

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Tuesday, 18 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 producers/exporters benefit from preferential tariffs through RCEP CO Form

THE Ministry of Commerce's Trade Department has announced that producers and exporters in Myanmar can now take an advantage of preferential tariffs through the Certificate of Origin (CO) Form RCEP. This form is available for products originating in Myanmar and intended for export to Cambodia, Thailand, Brunei, Laos, Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia. Authorized traders will be able to enjoy the benefits of preferential tariffs.

To obtain the CO Form RCEP, interested parties can apply at the relevant export and import offices and border checkpoints under the Trade Department, as per the established rules and regulations.

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), a free trade agreement



Workers are pictured being busy with sewing machines at the garment factory in Hlinethaya Township in Yangon.



between the ten member states of ASEAN, Australia, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and New Zealand, came into effect in January 2022.

In addition, for manufacturing-related products, traders can obtain approved exporter status through the Online CO

Application System (<https://onlineco.myanmartradenet.com>).

Membership in RCEP comes with several trade benefits. The agreement provides tariff incentives based on the development status of each state. Specifically, Cambodia, Laos,

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Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization

THE State Administration Council has appointed U Khin Zaw (2), Deputy Director-General of the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, as Director-General of the same department on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Political parties allowed to be established continue applying for registration

THOSE who want to establish a political party are applying to the Union Election Commission by stating the name of the party they want to establish.

To date, 13 groups have applied for the right to establish a party. Among the groups

that applied, eight political parties have been allowed to establish.

Out of the eight political parties allowed to be established, the New National Political Strength Party applied to the Commission yesterday to

register as a political party under the Registration of Political Parties Rule 7 within 30 days from the date of approval for the establishment of the party.

The Union Election Commission is processing the verification. — MNA/KZL

20 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 17 July, total figure registers 640,906

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to 640,906 after 20 new cases were reported on 17 July 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of 10,957,267 laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 640,906. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 619,696 including 14 new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered 19,494 on 17-7-2023 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

National Disaster Management Committee

MSMEs encouraged to substitute imported goods and increase exportation

- It is necessary to encourage rural businesses called agriculture and livestock farms.
- If rural people develop their socioeconomic lives, the demand for rural businesses will increase.
- If so, money circulation will improve, and the State economy will develop.
- As such, MSME businesses are being encouraged to substitute imported goods and increase the export volume.

(Excerpts from the discussion by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at a meeting with MSME businesspersons of Kachin State held on 13 December 2022)

ISR Vovinam Tournament 2023 kicks off

THE Inter-State and Region Vovinam Tournament 2023 was opened at Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium A in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

State Administration Council members, Union ministers, deputy ministers, departmental officials, officials from Myanmar Vovinam Federation, coaches and players joined the event.

Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan highlighted that this tournament has been held since 2016, and this is the fourth time.

Following the remarks, the SAC members and the Union minister greeted the athletes cordially and watched the Men's Doubles (Performance) and Men's Singles (Fight) events.

Under the supervision of Sports and Physical Education



SAC members, Union ministers and dignitaries watch the Inter-State and Region Vovinam Tourney 2023 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Department of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and the Myanmar Vovinam Federation, the tournament was held to strengthen the friendship

between Vovinam athletes and bring out the new generation of athletes, making the sport more popular throughout the country and raising the standard of such

sport.

A total of 221 athletes from 13 male and 13 female teams are competing in the tourney, which is being held at the Wun-

na Theikdi Gymnasium A from 17 to 20 July.

Interested sports fans are invited to enjoy the matches for free. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar's producers/exporters benefit from preferential tariffs through RCEP CO Form

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and Myanmar have been granted access to preferential tariffs, while Viet Nam receives moderate tariff benefits. Furthermore, the least-developed countries will enjoy additional exemptions as outlined in the United Nations charter supporting the Least-Developed Countries (LDCs).

For example, the agreement grants preferential tariffs to Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar over other states. According to the agreement, RCEP members have to grant a 65 per cent customs tariff exemption. However, Myanmar, Cambodia, and Laos are only entitled to give a 30-per-cent tax-exempt to other entities a 30 per cent tax

to other entities.

