

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunday, 25 June 2023

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

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

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing honours victorious Tatmadaw member athletes



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents cash awards to a winning athlete at the ceremony to honour victorious Tatmadaw member athletes in the XXXII SEA Games and the XII ASEAN Para Games at Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw on 24 June 2023.

As Tatmadaw member athletes competed with powerful opponents till the last seconds with the sporting spirit, their images win the hearts of the

people, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony to honour victorious

Tatmadaw member athletes in the XXXII SEA Games and the XII ASEAN Para Games at Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. **SEE PAGE-3**

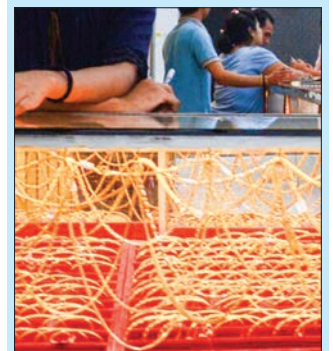
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Authentic taste of tea, enjoy

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MEDT

Sales Department- Ph-09 30861655, 09 420219436
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FDA Certificate
Sa 4/ 14091/Hta La

Confiscation of illegal goods: Timbers, foodstuffs, consumer goods, industrial materials, motorbikes and vehicles



million) carrying two kinds of goods (worth K4.95 million) including 1,000 pairs of Adwalk child footwear slipper heading to Yangon from Myawady at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint, four kinds of goods (worth K16,187,800) including 104 iron rat trap cages from a container at the MITT port and 11 kinds of goods (worth K11,509,164) including a pneumatic cylinder, two kinds of goods (worth K1,645,264) including a connecting rod and two kinds of goods (worth K3,095,392) including four notchers that exceeded the 61 days of VPA at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk) on 22 June. The action was conducted in accordance with Customs procedures.

Similarly, the Myawady District Illegal Trade Eradica-

tion Task Force intercepted a Toyota HiAce car (approximately K15 million) carrying 1,000 kilogrammes of shrimp (worth K5 million) without official documents near Thingannyinaung village over the Myawady Trade Zone. The operation was conducted in adherence to Customs procedures.

Additionally, an unregistered Toyota Succeed car (estimated value of K3.5 million) was captured at the corner of Yazadirit Road and Kyansittha Road in Dagon Myothit (East) Township on 22 June. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

The combined teams seized an unregistered Toyota Kluger car (estimated value K10 million) at the combined checkpoint in Shwebo township and an unregistered Yandand

125 motorbike (approximately K300,000) in Htigyaying township on 23 June. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

A total of 6.207 tonnes of illegal timbers (worth K1,803,882) was captured in Toungoo district and an unregistered Hijet car (estimated value of K4.5 million) was nabbed near Pyin-pongyi Tollgate at 52/0 Milepost on Yangon-Mandalay Road in Bago township on 24 June. The action was taken under the Forest Law and Export and Import Law.

As a result, a total of 15 arrests were made on three consecutive days from 22 to 24 June, with an estimated value of K129,611,502, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS



Confiscated illegal goods at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk).

THE on-duty teams under the Customs Department impounded a Toyota Regius delivery van (approximately K21 million) carrying 1,560 boxes of Chaokoh coconut cream (worth K3.12 million) without official documents travelling from Hpa-an to Bago and a Nidi truck (approximately K28

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

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

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

izens 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

Nation's strength stays put within

ONLY when all State service personnel, civil society organizations and entire ethnic people are to join hands with the government and Tatmadaw in building the Union based on democracy and federalism the entire ethnic people aspire to will they all reach the target in a short time. In line with the motto: "The strength of the nation lives only within" which plays a key role in marching towards the goal, all ethnic national people are to forge unity with patriotic spirit and the Union spirit and to protect the State in all aspects.

(Excerpts from the message sent 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 to ceremony of 71st Anniversary Kayah State Day which falls on 15 January 2023)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing honours victorious Tatmadaw member athletes

FROM PAGE-1

The victorious athletes with disabilities proved that they can stand tall similar to ordinary people and secure victories in the competitions. The Senior General praised those who sacrificed limbs for the State for their outstanding performances in the games to secure victories with strong perseverance and industry.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that taking training in boxing, judo, weightlifting, Taekwondo and Myanmar martial arts sports helps Tatmadaw members serving the State defence duties have defence capability with readiness to fight. The Senior General continued to say that this year's Tatmadaw member athletes bagged prizes in the martial arts related to the defence. Likewise, coaches and trainers could turn out the athletes who uplifted the prestige of the State. Moreover, they showed off their brilliant skills by securing gold medals as part of preserving the cultural heritages in traditional sports events. As Tatmadaw member athletes competed with powerful opponents till the last seconds with the sporting spirit, their images win the hearts of the people. Sport contributes to the health of humans and forges unity and socioeconomic development of the people.

The Senior General presented certificates of honour of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and cash awards to gold, silver and



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing warmly greets winning athletes at the ceremony to honour victorious Tatmadaw member athletes in the XXXII SEA Games and the XII ASEAN Para Games at Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw on 24 June 2023.

bronze medallists in the Hoop Takraw team-wise event, Sepak Takraw team-wise event in the XXXII Southeast Asian Games, 800-metre and 1,500-metre individual races and the 400-metre relay event in the XII ASEAN Para Games respectively.

Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the wife of the Senior General, gave certificates of honour from the Commander-in-Chief of De-

State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win presents cash awards to a winning athlete.



fence Services and cash awards to two silver medallists in the women's football event in the XXXII SEA Games.

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win presented certificates of honour from the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and cash awards to gold, silver and bronze medallists in the javelin, shot-put, discus, individual 100-metre race, individual 200-metre race, 100-metre team-wise and individual 400-metre races respectively.

Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of the Vice-Senior General, also handed certificates of honour from the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and cash awards to two silver medallists in the women's football event in the XXXII SEA Games.

Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Adjutant-General and the Quartermaster-General also presented certificates of honour of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and cash award to medallists.

On behalf of the medallists, managers and coaches, Sergeant Soe Pay spoke words of thanks.

The medallists, managers and coaches joined the tea party hosted by the Senior General, his wife and party. — MNA/TTA

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

MoCRD Union Minister inspects cleaning, rehabilitation works in Rakhine State



Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe visits the site of healthcare services where specialists from Sittway General Hospital give to residents in the Chaungnwemangan monastery of Chaungnwemangan Village in Sittway yesterday.

THE Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe, currently in Rakhine State to oversee the rehabilitation tasks, viewed the collective cleaning works of rescue teams and departments at the precinct of Yan Pyay Man Pyay Pagoda in

Kispa ward and along the strand road of Sittway together with Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin, Deputy Ministers and officials and the preparing to cook the charity feast for the rescue teams and the people affected by the storm yesterday.

Then, the Union minister inspected the healthcare services specialists from Sittway General Hospital to the residents in the Chaungnwemangan monastery of Chaungnwemangan Village, heard the clarifications of the responsible officials from the

Ministry of Health, cordially greeted the residents and provided foodstuffs.

He also paid homage to Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kavidhaja of Chaungnwemangan Monastery and offered cash donations.

Afterwards, the Union minister and party attended the coordination meeting with the groups regarding the rehabilitation of vocational industries held at the Rakhine State government office.

At the meeting, the Union minister discussed the formation of cooperative societies, cultivation of high-yielding paddy, livestock breeding to carry out while emphasizing agriculture, providing technical assistance and agricultural inputs, successful businesses developed under cooperatives system in international countries and cooperation with ministries concerned to provide assistance and market status to promote the socioeconomic status and income of rural

people.

Then, the state-level officials and officials of related associations reported on cattle breeding, sector-wise implementations regarding the Mya Sein Yaung project, agriculture and breeding industry.

State Chief Minister U Htein Lin and Deputy Minister Dr Aung Gyi coordinated the discussion and the Union Minister offers proper instructions and concluded the meeting.

At noon, the Union minister and party attended the coordination meeting on rehabilitation processes held at the state government office.

During the meeting, the working committees presented the working processes and future work plans.

The Union minister offered instructions regarding the rapid rehabilitation activities and keeping the township clean and pleasant, and concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

Yangon-based parties checked: UEC

UNION Election Commission members U Aung Saw Win, U Aung Moe Myint, U Ko Ko Lwin, and U Than Aung Kyaw met chairpersons, and members of the Myanmar People's Democratic Party (MPD), People's Pioneer Party and National Political Alliances League Party, and inspected the parties' processes at the Yangon Hluttaw Building yesterday morning.

