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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.

MoFA Union Minister gives diplomatic briefing on recent developments in Myanmar

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe gave a diplomatic briefing on the recent developments in Myanmar at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Yangon on 6 July 2023.

U Khin Maung Oo, Member of the Union Election Commission, U Chan Aye, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Thida Tin, Director-General of the Media Development Department, the Ministry of Information and Senior Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassadors, Heads of Missions, senior diplomats and representatives from diplomatic missions and the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Myanmar joined the briefing.

During the briefing, the Union Minister briefed on Myanmar Government's efforts for Peace, Prosperity and Democracy including lawful and peaceful measures in line with the Five-Point Roadmap. Despite numerous challenges such as the global pandemic, fraudulent elections and associated instability, natural disaster (Cyclone Mocha), geopolitical impacts and challenges posed by media warfare, efforts for peace, development and democracy are underway through the launching of law-en-



Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Than Swe delivers the diplomatic briefing on the recent developments in Myanmar yesterday in Yangon.

forcement actions and rewards to participate in the political process in peaceful means. He also briefed the implementation of the ASEAN five-point consensus, particularly paving the way for cessation of violence, inclusive dialogues and provisions of humanitarian assistance, the most important points of the ASEAN five-point consensus.

The Union Minister gave a comprehensive account of the efforts of successive governments for the peace process over the past 33 years with the notable

achievement of Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) with EAOs following the 5,000 rounds of negotiation. The Union Minister also underlined that Tatmadaw strictly followed the peace agreement by not making first strikes, and only taking actions to defend innocent civilians with maximum restraints and minimum use of force in line with the Rules of Engagement in the Geneva Convention.

The Union Minister also underscored terrorist activities committed by the so-called PDF

claiming more than 5,938 innocent lives (4,878 civilians and 1,060 public service personnel), committing destructive activities and obstructing government efforts to restore normalcy and democracy.

While informing the Myanmar government's endeavours in fostering peace and harmony among communities in the Rakhine State, the Union Minister updated the progress made in the implementation of the bilateral agreements between Myanmar and Bangladesh in 2017 and 2018,

and for the early commencement of repatriating verified displaced persons.

The Union Minister also briefed on the measures for the recovery and resettlement of victims of Cyclone Mocha in cooperation with the regional and international community.

The briefing was followed by the question and answer session. Attendees also had the opportunity to observe the documents, photos, and charts displayed in the briefing hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Dhammarazika Pagoda with glazed terra cotta tiles illustrating scenes from 550 Jataka stories
PAGE-2

LOCAL BUSINESS

Low stocks push up sugar price
PAGE-7



CURRENT AFFAIRS

MRTV to broadcast Friday Night Live Show programme featuring memorable songs by Sein Moh Moh
PAGE-10

Dhammarazika Pagoda with glazed terra cotta tiles illustrating scenes from 550 Jataka stories

VISITORS to the Bagan ancient cultural region in NyaungU Township of Mandalay Region can observe the terraces of King Narapatisithu's Dhammarazika Pagoda containing glazed terra cotta tiles illustrating scenes from 550 Jataka stories.

The Dhammarazika Pagoda was constructed by King Narapatisithu in 1196. The pagoda is located on a three-layer terrace and each of the terrace is decorated with glazed terra cotta tiles depicting the 550 Jataka stories. The pagoda structure is similar to the Shwezigon pagoda basically. There are five archways and there is one bronze Buddha statue at the bronze cave of each archway dedicating to five Buddhas who attained Enlightenment in the world. In

the eastern archway, there are stone inscriptions of the Bagan era and ink inscriptions on the wall of the Inwa era, according to the officials from the Bagan branch of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum.

The Dhammarazika Pagoda is situated east and south of two Hsutaungpyae pagodas out of five famous ones Thitsawady pagoda and Thanpyinswa pagoda in the east and Lawkananda tooth relic pagoda, Kyaymonpyin pagoda, Tatkalay pagoda and Tarmanithein pagoda in the west. Therefore, pilgrims and travellers can observe the temples, stupas and religious buildings in different forms in the Bagan ancient cultural zone. — Dipa Lin/KTZH



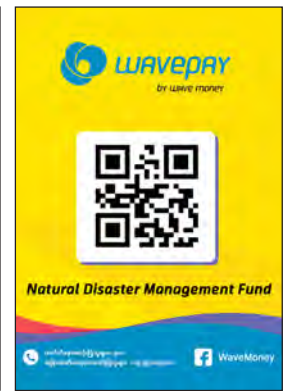
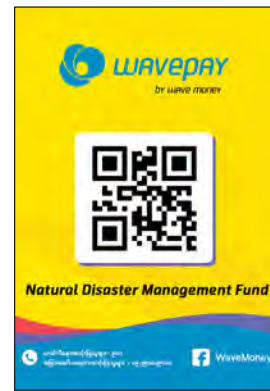
Announcement for local and foreign well-wishers to donate cash to cyclonic storm Mocha victims

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

Ethnic national brethren to seek solution without external interference

IN restoring the peace of our country, only when all ethnic national brethren hold meetings to seek the solution without the interference of external elements will success be achieved. In this regard, I'd like to urge you all to especially take care of the danger posed by internal and external saboteurs who commit destruction against the peace process with the unwillingness to serve the interests of our country.

(Excerpts from the message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to 67th Anniversary of Kayin State Day ceremony which falls on 7 November 2022)

Cultural heritage in Bagan needs renovation, and preservation

A total of 499 stupas and temples have been renovated in the Bagan ancient cultural region within four years period, said State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Defence General Mya Tun Oo at the meeting 1/2023 of the Leading Committee on Renovation of Cultural Heritage in Bagan's World Heritage Site at the National Library of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In his speech, the General who is in the capacity as Chairman of the Leading Committee stressed that the first phase of the renovation of religious edifices in Bagan has been completed by 100 per cent thanks to the help of UNESCO, archaeological experts and engineering and architectural associations, except for Thabyinnyu Pagoda which will be renovated under a nine-year plan in cooperation with China among 389 earthquake-hit stupas and temples, the General noted. The General continued to say that a total of 499 stupas



Deputy Prime Minister Union Defence Minister General Mya Tun Oo chairs the meeting 1/2023 of the Leading Committee on Renovation of Cultural Heritage in Bagan's World Heritage Zone yesterday.

and temples were renovated in the Bagan ancient cultural zone within four years period.

Moreover, he underscored that, due to the recent storm Mocha on 15 May, heavy rains inundated the precincts of 15 stupas and temples including Dhammayangyi Temple in the Bagan region, causing damage to some parts of eight religious

edifices and slight damage to 45 ancient of the buildings. So far, he recounted that the Department of Archaeology and National Museum has maintained seven of eight pagodas while Chinese experts are repairing the walls of Thatbyinnyu Temple.

The General pointed out that local and foreign experts and relevant departments are

to continuously discuss the renovation of ancient buildings with material assistance of ministries concerned as technical assistance and suggestions were sought from local and foreign experts for the annual preservation of cultural heritage in the Bagan region with farsightedness over possible forthcoming natural disasters.

Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko reported on the renovation of damaged religious edifices, spending of funds, inundation at temples and stupas in impacts of Cyclone Mocha and maintenance of damaged buildings.

Those present discussed the renovation and preservation of cultural heritage in the Bagan's World Heritage Site.

Departmental officials presented reports on the progress in the preservation of ancient cultural heritage in the region and management measures.

In his instructions, the General highlighted that the government will manage the renovation of ancient buildings in the Bagan cultural heritage zone as the Chinese expert teams will launch the renovation of the Thabyinnyu Temple soon, urging local authorities and experts to continue their cooperation in the preservation of ancient buildings in the Bagan's World Heritage Site. — MNA/TTA

SPTT holds talks with NMSP delegation on second day



The second-day peace talks are in progress yesterday.

THE State Peace Talks Team-SPTT received the delegation led by Vice-Chairman Nai Aung

Min of the New Mon State Party-NMSP yesterday morning at the National Solidarity and

Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw and cordially discussed the stability of the region and peace

processes.

