

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. X, No. 84, 8th Waning of First Waso 1385 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Monday, 10 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.

Myanmar's Response to the report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict and its open debate

THE Committee on Prevention of Grave Violations against Children in Armed Conflict Myanmar on 9 July 2023 stated that Myanmar observed that the report of the United Nations Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict with document no. A/77/895-S/2023/363 was released on 27 June 2023 and the Open Debate at the United Nations Security Council was organized on 5 July 2023. Myanmar also found out that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and certain countries made irresponsible references on Myanmar at the debate.

It is disappointing to find that the distorted report includes country-specific descriptions of Myanmar based on biased narratives and unfounded allegations. Relisting Myanmar armed forces in the Annex of the report demonstrates a clear act of politicization as the author merely includes numbers of alleged violations without verifiable facts such as date, time and place of incidents.

Myanmar never hesitates to receive the complaints and respond to the relevant UN entities. It has received only five requests for information in connection with alleged deaths and arrests of children during the reporting period. To utter dismay, Myanmar noted that the report inflated the figures of alleged killing and arrests from twelve to thirty times than the UN actually verified with the Government. And the rest of the figures contained in the report were never verified with the country-concerned despite the UN independent experts are required to verify the allegations to the best extent possible. Myanmar has established the Committee on Prevention of Grave Violations against Children in Armed Conflict under the leadership of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Committee has been implementing the Second National Action Plan on the Prevention of Killing, Maiming and Sexual Violence against Children in Armed Conflict (2022-2023). The complaint mechanism was also established along with help line number 1566 to file the complaint.

SEE PAGE-2

MAVO to arrange export of 1,000 tonnes of avocado to India in coming high season

AS India has offered to purchase 1,000 tonnes of avocado from Myanmar in coming avocado season, the Myanmar Avocado Producers and Exporters Association (MAVO) set a plan to meet the demand of Indian market, said U Myo Nyunt, joint general secretary of the association.

Myanmar's avocado can be plucked starting from November every year, up to February. As such, the association decided to export 1,000 tonnes of avocado as offered by the Indian fruit merchant organization in the 2023-24 financial year.

"We have decided to export avocado to India in coming season. As from 2019, some Indian merchants have arrived in Taunggyi, the capital of Shan State, to purchase avocado from local farmers. Once, Myanmar had showcased its quality avocado at a fruit show in India. At that time, our avocado could win the hearts of Indian consumers to



Quality avocado fruits seen a tray for export purpose.

taste Myanmar's avocado. In fact, export quality avocado must meet the standard sizes. Actually, we will primarily export Haas strain of avocado to India," the joint general secretary of the association ex-

plained.

In his clarification on export process related to Haas strain of avocado fruits, U Myo Nyunt continued, "We decided to

SEE PAGE-4

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Driving skills require for issuance of driving licence

PAGE-4

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Year 2022 earns champion status in exporting industrial products, textiles, and clothing items

PAGE-5



LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar-Thailand border trade surpasses US\$1.2 bln in Q1 2023-2024FY

PAGE-7



Myanmar's Response to the report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict and its open debate

FROM PAGE-1

On the other hand, the report tried to conceal the brutal crimes committed by the NUG and PDF terrorist groups which claimed the lives of 97 children and injured 275. Besides, nine hospitals and clinics and 140 schools and educational buildings were also attacked by so-called PDF. The report, however, only expresses their inhumane acts just a speck in the universe and tried to cover up the brutality of terrorist groups with such obscure expression as “unidentified perpetrators”.

Regarding the prevention of underage recruitment, the Committee on Preventing of Underage Recruitment led by the Ministry of Defence was established since 2011 and the Committee has rendered its uninterrupted cooperation with the UN Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (UN CTFMR). Myanmar, nonetheless, concerns about the independence and impartiality of the CTFMR as it is not transparent where its resources are coming from. There are 2,364 numbers of suspected minor cases submitted by CTFMR since 2013 while 1,197 suspected cases were delisted due to insufficient information. A total of 1,057 underage individuals were discharged from Tatmadaw and punitive measures were taken against 475 responsible military personnel. Majority of underage recruitments cases were taken place due to insufficient civil documents to identify the age of individuals and many of the cases were date back to 2000s. In fact, the CTFMR shared only seven new cases of suspected minors during the reporting period; nonetheless, it keeps the figure of 112 children in the report by blending the old cases to maintain Myanmar on the list attached to the annual report.

Relisting Myanmar Armed Forces in the Annex of the report and indicating further negative steps would not help the cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations to serve the best interests of children in the country. Myanmar further rejects the distorted figures and groundless accusations contained in the report and calls for more observed and constructive approach towards the matter. — GNLM

22 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 9 July, total figure registers 640,759

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to **640,759** after **22** new cases were reported on 9 July 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of **10,910,247** laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached **640,759**. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **619,577** including **17** new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered **19,494** on 9-7-2023 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

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

1. AN announcement has been issued that well-wishers wishing to make donations for people who fell victim to the extremely severe cyclonic storm Mocha which hit Myanmar on 14-5-2023 can donate cash to Myanmar account OA-011834 and foreign account 1DA-0300086.
2. In this announcement, it is duly mentioned that our commitment to receiving donations extends to additional electronic payment systems and mobile payment systems. Further updates and notifications will be made in due course.
3. It has been announced that donations can be made to the previously announced phone number and to the account that was opened, and since it can be confusing to donate with a phone number, we have already made it possible to donate with a QR code instead of the phone number.
4. Donations can be made through KBZ Pay or Wave Money. If you wish to donate, please scan the QR codes provided by both KBZ Pay and Wave Money. To contribute, enter the code included within the respective QR codes.
5. People make donations through CB Pay, AYA Pay, OK \$, UAB pay and Citizens Pay which are widely used to enhance convenience for donors. To



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

Sports can uplift prestige of State and its nationalities

- The sports are a national duty to uplift the prestige of the State and the nationality with the concept to polish the image of the nation as part of competing with the opponents without giving up till the last second.
- The victory and fame of an athlete automatically uplift the prestige of the country and themselves.

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the opening ceremony of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Sports Competition 2022 on 14 November 2022)

MPA has to provide necessary assistance for port investors

THE private sector is of great importance in implementing the port sector through Public-Private Partnership system because of the ever-increasing need for technology and skilled workers, said Member of State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San inspecting international jetties at Myanmar International Terminals Thilawa (MITT) and the Rail Bus Engine-RBE locomotive sheds in the compound of Yangon Railway Station yesterday morning.

The Union Minister inspected jetties of the MITT in Thanlyin Township, freight handling jetty and fuel storage tanks of Regency SPC Company, International Bulk Terminal Thilawa (IBTT) Company's crop jetty, Padauk Shwe Wah Company Limited's



Member of State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San inspects international jetties at Myanmar International Terminals Thilawa (MITT) on 9 July.

fuel jetty and Wilmar Myanmar Port Terminal (Thilawa) Ltd's crop jetties and viewed loading and unloading of goods.

Afterwards, the Union Min-

ister heard reports on port service entrepreneurs at Wilmar Myanmar Port Terminal (Thilawa) Ltd.

Officials presented the

placement of jetties in 37 plots of land in the Thilawa port area with local and foreign investment to carry out port services, operations of nine container and

general cargo jetties, eight fuel and LNG jetties, and two crop jetties, totalling 19 and progress of 18 jetties under construction, and difficulties in work process.

In his speech, the Union Minister said that Myanmar Port Authority has to provide necessary assistance for port investors and supervise port services under the law. He highlighted that the private sector is of great importance in implementing the port sector through Public-Private Partnership system because of the ever-increasing need for technology and skilled workers.

After that, the Union Minister arrived at the Rail Bus Engine-RBE locomotive shed in the vicinity of Yangon Railway Station and inspected the condition of repair and completion of repairing carriages of West Corporation. — MNA/KZL

Illegal foodstuffs, industrial materials, consumer goods and vehicles confiscated

A combined team under the supervision of the Taninthayi Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force made a supervised check to San Malar Store in Myeik on 2 July and captured 234 bottles of foreign liquor, 718 cartons of beer and seven bags of Ajinomoto monosodium glutamate-MSG worth K19,342,800. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Additionally, an on-duty team impounded a Yutong express bus (approximately K30 million) carrying seven kinds of goods worth K12.741 million including 39 steel chairs and 500 kilogrammes of tasty chicken floss worth K2.5 million without official documents travelling from Muse to Mandalay at the 16th-Mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint on 5 July. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On the same day, a combined

team confiscated two kinds of goods worth K910,400 including 816 Smart fabric softeners, 1,500 bottles of Lipovitan-D worth K390,000, two kinds of goods worth K1 million including a Honda motorcycle (engine power-50 cc) without official documents from a Hyundai Starex minibus (estimated value of K15 million) and four kinds of goods worth K886,000 including 30 chicken baskets, 125 kilogrammes of Shimoto Japonica rice worth K300,000 and 16 kinds of goods worth K790,000 including 120 kilogrammes of Marukome from an ANO MPV microbus (estimated value of K15 million). The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Similarly, a Honda Fit (approximately K3.5 million) was seized near the corner of Bohmu Ba Htoo and Bayintnaung roads in Dagon Myothit (North) Town-



Confiscated illegal commodities at Myanmar Industrial Port.

ship on 5 July. The action was taken under respective procedures.

