

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.



A skilled labour collects rubber latex in the farm.

Kayin State Govt to provide loans to rubber entrepreneurs from MSME fund

THE micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) have been encouraged by the Union government to operate across the country, with the aim of generating value-added products for both domestic and international markets.

In line with this initiative, the Kayin State government has recently announced its decision to disburse loans to individuals involved in rubber farming and related industries within the state's townships. These loans will be made available from the MSME fund at a favourable interest rate, as confirmed by the Kayin State government office.

As part of its comprehensive strategy, the Kayin State government intends to provide agricultural techniques and capital to support the operations of rubber farms within the state. Rubber production is primarily concentrated in Mon and Kayin states, as well as in the Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions

of Myanmar.

Currently, local rubber entrepreneurs in Kayin State manage over 260,000 acres of rubber farms. Nationally, more than 1.628 million acres of land are dedicated to rubber plantations across the nation, with Mon State accounting for over 497,000 acres and Taninthayi Region having over 348,000 acres.

The rubber farms in Kayin State yield approximately 1,000 tonnes of rubber latex per day. In the domestic market, rubber prices are favourable, with rates exceeding K1,400 per pound. Specifically, sundried Local 3 commands K1,470 per pound, while Ribbed Smoked Sheet Local-3 reaches K1,490 per pound.

Myanmar presently exports various types of rubber to countries such as China, Japan, India, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia. This demonstrates the thriving nature of the rubber industry and its potential for growth and profitability.



By providing loans from the MSME fund, the Kayin State government aims to empower rubber entrepreneurs and further develop the rubber sector within the state. This strategic initiative will not only contribute to the economic prosperity of the region but also reinforce Myanmar's position as a significant player in the global rubber market. — GNLM

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Shwezigon Pagoda replica Mingala Pagoda exhibits ancient cultural works



Mingala Pagoda in Bagan ancient cultural region.

WHEN visiting Bagan-NyaungU ancient cultural zone in NyaungU Township in Mandalay Region, pilgrims can observe 550 Jatakas painted by green and yellow glaze and the architectural works of the Mingala Pagoda which is a replica of Shwezigon pagoda.

Mingala Pagoda is located north of Myinkabar Village in the ancient cultural zone. It was built by King Narathihapate (also known as Tayokpyaymin) in 1284 AD. It was built in the same architecture of the Shwezigon Pagoda. In late Bagan period, similar pagodas were built all over Myanmar taking sample of architectural works from Mingala Pagoda.

The place where the Mingala Pagoda also known as Panputyat Pagoda or Panputhto pagoda is located in the Panput ward (turnery ward) in the Bagan period. The significant part of Mingala Pagoda is decorated with bricks painted with green and yellow glaze, and 550 Jatakas, reliefs depicting celestial being statues and dragons painted with glaze. It can also be observed that it is decorated

with clay reliefs.

A stone tablet of Shin Disapamauk was found inside a cave on the plinth of the pagoda's west side, and now the tablet is kept at the Bagan Archaeological Museum.

Pilgrims worship a total of 3,822 temples and stupas in different postures in Bagan including the Gawtawpalin temple and the Bu Pagoda to the north of Mingala Pagoda, the Myinpyagu built by King Sawlu in the northeast of the pagoda, the Lawka Okshaung Pagoda, the Shwesandaw Pagoda and the Lawka Hteikpan Pagoda in the east of the pagoda, the Manuha Pagoda and Nan Pagoda in the south of the pagoda, said an official of Bagan Branch of Archaeology and National Museum Department. — Dipa Linn/KZL

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

MSMEs key to accelerating country's economic growth

- As it is necessary to encourage businesses in which the majority of people are engaged in to achieve economic development of the country, the government has been offering assistance for MSMEs.
- Promoting MSMEs aims to accelerate economic growth of the country, to substitute imports and to export local products.
- It is necessary to encourage manufacturing of products with the use of domestic raw materials.

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at a meeting with district and township departmental officials, town elders, MSME businesspersons from Homalin District, Sagaing Region on 15 January 2023)

A Message by Lt-Gen Soe Htut, Chairman of CCDAC, Deputy Prime Minister cum Union Minister for Home Affairs to the 2023 International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

26 June 2023

TO all the people of our nation, I would like to extend my sincere wishes for your well-being and prosperity.

Since the adoption of the resolution of 26 June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking by the 1987 UN General Assembly that has now reached the 36th occasion being commemorated around the world.

The problem of drugs is a global issue that not only endangers the socio-economic, health and stability of all mankind but also jeopardizes the development of every nation.

The government of Myanmar has been undertaking relentless efforts for the development of the country, while, on the other hand, the government is also taking consistent measures with a balanced approach to address the drug problem that is obstructing the development efforts of the country.

In order to address the problem of opium poppy cultivation, production and demand for synthetic drugs in Myanmar, the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control has formed working sectors to carry out its respective tasks.

Successive governments have also carried out drug elimination as a priority in the national duty. Even though countless drug abusers, producers, traffickers and cartels were arrested and prosecuted, the production and trafficking of drugs have not declined at all.

In order to solve the drugs problem, Myanmar is a signatory member to the 3 UN Conventions and has been working closely with UNODC, BIM-STEAC member states, neighbouring and regional countries, Yangon-based drug law enforcement agencies of UNODC, AFP, DEA, NNCC, and ONCB respectively.

Myanmar has also adopted a National Drug Control Strategy which is in line with current resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly

and has assigned States and Regions to draft action plans consistent with their localities to implement drug control activities in a practical manner.

Drug law enforcement activities are also being carried out with concerted efforts by closely operating among Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and Customs Department. The government has also equipped with modern equipment to Drug Enforcement Division for interdiction of drug production, and trafficking.

As part of the country's strategy to reduce opium poppy cultivation, the alternative development administration sector, agricultural sector and livestock breeding sector have taken full responsibility for consistently implementing alternative development programs to gradually reduce opium poppy cultivation.

Myanmar has also prescribed 39 chemicals as controlled chemicals that can be used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, to prevent the diversion of precursors and those chemicals through cooperation with the business industries of utilizing chemicals and relevant departments to ensure proper use of chemicals and follow rules and regulations to carry out awareness-raising.

Advocacy programs are also being provided to students and youths in primary and basic education systems. Among the 7 educational plans, the plan to be free from the danger of drugs is emphasized as a priority through close cooperation with the Ministry of Health.

In order to provide drug addicts with treatment and harm reduction services, the Ministry of Health has established 29 major treatment centres, 56 minor drug treatment centres, and 86 methadone maintenance clinics respectively.

Furthermore, rehabilitation centres are also established by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement to provide ex-addicts to reintegrate into society.

grate into society.

Reviewing the current drug problem, law enforcement and judiciary measures could not separately solve the problem. A balanced approach also requires a focus on public health care, improving living standards, promoting humanity, supporting development, and protecting basic human rights.

Instead of punishing drug addicts as criminals, the government and civil society organizations have worked together to amend laws and regulations to promote drug addiction as a health issue rather than a crime. In addition to hospital-based treatment services and community-based treatment services are also provided to individuals with the necessary support to overcome drug addiction.

In addition to notifications on new precursors used in the production of narcotic and psychotropic substances into the controlled lists, test kits are provided to Drug Enforcement Division for effective enforcement in the field.

In order to reduce and wipe out drug production and smuggling, Myanmar will continue to cooperate with UN member states, international and regional agencies, regional countries, NGOs and INGOs.

CCDAC has reviewed the changing trends of the drug problem, it is also important that every citizen should join hands to conduct preventive measures on drug matters from various aspects.

Therefore, this year's motto of UNODC is "People first: stop stigma and discrimination, strengthen prevention" to commemorate the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and the objective of the state is "to ensure peace, stability, rule of law and the safe and smooth functioning of transport networks across the Union", a sincere encouragement is made to come together to eliminate this drug threat that is obstructing the development of our nation.

■■■

13 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 25 June, total figure registers 640,302

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to **640,302** after **13** new cases were reported on 25 June 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of **10,825,762** laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached **640,302**. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **619,163** including **22** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered **19,494** on 25-6-2023 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

Rehabilitation undertakings gaining momentum



Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe inspects relief materials unloaded from vessels at the multipurpose port in Sittway of Rakhine State yesterday.

A total of 1,229 mobile stations have been repaired to date, so the recovery of mobile communication is 99.68 per cent for public convenience.

