette production and accessibility.

Is vape a lesser evil?

By Saya Norm

In the 20th century, scientific evidence linking smoking to various health problems, including lung cancer and heart disease began to emerge.

This led to increased awareness of the danger of smoking and subsequent public health campaigns to discourage tobacco use. And then efforts to regulate and discourage smoking followed.

Governments around the world have implemented measures to discourage smoking, including restrictions on advertising, warning labels on cigarette packs, public smoking bans, limiting smoking areas and increased taxation on tobacco products. Vapes or e-cigarettes are the consequence of those attempts. They are invented as an attractive alternative to traditional tobacco cigarettes.

The first commercially successful electronic cigarette was developed and introduced to the market by a Chinese pharmacist named HonGu in 2003. His

invention was inspired by personal experience with his father, who died from lung cancer due to smoking. The device he created was called the Ruyan, which means 'like Smoke' in Chinese. The Ruyan e-cigarette consisted of a battery-powered heating element that vaporized a nicotine solution, creating an aerosol that the user could smoke. The device mimicked the act of smoking by producing a vapor that resembled smoke, but without combustion and associated harmful byproducts found in traditional cigarettes.

Vapes (e-cigarettes) have many good purposes. They reduce the harmful effects of traditional ones. One of the main motivations behind the invention of vapes was to provide an alternative to combustible tobacco products, which are known to be harmful to health. Vapes were designed to deliver nicotine to use in a potentially less harmful way compared to traditional Smoking.

The cigarette substitute helps to quit or reduce cigarette consumption for smokers. The idea was that it could provide a similar experience to smoking including hand-to-mouth action and inhalation of nicotine, but with potentially fewer harmful chemicals. Vapes are marketed as a trendy and modern alternative to traditional cigarettes, appealing to smokers who wanted as potentially the less harmful and more socially acceptable way to satisfy their nicotine cravings. The variety of flavours available in e-liquids also added to their appeal.

The intentions are good but the results are bad. It is now clear evidence that vapes cause inflammation and damage to the airways. Vape smoke exposure can cause more acute inflammation of the airways than traditional cigarettes do. There are kinds of evidence that regular vaping can

lead to an accelerated loss of lung function; with drops of as much as five per cent over two years. It is five times the standard rate of decline.

Most people know that vapes have less known carcinogens so will possibly cause less cancer, but they don't actually know for sure.

Through the heating involved in the vaping process, thousands of new chemicals were created, which were never inhaled into the airways before.

A 2012 Dutch study linked nicotine exposure from cigarette smoking whether it is by vaping or real cigarette cause adolescents to cognitive impairment in later life and attention deficits.

Vaping can cause seizures, nicotine toxicity, nicotine addiction and be a gateway to tobacco smoking. Accidental or intentional exposure to vape's nicotine liquids can lead to poisoning. In one study, 25 per cent of mice exposed

to nicotine containing vape for five days a week over 12 months developed adenocarcinoma of the lung, a form of lung cancer. And also, human respiratory cells exposed to vape over five days showed extensively damage to respiratory airway cells. After five days, those cells didn't regenerate and they didn't repair themselves.

In fact, vapes not only protect against the harmful effects of traditional cigarette but also produces their own bad effects. At present, vape shops are very popular all over the world including Myanmar. Vaping is cool and it smells nice thus even kids are trying it. It is easier to hide than smoking and packaging and variety are aimed at enticing kids. That is why vape became a threat rather than an alternative to traditional smoking. There are concerns about rising nicotine addiction too.

It is important to note that quitting smoking entirely is the only answer to reducing the risk of developing smoking-related diseases. Vaping may be a temporary reason to quit smoking. But if you ask "Is vape a lesser evil?", we have to answer with only one word - No.

Study reveals altered gut bacteria might be early sign of Alzheimer's disease



The researchers have launched a five-year follow-up study designed to figure out whether the differences in the gut microbiome are a cause or a result of the brain changes seen in early Alzheimer's disease. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/NEUROSCIENCE NEWS/ANI**

RESearchers at Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis found that individuals with early-stage Alzheimer's disease when brain changes have started but before cognitive symptoms are noticeable, have a variety of gut bacteria that is distinct from the gut bacteria of healthy individuals.

The research, which was published on 14 June in Science Translational Medicine, paves the way for the development of microbiome-altering preventive treatments for cognitive decline as well as the possibility of using gut bacteria to identify those who are more likely to develop dementia.

"We don't yet know whether the gut is influencing the brain or the brain is influencing the gut, but this association is valuable to know in either case," said co-corresponding author Gautam Dantas, PhD, the Conan Professor of Laboratory and Genomic Medicine. "It could be that the changes in the gut microbiome are just a readout of pathological changes in the brain. The other alternative is that the gut microbiome is contributing to Alzheimer's disease, in which case altering the gut microbiome with probiotics or fecal transfers might help change the course of the disease."

During the early stage of Alzheimer's disease, which can last two decades or more, affected people accumulate clumps of the proteins amyloid beta and tau in their brains, but do not exhibit signs of neurodegeneration or cognitive decline.

The idea of studying the connection between the gut microbiome and Alzheimer's disease came together at a youth soccer game, where Dantas and Beau M. Ances, MD, PhD, the Daniel J Brennan Professor of Neurology, chatted while their children played. Ances treats and studies people with Alzheimer's disease; Dantas is an expert on the gut microbiome.