During the meeting, the UEC members stressed that political parties must organize to meet the specified party strength within 90 days from the date of registration of political parties under the political party registration laws and maintain the

proper opening of party offices within 180 days.

They also instructed that the party's financial rules be drafted and implemented following the instructions and that the use of the party's flag and signs be properly followed as per the legal requirements.

They also emphasized that they should be careful not to disturb the public during the campaign and that the proportional representation system (PR) will be applied in the next election, so that the representatives of their party will have more opportunities to be elected, and they should train and build strong political parties.

They specifically said that according to the upcoming guidelines on election laws and regulations, during the election period, the violation of rules and regulations by some smaller party members may have a big impact on the relevant parties so officials at all levels of the party should strictly enforce the law.

To ensure the transparency of the election, representatives of political parties will be allowed to participate in the compilation and verification of ballots, so they will cooperate in the success of the election, he added.

Afterwards, Myanmar People's Democratic Party (MPD) Chairman U Htay Kyaw and Peo-



Union Election Commission members and members of political parties discuss the conditions of the party's activities at the Yangon Hluttaw Building yesterday.

ple's Pioneer Party Chairman U Myint Maung Tun and National Political Alliances League Party Chairman U Thein Kyi present-

ed the conditions of the party's activities, and the commission members discussed the needs of the parties. — MNA/KZL

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.

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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.

MoHT Union Minister discusses inbound/outbound travel growth with IMCC

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Aung Thaw met with the representatives led by the Chairman of Myanmar Exhibition and Convention Association at the Wyndham Grand Yangon Hotel on 23 June.

At the meeting, they discussed the organizing of a tourism fair in Yangon under the title of "Let's Go VACS YANGON Travel Fair 2023" as a gesture of hailing World Tourism Day and arrangements for the participation of over 120 exhibition booths.

The Union minister also discussed the preparations to organize a Familiarization-FAM Trip consisting of the travelogue writers, media personnel and travel agents from the Russian Federation by cooperating with the chairman of the Myanmar Tourism Federation and chairmen of related associations and the representative group of My-

anmar Airways International.

The Union minister and party attended the meeting with the patron, president and members of the India-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce (IMCC) at India Centre in Yangon on the same afternoon.

During the meeting, the president and secretary of the India-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce (IMCC) and the Indian ambassador to Myanmar extended words of greeting and the Union minister gave a speech.

In his speech, the Union minister highlighted the bilateral tourism cooperation, the arrival of Indian travellers to Myanmar in 2019, 244 per cent increase of Indian tourists to Myanmar until May 2023 compared to the same period of last year after COVID-19 restrictions were eased in the country and benefits of the event.



Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Aung Thaw and representatives from the India-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce (IMCC) pose for the documentary photo at India Centre in Yangon on 23 June.

Then, the Union minister and members of IMCC discussed the matters on the visa, insurance, opportunity for investment, expected market potentials and interactive discussion for the sustainable

development of the hotel and tourism sector.

Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Vinay Kumar, IMCC President Mr Naresh Kumar and members, responsible officials of the ministries con-

cerned, responsible persons from UMFCCI, Chairman of Myanmar Tourism Federation and representatives from the hotel and tourism associations and guests among others attended the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

Over 70,000 baskets of rice seeds set for Rakhine State



Rice seeds are loaded onto the vehicles by Tatmadaw members and Myanmar Police Force members.

THE farmers affected by Mocha in Rakhine State will be able to plant rice in time for the rainy season, with the planning and guidance of the National Dis-

aster Management Committee. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is planning to send 73,397 baskets of rice seed.

The permanent secretary and officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation inspected the loading of baskets of rice seeds to the vehicles by Tatmadaw members and Myanmar Police Force members.

Paw San, millet and GW-11 rice seeds, produced by seed farmer groups and seed companies in Nay Pyi Taw Council area, Yangon, Bago, and Ayeyawady regions, will be distributed to rice farmers in Rakhine State before the rainy season. They will be delivered to Sittway using military vehicles. — MNA/KZW

Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 16:00 hours MST on 24-6-2023

ACCORDING to the observations at 15:30 hrs MST today, a low-pressure area may form over the Northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining North Odisha – West Bengal Coast (India) during the next 24 hours.

MYANMAR Daily Weather Report

(ISSUED at 7:00 pm Saturday 24 June 2023)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak to moderate over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and moderate to strong elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 25 June 2023: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing Region and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing and Magway regions and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Rakhine State and isolated heavyfalls in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady region and Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30 - 35) mph. The sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (7-9) feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast and (5-7) feet in the Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Moderate monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 June 2023: Some rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 June 2023: Some rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is (100%).

26 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 24 June, total figure registers 640,289

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to 640,289 after 26 new cases were reported on 24 June 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of 10,820,680 laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 640,289.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 619,141 including 46 new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered 19,494 on 24-6-2023 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

CURRENT AFFAIRS



Returnees are seen lining up for check-in processes.

216 Myanmar citizens return from Thailand

A total of 216 Myanmar migrant workers who wish to return home arrived on 21 June through the Myawady-Mae Sot Bridge II.

There were 145 men and 71 women, and the departmental staff collected the necessary data and conducted medical check-ups to ensure that they had no Covid-19.

Out of them, those from the Bago region, Mon state and Taninthayi region will stay at the Saemyonae quarantine centre in Mawlamyine Township of Mon State and those from other regions and states will be monitored at the Shwe Myawady quarantine centre in Myawady Township of Kayin State for 10 days. — TWA/MKKS

K600 per kilo set to equalize taxi fares

JOINT Secretary U Lyan Cing Mang of the Yangon Region Private Transport Supervision Committee said that K600 per kilometre has been designated to standardize taxi fares.

After discussions among members of the City Taxi Association in the third week of June, they agreed to set K1,500 once the passenger gets on the taxi, and K600 for each kilo ride for the convenience of both taxi drivers and passengers.

“Now, it was announced on 23 June to let the public know that if passengers hire a taxi, they can pay in kilos. Travellers need to know how much the price is per kilo, and they also need to know how far they can travel in kilos. Therefore, to know the kilos, they have to ask the taxi driver for the kilos on the dashboard in the car,” U Lyan Cing Mang elaborated.

“Currently, the taxis op-

erating in Yangon are City Taxi vehicles that use CNG, gasoline, and diesel, so taxi drivers who use gasoline are asking for more fares.

“CNG drivers also have to wait in line and ask for a fare just like the taxi drivers who use gasoline as an excuse to fill up with CNG.

“There are those who note that this linear setting is good”, he stated. He added that the companies that provide serv-

es through the application will only charge the rate set now.

There are more than 60,000 taxis in Yangon Region, but currently, only 30,000 are registered as “City Taxi”.

Vehicles that are not registered as city taxis will be banned from entering restricted areas such as airports for security reasons, according to the Yangon Region Transport Committee (YRTC). — GNLM/KZL



City taxis are seen operating in Yangon.

Renowned classical song composer, music director Sandya Ngwe Soe passes away



SANDYA Ngwe Soe (pianist), composer and music director, passed away at 85 years of age at his house located in Yankin Township at 1 am on 24 June.

“Sandya Ngwe Soe is my childhood friend. He has an unusual gift as he can play the world music. It is such a huge loss for the music field. I am very sad about it. He played music for most of the songs of Twantay Thein Tan,” said U Myint Lwin, chairman of the Myanmar Music Association.

Sandya Ngwe Soe was born to film director U Ba Thin and Daw Tin Tin in Wakema Township on 22 November 1938 and he



had a passion for music since childhood.

He entered the music field in 1959. His first piano piece was the Thingyan song of “Saung Myat Nwe” Thingyan group broadcast by the Windermere Crescent radio station.

He won the gold medal and silver shield in Myanmar’s traditional performing arts competition of the musical arts research federation held at Kaba Aye Hill.

He played the piano for broadcasting bands, records, Myanmar classic movies and song albums.

He was the main pianist of renowned singer and actor Twantay Thein Tan and he played 90 per cent of Twantay Thein Tan’s songs.