Furthermore, ten years after the agreement's implementation, members are obligated to grant an 80 per cent tax exemption. Myanmar, however, has been given a transition period of up to 15 years for its trade sector.

Moreover, the agreement takes into consideration the needs of LDCs and aims to implement commitments while providing customs duty relief. This approach seeks to stimulate trade and investment opportunities, as well as promote participation in regional and global trade and value chains.

Being a member of both RCEP and ASEAN, Myanmar will have access to significant

opportunities for enhancing its international standing. This includes the ability to amend laws, policy frameworks, and regulations to support trade and investment promotion, as well as strengthen the capacities of governmental and private institutions.

Additionally, Myanmar's exports will benefit from expanded access to foreign markets, particularly those in developed and technologically advanced countries such as Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore. This agreement is expected to attract responsible and accountable large-scale investments into the country. — NN/EM

National Flag to be flown half-mast, siren to be sounded on 76th Martyrs' Day

THE State Administration Council has instructed all the departments and organizations that to fly the national flag at half-mast across the country and Myanma Radio and Television to sound a siren on Martyrs' Day at 10:37 am on 19 July 2023 in memory of the martyrs.

At that time, all the cars running on the roads are to stop for a while and blare their horns. — MNA/KZW

MRTV to broadcast 76th Martyrs' Day ceremony live

THE 76th Martyrs' Day ceremony will be held at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Bahan Township, Yangon, at 8 am on 19 July 2023.

The ceremony will be broadcast live on MRTV-HD, MRTV News Channel, MWD – HD Channel, MWD Variety HD Channel, MITV, MOI Website, MOI YouTube, MRTV Website and aired live on Radio Myanmar, Thazin FM, Star FM, Padamy FM, FM Bagan, Pyinsawady FM, Mandalay FM, Cherry FM and Shwe FM. —MNA/KZW

MoFA Union Minister attends BIMSTEC FMs' Retreat in Bangkok

AT the official invitation of Mr Don Pramudwinai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, the current Chair of BIMSTEC, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe participated in the BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat held on 17 July 2023.

Foreign Ministers of the BIMSTEC Member States i.e. Dr A K Abdul Momen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, Dr Tandi Dorji, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Bhutan, Dr S Jaishankar, Minister for External Affairs of India, Mr Narayan Prakash Saud, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal, Mr Ali Sabry, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, Mr Don Pramudwinai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand and Mr Tenzin Lekphell, BIMSTEC Secretary-General were present at the Retreat.

During the Retreat, Foreign Ministers cordially discussed and exchanged views on matters related to the BIMSTEC Cooperation mechanism as well as regional and global issues.

On the BIMSTEC Cooper-



Union Minister U Than Swe poses for the documentary group photo along with foreign ministers of the BIMSTEC in Bangkok yesterday.

ation mechanism, their discussions focused on the cooperation with the external partners, the establishment of the Eminent Persons' Group (EPG) on the Future Directions of BIMSTEC and the holding of the BIMSTEC Ministerial Meetings. They also deliberated on resiliency to crisis i.e. pandemic, financial crisis and natural disasters, post-Covid-19 economic development and

other regional and global issues including ways and means to establish cross-border digital payment systems, health, energy and food security.

After the Retreat, the BIMSTEC Chair of Thailand hosted a Luncheon in honour of delegations to the BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat.

Then, the BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers paid a joint cour-

tesy call to Mr Prayut Chan-ocha, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand.

On the sidelines of the BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat, Mr Tenzin Lekphell, Secretary-General of BIMSTEC paid a courtesy call on Union Minister U Than Swe on the afternoon of 16 July 2023. During the call, the Union minister handed over the original docu-

ment of Myanmar's "Instrument of Ratification to the BIMSTEC Charter" to the Secretary-General. Myanmar has already ratified the BIMSTEC Charter as per the provisions stipulated in the Charter.