Scientists already knew that the gut microbiomes of people with symptomatic Alzheimer's differ from the microbiomes of healthy people of the same age. But, Ances told Dantas, nobody had yet looked at the gut microbiomes of people in the critical pre-symptomatic phase.

"By the time people have cognitive symptoms, there are significant changes that are often irreversible," said Ances, the other co-corresponding author. "But if you can diagnosis someone very early in the disease process, that would be the optimal time to effectively intervene with a therapy."

During the early stage of Alzheimer's disease, which can last two decades or more, affected people accumulate clumps of the proteins amyloid beta and tau in their brains, but do not exhibit signs of neurodegeneration or cognitive decline.

SOURCE: ANI

'Inflammatory bowel disease associated with higher risk of stroke'

PEOPLE with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) are more likely to experience a stroke than those without the ailment, according to a study.

The findings of the study that was published in the online edition of Neurology, the official journal of the American Academy of Neurology. The study shows a link rather than concluding that IBD causes stroke. The intestines become chronically inflamed as a result of inflammatory bowel disease. It comprises unclassified inflammatory bowel disease, ulcerative colitis, and Crohn's disease.

The study found that people with IBD were 13 per cent more likely to have a stroke up to 25 years after their diagnosis than people without IBD.

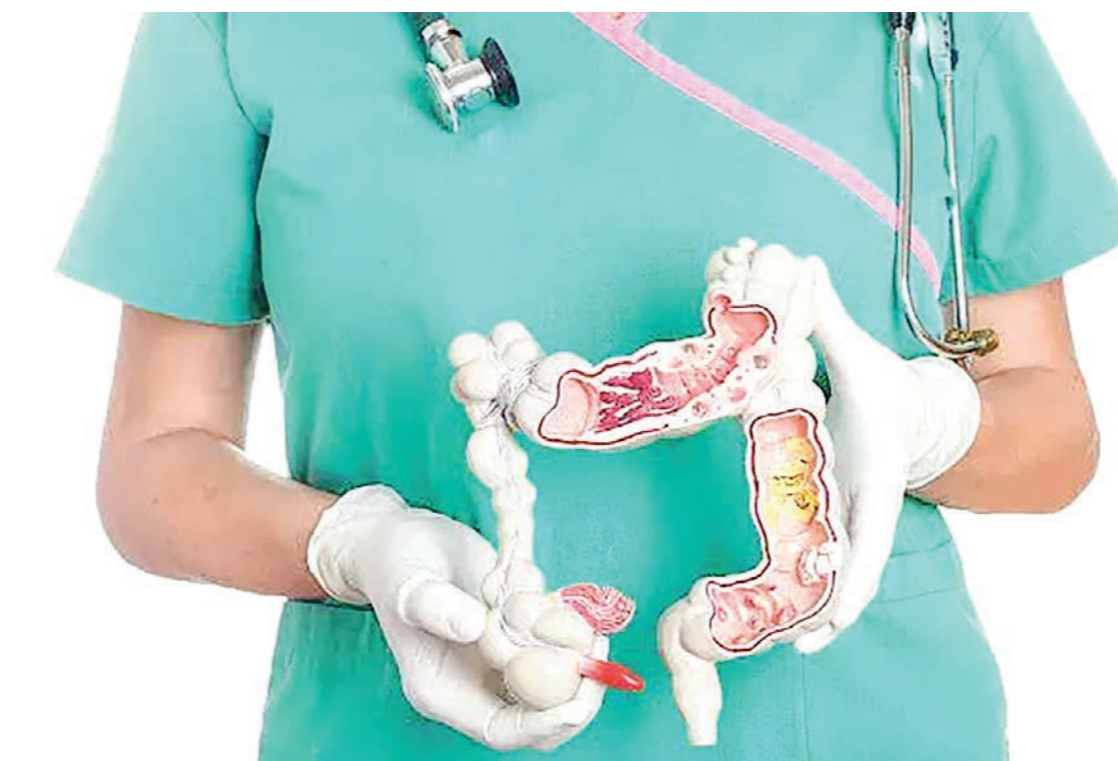
"These results show that people with inflammatory bowel disease and their doctors should be aware of this long-term increased risk," said study author Jiangwei Sun, PhD, of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden.

"Screening and management of stroke risk factors may be more urgent in people with IBD."

The study involved 85,006 people with IBD confirmed with a biopsy. They were each matched with up to five people of the same birth year, sex and county of residence who did not have IBD, for a total of 406,987 people.

During an average follow-up of 12 years, 3,720 of the people with IBD had a stroke, compared with 15,599 of the people who did not have IBD, which is a rate of 32.6 per 10,000 person years for those with IBD compared to 27.7 for those without IBD. Person-years represent both the number of people in the study and the amount of time each person spends in the study. When researchers accounted for other factors that could affect stroke risk, such as heart disease, high blood pressure and obesity, they found that people with IBD were 13 per cent more

likely to have a stroke than those without IBD. Researchers found that the increased risk was mainly



People with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) are more likely to experience a stroke than those without the ailment, according to a study. **PHOTO: HEALTH WORLD/ANI**

likely to have a stroke than those without IBD. Researchers found that the increased risk was mainly

due to ischemic stroke, which is caused by a blockage of blood flow to the brain, rather than hem-

orrhagic stroke, a stroke caused by bleeding in the brain. Because both IBD and stroke have some

genetic components predisposing people to the disease, researchers also included in the study full siblings of the people with IBD. The 101,082 siblings had no history of IBD or stroke at the beginning of the study. Consistent with the main results, people with IBD had a higher risk of stroke than their siblings without IBD. Their overall risk was 11 per cent higher.

