

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Wednesday, 5 July 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.

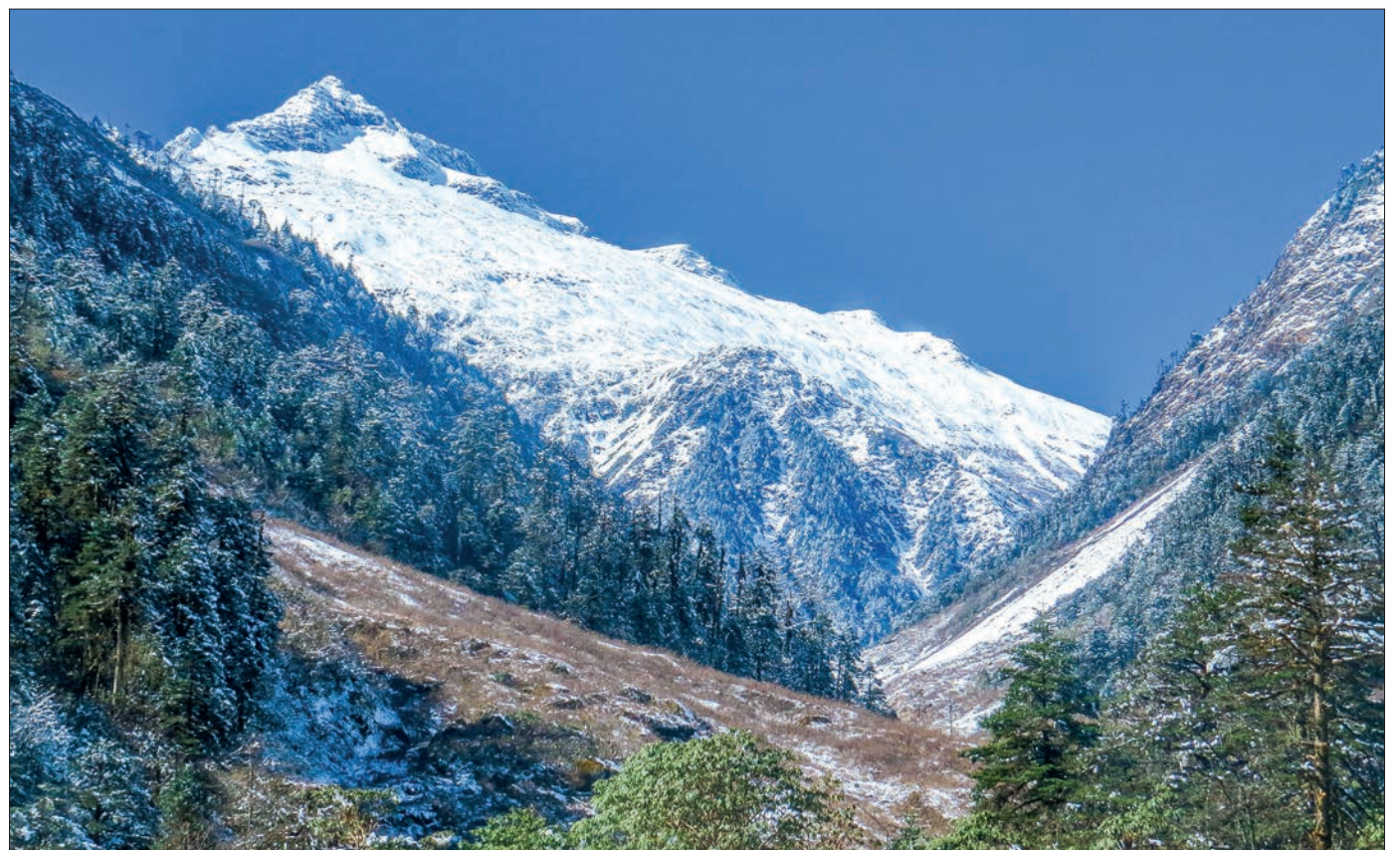
## Education Ministry (A) clinches title in 2023 Inter-Ministry Universities' Football Tournament

**V**ICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win watched the final

match of the 2023 Inter-Ministry Universities' Football Tournament and awarded prizes to winning teams at the prize-giving ceremony at Wunna

Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

**SEE PAGE-3**



Snow-capped Phonkanrazi Mountain seen in April-May period. **PHOTO: KANU**

## Setting plans for travellers to enlist scaling snow-capped Mount Phonkanrazi

**A**S snow-capped Mount Phonkanrazi is fascinating with natural beauties and scences, travellers at home and abroad can note down the list of mountains to be climbed in April

and May despite unfavourable weathers in monsoon. Recently, an earthen axis has been constructed between PutaO and its last hilly village Ziyadang to have smooth transport for local and foreign

travellers along the hilly journey to Phonkanrazi show-capped mountain in Kachin State, according to the Kachin State Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

**SEE PAGE-4**

## ART & CULTURE

Pilgrims observe murals of scenes in Buddhology at Pahtothamyia Temple

**PAGE-7**



## INSIDE TODAY

**NATIONAL**  
Union Minister holds talks with Chinese Minister of Industry and Information Technology  
**PAGE-4**

**LOCAL BUSINESS**  
MGEA sells pure gold at over K3 mln per tical, despite higher price at over K3.1 mln at current price  
**PAGE-11**



Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on the expiry of one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
1. U Myint Swe	Director-General Affiliated Office of Chairman Union Civil Service Board
2. U Zaw Min Tun	Director-General Department of Investigation Office of the Anti-Corruption Commission

Sagaing District Forest Department holds tree-planting ceremony

THE Forest Department of Sagaing District led a tree-planting ceremony at Sagaing University of Education on 3 July marking the Myanmar Women's Day.

The event was attended by 600 people including Sagaing District Administration Body Chairman U Khin Maung Sint and members, Rector of Sagaing University of Education Dr Daw Myat Myat Thaw and faculty members, students, district and township level departmental officials, members of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and locals.

The district administration body chairman and the Rector of Sagaing University of Education



Monsoon tree-growing ceremony to mark Myanmar Women's Day in progress on Sagaing University of Education campus.

handed over the saplings to the attendees. They grew two-year old 1,000 neem saplings during the event and a total of 4,000 neem saplings have been planted on the campus of Sagaing University of Education this year. — MNA/KTZH

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

National Disaster Management Committee





## Economic growth depends on local food sufficiency and local monetary circulation

IF the region has local food sufficiency, local monetary circulation will improve, and it will contribute to economic growth of the relevant areas.

*(Excerpts from the discussion by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at a meeting with MSME businesspersons of Myeik District held on 5 November 2022)*

## Education Ministry (A) clinches title in 2023 Inter-Ministry Universities' Football Tournament

### FROM PAGE-1

First, the Vice-Senior General and party watched the final match between Ministry of Education (A) and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

As it was the final match, both teams posed pressure on each other starting from the match through indomitable spirit. Finally, Ministry of Education (A) clinched the title with a 6-1 win over the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Then, SAC Member Dr Kyaw Tun presented the best goalkeeper award to Ministry of Education (A)'s goalkeeper Saw Kyaw Khant Noh and SAC Member Dr Aung Kyaw Min, the best defender award to Khun Win Kyaw of Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation while the best mid-

fielder award was given to Htet Myat Min of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation by SAC Member Dr Hmu Thang, the best forward award to Ko Ko Lin of Ministry of Border Affairs by SAC Member U Maung Ko, the top scorer award to Zaw Zaw Htike of Ministry of Education (A) by SAC Member Mahn Nye-in Maung and the best player award of the tournament to Than Myat Soe of Ministry of Education (A) by SAC Member Poe Rei Aung Thein.

Then, SAC Members Lt-Gen Yar Pyae presented indi-

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win presents Championship trophy to Champion Education Ministry (A) team yesterday.



vidual medals, prizes and cash awards to the third-prize-winning Ministry of Border Affairs while Admiral Tin Aung San to the second-prize-winning Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and General Mya Tun Oo to the first-prize-winning Ministry of Education (A).

Then, Vice-Senior General Soe Win presented K10 million cash award and the championship trophy to the first prize-winning Ministry of Education (A).

After the prize-awarding ceremony, the Vice-Senior General and party cordially greeted the athletes.

The 2023 Inter-Ministry Universities' Football Tournament was launched with three groups consisting of 11 teams between 22 June and 4 July.—MNA/KTZH

## MoI donates books, publications to No 12 BEHS's library



THE Ministry of Information donated a books to Ottara Alintan library of No 12 Basic Education High School in Ottarathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn donated books, publications and bookcases to the library of No 12 BEHS to Township Education Officer U Than Swe and Headmistress Daw Cho Cho.

Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn views reading of students at the library of BEHS No.12 on 4 July.

Next, Vice Chair of the Myanmar Women's and Children's Life Promotion Association Daw Thuzar Wai explained the purpose of the donations.

Then, students from BEHS No 12 sang the "Zartiman" song.

The Union minister and wife viewed students reading at the library.

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn's family donated two teak cupboards worth K1 million, the Department of Information and Public Relations, 150 books valued at K650,000 and the Department of Printing and Publishing, 370 copies of books worth over K510,000 to Ottara Alintan library of the school. —MNA/KZW



# Union Minister holds talks with Chinese Minister of Industry and Information Technology

UNION Minister of Industry Dr Charlie Than, currently in Shenzhen in Guangdong Province of the People's Republic of China to attend the China-ASEAN Forum on Emerging Industries, held a meeting with Minister of Industry and Information Technology of the People's Republic of China Mr Jin Zhuanglong yesterday morning.

During the meeting, various topics related to production of electric cars, solar panels, and medical products and transfer of technology necessary for development of micro-, small- and

medium-sized enterprises.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister and party attended the opening ceremony of the China-ASEAN Forum on Emerging Industries, together with ministers from ASEAN member countries, and delivered a speech. —MNA/KZW

Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than joins group photo of delegates from ASEAN countries at China-ASEAN Forum on Emerging Industries on 4 July.



## Setting plans for travellers to enlist scaling snow-capped ...

### FROM PAGE-1

As plans are under way to contribute a great deal to community-based tourism services in Kachin State upon completion of bridges crossing creeks, tour companies and locals will have great business opportunities thanks to the trip to Phonkanrazi mountain.

Myanmar possesses beautiful and unique snow-capped mountains among ASEAN countries. As such, the local and foreign travellers who are keen to join the scaling the show-capped

mountains in Myanmar come to Mount Phonkanrazi in the northernmost of Myanmar from March to May yearly when the snow and ice caps melt and from December to May as a mountaineering season. In early this year, a large number of local mountaineers arrived there. Up to May, as snow-capped mountaineers come to the hilly area, locals can earn incomes from the ecotourism services.

The Kachin State government initially built a 10-mile earthen road from PutaO to up-

per Sangong Village for ensuring socioeconomic life improvement of local ethnic people with job opportunities as the road transport between PutaO and Ziyadang Village would be better to increase more arrivals of travellers. Afterward, a plan was set to construct a road leading to Wasandang Village, 12 miles from Upper Sangong Village. So far, an earthen axis road has been completed to Ziyadam Village, nine miles from Wasandang Village. As such, travellers and locals have easy access to Ziyadang, 31

miles from PutaO, by motorbike or three-wheeled bike.

Ziyadang village is the outermost edge on the route among hilly villages from PutaO to Phonkanrazi snow-capped mountain, and it has only 18 houses. In fact, the en route to Mount Phonkanrazi starts from that village.

The travellers who arrive in PutaO by air from Yangon and Mandalay and those from Sumprabum and Myitkyina can pay visits to Ziyadang Village in a short time but such a route for travellers on foot took two days in the past. If such a route can be used in all seasons, it will much benefit tourism industry as well as education and health of locals.

“A plan is under way to upgrade Ziyadang Village as a community-based tourism village by this month. As it is a village located in the reserved forest, any hotel and motel cannot be built. But, we have a plan to raise the public awareness for giving a helping hand to travellers to stay at the houses of the village for cooking meals. We will strive for achieving success in tourism industry. Only when the village conserves environment will it achieve success in ecotourism service. We will train mountaineers and guides to carefully

conserve natural environment and to provide travellers at their houses with blankets and beds in addition to healthy meals. Such a course was conducted in PutaO once but we will make field trips to the village together with experts in order to accelerate ecotourism services. This year, locals can earn incomes as arrivals of travellers for mountaineering increase,” said director U Khaing Oo of Kachin State Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

As April and May is time of melting snow on the hills, beauty of snow-capped mountains can mostly be seen but rainy season is not suitable for climbing the mountains in Kachin State. Practically, travellers at home and abroad can note down the significant points of mountains in the state by setting plans to scale there in the open season, especially in April and May. Ethnic people from local villages have employments as guides along hilly roads and transporters in addition to searching herbs. Hence, local authorities decided to build an earthen road to be used in all seasons and conduct the tourism courses in villages for improvement of the tourism industry as well as ecotourism service sector.—Nyein Thu (MNA)/TTA



Snow-capped Phonkanrazi Mountain.

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## SAI Myanmar virtually hosts 7<sup>th</sup> ASEANSAI Senior Officials' Meeting

THE 7<sup>th</sup> ASEANSAI Senior Officials' Meeting took place at the Office of the Auditor General of the Union in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Seven delegates led by the Permanent Secretary of the Union Auditor-General Office virtually attended the meeting together with 42 delegates from ASEAN SAI Secretariat and member countries.

Auditor-General of the Union U Tin Oo, who is also in the capacity of ASEANSAI Chairman, delivered a speech, saying that during the tenure of the ASEANSAI Chairmanship, ASEANSAI has achieved success in several remarkable activities such as a Cooperative Research Project on

SAI Independence in ASEAN Countries, Audit Review Meetings and Workshops, the 5<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting and Knowledge Sharing Committee Meeting. SAI Myanmar has been collaborating on the ASEANSAI's functions as a family and had several remarkable achievements and successes together. In the future, he pledged to sustain the ASEANSAI as a more successful and effective organization through collaboration and co-operation among all member SAIs.

The meeting focused on the revised ASEANSAI Rules and Procedures, ASEANSAI Committee's Work Plan 2024-2025, Financial Statements

issue and the draft Memorandum of Understanding between Swedish National Audit Office and ASEANSAI.

The meeting will continue on 5 July 2023 and the Appointment of Longer-term ASEANSAI Secretariat for the period of 2024-2029, draft agenda on 7<sup>th</sup> ASEANSAI Summit, appointment of ASEANSAI Committees for the period of 2024-2025 will be discussed in addition to the Pre-handover ASEANSAI Chairmanship Meeting.

The preparatory meeting and technical meeting were virtually held on 3 July in order to successfully hold the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEANSAI Senior Officials Meeting. — GNLM



Attendees seen at 7<sup>th</sup> ASEANSAI Senior Officials' meeting on 4 July.

## Annual report-writing group of NCRPD holds second coordination meeting

THE second coordination meeting of the annual report-writing group of the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was held at the meeting hall of the Department of Rehabilitation under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

On the occasion, Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint, Chairman of the annual report-writing group, said upholding a concept that it is responsible for the people with disabilities, the government publishes the annual report of the national committee to provide information on data about undertakings for those with disabilities to both domestic and international organizations. The first and second annual

reports have been published and distributed in Myanmar and English languages. During the meeting, he expressed his intention to present the sector-wise progress of work made in preparing the third annual report. Furthermore, he emphasized the importance of collaboration to ensure the publication of a comprehensive report.



Subsequently, U Sithu Win, Director of the Vulnerable Groups Branch of the Department of Rehabilitation, presented measures being taken for the drawing up of the draft for the third annual report and those present at the meeting gave suggestions on completion of the report in August. — MNA/KZW

## MoSWRR Union Minister receives UNOCHA Head of Office ad interim



Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine receives UNOCHA Head of Office ad interim on 4 July.

A delegation led by Ms Danielle Parry, UNOCHA Head of Office ad interim called on Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine at the ministry yesterday morning.

During the meeting, the UNOCHA Head of Office ad interim submitted the issue of providing humanitarian aid to those affected by the storm in Rakhine State, OCHA staff entry visa and

domestic travelling in Myanmar.

The Union Minister frankly discussed establishment of the National Disaster Management Committee and 12 Working Committees, coordination of the International Relations Working Committee regarding international assistance for Cyclone Mocha, and signing of renewal the Letter of Agreement (LoA) between the MoSWRR and OCHA. — MNA/TS

## Illegal foodstuffs, consumer goods, industrial materials and vehicles confiscated

A combined on-duty team under the supervision of Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force nabbed 9,000 kilogrammes of carrot from China worth K4.5 million without official documents from a Hino Ranger truck (approximate value of K30 million), 600 kilogrammes of dried Tofu worth K600,000 and two kinds of goods worth K6.6 million including 480 kilogrammes of avocado from another Hino Ranger truck (estimated value of K30 million) heading to Mandalay from Muse, five kinds of goods worth K2.52 million including 144 kilogrammes of Novo make up, two kinds of goods worth K1.176 million including 400 kilogrammes of Chicken Sausage and four kinds of goods worth K1,760,800 including pieces of 520 lady dresses without official documents at the 21/7 Milepost on Mandalay-Lashio road on 1 July.