Afterwards, the SPTT and the NMSP delegation continued the second day of peace talks at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre.

The meeting was attended by Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, SAC Member, Union Minister at the Union Government Office, National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Chair, and Peace Talks Team Leader, SAC Member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein and members, and NMSP Vice-Chairman Nai Aung Min, members of the Central Executive Committee Nai Banyar Lei and Nai Aung Mangae.

In the meeting, they frankly discussed the purpose of holding the Union Peace Conference and regional development issues.

Then, to continue the implementation of the agreements obtained from the previous talks, they also signed and exchanged the agreements.

Next, Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and the New Mon State Party -NMSP Vice-Chairman Nai Aung Min gave closing remarks and books on world affairs, Myanmar affairs and ethnic affairs published by the Ministry of Information were presented to the New Mon State Party-NMSP. — MNA/TS

SAC Member DPM MoD Union Minister attends 6th Myanmar National Cultural Central Committee meeting

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Defence General Mya Tun Oo, in his capacity as Chairman of the Myanmar National Cultural Central Committee, delivered a speech at the 6th meeting, held at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his speech, the Deputy Prime Minister said all citizens should preserve cultural assets both tangible and intangible. The three Pyu ancient cities such as Hanlin, Sri Ksetra and Beikthano and Bagan cultural heritage sites are on the list of world heritage. The Nomination Dossier (Complete) of the MraukU cultural heritage site was also submitted to World Heritage Committee on 30 December 2021.

Out of thousands of intangible cultural heritage from Myanmar, Myanma Thanaka was submitted to UNESCO in 2020



Deputy Prime Minister Union Defence Minister General Mya Tun Oo addresses the sixth meeting of the Myanmar National Cultural Central Committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

as intangible cultural heritage and the documents are being revised now as it needs certain facts mentioned in the reply.

Moreover, the Nomination Dossier for Myanmar's traditional Thingyan festival was submitted to UNESCO on 24 March 2023 to be on the world intangible cultural heritage list.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture announced 2,289 kinds of intangible cultural heritage as Myanmar's national intangible cultural heritage registration (first time) on 26 March 2020 with notification no 2/2020. The needed law and rules are also revived to protect and conserve the cultural

heritages.

He also talked about the emergence of private museums, arrangements to enact the Myanmar museum draft law and the conservation of intangible cultural heritage law (draft).

Then, Committee Vice-Chair Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko

Ko explained the exploration and conservation of ancient cultural heritage, the formation of a national intangible cultural heritage conservation committee, the establishment of museums representing the country and ethnic people and the enactment of Myanmar museum draft law.

Secretary of the Committee Deputy Minister Daw Nu Mra Zan also presented the completed work plans set at the 5th committee meeting, ongoing and future work plans and the attendees coordinated the discussion.

The Deputy Prime Minister called on the participants to work together in conserving the tangible and intangible cultural heritages, be aware of the country's intangible cultural heritage to prevent it from being copied by other countries, and appreciated the achievements of the central committee. — MNA/KTZH

Union Industry Minister arrives back after attending China-ASEAN Forum on Emerging Industries

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than arrived back in Yangon yesterday afternoon after attending the China-ASEAN Forum on Emerging Industries held in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province of China on 4 and 5 July.

Mr Ouyang Daobing, Commercial Attaché of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar, and officials from the Ministry of Industry welcomed back the delegation at the Yangon International Airport. — MNA/MKKS



Mol Union Minister Dr Charlie Than is welcomed back at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

MoFA Union Minister receives foreign heads of missions, UN representative

U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Rashid Abdulla M A Al-Kuwari, Charge' d'affaires of Qatar at 9 am, Mr Vinay Kumar, Ambassador of India at 10 am, Mr Saud bin Abdullah Alsubaie, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia at 11 am, and Mr Ramanathan Balakrishnan, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator at 1 pm respectively at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Yangon yesterday.

At the call with the charge' d'affaires of Qatar, they cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the enhancement of friendly bilateral ties between Myanmar and Qatar; expanding mutually beneficial cooperation including trade and investment, particularly in the areas of agricultural and maritime products, energy, hotel and tourism. They also discussed on resumption of commercial flights as well as the signing of MoUs and Agreements for accelerating bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and Qatar.

During the call with the Indian ambassador, they candidly exchanged views on matters re-



The Qatar charge' d'affaires calls on Union Minister U Than Swe yesterday.

lated to the promotion of existing friendly bilateral relations, expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation including electricity transmission, India's continued support of the rehabilitation and reconstruction works in areas affected by the Cyclone MOCHA as well as closer collaboration in the regional and international fora.

At the call with the Saudi ambassador, they cordially discussed matters pertaining to the promotion of friendly relations between Myanmar and

Saudi Arabia, the possibility of exporting Myanmar's agricultural and marine products to Saudi Arabia, enhancing bilateral cooperation in the fields of energy, trade and investment, labour, culture and education as well as strengthening cooperation in multilateral fora.

During the meeting with the UN resident coordinator, they discussed matters of cooperation in the smooth and effective provision of humanitarian assistance to the Myanmar people affected by Cyclone Mocha. — MNA

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Rakhine State CM attends ceremonies providing paddy, vegetable seeds, vaccination in Sittway, Ponnagyun twps

CHAIRMAN of Rakhine State Disaster Management Committee Rakhine State Chief

Minister U Htein Lin, deputy ministers, state ministers, and officials attended the ceremonies

providing paddy and vegetable seeds for farmers affected by Cyclone Mocha from Sittway

and Ponnagyun townships yesterday morning.

The chief minister and party handed over the paddy and vegetable seeds to farmers and villagers at the monastery of Ywathitkay Village in Sittway Township and at the meeting hall of the Agriculture Department in Ponnagyun Township, and individual farmers expressed their thanks. At the ceremonies, the chief minister highlighted the importance of proper cultivation methods and called on farmers and relevant departmental personnel to make joint efforts for great yield since necessary techniques will be provided by the Agriculture Department.

Afterwards, the chief minister and officials oversaw the vaccination activity for COVID-19 for students aged over

five at the Basic Education High School in Ahlelsu Ward, the renovation work of the U Riz Mingala Suspension Bridge, and the soft crab farming business of Advanced Seafood Industries Co Ltd in Ponnagyun Township. Then, the chief minister and party observed each activity, gave suggestions and necessary instructions. In the afternoon, the chief minister and officials attended a natural disaster recovery work coordination meeting at the Rakhine State government office. At the meeting, the necessary coordination was done on the reports regarding economic development conditions, follow-up measures, and implementation by respective work committees of the decisions of the meetings on rehabilitation activities. — MNA/CT



The vaccination for schoolchildren above 5 is underway in Ponnagyun Township yesterday.

Myanmar hosts 44th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matter and Its Related Meeting (ASOD)

MYANMAR hosted the 44th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matter and Its Related Meeting (ASOD) via videoconferencing yesterday.

At the meeting, Secretary of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar Police Force Maj-Gen Zin Min Htet said the drug problems become more complex according to the developing condition and innovative techniques today. The illicit drug trafficking and smuggling are the most dangerous cases in every world country in addition to ASEAN countries. The changes of production, transportation and ways for drugs cause challenges in combating these processes. The manmade drug consumption is also high and the new drugs like Happy Water are also can be seen in various forms.

Moreover, Myanmar is conducting systematic and special operations by reviewing the changes in drug production and transportation. The Operation 1511/22 jointly conducted by

Laos, Myanmar and Thailand in 2022 was successful. Currently, the Operation 39 for combating drugs and precursor was also launched from 1 February and 31 July across the nation.

Then, he mentioned that it was necessary to share information among ASEAN countries in a timely manner and cooperate in combating drugs without any political interference.

Then, Malaysian ASOD leader who led 43rd ASOD meeting handed over the duty of patron for the 44th ASOD meeting to Police Brig-Gen Win Naing.