"The elevated risk for people with IBD remained even 25 years after they were first diagnosed, corresponding to one additional stroke case for every 93 people with IBD until that point," Sun said. A limitation of the study was that the criteria for diagnosing inflammatory bowel disease and stroke have changed over the study period, which could affect the results. Also, researchers did not have complete information on all factors that could affect stroke risk, such as diet, smoking and alcohol consumption.

SOURCE: ANI

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Increased influx of freshwater fish in domestic markets during fishing ban season



Some freshwater fish arrived at the Shwe Padauk Fish Market.

ACCORDING to the domestic fish market, there is a shortage of sea fish in the fishing ban season, and the supply of freshwater fish is increasing.

Data from the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) indicated that approximately 0.5 million tonnes of farmed fish are being delivered to the Baho Sanpya Fish Market and

the Shwe Padauk Fish Market daily, with no significant changes in fish prices.

Due to the fishing ban, only 30 per cent of fish are allowed to be caught, causing a scarcity of sea fish in the market. However, freshwater fish such as catfish, snakehead murrel, and small catfish as well as farmed fish like rohu, gagata gagata, and mrigal

carp continue to be available as usual.

During the fish breeding season, fishing activities in lakes, streams, and rivers are prohibited every year. The Department of Fisheries has reported that individuals caught violating the fishing ban in Bago Region this year have faced fines or imprisonment. — TWA/CT

SSID to test 4,330 types of foodstuffs, consumer goods, and cosmetics

THE Small-Scale Industries Department plans to conduct tests on 4,330 types of foodstuffs, consumer goods, and cosmetics produced by entrepreneurs in the domestic market.

During this financial year, they will analyze 3,365 food products, 850 consumer goods and 115 cosmetics registered with the department to ensure the safety of users and consumers.

The focus of the tests will be on checking for prohibited

preservatives, moisture, microorganisms and harmful substances in the products.

In the previous financial year, a total of 4,704 foodstuffs, 1,135 consumer products and 193 cosmetics were tested, exceeding the target.

From April to the end of May in the current financial year, 620 food products, 113 consumer goods and 15 cosmetics have been analyzed so far. — TWA/CT



The picture depicts a small-scale domestic food industry.

Fresh tamarind price on downward trend despite steady foreign demand

FALLING prices of fresh tamarind persist although the institution concerned notified the businesspersons in early June that foreign trade partners proposed to buy 500 tonnes of fresh tamarind every month.

Despite the inflation of commodities in the domestic markets, the price of tamarind showed a downward trajectory from 2022 to mid-2023.

The prices moved in the range between K1,300 and K1,400 per viss of tamarind with seeds and K2,100 and K2,400 per viss of tamarind flesh on 20 June 2023.

The prices touched a high of K2,100-2,200 per viss of tamarind with seeds and K2,800-3,800 per viss of tamarind flesh in 2022.



The photo shows the tamarinds stockpiled before being delivered to markets.

Tamarinds are primarily produced in Yamethin, Kyaukpadaung, Poppa, Pakokku and Myanaung areas. The entrepre-

neurs from the tamarind-producing areas forecast the possibility of good prices in 2022. Yet, the prediction went wrong and

the price stayed low.

Traders from those areas kept the tamarind stocks in hand as they hoped to receive better prices on foreign demand. However, the purchase proposal has not been accepted up to for now, according to the tamarind depots at the Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre.

The price of fresh tamarind dropped to K700 in mid-2023 from K1,350 per viss recorded at the beginning of the year. Five months remain for the new tamarind to enter the market. There is less chance for the price to rise, said a seller involved in the tamarind depot on Seinpan Street (Bayintnaung) — TWA/EM

800 fires break out nationwide in 4 months this year

ACCORDING to the Department of Fire Services, there have been a total of 800 fires across the country in the first four months of this year. The fires resulted in 51 deaths and 101 injuries.

Additionally, 1,900 houses, six factories and 120 warehouses were damaged, leaving 4,542 people homeless and causing 2,984 livestock deaths. The total loss caused by the fires amounted to K11 billion.

In 2022, there were a total of 1,570 fire outbreaks, resulting in 96 deaths and 139 injuries. Within that period, 3,580 buildings, eight factories and 296 warehouses were destroyed. The majority of the incidents occurred in Yangon and Mandalay Regions. — TWA/MKKS

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HEALTH/WELLNESS: WORLD

‘Tranq’: the flesh-rotting drug adding to America’s opioid crisis

OPIOID addict Martin has seen the deadly fentanyl replace heroin as the most prevalent drug in New York. Now he’s trying to avoid “tranq”, a flesh-eating drug increasingly causing concern across America.

“It makes holes in your body, your skin,” said the 45-year-old, whose wounds on his legs and arms signify he may have unknowingly injected the animal sedative, officially named xylazine and commonly called the “zombie drug”.

The tranquillizer, approved for veterinary use by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), has infiltrated the illegal drug market in the United States, with producers increasingly using it to augment fentanyl.

Overdose deaths where tranq was detected have soared in recent years and in April the White House designated the drug an “emerging threat”.