Undertakings of rehabilitation are in progress in Mocha-hit Rakhine State with growing windbreaks and dredging drains in monsoon.

Materials to be used in rehabilitation were unloaded from vessels Wirupekkha and Pyidawaye-2 at the multipurpose port in Sittway of Rakhine State for the purpose to distribute them to needy areas in order to maintain momentum of rehabilitation.

Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe together with by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin, led the natural disaster rehabilitation meeting at the Rakhine State government office yesterday afternoon.

The meeting emphasized progress in accomplishment over the meeting decision and future plans.

While in Sittway, the Union minister comforted storm victim patients receiving medical treatment at Sittway General Hospital (500-bed) where specialists provide treatments for major diseases to the patients.—MNA/KZL

Specialist team conducts field trip in Mocha-hit Sittway

THE Ministry of Health has been dispatching medical teams consisting of general practitioners, surgical specialists, orthopedic specialists and pediatricians to Rakhine State, in addition to specialist doctors and health workers from hospitals in Rakhine State, in order to strengthen health care in Mocha-affected Rakhine State. A specialist medical team with the support of the Withakha Foundation left Yangon for Sittway yesterday to provide

health care services to local people at the Sittway Public Hospital.

The medical team treated a total of 1,144 residents suffering from various diseases and also performed necessary tests on 202 patients to identify diseases.

It is known that the Ministry of Health will continue to send medical teams, including specialists, to Rakhine State to carry out medical treatments. — MNA/CT



Medical Specialist team provides health care services to local people at Sittway General Hospital.

International Day of the Seafarer marked

THE Myanmar Maritime Workers' Federation marked the International Day of the Seafarer at its office on the 37th Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region on 25 June.

The patron of the federation and officials unveiled the signboard to mark the International Day of the Seafarer.

A video message from the

Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) was presented during the event.

Captain Ko Ko Htoo, CEO of Myanmar Industrial Port (MIP), donated K10 million to the fund of Myanmar seafarers elderly healthcare work committee.

The federation has been protecting the rights and inter-

ests of its member seafarers and other seafarers in accordance with the law.

The federation liaises with ship owners, managers and government departments to resolve issues raised by seafarers and their families while working to benefit both employees and the employers. — Myo Min Thura/KZL



Myanmar Maritime Workers' Federation marks International Day of the Seafarer held in Yangon on 25 June.

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Centennial exhibition of Pyinmana Agriculture School bustling with visitors

CHAIRMAN of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Tin Oo Lwin and Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Tin Htut met farmers from eight townships of the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory visiting the exhibition to mark the centenary of Agriculture School in Pyinmana yesterday. The exhibition, which was held on the campus of the Agriculture Institute (Pyinmana), featured a 100-year-old ancient building and ancient farming equipment, laboratory equipment, and carpentry tools used in successive eras, as well as booths of agricultural science curriculum, modern farming ma-

chinery equipment, exhibits on agricultural water supply, seeds and agricultural inputs from companies specializing in agriculture, and agricultural equipment showrooms.

At the exhibition, departmental officials demonstrated use of agricultural equipment.

The campus of the Agriculture Institute (Pyinmana) was established by Mr Brayton Clarke Case in 1923 and it was designated by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture as ancient building Napata No 3001, making it the first-ever ancient building in the Nay Pyi Taw Council area. — MNA/CT



The centenary event of Agriculture Institute, Pyinmana in progress yesterday.

Illegal teak, industrial materials, electronic accessories, generators, auto parts, vehicles seized

THE Nawnghkio Township illegal goods prevention body, under the management of the Shan State Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force, conducted inspections at the Oriental Toll Gate in the township. The team inspected two vehicles transporting electrical equipment at the combined checkpoint. A total of 56 kinds of goods, with an estimated value of K355,908,860, including one

Fujianminy China Silent Diesel Generating Set that was not declared in the import declaration, were sent to the Lashio Township Customs Department Office for detailed inspections. A Hino Profia Tractor Head and a trailer at an estimated value of K70 million were carrying these items. Action is taken in accordance with customs procedures.

Furthermore, a combined

team of District Forest Department under Ayeyawady Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force seized 3.728 tonnes of timbers estimated value of K804,810 near Sakagyi village, Nyaungdon Township, on 22 June. Action is taken in the Forest Law.

In addition, the customs teams on duty under the management of the Customs Department conducted an

inspection at Mayanchaung checkpoint on 23 June, and found 510 kilogrammes of Aisin Automatic Transmission Filter (estimated value of K3,723,000), which was not declared in the import declaration form, on a vehicle driving from Myawady to Yangon and a Mitsubishi Fuso Truck carrying these materials (estimated value of K25 million). And a total of four items, with an estimated value

of K6.1 million, including 7,000 LED bulbs, were nabbed in a container at the port of Hteedan port. These items were not declared in the import declaration form. Action is taken in accordance with customs procedures.

Therefore, a total of six cases of arrests were made on the 19, 22 and 23 June, with an estimated value of K516,436,670 according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Committee. — MNA/KZW

ADVERTORIAL

DAPEIN I Hydropower Station Safely Operating for 4,000 Days



AS of 16 June 2023, DAPEIN I Hydropower Station has been operating safely for 4,000 days continuously, and the accumulated power generation has exceeded 10 billion kWh, setting a

new record for long-term safe production and stable operation since the station was put into operation.

DAPEIN I Hydropower Station, the first hydropower

station project invested in and operated by China Datang Corporation in Myanmar, is 40 kilometres away from Bhamo, the second largest city in northern Myanmar. Since all units were

put into operation in December 2010, the station has always adhered to the principle of "Safety-first and Prevention-focused Operation and Comprehensive Management", and vigorously

promoted the construction of intrinsically safe enterprises, gradually forming a safety management system covering personnel, equipment, environment and regimes.

Up to now, DAPEIN I Hydropower Station has delivered 620 million kWh of free electricity to the Bhamo area, which has greatly improved the situation of local people's electricity consumption, invigorated the local economic development and raised people's living standards, thus making positive contributions to promoting the good-neighbourly relations between China and Myanmar and driving the development of Sino-Myanmar electric power cooperation.

CURRENT AFFAIRS



Passengers waiting for train on circular railway.

Number of people riding Yangon circular train increase day after day

THERE are nearly 7,000 circular train passengers per day this May, according to Myanma Railways. Due to the ongoing upgrading of the railway sector in Yangon, trains are still using rail tracks to and fro in some sections. Previously, there were about 180,000 passengers on the circular railroads daily, but such a number had decreased since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before April this year, the number of rail passengers on the trains along Yangon circular railways was around 4,000 passengers per day, but in May, it reached around 7,000 passengers a day. From 1 July 2022, the round-trip fare was charged at the rate of K200.

Upon completion of upgrading the circular railways in Yangon, the high-speed trains can serve transport of about 240,000 passengers daily. In addition, the trains will run every 10 to 12 minutes, and the duration of the circular railway trains will be reduced to one hour and 50 minutes per ply. — TWA/KZW

Cargo transport advances within five months of opening Ruili Border

ACCORDING to data from the Ministry of Commerce, there has been an improvement in cargo transport activities in less than five months since the opening of the China-Myanmar border identified as the Ruili border.

The China-Myanmar Ruili Border, which was opened on 8 January 2023, saw an increase of 7.4 per cent in export and import of 5.707 million tonnes compared to the same period of the previous year.

Trade through the Ruili border has recovered in the first five months of this year, and since the opening of the border, more than 3,500 people have been entering and exiting the border every day.

Export types increased from 184 in the same period last year to 1,698 this year, and the number of foreign trade enterprises that received trade volume increased from only 29 last year to 545 this year, according to Ruili Customs Department statistics.

In addition, the Department of Trade under the Ministry of



The Ruili border on China-Myanmar border is crowded with trucks. PHOTO: XINHUA

Commerce in Myanmar issued an announcement on 23 June that the banking system will be implemented in the Myanmar-China border trade starting from 1 August 2023.

According to the statement, Myanmar-Thailand border trade issues have been handled through the banking system since 1 November 2022, as an initial step, and on the second step, Myanmar-China border trade will be operated

using the banking system from 1 August.

When applying for an import licence, companies must submit the original bank statement and the credit advice issued by the relevant bank to the Trade Department so as to show that the income from exports (or other income) has been entered into the bank account (income entered after 1 January 2023 only) or purchased from a local bank. Then,

the department will verify the amount submitted by companies and issue an import licence that does not exceed the balance of the bank account.