On the evening of 16 July 2023, Union Minister U Than Swe together with the Foreign Ministers from other BIMSTEC Member States attended the welcoming dinner hosted by Mr Don Pramudwinai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand, the current Chair of BIMSTEC.

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization established in 1997 and it comprises seven Member States namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The main aim of BIMSTEC is to promote economic cooperation among the Member States of the Bay of Bengal region. Out of the current seven Sectors of BIMSTEC Cooperation, Myanmar is now serving as the Lead Country in "Agriculture and Food Security Sector". — MNA

MoFA Union Minister holds separate talks with Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan Ambassadors



U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar separately met Dr AK Abdul Momen, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh at 4:30 pm (local time) and Hon Ali Sabry, Foreign Minister of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka at 5:15 pm (local

Union Minister U Than Swe meets the Bangladeshi ambassador in Bangkok yesterday.

time) on 17 July 2023 on the sidelines of the 12th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting and BIMSTEC Foreign Minister's Retreat in Bangkok, Thailand.

During the meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, they candidly exchanged views on further consolidation of bilateral relations between the two countries, expansion of bilateral trade and economic cooperation, successful implementation of repatriation of verified displaced persons

from Rakhine State as well as regional and international matters of mutual interest.

During the meeting with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, they cordially exchanged views on matters related to the further promotion of the traditional friendly relations between Myanmar and Sri Lanka, enhancement of trade and investment particularly in the areas of education, information technology, finance, and closer collaboration in regional and multilateral contexts. — MNA

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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 454237515

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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newsroom@gnlm.com.mm, gnlmnews@gmail.com
www.gnlm.com.mm

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

MoU signed on legal cooperation, legislative research project

THE signing ceremony of the MoU on legal cooperation and legislative research project between the Ministry of Legal Affairs and the China-ASEAN Legal Research Centre was held in Chongqing of China yesterday.

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo attended the ceremony.

At the event, the Union minister said that the Ministry of Legal Affairs is implementing the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan entitled, "Legal service for justice and fairness" under five objectives, and cooperation with partner countries and international organizations is one of them. Therefore, the ministry made MoU to work together with the China-ASEAN

Legal Research Centre in legal sectors.

According to the MoU, the ministry and the China-ASEAN Legal Research Centre will mainly cooperate in the research works for drafting laws and in the fields of legal knowledge development. Moreover, the two countries can exchange knowledge on differences in the legal system, language, political policy and cultural norms and cooperation of legal affairs of the two countries will be effective.

Then, the Rector of the Southwest University of Political Science and Law appointed the Union minister as an honourable professor of the university for the duration of 2023-2028. — MNA/KTZH



The documentary group photo of the MoU signing event held yesterday in China.

MoIP UM receives UNHCR resident representative



The UNHCR residential representative calls on Union Minister U Myint Kyaing yesterday.

UNION Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing received Ms Noriko Takagi, Resident Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and party yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Both sides frankly discussed the signing of a new MoU between MoIP and UNHCR to replace the expired MoU for the

repatriation of displaced people from Rakhine State, negotiation for the amendment to the new MoU and its earlier improvement in a certain way, visa extension for foreigners including UNHCR personnel, awareness of Myanmar's efforts to repatriate displaced persons from Rakhine State and conditions for effective cooperation and assistance. — MNA/TS

Notice

CAMPANA Mythic Co Ltd will conduct the Myanmar-Singapore international undersea cable connection project by the CS Nusantara Explorer at Unit 1 place with Rov cables in Myanmar Exclusive Economic Zone. The operations will be started at the intended places: North Latitude 14° 07.382', East Longitude 096° 22.417', North Latitude 14° 06.635', East Longitude 096° 22.109' on 13 July, North Latitude 14° 07.668', East Longitude 096° 23.057', North Latitude 14° 07.165', East Longitude 096° 22.413' on 14 July, North Latitude 14° 07.668', East Longitude 096° 23.057', North Latitude 14° 07.165', East Longitude 096° 22.413' on 15 July, North Latitude 14° 07.668', East Longitude 096° 23.057', North Latitude 14° 07.165', East Longitude 096° 22.413' on 16 July, North Latitude 15° 25.982', East Longitude 096° 31.965', North Latitude 14° 07.382', East Longitude 096° 22.417' from 17 July to 31 December 2023.