Additionally, the on-duty teams impounded 240 boxes of traditional medicines worth K1.5 million without official documents from luggage at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk) and a Nissan diesel truck (estimated value of K25 million) carrying 2,500 kilogrammes of stainless steel pipes worth K5.6 million travelling from Myawady to Yangon at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint on 1 July.

An on-duty team confiscated 5,520 pairs of Scholl adult sandal worth K11.592 million that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from an Isuzu car (estimated value of K25 million) heading to Yangon from Myawady in Phayagyi township on 2 July.

Similarly, the on-duty team at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint seized eight kinds of goods worth K30.19 million including 55 New Century 12V batteries, two kinds of goods worth K2.6 million including 7,500 packs of Yum Yum instant noodle from a Mitsubishi Fuso truck (approximately K23 million) travelling from Myawady to Yangon on 2 July. The action was taken under Customs Procedures.

Therefore, 17 arrests (estimated value of K205,638,800) were made on 1 and 2 July, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS



## TRAVEL

## A walk-through Dai people cultural heritage

BY TWA

I SAW a group of women playing musical instruments (Shan traditional drum, gong and cymbal) softly to welcome the visitors from afar before our vehicle stopped.

They sprinkled scented water in a silver bowl using sprigs of Thabyay (Jambul) to the visitors while playing instruments and singing at the entrance of the village. This fascinating cultural tradition is familiar to me as a Myanmar citizen and I felt ecstatic about this scene.

The traditional costume of those women is not different from that of Shan people. They are none other than Dai people living in Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture in southwestern Yunnan Province, China.

It is about a 20-minute drive to visit the ancient village called "Man Yuan" where Dai people live. The organic farms of dragon fruit, pomelo and a variety of fruits are seen along the road.

Dai people living in Man Yuan village are preserving



People visit the well where a dragon dwelled in myth.

cultural heritage, traditions and customs from generations to generations. The different types of slit houses on the roadside are giving an awesome vibe.

The uphill road to the temple with majestic buildings from

a well where a dragon dwelled according to a myth is similar to the roads en route to pagodas that sit atop the mountains across Myanmar.

Some residents perform rituals to avert misfortune by sup-

million population in southern Yunnan province.

They have been preserving rich traditional heritage of their own. Dai is closely associated with Laos and Thai people in the form of historical and geographical aspects.

There are over 100-year-old mango trees and the pavilions where alms-giving ceremonies are held in the village. The visitors can enjoy the taste of a variety of fruits and vegetables such as corn, pineapple, jackfruit, mangoes and drinks. The folks playing flutes and singing folk songs can bring joy and full

excitement to the visitors.

I was so amazed when the palm leaf inscription of Buddhist literature was demonstrated. The locals are engaged in traditional businesses such as papermaking, pottery business, bamboo hat and broom making.

Dai people's traditions and customs are related to Shan people. They also celebrate the water-splashing festival from 13 to 16 April every year to mark the Buddha's birthday. They went to mountains to pick up wild flowers to make flower pagoda and sprinkled scented water over Buddha statues to represent pu-



A traditional house of Dai ethnic.



Dai ethnic people producing traditional works.

porting branches of banyan trees with pillars, which can also be significantly seen in Myanmar. The locals believed that water from that dragon well can wash away bad luck.

There are 81 households with 439 residents in Man Yuan village. They still maintain traditions and culture by avoiding the big influence of technology.

The Dai people are among the 56 ethnic groups officially recognized by the People's Republic of China, with over a



Lancang River flowing under the suspension bridge.



# ART & CULTURE

rification and good fortune. The authorities hold events including paying homage to the elders, drum contest, singing contest, traditional dance competition, weaving contest, paper streamer contest and fruit decoration contest. What a surprising tradition is that the monks also participate in the water splashing Festival.

We stopped in Xishuangbanna Autonomous Prefecture which was built on the side of the Lancang River on our return trip from Man Yuan village.

I felt delighted with the hospitality at a restaurant featuring traditional and aesthetic themes. A group of people wearing traditional costumes which are similar to Shan attires were seen welcoming the guests by playing Shan drum, gongs and cymbals softly. The traditional food is to Myanmar people's taste. Even fish-paste with assorted vegetables is included in a meal. Customers can dig in popular and best dishes such as pineapple rice, mashed potato with chives, butter and pepper.

The folks performing traditional dances in Xishuangbanna are the unforgettable moments of life.

Boat tour along the Lancang River is a fun experience. And it was time to say goodbye to the Lancang River, Xishuangbanna and Man Yuan village.

The sun goes down behind the mountain. Yet, the colorful lights of high-rise buildings and hotels illuminate night in Xishuangbanna.

Translated.



## Pilgrims observe murals of scenes in Buddhology at Pahtothamyia Temple

**V**ISITORS can explore the murals of scenes from life of Buddha at the Pahtothamyia Temple, depicting the birth scene of the Gotama Buddha by Queen Maya, Buddha taking the road to enlightenment and Buddha cutting hair;

an official of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch).

The Pahtothamyia Temple was built in the 11th century. Such a temple was built of single terrace oriented to the east, with interior design to be influenced

from the early Bagan period. It's believed to be one of the five magnificent well-known temples built by King NyaungU Sawrahan (King Taungthugyi). Some believed it was built under the rule of King Sawlu.

The name Pahtothamyia is

derived from the fact that the stupa on the top is surrounded by the small stupas along the terrace and the small stupas at the corners, which are the original work.

The paintings portray the sequences of scenes from the life of Buddha. The art of floral design using the masonry, brick art sculpture and statue of two Buddha's disciples can be observed.

Pilgrims can visit Bagan Archaeological Museum in the west, Gadawpalin Temple, the victorious mound of the palace in the north, Nathlaungkyaung Temple in the east, Mahazedi Pagoda, Thetbyinyu Pagoda and Sinmyarshin Pagoda in the south.—Dipa Lin/EM



Mural paintings seen on interior walls of Pahtothamyia Temple in Bagan.

## Bagan Pitaka Chamber

THE people can study the chambers of Pitaka treatises (Pitaka Chamber) during their visit to Bagan ancient cultural zone of NyaungU Township in Mandalay Region.

Pitaka chamber means library of Buddhist Scriptures. It was constructed by King Anawrahta in 1058 AD to keep three Pitaka treatises conveyed from Thaton and renovated by King Bodaw in 1873.

The unusual architecture of the building is that the spire surmounts the five multiple roofs and peacock-like finials are decorated at the roof corners.

The Tharabar gate, Shwe Kun Char pagoda, Wutt Kyway Taw pagoda are in the northern part of Pitaka Chamber while Ananda pagoda, Atakya pagoda in the east, Thatbin-



Pitaka Chamber

nyu, Sin Myar Shin, Gayochoe pagodas in the south, Nathlaungkyaung, NanOo pagoda

(or) Shwegu Gyi pagoda and Aung Myay Gone Nan Taw in the south west, according to

Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch).—Dipa Lin /KTZH



# OPINION

## Soonest rehabilitate storm-ravaged areas with concerted efforts

**E**FFORTS are underway to swiftly rehabilitate areas devastated by the Mocha storm. Before, during, and after the disaster, people from all walks of life joined forces to ensure effective rescue, relief, and rehabilitation measures were in place to minimize casualties and damages. Thanks to comprehensive preparations, the state was able to overcome the challenges posed by the natural disaster, despite Mocha being the strongest storm with wind speeds of 120 miles per hour in at least five years.

Following the storm, the government, social organizations, and the entire nation prioritized the evacuation of storm victims to safer locations. The timely repair of basic education high schools was also given priority, allowing students to resume their studies according to the academic schedule. Efforts are currently underway to repair

the remaining schools as well.

In addition, damaged hospitals and clinics were promptly repaired to ensure continued provision of health-care services. Reconstruction work is focused on damaged and collapsed buildings in the transportation sector, while humanitarian aid is continuously distributed to the storm victims. The collaborative efforts of departmental personnel, social organizations, and local residents, guided by the motto "The strength of the nation lies within," have led to significant progress in rehabilitating all storm-affected townships within a month.