In doing so, import licence applications that have been applied for until 30 August are not valid. Importing goods with import licences that have been issued before that date must be completed before 31 August; if not, the import licences will be invalid. — TWA/CT

Shan garlic price hits all-time record high

THE price of garlic from Shan State reached the highest price of K8,500 per viss in its records on 23 June 2023, U Hla Win, a seller from the Bayintnaung Wholesale Depot in Yangon told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The local garlic prices moved in the range between K6,500 and K8,500 per viss.

Meanwhile, the imported Kyukok garlic was priced at K7,100 per viss. In the

corresponding period last year, the Shan garlic price was only K2,300-K3,800 per viss and Kyukok garlic price touched low at K2,800-K3,000 per viss. Newly-harvested Kyukok garlic entered the Yangon market this month. It has been four months since Shan garlic was supplied to the domestic market.

The buyers are not that interested in garlic price inflation as they daily pur-

chase the onion and potatoes, not garlic. It is hard to forecast the prices of garlic in the market, a trader Ko Phoe Htaw told the GNLM.

Garlic prices inflated in mid-2023. Amid the depreciation of Kyat against the greenback and the rocketing pure gold prices, another inflation case like in August 2022 is likely to happen, U San Myint, a trader, shared his opinion. — TWA/EM

2nd GI (Geographical Indications) Fair India-2023 welcomes Myanmar businessmen for participation

THE 2nd GI (Geographical Indications) Fair India-2023 will be organized by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) with the support of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in India. UMFCFI has announced that businessmen from Myanmar have been invited to participate in the ex-

hibition.

The exhibition will be held from 20 to 24 July at India Expo Center & Mart, Greater Noida, Delhi NCR.

One of the highlights of the exhibition is a special promotional programme for eligible buyers, offering them the benefits of round-trip econ-

omy class flight fare with a fixed refund, as well as three nights of free accommodation in New Delhi during the exhibition, subject to the terms and conditions.

Associations that wish to attend can contact the Membership Department of the UMFCFI's exhibition section. — TWA/KZW

A pamphlet depicts 2nd GI (Geographical Indications) Fair India - 2023.

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LIFESTYLE

As prices of the most of foodstuffs remarkably rose in mid-2023, prices of foodstuffs and foods that general public daily consume were on the rise, according to the consumers.

As breakfast meals such as tea, noodle and Monhinga are also sold at high prices, consumer people miss the chance to control their income and expense on a daily basis.

Tea shops in public residential wards sell K600 to K1,000 per cup of tea, K400 per Indian flat bread and K500 per fried twisted dough sticks. For the time being, noodle or Monhinga shops on the roadside sell K1,000 to K1,200 per cup of meal but advanced shops raise the prices at K1,500



People consume tea at roadside tea shop.

Hiking prices of majority of foodstuffs unreachable for low-income people

By Linn Htet

to K1,800 per meal. In the past, consumers could spend K200 in minimum on the meal mixed with steamed glutinous rice and boiled garden pea. But, such a price rises to K500 per meal in minimum now.

Advanced tea shops arrange options for consumers to taste various items of breakfasts as a one-stop service but prices of these meals are equal to the cost for a daily consumption of an ordinary family.

“The land plot for the shop was hired at K1.8 million per month and the agreement was signed for at least three years to five years. We have spent some K20 million on construction of the shop and decorations to attract customers. Moreover, we have to spend K150,000 per waiter. Now, 15 waiters are working there. In addition,

Most of the residents in Yangon city critically face unbalance between income and expense due to rising prices of goods, daily consumption, house rental charge and bus fares.

we are controlling selling of meals to the consumers at fair prices amid rising prices of basic commodities,” said U Khin Win Kyi, owner of an advanced tea shop in Thingangyun Township told the Global New Light of Myanmar-GNLM.

These advanced shops always calculate various kinds of expenses such as rental charge of shop, labour charges and general taxes as well as hiking prices of commodities.

“Currently, most of the families take a practice of thrift depending on their incomes and expense as much as they can. Advanced shops sell K3,000 per dish of Indian flat bread, K1,200 per cup of tea, K1,800 per cup of Monhinga plus any fritter, K500 per fried twisted dough sticks, K1,000 per parata and K2,000 per Chapatti. So, ordinary low-income people are unreachable for these meals,” said Ko Tun Min, a taxi driver from South Okkalapa Township.

As such, consumption charge of breakfast for the persons from basic strata reaches between K1,000 to K1,500 per daily.

As prices of rice, meat and fish are hiking on a daily basis, roadside food stalls sell K1,500 to K1,700 per meal, up from K1,200.

A dish of meat meal is priced at K2,000, up from K1,500. In the past, egg meal was the most reliable for low-income families but prices of chicken egg hit K250/300 and duck egg K300/350. Water convolvulus rises to K500 per small bundle, up from K100 per small bundle. Likewise, most of the vegetables are also on the rise.

Most of the residents in Yangon city critically face unbalance between income and expense due to rising prices of goods, daily consumption, house rental charge and bus fares.

It can be said that number of consumers at advanced restaurants and beer pubs are really minority, and a few number of people can make a tip for relaxation on the holidays.

Currently, the majority of dwellers of Yangon city are critically trying to overcome daily challenges of hiking prices for basic needs of their families.

Translated.



Food shops displayed along roadside for low-income people.

OPINION

Combat narcotic drugs by all means

Successive governments in Myanmar have made drug elimination a top national priority. To combat issues on poppy cultivation, opium production, drug trafficking and drug abuse at different levels, Myanmar has adopted a National Drug Control Strategy aligned with resolutions from the United Nations General Assembly. The strategy involves assigning states and regions to develop action plans tailored to their localities, enabling practical implementation of drug control activities.

Efforts to enforce drug laws have been intensified through close collaboration between the Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force, and Customs Department under the supervision of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control. The government has equipped the Drug Enforcement Division with modern equipment to facilitate the interception of drug production and trafficking.

To tackle the problem at its root, Myanmar has undertaken various measures to reduce poppy cultivation. The alternative development administration sector, agricultural sector, and livestock

breeding sector have taken full responsibility for implementing consistent alternative development programs aimed at gradually decreasing poppy cultivation.

In order to provide treatment and harm reduction services for drug addicts, the Ministry of Health has established 29 major treatment centres, 56 minor drug treatment centres, and 86 methadone maintenance clinics. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement provides for reintegrating ex-addicts into society through rehabilitation centres. Moreover, awareness is raised for students to know the danger of narcotic drugs by all means.

Recognizing that the drug problem cannot be solved solely through law enforcement and judiciary measures, a balanced approach is being pursued. This approach involves focusing on public healthcare, improving living standards, promoting humanity, supporting development, and safeguarding basic human rights. Rather than treating drug addicts as criminals, the government and civil society organizations have collaborated to amend laws and regulations, emphasizing drug addiction as a health issue rather than a crime. Hospital-based and community-based treatment services are provided to individuals, offering the necessary support to overcome drug addiction.

In the pursuit of reducing drug production and smuggling, Myanmar is committed to continued cooperation with UN member states and different agencies, international and regional organizations, neighbouring countries, NGOs, and INGOs in eradicating narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as much as it can.

As the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) examines the changing trends of the drug problem, it emphasizes the importance of every citizen participating in preventive measures against drugs from various angles. It is through the collective efforts of the government, relevant organizations, and individuals that a comprehensive solution to the drug issue can be achieved.

The Importance of Integrity

1. Transparency International (TI) states that even if countries worldwide establish clear and precise laws, procedures, and robust institutions, effective measures against corruption cannot be achieved without upholding the value of integrity and morality in the public sphere. Developing a society that acknowledges the importance of integrity and recognizes the detrimental effects of corruption is crucial. Teaching young individuals social values and a code of conduct is necessary for fostering a society that embraces accountability and is free from corruption. The cultivation of ethics among young people and the role of education in this regard.

Nurturing Ethics for Youngsters and the Role of Education

2. Educating individuals about integrity and a code of conduct poses a challenge in the creation of a morally upright human society because the precious time of children is occupied with school hours and other activities. In that point, education plays an important role to develop mental and physical development of children. The fruitful results will be got when education is used as the bridge in the learning process of integrity and ethics.

Implementation of Integrity Education

3. There is a saying in Myanmar, "Youths of today are the leaders of tomorrow". As the saying goes by, the youths are very important for the development of the nation, and Anti-corruption Commission (Myanmar) has laid down "integrity education" named the Integrity Education Programme (Edutainment) for nurturing a sense of integrity for young people.