The Notice to Mariners has already been released not to occur delays in the project period along the project areas in Myanmar Exclusive Economic Zone. Therefore, the ships, vessels, fishing boats, and motor boats are not allowed to pass and are also banned from anchoring, fishing and placing fishing devices.

Fisheries Department

40 electric vehicles arrive at Yangon Port

WITH the approval of the Steering Committee on National-level Development of Electric Vehicles and Related Industries, a total of 40 electric vehicles (including 20 Neta U models and 20 Seres 3 models) imported by Grand Sirius Co Ltd and Asia Pacific Automaker Corporation Co Ltd arrived at Yangon Port. They were allowed to be claimed following Customs procedures on 17 July. The import of battery electric vehicles (BEVs) is exempted from Customs duties. — MNA/KZW



The photo shows new arrivals of electric vehicles at Yangon Port on 17 July.

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သတင်းစာ မှာယူလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်
09 454 237 515

သတင်းစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နှိုင်းဝေကာခံချိန်မီ ပုံနှိပ်လိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်
01 860 4530

CRIME NEWS

Confiscation of illegal items: Consumer goods, electronics, industrial materials and vehicles

ACTING on a tip-off, Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force impounded 12 kinds of goods worth K197,761,234 including 12,091 kilogrammes of PVC reflective stickers, 945 sets of printer spare part OPC drum and 50 Dell Core i5 laptops that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from a Nissan diesel tractor head, a Mitsubishi Fuso tractor head and two trailers (approximate value of K155 million) heading to Mandalay from Muse at 23/6 Milepost on Mandalay-Lashio Road on 13 July. Measures are underway for action under Customs procedures.

Additionally, a combined team formed of Muse Township Administration Body and Customs Department made unexpected inspections on the vehicles entering from China at the Sinphyu checkpoint in Muse Township on 14 July. Officials confiscated nine kinds of goods worth K3.050 million including



Photos indicate seized illegal goods and vehicles in Mandalay Region.

23 sets of CCTV cameras without official documents that were piled up by the side of the road over the Sinphyu checkpoint. Action is to be taken under Customs procedures.

Officials under the Customs Department captured 10 Sidel halogen lamps worth K1,089,683 that exceeded the 61 days of VPA from luggage at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk). Measures are underway

for action under Customs procedures.

A team led by a police officer from Waw Myoma Police Station made detailed inspections on a Mitsubishi Canter truck (estimated value of K20 million) at the Nyaungkhashay X-Ray Station on 15 July and seized four kinds of goods worth K6,734,400 including 49 cartons of Smart fabric softener without official documents. Action is to be taken



under Customs procedures.

As a result, a total of nine arrests were made on three consecutive days from 13 to 15

July, with an estimated value of K383,635,317, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Over K420 mln worth of prohibited chemicals captured in Mekong River



Photos show a motor launch and confiscated chemicals (caffeine).

OVER K420 million worth of 5.3 tonnes of prohibited chemicals (caffeine), that were illegally imported, were captured in the Mekong River in Tachilek, Shan State (East), according to the Myanmar Police Force.

Acting on a tip-off, a com-

combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force seized a total of 5.3 tonnes of restricted chemicals (caffeine) worth more than K420 million from a motorboat, which was owned by U Nan Uam and was docked next to Mekong River

between Samphuu village and Namphone village in Tachilek township at 11 am on 14 July.

Police have taken legal action against offenders and an investigation is underway to identify the perpetrators of the crime chain. — MNA/MKKS

Drugs seized in Mohnyin, Waingmaw townships

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and searched a Nissan AD van driven by Htet Aung (aka) Htet Htet Aung at the combined checkpoint in Nantsiaung village in Mohnyin township at 12:45 pm on 16 July and captured a total of 1.1 kilogrammes of heroin and K1 million.