The delegations led by Police Brig-Gen Win Naing, Joint Secretary of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control and Commander of the Drug Enforcement Division, ASOD leaders of ASEAN, ASEAN Secretary-General Office, UNODC and AFP discussed the anti-drug activities, cooperation, completed works, preparation to hold ASEAN ministerial meeting on drugs, activities as member of Commission on Narcotic Drug (CND), statement to be submit-



The 44th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matter and Its Related Meeting (ASOD) in progress online yesterday.

ted to the 67th CND meeting and holding of the 45th ASOD meeting.

On 5 July, the five working groups of the 44th ASOD such as Preventive Education, Treatment and Rehabilitation, Law Enforcement, Research, and

Alternative Development held meetings and were attended by representatives of 10 ASEAN countries.

The meeting discussed the educating programmes on dangers of drugs, medical treatment to drug addicts, integration and

other matters.

The representatives of ASEAN countries and partner countries such as China, India, Korea, Russia, UNODC and AFP attended the 44th ASOD meeting that will be held until 7 July. — 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.

Working Group on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism holds meeting

A meeting of the Working Group on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



The meeting of the Working Group on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism in progress yesterday.

During the meeting, Working Group Chairperson Central Bank of Myanmar Governor Daw Than Than Swe highlighted the statement of FATF not to affect the activities of NPO that conform with the law and the transfer of funds in support of humanitarian work in conducting special anti-money laundering tasks at the banks. She continued that Myanmar works together with relevant departments for Action Plan mentioned in the progress report submitted to the Joint Asia-Pacific group. Moreover, the country will participate in APG Annual Meeting to be held from 9 to 14 July to discuss the cooperation of Myanmar-ICRG and other APG issues. The NGOs and INGOs

in Myanmar also should review the acceptance of international money transfers under the law, procedures and stipulations and the relevant departments also should draft SOP.

Then, Vice-Chairman of Working Group and Anti-Corruption Commission Member U Kyaw Win Thein discussed the need to follow FATF's recommendation 8 and draft the SOP, guidelines and timeline by the ministries to facilitate the processes of registration, MoU and money transfers as per the stipulations of the law.

Officials of relevant ministries, NGOs and INGOs coordinated the discussion and the meeting concluded. — MNA/KTZH

Public Notice for Elimination of Violence

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

83 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 6 July, total figure registers 640,696

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to **640,696** after **83** new cases were reported on 6 July 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of **10,891,631** laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached **640,696**.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **619,528** including **20** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered **19,494** on 6-7-2023 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

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

AN on-duty team under the supervision of the Kayin State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force impounded 5.468 tonnes of illegal teak worth K1,804,440 in the Thandaung forest reserve in Thandaunggyi township on 2 July. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Similarly, a combined team conducted inspections at the Nanbyu bridge in Tanai township on 2 July and captured a Toyota Surf (car approximate value of K5 million) without official documents and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

In addition, on 3 July, the on-duty teams under the management of the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force nabbed a total of 0.101 tonne of illegal gumkino timbers without official documents from a Hyundai minibus (estimated value of K20 million) travelling from Lashio to Mandalay and four kinds

of goods (worth K511,500) including a total of 0.465 tonne of illegal teak timbers from a CWD dump truck (estimated value of K13 million) heading to PyinOoLwin from Mandalay at the 16th-Mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint and five kinds of goods worth K3,335,000 including a set of unfinished teak furniture from an AD van station wagon (approximate value of K20 million), two kinds of goods (worth K2.3 million) including four cupboards from an AD van station wagon (approximate value of K20 million) and six kinds of goods worth K3.195 million including six single wingback chairs from an AD van station wagon (approximate value of K20 million) at the 15/3 Milepost on the Mandalay-PyinOoLwin road. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Similarly, a combined team led by the Monywa Township Customs Department head nabbed three kinds of goods

worth K7.3 million including 90 bags of sugar made in India without official documents and the action was taken under Customs procedures.

A total of five kinds of goods (worth K3,764,250) including a set of infant lights and 10 kinds of goods worth 3,177,800 including two sets of commodes without official documents were seized near a small bus station compound at the Theinthanchi bus station compound and the bypass road in Muse township on 4 July. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

An on-duty team at the Myanmar Industrial Port seized 100 fire hose reels worth K3.15 million on 4 July and the action was taken under Customs procedures. Therefore, 17 arrests (estimated value of K126,649,970) were made on three consecutive days from 2 to 4 July, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS



Confiscated illegal goods at the Myanmar Industrial Port.

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Low stocks push up sugar price

THE price of sugar continued its upward trend on account of the low stocks in the domestic market.

The rise in local sugar price is attributed to high sugar global market price at a current level of \$680 per tonne.

Additionally, low stock in the domestic market and lack of sugar import from foreign markets drove the price up.

The prevailing prices stand at K3,250-K3,270 per viss in the domestic market.

Following the soaring sugar price, with a view to facilitating sugarcane growers, some companies have reportedly planned to contribute K200,000 per acre in advance for those new sugarcane growers for the 2023-2024

season.

In the 2023-2024 season, new advanced machines will be added. Moreover, sugarcane expansion is also expected on account of soaring sugar prices.

Myanmar's annual sugar production is estimated at 450,000 tonnes. Myanmar earlier sent sugar to China and Viet Nam beyond self-sufficiency. At present, it is delivered to Viet Nam only, said U Win Htay, vice chair of the association.

Sugar export to China via border was conducted under the state-level Memorandum of Understanding. However, it came to a halt suddenly due to the COVID-19 policy of China. Therefore, the sugar industry called for a government to gov-



The sugarcane is grown in December-January. It can be harvested from November to February of the following years. The sugarcane growing rotation cycle lasts four years in Myanmar.

ernment agreement to legally export sugar to China under quota.

At present, Myanmar's sugar is shipped to Viet Nam and it can be granted tax exemption by presenting the Certificate of Origin. Only three registered Myanmar companies are entitled

for sugar exports to Viet Nam so far.

Sugarcane is commonly found in the upper Sagaing Region, followed by northern Shan State. It is also found in the western and eastern Bago Region, Yangon Region and Mandalay

Region.

The sugarcane is grown in December-January. It can be harvested from November to February of the following years. The sugarcane growing rotation cycle lasts four years in Myanmar. — NN/EM

Corn price slips under K1,200 per viss

THE price of corn was on a gradual decline, touching a low of under K1,200 per viss, according to the Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Commodity Depot).

The sluggish foreign demand and decrease in FOB prices to (US\$300-320 per tonne) are contributing factors to the current price drop, as per Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

Corn fetches K1,190 per viss in the domestic market. Myanmar delivered corn to China and Thailand through the border and also shipped corn to China, India, Viet Nam and the Philippines by sea.

China is purchasing Myanmar's corn through cross-border

trade under the opium substitution programme. Legitimate corn trade between Myanmar and China commenced at the end of 2022. A total of 112 companies have been given the go-ahead for corn exports.

Thailand gives the green light to corn imports under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand imposed a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn imports to protect the rights of their growers if the corn is imported during the corn season of Thailand.

The directive released on 30 June 2022 said that transactions for the exports of agricultural products including corn, rice,

bean and oil crops are to be made in dollars instead of Yuan-Kyat/Baht-Kyat. Therefore, 65 per cent of export earnings (US dollars) of the corn have to be exchanged according to the reference rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar (K2,100). Nonetheless, there is a large gap between the regulated rate and the unauthorized rate of the US dollar over K3,100.

Myanmar exported more than two million tonnes of corn to foreign trade in the 2022 corn season. The majority of them were sent to Thailand and the remaining went to the Philippines, China, India and Viet Nam.

More than two million tonnes of corn are expected to be shipped to foreign trade partners in the 2023 corn season, said U Min Khaing, chair of the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons — winter, summer and monsoon. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year. — NN/EM



Myanmar exported more than two million tonnes of corn to foreign trade in the 2022 corn season. The majority of them were sent to Thailand and the remaining went to the Philippines, China, India and Viet Nam.



Myanmar's fresh fruits are seen in neat packaging.