4. The Anti-Corruption Law (Section-16) (J), enacted "Coordinating with relevant departments and organizations about corruption-related awareness lessons to be taught in primary education". In the Anti-Corruption Strategic Plan (2022-2025), the thematic area (1.2) also committed "To implement integrity education program and awareness raising for combatting corruption". In accordance with the anti-cor-

ruption strategic plan, the Integrity Education Program (Edutainment) has been conducted in the basic education schools (primary, middle, and high schools) in the megacities such as Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi, and Mawlamyine since October 2022.

5. In order to provide integrity education to school children, a series of books on integrity education (Teacher's Book) has been published in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. These books cover the three levels, including primary, middle, and high school levels, and have been officially handed over to the Ministry of Education. During the development of these books, reference was made to the anti-corruption subjects taught at the middle school level in Thailand. Some significant content was extracted from the books on integrity education and prepared for the integrity education (Edutainment) programme. From October 2022 to February 2023, the integrity education (Edutainment) programme was conducted by the trained officers and staff as trainers for schoolchildren in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi and Mawlamyine.

Survey on Integrity Education (Edutainment) Programme

6. A survey was conducted for the following purposes:
(a) To assess the perception of students, teachers, and education officials who participated in edutainment programmes;
(b) To find the understanding of students on the integrity subject provided by the commission and evaluate the effectiveness of the programme. The survey was conducted on 15 trainers from the commission, 3,211 students, and 167 teachers from 20 basic education schools in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, Mandalay, Yangon, Taunggyi, Mawlamyine from 11 January to 28 February 2023.

Facts contained in the Survey

7. The cross-sectional study design is utilized and the convenience sampling method is employed for the survey. There are 545 students and

Analyzing the Integrity Education (Edutainment) Programme conducted by the Anti-Corruption Commission

By Myat Su Thin

(MA. Corruption and Governance, UK)



There is a saying in Myanmar, "Youths of today are the leaders of tomorrow". Help young people understand the impact of their actions on others. Encourage empathy and compassion towards others by emphasizing the importance of treating people with respect, kindness, and fairness. ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY

125 teachers and 15 trainers who fully answered the survey. The demographic profiles of the survey respondents are as follows: the middle schools and high schools that participated in the survey were a total of 20 schools: four schools from Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, six schools from Yangon, four schools from Mandalay, two schools from Mawlamyine and four schools from Taunggyi.

8. As a percentage, it is found that 16 per cent were from Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, 21 per cent were from Yangon, 18 per cent were from Mandalay, 12 per cent were from Mawlamyine and 33 per cent were from Taunggyi. As per the ratio of the respondents (by gender), a hefty of the respondents were male. The average age of the respondents was 14 years old.

9. As regards the teacher (respondents), there are a total

of 125 teachers in the survey. There were six per cent male teachers and 94 per cent female teachers participating 8.9 per cent from primary school, 77 per cent from middle schools, and 14 per cent from high schools. The age of respondents is between 27 and 61 years old. It was found that the working experience of the respondents was between eight and 39 years. As for the background information of the trainers, there were 15 trainers from the Commission who participated in the survey and had at least four years of experience in the anti-corruption field.

10. The survey conducted on the students focused on two parts: (a) Examining the respondents' knowledge of the integrity education (Edutainment) programme conducted by the Commission.

(b) Analyzing the usefulness of the lessons taught in the programme and conducting the opinion of the respondents regarding the integrity education (edutainment) programme.

11. Regarding teachers (respondents), some survey questions are delivered to the teachers to get their opinion and suggestions on the programme and teaching method used. Moreover, some pieces of advice and the experiences of the trainers from the Commission on the edutainment programme are collected through the questionnaires.

Finding and Recommendation

12. Here are the findings related to the survey on the edutainment programme.
(A) 93 per cent of the students who responded to the survey expressed their satisfaction

with the programme and 96.8 per cent of the teachers were also satisfied with the programme. So, it is considered that the programme is successful.

(B) 98 per cent of the students revealed that while they are learning and discussing the importance of moral preservation in the programme, they feel like maintaining their morals to be good citizens. 90 per cent of the teachers claimed that the program can enhance moral preservation and being a good citizen for the school children. 96 per cent of the students said that what they learn from this programme can assist with other subjects/activities (Eg- Writing essays) they are learning at school. 98 per cent of teachers revealed the program is very beneficial for students' moral and behavioural enhancement.

(C) According to the result of the respondents, there are 62 per cent of students (those who have never heard of the programme; those who partially heard of the programme, and those who don't want to answer the question). There are also 36 per cent of teachers (those who have never heard of the programme and those who don't want to answer the question). As a result of the respondents, the integrity education (edutainment) programme should be accelerated in the states and regions.

(D) As regards the ways to know the programme, 51 per cent of the teachers and 45 per cent of the students answered that they knew this programme through media, websites, and Facebook. So, it is analyzed that social media such as Facebook, and websites are the fastest ways to reach out information to the public.

(E) Trainers (staff and officials from ACC) pointed out based on their experience that all of the students who learned integrity education through the edutainment programme, cannot acquire sufficient knowledge on integrity and righteousness within the short period of lecture. But, they can get a great of exposure to the ethical and social norms that they must have.

(F) According to the assessment of the teachers from the basic education schools on the trainers' performance, 94 per cent of the teachers gave positive feedback, and 87 per cent of the teachers appreciated using the learner-centred approach in the programme. So, their positive feedbacks show the success of the programme, and the learner-centred approach is suitable to use in the teaching process of this programme. It will be continued to use in the programme next academic year.

(G) In terms of the programme's effectiveness, it is hard to measure the long-term effects on the ethic and perception changes of students because the program period is short. It cannot take for granted whether a student's understanding of integrity education is long-lasting or not. Moreover, there are other factors such as their family, environment,

and religion which can affect their social values. Nevertheless, the short-term effects can obviously be seen according to their positive responses to the programme.

(H) In the coming academic year, it is suggested that the Commission will conduct to hold short plays on promoting integrity (30 minutes short play), doing projects on anti-corruption, and holding essay competitions, and presentations on promoting integrity. These ways of teaching integrity education are fun and induce students actively participated in learning integrity and ethical values. To do so, the Commission will establish the connection to the schools which are interested in promoting integrity education ahead of time.

Conclusion

13. Myanmar is working to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and Anti-Corruption Commission is trying to fulfil "Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms" contained in (16.5) of the Sustainable Development Goals.

14. In addition, Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, has emphasized the importance of strengthening policy and legal frameworks, and clarification on rules and procedures in order to reduce corruption in his speech on International Anti-Corruption Day (9 December 2022). He also said that it is crucial to strengthen the law and strive for good morality. The anti-corruption commission laid down the moral foundation for the new generation by conducting the Integrity Education (Edutainment) Programme. The achievement of the edutainment program by the commission can obviously be seen. By implementing the necessary improvements and incorporating the recommendation from the survey, the upcoming integrity education program will be much more fruitful and contribute towards achieving the goals of the nation and the Anti-corruption Commission.

TECH/ENVIRON WORLD

Shipping emissions tax still stuck in port



The shipping industry transports around 90 per cent of traded goods worldwide and accounts for around three per cent of global carbon emissions. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

EFFORTS by France to build a consensus for a global carbon tax on the shipping industry failed to produce significant results at a summit in Paris on Friday.

French President Emmanuel Macron put the item on the agenda of the two-day Summit for a New Global Financing Pact which brought together around 40 heads of state and government.

The shipping industry transports around 90 per cent of traded goods worldwide and accounts for around three per cent of global carbon emissions.

The Marshall Islands and Solomon Islands have been pushing for a \$100-per-tonne tax on emissions which would raise approximately \$60-80 billion (55-

73 billion euros) of tax receipts per year, according to the World Bank.

At a closing press conference, Macron said that backing from China, the United States and other European nations was still needed in order to bring the idea to fruition.

"We are in favour of taxing shipping, it's a sector that isn't taxed," he told reporters. "To make it work, you need a group of countries that follow us."

"If China, the United States and other key European countries which host major companies, if they don't follow then it won't have any effect."

He cited France's decision to put in place so-called "green

taxes" on airline tickets and some financial transactions in the past, saying other countries had not followed suit, putting the country at a disadvantage.

"We can't continue to do harm to ourselves on our own," he said.

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told the same press conference that "it's something that the US will look at".