The Customs on-duty teams nabbed 9,960 bottles of Carabao energy drink worth K7.47 million that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a Chenglong tractor head and a trailer (approximately K45 million) heading to Yangon from Myawady at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint and nine kinds of goods worth K24,925,950 including 2,400 E/L LED bulb

UFO lights that were not declared in the ID and four kinds of goods worth K2.72 million including 400 adult helmets that exceeded the ID and 11,640 ceramic tiles worth K49,365,288 that exceeded the ID from three containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port on 6 July. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

A combined team at the Thanlwin Bridge combined checkpoint (Tayokhla bank) seized a Higer mini bus (estimat-

ed value of K21 million) carrying three kinds of goods worth K7.6 million including eight Laptop (used) without official documents travelling from Mawady to Yangon on 6 July. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Therefore, 22 arrests (estimated value of K260,441,438) were made on 2, 5 and 6 July, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Rehabilitation supplies distributed to disaster-ravaged areas



The construction site of expansion of the beach circular road is seen in Sittway on 9 July.

CHAIRMAN of Rakhine State Disaster Management Committee Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htin Lin, yesterday visited the multi-purpose port in Sittway to inspect the distribution of relief and rehabilitation aid. They also inspected the repair work on the strand road damaged by the storm Mocha and the ongoing expansion of the Point Beach circular road.

At multi-purpose port in Sittway, he viewed distribution of rehabilitation supplies from MV Fortune and MV Royal Venus to storm-affected areas.

Then, the chief minister inspected growing of coconut

plants and mangrove forests along Shukhintha beach of Sittway and left instructions on systematic cultivation of shade trees, windbreaks and mangrove forests to be resilient of storms.

He looked into maintenance of the Shukhintha Road, expansion of the beach circular road from Point Beach to Sittway Hotel.

In the afternoon, the chief minister attended the coordinating meeting for rehabilitation measures held at the Rakhine State government office. Officials reported on progress of rehabilitation, and future plans. — MNA/KZW

MAVO to arrange export of 1,000 tonnes of avocado

FROM PAGE-1

make arrangements on export of the fruits to Tamu border camp through border trade route. Despite receiving offers from some European countries, we set aside the plan to export avocado to European market due to high transport charge. Now, we are focusing on export of the fruits to Asian market only.”

Some 20,000 acres of land are under avocado plants across the nation, according to the statistics of the association in 2020. Although avocado plants cannot be grown in Chin State, number of growers is on the rise in other regions. Currently, export quality avocado can yield 5,000 to 10,000 tons per acre.

Avocado bears potassium, vitamin B6, vitamin C, vitamin E, fibre, sugar and some elements which can mitigate suffering from some kinds of cancer diseases such as oral, skin and prostate cancers. It contains plentiful anti-oxidant and the potency which can lessen outbreak of cancer. Phytochemical from such fruit can prevent spreading of cancer cells as well as cause depletion of cancer cells. — Maung Aye Chan/TTA

Driving skills require for issuance of driving licence



A private car which hit the wall of Tanttawmu Pagoda, near the southern stairway of Shwedagon Pagoda, seen at night on 8 March 2023.

IN order to drive a vehicle skillfully, the relevant departments and organizations have to issue the driving licence, said the Chief Minister of Yangon

Region at the meeting between the National Road Safety Council and four subcommittees on 8 July.

He stated that after hold-

ing the first meeting of the National Road Safety Council (NRSC) was aimed at effectively achieving road safety, there has been a decrease in the number of traffic accidents, deaths, and injuries compared to that of 2022 period.

In Yangon Region, from 1 January to the end of April this year, there were 953 traffic accidents, leaving 1,293 people injured and 233 people killed.

From January to July of last year, 2022, over 3,500 traffic accident occurred throughout Myanmar, resulting in more than 1,700 fatalities and approximately 4,800 injuries. — TWA/KZW

Inland waterway transport's vessels deliver relief materials to Mocha-affected townships in Rakhine State

VESSELS from the Inland Water Transport's Rakhine Branch under the Ministry of Transport and Communications transported 3,817.21 tonnes of relief and rehabilitation supplies to Mocha-affected townships in Rakhine State from 23 May to 8 July.

Series of Kelantan vessels

from 1 to 6 under the Rakhine Branch of the Inland Water Transport are conveying foodstuffs, supply goods, relief aids, and construction materials to the areas affected by Cyclone Mocha, such as Buthidaung, Rathedaung, Maungtaw, Ponnagyun, Kyauktaw, Paletwa,

Pauktaw, Minbya, MraukU, and Myebon.

These vessels delivered a total of 3,817.21 tonnes of supplies on 17 trips to Mocha-affected areas, according to the Rakhine Branch of Inland Water Transport. — Tin Tun (IPRD)/CT



The vessel which carried relief and rehabilitation materials for Mocha-affected areas in Rakhine State is seen.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aunghuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

China, Myanmar to deepen exchange in culture

THE China-Myanmar Cultural Exchange Conference was held on 7 July at the Chinese Culture Centre (Yangon) with more than 70 attendees to deepen mutual learning and exchange.

Counsellor Mr Pan Feng from the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar emphasized that President Mr Xi Jinping has proposed a global culture proposal, calling on people from different countries to unite and enhance cooperation, address common challenges together and respond in time to critical needs.

“The proposal includes four sectors: to respect the world’s cultural diversity, emphasize cultural inheritance and innovation, and increase friendship between peoples of different countries. The China-Myanmar

two countries are connected by forests and mountains and have long and deep cultural and personal ties. Practising global culture proposals in various arenas of Myanmar is essential,” he highlighted.

He also expressed his willingness to make efforts to spread China-Myanmar Pauk-Phaw Friendship.

U Ohn Maung, Chairman of the Myanmar Press Council and Myanmar Writers’ Association, underscored that they are willing to implement the three proposals together with China and deepen exchanges and cooperation in the fields of Sino-Myanmar media and literature.

U Yan Win, President of the Myanmar Tourism Federation,



The China-Myanmar Cultural Exchange Conference in progress at Chinese Culture Centre in Yangon on 7 July.

said that under China’s proposal and guidance, China-Myanmar tourism exchanges will resume as soon as possible in the

post-pandemic period.

Myanmar International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Pro-Rector U Sein

Maw and Yangon University Pro-Rector Daw Cho Cho also participated in the discussions at the conference. — TWA/KZL

Year 2022 earns champion status in exporting industrial products, textiles, and clothing items



Workers are seen working at the workplace of a garment factory on 12 May 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

GENERAL Secretary of the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) and Secretary-General of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Daw Khine Khine Nwe, stated that 2022 is the year when the highest exports of industrial products, textiles, and clothing items can be made.

The statement was made at the coordination meeting over increasing the export of industrial products, textiles, and clothing items held at the UMFCCI on 8 July.

The association has adopted a 10-year strategic plan for 2015-2025, and targets such as the number of factories, export value and employment were set and it met the target until the pre-Covid-19 period.

She also unveiled that in order to increase exports abroad, it is necessary to obtain a large number of garment orders, build trust with the workers, and improve working relations.

For the export development of the garment sector, in cooperation with the Ministry of Science and Technology’s

TVET Department, discussions have started to deliver a Diploma in Fashion Technology in the garment training sector.

In 2017, the association also introduced Myanmar’s garment sector (Made in Myanmar) at the Texworld (Messe, Frankfurt, and Paris) held in France.

In addition, the association is working to deliver necessary courses, clarify and teach laws for responsible businesses, and increase working relationships.