Duty-free products allowed to be sold on e-Market Platform until 26 Nov

THE Industrial Supervision and Inspection Department under the Ministry of Industry has invited local MSME entrepreneurs to sell duty-free products on the "e-Market Place for Myanmar Products Platform" until 26 November.

The e-Market Place is a digital platform where local private MSME enterprises and state-owned industries can directly connect sellers and buyers.

Currently, it sells more than 160 types of products including food products, electrical appliances and consumer goods mostly based on agricultural and livestock products.

Entrepreneurs can provide services of their own choice with delivery activities.

There are delivery companies such as TK, Mal Port and Royal as determined by the platform. — TWA/KZL

OPINION

Understand the unique value of concerted efforts and forests

THE recent cyclonic storm that struck various parts of Rakhine State during the early monsoon season was a grave test for its inhabitants. However, thanks to meticulous preparations, swift rescue and relief efforts, and a dedicated process of rehabilitation and reconstruction, the people managed to withstand the storm's ferocity with minimal casualties, losses, and infrastructure damage.

The success of Myanmar in confronting this severe storm can be attributed to the combined efforts of the Union government, the Rakhine State government, departmental personnel, social organizations, and local communities. Additionally, contributions from both domestic and foreign individuals played a significant role in mitigating the storm's impact.

Unfortunately, the storm resulted in the loss of natural forests

and mangrove forests in Rakhine State. Despite the devastation caused by the strong winds, these trees served as a protective barrier against the storm's effects. This highlights the importance of appreciating the unique value of forests, trees, and windbreaks. In response to the destruction, officials have identified suitable tree species for cultivation in the areas affected by the storm. It is essential to replace the fallen trees with new ones and restore and regenerate mangrove plants along Sittway Beach. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has devised a plan to grow 24.619 million trees across the nation, 204,200 saplings of which will be planted in Rakhine State this monsoon as a special initiative for successful reforestation. As the forest cover in Rakhine State dwindle, it becomes crucial to protect and expand forests and mangrove forests by cultivating more saplings. It is imperative that the trees selected for cultivation are resilient to storm impacts and do not impede the urbanization process in the region.

During the storm, Rakhine State experienced heavy rainfall, leading to the destruction of buildings and trees. However, the presence of thriving trees and the proactive measures taken by the people prevented the land from being ravaged. The trees played a vital role in averting landslides and flooding triggered by the storm named Mocha. This serves as a valuable lesson for the residents, illustrating the importance of trees and forests in safeguarding communities against natural disasters.

Residents in Rakhine State have already known the best consequence of united strength in natural disasters and the unprecedented value of trees and forests in preventive measures against disasters. They have enhanced their capacity in an important situation with self-confidence and they have a topic to be handed down to new generations that they had successfully overcome challenges of natural disasters.

Global FDI down 12% in 2022 due to crises: UNCTAD

Industries struggling with supply chain challenges, including electronics, semiconductors, automotive and machinery, saw a surge in projects, while investment in digital economy sectors slowed, UNCTAD said in its World Investment Report 2023.

AFTER a strong rebound in 2021, global foreign direct investment (FDI) fell by 12 per cent in 2022 to 1.3 trillion US dollars, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said on Wednesday.

Overlapping global crises, such as the military conflict between Russia and Ukraine, high food and energy prices, and soaring public debt, mainly caused the decrease, the UNCTAD said in its World Investment Report 2023.

The decline was felt mostly in developed economies, where FDI fell by 37 per cent to 378 billion US dollars. On a positive note, greenfield investment project announcements were up 15 per cent in 2022, growing in most regions and sectors, the report said.

Industries struggling with supply chain challenges, includ-



Workers assemble a BMW car at Gaya Motor Plant in Jakarta, Indonesia, June 6, 2023. PHOTO: AGUNG KUNCAHYA B./XINHUA

ing electronics, semiconductors, automotive and machinery, saw a surge in projects, while investment in digital economy sectors slowed, it said. The report revealed a wide-

ening annual investment deficit that developing countries face as they work to achieve the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The gap is now about 4 trillion US dollars per year - up from 2.5 trillion US dollars in 2015, when the SDGs were adopted.

International investment in renewable energy generation, including solar and wind, grew by eight per cent, slower than the 50 per cent growth recorded in 2021. Notably, projects announced in battery manufacturing tripled to more than 100 billion US dollars in 2022, the report added.

Although renewable energy investments have nearly tripled since the adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015, most of the money has gone to developed countries. While developing countries need about 1.7 trillion US dollars each year in renewable energy investments -- includ-

ing for power grids, transmission lines and storage — they only attracted about 544 billion US dollars in 2022, the report said.

The report showed that more than 30 developing countries still have not registered a large international investment project in renewables. Although most developing countries have set targets for transitioning to sustainable energy sources, only one-third of them have turned the targets into information on investment requirements.

The report called for urgent support to developing countries to enable them to attract significantly more investment for their transition to clean energy.

It proposed a compact setting out priority actions, ranging from financing mechanisms to investment policies, to ensure sustainable energy for all.

SOURCE: Xinhua

THE most prevalent degenerative joint condition, osteoarthritis, affects 22 per cent of persons over 40 worldwide. The molecular alterations connected to osteoarthritis are still unknown, despite the ailment having received substantial medical study. In a recent study, scientists used several tools to monitor the disease's development and the alterations it causes.

The smooth surface of the cartilage in the joints, along with a lubricant called synovial fluid, helps them resist weight-bearing movements. Several chemicals, including phospholipids and hyaluronan (HA), are present in the fluid. Researchers have sought to identify the early stages of joint illness by monitoring the molecular weight and concentration of HA since the cartilage environment cannot be easily mended or regenerated.

"Although we know that in healthy joints there is very low friction, it is unclear which other molecules are involved and how they change during osteoarthritis," said Rosa Espinosa-Marzal (EIRH), Donald Biggar Willett

How structural changes associated with osteoarthritis, finds study

SYNOPSIS:

- Osteoarthritis, the most prevalent degenerative joint condition, affects 22 per cent of individuals over 40 worldwide.
- The molecular alterations associated with osteoarthritis are still unknown despite extensive medical research.
- Phospholipids and hyaluronan (HA) are present in synovial fluid, and monitoring the molecular weight and concentration of HA can help identify early stages of joint illness.
- Researchers wanted to investigate the relationship between cartilage degradation and changes in

Faculty Scholar and a professor of environmental engineering & science, and materials science & engineering. "During the early stages of osteoarthritis, the cartilage starts degrading, and previous research has shown that the molecular composition of the synovial fluid changes. We wanted to see if the two changes are related to each other."

In a healthy joint, the molecular weight of HA varies between 2-20 MDa with a concentration ranging from 1-4 mg/ml. However,

in diseased joints, HA is broken down resulting in a lower molecular weight. Additionally, its concentration is also reduced by ten times. Based on these observations, made by other researchers, the study looked at how the concentration and molecular weight of HA influences the structure of healthy and diseased joints.

To do so, the researchers combined vesicles with high and low molecular weight HA. Using neutron scattering and light scattering, they discovered that

the molecular weight of HA can vastly change the structure of the vesicles. Lower molecular weight HA, which mimics osteoarthritis-diseased joints, results in larger vesicle size. They also observed that the molecular weight of HA changes the thickness of the phospholipid layers in the joints.

The researchers also studied how these differences can influence the formation of a protective film; in joints, this film is responsible for the very low friction we need for unhindered motion. Once

the molecular composition of synovial fluid during the early stages of osteoarthritis.

- The study used vesicles with high and low molecular weight HA to examine the impact of HA concentration and molecular weight on joint structure.
- The researchers studied how these differences could affect the formation of a protective film, crucial for low-friction joint motion.
- The researchers aim to validate their findings with biological systems, using cartilage, and study other molecular components in joints to develop a more comprehensive model of osteoarthritis-associated changes.

again, they used a combination of techniques, quartz crystal microbalance and atomic force microscopy, to examine how these molecules assemble on gold surfaces.