"We are very focused on the need to raise substantial additional resources to address climate change, poverty reduction and other global challenges," she added.

A Treasury official had previously described the proposal as "in its very early days." — AFP

Small but powerful: tiny data centre heats UK swimming pool

A leisure centre in Exmouth, southwest England, is using a small data centre to heat its indoor swimming pool, trialling an innovative solution that reduces its energy bills and carbon footprint.

An on-site installation captures heat generated by a bank of computers, bringing the 25-metre swimming pool to the required temperature around 65 per cent of the time, cutting reliance on gas boilers.

Deep Green, the UK company behind the project, gives the heat away for free and covers its own electricity costs but charges clients to use its computers that



The move is a partnership with UK company Deep Green. **PHOTO: AFP**

can power machine learning and artificial intelligence.

"It's a symbiotic relationship. We get our computers cooled for free," Deep Green CEO Mark Bjornsgaard told AFP at the Exmouth Leisure Centre, their

flagship site. "The pool is doing an equally big favour as we are." Bjornsgaard lifted the lid of a white dishwasher-sized box, revealing computers immersed in a mineral oil that captures the excess heat. — AFP

France's 'Mr Titanic' hailed after sub implosion

A French submarine operator and daredevil deep-sea explorer dubbed "Mr Titanic", who died onboard a submersible visiting the wreck of the mythic ship, was hailed on Friday as having helped advance mankind's understanding of the "unknown world".

Paul-Henri Nargeolet, 77, was one of five people in the tourist submersible which was revealed on Thursday to have suffered a "catastrophic implosion".

The news brought an end to an international search and rescue mission in the North Atlantic that had captured the world's attention.

Nargeolet had previously gone on more than 30 dives to explore the Titanic, even bringing up some of the first objects recovered from the wreck after its discovery in 1985.

The tight-knit community of French deep-sea explorers were quick to express

their grief.

Bernard Cauvin, head of the Cite de la Mer maritime museum in Cherbourg, western France, said it was "a sad, sad, sad end for a giant of the deep".

Nargeolet "helped humanity understand this unknown world" of the deep sea and had "captivated everyone with his restraint, delicacy and humility," Cauvin added.

Before the sub's fate was revealed on Thursday, Nargeolet's daughter Sidonie told French broadcaster BFMTV that she hoped for a positive outcome.

"But in any case, he is happy where he is. And that is reassuring," she said. Cauvin said he shared this feeling:

"He is happy where he is." Nargeolet had been expected to attend the opening of a new exhibition in Paris devoted to the Titanic on 6 July. — AFP



The Titan submersible broke apart underwater on its way to the Titanic. **PHOTO: AFP**

Like dogs, wolves recognize familiar human voices

HERE, wolfie, wolfie, wolfie! Like dogs, wolves recognize and respond to the voices of familiar humans more than strangers, according to a study that has implications both for the story of canine domestication and our broader understanding of the natural world.

Holly Root-Gutteridge of the University of Lincoln, a co-author of the paper that appeared in *Animal Cognition* this week, told AFP a longstanding theory held that dogs' ability to distinguish human voices was a consequence of generations of selective breeding.

"So we wanted to look at wolves, because obviously nobody has been selecting so that wolves can recognize human voices," she said. Root-Gutteridge and colleagues carried out experiments across five zoos and wildlife parks in Spain, involving a total of 24 gray wolves, both male and female, aged between one and 13.

The team set up speakers and first played the animals the voice of a number of strangers that they would "habituate" to, in other words, get bored of, because they decided it was not salient to them. — AFP

Rise of the cute robots

THE red eye that refuses to be extinguished, the metal body that cannot be crushed — for many of us the word “robot” conjures one image: the Terminator.

But robots are now everywhere, serving as companions in care homes or vacuum cleaners in our homes, and manufacturers are keener than ever to design friendly machines.

“At first we noticed the kids could be a bit afraid,” said Do Hwan Kim of his firm Neubility’s tiny delivery robot.

To get around the problem, the firm added big doughy eyes that can indicate, making it look like the world’s friendliest futuristic wheelie bin.

Dozens of the machines now trundle around campsites, university campuses and golf courses across South Korea.

“Campsites even use it on their posters,” Kim told AFP at

the VivaTech trade fair in Paris, underlining its transformation from potential threat to family friend.

And VivaTech played host to plenty of other robots designed with cuteness in mind — ones with cartoon animal personas, others that looked like children’s toys from the 1980s.

The aesthetic stands in stark contrast to the creepy dogbots and anonymous drones that have become standard.

‘Escaped’ from cartoon

As robots have become more common, a whole field of academia has grown up studying the interaction between machines and humans.

Kerstin Dautenhahn of Waterloo University in Canada, one of the most noted researchers in the area, said she had seen a huge shift in the way manufac-



A humanoid robot displays a screen at the United Robotics Group stand at the Vivattech technology startups and innovation fair in Paris. PHOTO: AFP

turers looked at design: from an all-consuming concern with function to an acute awareness of appearance.

“What you find in many, many fields... is that people pay a lot of attention to how the robot

moves, how it looks, how it can interact with them,” she said.

This holds true for robots sharing production lines with human workers just as much as those designed to care for older and disabled people.

A French firm called Enchanted Tools has fully committed to the friendly aesthetic.

Their robots have names, genders, cartoon-style personas and even a back story. — AFP

Two Japanese dancers win gold medals at international ballet competition in US

TWO Japanese dancers won gold medals Friday at the prestigious USA International Ballet Competition in Jackson, Mississippi.

Sayako Toku, 21, from Kobe, won in the senior women’s division and Ryo Sasaki, 24, from Osaka Prefecture, won in the senior men’s division.

The two, who took part as a pair and were evaluated separately, also won the Best Senior Couple award in what is known as one of the world’s three major ballet competitions, along with the Varna competition in Bulgaria and one in Moscow.

“Winning gold was a surprise,” said Toku after the an-

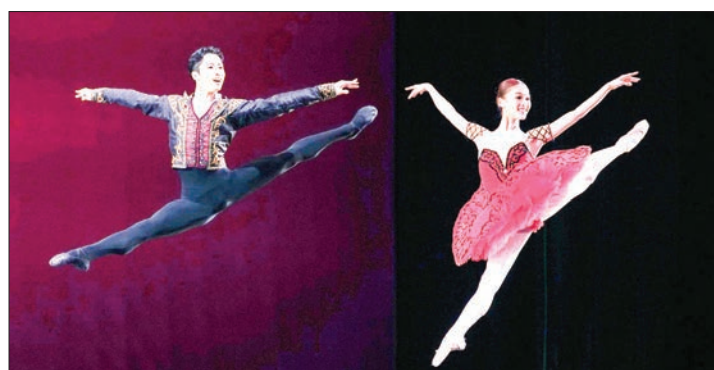
nouncement, adding, “I’m so grateful to the people who have supported me.”

Sasaki also expressed his joy, saying, “I can’t believe this. I am at a loss for words.”

The US competition was held from June 10 with around 100 dancers from 16 countries taking part.

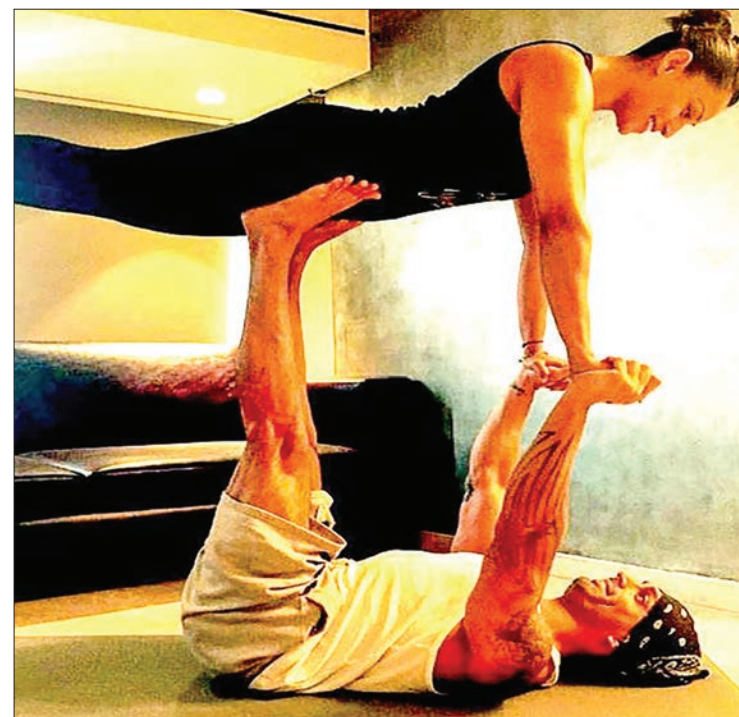
The event is held once every four years, but it was postponed for a year due to the impact of the novel coronavirus pandemic.