His famous songs were “Hla Par Tal May Yal”, “Pan Pay Paya Say Sabai Tagone” “Anar Hmar Nay Par Kwal”, Ako Pyaw Tae Chit Sakar” and “Sabai Lolo Hninsi Lolo”. The funeral will be at Yay Way cemetery at 11 am on 26 June.

His wife Daw Nyunt Nyunt Aye is the singer of the “Pan Nini Ma Pay Nae Kwal Ma Pan Chin Bu” song. — GNLM/KTZH

Palm oil prices spiking in domestic market

IT is so hard to buy palm oil in Yangon’s market in late June 2023 and the market sees price fluctuation, the sellers pointed out.

The wholesale reference price for palm oil in Yangon was set at K3,860 per viss for a week from 19 to 25 June 2023. The market price hit approximately K7,000 per viss, indicating a sharp rise of K3,000 per viss.

“Some traders are hiking the prices because of the purchase difficulties. Only the consumers are battered in this situation”, said Ma Khin Win from Mayan-gon Township, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM) on 23 June.

The opening prices in the wholesale markets of Mandalay

and Myingyan were K7,200 per viss on the morning of 23 June.

There was palm oil inflow from foreign countries, with 6,300 tonnes on 23 June. The international price for palm oil was US\$840 per tonne on 23 June, which plunged from \$877.5 on 20 June. The prices of palm oil were K7,100-7,400 per viss in the Mandalay market.

Last August 2022, Kyat weakening against the US dollar and high gold price pushed up the palm oil price to K10,000 per viss, while the reference was only K4,140 per viss on 17 August.

Some sellers speculated a price hike in the coming days like an event that happened in mid-August 2022. — TWA/EM



The photo shows an edible oil shop in the Yangon market.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Banking transactions for imports on Myanmar-China border to commence 1 August

BANKING transactions for imports in the Myanmar-China border will be started from 1 August 2023, according to a news bulletin 10/2023 dated 23 June 2023 issued by the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce.

Initially, the banking transaction system was exercised on 1 November 2022 at the Myanmar-Thailand border points. And, this system will proceed to the Myanmar-China border from 1 August 2023.

The importers must use the banking system with foreign currency (Yuan) purchased from local banks or export earnings deposited in local bank accounts, the CBM directed.

Additionally, companies need to show export earnings or income statements, credit advice or bank statements while seeking a licence from the department.

The import licence will be granted for the amount not exceeding the account balance after screening the bank statement or export earnings or foreign currency purchase records.

Importers who have already sought import licences are required to bring in the goods by 31 August 2023. If they failed to import before the deadline, their import licence will get cancelled.

Regarding export earnings and income statements,



An aerial view of the trade zone on the Sino-Myanmar border.

the bank deposits put in the account after 1 January 2023 can be used.

Exporting companies can use their earnings for imports or transfer them to other en-

titles for import purposes at border checkpoints. — NN/EM

YGEA to commence 26th gold training course FOC on 1 July

YANGON Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) will offer gold training free of charge at its office at No 42/50 on Shwebontha Street, Pabedan Township between 1 and 10 July.

Additionally, an awareness course (7th Batch) on anti-money laundering and combating the financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) will be provided as well.

The respective experts will share education and knowledge about gold mining, gold refining, gold trading, opening gold shops and refineries, gold

mortgage, gold rate calculation, gold/silver coins and jewellery.

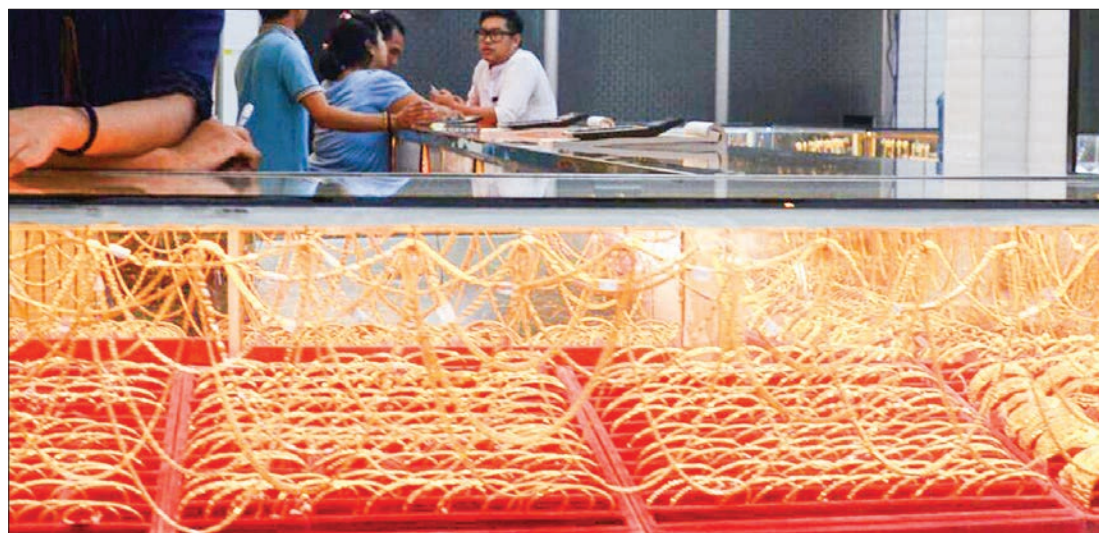
Those enthusiastic can take out enrollment forms free of charge at the office of the association. As the number of trainees is limited, they can contact YGEA's contact numbers 09 450049282 and 09 251992727 for further details.

The precious metal dealers' licences can be sought only with the completion certificate of the AML/CFT course, under Chapter 2 Section 3 (G) of the directive 2/2022 issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs' Central Body on Anti-Money

Laundering.

The YGEA handed over 21 applications for precious metal dealers' licences to the registration board in Pabedan, Lanmadaw and Latha townships on 1 April.

U Myo Myint, chair of the YGEA, handed over 21 applications for precious metal dealers' licences to the authorities concerned from the General Administration Department and the respective registration boards of Lanmadaw (1 application), Latha (1 application), Pabedan (19 applications). — NN/EM



Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) will offer gold training free of charge at its office at No 42/50 on Shwebontha Street, Pabedan Township between 1 and 10 July. The gold jewellery is pictured at the gold outlet in Yangon.

CBM declares crackdown on forex market manipulators, illegal hundi business operators in Yangon, Mandalay

UNDER the guidance of the Monitoring and Steering Committee on Gold and Currency Market, the Central Bank of Myanmar clamped down on the foreign exchange market manipulators and illegal hundi money transfer service operators in Yangon and Mandalay cities, according to its notification on 23 June.

The monitoring task force and on-ground task force intensified crackdowns on those grey market players in big cities Yangon and Mandalay this month.

The task force made inspections at the gold shops and refineries in Mandalay. Some were found doing illegal money transfer businesses with solid proofs so they will face prosecution under the existing laws, according to the statement.

Furthermore, hundi business operators without the relevant licence and digital money service providers without licences were allegedly found. Those 51 individuals and one company will face actions under the existing laws.

Afterwards, those operators and two companies were found providing illegal money transfer services for online gambling and will be prosecuted under the existing laws.

Inspection and prosecution against those unscrupulous traders who intend to interfere with the free and fair operation of the market and are involved in illegal foreign currency holding and illegal money transfer businesses will be carried out under the Foreign Exchange Management Law and the related laws. — NN/EM

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OPINION

ARTICLE BOOKRACK

Securing safe and healthy food production in Myanmar

MYANMAR faces a critical challenge as a significant portion of its population confronts daily food poisoning and non-infectious diseases caused by the consumption of food products contaminated with infectious viruses, dyes, and chemicals. Sadly, despite awareness of these risks, individuals often have no choice but to purchase and consume unsafe food due to limited alternatives in their daily routines, resulting in a range of illnesses and foodborne ailments.

The World Health Organization (WHO) reveals that over 200 diseases, including diarrhoea and cancer, stem from the consumption of food containing bacteria, viruses, parasites, and chemicals. Shockingly, approximately 1.6 million people worldwide suffer from fevers each day due to the consumption of unsafe foods. Tragically, on average, 340 children under the age of five lose their lives daily due to diseases triggered by unsafe food.

Myanmar recognizes the intrinsic value of food as medicine, emphasizing that medicine is also nourishment for the human body. Consequently, there is a collective aspiration to secure safe and wholesome food to mitigate the adverse consequences of an unsound production chain. To achieve this objective, it is imperative for authorities, food producers, and consumers to collaborate in manufacturing safe and secure food for the entire population.