Rehabilitation tasks have garnered active participation from individuals and organizations across society, including philanthropic organizations, artist associations, the Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force, Fire Brigade, relevant government departments, and residents. Generous donations have been made to the rehabilitation fund for the storm-ravaged areas, while artistic performances have been organized to provide entertainment and uplift the spirits of the local population in the affected areas.

The people of Myanmar, irrespective of their religion, language, or ethnicity, have come together to extend their compassion, empathy, and goodwill to the storm victims. This genuine goodwill has been evident whenever the nation faced adversity, and the impact of storm Mocha has served as a catalyst for the rejuvenation of Myanmar society, with individuals showcasing their inherent generosity and virtues.

The gratitude expressed towards the devastating storm Mocha is rooted in the opportunity it provided for people from all walks of life to demonstrate their compassion, empathy, four cardinal virtues and genuine goodwill. Their genuine goodwill came out whenever the people of the country fell into the tight corner. It has allowed the nation and the entire people to unite in support of the storm victims, showcasing the resilience and strength of the Myanmar society as it works towards rebuilding and restoring normalcy in the affected areas.

■

# A Journey to Financial Independence

By Min Zan



**I**N FACT, it has been a long and winding road. It's a journey that has taken me through ups and downs, successes and failures, and plenty of learning experiences along the way. But through it all, I've remained committed to my goal of achieving financial independence, and I'm proud to say that I've made significant progress toward that goal.

Financial independence means different things to different people, but to me, it means having the ability to support my-

self and my family without relying on a traditional job or paycheck. It means having enough passive income streams to cover my expenses and provide a comfortable lifestyle, without being tied down to a 9-5 job or the whims of a boss.

I grew up in a middle-class family, where money was always tight. My parents worked hard to provide for our family, but there were times when we struggled to make ends meet. I learned the value of money at a young age and quickly realized

that financial security was important to me.

As I got older, I started working part-time jobs to earn some extra cash. I saved as much as I could and spent my money wisely. I didn't want to end up like so many people I knew, living paycheck to paycheck and struggling to pay bills.

After graduating high school, I attended college and majored in business. I knew that I wanted to work in finance, so I took every finance and ac-

counting class that I could. I also worked part-time while in school to help pay for my expenses.

Once I graduated, I landed a job at a financial firm. I was excited to start my career and earn a steady income, but I quickly realized that the corporate world wasn't for me. I wanted more freedom and flexibility in my work and didn't want to spend my life chained to a desk.

After a few years of working in finance, I decided to take the leap and start my own business. It was a scary decision, but I knew that it was the only way I could achieve the financial independence and flexibility that I craved.

Actually, my journey to financial independence started when I was in my early 20s. At that time, I was fresh out of college and working a job that paid me just enough to cover my bills and student loan payments. I knew I wanted more out of life, but I didn't know how to get there.

I started reading personal finance blogs and books, and I quickly realized that the key to financial independence was to live below my means and invest as much as possible. So, I began to cut back on my expenses and

started investing in stocks, mutual funds, and real estate.

Over the years, I faced several challenges on my journey to financial independence. One of the biggest challenges was staying motivated and disciplined. It's easy to get sidetracked by short-term pleasures and forget about long-term goals. To overcome this challenge, I created a vision board with pictures of my goals and dreams. I also joined online communities of like-minded individuals who shared similar goals and provided support and encouragement.

I also faced the challenge of unexpected expenses and emergencies. Life is unpredictable, and things happen that we can't control. To prepare for such situations, I created an emergency fund and insurance coverage to protect myself and my loved ones.

The first few years were tough. I had to make sacrifices and give up some of the things I enjoyed, like eating out and travelling. But I kept my eyes on the prize and continued to save and invest as much as possible.

Over time, my business grew and became more profitable. I was able to hire employees and expand my services, which further increased my revenue.

But even as my business grew, I remained focused on my ultimate goal of achieving financial independence.

One of the key strategies that helped me achieve financial independence was investing in my future. I knew that I couldn't rely solely on my business income to achieve my financial goals, so I started investing in stocks, bonds, and real estate. I educated myself on investing and made sure that I was making informed decisions. I diversified my portfolio to minimize risk and took a long-term approach to investing.

Another important strategy that helped me achieve financial independence was living below my means. Even as my income grew, I didn't let my expenses grow at the same rate. Instead, I kept my expenses low and saved as much as I could. I lived in a modest apartment and drove an older car. I cooked most of my meals at home and didn't spend money on unnecessary luxuries. I also avoided debt as much as possible and paid off any debts as quickly as I could.

As time went on, I started to see the fruits of my labour. My investments started to grow,

and I was able to earn passive income from rental properties and dividend-paying stocks. I started to feel more and more confident in my ability to achieve financial independence.

Of course, there were setbacks along the way. The 2008 financial crisis hit me hard, and I lost a significant chunk of my investment portfolio. But I didn't let that discourage me. I continued to invest and held on to my properties, and eventually, the market rebounded, and my investments started to grow again.

One of the keys to my success has been my ability to stay disciplined and focused. I've always been a saver, and I've never been one to splurge on fancy cars or expensive vacations. I've always tried to live below my means, and I've always been mindful of my spending.

Another key to my success has been my willingness to take calculated risks. Investing in stocks and real estate can be risky, but I've always done my research and made informed decisions. I've also been willing to pivot when things haven't gone as planned. For example, when I realized that the rental market

in my area wasn't as strong as I had hoped, I pivoted to short-term rentals, which have been much more profitable for me.

Over time, I've also learned to be more patient. Achieving financial independence is a marathon, not a sprint, and there have been times when it's been tempting to try to take shortcuts or make hasty decisions. But I've learned to be patient, to trust the process, and to know that slow and steady wins the race.

Looking back on my journey, I realize that achieving financial independence is not just about money. It's also about mindset and lifestyle. It's about being intentional with your money and your time and being willing to make sacrifices in the short term for long-term gain.

Today, I can proudly say that I have achieved financial independence. I have enough savings and investments to support myself and my family without relying on employment income. I have the freedom to choose how I spend my time and resources. I can pursue my passions and interests without worrying about financial constraints. My journey to financial independence has taught me several valuable lessons that I will never forget easily.

**Reference:**  
(True story told by one of my dearest friends abroad)

■

## Prevalence of metabolically related fatty liver disease is rising: Study

**A**CCORDING to a study presented at the Endocrine Society's annual meeting in Chicago, the percentage of adults suffering from metabolic-associated fatty liver disease (MAFLD), the leading cause of liver disease worldwide, is increasing.

The study discovered that Mexican Americans consistently had the highest percentage of MAFLD, particularly in 2018, despite the fact that the prevalence of increase was higher among Whites.

"MAFLD affects Hispanics at a higher prevalence relative to Blacks and Whites. This racial/ethnic disparity is a public health concern," said research-

er Theodore C. Friedman, M.D., PhD, Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine & Science in Los Angeles, Calif, adding, "Overall, the increase in MAFLD is concerning, as this condition can lead to liver failure and cardiovascular diseases and has an important health disparity."

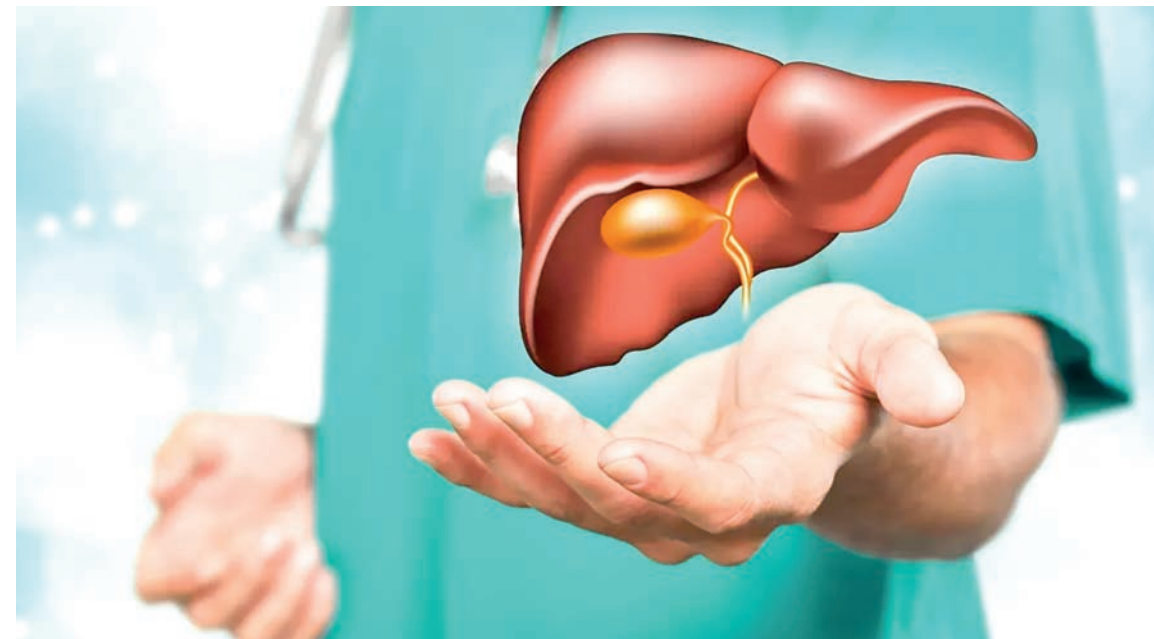
The researchers analyzed data for 32,726 participants from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) from 1988 to 2018.