At the competition in 2018, another Japanese, Hyuma Kiyosawa, won the silver medal in the junior male division. — Kyodo



Ryo Sasaki (left) and Sayako Toku dance at the USA International Ballet Competition in Jackson, Mississippi, on Friday. PHOTO: KYODO

Bollywood divas who practice yoga to stay fit



Yoga and lifestyle are closely interconnected. Yoga is not just a physical exercise but a way of life that encompasses various aspects of daily living. PHOTO: AFP

WHEN it comes to maintaining a healthy lifestyle, our Bollywood celebrities leave no stone unturned to inspire fans with their fitness regime. From eating clean and green to sweating it out at the gym, actors do everything possible to have a fit body. In fact, many practice yoga daily to stay healthy.

On the occasion of International Day of Yoga

2023, let’s take a look at Bollywood divas who swear by yoga.

Malaika Arora is a yoga enthusiast. Credits arguably go to her for making youth especially Gen Z understand the importance of yoga in their life. In fact, she has her own yoga studio named Diva Yoga centre in Mumbai.

She also often posts pic-

tures and videos of her performing yoga asanas on Instagram in order to inspire people to take up this form of exercise seriously in life.

Actor Shilpa Shetty is also a yoga-freak. She has been practising yoga for years now. She has released multiple yoga DVDs and even launched her own yoga wellness channel.

Kareena, aka Bebo, also swears by yoga. In many interviews, she has credited yoga for postnatal healing benefits and its importance in maintaining overall fitness.

PS Kareena has the cutest yoga partner. Her son Jeh also gives company to her during her yoga sessions.

Bipasha Basu, a fitness enthusiast, is an ardent practitioner of yoga. She has released her own fitness DVDs of yoga workouts.

Bipasha Basu believes that yoga not only helps her stay fit but also contributes to her mental peace and emotional well-being.

She is often seen doing yoga with her husband and actor Karan Singh Grover in pictures on social media. — ANI

ECONOMY WORLD

Pear farming goes smart

IN Xixian County, located in Linfen City of north China's Shanxi Province, a smart pear orchard spanning 500 mu (about 33.3 hectares) has been developed in cooperation with the Shanxi Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

In this smart orchard, every pear is assigned a unique QR code that enables monitoring of the entire growth process, from flowering to fruit development, including tracking watering schedules and detecting any instances of infestation.

"The QR code serves as an ID card, recording the life of a pear," said Wang Yibo, an agriculture official from the county.



A worker sorts thorn pears at a fruit processing enterprise in Longli County, southwest China's Guizhou Province, 23 August 2018. **PHOTO: YANG WENBIN/ XINHUA/FILE**

"I no longer need to spend my entire day working in the fields," said Liu Jianlong, a local

villager, explaining how his son assists him in remotely monitoring the orchard's condition

through a smartphone, enabling timely updates and minimizing the need for constant physical presence in the fields.

Established in 2020, the smart orchard is operated with the help of cutting-edge technologies such as the internet, big data, cloud computing and the Internet of Things. The integration of a big data service centre has played a crucial role in elevating the intelligent production capabilities of the orchard's agricultural cloud platform.

In comparison to the average yield of 2,000 kilograms per mu in traditional orchards, the smart orchard can achieve

a doubled output of 4,000 kilograms per mu.

Located in the Loess Plateau, Xixian stands as a prominent fruit production county boasting an expansive pear fruit plantation area of 380,000 mu.

There are 64 villages in the county that rely on pear fruit as their primary industry, accounting for 80 per cent of the farmers' income. Xixian has built a smart agriculture integration platform composed of 12 systems, including water-fertilizer integrated management, disease and insect monitoring, digital pear orchard, and monitoring and evaluation of cultivated land quality. — Xinhua

German economy bids goodbye to years of plenty



The Nordex Group has been a pioneer in the wind power industry since 1985 and has been present in the German market since the late 1980s. **PHOTO: AFP**

ON his many visits to semiconductor factories and electric car plants, Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz bangs the drum for an economy at the forefront of an industrial transformation.

But the picture painted by business leaders and experts is less rosy, predicting hard times to come for Europe's largest economy.

Having dipped into recession

at the beginning of the year, Germany looks set to finish the year in the red — and at the back of the pack among its eurozone competitors.

The government is the only one left still predicting GDP will grow this year, while the main economic institutes and the IMF are looking at a drop of 0.2 to 0.4 per cent. Soaring inflation, painful interest rate rises, a sluggish recovery in its key export market China, and high energy costs are all weighing on activity.

The malaise might be more than temporary, some analysts warn.

"We currently see the country faced by a growing mountain of challenges," said Siegfried Russwurm, head of the influential BDI industry lobby. — AFP

Mexico's 'super peso' creates both winners and losers

ROSARIO Crisostomo thought she had been cheated when she counted the money sent by her son from the United States. But there was no scam, only a Mexican currency going from strength to strength.

Once a laggard of the international foreign exchange market, the peso is among the world's best performing currencies this year.

A combination of high interest rates in Latin America's second-largest economy, financial stability as well as inflows of remittances and foreign investment have seen the Mexican currency post double-digit percentage gains against the dollar in 2023.

"I thought they were cheating me, telling me that the dollar was low to give me less, but then

I saw that they weren't," Crisostomo told AFP from the town of Piaxtla, in the central state of Puebla, where she lives with her grandson.

Some 4.6 million households across the country receive remittances — the country's largest source of foreign currency — largely thanks to the Mexican diaspora in the United States. — AFP

Rival Libya administration threatens to block oil exports

THE head of Libya's east-based administration threatened Saturday to block oil and gas exports from territory under its control, claiming the UN-recognised government in Tripoli was wasting energy revenues.

Oussama Hamad also said in a statement that he had "frozen" 2022 oil revenues "equivalent to more than 130 billion dinars (around \$27 billion)" as a first step.

The east-based government, which does not recognise the authority of the Government of National Unity based in Tripoli, is ready for more steps, including an oil blockade, and would seek a legal ruling, he said.

"We are ready to raise the red flag, stop... the export

of oil and gas and declare force majeure," said Hamad who was appointed in May by the east-based parliament.

Force majeure is a legal measure allowing companies to free themselves from contractual obligations in light of circumstances beyond their control.

Hamad accused the government in Tripoli of wasting energy revenues by making "extravagant spending", without elaborating.

He also demanded a "fair distribution of oil revenues".

Libya sits atop Africa's biggest oil reserves but has been engulfed by conflict since a NATO-backed revolt toppled longtime dictator Moamer Kadhafi in 2011. — AFP



Libya sits atop Africa's biggest oil reserves but has been engulfed by conflict since a NATO-backed revolt toppled longtime dictator Moamer Kadhafi in 2011. **PHOTO: AFP**

Intercity subway links economic powerhouses in east China

ON Saturday, Line 11 of the Suzhou metro went into operation, linking the city of Suzhou, a major GDP contributor in east China's Jiangsu Province, with Shanghai, another economic heavyweight in the region.

This is the first time that the core cities in the Yangtze River Delta region have linked their separate urban subway systems transcending administrative boundaries and geographical barriers in different provincial-level regions.

The newly launched Line 11 of the Suzhou metro is also part of Line 11 of the

Shanghai metro, according to the subway design.

The trans-provincial subway line can cut the travel time between city proper of Suzhou and Shanghai to about two hours. The route was planned as early as a decade ago.

"Actually, Line 11 is Suzhou's sixth subway route and was named in advance back then, indicative of the city's ambition to better integrate into the Yangtze River Delta region," said Lu Wenxue, general manager of Suzhou Rail Transit Group Co, Ltd. — Xinhua



Passengers are seen at Huaqiao Station of Line 11 of the Suzhou metro in Kunshan City, east China's Jiangsu Province, 24 June 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

JR East hit by system failure with app, card payments disrupted

EAST Japan Railway Co. said Saturday it was temporarily hit by a system failure, with its Mobile Suica app users left unable to charge electric money to their smartphones, while passengers also could not make credit card payments at stations.