At the meeting, deputy chairmen, general secretaries, and business representatives from the MGMA discussed raw materials for export, conditions and difficulties encountered in the import and export of goods, the difficulties and conditions of raw materials required to be able to manufacture and export with the FOP system, allowing workers in the garment sector to work more night shifts, the development of local weaving industries, and ways to facilitate the production and export of local traditional textiles at a high level. — TWA/CT

Yangon commodity market sees high price volatility of palm oil

THE palm oil price has been fluctuating in the Yangon commodity market since the last week of June. There is a big price swing almost every day. So, the price update has not been posted on social media with high price volatility, U Win Htway, an oil seller told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The wholesale price stood at K6,400 per viss on 21 June and then jumped to K8,000 per viss on 30 June. Then, the price declined from 3 July. It touched a low of K6,400 per viss on 7 July. The price went up and down by K1,500 per viss within a few days. Therefore, resellers are closely observing the market not to yield a loss.

The market price is approximately K4,000 higher than the reference price. Higher market prices prompted many consumers to queue in the mobile market which offers palm oil at a fairer price. However, there is a limited sale. The wholesale prices of edible oil are K13,000-K13,500 per viss of palm oil and K12,000-K12,500 per viss of sesame oil. The

wholesale reference price for palm oil is set at K4,010 per viss.

Yet, the majority of the consumers are forced to purchase them at the retail price of K9,000 per viss in late June.

The difficulty in edible oil withdrawal in the Yangon market pushed up the prices, some traders stressed.

Meanwhile, there is a high inflow of palm oil imported from foreign markets. So, the authorities concerned met with the edible oil body in early July to control the price hike.

About 30,000 tonnes of oil will be imported in the second week of July. The international palm oil prices were US\$890 per tonne on 3 July and \$860 on 7 July.

Price hike occurs often in the Yangon edible oil market for different reasons. Last year, the prices peaked at over K9,000 per viss in August and plummeted to K5,100 per viss in late December. Nonetheless, the reference price remained unchanged at K4,000-K5,000 per viss. — TWA/EM

LOCAL BUSINESS

63,766 tonnes of corn worth some \$20 mln exported to Thailand in Q1



Farmers keep corns in the sun before plucking seeds.

ACCORDING to the statistics from the Ministry of Commerce, 63,766 tonnes of corn worth about US\$19.793 million were exported to neighbouring Thailand in the first three months of the 2023-2024 financial year.

On the other hand, based on the agreement between the two countries, the export of corn to Thailand is allowed with tax exemption from the country of origin from February to August this year. In addition, exporters are required

to obtain an application for a permit to carry export goods (QR Code) from Kholan, Namhsam, Langkho, Mongnawng and Mongshu. Furthermore, with the opening of the Electronic Data Interchange (ED), corn is being exported to Thailand via Mae Sai city.

In April, 13,242 tonnes of corn were exported from Tachilek, worth \$4.122 million. In May, 26,151 tonnes were exported, valued at \$8.121 million. Additionally, in June, earnings from

export of 24,373 tonnes of corns amounted to \$7.55 million.

Currently, in addition to the falling price of corn, it is known that companies are exporting the lesser volume of corn due to Thailand having sufficient corn crops storage until September.

There is an increased export of corn until August, which falls within the tax-free concession period. This time also signifies the efforts of businessmen to secure a long-term share in the corn market. — TWA/KZW

Kampaiti Trade Post meets 37% of trade target as of 5 July

THE data from the Ministry of Commerce indicated that the Kampaiti Trade Camp in Kachin State has achieved a trade volume against the 37 per cent of target as of 5 July.

The camp's trade target for July was US\$2 million in exports and US\$1 million in imports, for a total of US\$3 million. The actual trade as of 5 July was US\$0.631 million in exports and US\$0.478 million in

imports, for a total of US\$1.109 million in trade volume, meeting 37 per cent of the trade target, as an announcement of the MoC mentioned.

Myanmar exported tissue-culture bananas and iron concentrates in the first five days of July. The most imported products are compound fertilizers, iron rods, iron pipes, galvanized iron sheets, iron nails, artificial turf, brand new car

tyres, and ceramic tile plains. Other investment materials, construction materials, consumer goods, apples, oranges, and clothes were also imported.

No rental vehicles are used for the transportation of exports and imports at the camp, and vehicles owned by the respective companies are used to convey truckloads of bananas and imports. — TWA/CT



A truckload is seen parking at the back of the Kampaiti entrance sign.

Shan garlics get rapid rise in price



The quality of garlics from Shan State is shown in the picture.

IN the Yangon commodity market in June and July, when trading is low, the onion price is stable, and the price of Chinese potatoes is rising to K2,800 per viss. Among them, Shan garlic has been hitting the highest price in the market for half a month.

In the early months of the Myanmar New Year, when new Shan garlics are in season, the price of large-sized Shan garlic started to rise from K4,200 per viss in mid-December 2022 to K5,500 per viss on 15 February 2023.

Even after the markets saw a new Shan garlic variety, the price continued to peak and reached K9,000 per viss for large-sized garlic on 28 June. The price on 8 July

was K8,700 per viss. Kyukok garlic fetched only K7,200 per viss, while a viss of S5 Shan garlic was valued at K9,000.

Shan garlic had a high price in 2017, and the price dropped to its lowest between 2018 and 2021. A viss of Shan garlic wholesale was only around K1,000 in those years. In 2019 and 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic hit the country, garlic was especially used by the people for health. At that time, the price of garlic was affordable for the public.

When the price has reached a high level this year, consumers are less worried about the high price of garlic because it is only used for consumption. — TWA/CT

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

LOCAL BUSINESS

750 companies fail to submit annual returns in June: DICA

A total of 750 companies failed to submit annual returns (AR) on the online registration system in June 2023, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The DICA has notified any registered company which fails to file its AR on MyCO is to be struck off the register from the date of the directive, under 430 (F) of Myanmar Companies Law, according to the DICA's notification.

Five hundred companies in January, 400 each in February and March, 200 in April and 550 in May did not file the AR on the MyCO. In the first five months this year, 2,050 companies failed to file AR, totalling 2,800 companies in the H1 this year.

Additionally, a total of 5,000 companies failed to submit AR in 2022, the DICA stated.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the

MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

All registered companies need to submit AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of the law.

According to Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies shall submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously. All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending, as per Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, thousands of companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms before the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two



DICA manages local and foreign investments and systematic functioning of companies and businesses.

months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR

within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and

K100,000 for late filing of documents, totalling K250,000.

If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/EM

Myanmar-Thailand border trade surpasses US\$1.2 bln in Q1 2023-2024FY



The Myanmar-Thailand border is seen bustling with vehicles and people.

MYANMAR'S border trade with the neighbouring country Thailand amounted to US\$1.24 billion in the Q1 (April-June) of the current financial year 2023-2024.

The figures plunged from \$1.314 billion recorded in the year-ago period, showing a sharp drop of \$74.372 million.

Myanmar conducts cross-border trade with Thailand via Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee and Mawtaung borders. Of them, the Hteekhee border performed the largest trade

volume worth \$673.839 million in the past three months.

The trade values stood at \$471.462 million at Myawady border post, \$53.313 million at Tachilek, \$23.197 million at Myeik, \$15.564 million at Kawthoung and \$2.908 million at Mawtaung.

Myanmar carries out border trade with the neighbouring countries China, Thailand, Bangladesh and India. It exports agricultural products, livestock products, fisheries, minerals, forest products, finished industrial goods and

other goods, while it brings in capital goods, intermediate goods, consumer goods and raw materials by the CMP enterprises.

Thailand's demand for Myanmar's kitchen groceries (onion, rice powder, chilli pepper) has risen as it resumed the tourism businesses in the post-COVID period and the restaurants and food businesses widely used them.

Fishery products are directly sent to Bangkok, Thailand through Mae Sot. The fast and fresh delivery service is the priority. There is a timely transport arrangement for perishable green items like onions, chilli pepper and cabbage at the border points.

The cloth roll, construction materials, industrial raw materials, pharmaceuticals, motorcycle parts, footwear, clothes, fruits, food products, cosmetics, gas, lubricants, household goods, feedstuffs, bicycles, stationery, auto parts, tiles, fertilizers and electronic devices are imported. — NN/EM

MoC: Export earnings can be deposited within 15 days after submitting export declaration

THE period for export earnings to be deposited into the company's bank account is extended to 15 days from seven working days, after making an export declaration. Additionally, deposits for export items can be paid in local currency according to the over-the-counter rate in respective border areas, as per the export/import news bulletin 13/2023 released by the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce on 6 July.

According to the bulletin 11/2023 dated 28 June of the Trade Department, after making an export declaration, export earnings must be deposited to the company's account within seven working days. It was amended with the news bulletin 13/2023.