To safeguard public health, it is crucial to implement comprehensive safety measures throughout the entire food production chain. This encompasses the processing, storage, and serving of hygienic and nutritious foods to consumers. By ensuring these practices, food retains its nutritional value and consumers are shielded from potential harm. Unfortunately, there are instances where the production of unsafe food occurs due to inadequate hygiene practices, expired storage, and lack of freshness. In many cases, manufacturers and business owners unintentionally distribute these hazardous food items without fully comprehending the negative impact on consumers.

Food processors, manufacturers, farmers, and animal farms in Myanmar must acknowledge their responsibility and be accountable for the safety of their products. Conversely, authorities face challenges in implementing robust food safety management systems and enforcing existing regulations, which are fundamental to ensuring food security. It is therefore crucial for relevant authorities to prioritize strict supervision of food security, enforce compliance with established standards for food production, and regulate manufacturing practices.

Myanmar recognizes the intrinsic value of food as medicine, emphasizing that medicine is also nourishment for the human body. Consequently, there is a collective aspiration to secure safe and wholesome food to mitigate the adverse consequences of an unsound production chain. To achieve this objective, it is imperative for authorities, food producers, and consumers to collaborate in manufacturing safe and secure food for the entire population.

As such, addressing food safety and security is a matter of utmost importance in Myanmar. By implementing stringent measures, enhancing accountability, and promoting widespread awareness, we can establish a system that guarantees the provision of safe and secure food for all. Let us unite our efforts to produce food that fosters and sustains the health and well-being of every individual in the country.

Commemorative Article for 36th International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

Let's Prevent the Perils of Narcotic Drugs in a Collaborative Manner

By Aung Shinn

USING narcotic drugs not only spoils the individual users but also impacts their family, friends, the country's resources and society as a whole. Drug users might be infected with many diseases, including HIV/AIDS. Additionally, the drug addict will immediately face negative social consequences. For instance, if the addict has a family, the offspring of the drug users will have to grow up with the pitiful trauma of being neglected by the family and the neighbourhood.

Such negative effects on individuals and families do not stop here but affect the environment and society as a whole. Drug production, especially in methamphetamine production areas, can have a major impact on the environment as a result of chemical poisoning. The resources for the care and treatment of drug addicts and their families have also become a burden for the respective countries affecting their functions. Narcotic drugs can cause social, economic and educational setbacks creating a disabled generation and human society, and might even lead to the destruction of the entire world. Finally, the entire world may even be in a state of destruction. For this reason, all the countries of the world are combatting narcotic drugs considered as a common enemy of mankind. 26th of June is recognized as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and has been conducting its ceremony annually reaching its 36th occasion in 2023.

State Administration Council Government's Anti-Narcotic Drug Campaign

Like the rest of the world, the developing country Myanmar has been fighting against drugs that have been rooted in the country since the colonial era through a collaborative effort of Tatmadaw personnel, security force members and the people. Along with the rapid developments in technology, the production methods and chemicals become abundant which resulted in easier production and manufacture of synthetic drugs and narcotics. So, successive governments of Myanmar have stepped up anti-narcotic efforts.

The Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC), which was formed under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law (1993), was reorganized with 19 members and 21 tasks by order number (25/2022) of the State Administration Council on 21 January

2022. The Central Committee reorganized 11 working groups to speed up anti-drug measures.

Therefore, during the term of the State Administration Council, a large number of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances were seized, and the list of seizures is shown by year.

Table Showing the Seizures of Narcotic Drugs across the Country from 2021 to 31 May 2023

Sr	Type	2021		2022		Up to 31 May 2023		Unit
		Quantity	Worth (million by Kyat)	Quantity	Worth (million by Kyat)	Quantity	Worth (million by Kyat)	
1	Opium	2632.00975	2632.00975	1209.77074	1209.77074	209.3007	209.3007	kilo
2	Heroin	2526.109114	75783.27342	1345.498148	40364.94444	921.79097	27653.7291	kilo
3	Stimulant tablets	198188715.5	396377.431	169070909	338141.818	92081211	184162.422	tablet
4	ICE (Crystal Meth)	13815.77542	276315.5084	23401.9198	468038.396	7215.27199	144305.4398	kilo
5	Marijuana	503.7159631	151.1147889	929.430025	278.8290075	348.10043	104.430129	kilo
6	Kratom	3088.21317	308.821317	1608.70767	160.870767	460.71165	46.071165	kilo
7	Kratom powder	1058.480551	158.7720827	766.47701	114.9715515	116.54495	17.48075	kilo
Total (million by kyat)		970,288.97 USD 462.04 million		1,120,360.31 USD 533.50 million		377,008.95 USD 179.53 million		

Reviewing the above-mentioned statistics of drug seizures, it is worth recording the powerful actions of the drug prevention activities during the State Administration Council tenure. **SEE PAGE-10>>**



- Book Title** - Pon Thay Ahtway
- Translator** - Myo Lwin (MBA)
- Publishing House** - Thar Nge
- Publication Date** - June 2023 (1st Edition)
- Price** - K12,500

Pon Thay Ahtway (Mindset by Carol S Dweck, PhD)

MINDSET by Carol Dweck is a fundamental book that everyone should read. It focuses on changing the way we think to fulfil our potential. Within the book, Professor Dr Carol Dweck explores the power of our mindset and how success does not just depend on our abilities or talent but rather on how we approach our goals; with a fixed or growth mindset. So, what is a fixed mindset then?

A fixed mindset is the belief that our "intelligence is static" and we cannot reach our full potential. People with a fixed mindset try to avoid challenges.

They give up easily, ignore useful feedback and feel threatened or jealous by the success of others. Basically speaking, every time you've told yourself "I'm not smart enough" or "I will never succeed", that's your fixed mindset talking.

Having a growth mindset is the opposite of a fixed mindset. It's the belief that our "intelligence can be developed" therefore reaching high levels of achievement. People with a growth mindset try new things, learn from their mistakes, embrace challenges and welcome

feedback. They strive to be better every day. Throughout the course of the book, Carol compares these two mindsets. She shows us how a fixed mindset is usually the default mindset but how we can start adopting a growth mindset instead.

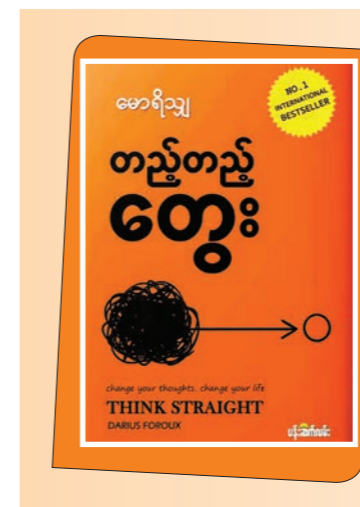
Carol Dweck draws upon case studies of well-known and famous people as examples to support her points. And this actually helps me to appreciate the book even more as I could relate it to the people whom I was familiar with. This book can guide people of all strata with

different talents and qualifications to achieve success in their respective fields with their different roles and capacities. This book is believed to be of great use to parents, teachers, managers, CEOs and company staff.

This book includes eight units. What appeals to me most is the unit in which the writer deals with the CEO's disease. He said that if a person is boosting that he is at the top of an organization, pulling the string from behind or if he is insisting that he is a perfect man, he can be said to be suffering from the CEO disease.

As a whole, this entire book is a takeaway. Mindset has taught me a lot about my mindset issues and got me asking myself some very difficult and challenging questions.

The writer highlighted the advantages and disadvantages of both mindsets—the fixed mindset and the growth mindset. She tells us to figure out what triggers our fixed mindset so that we can be ready for when it next shows up. We must not let our fixed mindset limit us. So, if you're going to buy any book by this monk, make sure it is this one by Carol, and invest in your mindset.



- Book Title** - Tae Tae Tway
- Translator** - Mawrisha
- Publishing House** - Pan Set Lan
- Publication Date** - January 2023 (1st Edition)
- Price** - K4,500

Tae Tae Tway (Think Straight by Darius Foroux)

THIS book reveals the recipe for taking control of your mind so that you can improve your life, career, relationship and business etc. Darius Foroux wrote this little book in a way that you can read it more than once. And I hope that this book serves as an anchor to you, especially during trying times.