Similarly, the police force searched the house of San Lin and Ma Kawt Mon in the No 2 ward in Waingmaw at 9:45 am on the same day and seized 0.24 kilogramme of heroin and 5,700 stimulant tablets.

The offenders have been prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/MKKS



An arrestee is pictured along with seized drugs and a vehicle.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Shwebo Pawsan paddy price drives rice price up

HIGH-GRADE Pawsan rice variety from the Shwebo area jumped to K112,000 per bag on 17 July from K110,000 on 14 July, according to the Wahdan Rice Wholesale Centre.

The rocketing price of Pawsan paddy from Shwebo at over K3 million per 100-baskets pushed up the price of Pawsan rice.

Similarly, the prices of other rice varieties are also moving onwards in the Yangon market. Pawsan rice prices moved in the range between K91,000 and K96,000 per bag depending on the producing areas (Myaungmya, Dedaye, Pyapon and Pathein). The new Pawsan rice price was priced at K89,000 per bag. Meanwhile, the prices stood at K95,000 per bag for Kyapyan, K82,000 for Khunni, 61,000 for Ngasein, K61,500 for Emahta

and K62,000 for rice grown under intercropping season, Myanmar Rice Wholesale Centre (Wahdan).

Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) will join hands with the rice millers, rice traders and companies to stabilize the rice price and steer the market for the right price and the right product and encourage the mill owners to achieve balance between the short term profits and long term interests, as per the MRF's notification dated 24 April.

Individuals and family entities can contact the rice wholesale centres for fair prices and the right products. For any difficulties, please contact the office of the MRF, as per the statement.

Additionally, it will inspect the manipulators who spread malicious rumours on digital platforms to spark the concerns

of the consumers and raise the rice prices for the sake of the long-term benefit of the rice in-

dustry. The federation will forward the reports to the relevant authorities. The stakeholders in

the supply chain need to exert concerted efforts in this, MRF notified. — NN/EM



High-grade Pawsan rice variety from the Shwebo area jumped to K112,000 per bag on 17 July from K110,000 on 14 July. The photo shows workers loading rice bags onto the lorry.

Palm oil wholesale reference price for Yangon Region declines



THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market has decreased again this week ending 23 July, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The reference price was set at K4,140 per viss from 10 to 16 July. For the week ending 23 July, the price was set lower at K4,100 per viss. The figures showed a small decrease of K40 per viss compared to that of the previous week.

The Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in

Malaysia and Indonesia including transportation cost, tariff and banking service, and issuing the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil every week.

Nonetheless, the palm oil market price is exorbitantly high compared to the reference price

If those edible oil retailers and wholesalers are found overcharging, storing inventory intentionally and attempting unscrupulous action to manipulate the market, they will face legal action under the Essential Supplies and Service Act, MoC released a statement.

The Ministry of Commerce

is striving for consumers not to worry over the supply of edible oil. The ministry is also trying to secure edible oil sufficiency, supervise the market to offer reasonable prices to the consumers and maintain price stability.

At present, mobile market trucks operated by oil importing companies, in coordination with Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, were back to business in some townships on 17 July 2022 to offer palm oil at a subsidized rate. They offer palm oil at a fairer price to the consumers directly depending on the reference price. However, there are limited sources of supply although they directly sell the palm oil at reference rate depending on the volume quota.

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the oil sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/EM

Load-to-truck ratio decides freight charges

FREIGHT charge is highly correlated with the load-to-truck ratio measuring the volume of loads and number of trucks available to carry those loads and the fuel price fluctuation does not primarily affect the charges, U Maung Gyi, an owner of a freight forwarding operator, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Yet, an increase in fuel price lowers the profit, whereas a decrease in fuel price brings great profit.

Freight flows normally decline in the monsoon season and the last four months of the year (Sept-Dec). We have experienced this event for ten years, Ko Myint Thauang, in charge of the vessel from Mawgyun, told the GNLM.