Earlier, the deposit for exports can be paid in three foreign currencies (Chinese Yuan, Thai Baht and Kyat) at an over-the-counter market rate at the border. Now, payment can be done in Kyat.

The Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce notified on 28 June that exporters no longer need to pay export revenue in advance from 1 July 2023, according to the news bulletin 11/2023.

According to the meeting outcome 32/2022 of the Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee, the Advanced Telegraphic Transfer (TT) system was exercised in exports of pulses and beans, sesame and peanut to neighbouring countries via land borders from July 2022. — NN/EM

Advertise with us / Hot Line : 09974424848

OPINION

Expedite efforts for boosting agricultural production

THE economic status of a state relies heavily on its abundant human resources. The number of qualified individuals who actively contribute to the growth of the economy and enhance manufacturing capabilities play a vital role in boosting the overall state economy. One way to analyze economic development is by examining the nation's GDP.

At present, it is imperative for the country to overcome various challenges. If farmlands can be effectively utilized to promote the state economy, the agricultural sector should efficiently engage in agricultural activities. This would lead to an increase in the ratio of the agricultural sector to the GDP. It is important to acknowledge the strength and hard work of farmers in this regard.

In order to thrive, it is necessary to cultivate crops such as rice, pulses, beans, maize, and other crops that are suitable

for the natural conditions of Myanmar. Efforts are being made to expand the acreage for cotton cultivation, which holds promising potential for the agricultural sector. Additionally, if local farmers can successfully manufacture coffee and tea to meet foreign demand, their incomes will increase.

Therefore, it is crucial to successfully cultivate rice, oil crops, beans, cotton, kitchen crops, coffee, and tea to transform the agricultural sector. By doing so, integrated farms that encompass agricultural, livestock, and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) can contribute to successful manufacturing and foster harmonious integration between agriculture and industry.

The production of well-trained human resources plays a pivotal role in all sectors of the nation in order to promote the state economy. In this regard, businesspersons should strive to enhance their capacity to manufacture products domestically instead of relying on imports. This approach will create employment opportunities for people in the respective regions.

On the other hand, it is crucial to ensure a smooth production process. Local authorities must manage the electrification of industries to prevent any decrease in productivity due to power shortages. Adequate manpower, materials, and financial assistance are of great importance for enhancing the state economy.

Those in managerial positions need to safeguard manufacturing facilities from potential terror attacks or other threats that may disrupt production. Furthermore, people across the nation should prioritize the use of products from domestic businesses and industries over imported goods. Authorities should implement protectionist measures to improve manufacturing techniques, enhance the work experiences of employees, and provide an opportune time for employees to showcase their skills in manufacturing. By doing so, the state economy will experience substantial growth in the coming years.

An earthquake is what is happen when two blocks of the earth suddenly slip past one another, the surface where they slip is called the fault or fault plane. So, an earthquake refers to the shaking of the earth's surface caused by a sudden release of energy within the earth's crust. The release of energy generates seismic waves commonly known as S waves. The intensity and characteristics of an earthquake are determined by the seismic activities in a specific region.

In another way, we may say that vibrations generated by an earthquake and propagated within the earth or along its surface, are seismic waves. There are four principal types of elastic waves: -two, primary and secondary waves, travel within the earth, whereas the other two, Rayleigh and Love waves called surface waves can be produced artificially by explosion. A fault is a fracture or zone of fracture between two blocks of earth. Fault allows the blocks to move relative to each other. This movement may occur rapidly, in the form of creep

About 50,000 earthquakes

large enough to be noticed and without aid instruments, occur annually over the entire earth. Of these, approximately 100 are of sufficient size to produce substantial damage if their centres are near areas of habitation. Very great earthquakes occur on an average of about once per year. Over the centuries they have been responsible for millions of deaths and incalculable damage to property.

A separate type of earthquake is associated with volcanic activity and is called a volcanic earthquake. Yet it is likely that even in such cases the disturbance hums the result of a sudden slip of rock masses adjacent to the volcano and the consequent release of elastic strains energy. The stored energy may in part be of hydrodynamic origin due to heat provided by magma moving in reservoirs beneath the volcano or to the release of gas under pressure. There is a clear correspondence between the geographic distribution of volcanoes and major earthquakes particularly in the Pacific.

The largest earthquake recorded by seismic instruments

Earthquake

By Win Sein



Through their unwavering dedication and meticulous analysis, seismologists remain at the forefront of deciphering the Earth's activity, unravelling its secrets, and ensuring the safety and well-being of communities worldwide in the face of one of nature's most powerful and unpredictable phenomena. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ CHRISTIAN MIRANDA/AFP**

US makes new Alzheimer's drug more widely accessible

SYNOPSIS:

- Approximately 6.5 million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's disease, characterized by memory loss and declining mental acuity.
- Leqembi, also known as lecanemab, is an antibody treatment injected into the brain every two weeks, working to reduce amyloid beta protein and brain shrinkage.
- Patient groups welcomed the FDA's decision, as the treatment can provide more time for individuals

THE US drug regulator gave full approval to a new Alzheimer's medicine on Thursday, a move that makes it more widely available to the public through government-run health insurance for the elderly.

Leqembi, developed jointly by Japan's Eisai and Biogen of the United States, was shown in a clinical trial to modestly reduce cognitive decline among patients in the early stages of the disease.

But the study also raised concerns about side effects including brain bleeds and swelling.

Leqembi was initially granted "accelerated approval" by the Food and Drug Administration in January, which meant it was not broadly covered by the government-run Medicare program for



A music therapist plays a drum with Alzheimer's disease patients at the Copper Ridge Care Centre in Sykesville, Maryland. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ AFP**

people aged 65 and older.

Thursday's decision, which follows further study of the drug, means Medicare will now defray a large portion of treatment, initially

listed by the makers at \$26,500 per year.

"This confirmatory study verified that it is a safe and effective treatment for patients with

Alzheimer's disease," senior FDA official Teresa Buracchio said in a statement.

Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, administrator of the agency that runs Medicare, added: "This is welcome news for the millions of people in this country and their families who are affected by this debilitating disease."

But people covered by Medicare will still need to meet 20 per cent of the cost, or thousands of dollars, themselves.

Approximately 6.5 million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's, which is characterized by memory loss and declining mental acuity.

Leqembi, also known as lecanemab, is an antibody treatment that is injected into the brain

every two weeks and works by reducing amyloid beta, a protein that builds into plaques and causes brain cells to die, as well as brain shrinkage.

The FDA's decision was welcomed by patient groups.

"This treatment, while not a cure, can give people in the early stages of Alzheimer's more time to maintain their independence and do the things they love," said Joanne Pike, Alzheimer's Association president and CEO.

"This gives people more months of recognizing their spouse, children and grandchildren."

Leqembi was the second Alzheimer's drug developed by Eisai and Biogen to receive approval. The first, Aduhelm, was

approved in 2021 but the decision was highly controversial as the data about its efficacy was inconsistent.

In May, US drugmaker Eli Lilly announced its drug donanemab also significantly slowed cognitive decline associated with Alzheimer's, and would soon seek worldwide regulatory approval.

Alzheimer's disease accounts for 60 to 80 per cent of dementia, according to the Alzheimer's Association. It progressively destroys thinking and memory, eventually robbing people of the ability to carry out the simplest of tasks.

SOURCE: AFP

anywhere on earth was a magnitude of 9.5 earthquake in Chile on 22 May 1960. That earthquake occurred on a fault that is about 1,000 miles long and 150 miles wide. Dipping into the earth at a shallow angle, the magnitude scale is open-ended, meaning that scientists have not put a limit on how large an earthquake could be but there is a limit just from the size of the earth.

The Myanmar Earthquake Committee was founded in 1999 and conducted seismological research on active fault lines and past earthquakes in Burma. Until significant earthquakes hit the country in the last few years, including a 6.8-magnitude quake in Bagan this year. The committee has seven seismic academics. The Committee has produced seismic hazards maps for Myanmar.

The 1930 Bago earthquake struck Burma in May. Extensive damages were reported in the Southern part of the country, particularly in Bago and Rangoon, where buildings collapsed and fire erupted in many locations. At least 550 and possibly up to 7,000 people were killed.