“It eats up your flesh, like a crocodile,” Martin, who did not



Tests strips, used to detect the presence of fentanyl and xylazine in different kinds of drugs, such as cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroin, lay next to a bag of heroin at St Ann’s Corner of Harm Reduction in New York City on 25 May 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

wish to give his surname, told AFP during a visit to St Ann’s Corner of Harm Reduction, a drug-support and syringe-exchange centre in the Bronx.

Xylazine is easily accessible on the internet and almost always coupled with fentanyl, the synthetic opioid 50 times more potent than heroin.

Fentanyl pushed the number of fatal overdoses in the United States to nearly 110,000 in 2022, a record.

According to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the estimated number of overdoses involving xylazine in the country rose from 260 in 2018 to 3,480 in 2021. — AFP

Healthy seniors taking prolonged low-dose aspirin may see higher risk of anaemia: study

A Monash University-led study has shown that prolonged daily aspirin use may increase the risk of anaemia in healthy elder people, especially for those aged 70 and above.

The study, published in *Annals of Internal Medicine*, followed 18,153 initially healthy older adults in Australia and the United States and recorded incidents of anaemia over an average 4.7 years, according to a news release from Monash University on Tuesday.

Half of the participants took a placebo while the other half took a daily low dose of 100 mg of aspirin, said the release.

The risk of developing anaemia was found to be 20 per cent higher in the aspirin group compared to that in the placebo group, it said.

Anaemia is commonly ex-

perienced by older adults, potentially affecting overall function and increasing fatigue, disabilities, depressive symptoms and cognitive problems.

It is estimated that 30 per cent of people aged 75 years or older are anaemic worldwide, mostly attributed to iron deficiency, medical comorbidities and inflammation, said the release. However, the cause in about a third of cases is still unknown, it added. “This study gives a clearer picture of the additional risk of becoming anaemic with aspirin use and the impact is likely to be greater in older adults with underlying diseases, such as kidney disease,” said Zoe McQuilten, lead author of the study and associate professor from Monash University’s School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine. — Xinhua

Lab-grown human embryo models spark calls for regulation

SCIENTISTS have used stem cells to create structures that resemble human embryos in the lab, in a first that has prompted calls for stricter regulation in the rapidly advancing field.

Several different labs around the world have released pre-print studies in the past seven days describing their research, which experts said should be treated with caution as the research has not yet been peer-reviewed.

The labs used different techniques to encourage human embryonic stem cells, which can become any type of cell, to self-assemble into a structure that resembles an embryo — without needing sperm, an egg or fertilization. The aim is to give scientists a model with which to study human embryos in ways never before possible because of ethical concerns, in the hopes of gaining new insight into the

causes of birth defects, genetic disorders, infertility and other problems during pregnancy.

The first announcement was last Wednesday, when Magdalena Zernicka-Goetz of Cambridge University and the California Institute of Technology described her team’s work at the International Society for Stem Cell Research’s annual meeting in Boston.

Her presentation was first reported by *The Guardian* newspaper. On Thursday, the team of Jacob Hanna at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel published a pre-print study detailing their own work on stem cell-based human embryo models. The Zernicka-Goetz team then quickly published a pre-print of their own, giving more information. Other labs based in China and the United States followed suit, releasing pre-prints late last week. — AFP

UK MPs approve report censuring ex-PM Johnson over ‘Partygate’



(FILES) Britain’s Prime Minister Boris Johnson, wearing a face covering to stop the spread of Covid, leaves from 10 Downing Street in central London on 8 December 2021, to take part in the weekly session of Prime Minister Questions (PMQs) at the House of Commons. **PHOTO: AFP**

BRITISH MPs on Monday voted overwhelmingly to remove ex-prime minister Boris Johnson’s parliamentary pass as they approved a damning report that found he lied to parliament about Covid lockdown-breaking parties.

Following hours of debate, held on Johnson’s 59th birthday, MPs voted by 354 to seven in favour of the Privileges Committee’s findings, with many Conservatives, including Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, abstaining.

During the debate, MPs and a former prime minister lined up to urge colleagues to censure Johnson, who quit parliament when he was informed of the findings. Johnson’s predecessor Theresa May said the vote would be “a small but important step in restoring people’s trust” in parliament. May urged her party to “show that we are prepared to act when one of our own, however senior, is found wanting”, in an apparent jibe at Sunak and his decision to abstain. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Chinese premier calls for upholding economic globalization, China-Germany win-win cooperation

CHINESE Premier Li Qiang on Monday called on the German business community to uphold economic globalization and China-Germany win-win cooperation.

Enterprises should be re-put in the driving seat in terms of risk prevention, and risk prevention and cooperation are not opposites, Li said while attending a seminar with representatives of the German business community.

He also cautioned against simply equating interdependence with insecurity.

Representatives of German companies including Siemens, Volkswagen, Mercedes-Benz, BMW, Schaeffler, BASF, Covestro, Wacker Chemie, Merck, SAP and Allianz attended the meeting.

As proposed by Li, the participants had open and candid discussions as well as in-depth exchanges on how to view the current international economic and political situation, China's economic development, prospects of future technological



Chinese Premier Li Qiang attends a seminar with representatives of the German business community in Berlin, Germany, 19 June 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

development, and the so-called "de-risking" and "cutting the degree of dependence" initiated by some countries.

After listening to the speeches of the representatives, Li said that face-to-face communication can deepen the understanding and trust between people.

In a world of turmoil and transformation, the more serious and complex the situation, the more necessary it is to think calmly and grasp certainty amid uncertainties, Li said.