"The formation of a film is possible only when there is an optimal concentration of HA and phospholipids. Even though the gold surfaces have very little in common with cartilage, our studies indicate that there could also be an optimum concentration under biological conditions," Espinosa-Marzal said. "This is an

important observation because we can use the concentration changes as a diagnostic tool."

"We are at a point where you need to use multiple techniques on a complex system like this," said Mark Rutland, a professor of surface science at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology. "None of these techniques alone would have given us any insight. The key was to look at all the different effects and put the pieces together to show that the molecular weight of HA has a huge effect on the

ARTICLE WEATHER REPORT



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 6 July 2023)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 7 July 2023: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Magway Region and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Taninthayi Regions and (Northern and Eastern) Shan State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Rakhine State and isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady Regions and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squall with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (30-35) mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (7-10) feet in Deltaic, feet off and along Rakhine Coast and (6-8) Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Moderate monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 July 2023: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 July 2023: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 July 2023: Isolate

characteristics of the layer that is formed with phospholipids."

The researchers are now working on using cartilage to understand whether their observations with gold surfaces also hold true in a biologically relevant system. They are also interested in studying the other molecular components that are found in joints to build a more comprehensive model of the changes that are associated with osteoarthritis.

SOURCE: ANI



The most prevalent degenerative joint condition, osteoarthritis, affects 22 per cent of persons over 40 worldwide. PHOTO: TWITTER/ANI

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Weekly market update of dry groceries at Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre

FOR a week from 30 June and 6 July 2023, the prices of garlic and potato went up at the Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre and the onion price remained unchanged. Yet the prices of palm oil and pulses fluctuated.

Onion

The Bayintnaung Wholesale market saw the entry of 150,000 viss of onions from various regions on 6 July. The wholesale prices moved in the range of K1,750 and K2,100 per viss depending on the quality, size and producing areas (Seikphyu and Monywa) that day.

With 25,000 onions being supplied to the Seikphyu market, the highest price was K1,850 per viss only on 6 July. Meanwhile, 55,000 viss of onions were supplied to the Pakokku market and the price hit K1,850-1,925 per viss, the market data showed.

Garlic

The prices of garlic from Shan State rose to K7,200-8,700 per viss depending on varieties and qualities, whereas Kyukok garlic fetched K7,200 per viss as well.

Potato

The wholesale price of potato imported by China was K2,675 per vison 6 July.

Chilli pepper

The wholesale prices of chili

peppers were K13,000-14,000 per viss for long chilli pepper and Moehtaung variety. The prices of bell peppers from Sinphyukyun area and delta regions were K15,000-17,000 per viss.

Rice

The prices hit K51,000 per bag of low-grade rice and K70,000 for summer short-mature rice (90-days) and K83,000 for Pawkywe variety. The high-grade Pawsan rice prices were K88,000 from Bogale area, K93,000 from Pyapon and K110,000 from Shwebo area.

Palm oil

For a week from 3 to 9 July, the wholesale reference price of Yangon Region was set at K4,030 per viss.

The wholesale market price was K6,500 per viss on 6 July. It peaked at K8,000-8,200 per viss on 28 June from K6,500 per viss on 21 June and plunged down on 6 July.

Pulses

The prices of various pulses stood at K2,210,000 per tonne of black gram (Fair Average Quality/RC), K2,440,000 per tonne of black gram (Special Quality/RC), K3,150,000 per tonne of pigeon pea (red gram) RC, K3,750 per viss of green gram and K5,600-5,800 per viss of chickpea in Yangon markets. — TWA/EM

Myanmar Mercantile Marine College to admit 300 students



The graduation ceremony of the Diploma Course No 13/2022 of the Myanmar Mercantile Marine College.

THE Myanmar Mercantile Marine College (MMMC) will admit 300 students for the 2024-2025 academic year.

The college will accept a total of 300 cadets, including 130 nautical cadets and 40 marine electrical engineering cadets. Applications will be accepted from 7 July to 1 September.

To be eligible, applicants must have passed the matriculation exam with a subject combination that includes Physics and Chemistry, and their total score must be at least 400. Additionally, applicants must not be older than 19 years of age on 31 December 2023.

Shortlisting of applicants will be based on their matriculation test scores, starting with the highest, until the required number of students is reached. Selected candidates will then undergo a series of examinations, including hearing, general health, eye (colour blind test), mental illness and drug abuse screenings.

Applicants need to apply for only one type of course and provide complete personal information. Along with the application, two passport-sized photos, endorsements of good moral behaviour, a confirmation letter signed by the school headmaster/headmistress con-

firming the applicant's matriculation exam passing status, the original score sheet and declarations stating that both parents and the applicant are Myanmar citizens must be submitted.

Candidates selected in the preliminary stage will need to submit both the original and a copy of their university entrance examination certificate from the Department of Myanmar Examinations when reporting back after the medical examination organized by the MMMC. Failure to report on the specified date will result in removal from the selected preliminary list. — TWA/CT

MRTV to broadcast Friday Night Live Show programme featuring memorable songs by Sein Moh Moh



THE Friday Night Live Show, featuring Sein Moh Moh's memorable songs will be aired on the MRTV-HD channel on 7 July.

In the programme, 10 famous songs by Sein Moh Moh will be sung by other singers, and the show will be re-broadcast at 10:30 am on 9 July.

The music concert, titled "Memorable Songs by Sein Moh Moh", will be recorded and broadcast. Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV-HD) published an announcement on 6 July to respectfully inform the copyright holders that these songs will be used free of charge.

Sein Moh Moh, a renowned vocalist in the early stereo period and MRTV, passed away at the age of 63 on 23 June at the Green Cross Hospital in Yangon. — TWA/CT

The picture depicts a poster of the Friday Night Live Show.

2022 Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award (shortlist-level) selection group holds meeting

THE meeting of the 2022 Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award (shortlist-level) selection group was held at the meeting hall of Sarpay Beikman office yesterday, for the award selection processes of 2022 Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award.

At the meeting, selection group members discussed selection of manuscripts for shortlist for the 2022 Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award.

In addition, officials urged

the authors, publishers and distributors and public via newspapers and MRTV to send the first published books in 2023 to the administration department of the selection committee for the National Literary Award.

A total of 152 books were received for 19 genres in the 2023 National Literary Award from June to 4 July 2023 by the National Literary Award selection committee.

— TWA/MKKS

LIFESTYLE/WELLNESS: WORLD

Twitter rival Threads crosses 10 mln users within hours of launch

MORE than 10 million people have signed up to Threads, Meta's rival to Twitter, within the first few hours of its launch, the Facebook parent's CEO Mark Zuckerberg said Thursday.

Threads is the biggest challenger yet to Elon Musk-owned Twitter, which has seen a series of potential competitors emerge but not yet replace one of social media's most iconic companies, despite its epic struggles.

The app went live on Apple and Android app stores in 100 countries at 2300 GMT on Wednesday, and will run with no ads for now.

"10 million sign ups in seven hours," Zuckerberg wrote



In this photo illustration, the Threads logo is displayed on a cell phone on 5 July 2023 in San Anselmo, California. **PHOTO: JUSTIN SULLIVAN / AFP**

on his official Threads account Thursday.

Accounts were already active for celebrities such as Jen-

nifer Lopez, Shakira and Hugh Jackman, as well as media outlets including The Washington Post and The Economist.

Zuckerberg spent the first few hours of the platform's launch replying to new users.

"Round one of this thing is getting off to a good start," he said in another.

Zuckerberg also offered a shot across the bow at Musk — the pair are known to be bitter rivals, and have even offered to meet each other in a fighting cage to wrestle it out.

In his first tweet in over a decade, Zuckerberg posted a Spiderman pointing at Spiderman meme in an apparent reference

to the similarity of the two platforms.

Twitter has said it has more than 200 million daily users.

'Be kind'

Threads was introduced as a clear spin-off of Instagram, which offers a built-in audience of more than two billion users, thereby sparing the new platform the challenge of starting from scratch.