There are multiple reasons why predicting earthquakes is difficult. Even the scientists do have a good understanding of how the disaster occurred. The eruption of an earthquake is not as able as the present scientists when going for predicting a great storm before the natural disaster of a cyclone or storm is about to take place. There is bound to be a low-pressure centre in existence around thunderstorms, producing strong wind and flooding rain. Tropical cyclones form over warm waters from pre-existing disturbances. These pre-existing signs and behaviours would lead the disaster watchers to predict the disaster would happen in a week or two weeks' time. In the case of an earthquake, there are no such pre-existing signs to guide them in the search. The only way to predict a great earthquake is to record its last occurrence in a year or month for preparations plan to review its reoccurrence in the future. In order to pinpoint exactly the magnitude of the disaster is out of the question.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 9 July 2023)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 10 July 2023: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing and Magway regions, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Bago regions and Northern Shan State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Eastern Shan and Kayah states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Rakhine and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 July 2023: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 July 2023: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

TECH WORLD

Startup bets on kitesurf to blow away shipping pollution

INSPIRED by kitesurfing, French firms want to deploy the same wind technology to propel everything from yachts to cargo ships in order to cut the shipping industry's massive carbon footprint.

The sector is under fresh pressure to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels as the International Maritime Organization sealed a deal on Friday that raises its emissions-reduction targets.

In Arcachon Bay in southwest France, the startup Beyond The Sea tested a blue inflatable kite sail the size of a small studio to pull a specially-designed catamaran across the water.

"Are you ready to jibe?" said company founder Yves Parlier,

using kitesurfing lingo to speak to this team of engineers steering the 25-square-metre (270-square-foot) kite.

In kitesurfing, riders use their hands to control the kite.

But on Parlier's SeaKite catamaran, an automated traction system is used for the kite, with winches and artificial intelligence that adapts the sail's position to the wind conditions.

The goal is to design much bigger kite sails that could one day pull yachts, trawlers and even container ships.

"It's a phenomenal system of traction which allows one to reduce fuel consumption by 20 per cent on average," said Par-



The startup Beyond The Sea tests a blue inflatable kite sail the size of a small studio to pull a specially-designed catamaran across the water. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

lier, a former winner of transatlantic sailing competitions.

The potential is huge given that there are nearly 100,000 merchant ships crisscrossing

the oceans and 4.6 million fishing trawlers in the world.

The Wind Ship association, which was created in 2019 in France with the aim of green-

ing the maritime sector, says the market could be worth four billion euros by 2030 with around 1,400 vessels fitted with such kites. — AFP

Huawei launches latest AI model

CHINESE tech giant Huawei on Friday launched the latest version of its Pangu pre-trained deep learning AI model, Pangu 3.0. The announcement was made at the Huawei Cloud Developer Conference held in Dongguan, south China's Guangdong Province.

Pangu 3.0 has a three-tier architecture. The foundation layer, L0, has five different models: natural language processing, multimodal databases, computer vision, prediction and scientific computing. L0 provides various skills to meet

the needs of different industry scenarios.

The second layer, L1, provides a variety of industry-specific models, focusing on fields such as e-government, finance, manufacturing, mining and meteorology.

The third layer, L2, provides multiple scenario-specific models for particular industry applications or business scenarios.

Customers can also train models using their own datasets based on Huawei's L0 or L1 Pangu layers. — Xinhua

UN tries to tackle 'mind-blowing' growth of AI

THE mind-blowing growth of artificial intelligence poses many questions that have no answers yet, the United Nations admitted Thursday at its AI summit, attended by some exceptionally life-like humanoid robots.

The UN is aware that AI technology is racing ahead of the capacity to set its boundaries and directions, and so it brought together some of the best minds on the topic — whether human or man-made.

The "AI for Good Global Summit", in Geneva on Thursday and Friday is being convened by the UN's ITU tech agency — and many unaware attendees were startled by the humanoid robots suddenly turning to look at them



Visitors interacted with Geminoid HI-2, a tele-operated android created by Hiroshi Ishiguro Laboratories. **PHOTO: FABRICE COFFRINI / AFP**

as they passed by.

"When generative AI shocked the world just a few months ago, we had never seen anything like it. Nothing even

close to it. Even the biggest names in tech found the experience mind-blowing," ITU chief Doreen Bogdan-Martin told the summit. — AFP

Israel Innovation Authority announces new initiatives to foster technological advancement

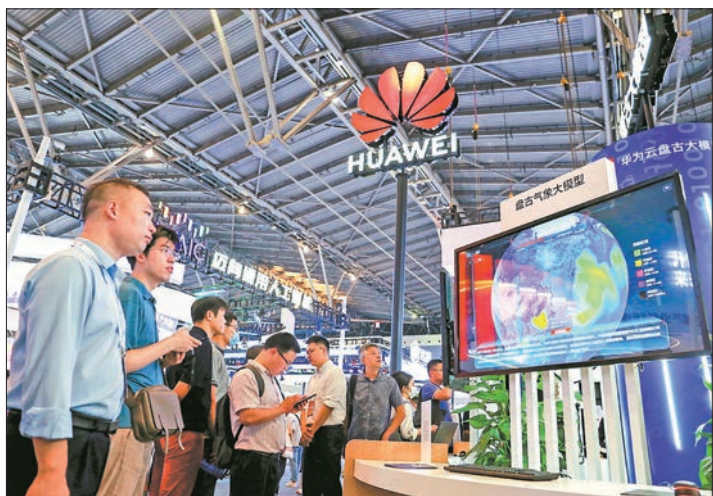
THE Israel Innovation Authority (IIA) announced Wednesday the launch of a new program with an investment of 40 Million Shekels (USD 11 million). The program includes initiatives in three different verticals - delivery technology (with an emphasis on "last-mile" solutions), Health - using to Bio-Convergence technologies and technology solutions

for schools and campus security.

IIA said the initiatives aim to foster synergy among different companies and technologies within the framework of a globally unique regulatory sandbox, enabling companies to operate in an adapted and supportive regulatory framework.

"The programme is designed to propel the Israeli technolog-

ical leadership in the selected sectors," said Dror Bin, CEO of the Israel Innovation Authority. "We are focusing on areas that we believe have tremendous growth potential, and in which Israeli technology companies have a relative advantage as well as the possibility of leading innovative products' development that will change the world." — ANI



Huawei Technologies Co unveils its artificial intelligence large language model Pangu 3.0 at the sixth World Artificial Intelligence Conference in Shanghai on Friday. **PHOTO: CHEN YUYU/FOR CHINA DAILY**

Disney cracks open vast archive for centennial celebrations

FROM princess costumes and cute character sketches to century-old toys, photos and documents, Disney's backrooms and warehouses are stacked to the rafters with "hundreds of millions" of filmmaking treasures, its archivists say.

In celebration of the company's upcoming centennial — officially marked on 16 October — Disney recently allowed a glimpse into its vaults, hosting a media visit to its film studio lot in Burbank, near Los Angeles.

"This is what we call the tip of the iceberg," said Walt Disney Archives director Becky Cline, before presenting artifacts ranging from the studio's founding legal document

and the first Mickey Mouse cartoon script to costumes from the latest Marvel films.

Many more items are currently out touring the world, with "Disney100: The Exhibition" on display simultaneously in Munich and Philadelphia. More locations including London will be added soon.

Paris is currently hosting an immersive, multi-sensory experience, centered around the friendships between Disney's iconic characters.

But a major portion of the studio's archives is in "five or six" warehouses "scattered around" the Los Angeles area, including larger items such as former theme park ride vehicles and movie props, said archivist Nicole Carroll. — AFP



Disney archivist Nicole Carroll introduces just a portion of the millions of items in the Disney archives. PHOTO: AFP

Hong Kong-American pop singer Coco Lee dies aged 48

HONG Kong-born American pop singer Coco Lee, beloved in Asia for her diva riffs and as the voice of Disney's "Mulan" in Mandarin, died Wednesday, according to an announcement from her family.

The 48-year-old had suffered from depression in recent years, "but her condition deteriorated drastically over the last few months", sisters Carol Lee and Nancy Lee said in an Instagram post.

She was hospitalized Sunday after attempting to take her own life, they said.

"Despite the best efforts of the hospital team to rescue

and treat her from her coma, she finally passed away on 5 July 2023."

Born 17 January 1975, in British-ruled Hong Kong, Lee — who also grew up in California — gained prominence in the 90s for her strong voice, crescendoing vocal riffs and soulful ballads.

Her fluency in Cantonese, Mandarin and English helped Lee access a fan base not only in Hong Kong, mainland China and Taiwan, but also in Southeast Asian countries like Singapore and Malaysia, as well as in Australia. — AFP

Study reveals creative people enjoy idle time more than others



Creative people are more likely to use their free time to think in interesting ways. PHOTO: ANI

ACCORDING to a new study by University of Arizona researchers, creative people are more prone to spend their downtime during the day exploring their minds.