He called for actively following the objective law and the underlying trend of the times, in

particular the historical trend of economic globalization, the general trend of China's long-term economic development for the better, and the grand trend of win-win cooperation between China and Germany.

Confidence needs to be strengthened to overcome diffi-

culties, Li said, calling for accelerating the recovery of the world economy through openness and cooperation.

Noting that it is understandable that all parties have their own security concerns, Li said that what is important is how to reasonably define and guard against risks.

If not handled properly and the risks are amplified, more and bigger problems will only be created, he said, adding that enterprises have the most direct and acute sense of risk and know how to avoid and respond to it.

Failure to cooperate is the biggest risk, and failure to develop is the biggest insecurity, he noted.

With economic globalization, the world economy has become interconnected, which entails a dialectical view of dependence, Li said. That means refraining from exaggerating the degree of dependence or even simply equating interdependence with insecurity, he added.—Xinhua

Viet Nam's durian exports jump 18 times in Jan-May on bloated demand from China

VIET Nam earned more than 500 million US dollars from durian exports in the first five months of the year, equivalent to a jump of 18 times from a year ago, Vietnam News Agency reported on Tuesday.

The country exported more than 65,000 tonnes of durian during the January-May period, up 41 per cent from the total of 2022, with China buying 97 per cent

of the shipment, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Vietnamese durian entered its harvest season in May, thus the export value of the fruit hit a record high of 332 million dollars, more than 10 times higher than in April.

China's appetite for tropical fruit is enormous. Last year, the country imported 825,000 tonnes

of durian, according to Chinese customs data.

The Southeast Asian country currently has 293 farming areas and 115 durian packing facilities granted with official quotas to export to China.

China remained the biggest market for Vietnamese fruit and vegetables in the January-May period with 805 million dollars worth of shipments, accounting for 59 per cent of Viet Nam's total export turnover, higher than 53 per cent in the same period last year, according to the Vietnam Fruit & Vegetable Association.

Viet Nam's fruit and vegetables would likely rise by about 20 per cent to four billion dollars this year as the country is expected to see exports to China widening to 2.5 billion dollars, said general secretary Dang Phuc Nguyen from the Vietnam Fruit & Vegetable Association.

The country's durian exports are forecast to reach 1 billion dollars in 2023.—Xinhua



Workers package frozen durian at a food factory in Hangzhou, in China's eastern Zhejiang province on 3 February 2023. PHOTO: STR / AFP

Denmark, Ireland, Switzerland rank world's most competitive economies: report

DENMARK, Ireland and Switzerland are the top three most competitive nations among 64 economies measured, according to a new report released by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD) on Tuesday. Published by the IMD's World Competitiveness Centre (WCC), the 2023 IMD World Competitiveness Ranking (WCR) is the 35th edition of the annual ranking against the backdrop of a complex interplay of inflation, geopolitical risks and political fragmentation. The new ranking showed that Denmark retained the top position, while Ireland rose sharply from 11th to second because of its stellar performance in economic performance, and Switzerland held its nerve in third, after dropping from second place in 2022 and first place in 2021.

The overall competitiveness of the world economy has dropped over the last five years, driven primarily by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Arturo Bris, professor of finance and director of the WCC, told Xinhua via video. "These are also going to be the top challenges going forward."

"The top three countries are the smaller, European countries ... but these three countries have access to a large economic region," Bris noted, adding that they have very good institutional development, education and healthcare.

The WCC collaborated with 57 local institutes to assess the 64 economies via a mixture of hard data and 92 survey questions answered by 6,400 senior executives.—Xinhua

Boeing, Airbus score new billion-dollar orders at Paris Air Show

GLOBAL airliner rivals Boeing and Airbus notched up new orders from Algeria and the Philippines at the Paris Air Show Tuesday, after the European manufacturer snagged the biggest-ever single civilian contract.

Philippine Airlines will buy nine of Airbus' A350-1000 widebody planes, while Air Algerie snapped up eight of Boeing's medium-haul 737 MAX-9 aircraft. At list prices — usually higher than discounted bulk orders — the Airbus deal is worth \$3.3 billion and Boeing's \$1.0 billion.

With both plane builders' order books well stocked, Philippine Airlines can expect delivery

from 2025 while Air Algeria will have to wait until 2027. Faced with growing demand for long-haul planes, Airbus is pushing to increase production of the A350, its latest airliner, setting a target of nine per month by the end of 2025.

Meanwhile, Boeing's sales of the 737-MAX appear to be hauling it out of a slump triggered by both Covid and the aircraft's lengthy grounding after two fatal crashes. Irish low-cost carrier Ryanair in May ordered 300 of the planes.

Earlier Tuesday, Australian carrier Qantas confirmed it would buy nine of Airbus' smaller A220 jets, the manufacturer said. — AFP

Suzuki, SkyDrive to jointly start producing flying cars in 2024

SUZUKI Motor Corp said Tuesday it has agreed with Japanese start-up SkyDrive Inc to jointly start producing flying cars around the spring of 2024 as it aims to take the lead in the growing industry.

Flying cars are a type of aircraft with the ability to vertically take off and land using multiple rotors. The vehicles are typically meant for carrying a small number of people, with some models also equipped for use on land.

SkyDrive will set up a fully-owned production subsidiary that will assemble vehicles utilizing the Suzuki group's plant in Shizuoka Prefecture, central Japan.