"We found that overall, both MAFLD and obesity increased with time, with the increase in MAFLD greater than the increase in obesity," Friedman said.

The study's first author Magda Shaheen, M.D., PhD, M.P.H., M.S., of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine & Science, said, "The prevalence of MAFLD increased faster than the prevalence of obesity, suggesting that the increase in the other risk factors such as diabetes and hypertension may also contribute to the increase in the prevalence of MAFLD."

Among Mexican Americans, the per cent of MAFLD was higher at all times than the overall population. "In summary, MAFLD is increasing with time and more efforts are needed to control this epidemic," Shaheen said.

SOURCE: ANI

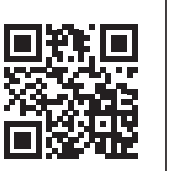


Your liver is the second largest organ in the body, responsible for around 500 or even more different functions, essential to keep you on the go. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/FREEPIK

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# CURRENT AFFAIRS



Airplanes of Myanmar Airways International-MAI land at Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO-XINHUA**

## MAI to extend Yangon-Singapore-Yangon flights on 16 July

MYANMAR Airways International slated to extend the Yangon-Singapore-Yangon route on 16 July. This extension is in response to the growing number of Singaporean visitors to Myanmar.

Previously, the flights operated six days a week on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and starting from 29 May, they were extended to include Mondays and Wednesdays. Now, MAI enlisted Sunday on the flight schedules.

Departure from Yangon International Airport is at 8.20 pm and arrival in Singapore is 12.50 pm local time). The return flight departs from Singapore at 1.50 pm local time and arrives back in Yangon at 3.20 pm.

According to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar has admitted visits of over 400,000 tourists from January to May 2023, most of whom came from Singapore.—TWA/MKKS

## Action to be taken against Mini-Oway tuk-tuks that have not changed colour

STARTING from the early July, the Mandalay Region Transport Supervisory Committee announced that the action will be taken against Mini-Oway tuk-tuks in Mandalay municipal areas which are running without changing to the yellow colour.

The owners of the Mini-Oway tuk-tuks have been informed to change their vehicles to the yellow colour at the auto body paint shops they like on 30 June at the latest. Inspection of vehicles which have been changed colour, is being processed

at Mandalathiri stadium in Chanmyathazi township, starting from 16 March.—TWA/MKKS



Mini-Oway tuk-tuks seen at a stand in Mandalay.

## Over 1,200 prizes of 41<sup>st</sup> Aung Bar Lay Lottery to be kept as confiscated finance

THE Aung Bar Lay Lottery Directorate of the Internal Revenue Department has announced that a total of unclaimed 1,200 prizes of the 41st Aung Bar Lay Lottery, including a K5 million prize, will be kept as confiscated finance if there are not drawn by the end of July.

In the opening of the 41st Aung Bar Lay Lottery on 1 August 2022, a total of 1,249 prizes have not been drawn to date. They include

one prize of K5 million, two prizes of K2 million, two prizes of K1 million, five prizes of K300,000, 68 prizes of K200,000, 365 prizes of K100,000 and 806 prizes of K50,000.

The winning lottery tickets can be submitted to the Aung Bar Lay Lottery Branches in Yangon and Mandalay before 31 July 2023 for the cash awards or they will be kept as State finance if they are not drawn

until 1 July 2023.

In June 2023, the sales of Aung Bar Lay Lottery tickets and Aung Bar Lay Online Lottery reached K5,176.703 million and the sale increased by K100 million compared with the sale in May.

Due to the increase of sale, a prize of K 200 million was added in the opening of Aung Bar Lay Lottery on 1 July.—TWA/MKKS



Some Myanmar citizens receiving Covid-19 test.

## 86 Myanmar migrant workers return from Thailand via Kawthoung

A total of 86 Myanmar migrant workers – 71 men and 15 women – who had served time in Thailand for various offences arrived back in Kawthoung on 3 July.

They were allowed to return after being tested for Covid-19 and undergoing required tests. Those who tested positive were quarantined at Kawthoung General Hospital and those who tested negative were transported back to their hometowns.

Also on 21 June, a total of 216 Myanmar citizens returned home from Thailand through the Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge No 2 in Myawady.—TWA/KZW



Some Myanmar citizens who returned from Thailand receiving tests for Covid-19 at Kawthoung port.

### PHOTO NEWS

## Fire erupts at garment factory in Mingaladon Township

A fire broke out at a garment factory on 7<sup>th</sup> Zaygabar street in Zaygabar compound in Mingaladon district, Yangon Region at 6:40 pm on 4 July.

The fire department successfully extinguished the

fire at 6:50 pm using a team of level 2 vehicles. The fire was brought under control at 7:06 pm and completely extinguished by 7:23 pm. (PHOTO : FSD)



Firefighters putting out the fire in Zaygabar compound on 4 July.





# LOCAL BUSINESS

## Green gram market calms down on sluggish global demand

THE price of green gram plummeted following the weak foreign demand, according to the Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung).

The price of green gram from the central Myanmar region touched a high of K2.092 million per tonne in mid-May. The current price fell to K1.765 million per tonne, showing a sharp drop of K300,000 per tonne within one and half months.

In May, China's tariff policies wreaked havoc on green gram trading, causing the price to decline.

Myanmar sent green gram to China, India, the Netherlands, Ireland, England and Germany

by sea and border routes. It conveyed more than 148,000 tonnes of green grams worth US\$97.426 million to foreign trade partners between 1 April and 23 June in the current financial year 2023-2024, according to the Ministry of Commerce's trade data.

The country aims to achieve a green gram export target to 600,000 tonnes, with 150,000 tonnes in each batch, as per the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's green gram is primarily sent to India, China and European countries. Myanmar has grasped strong market share in the vast global markets. Additionally, Myanmar has been preparing to export green gram to European Union countries



Harvester in operation to harvest green gram plantation.



Photo shows beans of green gram plants.

this year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the Ministry of Commerce agreed to export the green grams for sprouts in 2015.

The steering committee has been holding a series of meetings to call for bids, conduct awareness courses for the farmers and inspect farm level processing regarding exports of the green grams for bean sprouts.

The Agriculture Depart-

ment takes charge of farmer and collector inspection and testing, while the Consumers Affairs Department carries out processor inspection and training. Myanmar Inspection and Testing Service (MITS), the authorized organization of the State, was asked to monitor processor level to meet the criteria, food safety and quality standard set by the EU. Those inspectors from MITS are trained by the experts of the Plant Protection Division, Agriculture Department and the German Development Agency

GIZ.

MITS conducted inspections annually, with nine in 2018, 10 in 2019, six each in 2020 and 2021 and five in 2022 respectively.

The MITS undertakes inspection once at a factory that meets the criteria and standard. If the MITS finds the requirements during inspection, they set a timeframe for the factory manager to fix them. Then, they went on a second inspection tour. They present certificates for those factories that pass the test. — NN/EM

### 36 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 4 July, total figure registers 640,552

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to 640,552 after 36 new cases were reported on 4 July 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of 10,879,297 laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 640,552.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 619,458 including 12 new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered 19,494 on 4-7-2023 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

### MGEA sells pure gold at over K3 mln per tical, despite higher price at over K3.1 mln at current price

THE Mandalay Gold Entrepreneurs Association (MGEA) sold pure gold at over K3 million per tical (0.578 ounce, or 0.016 kilogramme) on the 11<sup>th</sup> day, whereas the price rocketed at over K3.1 million per tical in the

grey market.