Some malfunctions were also reported for the Mobile Pasma app for public transport in the Tokyo metropolitan region the same day, its operator, Pasma Co., separately announced. The companies are trying to determine if the two cases are connected.

Both systems were restored around 1 pm after experiencing the problems in the early hours of the day.

The system failure at JR East also left passengers unable to make or change reservations online, the company said.

The outage is believed to have been caused by a power failure during work on the system server, it said.

Meanwhile, Mobile Pasma users could not perform functions like receiving refunds, checking usage history or applying via the website to reissue Pasma cards, the operator said. —Kyodo

Strange bedfellows: auto rivals embrace Tesla EV chargers

TESLA'S electric charging network has long pleased electric car mavens. But Elon Musk's "superchargers" are now winning endorsements from a more unlikely group: other auto companies.

Ford was the first to announce a partnership with Musk in late May, followed by General Motors earlier this month. On Tuesday, EV truck company Rivian joined the bandwagon, saying it looks forward "to continuing to find new ways to accelerate EV adoption."

Under the partnerships, Musk has agreed to let consumers with autos from rival brands utilize its national network. —AFP

Ministry of Transport and Communications
Myanma Port Authority
Invitation for Open Tender (MPA-PortEDI/1/2023)

- Open tenders from experienced IT enterprises are invited (in foreign currency – USD) for Hardware Refreshment Project (1 Lot: Hardware Procurement including Warranty, Installation & Configuration, and Migration) of the Data Centre of Port EDI System operating by the Myanma Port Authority, the Ministry of Transport and Communications.
- Tender Application Selling Date - 26-6-2023 to 14-7-2023 (Office Hours: 0930-1600)
and Place - International Relations and Human Resource Development Department, 1st Floor, Myanma Port Authority, No. 10, Pansodan Road, Kyauktada, Yangon
- Tender Security Deadline - 14-7-2023 (Friday), 16:00 Hrs
- Tender Submission Deadline - 20-7-2023 (Thursday), 13:00 Hrs (Submission Deadline)
and Place - Tender Room, 1st Floor, Myanma Port Authority, No. 10, Pansodan Road, Kyauktada, Yangon
- Contact details - 095146637, 095068979, 01-8383582 (within Office Hours)

Tender Acceptance and Evaluation Committee

CHANGING THE NAME OF INSECTICIDE TRADING

The foreign manufacture **Anhui Byter Agriculture Technology Co.,Ltd.** will import and distribute the following insecticide registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board changing trading name.

Sr	Old Name	New Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Byter Green Arrow 1.8EC	Eagrow Green Arrow 1.8EC	Abamectin 1.8%EC	Full	F2022-3674

It is therefore announced to come and reject within two weeks to Joint Secretary Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of insecticide.

Address - **KESAI EAGROW MYANMAR CO., LTD.** Block (58), No (1), Mayflower Street, Nawaday Garden Housing, Hlaing Tharyar Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
Ph- 09; 768080088/ 09; 940585888

Advertise with us/ Hot Line : 09251022355, 09974424848

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0296-751N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0296-751N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-6-2023** 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 EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD.

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

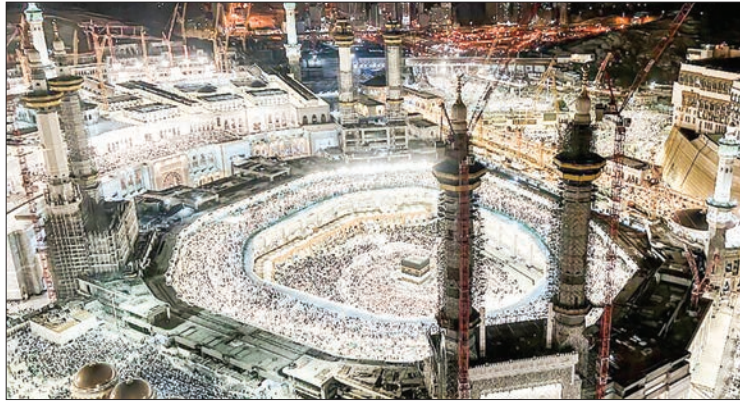
Huge crowds circle Kaaba as hajj begins in Saudi heat

VAST crowds of robed pilgrims made solemn circles around the Kaaba, the black cube at Mecca's Grand Mosque, on Sunday as the biggest hajj pilgrimage in years began in the heat of the Saudi summer.

Islam's holiest site is expected to host more than two million worshippers from 160 countries during the annual rites that could break attendance records, with 1.6 million foreigners already arrived by Friday evening.

The hajj began early on Sunday with the "tawaf" — the circumambulation of the Kaaba, the large cubic structure draped in black cloth with gold trimmings that millions of Muslims pray towards every day.

"I am living the most beautiful days of my life," said Abdel-Azim, a 65-year-old Egyptian as he performed the ritual.



Huge crowds of pilgrims through the Grand Mosque in Mecca, Islam's holiest site, as the biggest hajj in years gets under way in the searing Saudi Arabian heat. **PHOTO: RANIA SANJAR/AFP**

"The dream has come true," said the retiree, who saved up for 20 years to pay the \$6,000 fee to take part.

The hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam and must be undertaken by all Muslims with the means at least once.

A series of rites are completed over four days in Mecca and

its surroundings in the west of oil-rich Saudi Arabia.

On Sunday night, pilgrims will start moving to Mina, about five kilometres (three miles) from the Grand Mosque, ahead of the hajj's climax at Mount Arafat, where the Prophet Mohammed is believed to have delivered his final sermon. — AFP

Moscow security measures still in place after Wagner mutiny



Russian soldiers stand at the edge one of the highways entering Moscow on 24 June 2023. **PHOTO: ALEXANDER NEMENOV / AFP**

AN "anti-terrorist operation regime" was still in force in Moscow on Sunday, a day after mutinous Wagner mercenaries threatened to storm the Russian capital, in a dramatic security crisis for President Vladimir Putin.

The Kremlin announced Saturday that Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin who led the rebellion will be sent to Belarus after mediation by Minsk leader Alexander Lukashenko.

Prigozhin's whereabouts

were unknown on Sunday, but Moscow said the "armed rebellion" charges against him will be dropped and his fighters will also not be prosecuted.

Prigozhin, who was updating the public on Wagner's mutiny via audio messages on Telegram on Saturday, had not yet said when he will leave his country for Kremlin-allied Belarus.

The anti-terrorist regime was introduced in Moscow on Saturday, as Prigozhin's forces appeared to advance on the

capital, with authorities asking residents to limit travel.

Moscow authorities also said that a day off work introduced to curb movement around the city on Monday would remain in place for security reasons.

In the southern city of Rostov-on-Don, which Wagner fighters left late on Saturday after taking the main army HQ there, traffic resumed as normal, Russian state media reported. — AFP

Greece votes with conservative premier favourite to win

GREEK voters head to the polls again Sunday in an election where conservative front-runner Kyriakos Mitsotakis is seeking a second term and an absolute parliamentary majority to form a "stable government".

Polling stations opened for the second round of general elections in five weeks at 7:00 am (0400 GMT) while the first exit polls are expected at 7:00 pm (1600 GMT) when polls close.

The 55-year-old Harvard graduate, who steered Greece from the coronavirus pandemic

back to two consecutive years of strong growth, had already scored a thumping win in an election just a month ago.

But having fallen short of five seats in parliament to be able to form a single-party government, Mitsotakis chose to ask 9.8 million Greek voters back to the ballot boxes.

Mitsotakis, who hails from one of Greece's most influential political families, had trounced his next nearest rival, former leftist prime minister Alexis Tsipras, by more than 20 percentage points in the last vote. — AFP



Greek former prime minister and leader of Greece's conservative party New Democracy, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, speaks to his party's supporters during his last pre-election speech in Athens on 23 June 2023, two days ahead of general elections. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Canada opens investigation of Titanic sub implosion

CANADIAN authorities on Saturday began a probe into the implosion of the Titan submersible, whose disappearance near the wreckage of the Titanic with five men aboard had set off a multinational search-and-rescue operation.

"Our mandate is to find out what happened and why and to find out what needs to change to reduce the chance or the risk of such occurrences in the future," said Transportation Safety Board (TSB) chair Kathy Fox.

"We know everybody wants answers, particularly the families and the public," she told reporters in St. John's, Newfoundland.

The full probe could take between 18 months to two years.