The retail reference prices for fuel oil in Yangon stood at K2,090 per litre of diesel, K2,100 per litre of Octane 92 and K2,250

per litre of Octane 95 on 17 July 2023. The currency market pushed up the fuel oil prices to K3,245 per litre of Diesel, K2,605 for Octane 92 and K3,425 for Octane 95 on 31 August 2022.

Then, the price declined to K1,915 per litre of diesel and K2,020 for Octane 92 on 3 May 2023. In mid-July, the fuel prices rebounded to above K2,000 per litre.

Taxi fares are still rocketing in Yangon. It doubled this year, U Kyaw Myint, a passenger, told the GNLM.

Taxi drivers are informed to charge base fares of K1,500 and K600 per kilometre. Yet, they do not follow this notification, passengers said.

For Electric Vehicles, a base fare will be relaxed and K700 per km will be charged, as per the market insight. — TWA/EM

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OPINION

Prevent animal-borne diseases to protect human health

ANIMAL-BORNE diseases pose a significant threat to global populations, surpassing the dangers posed by nuclear threats, terrorism, and natural disasters. The Covid-19 pandemic serves as a stark reminder, with over 690 million people worldwide affected by diseases transmitted from animals, resulting in approximately seven million deaths.

These pandemics can be caused by viruses, bacteria, or parasites. Infections can occur directly or indirectly through animals, or they can be transmitted via intermediate animal species. Therefore, it is crucial to respond rapidly and effectively to new diseases and animal-borne illnesses to prevent their escalation.

Research has revealed that bats, in particular, harbour unknown diseases that can infect humans. Currently, more than 250 significant viruses are known to spread from animals worldwide.

The prevention of animal-borne diseases is a paramount concern for safeguarding human health. The devastating impacts of past pandemics, including the ongoing Covid-19 crisis, underscore the urgent need for effective measures. By implementing proper hygiene practices and promoting scientific research and vaccine development, the risks posed by animal-borne diseases can be mitigated, ensuring a healthier and safer future for all.

Animal-to-human diseases not only impact human health but also have severe consequences for animals and their habitats. Such diseases can lead to reduced livestock productivity, increased animal mortality, and significant economic repercussions for livestock farmers and the overall state economy. It is therefore imperative to explore preventive measures to combat animal-borne diseases and protect the environmental well-being of society.

To minimize the risk of infection from animal-borne diseases, livestock farmers and individuals who come into contact with pets should adopt hygienic practices. This includes regular hand-washing before and after interacting with animals, avoiding kissing or allowing animals to lick their faces, refraining from sharing food with animals, and abstaining from consuming meat from wild animals. By adhering to these guidelines, lives can be saved, and the transmission of animal-borne diseases from one person to another can be prevented.

The prevention of animal-borne diseases is a paramount concern for safeguarding human health. The devastating impacts of past pandemics, including the ongoing Covid-19 crisis, underscore the urgent need for effective measures. By implementing proper hygiene practices and promoting scientific research and vaccine development, the risks posed by animal-borne diseases can be mitigated, ensuring a healthier and safer future for all.

Patient Satisfaction is Important for Quality Healthcare

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

PATIENT satisfaction is a measure of how happy a patient is with their healthcare. It is defined as “the extent of agreement between what a patient expects to receive from the healthcare experience and the perception of the level of care they actually receive”. Patient satisfaction is based on whether a patient’s expectations of what should happen were met. In other words, we need to address a patient’s expectations as well as provide a medically sound experience.

Every single interaction in a doctor’s office or hospital can affect patient satisfaction, from how the waiting room looks to how the patient is greeted by your receptionist but the most important element is communication, especially between the patient and healthcare providers. Therefore, we need to monitor workflow mechanisms such as from the reception counter to the discharge parade counter.

Patient satisfaction is one of the performance measures of healthcare quality. The three domains of patient satisfaction are

the delivery of essential medical care, treatments sought by patients and their families (which may or may not be favourable to good health), and –the provider activities and behaviours that comprise compassionate care and the safeguarding of human dignity. While these categories demonstrate aspects of a patient’s experience that can be evaluated, patient satisfaction is largely subjective and depends on patient perceptions relative to their expectations. Because of the individual quality of patient satisfaction, it’s difficult to define and measure.