There is a price gap of over K100,000 per tical between the MGEA's price and the unofficial market rate.

The MGEA sold the pure gold by drawing lots, not using

a queuing system. Anyone can buy them freely during the office days, except weekends and banking holidays.

In order to stabilize the gold price, the MGEA commenced gold sell-off at K3.05 million per tical at noon of 19 June and sold at K3.04 million per tical on 20 June, K3.035 million per tical on 21 and 22 June, and K3.03 million per tical on 23, 26, 27, 28 and 30 June and 3 July respectively.

The MGEA's price will cut the price depending on the daily price fluctuation.

The prevailing price of pure gold fetched up to K3.16 million per tical at the grey market, tracking the spot gold price rally at US\$1,928 per ounce and Kyat depreciation to around K3,100 against the US dollar.—NN/EM



MGEA sells pure gold to customers.

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# ECONOMY WORLD

## Sri Lanka shares rise as debt restructure spares banks

**BANKRUPT** Sri Lanka's bearish bourse made a dramatic turnaround Tuesday on the first day of trading since the government unveiled a plan to restructure its huge debt burden.



Vendors sell vegetables at a market in Colombo on 4 July 2023. Bankrupt Sri Lanka's bearish bourse made a dramatic turnaround on 4 July on the first day of trading since the government unveiled a plan to restructure its huge debt burden. **PHOTO: AFP**

The All Share Price Index on the Colombo Stock Exchange was 6.71 per cent higher to close at 10,076.64, the highest figure in 10 months.

Gains were fuelled largely by financial sector shares which rose by over 15 per cent after rupee-denominated bonds, largely owned by local banks, were spared a haircut in the debt proposal.

"Banking shares went up 15 to 18 per cent and there was a scramble to buy them," a broker at the exchange told AFP.

Sri Lanka unveiled its domestic debt restructuring plan last Thursday in line with requirements for an International Monetary Fund bailout agreed in March. The restructure charts a course for Sri Lanka to emerge

from bankruptcy after defaulting on its \$46 billion foreign debt last year.

Money loaned to the government by banks and other financial institutions will not be affected under the proposal.

But treasury bonds purchased by pension funds will see their interest payments cut substantially and maturity extended by several years.

The government is offering a 30 per cent haircut to its international sovereign bond holders, while China and other bilateral creditors have been offered longer maturities and a nine-year moratorium on repayments.

Markets were closed for five days after the restructure plan was announced to prevent panic reactions. — AFP

## Falling exports in May add to German woes

GERMAN exports dipped in May after a small rebound in April, official data showed Tuesday, adding to a gloomier outlook for Europe's biggest economy.

Germany shipped goods worth 130.5 billion euros (\$142 billion) in May, according to data published by federal statistics agency Destatis, down 0.1 per cent compared with April.

Imports rose by 1.7 per cent to 116.1 billion euros in May, narrowing the trade surplus to 14.4 billion euros.

"Trade is no longer the strong resilient growth driver of the German economy it used to be," said ING bank economist Carsten Brzeski.

"Sluggish exports are no longer an exception but rather

the new normal."

The weaker demand for "made in Germany" goods was led by a 3.6-per-cent fall in exports to the United States, Germany's biggest export destination.

Shipments to European Union countries dropped by 1.5 per cent, but those to China ticked up by 1.6 per cent.

Most imports to Germany once again came from China, and were up 2.7 per cent on the month before. The German economy has been hit by a series of weak data in recent weeks, dampening hopes of a swift recovery after the energy crisis and high inflation tipped the country into a recession at the turn of the year. — AFP

## Australia pauses rate hikes amid 'uncertain' economic outlook

THE Reserve Bank of Australia left its key interest rate unchanged Tuesday, with governor Philip Lowe saying that while inflation had "passed its peak" the economic outlook remained uncertain.

The decision comes after monetary policymakers last month hiked the benchmark rate 25 basis points to 4.1 per cent — its highest level since May 2012. Lowe on Tuesday cited "uncertainty surrounding the economic outlook" as one reason the board decided to stand pat this month. "This will provide some time to assess the impact of the increase in interest rates to date and the economic outlook," he said.

The move gave stocks a



People shop for fresh produce at the Queen Victoria Market in Melbourne on 4 July 2023 after the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) surprised analysts by leaving interest rates on hold at 4.1 per cent in July. **PHOTO: AFP**

small boost, with the benchmark ASX 200 up nearly 0.5 per cent in the minutes after the announcement, though the local dollar fell against the US

greenback. It will also come as a relief to mortgage holders, who have seen their monthly repayments rise rapidly over the past year as rates increased. — AFP

## Viet Nam's foreign trade down 15.2% on year in 6 months

VIET Nam posted an estimated foreign trade value of 316.65 billion US dollars in the first six months of this year, down 15.2 per cent year on year, with a trade surplus of 12.25 billion dollars, local media reported on Tuesday, citing the General Sta-

tistics Office.

Specifically, the export revenue stood at 164.45 billion dollars, down 12.1 per cent, while the import revenue decreased 18.2 per cent year on year to 152.2 billion dollars, the local newspaper Baodautu reported.

Reduced export orders and world demand led to decreasing demand for importing raw materials, the newspaper reported, citing the ministry of industry and trade.

The difficulties in trade activities still linger in the second

half of this year due to the complex developments of the global economy, politics and security, the ministry said.

The ministry added that it would closely monitor the production situation of industries and fields to promptly remove

difficulties for them.

The United States remained Viet Nam's biggest importer with turnovers of 44.2 billion dollars, and China was its largest exporter with turnovers of 50.1 billion dollars over the period, according to the office. — Xinhua



# Stocks struggle in subdued deals amid US holiday

ASIAN and European equities faltered Tuesday in muted trade, with Wall Street shut for the US Independence Day holiday.

Oil rebounded from losses the previous day, when key producers Saudi Arabia and Russia unexpectedly unveiled more output cuts in a bid to stabilize the market.

The dollar rose against the euro but fell against the yen, as investors awaited Wednesday's publication of minutes from the Federal Reserve's most recent monetary policy meeting. Friday's key US non-

farm payrolls (NFP) report will provide clues on the health of the world's biggest economy.

## 'Struggling for direction'

"European stocks are struggling for direction amid a light economic calendar and on thin volumes with the US markets closed for Independence Day," City Index analyst Fiona Cincotta told AFP.

"We expect volumes to pick up again... ahead of Friday's NFP"

This week sees also minutes from the Federal



A man walks past an electronic board showing the closing numbers on the Tokyo Stock Exchange along a street in Tokyo on 3 July 2023. PHOTO: AFP

Reserve's last rate-setting meet.

Investors weighed signs of a slowing US econ-

omy against hopes that the Fed's interest-rate hiking cycle could be nearing its end.

Data showing a sharp drop in the central bank's preferred gauge of inflation for May fuelled a rally across equities in New York late last week and in Asia on Monday.

The readings followed a series of indicators suggesting the economy remained in good health, putting pressure on the Fed to keep tightening monetary policy.

Fed chairman Jerome Powell has warned more hikes are in the pipeline owing to still-elevated inflation and the strong labour market, though an-

alysts question whether it will follow through with that.

Wall Street limped to a positive close in a half-session on Monday, with traders winding down for the holiday. In Asia on Tuesday, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Wellington, Taipei, Manila, Mumbai and Bangkok edged up, but Tokyo, Singapore and Seoul dipped.

Sydney got a lift from the Reserve Bank of Australia's decision to leave interest rates unchanged, though the local dollar fell against the greenback. — AFP

# OCBC sees ASEAN-China connections to continue deepen over medium term

OCBC Bank on Tuesday foresaw ASEAN-China connections to continue to deepen over the medium term. In an OCBC treasury research provided to Xinhua, OCBC Bank's economists Tommy Xie Dongming and Lavanya Venkateswaran said that increased linkages between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China will foster deeper connections. Despite a marked deceleration

in global trade growth brought about by looming recession fears, they said the robust trade growth trajectory between the two sides would persist in 2023. Specifically, total trade between China and ASEAN continued the growth in the first five months of the year.

As of the first quarter of 2023, ASEAN remained China's biggest trading partner, followed by the European Union and the United States. — Xinhua

# Apple, other firms say they meet EU 'gatekeeper' definition

SEVEN tech giants, including Amazon and Apple, have informed the European Union they meet the threshold to come under landmark new rules to curb their market dominance, Brussels said Tuesday.