Darius Foroux is the author of seven books, and the creator of six online courses. He comes from Holland where he was brought up. His parents are immigrants from Iran. Darius Foroux has contributed articles to the Time, NBC, Fast Company Inc and Observer etc on thinkings on policies, get-

rich-quick tips, social behaviours and change of mindset. In addition to writing, he is a young entrepreneur doing the distribution of books in cooperation with Penguin Random House.

This book contains 31 units, which are all written crystal clearly. The opening unit is titled, "You Become What You Think." This unit is about a man who had to struggle hard throughout his life. As a medical school student, he had contemplated suicide. Coupled with anxiety and hallucinations, the young student believed there was no way out of it. His depression seems to have passed onto him from his father; thus be-

ing a biological inevitability.

Nevertheless, he kept these thoughts of suicide at bay and began rationalizing the concept of suicide. When he came across an essay by a French philosopher; his belief in free will strengthened. His thought of free will was not the ability to do anything. Instead, it was the freedom to think anything. He was then able to break free from the clutches of depression. This young man grew up to be one of the leading psychologists of America, William James. The basis of his teaching is to control thoughts. While James openly admits that consciousness cannot be controlled, a conscious effort

can be made to choose which thought gets our focus. The gist of Think Straight focuses on the number of thoughts a person has every day, and pointless most of them are. The author, Darius Foroux, doubts the productivity of a preoccupied mind. In this book, he explains how our thoughts tend to work against us, instead of for us.

By admitting that people have no control over their minds, people let their minds free. Instead, one must master his mind. Foroux says that people have the choice of what they think, however, people rarely use it. Once the mind is brought under control, we can revolutionize every aspect of our life.

In the unit titled, "A Very Brief History of Thinking," philosophers from the dawn of the time have emphasized the importance of thoughts. The notion of 'thoughts are important' has been revised to 'not all thoughts are equal'. The ancient philosophers realized that the human brain was a machine to solve problems. The best way to realize the above situation is to write down thoughts every two hours. Categorize them as useless or useful. Simple logic suggests that a useless thought must be eliminated. ■

TECH/ARTICLE WORLD

Commemorative Article for 36th International Day Against Drug Abuse ...

>> FROM PAGE-9

Regarding the effective measures to combat narcotics and synthetic drugs, public participation and cooperation play a crucial role after realizing the harmful effects of drugs. Therefore, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Education and the Myanmar Police Force are conducting awareness programmes continuously. So as to make the youth, as well as the general public, become aware of the danger of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and avoid taking the drugs, plans are being developed to educate them effectively through mass communication methods such as radio, television, video, movie, dramatic art and music.

International Cooperation

Myanmar has signed three United Nations Conventions on Narcotic Drugs for drug control and has been cooperating with International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); non-governmental organizations; regional countries as well as with countries outside the region on drug control issues. In addition, Myanmar is also working closely with Yangon-based United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); the Australian Federal Police (AFP); US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); China National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC); and the Office of Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) of Thailand.

Cooperation with ASEAN

Countries

Myanmar as an ASEAN member country, is actively participating in drug control activities in the ASEAN region. Myanmar has been cooperating all round in these activities by attending ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Control (AMMD); ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Control (ASOD); ASEAN Airport Interdiction Task Force Meeting (AAITF); ASEAN Seaport Interdiction Task Force (ASITF) Meeting and ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network (ADMN) meeting. In order to build a safe and drug-free community, Myanmar is cooperating in implementing the ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs (2016-2025) established by ASEAN.

Cooperation with Mekong MoU Signatory Member States

The Golden Triangle is the area in which the eastern Shan State of Myanmar, the northern part of Thailand and Laos, and the southwestern part of China meet. As the region still remains the largest producer of opium and heroin in the world today, the Mekong Agreement was signed by the regional countries of Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and China in 1993 to take anti-narcotic drug measures in the region. After Cambodia and Vietnam became signatories of the agreement in 1995, six Mekong regional countries have been cooperating in drug control activities. Myanmar representatives have been participating in the ministerial-level meeting held once every 2 years and the meeting of high-level officials as well as the meeting of

central officials held once a year, which is alternately hosted by the Mekong MoU member countries. The Mekong MoU signatory countries have been cooperating in the prevention of the spread of narcotic drugs to other countries of the world through the Golden Triangle area, exchanging information related to the production and trade of drugs among the member countries.

Cooperation with BIMSTEC Member States

In 2004, the first BIMSTEC meeting on the prevention and suppression of terrorism and transnational crimes was held on December 9 in New Delhi, India. At the meeting, sub-working groups were formed and the member countries were assigned to the respective areas of responsibility. As for Myanmar, it is taking responsibility to hold the meeting of the Sub-Group on the Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals. The psychotropic drugs produced in Myanmar territory are the result of precursor chemicals which are brought into Myanmar from foreign countries. Therefore, it is crucial to seize the precursor chemicals that will come into Myanmar from foreign countries in order to eliminate the production of psychotropic drugs in Myanmar territory. Accordingly, Myanmar has been putting an emphasis on the prevention and control of illicit chemical transactions in the region, working together with regional countries.

MoUs/LoAs

With the aim to collectively prevent and control drug traf-

ficking, Myanmar has signed a total of 24 Memorandums of Understanding (MoU/LoA) with the United States, Bangladesh, China, India, Korea, Laos, the Philippines, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam; In addition, efforts are being made to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indonesia, and an amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with the Philippines is in progress.

A Milestone of the State Administration Council (SAC)

Drug use negatively affects not only the users themselves but also the entire human society. In addition to losing the power of the youths, the money obtained from drug crimes increases the strength of criminals and insurgent organizations threatening the security and stability of the countries in the region. In particular, the production and sale of narcotics, including opium cultivation in Myanmar, are mainly carried out in the areas dominated by ethnic armed organizations. It is directly or indirectly related to their survival as a means of income. Therefore, the elimination of narcotic drugs is also an important process to end the armed conflict and facilitate the peace processes in Myanmar.

In viewing today's drug problem, it is found that it is required to adopt a multi-pronged approach that encompasses the entire source of the problem and tackle it by interdepending on the sectors of public health, higher standard of living, humanity, development, fundamental freedom and human rights besides the sector of effective anti-narcotic drug measures and legal actions.

Myanmar, a developing country, intensely has suppressed opium, heroin and other psychotropic drugs in successive eras, and a large number of members of the Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force had sacrificed their lives for the country in anti-narcotic measures.

During the tenure of the State Administration Council, it can be witnessed that the Government has intensified its efforts, as a national duty, to eliminate and combat against cultivation and production of opium, the production and sale of synthetic drugs, trafficking of illicit chemical substances, drug-related arms smuggling and money laundering and also taken rehabilitation measures for drug victims. In executing this, the success of the anti-narcotics activities under the State Administration Council Government has been achieved thanks to the comprehensive cooperation of the people. Such achievements are proved by the destruction of poppy fields, the seizure of large quantities of narcotic drugs, and effective legal actions taken against drug users and drug dealers in the community due to the information provided by the people.

I wrote this article to celebrate the 36th International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking which will fall on 26 June 2023 by expressing the spectacular performance of the State Administration Council, the Provisional Government of Myanmar and the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, with the active participation of the people, in Myanmar's drug elimination efforts that will mark a milestone until the world ends.

■



New date: After 27 years of launches, the 117th and last mission to take off on an Ariane 5 rocket was originally scheduled for 16 June but was called off the day before. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

New date for Ariane 5 rocket's final launch after delay

EUROPE'S workhorse Ariane 5 rocket will blast off for the final time on 4 July, its operator Arianespace said on Friday, after a previous launch was called off due to a technical problem.

After 27 years of launches, the 117th and last mission to take off on an Ariane 5 rocket was originally scheduled for 16 June from Europe's spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana, but was called off the day before.

It is now targeted for launch between 6:30 pm to 8:05 pm Kourou time (0930 to 1105 GMT) on 4 July, Arianespace said in a statement.

The new date was set "following the replacement of the three pyrotechnical transmission lines identified as doubtful on the Ariane 5 launcher," the French firm said.

The pyrotechnical lines are involved in separating the boost-

ers from the rocket.

Boosters help lift the rocket off the ground before being jettisoned.

The rocket and its payload of one French and one German communication satellite were stable and safe in Kourou, Arianespace added.