The study, published in the Creativity Research Journal, finds that creative people are

more likely to fruitfully use idle time by letting one idea lead to another.

Study participants who were more creative felt less bored when they sat alone in a room, researchers found. And during the COVID-19 pandemic, a time when the world ex-

perienced unusually extended periods of unstructured time, creative people were less bored and more engaged with their thoughts.

"I am particularly interested in creativity because we wanted to know what's going on in the mind of creative individuals, especially in situations where nothing constrains their thoughts," said lead study author Quentin Raffaelli, a graduate student in the UArizona Department of Psychology.

In psychology and neuroscience, most studies on human thoughts either prompt participants to think in a certain way or ask them to report on thoughts they experienced, but less is known about how thoughts naturally arise and unfold over time in unprompted contexts, said Jessica Andrews-Hanna, an associate professor in the Department of Psychology and senior author of the paper. — ANI

K-pop megastars BTS release memoir



K-pop megastars BTS released their hotly anticipated memoir in South Korea on Sunday. PHOTO: AFP

K-POP megastars BTS released their hotly anticipated memoir in South Korea on Sunday, marking their 10th anniversary as a group.

"Beyond the Story: 10-Year Record of BTS" is the septet's first official book, and contains a chronological summary of their musical career as well as hints at their future endeavours, according to their agency BIGHIT MUSIC.

Crowds were kept away by heavy rain on Sunday morning,

but some diehard fans braved the weather to gather in front of the Kyobo bookstore in Gwanghwamun, one of the biggest in Seoul.

Sri Lankan fan Lakshi told AFP that if her excitement were measured on a "one to 10 scale, then it is about a million".

Aqilah, a fan from Malaysia, gushed: "I came here since 9 am and I finally got this book!"

The book, which is also being released in the United States, shot to the top of the Amazon

and Barnes and Noble bestseller lists in May on the strength of its pre-orders.

It was co-written by South Korean journalist Kang Myeong-seok and members of the band, according to its US publisher Flatiron Books.

The release date of the memoir, 9 July, is a nod to a significant date in the septet's history: it is the day the megastars' loyal international fan base, known as ARMY, first came into being 10 years ago. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Underwater mining of high seas inches closer, worrying environmentalists

GOVERNMENTS will soon likely be able to apply for deep sea mining contracts in international waters, a plunge into the unknown that is worrying conservationists as calls for a moratorium on such digging grow.

States have for ten years been negotiating a mining code to set rules for the possible exploitation of nickel, cobalt and copper in deep seabed areas that fall outside of national jurisdictions.

But agreement has so far been elusive, and on Sunday a clause is set to expire that allows governments to apply for contracts while negotiations continue.

“I think it’s a very real possibility that we see an application submitted this year,” Emma Wilson of the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition told AFP.



A pilot vehicle – called a nodule collector – used in deep-sea exploration is lowered into the water in trials conducted by mining group TMC. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/RICHARD BARON/THE METALS COMPANY**

“So it’s crucial for states to be bold and implement the necessary measures to protect our ocean,” she said, adding that the

International Seabed Authority (ISA) is entering “the most critical decision-making period in the history of its existence.”

The ISA was established under the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. It is responsible for protecting the sea-

bed in the high seas as well as regulating activities related to coveted minerals.

Presently, the Jamaica-based body only grants exploration permits for these areas, which the UN convention classifies as “the common heritage of mankind.”

In the summer of 2021, the small Pacific island state of Nauru threw a spanner into the works of the decade-long negotiations for the mining code by triggering a clause demanding that agreement be reached within two years.

With that timeframe now up, if Nauru were to apply for a contract for Nauru Ocean Resources (Nori), a subsidiary of Canadian firm The Metals Company, then ISA would have to consider the request — but may not necessarily give the green light. — AFP

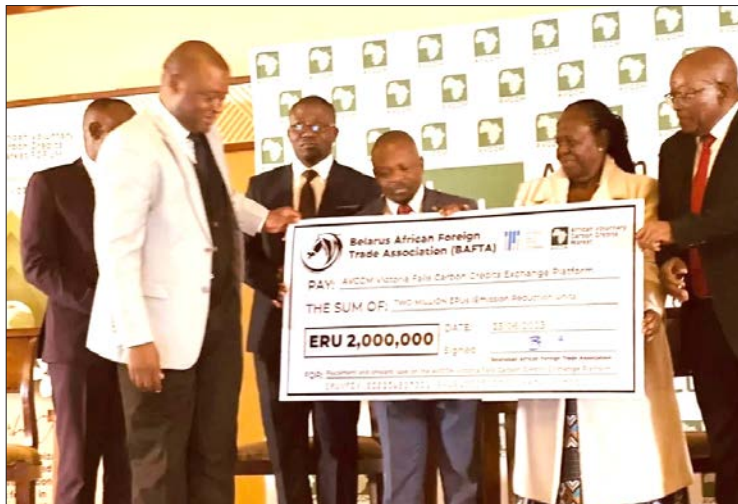
Zimbabwe’s carbon exchange kicks off with Belarusian gift

A carbon credit initiative in Zimbabwe got off to a surprising start on Friday with a large donation from a Belarusian group announced by South Africa’s graft-stained former president.

Jacob Zuma told a climate conference in the holiday resort of Victoria Falls that trade in the green financial tools there would benefit from an endowment of two million credits from a Belarus-African trade association.

“This is our pledge to kick-start the process,” Zuma said in a speech, adding he was a board member of the little-known group known as the Belarus African Foreign Trade Association (BAFTA).

The announcement will arguably do little to reassure



Former president Jacob Zuma with a carbon credits cheque on behalf of the Africa Belarus Trade Organization. **PHOTO: JZ FOUNDATION**

investors in an industry tainted by scandals and left jittery by Zimbabwe’s recent shock move to reform the sector by claiming half of all revenues from carbon

offset projects in the country.

Zimbabwe this week unveiled a new carbon credits exchange, a financial tool aimed at tackling climate change. — AFP

Sweet success: Jordan’s beekeepers busy as honey demand soars

JORDAN’S key tourism industry may have been hammered by Covid, but the pandemic gave a boost to another sector, keeping its beekeepers busy as demand for honey has soared.

The country’s 4,000 apiarists have ramped up output of the sweet and sticky golden substance long praised for its anti-inflammatory and other health benefits.

Even if there is no scientific consensus that honey helps fight Covid, many of those infected have used it to soothe symptoms such as sore

throats.

“The Covid period in particular had a great, positive impact on us,” said beekeeper Mutasim Hammad, 48, who retired 12 years ago from the public security directorate and turned his hobby into his main job.

“There was good demand for honey, and people got to know it,” added Hammad, dressed in a white protective suit while checking on his 80 bee hive boxes on a property in Irbid 90 kilometres (60 miles) north of Amman. — AFP



Jordan’s apiarists have ramped up output of the sweet and sticky golden substance long praised for its health benefits. **PHOTO: AFP**

Canada’s economy created 60,000 new jobs in June

CANADA’S economy created 60,000 new jobs in June, government figures showed Friday, far more than expected by analysts who believe the growth should prompt the central bank to hike interest rates again next week.

After a brief reversal, the

country’s job market resumed its upward trend last month, recording its strongest growth since January.

Some 110,000 full-time jobs were created across the board, more than offsetting the 50,000 people who stopped working

part-time, according to national agency Statistics Canada.

Despite this, the unemployment rate climbed from 5.2 per cent to 5.4 per cent, its highest level since February 2022, although it remains close to its historic low of five per cent. — AFP

Climate change challenges hydropower-dependent Austria

HIGH in the Austrian Alps, hundreds of construction workers toil in a huge underground project aimed at storing hydropower as climate change has reduced the country's water-dependent electricity production.

Austria draws more than 60 per cent of its electricity output from the renewable energy source, compared to a global average of 16 per cent, with more than 3,100 dams spread across its rivers.

But the amount of electricity generated through hydropower in the European Union country is down — from some 45 terawatt hours (TWh) in 2020 to 42 TWh in 2021 — as water levels are falling.

For the first time last year, Austria — which also still relies heavily on Russian gas — had to import electricity, ringing alarm bells. Inside the snow-capped mountain range, above the Austrian village of Kaprun in the Salzburg region, trucks thunder in and out of the vast subterranean construction site, which is dotted with statues of Saint Barbara, patron of miners and others plying dangerous trades.

Excavation work for the Limberg 3 pumped storage power plant is wrapping up.