An artist's rendering of a three-person flying car PHOTO: COURTESY OF SKYDRIVE INC/KYODO

The announcement comes a day after SkyDrive, a leading flying car start-up in Japan, unveiled at the Paris Air show a plan to change the

design of its vehicle under development so it can carry three people instead of two.

The new design, which has an overall

length of about 13 metres and a height of 3 metres, will extend the maximum flight range to about 15 kilometres from the current 10 km. — Kyodo

India's IndiGo airline places order for 500 Airbus A320 aircraft

INDIA'S private airline IndiGo on Monday announced it has ordered 500 A320 aircraft from Airbus.

"This will provide IndiGo a further steady stream of deliveries between 2030 and 2035," the airline said in a statement. The purchase agreement for the aircraft was signed on Monday at the Paris Air

Show 2023 in the presence of V Sumantran, chairman of the Board of IndiGo, Pieter Elbers, CEO of IndiGo, Guillaume Faury, CEO of Airbus, and Christian Scherer, Airbus chief commercial officer. IndiGo operates over 300 aircraft and over 1,800 flights daily, and has previous orders totalling 480 aircraft which



An IndiGo airlines aircraft taxis in the apron at the Mumbai International airport in Mumbai on 20 June 2023. Indian low-cost carrier IndiGo said on 19 June it had ordered a record 500 A320 airliners from European manufacturer Airbus at the Paris Air Show. PHOTO: AFP

are to be delivered by the end of 2030. — Xinhua

Hyundai raises annual EV sales goal to two million by 2030

HYUNDAI Motor said Tuesday it aims to sell two million electric vehicles a year by 2030, raising its target from the 1.87 million it set last year as the market for clean-energy vehicles continues to soar.

It also announced plans to invest a total of 109.4 trillion won (\$85 billion) from 2023 to 2032 to focus on "future businesses, such as auto-



Visitors look at Hyundai Motor's Ioniq 5 Robotaxi electric car during a press preview of the Seoul Mobility Show at KINTEX exhibition hall in Goyang on 25 November 2021. PHOTO: AFP

mous driving, hydrogen, robotics and advanced air mobility."

The South Korean carmaker — one of the world's largest — is under pressure in the United States and Europe to boost local production of clean vehicles and cut down on its dependence on China-made components and battery minerals. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V T12 APPLE VOY.NO. (024E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V T12 APPLE VOY.NO. (024E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-6-2023 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

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Green growth in Amazon would bring Brazil billions: study



Aerial view of a road crossing the Amazon rainforest, taken from a plane flying from the city of Manicore to Manaus, Amazonas State, Brazil, on 10 June 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

PROTECTING the Amazon rainforest and making it an engine of sustainable economic growth, rather than plundering its resources, would bring Brazil billions of dollars in the coming decades, a study found Tuesday.

By expanding sustainable industries and transitioning to low-carbon agriculture, the Amazon region could lead the way in turning Brazil into a green-economy powerhouse, adding 40 billion reais (\$8.4 billion) a year to the national economy by 2050, the report said.

A collaboration between

the Brazil office of environmental group World Resources Institute (WRI) and the think tank Global Commission on the Economy and Climate, the study modeled several scenarios for the economic future of the world's biggest rainforest, from business-as-usual to a best-case of zero deforestation and green growth.

It found the latter would not only protect one of the planet's vital carbon sinks, but also make for good economics, creating an additional 312,000 jobs in the next three decades while saving or restoring an estimat-

ed 810,000 square kilometres (313,000 square miles) of forest — an area bigger than Pakistan.

“This study shows that making the Amazon a priority would benefit all Brazilians,” said economist Rafael Feltran-Barbieri of WRI Brasil, one of more than 100 authors who contributed to the study.

“This model, which would make the Amazon the catalyst of decarbonizing the entire Brazilian economy, is without a doubt the biggest economic and social development opportunity in the country's modern history,” he said in a statement. — AFP

Russia says worldwide biological programmes allow US access to biowarfare agents

WASHINGTON'S military biological projects around the world grant the United States access to potential biological weapon agents, said the Russian Defence Ministry on Monday.

The defence ministry studied the activities of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, particularly its role within two military biological projects, namely U-Pi-1 and U-Pi-2.

The Institute has foreign branches equipped with high-level isolation laboratories and a large network of divisions

around the world, which are used for sampling and transporting the strains.

With its presence worldwide, the US military is able “to gain access to epidemically significant variants of pathogens that are potential agents of biological weapons,” Igor Kirillov, the head of the Radiation, Chemical and Biological Defence Forces of the Russian Armed Forces, said during a Monday briefing.

He said that these pathogen variants include the Marburg and Ebola viruses, malaria, and Rift Valley Fever. — Xinhua

France pushes back against German-led Euro air defence plan

FRANCE will on Monday host a meeting of European defence ministers to try to smooth out differences over the continent's joint air defence, after bristling at a German-led project that snubbed its manufacturers.

Held on the margins of the Paris Air Show, the gathering hosted by Defence Minister Sebastien Lecornu will include around 20 of his counterparts and the European Commission's internal market chief Thierry Breton.

German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius agreed to come after initial reluctance, a French government source told AFP.

“We have two duties: preparing ourselves to assist Ukraine and reinforcing (NATO's) eastern flank for the long term,” as well as “getting back to fundamentals we were familiar with during the Cold War but have become relevant again,” Lecornu said at the airshow.