The postponement earlier this month marked the latest blow for European space efforts. — AFP

HEALTH/WELLNESS: WORLD

Biden wins endorsement from abortion rights groups

WITH abortion a hot-button issue in the US 2024 presidential race, Joe Biden on Friday won the endorsement of leading groups advocating for reproductive rights.

Planned Parenthood, NARAL and Emily's List threw their support behind Biden's reelection bid along with his running mate Vice-President Kamala Harris.

"When people want to know where @JoeBiden and @KamalaHarris stand on reproductive freedom, we tell them: they are unwavering," Planned Parenthood, the country's leading abortion provider and advocacy organization, said on Twitter.

In endorsing Biden and Harris, NARAL, another powerful abortion advocacy group, said the pair "have done more to defend and expand reproductive freedom than any other administration in history."

The announcement comes on the anniversary of the Su-



Abortion-rights activists supporting legal access to abortion protest outside the US Supreme Court on 4 March 2020. PHOTO: SAUL LOEB/AFP/FILE

preme Court's decision to overturn the constitutional right to

abortion, which made reproductive rights a prerogative of the

states.

After many states moved to

curb access to abortion, Biden on Friday signed an executive order aimed at strengthening access to contraception.

Christian right

On the other side of ever-deepening political divide, abortion opponents from the conservative Faith and Freedom Coalition were to hold a rally in Washington Friday, with Republican presidential hopefuls Donald Trump and far-right Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, slated to speak.

The American Christian right played a central role in getting the landmark Roe v Wade decision overturned on June 24 last year.

Since then, 20 states, mainly located in the center and south of the country, have enforced bans or strong restrictions on abortion, while liberal-leaning states on the eastern and western coasts have passed new protections. — AFP

G20 event emphasizes global action for promoting adolescent mental health



Highlighting the alarming increase in mental health challenges among youth, the recently concluded G20 event focused on 'Health of Youth-Wealth of Nation' called for increased attention and investment by G20 nations in this area. PHOTO: ANI

MENTAL health is a critical concern among today's youth. It profoundly affects their development, impairing growth and hindering their ability to reach their full potential. According to United Nations (UN) data, approximately one in seven teenagers suffers from mental health issues worldwide, with half of them experiencing symptoms as early as the age of 14. The condition has been further exacerbated in the aftermath of COVID-19. A survey conducted by UNICEF

and Gallup in the first half of 2021 revealed that around 14 per cent of youngsters between age 15 to 24 in India reported often feeling depressed or having little interest in doing things.

Highlighting the alarming increase in mental health challenges among youth, the recently concluded G20 event focused on 'Health of Youth-Wealth of Nation' called for increased attention and investment by G20 nations in this area. In line with the upcoming G20 summit, the event was or-

ganized by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in collaboration with Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) in the national capital. Attending the event, Associate Director, HIV/AIDS, UNICEF, Anurita Bains and Youth Advocates from Nepal and Iraq stressed the need to prioritize youth mental health and provide them with adequate support to overcome it.

Talking about involving youth in formulating mental health programmes for them, Bains said, "UNICEF aims to integrate mental health response into existing programmes, ensuring healthcare workers and teachers are equipped to recognize and support individuals with depression and mental health issues."

Sharing the details, she added that UNICEF is also exploring partnerships with global donors to expand mental health programmes and the input of young people through the platform directly influences the development of their health programmes. — ANI

People injured in China restaurant blast recovering well: expert

PEOPLE injured in a restaurant gas explosion in northwest China on Wednesday night are recovering well after receiving treatment at hospital, a medical expert said Friday. Two patients with slight burns and injuries will be discharged soon. For those with severe burns, doctors have completed wound debridement and will provide treatment for air passage and lung injuries,

said Lyu Guozhong, director of the national emergency medical research centre. All patients are recovering well, Lyu said. The explosion occurred at Fuyang Barbecue Restaurant on a busy street in Yinchuan, capital of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, when liquefied petroleum gas leaked from the restaurant, killing 31 people and injured seven. — Xinhua



Firefighters work at the site of an explosion in Yinchuan, northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, 21 June 2023. PHOTO: WANG PENG/XINHUA

ECONOMY WORLD

EU welcomes Meta plans for tough content rules



European Commissioner for Internal Market Thierry Breton is meeting with executives of big tech platforms during a visit to San Francisco. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE EU on Friday cautiously welcomed efforts made by Meta, the owner of Facebook and Instagram, to prepare for new European rules on content moderation that kick in on 25 August. Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg "was very involved and knew exactly where we stand," EU commissioner Thierry Breton told reporters after talks at the social media giant's California headquarters.

"Now we expect the promising commitments I heard today to translate into results. I will be particularly vigilant on progress regarding disinformation and child protection," he said. Breton said that more than 1,000 people were working on implementation at Meta of the European Union's Digital Services Act

(DSA) and that the company had agreed to carry out a "stress test" in July to ensure it was prepared for the new rules.

The test would take place at Meta's EU headquarters in Dublin, with video app TikTok also signed up to carry out the procedure with EU officials.

The EU commissioner made a two-day visit to San Francisco eight weeks before the DSA comes into full force for the world's biggest platforms, including Meta's Facebook and Instagram, as well as TikTok and Twitter. The DSA is one of the most ambitious legislations on controlling online content since the advent of social media, putting major obligations on how platforms deal with the free flow of speech. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cameroon, Croatia, Viet Nam put on money-laundering 'grey list': FATF

INTERNATIONAL money-laundering watchdog the Financial Action Task Force announced Friday it had put Cameroon, Croatia and Viet Nam on its "grey list" of countries under increased monitoring.

The three nations join 23 others on the list which are "actively working with the FATF to address the strategic deficiencies in their regimes to counter money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing".

Other countries on the grey list include Albania, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The announcement came on the final day of the FATF's plenary meeting in Paris. The 39-member body, which is based in Paris, has a grey list of countries requiring closer monitoring and a black list of nations classed high-risk. — AFP

Japan to issue new banknotes in July 2024, 1st renewal in 20 yrs

JAPAN will issue new banknotes as early as July next year in their first renewal since 2004, putting the face of Eiichi Shibusawa, known as "the father of Japanese capitalism", on the new 10,000 yen bill, a source familiar with the matter said Saturday.

The new 5,000 yen note will carry Umeko Tsuda, an educator who pioneered women's higher education, while the new 1,000 yen note will feature microbiologist Shibasaburo Ki-

tasato, who developed a serum therapy for tetanus.

The backs of the three banknotes will adopt images of the Tokyo Station building, wisteria and a work on Mt Fuji by ukiyo-e artist Katsushika Hokusai, respectively. They will include holograms to prevent forgery.

The notes, to be issued by the Bank of Japan, are currently being printed by the National Printing Bureau, the source said. — Kyodo



Photo taken on 14 April 2023, at the Bank of Japan's headquarters in Tokyo shows samples of new banknotes to be issued as early as July 2024 in the first renewal since 2004. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Tourist arrivals in Türkiye surge to 4.5 mln in May: ministry

THE number of foreign tourists to Türkiye surged to 4.5 million in May, amounting to a 16.2-per cent year-on-year increase, the Culture and Tourism Ministry said Friday.

The Mediterranean resort of Antalya topped the list of most popular destinations by hosting 1.51 million visitors, slightly leading Istanbul with 1.5 million visitors, followed by the Aegean province of Mugla and the northwestern province of Edirne, hosting 380,899 and 349,123 foreigners respective-

ly, according to the ministry figures.

Antalya is famed for its beautiful beaches and inviting waters, while Istanbul straddling Europe and Asia is a popular tourist attraction with its Ottoman-era palaces, Byzantine heritage and museums.

Russians topped the list of visitors, followed by Germans and Britons.

According to the data, 14.3 million foreign tourists visited Türkiye between January and

May this year.

The country has kept its target of receiving 60 million tourists and earning 56 billion US dollars in tourism revenue in 2023 despite the devastating earthquake earlier this year and the recent elections, Culture and Tourism Minister Mehmet Nuri Ersoy told Turkish business daily Dunya on Friday.