Zuckerberg is widely understood to be taking advantage of Musk's chaotic ownership of Twitter to push out the new product, which Meta hopes will become the go-to communication channel for celebrities, companies and politicians. — AFP

First Saudi at Paris Fashion Week underlines dramatic changes

SAUDI Arabia is continuing its multi-billion-dollar entry into all aspects of global culture, hitting a new milestone on Thursday with the first Saudi designer presenting at Paris Fashion Week.

Mohammed Ashi's haute couture show — his first as part of the official roster after years of dressing top celebrities — is "the peak of my career", he told AFP at a cocktail soiree at the Ritz Hotel in Paris this week, part of a lavish Saudi PR campaign throughout this fashion season.

Ashi forged his own path, having left the kingdom three decades ago, but his promotion to the top league is neatly timed as Riyadh announces its own

fashion week in October and says new freedoms will create retail opportunities worth \$32 billion a year.

Fashion is just one strand of a strategy that has seen de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman divert its oil wealth into movies, sports, video games and tourism, while overseeing dramatic social changes within the kingdom.

Many worried it was all just a smokescreen to defuse criticism of his human rights record, especially after the gruesome murder of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in 2018. But the changes ran further and deeper than almost anyone expected. — AFP



Saudi Arabia is making a big splash in the fashion world by sending a designer to show his clothes in Paris, France. **PHOTO: AFP**

The UK botanist who helped revive Japan's seaweed industry

EACH year in southern Japan, dozens of people gather at a sea-front shrine to honour a British botanist who never visited the country but is credited with revitalizing its crucial seaweed industry.

Kathleen Drew-Baker made groundbreaking discoveries about the reproduction of "nori" seaweed — the crispy dried sheets that encircle sushi rolls — helping kick-start its farming on a commercial scale.

Her studies at the University of Manchester allowed Japan to ramp up production in the difficult period after World War II, when small-scale growers were having trouble meeting demand.

But she carried out her most influential work as an unpaid



Supplied photo shows a variety of sushi at sushi restaurant chain Sushiro. **PHOTO: KYODO**

research fellow, having lost her academic post after marriage because of the university's policy at the time against employing married women.

Although Drew-Baker died in 1957, her memory lives on in the city of Uto in Kumamoto, one of Japan's largest nori-growing regions. — AFP

Study highlights limitations of BMI in predicting death

PEOPLE classified as overweight though not obese are not at a higher risk of death, according to a new study Wednesday that underscores the limitations of the body mass index (BMI), long a standard medical metric.

The findings, published in the journal PLOS ONE, come as populations in both rich and poor countries are becoming heavier. In the United States, more than

70 per cent of adults are defined as either overweight or obese.

BMI, which was first described by a Belgian mathematician in the 19th century, is calculated by dividing a person's weight by the square of their height. It is increasingly seen as a crude instrument for measuring individual health. Lead author Aayush Visaria of Rutgers University told AFP: "I think the real thing

that people should get from this is that BMI by itself is just not a great indicator of health."

Measuring waist circumference or performing a type of scan that visualizes bone density, body fat and muscle mass should also be used for a more holistic interpretation, he said. Having excess fat still increases risk for a range of conditions including heart disease, stroke and diabetes. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Ruling parties agree Japan can export defence equipment with weapons

JAPAN'S ruling parties agreed Wednesday that the nation can export non-combat cars and vessels equipped with lethal weapons, despite its strict restrictions on overseas shipments of weapons.

A report compiled by lawmakers of the Liberal Democratic Party and its junior coalition partner Komeito, however, said they remain divided on the permissibility of Japan exporting fighter jets jointly developed with other countries to third nations.

Itsunori Onodera, a former defence minister who heads the working group of the two parties on the issue, said at a press conference that the ruling bloc will resume discussions in the fall to hammer out a draft for revised rules.



Lawmakers of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and its junior coalition partner Komeito meet in the parliament building in Tokyo on 5 July 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The report comes as the government has become willing to relax its stringent “three

principles” on the transfer of defence equipment and technology to prop up the domestic defense

industry and support Ukraine by delivering weapons amid Russia's prolonged invasion. So far,

Japan has maintained its position that the three principles under its war-renouncing Constitution ban lethal weapons exports, except for items jointly developed or produced with other countries, which can be transferred among them.

The LDP, led by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, has been eager to ease the rules, but Komeito has been reluctant to change them for fears that weapon exports could exacerbate armed conflicts and run counter to Japan's postwar pacifism. Japan, meanwhile, has decided to jointly develop a next-generation fighter jet with Britain and Italy by 2035.

The final products are expected to be shipped by the two European states to third nations, regardless of Tokyo's prohibition on weapons exports. — Kyodo

Saudi says oil cuts show not at odds with Russia



An engineer at work at a Saudi oil facility. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE / SCANPIX/AFP**

SAUDI Arabia on Wednesday dismissed talk of discord with oil ally Russia, praising their coordinated decisions to remove

barrels from the market in efforts to prop up prices.

Oil producers are grappling with falling prices and high mar-

ket volatility amid fears of global economic slowdown and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which has upended economies worldwide.

On Monday, Riyadh said that it would extend a production reduction of one million barrels per day (bpd), which began in July, to August to boost prices.

At the same time, its ally in the OPEC+ group of oil producers, Russia, decided to slash exports by 500,000 bpd in August.

Speaking at an OPEC seminar in Vienna on Wednesday, Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman said the coordinated announcement was “quite telling”. — AFP

UK warns energy firms against exploiting high prices

BRITISH regulators Tuesday warned energy companies against exploiting elevated prices and told financial firms to avoid doing the same over surging interest rates, as stubbornly-high inflation fuels a cost-of-living crisis.

Energy bills rocketed, and remain high, after key gas producer Russia invaded neighbour Ukraine last year, sparking vast state subsidies to cushion the blow to consumers.

But such help has dwindled, leaving millions of Britons with bills still about twice the cost of gas and electricity compared with 18 months ago, even with temperatures warmer and the days longer.

Energy regulator Ofgem on Tuesday warned Britain's domestic energy providers to retain profits to help cash-strapped customers — instead of rewarding shareholders with bumper dividends. — AFP



Energy regulator Ofgem on Tuesday warned Britain's domestic energy providers to retain profits to help cash-strapped customers — instead of rewarding shareholders with bumper dividends. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE / DANIEL LEAL/AFP**

Türkiye's inflation rate slows to 38.2%

TÜRKIYE's annual inflation rate slowed to 38.2 per cent in June, official data showed Wednesday, although economists warned that this may be a low point for the year.

The rate slowed from 39.6 per cent in May, according to the TÜIK state statistics agency.

A separate study released by

independent economists from the ENAG group who question the official data put the June figure at 108.6 per cent, up from 105.2 per cent in May.

The official rate has been steadily dropping since reaching a more than two-decade high of 85 per cent in October of last year.

But economists think infla-

tion will soon start growing faster because of the vast spending pledges President Recep Tayyip Erdogan meted out ahead of May's general election.

Türkiye has also allowed its tightly controlled currency to start losing value against the dollar at a faster-than-expected rate.—AFP

China-Europe freight train trips up in H1



Shipping containers loaded with construction materials departed by train from Langfang, Hebei province on 4 July and will arrive in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in about 12 days.

PHOTO: CHINADAILY

CHINA-EUROPE freight (H1) of this year, official train services saw steady data showed Thursday. growth in the first half The number of China-Eu-

rope freight train services increased by 16 per cent year on year to 8,641 trips during the January-June period, according to the China State Railway Group Co Ltd. Some 936,000 20-foot equivalent units (TEU) of goods were transported via freight trains, up 30 per cent. As China's foreign trade remained stable, the company said it increased train capacity, added new routes, offered customized services, and strengthened land port construction during the period to meet robust cross-border transport demand. — Xinhua

China says critical metals curbs 'not targeting' any country

CHINA'S commerce ministry on Thursday said recent curbs on essential chip-making metals were not aimed at any specific country and that they did

not represent a "ban on exports".