“We have to get up to date with technological leaps, different strategic alliances and the fact that world disorder isn't only coming from the East,” he added.

The meeting is widely seen by observers as a response to the German-led European Sky Shield plan launched in October,

under which 16 NATO countries and Sweden plan to use German, US and Israeli equipment.

France and Poland are notable holdouts from Sky Shield, with Paris keen to promote its own medium-range anti-air missiles.

At stake are huge contracts, with Germany and France alone set to spend 10 billion euros (\$11 billion) on air defence by 2030.

European defence ministries sharply reduced spending on anti-aircraft equipment following the end of the Cold War, but have been spooked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine last year. — AFP

Gravity-defying: revamping an Inca rope suspension bridge

DANGLING over a vertiginous gorge, the Apurimac River flowing around 10 stories below, Indigenous Peruvians show no fear as they repair a centuries-old Inca rope suspension bridge — the world's last.

Every June, members of the Quechua Indigenous group come together to braid thick ropes made from a type of Andean straw, then brave the chasm without harnesses to replace worn parts of the Q'eswachaka bridge.

It is a ritual that connects communities to one another but also to their ancestors, according to Quechua belief.

“It is a matter of pride for us to (renovate) this bridge,” Braulio Huilca, a 34-year-old student told AFP of his role in the annual rite.

Inscribed on UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage 10 years ago, the bridge has become a key tourist attraction and source of income in the Peruvian region of Cusco — also home to the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu.

“If we abandon this, the tradition would be lost, and there would... be no income,” said Felipe Hanampa Huamani, 40.

The bridge, made of fibers obtained from q'oya, a straw-like



Aerial view of people from different communities participating in the annual renovation of the Q'eswachaka rope bridge near Huinchiri, Quechua District, Cusco Department, in southern Peru, on 10 June 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

plant, was first built about 600 years ago.

Nearly 30 metres (100 feet) long and 1.2 metres wide, it hangs over a gorge around 28 metres deep.

For several weeks every year, residents of four towns in the province of Canas gather and prepare straw for rope-making.

With sickles, women in multi-colored skirts cut the q'oya and gather it in bundles that are soaked in a well and then crushed with stone.

They then braid the ropes, sitting in groups on the side of a dusty road. — AFP

Thai Election Commission endorses 500 lower house MPs

THAILAND'S Election Commission (EC) on Monday officially announced results from last month's general election, paving the way for the parliament to convene and choose a new prime minister.

The polling body has endorsed all 500 members in the House of Representatives, which includes 400 constituency seats and 100 party-list seats, EC secretary-general Sawaeng Boonmee told a news conference.

According to the approved vote results from the 14 May election, a total of 18 political parties have won seats in the House of Representatives.

The Move Forward Party secured the highest number of seats, with 151, followed by the Pheu Thai Party, which won 141 seats, Bhumjaithai with 71 seats, Palang Pracharath with 40 seats, and United Thai Nation with 36 seats.

Despite endorsing the newly

elected MPs, EC retains the right, as per the electoral law, to investigate any election fraud allegations within a year, Sawaeng said.

Under the Thai constitution, the parliament must convene to vote for the House speaker within 15 days after the endorsement of the new MPs. In a joint sitting of the parliament, 500 MPs in the lower house, together with 250 senators in the upper house, will elect a new prime minister of Thailand. — Xinhua



(FILES) This picture taken on 4 March 2023 shows the Thai Parliament complex in Bangkok, the meeting place of the National Assembly of Thailand. Thailand's Election Commission on 19 June 2023, confirmed the results of last month's general election, in which the pro-democracy opposition trounced the army-backed parties that have ruled the kingdom for nearly a decade. PHOTO: AMAURY PAUL / AFP

Modi to talk tech, trade on US visit



US President Joe Biden meets with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Oval Office of the White House on 24 September 2021, in Washington, DC PHOTO: AFP

INDIAN Prime Minister Narendra Modi heads to the United States on Tuesday to meet with President Joe Biden and address Congress, with military and technological ties on the agenda as his hosts seek a regional counter to China.

The leader of the world's most populous nation will also receive all the pomp of a state dinner at the White House on Thursday — only Biden's third since his inauguration.

Hailed by New Delhi as a "historic" chance to "expand and consolidate" ties, the visit comes at a time of rising concerns on human rights and democratic backsliding under the Hindu nationalist leader.

But Washington is seeking to boost ties with a potential regional ally to counter an increasingly assertive China.

Analysts expect landmark announcements in clean energy and strategic technology, includ-

ing a deal to jointly produce fighter jet engines.

'Deep alignment'

US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin, on a visit to New Delhi earlier this month, announced an "ambitious new roadmap for defence industrial cooperation" with India.

It has been linked to a likely announcement, expected at this week's summit, of a long-discussed multibillion-dollar plan to co-produce the jet engines in India. New Delhi has been trying to become less dependent on Russian military hardware by diversifying imports and boosting domestic production.

With many countries wooing Modi, Washington hopes its co-production and technology offers will help secure a key market.

Ashok Malik, India head of The Asia Group advisory firm, said US-India ties were defined by "pragmatism and deep alignment at the government level",

with "very strong" economic and business links.

India is important as "a growing power" in a region "where China is becoming unusually assertive", New Delhi-based Malik told AFP.

After a deadly clash with China along their disputed Himalayan border in 2020, India rapidly expanded its Washington ties and is already part of the Quad grouping alongside Australia, the United States and Japan.