In 2022, 51.4 million tourists visited Türkiye, bringing the country 46.3 billion dollars in revenue. — Xinhua



Tourists visit the ancient city of Side in Antalya, Türkiye, 2 April 2023. **PHOTO: MUSTAFA KAYA/XINHUA**



Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Chen Song addresses the launch ceremony of WeChat Pay in Pokhara, a popular tourist destination in Nepal, 22 June 2023. **PHOTO: HARI MAHARJAN/XINHUA**

WeChat Pay of China launched in Nepal

WECHAT Pay, a mobile payment service run by China's tech giant Tencent, was launched on Thursday in Pokhara, a popular tourist destination in Nepal.

Tencent is joining hands with Nepal's NMB Bank Ltd to bring WeChat Pay service to the South Asian country.

"I firmly believe that this collaboration will set

new avenues for safe, secure and convenient cross-border merchant payments for Chinese tourists in Nepal," Guru Prasad Poudel, an executive director from Nepal Rastra Bank, the country's central bank, said at the launch ceremony.

"It will further enhance cross-border trade, tourism and remittances in both countries,"

he added.

Addressing the ceremony, Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Chen Song said that it is the right time and "full of great significance" to launch and promote WeChat Pay in Nepal.

He spoke of an increasing number of Chinese tourists going overseas year by year and "the favourable prospects

of the Chinese tourist market" in Nepal.

"China is ready to enhance the synergy of policies with Nepal, not only limited to traditional sectors, but also breaking new ground in emerging fields such as financial service trade, unlocking great potential for mutual cooperation and benefits," Chen said. — Xinhua

UK police drop controversial case against French publisher

UK police said Friday that they were taking no further action against a French publisher who was controversially stopped at London's St Pancras station under terror legislation and arrested. Ernest Moret, who works at left-wing French publisher Editions La Fabrique, was travelling to the London Book Fair in April when he was detained by British border officers after arriving from Paris.

He was bailed, and later released under investigation. But Metropolitan Police said Friday that they had been advised by the country's prosecution service that "the evidential test has

not been met, therefore, no further action will be taken."

UK police faced criticism over the arrest under terrorism legislation for "obstructing" the search, which was allegedly prompted by his participation in recent pension reforms protests in France. Police said they stopped him and arrested him on suspicion of "wilfully obstructing a Schedule 7 examination".

Schedule 7 allows specially trained officers to search and detain individuals and goods passing through the UK's border to determine whether they may be involved or used in "acts of terrorism". — AFP

Asian, European markets fall again as traders eye more rate hikes

EQUITY markets sank Friday and oil extended a sharp selloff after a string of interest rate hikes by central banks revived worries about the global economy.

Eyes are also on Tokyo after forecast-beating inflation figures fuelled speculation on whether the Bank of Japan (BoJ) will shift away from its ultra-loose monetary policy that has dragged on the yen.

The optimism that characterised the first half of June — fuelled by hopes the Federal Reserve was close to the end of its hiking cycle — has given way to concern that officials still had several more in them as they bat-



Equity markets sank Friday and oil extended a sharp selloff after a string of interest rate hikes by central banks revived worries about the global economy. **PHOTO: AFP**

tle stubborn price rises.

Last week's decision to stand pat after 10 straight increases added to the sense of hope, but warnings Wednesday from boss Jerome Powell that more work was need-

ed took the wind out of traders' sails.

He told US lawmakers that two more this year was "a pretty good guess".

His comments came as the Bank of England

(BoE) lifted rates more than expected, while officials in Switzerland and Norway also tightened. That followed hikes last week in the eurozone, Australia and Canada.

And Türkiye, which for two years had followed President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's unorthodox policy of dealing with high inflation by cutting rates, changed course and nearly doubled its borrowing costs.

However, some observers are sceptical the Fed will follow through with its warnings as US inflation continues to subside, falling to 4.0 per cent in May from 4.9 per cent in April. The Fed's target is 2.0 per cent. — AFP

The Global New Light of Myanmar
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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MSC FORTUNE VOY.NO. (SB324A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC FORTUNE VOY.NO. (SB324A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-6-2023** 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:
M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (092N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (092N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-6-2023** 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:
M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Iran plans to extend its new hypersonic missile's range

IRAN plans to extend the range of its recently developed Fattah hypersonic missile by as much as 600 km, IRGC Aerospace Force Commander Amir Ali Hajizadeh has revealed.

"The fact that we have built the Fattah missile with [the current range of 1,400 km, ed.] does not mean that we will not have a missile with a range of 2,000 km with these characteristics in the future.

Rather, this is its current range, and in the future we will extend its range," Hajizadeh said at a ceremony at Mazandaran University, northern Iran on Wednesday.

"Today", the commander said, Iran has "achieved all complex technologies in the defence industry," and will have more "good news for our beloved



A giant billboard bearing a picture of the 'Fattah' hypersonic missile, covers the side of a building in Tehran on 7 July 2023. **PHOTO: ATTA KENARE/AFP**

people in the field of missiles" in the future. Iran depends on its conventional ballistic and cruise

missile arsenal as its main deterrent against foreign aggression, casting off nuclear weapons and

all other kinds of weapons of mass destruction as incompatible with the tenets of Islam. The country

built up its defence industry from scratch over the past forty years after being cut off from its traditional Western arms suppliers after the 1979 Revolution, developing and fielding an array of missiles, drones, radars and other advanced weapons systems, and creating a homegrown defence electronics sector.

The Islamic Republic took a major step in rocket science earlier this month when it unveiled the Fattah, which is reportedly capable of accelerating to 13-15 Mach and manoeuvring during flight. Footage accompanying the missile's unveiling showed its launch, touchdown on target, and engine testing, revealing that it is fitted with a thrust-vectoring nozzle that allows for steering in flight, thus making its trajectory unpredictable. — SPUTNIK

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bangladesh arrests chief of Islamist militant outfit

BANGLADESH police have arrested the leader of an Islamist organization at his hideout in Dhaka, officers said Saturday, months after the launch of a crackdown against the group.

Shamin Mahfuz, the founder of Jamaat al Ansar fil Hindal Sharqiya, is accused of helping to run militant training camps in the country's restive Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Police said Mahfuz was arrested late Friday along with his wife in an industrial suburb of the capital, where they were found with a pistol, explosives and bomb-making materials.

"An anti-terrorism case has been filed against Mahfuz. We seek 10 days of remand to question him," Mohammad Asaduzzaman of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police counter-terrorism unit told reporters.

Lawyers for Mahfuz could not be reached for comment.

Asaduzzaman said the Sharqiya founder had first been detained in 2014 and came into contact with other outlawed extremist groups while in prison.

He said Mahfuz had brokered a deal for the organization to use training camps run by the Kuki-Chin National Front (KNF), a mainly Christian tribal insurgent group. — AFP

Russia, China block move for new Antarctic marine reserves

MEMBERS of a multinational group on Antarctic conservation failed to agree Friday on a roadmap for the creation of three new marine protected areas -- a goal that has proven elusive for years. "No agreement was reached. It was not possible to obtain... a roadmap" for protected areas in the seas around Antarctica, Cesar Cardenas, a member of the Chilean Antarctic Institute and part of the Chilean delegation, told AFP.

Cardenas said Russia and China resisted new protected areas.

The bid to create the sanctuaries around Antarctica to counter climate change and protect fragile ocean ecosystems would safeguard nearly four million more square kilometres (1.5 mil-



Passers-by take photos of an ice sculpture representing a krill in Santiago on 19 June 2023 as the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources met to discuss three new proposed marine protected areas. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

lion more square miles) of ocean from human activities.

The areas are home to pen-

guins, seals, toothfish, whales and huge numbers of krill -- a staple food for many species. — AFP



Colombia says documentary to be made about kids rescued in Amazon

THE Colombian government is working with British producer

Soldiers gather at the encampment in the Colombian Amazon where they found the children 40 days after they survived a plane crash. **PHOTO: COLOMBIAN PRESIDENCY/AFP HANDOUT**

Simon Chinn to make a documentary about the four Indigenous children who survived 40 days alone in the Amazon after a plane crash that killed their mother, the country's president said Friday.

Gustavo Petro, who is attending a climate summit in Paris, said he had "a first meeting" with

Chinn, a two-time Oscar winner for the documentaries "Man on Wire" (2008) and "Searching for Sugar Man" (2012). The four children -- Lesly (13), Soleiny (9), Tien Noriel (5) and one-year-old Cristin -- were the only survivors of a small plane crash in the Amazon on 1 May. — AFP



A member of the Wagner Group stands guard on a street in the city of Rostov-on-Don, Russia, on Saturday. PHOTO: AFP

Putin delivers address following Wagner armed mutiny attempt

THIS comes after the head of the Wagner Group private military company Yevgeny Prigozhin has faced a criminal case for inciting an armed mutiny.