The firms — Google parent Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, TikTok owner ByteDance, Facebook umbrella Meta, Microsoft and Samsung — said they had revenue and user figures big enough to be classed as "gatekeepers", EU internal market commissioner Thierry Breton said.

Under the EU's Digital



An illustration picture taken in London on 18 December 2020 shows the logos of Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon and Microsoft displayed on a mobile phone with an EU flag displayed in the background. PHOTO: AFP

Markets Act, the designation will subject them to tougher regulation aimed at stopping them from

messenger services interoperable so users can send messages between different apps, and preventing companies from controlling what apps are pre-installed on phones or directing users to their products.

The legislation tries to ensure smaller players will be able to enter the market without Silicon Valley behemoths stomping on them before they get off the ground.

The EU will make a formal determination by September 6 on which companies will be labelled "gatekeepers". — AFP

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### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC HUIMING VOY.NO. (2314S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC HUIMING VOY.NO. (2314S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-7-2023** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NANTA BHUM VOY.NO. (538W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NANTA BHUM VOY.NO. (538W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-7-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES**



# ROLLING UPDATES

## ASIA

## Thai House picks compromise speaker as progressives seek to form govt

THE Thai parliament appointed a compromise candidate to the powerful role of House speaker on Tuesday, potentially complicating progressive party leader Pita Limjaroenrat's efforts to form a government.

King Maha Vajiralongkorn officially opened the Thai parliament on Monday, more than a month after Pita's pro-democracy Move Forward Party (MFP) unexpectedly won the most seats at the 14 May election.

MFP has cobbled together an eight-party coalition that also includes election runners-up Pheu Thai, but it still remains well short of the 376 seats needed across both houses of parliament for Pita to be appointed prime minister in a vote due in mid-July.

MFP and Pheu Thai had been at loggerheads for weeks over which party would hold the



Thai MPs attend the house speaker nomination at Parliament in Bangkok on 4 July 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

speakership, ultimately settling on compromise candidate Wan Muhamad Noor Matha, head of

the smaller Prachachat Party, on Monday night. Lawmakers on Tuesday

elected the 79-year-old veteran unopposed as speaker of the lower house.

"I will work neutrally," Wan Noor told the parliament.

One of his first jobs will be deciding the timing of the vote for prime minister. The powerful speaker role also sets the parliamentary agenda. Analysts say the fact that MFP was unable to get the coalition to back its own speaker candidate was not ideal for Pita's prospects of taking the top job. "It doesn't really guarantee that Move Forward Party's (leader) will get to be prime minister, it just stops the conflict at this time," Mahidol University political analyst Punchada Sirivunnabood told AFP.

Ubong Ratchathani political scientist Titipol Phakdeewanich noted that the vote for prime minister could go through multiple rounds, and the speaker had an important role in putting names forward. — AFP

## Fukushima water release consistent with int'l safety standards: IAEA

THE International Atomic Energy Agency said Tuesday that Japan's plan to release treated radioactive water stored at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the sea aligns with global safety standards, despite concerns among neighbouring countries.

In a report submitted by IAEA chief Rafael Grossi to Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, the UN nuclear watchdog also said that discharging the treated water would have "a

negligible radiological impact on people and the environment," setting the stage for Japan to make a final decision on the project.

During their meeting in Tokyo, the IAEA director general called the review "dedicated, scientific" and "impartial," telling Kishida that its results "have all the elements" necessary for Japan to "move on to the next phase."

Upon receiving the report, Kishida said that Japan will re-

spond "sincerely" to the organization's review and continue to "politely" explain its plan to affected local residents and the international community "with a high level of transparency."

Kishida's government will review the IAEA assessment before deciding on the timing of releasing the water, which has gone through an advanced liquid processing system that removes most radionuclides except tritium.

The water will be diluted with seawater to one-40<sup>th</sup> of the concentration permitted under Japanese safety standards before it is released via an underwater tunnel.

Earlier Tuesday, Grossi held talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi over the issue in the first of a series of meetings scheduled during the day with Japanese officials. "As for safely discharging the treated water, Japan will continue to provide detailed explanations to the international community with transparency, based on scientific evidence," Hayashi said at a press conference. — Kyodo



Photo taken from the town of Futaba, Fukushima Prefecture, shows the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant on 4 July 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

## Coal giants Australia, Indonesia look to team up on EVs, batteries



Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese (L) and Indonesia's President Joko Widodo take a boat trip to the Annual Leaders' Meeting at Taronga Zoo in Sydney on 4 July 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

INDONESIA'S president on Tuesday urged Australia to help it ramp up electric vehicle production, as the two coal powerhouses wrapped up bilateral discussions focused heavily on clean energy.

President Joko Widodo met Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in Sydney, where the pair also discussed growing tensions in the Asia-Pacific region. Indonesia and Australia are the world's two biggest thermal coal exporters, but are anxious to shed their economic

reliance on polluting fossil fuels.

Both leaders agreed clean energy technologies should become a joint priority. "Indonesia and Australia must build a more substantive and strategic economic cooperation through the joint production of EV batteries," Widodo said following the meeting.

Widodo's government has grand ambitions for Indonesia to increase electric vehicle production, making better use of its vast natural deposits of cobalt and nickel. — AFP



## Xi urges Shanghai alliance solidarity, Putin praises support

CHINA'S Xi Jinping urged the leaders of Russia, Iran and other Shanghai alliance states on Tuesday to boost ties and resist sanctions, as Vladimir Putin thanked the bloc for support during a failed rebellion.

Xi "called for efforts to safeguard regional peace and ensure common security", state news agency Xinhua said, adding that he urged member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to "enhance their solidarity".

Putin thanked the Beijing-headquartered SCO, joining his first summit since a short-lived mutiny last month after the head of the Wagner mercenary group, Yevgeny Prigozhin, led a failed rebellion against the Kremlin.

"Russia is confidently resisting and will continue to resist external pressure, sanctions and provocations," Putin told the bloc. "I would like to thank my colleagues from the SCO countries who expressed support for the actions of the Russian leadership to protect the constitutional order and the life and security of citizens," Putin added. China and Russia have in recent years ramped up economic cooperation and diplomatic contacts, with their strategic partnership having only grown closer since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

While China says it is a neutral party to the Ukraine conflict, it has been criticized by Western nations for refusing to condemn Moscow's offensive. — AFP



A sign is seen outside the headquarters of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Beijing on 4 July 2023. India will host the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, with Iran expected to join the Asian grouping and Russian President Vladimir Putin addressing his first summit since a short-lived mutiny, officials said. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Macron suggests fines for parents of children caught rioting

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron raised the idea of handing out quick-fire fines to the parents of children caught committing vandalism or robberies as part of the government's response to days of rioting.

Of the nearly 4,000 people arrested since Friday during riots, more than 1,200 are minors, the justice ministry said.

Meeting police officers in Paris on Monday evening, Macron thanked them for their work and floated the idea of speedy punishments for parents who fail to control their children.

"With the first crime, we need to find a way of sanctioning the families financially and easily," he said, according to comments reported by the Parisien

newspaper.

The 45-year-old head of state said it would be "a sort of minimum price for the first screw up".

At the height of the rioting last Friday, Macron had appealed to parents to control their offspring. That followed the arrests of rioters as young as 12 during the breakdown in law and order sparked by police shooting a teen-

ager dead in Paris.

"It's the responsibility of parents to keep them at home," Macron had said. "It's not the state's job to act in their place."

French Justice Minister Eric Dupond-Moretti stressed the same message on Friday and outlined how parents were already legally liable for their children. — AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Four killed in US mass shooting in Philadelphia

At least four people were killed and two children wounded in a mass shooting Monday night in the US city of Philadelphia, police said, the latest chapter in the country's gun violence crisis.

Those killed were all males aged between 20 and 59, Philadelphia police commissioner Danielle Outlaw told journalists, while the two children wounded were aged two and 13.

Police apprehended the suspected shooter — a 40-year-old who was wearing a bulletproof vest and was armed with a rifle and a handgun — near the scene of the shooting in the city's Kingsessing neighbourhood, Outlaw said. "I don't know if he was firing the rifle at the time we were pursuing or the handgun, but yes he was actively shooting a firearm at the time our officers were pursuing," she said.