'Contrasting personalities'

India's huge market and potential as an alternative to China-dependent supply chains make it attractive, but its ties with Moscow remain an irritant for Washington.

New Delhi has not condemned Moscow's invasion of Ukraine and has ratcheted up its oil imports from Russia.

Donald Camp, a fellow at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, said that while the United States will push India for "some further action" on Russia, it "has not seemed to be a huge impediment in the development of the (US-India) relationship over the last year or so". Modi will also meet Secretary of State Antony Blinken — who on Sunday visited Beijing on the highest-level trip by a US official in nearly five years. Kicking off his US trip on Wednesday with a mass yoga demonstration at the UN headquarters in New York, Modi will also meet top US CEOs to make a fresh investment pitch before India's national elections next year. — AFP

South Korea cuts 'killer questions' from college entrance exam

SOUTH Korea will drop so-called "killer questions" from its notoriously tough college entrance exam in a bid to reduce reliance on private cram schools, the education ministry said Tuesday.

More than half a million students sit the annual nine-hour test, known as "suneung", which plays a crucial role in deciding a student's college, career and even marriage prospects.

The inclusion of "killer questions", which cannot be answered by simply studying the curriculum taught at state schools, was meant to help distinguish top students.

But it has created an arms race of extra educational spending as parents and students flock to expensive private tutoring centres known as "hagwons" to get ahead.

"I will do everything I can in my capacity as the education minister... to exclude questions outside of the public education system to make the test a fair test," education minister Lee Ju-ho said Monday.

On Tuesday the education ministry told AFP it would press ahead with the reform, saying it "stood by" Lee's comment.

Previous efforts to change the system have flopped, including an attempt this year to remove "killer questions" from the mock exam.

The importance of the test is reflected in extraordinary measures that authorities take to prevent any disturbance, including suspending take-offs and landings at airports during the English listening test. — AFP



Students wait for the start of the annual college entrance examinations at an exam hall in Seoul on 17 November 2022. PHOTO: AFP

Thai Election Commission endorses 500 lower house MPs

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SPORT

AFF U19 WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP 2023
INDONESIA

DRAW RESULTS

GROUP (A)

- INDONESIA
- CAMBODIA
- LAOS
- TIMOR LESTE

GROUP (B)

- VIETNAM
- MALAYSIA
- SINGAPORE

GROUP (C)

- THAILAND
- MYANMAR
- PHILIPPINES

PHOTO: MFF

Myanmar goes into tough group of AFF U-19 Women's Championship 2023

THE drawing-lots ceremony for the AFF U-19 Women's Championship 2023 took place this week, and the Myanmar U-19 Women's Team will face ASEAN powerhouses Thailand and the Philippines in tough Group C.

According to the draw results, Group A sees host Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos and Timor-Leste while Group B features SEA Games gold medalist Viet Nam, Malaysia, and Singapore.

The top three teams from each of the three groups and one best second-placed team from the groups, totalling four teams will advance to the semi-finals.

The AFF U-19 Women's Championship 2023 will be held from 5 to 17 July in Palembang, Indonesia. — KZL

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.

Joselu delight at 'dream' return to Real Madrid

SPANISH international Jose Luis Mato, known as Joselu, said Tuesday it was a "dream" come true to return to Real Madrid, 11 years after he left.

"I've been dreaming of this moment since the day I left, I'm very excited," Joselu, 33,

told a press conference in the Spanish capital.

The forward has scored three goals in four appearances for his country and arrives from Espanyol on a year-long loan with option to buy to help Madrid reinforce a depleted

attack.

Karim Benzema, Eden Hazard, Marco Asensio and Mariano Diaz have left, leaving room for major reinforcements.

"We all know Karim's level at this club, but I'm here to do a different job," he said. — AFP

Mbappe penalty gives France Euro qualifying win over Greece

A Kylian Mbappe penalty gave France a 1-0 victory over 10-man Greece on Monday that maintained their perfect record in qualifying for Euro 2024.

The Paris Saint-Germain superstar, and France captain, had his initial kick saved early in the second half but was allowed a second attempt because of encroachment into the area by a Greek defender.

He made no mistake second time around and France could have gone on to win by a greater margin after Greece defender Konstantinos Mavropanos was sent off for barging Randal Kolo Muani to the ground, denying a clear goal-scoring opportunity. France's win in their last outing this season follows their 3-0 defeat of minnows Gibraltar last Friday and leaves them clear on



France's forward Kylian Mbappe (R) takes a penalty shot to score the team's first goal during the UEFA Euro 2024 group B qualification football match between France and Greece at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, in the northern outskirts of Paris, on 19 June 2023. PHOTO: AFP

top of qualifying Group B with 12 points from four games.

They have not conceded a

goal so far and are six points clear of Greece, albeit having played a game more.

"It has been a very long season for the players. They have been waiting for their holidays but

we did what we needed to do to win the match," coach Didier Deschamps told broadcaster TF1.

"This is a team with less experience than six months ago, but there is plenty of quality."

Having already opened their campaign with wins against the Netherlands and the Republic of

Ireland in March, last year's World Cup runners-up appear certain to qualify for next year's finals in Germany.

Their next match is against Ireland in September, by which time it will be clear where Mbappe will be playing his club football next season.

The 24-year-old, who took over as skipper of Les Bleus when Hugo Lloris quit international football following the World Cup, last week confirmed he would not extend his contract at PSG, which expires next year. — AFP