Russia's Federal Security Service announced a criminal case Friday against Yevgeny Prigozhin, the head of the mer-

cenary organization known as the Wagner Group, claiming he incited "armed rebellion" after he claimed Russia's military killed a "huge" number of Wagner paramilitaries in an attack on a Wagner Group camp, as tensions reach a fever pitch between the paramilitary group

and Moscow.

The FSB said that there was a threat of escalation on Russian territory. The Russian Defence Ministry said that social media reports about alleged Russian military strikes on camps belonging to PMC Wagner were not true. — SPUTNIK

Major US highway reopens two weeks after overpass collapse

A section of one of America's busiest highways, which collapsed some two weeks ago after a fire, reopened Friday, officials said. An overpass on Interstate 95 in Philadelphia collapsed on 11 June after a tanker crossing un-

derneath burst into flames. One person died and several traffic lanes were taken out of service.

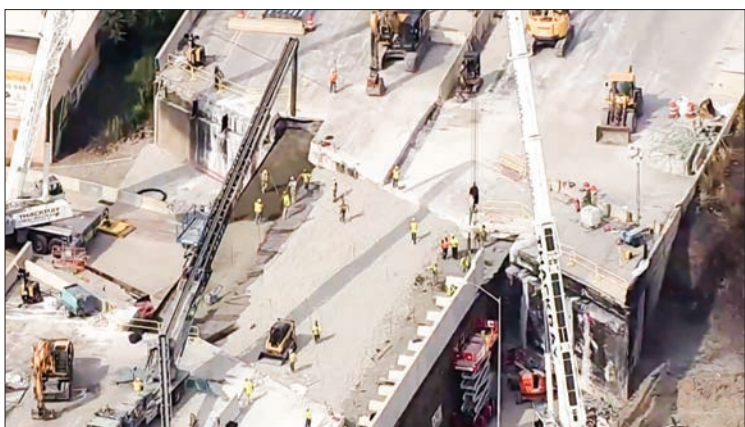
Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro earlier predicted it would take months to fully restore the road, but state transportation au-

thorities were able to construct a temporary roadway, filling it in with a recycled glass aggregate and paving over it.

Among the solutions authorities used to speed up their work was a vehicle ordinarily used to dry car racing tracks after the rain — to make the asphalt dry enough for lines to be painted.

In a statement Friday, President Joe Biden lauded the round-the-clock efforts by operating engineers, labourers, and carpenters. He added that the emergency repair was federally funded and "all approvals were given as quick as possible".

Referring to the damaged I-95 stretch, he said: "I know how important it is to people's quality of life, the local economy, and the 150,000 vehicles that travel on it every day." — AFP



An overpass on Interstate 95 in Philadelphia collapsed on 11 June after a tanker crossing underneath burst into flames. One person died and several traffic lanes were taken out of service. PHOTO: VIDEO SCREENSHOT/AFP

Singapore holds first LGBTQ rally since gay sex decriminalized

HUNDREDS of people wearing pink attended Singapore's annual "Pink Dot" LGBTQ rally on Saturday, the first to be held since the city-state decriminalized gay sex last year.

Brandishing rainbow flags and sporting glittery makeup, participants gathered in a downtown park — the only place in Singapore where protests are allowed without a police permit.

"I'm celebrating today because it's been a really long fight," said Ernest Seah, a gay 58-year-old artist and teacher, while sitting on a pink inflatable couch.

"And you know, it's great that love wins and the government understands that."

Singapore's parliament last year repealed a British colonial-era law that penalized sex between men with up to two

years in jail, although the statute was not actively enforced.

But at the same time lawmakers passed a constitutional amendment bolstering the existing definition of marriage as between a man and a woman.

The amendment essentially closed the door on any future legal challenges that could establish equal marital rights for LGBTQ people.

Describing the mood as one of "celebration and joyousness", Pink Dot's spokesperson Clement Tan said it was a "relief" to hold the rally with the law no longer on the books.

He declined to specify what Pink Dot, one of Singapore's leading LGBTQ advocacy groups, would focus on next.

"We recognize that post repeal, people need a moment to breathe," he said. — AFP



Supporters attend the annual Pink Dot event in a public show of support for the LGBTQ community at Hong Lim Park in Singapore on 24 June 2023. PHOTO: AFP

Sierra Leone votes amid crippling economic crisis

SIERRA Leoneans voted Saturday in a general election in which President Julius Maada Bio is seeking a second term amid a crippling economic crisis that sparked deadly riots last year. One of the world's poorest countries, Sierra Leone was battered by a brutal 1991-2002 civil war and the Ebola epidemic a decade later. More economic misery followed due to the Covid pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which no-

tably spiked food prices in the import-dependent West African nation. Boubacar Conteh, 27, from Wellington in the east of Freetown, waited since four in the morning to cast his ballot.

"I want my country to change — I need change," he said. Twelve men and one woman are vying for the top job and incumbent Bio's main challenger is Samura Kamara of the All People's Congress (APC) party. — AFP

Putin delivers address following Wagner armed mutiny attempt

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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 Medi-

um-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.

CONCACAF suspends four players after USA-Mexico brawl

CONCACAF meted out suspensions to Weston McKennie and Sergino Dest of the United States and Mexico's Cesar Montes and Gerardo Arteaga on Friday in the wake of the stormy Champions League clash between the two nations. The United States triumphed 3-0 in the semifinal match that saw both sides finish with nine men.

Montes was shown a red card for an ugly wild kick at Folarin Balogun and McKennie was dismissed for his role in the fracas which followed.

Arteaga and Dest were sent off after another mass brawl.

CONCACAF, football's governing body for North and Central America and the Caribbean, said on Friday that McKennie and Montes have been suspended a further three matches, in addition to their automatic one-match bans.

Dest and Arteaga were suspended an additional two games.

Dest and McKennie are not in the US squad for the CONCACAF Gold Cup that starts on Saturday, but the sanctions will be a blow for Mexico in the competition, with both Montes and Arteaga in the Gold Cup squad. — AFP



Weston McKennie of the United States walks with a torn jersey following his scuffle in the second half of a CONCACAF Nations League semi-final against Mexico. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Myanmar national team's captain Maung Maung Lwin. PHOTO: MFF



Lamphun Warriors renews long contract with Maung Maung Lwin for five years

LAMPHUN Warriors FC announced a new contract extension with Maung Maung Lwin, captain and winger of the Myanmar national team, for five years until the 2028 football season of the Thailand League.

In 2022, he won the Thai League II with Lamphun, making him the first Myanmar footballer to win a trophy abroad.

He scored three goals with two assists in 22 matches in the Thai League.

"It is certain that Maung Maung Lwin will continue to create a new page of history with the fans of Lamphun province", as stated by the Lamphun Warriors FC.

The star player also represented Myanmar in the 2015 FIFA U-20 World Cup. — KZL

Premier League rivals seek to profit from Chelsea's fire sale

CHELSEA have embarked on a fire sale following their stunning spending spree, trimming their bloated squad in an effort to comply with financial regulations as they prepare for a new era under Mauricio Pochettino. In their first year under the ownership of an American consortium, Chelsea spent more on transfer fees than any club has ever done in a 12-month period, only to finish 12th in the Premier League – their lowest placing since 1994. The arrival of RB Leipzig forward Christopher Nkunku this week has added to the outlay of more than £500 million (\$635 million).

But most of Chelsea's business is focused on departures, with key players in the squad that won the Champions League just two years ago set to leave. — AFP

Ireland's Maguire strikes late for Women's PGA Championship halfway lead

IRELAND'S Leona Maguire birdied three of her last four holes to take a one-stroke second-round lead on Friday in the Women's PGA Championship at rain-soaked Baltusrol.

Maguire, who started the day three off the pace, shook off a slow start that saw her par her first five holes before a bogey at the 15th. She responded with a birdie at the 17th and grabbed another at the fourth before a bogey at the fifth.

Then she cantered home with birdies at the sixth, seventh and ninth to card a three-under 68. Her five-under total of 137 put her one clear of a group of three on 138: England's Mel Reid, Norway's Celine Borge and China's Lin Xiyu. — AFP