This week, Chinese authorities said exports of gallium and germanium — crucial for the manufac-

turing of semiconductors — will require a licence and declaration of their final recipient from 1 August, citing national security concerns. — AFP

Alps to Atlas: Swiss-inspired cheese comes to Algeria mountains

SPORTING a white cap and apron, Rachid Ibersiene bustles around vats at his dairy in Algeria's Atlas Mountains where he has brought the tradition of artisanal cheesemaking back from Switzerland.

"We started with a butane gas bottle and stove," the cheesemonger said, alluding to the growth of his factory since it opened.

In a matter of 15 years, Ibersiene's "Tamgout" cheese — a blend of the Swiss Gruyere and Dutch Gouda styles — has become a source of honour for the north African country. Both Algerians and foreigners have taken a keen interest in the product, which has a unique taste as it draws on age-old European traditions but is made from Algerian milk.

"We were inspired by Vacherin Fribourgeois, adapting the entire tra-

dition to Algerian milk, which is different from Swiss milk," Ibersiene said, referring to a semi-hard Swiss cheese.

"Algerian milk is less uniform and somewhat more organic because the farms are smaller and more diversified. In Switzerland, you don't find farmers with only two or three dairy cows.

"Our cheese has a more nuanced taste," the 57-year-old added,

describing it as "typically Algerian". Born to a working-class family in Algiers, Ibersiene studied petroleum engineering but struggled to find a job.

After moving to Italy, he tried his luck at filmmaking before relocating again to Switzerland, where he spent 16 years working as a computer consultant.

"That's where the idea of the cheese factory came from," he recalled. — AFP



Tamgout' cheese, a blend of the Swiss Gruyere and Dutch Gouda styles, has become a source of pride in the north African country. PHOTO: AFP

Canadian govt to stop buying ads on Facebook, Instagram

CANADA'S government will stop buying ads on Facebook and Instagram, Heritage Minister Pablo Rodriguez announced Wednesday, as a feud heats up with tech giants over a new media compensation law.

The Online News Act, adopted by parliament last month, requires digital giants like Google and Meta to make commercial deals to compensate Canadian news outlets when users

access articles through their products, or face binding arbitration.

Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, announced soon after the bill passed that it would take measures to block Canadian news for users on its platforms in the country.

Rodriguez described those actions on Wednesday as "unreasonable" and "irresponsible". — AFP

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PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

We, Shanghai Yuelian Chemical Industry Co.,Ltd, would like to change the Distributor of the following products, from Myanmar Byter Agro Tech Co.,Ltd to Myanmar Golden Sun Crop Science Co.,Ltd . If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Yangon, from here to next (2) weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Best Choice	Nitenpyram 20% + Pymetrozine 60% WDG	Provisional Registration	P2022-4864

Myanmar Golden Sun Crop Science Co.,Ltd
Tel: 09-784772103

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (289N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (289N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-7-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINFONIA VOY.NO. (03/2023)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINFONIA VOY.NO. (03/2023)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-7-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AIPT** 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: 2301928

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S RK SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD



Meta logo is seen on lighted screens reflected in a mirror. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

ROLLING UPDATES

ASIA

“No secret that India one of most sought-after players on global stage”: Kurt Campbell

INDIA is among one of the most sought-after players on the global stage and United States has taken its own step to develop much further the relationship between the two countries, Kurt Campbell, the US National Security Council's coordinator for Indo-Pacific affairs said on Thursday.

Terming Prime Minister Narendra Modi's State visit to the US as “absolutely historical”, Campbell said that India and US successfully took the bilateral relationship to the next level.

In an exclusive interview with ANI, Campbell who is often



US National Security Council's coordinator for Indo-Pacific affairs, Kurt Campbell. **PHOTO: ANI**

referred to as the Indo-Pacific czar in the Joe Biden administration termed ties between US and India as the “most important relationship on the planet” and stressed that it has now ascended to the top level and top layer.

“In the wake of what we think of is an absolutely historic visit of Prime Minister Modi to the United States for the state dinner, for a week of celebrating the US-India relationship. I think we together successfully took this critical bilateral relationship to the next level.”

“And I think, without ques-

tion, for me, it's the most important bilateral relationship on the planet. But, it is clearly ascended to the top level and top layer.

And I think both countries leave with both along to do list, but a much greater sense of confidence about what we can do together,” he added.

Earlier in June, PM Modi travelled to the US for a State visit. PM Modi was invited by US President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden. His visit commenced in New York where the PM led the International Day of Yoga celebrations at the United Nations Headquarters.— ANI

Hundreds flee homes after flooding in Mongolia capital

HUNDREDS of people in Mongolia's capital have fled their homes as heavy flooding inundated basement apartments, with authorities placing the city on high alert Wednesday.

Swathes of Asia have been hit by extreme weather that scientists say has been exacerbated by climate change, with over a dozen killed by heavy rain in China since Monday.

In traditionally dry Ulaanbaatar this week, heavy rains have inundated rivers, flooding basement apartments and trapping cars.

Residents of Bayanzurkh District living near the river Selbe told AFP they had been working since the early hours to boost the height of a local dam and stem rising waters caused by heavy rain.

“Our neighbours started to bring dirt and rocks from other places to add more layers on the dam at 3 am,” said a 40-year-old resident of one of the worst-affected areas, who gave his name as Delgersaikhan.

“The river level reached the dam at 1 am last night, so we've been working all night and managed to prevent our apartment from getting flooded,” he added.

Electricity has also been cut in some buildings as a precaution, with state news agency Montsame reporting that a number of roads in the capital have been closed.

The rain is set to continue for another two days, according to the country's weather agency.— AFP



Electricity has been cut in some buildings as a precaution, with state news agency Montsame reporting that a number of roads in the capital have been closed. **PHOTO: BYAMBASUREN BYAMBACHIR / AFP**

Record number of companies attend global AI conference in Shanghai



A staff member (R) introduces an intelligent logistics vehicle at the 2022 World Artificial Intelligence Conference (WAIC) in east China's Shanghai, 1 September 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FANG ZHE / XINHUA/**

A record number of companies are attending the 2023 World Artificial Intelligence Conference (WAIC), which opened in Shanghai on Thursday amid the latest AI industry frenzy.

More than 400 companies are this year participating in the event, which has a total exhibition area of 50,000 square meters at its main venue, organizers said. Both figures are at their highest levels since 2018, when the annual event was inaugurated.

Since ChatGPT took the world by storm late last year, China's AI industry has been in a frenzy, with tech giants and startups rushing to launch similar generative AI products in recent months.

Titled “Intelligent Connec-

tivity, Generating Future”, the event was expected to gather over 1,400 distinguished guests, including top scientists, entrepreneurs, government officials and delegates from international organizations.

The conference's major exhibitions focus on sectors such as core technology, intelligent terminals, application empowerment and cutting-edge technology.

Enterprises are showcasing a variety of products, including large language models, chips, robots and autonomous driving vehicles, and have launched or exhibited for the first time more than 30 new products at the WAIC.

The event will host several plenary sessions and dozens of

focused and industry forums. It has developed into an influential platform for AI cooperation and exchange, as well as a catalyst for Shanghai's AI industry.

China's AI industry is in the midst of a development boom, with the scale of the core industry at 500 billion yuan (about 69.4 billion US dollars) and the number of AI enterprises exceeding 4,300, Vice-Minister of Industry and Information Technology Xu Xiaolan said at the event's opening ceremony.

China has been accelerating its construction of AI-related infrastructure, with its total computing power ranking second globally and its number of 5G stations exceeding 2.8 million, Xu said.— Xinhua

EU lawmakers urge international probe of Greece migrant tragedy

EU lawmakers on Thursday pushed for an independent probe into a migrant boat tragedy off Greece in which hundreds of people are believed to have died, calling an internal investigation by Athens inadequate.

That stance, also backed by the European Union's Fundamental Rights Agency, seeks to shine a light on the June capsizing of an overcrowded vessel headed from North Africa to Europe.

"Maybe 600 people" drowned and "around" 110 people were rescued, EU home affairs commissioner Ylva Johansson told MEPs, based on information from Greek authorities.