Well prepared

The plant is to be operational by 2025 to store power in order to cater to peaks in



Excavation work for the Limberg 3 pumped storage power plant is wrapping up. **PHOTO: JOE KLAMAR / AFP**

electricity consumption and mitigate a change in weather patterns, including increasingly capricious and irregular rainfall.

"We want to be prepared well," said Klaus Hebenstreit,

an executive of main electricity producer Verbund.

"The distribution (of water) over the year will change: we will have less water in summer (due to drought) and more in

winter" due to snow melt, he added.

Two years of drought have hit Austria, like the rest of Europe, according to Roman Neunteufel, a senior researcher at Vienna's University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences.

"If there are several dry years in a row, then this becomes very noticeable... Water levels have never been lower since records began" some 100 years ago, he said.

Europe should brace for more deadly heatwaves driven by climate change, said a report last month by the World Meteorological Organization and the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service. — AFP

Heavy rain pounds western Japan, halting some bullet train services

HEAVY rain continued to pound western Japan on Sunday, temporarily halting bullet train services between Hiroshima and Hakata stations on the Sanyo Shinkansen line.

According to West Japan Railway Co., services were suspended from around 8:30 am. The section between Hiroshima and Kokura, which is a stop away from Hakata, did not resume operation until 1 pm.

The Japan Meteorological Agency is warning of landslides and flooding in Yamaguchi and nearby prefectures, with heavy precipitation expected in western and eastern regions in the coming days due to a rainy season front lingering over the country.

Until 11 am, hourly rainfall



A road in Matsue in Shimane Prefecture, western Japan, is flooded after heavy rain on 8 July 2023. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE / KYODO**

in Kurume, Fukuoka Prefecture, registered 65 millimeters, while that in Oda, Shimane Prefecture,

stood at 62.5 mm and that in Shimonoseki, Yamaguchi Prefecture, at 55 mm. — Kyodo

Indonesia actively promoting pineapple export to China

AT central Lampung province in the southern part of Indonesia's Sumatra island, gloved workers are picking ripe pineapples in the field and throwing them onto a conveyer belt, with a truck waiting at the other end to take the fruit to the canning factory.

With sufficient tropical sunshine and high temperature throughout the year, there are

about 200,000 sweet pineapples to harvest every single day at the plantation of PT. Great Giant Pineapple (GGP), a large private-label manufacturer of canned pineapples.

"We divided the plantation, covering over 30,000 hectares of land, into several zones, and harvest all the pineapples in each zone at the same time," said

Murdi Suprayitno, a production planning worker of plantation group one.

About 50 per cent of the GGP's pineapple production is exported to more than 60 countries and regions. Besides canned pineapple, it also produces fresh pineapple, jam, cubes in cups, juice concentrate, and canned fruit cocktails. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

UK to unveil new measures to support financial sector

FINANCE MINISTER Jeremy Hunt is on Monday due to announce new measures to support Britain's powerful financial sector, seeking to make the UK the "most innovative and competitive" financial centre in the world.

Hunt will set out "how Britain's financial services will support the drive for long-term sustainable growth across the country", the UK Treasury said ahead of his speech at London's Mansion House in the City of London financial district.

"I want to lay out plans to enable our financial services sector to increase returns for pensioners, improve outcomes for investors and unlock capital for our growth businesses," Hunt is expected to tell an audience of CEOs and leaders from the sector.

The new measures will in particular seek to make the UK stock market more attractive to firms looking to take their businesses public. The number of companies conducting IPOs in London last year plunged to around 40 listings compared to more than 100 in 2021. — AFP

Botswana eyes greater share in diamond value chain

BOTSWANA, one of the world's leading diamond producers, vows to expand its involvement in the industry's value chain to promote more businesses and create more jobs in the country, a senior official has said.

The Botswanan government and De Beers, the world's leading diamond company, on July 1 signed a new 10-year sales deal for Debswana, a joint venture between the two sides, on raw diamond production until 2033, as well as a 25-year extension of the mining license through 2054.

The new agreement will see more industries emerge from the diamond sector and more jobs in the southern African country, Minister of Minerals and Energy Lefoko Moagi said on Thursday in the capital of Gaborone.

Botswana will move into the midstream of the business where diamonds are cut and polished, as well as the downstream of jewelry making and retail business, Moagi said. — Xinhua

ROLLING UPDATES

ASIA

N Korea slams IAEA for Fukushima water approval



The public in South Korea is strongly opposed to the plan to release water from the Fukushima nuclear plant in Japan. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE / JUNG YEON-JE / AFP**

NORTH Korea on Sunday slammed the United Nations' nuclear watchdog for approving

Japan's plan to discharge treated water from the Fukushima nuclear plant.

The International Atomic Energy Agency approved Tokyo's plan to release treated wa-

ter from the tsunami-hit nuclear plant into the sea over the next few decades.

The plan has raised concerns in neighbouring countries, prompting China to ban some food imports and sparking protests in South Korea.

The release of the treated water will have a "fatal adverse impact on the human lives and security and ecological environment," an official from Pyongyang's environmental protection ministry said in a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency.

"What matters is the unreasonable behaviour of IAEA actively patronizing and facilitating Japan's projected discharge of nuclear-polluted water, which is unimaginable," the statement added.

Some 1.33 million cubic me-

tres of groundwater, rainwater and water used for cooling have accumulated at the Fukushima nuclear plant, where several reactors went into meltdown after the 2011 tsunami overwhelmed cooling systems.

The plant operator treats the water to remove almost all radioactive elements except tritium, and plans to dilute it before discharging it into the ocean over several decades.

The statement comes as IAEA head Rafael Grossi is wrapping up his three-day visit to Seoul with a meeting with opposition lawmakers, who have criticised the planned release.

On Saturday, Grossi met with South Korean foreign minister Park Jin to brief him on his agency's findings, Seoul's foreign ministry said in a statement. — AFP

Sino-European joint space mission enters flight model phase

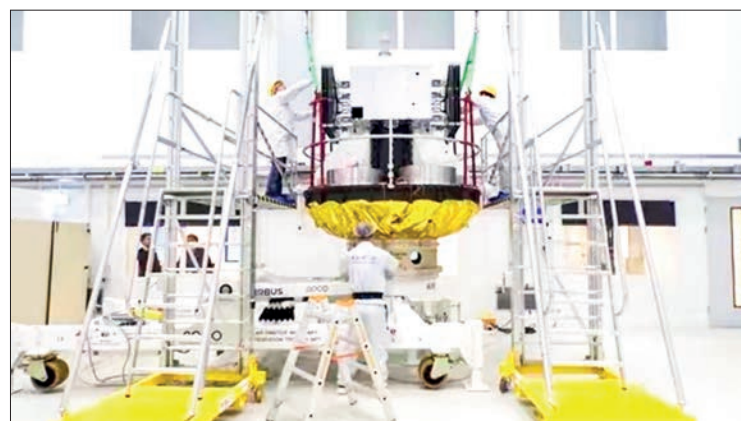
A China-Europe joint space mission, Solar Wind Magnetosphere Ionosphere Link Explorer (SMILE), has entered the flight model phase in an all-around way, according to the National Space Science Center (NSSC) under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). After a four-day discussion and consultation, the review experts unanimously agreed that SMILE has successfully passed the critical design review, marking an important milestone in the development stage of SMILE, the NSSC said.

The review experts believe that SMILE has completed the

development of prototypes as required. After testing and experimental verification, the functions and performance indexes of each prototype product meet the task requirements, and the quality and technical status of the prototype development process are under control, according to the experts.

They also noted that the satellite and payloads have been designed as required with clear interfaces and technical status and feasible designs. The functions and performance indexes also meet the task requirements.

SMILE is a collaborative science mission between the CAS



A Chinese scientist assembles the satellite. **PHOTO: NSSC**

and the European Space Agency to build a deeper understanding of the Sun-Earth link by observ-

ing the dynamic interaction between the solar wind and Earth's magnetosphere. — AFP

Worst rains in 20 years in New Delhi leave one person dead — Reports



AT least one person died and over a dozen buildings were destroyed as a result of heavy rains in India's capital of New Delhi, reported Sputnik quoting NDTV reports citing the city's firefighting service.

New Delhi generally experiences monsoon season from June to September, with peak rainfall occurring in July and August. During this period, the city receives significant rainfall. **PHOTO: SAJJAD HUSSAIN / AFP**

The rains that hit New Delhi on Saturday were the heaviest one-day rainfall in the last 20 years. Severe flooding was recorded in Connaught Place, the city's financial hub.