Earlier local media reports said four people had been hurt in the shooting, but Outlaw put the number of wounded at two, both children. Local media footage showed police had cordoned off an extensive crime scene, which Outlaw said spanned at least eight city blocks. — AFP

## Legal battle looms over London's expanding vehicle pollution fee

A UK court will on Tuesday consider contentious plans to extend a scheme obliging the most polluting vehicles to pay for using London's roads, as opponents engage in protests — and even sabotage.

The High Court case comes just weeks before London Mayor Sadiq Khan's expansion of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) is set to take effect.

The scheme — first introduced in 2019 and separate from the city's two-decades-old congestion charge — requires more polluting vehicles to pay a £12.50 (\$16) toll on days they are driven within inner London.

Its extension to all of Great-



A tour bus driver who stopped his bus to take a 'No ULEZ' sign from a protestor, places it in the window of his bus, after passing demonstrators protesting about the expansion of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) in London, outside the Royal Courts of Justice, Britain's High Court, in central London on 4 July 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

er London from 29 August has prompted a fierce backlash from many living in and around the newly encompassed areas, who

face fines of up to £160 for each day they fail to pay.

"It ain't right. They're hitting working class people again," Chris Fordham, 62, told AFP as he pulled up at a supermarket just beyond southeast London in his non-compliant 2012 diesel van. "I'm thinking about packing up work," added the self-employed builder, who crosses into the capital almost daily, blaming the imminent new charge and other soaring costs.

Several outer London local authorities and neighbouring Surrey County Council are lodging a court challenge to the way Khan decided on the expansion. — AFP



Xi urges Shanghai alliance solidarity, Putin praises support

PAGE-15



# 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.



Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian forward Neymar is pictured prior to the Spanish Formula One Grand Prix race at the Circuit de Catalunya on 4 June 2023 in Montmelo, on the outskirts of Barcelona. PHOTO: AFP

## Neymar fined \$3.3 million for building lake at mansion

A prosecutor in Brazil fined soccer star Neymar 16 million reais (\$3.3 million) for building a lake at his mansion on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro without an environmental license, authorities said Monday.

The town council in Mangaratiba issued four fines for "environmental violations in the construction of an artificial lake at the player's mansion," the council secretariat said in a statement.

"The sanctions add up to more than 16 million reais," the statement said, a sum set out by the prosecutor's office in Mangaratiba, a tourist area around 130 kilometers (80 miles) from Rio where the Paris Saint-Germain star has his mansion.

Among "dozens of infractions" detected, the authorities listed "carrying out work subject to environmental control without authorization," capture and diversion of river water without authorization, and "removal of land and suppression of vegetation without authorization."

Neymar has 20 days to appeal the penalty, the amount of which had initially been set at five million reais, close to one million dollars.

On 22 June, after complaints based on social media posts, authorities found several environmental violations at the luxury property, where workers were building an artificial lake and beach.

Authorities cordoned off the site and ordered all activity to cease, but Brazilian media reported that Neymar threw a party there and bathed in the lake.

Neymar's press office in Brazil did not respond to an AFP request for comment.

Neymar, 31, is currently recovering from surgery on his right ankle, which he underwent in Doha in March. — AFP

## Tiger says he never saw LIV-PGA talking points from lawsuit

TIGER Woods says he never saw purported prepared comments for him to deliver last year at a players meeting, documents involved in a federal lawsuit.

Golf Digest and Golf Channel reported on Monday that the comments aimed at Woods were part of 357 pages

of emails and documents in a lawsuit filed in the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial District in Palm Beach County, Florida.

Among the exhibits were scripted Woods supposedly from the PGA Tour meant for the 15-time major winner to repeat at a players meeting at the 2022 Travelers Championship, only weeks

after LIV Golf's debut event in London.

"In response to the talking points memo released this weekend, I have never seen this document until today, and I did not attend the players meeting for which it was prepared at the 2022 Travelers," Woods tweeted late on Sunday. — AFP

## Alcaraz launches Wimbledon bid in style, Rybakina survives scare

TOP seed Carlos Alcaraz made a flying start to his Wimbledon campaign on Tuesday as defending women's champion Elena Rybakina recovered from a set down to reach the second round.

On a soggy day at the All England Club, most of the action took place on the covered Court One and Centre Court, where the retired Roger Federer was the main attraction.

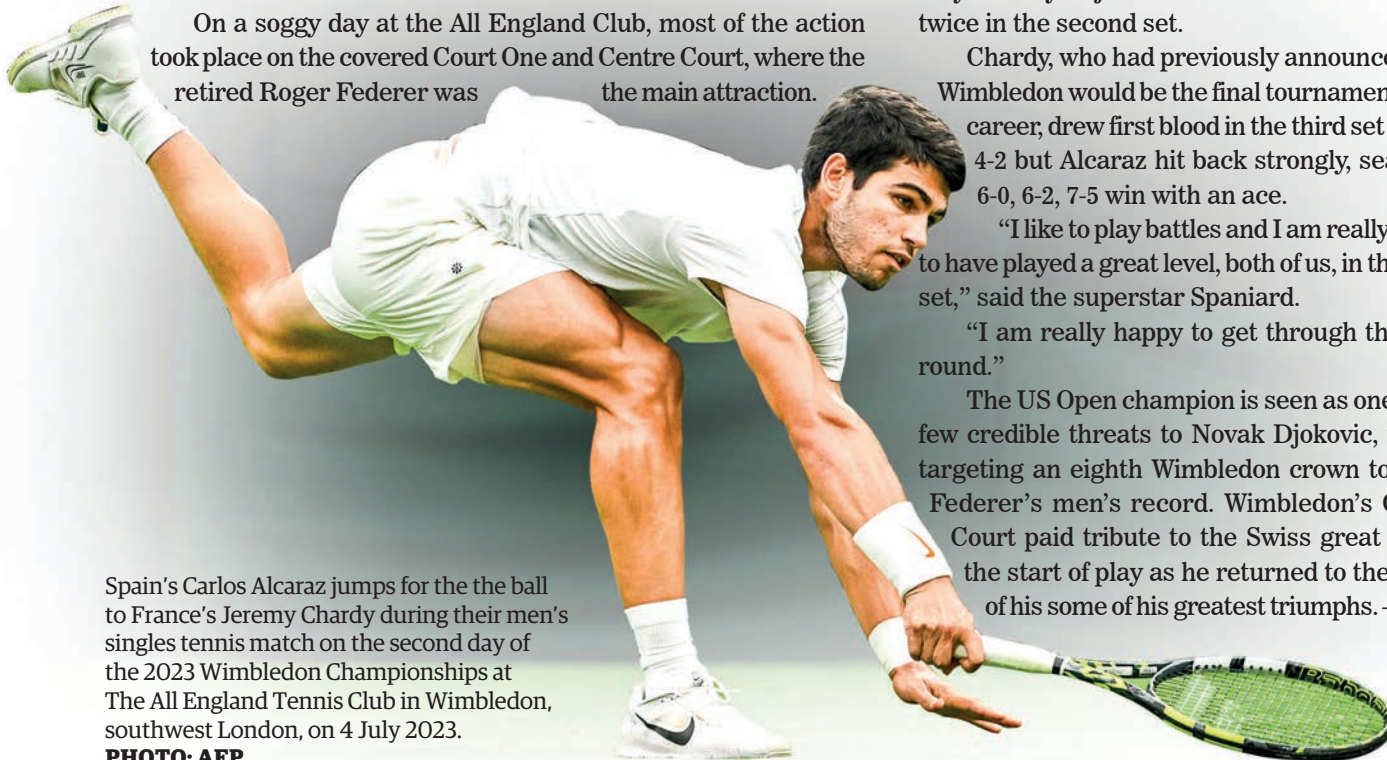
Tennis's new golden boy Alcaraz raced through the first set against French veteran Jeremy Chardy in just 22 minutes before breaking twice in the second set.

Chardy, who had previously announced that Wimbledon would be the final tournament of his career, drew first blood in the third set to lead 4-2 but Alcaraz hit back strongly, sealing a 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 win with an ace.

"I like to play battles and I am really happy to have played a great level, both of us, in the third set," said the superstar Spaniard.

"I am really happy to get through this first round."

The US Open champion is seen as one of the few credible threats to Novak Djokovic, who is targeting an eighth Wimbledon crown to equal Federer's men's record. Wimbledon's Centre Court paid tribute to the Swiss great before the start of play as he returned to the scene of his some of his greatest triumphs. — AFP



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz jumps for the ball to France's Jeremy Chardy during their men's singles tennis match on the second day of the 2023 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Tennis Club in Wimbledon, southwest London, on 4 July 2023.

PHOTO: AFP