She said the fishing trawl-

er had apparently been used by Egyptian smugglers who sailed it empty from Egypt to pick up to 750 people in Libya for the Mediterranean crossing to Europe.

She said the migrants were packed into the "very, very overcrowded boat" according to how much they paid: Pakistani men "stacked" on the bottom, women and children in the middle, and those with "high status" on top.

A plane with limited fuel and then a drone used by the EU's border patrol agency Frontex were diverted to overfly the boat, Frontex chief Hans Leijtens told the same European Parliament committee.

The drone, which pulled



In this file photo date 23 July 2021, rescued refugees and migrants disembark from greek coast guard vessel at the port of Ierapetra, on Island of Crete. **PHOTO: AFP**

away to observe another migrant boat two hours distant, returned to find "it already had

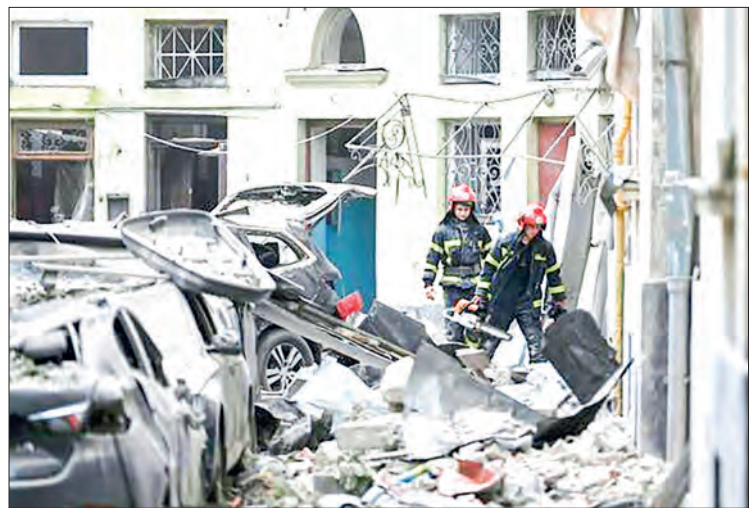
sunk", he said. "We offered to help, but there was no response from

Greek authorities," Leijtens said.— AFP

Wagner chief is still in Russia: Belarus leader

WAGNER chief Yevgeny Prigozhin is still in Russia, Belarus's president said Thursday,

raising questions about the deal to end the mercenary leader's mutiny last month.



Rescuers on the scene of a rare missile strike in the western Ukrainian city of Lviv, after which the country's leader vowed to respond. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ AFP**

Rescue workers meanwhile were clawing through rubble in the UNESCO-protected western Ukrainian city of Lviv, which was hit by a Russian missile early Thursday that killed four and injured dozens more.

Belarus leader Alexander Lukashenko mediated a deal to end Prigozhin's revolt — the most serious challenge to Russian President Vladimir Putin's rule — that was to see the mercenary head into Belarusian exile. "As far as Prigozhin is concerned, he is in Saint Petersburg... He is not in Belarus," Lukashenko, who has ruled isolated Belarus for nearly three decades, told reporters from foreign media outlets in Minsk. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yellen arrives in China as US seeks to stabilize ties

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen arrived in Beijing on Thursday, kicking off a visit aimed at improving communication and stabilizing the tense relationship between the world's two largest economies.

Yellen's trip through Sunday is her first to China as treasury secretary, and comes just weeks after Secretary of State Antony Blinken paid a rare visit to the country.

She arrived in Beijing just after 5:00 pm (0900 GMT), and was greeted on the tarmac by US Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns, as well as Chinese finance ministry official Yang Yingming.

The visit will see Yellen seek to expand lines of correspondence, avoid miscommunications and widen collaboration on the global economy, climate change, debt distress and other issues, according to a Treasury official.

Her trip — which comes in the face of concerns over China's economic recovery and US interest rate hikes — may also give officials on both sides a chance to speak about their countries' growth outlooks. — AFP

Israel strikes Lebanon after mortar launched

THE Israeli army said Thursday it struck southern Lebanon after a mortar launched from its northern neighbour exploded in the border area between the two foes.

The latest military action was launched three months after the two countries saw their worst cross-border fire in years.

It also comes at a time of rising tension between Israel

and Arab countries after Israel carried out its biggest military operation in years in the occupied West Bank targeting the Jenin refugee camp, a densely populated urban area and militant stronghold.

"A launch was carried out from Lebanese territory which exploded adjacent to the border in Israeli territory," said a

statement from the Israeli army, whose spokesman specified the projectile that hit near the town of Ghajar was a mortar.

"In response, the IDF (Israeli military) is currently striking the area from which the launch was carried out in Lebanese territory," said an army statement shortly before midday (0900 GMT). — AFP



Israeli soldiers stand near army self-propelled artillery vehicles on the outskirts of Kiryat Shmona near Israel's border with Lebanon on 6 July 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

EU lawmakers urge international probe of Greece migrant tragedy

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.

INEOS Group chairman Jim Ratcliffe say he is keen to complete the take over of Manchester United. **PHOTO: AFP**



Ratcliffe still keen to buy Man Utd as sale process drags on

BRITISH billionaire Jim Ratcliffe has said he remains focused on completing a takeover of Manchester United as the battle to buy the Red Devils drags on.

Ratcliffe, founder of chemicals giant INEOS, is one of two leading candidates to take over the 20-time English champions, along with Qatari banker Sheikh Jassim Bin Hamad Al Thani.

United's current owners, the Glazer family, are understood to value the Premier League club at £6 billion (\$7.6 billion), with American bank Raine Group overseeing the bidding.

Deeply unpopular with supporters since they saddled the club with debt in a £790 million leveraged takeover in 2005, the Glazers appeared ready to cash out at an enormous profit when they first invited external investment in November. — AFP

Black Cross Futsal Club crown MFF Carabao title



Black Cross Futsal Club celebrate the victory while receiving the championship trophy for MFF Carabao Futsal Amateur Cup on 6 July 2023. **PHOTO: MFF**

BLACK Cross Futsal Club claimed the title for Myanmar Football Federation-MFF Carabao Futsal Amateur Cup after securing an 8-6 win over City Dragon FC in the final match played at MFF Futsal Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

An awarding ceremony was conducted after the game.

Yangon Royal Group FC, which garnered the cleanest award, picked a K200,000 cash award while Si Thu Aung from City Dagon FC received K100,000 for the best player award.

KKY FC gained third place and earned a K1 million prize and the second-placed winner City Dagon FC gathered a K1.5 million cash award.

The champion team, Black Cross FC grabbed a K2 million cash award plus individual medals with the trophy. — KZL

Murray braces for Tsitsipas clash at Wimbledon as Wawrinka advances

ANDY Murray takes on Stefanos Tsitsipas in the standout match at Wimbledon on Thursday in a contest with a spicy history after Stan Wawrinka set up a tasty clash with Novak Djokovic. Defending women's champion Elena Rybakina is also in second-round action as tournament chiefs scramble to catch up after rain played havoc with the schedule. Fifth seed Tsitsipas defeated two-time Wimbledon champion Murray in a five-set first-round epic which stretched to almost five hours at the US Open in 2021. Britain's Murray was furious that the Greek took a medical timeout after dropping the third set and then an eight-minute toilet break at the end of the fourth.

Former world number one Murray sarcastically tweeted: "Fact of the day. It takes Stefanos Tsitsipas twice as long to go the bathroom as it takes Jeff Bezos to fly into space. Interesting."

However, ahead of their clash on Centre Court, Tsitsipas said the two men had buried the hatchet.

"I think it has been settled already a long time ago. We had to play Laver Cup together in the same team. I've forgotten about it. He has forgotten about it," he said after seeing off Dominic Thiem in five sets at the All England Club on Wednesday.

"He's someone that I respect. He has done great things in tennis. I'm looking forward to this match." — AFP



Stefanos Tsitsipas in action against Dominic Thiem in the Wimbledon first round. **PHOTO: AFP**