TSB investigators on Saturday boarded the Canadian-flagged Polar Prince cargo ship, which had set sail from St. John's last weekend to bring the ill-fated Titan to its launch point in the north Atlantic.

The Transportation Safety Board routinely probes air, rail, marine and pipeline accidents with the aim of improving transportation safety.

It does not assign fault or determine civil or criminal liability. The US Coast Guard said Thursday that all five people aboard the submersible had died after the vessel suffered a "catastrophic implosion." — AFP



Singapore, Japan agree to cooperate in digitalization

SINGAPORE and Japan agreed Friday to boost cooperation in advancing digitalization projects, with Tokyo eager to learn from the Southeast Asian nation's experience in introducing a national digital identification scheme as it struggles to roll out a similar system.

The issue was discussed between Japanese Minister for Digital Transformation Taro Kono and his Singaporean counterpart, Josephine Teo,

during his two-day visit to Singapore through Friday.

Singapore is known for being ahead of the curve in launching a national digital identity system and using it to provide government services, with the country beginning distribution of the "Singpass" to its citizens and foreign residents in 2003.

Today, users have access to more than 2,700 services from over 800 government agencies

and businesses via internet and smartphone applications, enabling passport applications, tax payments, and issuance of coronavirus vaccination certificates, among other services. However, it is not mandatory to sign up, according to officials.

"Singapore and Japan are like-minded partners, sharing many common interests," Teo said in a Facebook post, touching on a memorandum of cooperation signed last year on exchanging knowledge and experience in areas such as digital identity, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and cloud services. —Kyodo

Traditionally, Japanese work culture has emphasized long hours in the office and face-to-face interaction. However, in recent years, there has been a shift towards more flexible work arrangements, including teleworking. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/KYODO**

NEWS IN BRIEF

US aircraft carrier arrives in Viet Nam

A US aircraft carrier arrived in the central Vietnamese city of Danang on Sunday, AFP journalists saw, weeks after Hanoi protested against Chinese vessels sailing in its waters. The USS Ronald Reagan's port call in Danang comes as the US and Viet Nam celebrate the 10th anniversary of their "comprehensive partnership", with the two countries sharing increasingly close trade links, as well as concerns over China's growing strength in the region.

A Chinese survey vessel, multiple coast guard ships and fishing boats operated for several weeks in Vietnam's exclusive economic zone in the South China Sea, prompting a demand that they leave from Viet Nam's foreign ministry. The boats eventually departed in early June. China claims most of the resource-rich waterway despite competing claims from other Southeast Asian nations including Viet Nam, the Philippines and Malaysia.

"The visit gives that message that Vietnam is continuing to balance against China by improving its security relationship with the US, and with other outside powers," Nguyen The Phuong, a PhD candidate in maritime security at the University of New South Wales Canberra, told AFP. —AFP

Palestine slams Israeli new settlement projects in West Bank

PALESTINE on Friday slammed Israel's new settlement projects in the West Bank, saying the move is a disregard for international legitimacy.

The Palestinian Foreign Ministry said in a press statement that "the Israeli government has given the green light to Israeli settlement associations to establish dozens of illegal random settlement outposts in various areas of the occupied West Bank," which is an "official Israeli effort to accelerate annexation of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem."

Israeli settlers have established no less than seven new random settlement outposts since Thursday in the West



Palestinian labourers work at the construction site of a new housing project in the Israeli settlement of Ariel near Nablus, the West Bank, 25 January 2017. **PHOTO: JACK GUEZ/AFP/FILE**

Bank, the Israeli newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth reported Friday.

"Accelerating settlement leads to closing the door permanently to the opportunity

to revive the peace process and implement the two-state solution principle," the foreign ministry statement said. —Xinhua

UK public support for rejoining EU rises to 58% - Poll

SUPPORT for rejoining the European Union among people in the United Kingdom has surged to 58%, with 42% saying they would opt to stay out if there was a new referendum on EU membership, a YouGov poll showed on Friday.

The figures come from the pollster's latest Brexit tracker survey of 2,037 British adults. They exclude those who said they would not vote or did not know.

With the latter factored in,

the number of UK respondents who said they would vote to rejoin was down to 46% in the May poll, compared to 47% recorded in the previous month. Thirty-three per cent said they would vote to leave or stay out, while 9% each said they would not vote or did not know.

The poll, conducted in the UK and across the EU from May 10-23, also showed that support of EU membership remained



strong in France, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Spain and Italy. —Sputnik

In the May poll, the percentage of UK respondents who would vote to rejoin was 46%, a decrease from the previous month's 47%. Additionally, 33% expressed their intention to leave or stay out, while 9% either stated they would not vote or were uncertain about their decision. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AFP**

Huge crowds circle Kaaba as hajj begins in Saudi heat



AGE-14



Chin ethnic Joshua Van. PHOTO: JOSHUA VAN'S FB PAGE

Chin ethnic Joshua Van wins in UFC via split decision

JOSHUA VAN of Chin ethnicity defeated Kazakhstani fighter Zhalgas Zhumagulov in the Ultimate Fighting Championship — UFC's Mixed Martial Arts event — held in Jacksonville, Florida, the United States of America on 24 June.

"I believed that I would win, so I wasn't surprised when I won. But, I was excited to see the audience," said Joshua Van after his thrilling fight.

This bout was Joshua Van's debut in the UFC, as well as the first win recorded by a Myanmar native in the greatest MMA Championship on the planet.

In the flyweight category, there were no clear result in the 3-round fight, so it was decided by points system, and Joshua Van won by split decision.—KZL

Ireland's Maguire clings to lead at Women's PGA Championship

IRELAND'S Leona Maguire closed with a birdie to grab a one-stroke lead over South Korea's Jenny Shin after Saturday's third round of the Women's PGA Championship at Baltusrol.

Maguire fired a two-under par 69 to stand on seven-under 206 after 54 holes at the rain-softened Springfield, New Jersey, layout in the second major women's golf tournament of the "It was a little bit more of a mixed bag than the first two days but it felt like I hung in really well," Maguire said. "I had a few really key up and downs out of bunkers to sort of keep me going out there.—AFP

SPORT

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

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance development based on agriculture and livestock using modern production techniques and to strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To assure support for the sustainability of Micro-, Small- and

Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) that prioritize import substitution, export production, and the use of domestically produced raw materials, in order to increase domestic production and generate employment opportunities.

- (d) To advance the socioeconomic life of the people, in order to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.

3. Social affairs

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

Myanmar's Yar Man beat Thailand's Olan in 1st round



Myanmar's Yar Man (left) lands the straight punch on Muay Thai fighter Olan during the super middle weight bout of TGL 4: The Great Lethwei Event held at Theinbyu Gymnasium in Yangon on 25 June 2023. PHOTO: KO HTET

MYANMAR Lethwei fighter Yar Man defeated Muay Thai fighter Olan in the first round of the main bout of TGL 4: The Great Lethwei Event held at Theinbyu Gymnasium in Yangon yesterday.

The two men fought under the super middle weight category (75-79 kg).

In the early minutes of the first round, Raman threw Olan to the floor and Olan was hurt and gave up.

In the 71-75kg (middleweight category)

ry) Tun Min Aung won over Aung Khaing with unanimous decision.

In the 48-51 kg (flyweight category), Aung Tun Bo beat Heko Htoo with second round punches. In the 51-54kg (bantam weigh category) Dawna Kyaw won over Thar Thar via unanimous decision. In the 63.5-67kg (welterweight category), Dawna Thway clinched a win over Aung Moe Pyae via unanimous decision.

Next, Soe Moe Zaw won over Tun

Lin Aung by judge decision in the challenging fight.

Similarly, Min Htet Aung produced series of powerful punches to beat Ye Thway Aung. In the 63.5-67 kg (welterweight category), Saw John won over Asian Dragon via unanimous decision.

In the 67-71 kg (light middleweight category), Thway Thit Maung defeated Saw Htoo Aung via unanimous decision.—Lin Yama/KZL

Messi recalls 'massive disappointment' of PSG Champions League woes

LIONEL Messi has called his start at former club Paris Saint-Germain "very tough", dubbing two successive failed Champions League bids a "massive disappointment".

"I came to Paris because I liked the club, because I had friends in the dressing room... it seemed easier for me to adapt

rather than another destination I could have gone to," Messi told beIN Sports in an interview broadcast Sunday.

"In reality, it was a very tough adaptation, much harder than I expected... with a new gameplan, new teammates, a new city. — AFP