The rains caused 15 buildings to collapse in New Delhi and at least one person was killed, NDTV said. Earlier this week, Indian media reported that at least 12 people died in India's eastern state of Bihar as a result of lightning strikes and heavy rains. — SPUTNIK

NEWS IN BRIEF

SF Airlines opens China-Germany air cargo route

A new air cargo route was launched on Friday linking Ezhou, central China's Hubei Province, with Frankfurt, Germany, announced SF Airlines, China's largest air cargo carrier in fleet size.

On early Friday morning, a B747-400 freighter took off at Ezhou Huahu Airport, China's first cargo-focused airport. It marked the launching of the second air route connecting the airport with Europe, said SF Airlines.

Two round-trip cargo flights are scheduled for this route every week, with around 400 tonnes of air express capacity.

The new route will mainly handle general cargo, e-commerce goods, and express shipments, helping boost air logistics between China and Europe, said the company.

Headquartered in Shenzhen, SF Airlines is the aviation branch of China's leading courier enterprise SF Express. It is operating a fleet of 83 freighters, connecting more than 90 destinations at home and globally. — Xinhua

Sri Lanka seeks stolen artifacts on anniversary of president's ouster

SRI Lanka offered an amnesty on Sunday for the return of historical treasures looted when protesters stormed the presidential palace a year ago, forcing then-leader Gotabaya Rajapaksa to flee.

Months of protests over Sri Lanka's worst economic crisis since gaining independence from Britain in 1948 culminated in thousands of people breaking into the palace on 9 July, 2022.

"Various valuable artefacts and archaeological items went missing, including coats of arms associated with former governors and presidents of Sri Lanka," the office of Rajapaksa's successor Ranil Wickremesinghe said in a statement, announcing a month-long amnesty to surrender the items.

The artefacts were stolen from the palace in the heart of the capital Colombo — a sym-

bol of state authority for over 200 years — during its five-day occupation.

Officials released photos of five coats of arms, including one of Jorge de Albuquerque, the seventh Portuguese governor appointed in 1622 to administer the island.

Other coats of arms belonged to governors during British colonial rule in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Soon after protesters overran the palace, social media posts showed them frolicking in the presidential pool and bouncing on four-poster beds.

As Rajapaksa escaped through a back entrance, security forces stepped back while crowds took selfies in front of valuable artefacts.

Rajapaksa was blamed by protesters for corruption and mismanaging the nation's finances.



Demonstrators take part in an anti-government protest outside the office of Sri Lanka's prime minister in Colombo on 13 July 2022. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Police later arrested a man who walked home with a presidential beer mug, and two others who took flags of Rajapaksa — turning them into a sarong

and a bedsheet — were caught after posting photographs on Facebook.

Activists, however, handed over to the police some \$6,000

in cash found in Rajapaksa's bedroom, with a court since calling on the former president to explain how he earned it. — AFP

Greek PM kicks off second term after confidence vote



Mitsotakis stated on Saturday, after the presentation of the government policy statement, that the elections had indicated Greece's entry into an era of significant changes. He noted that the majority party had been mandated to swiftly progress towards these changes. PHOTO: LOUISA GOULIAMAKI/AFP

GREECE'S government won a vote of confidence Saturday in parliament, kicking off its second four-year term, two weeks

after Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis' New Democracy party won the elections.

Following a three-day debate on policy statements for a second term in power, the ruling party received a vote of confidence from 158 out of 300 deputies in a roll-call vote.

New Democracy has 158 seats in parliament.

The party, which won the 25 June election with 40.56 per cent of the vote, compared to 17.83 per cent for the left-wing Syriza and 11.84 per cent for the socialist PASOK, vows to accelerate institutional and economic reforms. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Murder of Sikh leader sparks dueling protests in Toronto

A few hundred members of Canada's Sikh community demonstrated outside the Indian consulate in Toronto on Saturday to protest the unsolved murder of one of their leaders last month in the Vancouver area. They accused the Indian government of being responsible for the gunning down of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, president of a Sikh temple and campaigner for the creation of an independent Sikh state that supporters hope to call Khalistan.

"When an Indian agency and system commit a crime, they have to be held accountable," Kuljeet Singh, spokesperson for Sikhs for Justice, a US-based organization behind the rally, told AFP.

Nijjar, whom India had declared a wanted terrorist, was gunned down on 18 June in Surrey, a suburb of Vancouver that is home to one of the largest Sikh populations in Canada.

Another protestor, Hakirt Singh, a lawyer, told AFP that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) "should investigate this murder" as a political assassination. — AFP

After riots, France bans July 14 fireworks sales

FRANCE has banned the sale, possession and transport of fireworks during the July 14 national holiday weekend, following riots sparked by the police killing a teenager, the government said Sunday.

Fireworks were among the weapons of choice during the unrest that exploded in France after a police officer shot dead a 17-year-old during a traffic stop on 27 June near Paris, rekindling long pent-up frustrations and accusations of systemic racism among France's security forces. — AFP

July 14th is a national holiday in France. It is known as "Bastille Day" or "La Fête Nationale" in French. This day commemorates the storming of the Bastille prison on 14 July 1789, which was a pivotal event during the French Revolution. PHOTO: AFP/FILE



Sri Lanka seeks stolen artifacts on anniversary of president's ouster

PAGE-15



SPORT

Sheikh Talal Fahad Al-Sabah elected as new OCA president



Sheikh Talal Fahad Al-Sabah speaks at the 42nd Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) Congress in Bangkok, Thailand, 8 July 2023. The OCA elected Sheikh Talal Fahad Al-Sabah as its new president at the congress on Saturday. **PHOTO: WANG TENG/XINHUA**

THE Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) elected Sheikh Talal Fahad Al-Sabah as its new president at the 42nd OCA Congress here on Saturday. Sheikh Talal received 24

of the 44 votes cast. The other candidate, the OCA director general and president of World Aquatics Husain Al-Musallam, who is also from Kuwait, received 20 votes.

Sheikh Talal, 58, is the son of the first OCA president Sheikh Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who was president from 1982 to 1990, and the younger brother of the previous OCA president Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Sabah, who led the organization from 1991 to 2021. Sheikh Talal joined the OCA in 2007 and served as chair of the OCA Rules Committee and a member of the OCA Executive Board. — Xinhua

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.

Mexico, Panama reach Gold Cup semis with hat trick for Diaz

MEXICO and Panama booked their places in the last four of the CONCACAF Gold Cup with victories on Saturday in their quarter-final ties against Costa Rica and Qatar. Ismael Díaz blasted a hat trick in the space of nine second-half minutes as Panama marched on with a 4-0 win over Qatar. Panama will face the winner of the quarter-final between the United States and Canada on Sunday in Cincinnati.

Record eight-time Gold Cup champions Mexico reached the last four of the tournament for the ninth straight edition thanks to a 2-0 win over Costa Rica. In the semi-finals, El Tri will take on the winner of Sunday's clash between Jamaica and Guatemala after a hard-earned victory over the Central Americans at the home of the Dallas Cowboys in Arlington, Texas. — AFP

New Zealand vow to get 'gritty' to avoid World Cup embarrassment

JITKA Klimkova says her New Zealand team must get "gritty" if they are to end their 32-year wait for a first Women's World Cup win and avoid embarrassment on home soil.

The co-hosts kick the tournament off with a tough test against Norway at Eden Park in Auckland on 20 July, before matches against Switzerland and minnows the Philippines.

The top two teams from the eight groups progress to the knockout rounds and New Zealand will need to defy the history books and recent form to get out of Group A. The Football Ferns have played at five Women's World Cups stretching back to the first in 1991 and have never won in 15 games. — AFP

Two Myanmar clubs have opportunity to compete in AFC Cup

TWO Myanmar domestic football clubs is slated to compete in the 2023-2024 season of AFC

Cup, according to the Asian Football Confederation.

The 2022 Myanmar Nation-

al League champion Shan United will compete in the group stage and the first runners-up

Yangon United will battle in the pre-qualification stage.

Yangon United will face Brunei Club Kazuka in the pre-qualification stage.

If the Yangon team can pass this stage, they will have to play away match against the Indonesian club Makassar in the qualifying play-off stage.

Myanmar clubs will take part in the ASEAN zone, which will be divided into three groups, with 12 contending teams.

Drawing-lots ceremony for the AFC Cup competition will be held on 24 August, and Shan United team is participating in Pot-3 with Malaysian and the Philippines clubs in line with the sedan specification.

The qualifiers will be held in August, and the ASEAN zone group matches will be played at home and away system from September to December. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM



The players of Myanmar National League defending champion Shan United. **PHOTO: MNL**