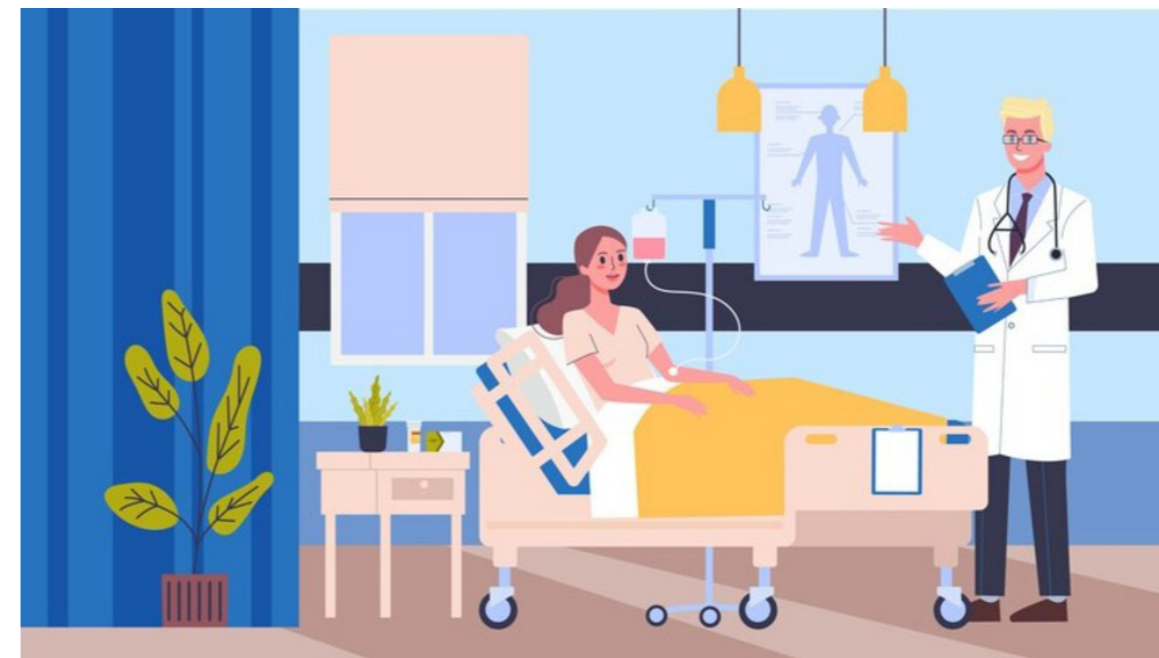
Patient satisfaction is indeed a crucial aspect of quality healthcare. It refers to the extent to which patients’ expectations and needs are met during their healthcare experience. When patients are satisfied with the care they receive, it indicates that their healthcare needs have been effectively addressed, and they have had a positive experience throughout their journey.

The followings are the reasons why patient satisfaction is essential for quality healthcare;

◇ **Patient-Centred Care:** Patient satisfaction emphasizes the importance of patient-centred care, which involves actively involving patients in decision-making, respecting their preferences, and addressing their concerns. By focusing on patient satisfaction, healthcare providers can ensure that the care they deliver is aligned with patients’ needs and expectations.

◇ **Trust and Communication:** High levels of patient satisfaction indicate that there is trust and effective communication between healthcare providers and patients. When patients feel heard, understood, and involved in their care, it fosters a positive relationship with healthcare providers and contributes to better health outcomes.

◇ **Adherence and Compliance:** Satisfied patients are more likely to adhere to treatment plans, follow medication regimens, and engage in preventive measures. When patients have a positive experience with their healthcare providers, they are more motivated to actively



Patient satisfaction is determined by whether the patient’s expectations were met, emphasizing the importance of addressing their expectations while delivering effective medical care. PHOTO: ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/FREEPIK

participate in their own care, leading to better health outcomes.

◇ **Continuity of Care:** Patient satisfaction plays a vital role in promoting continuity of care. When patients are satisfied with their primary care provider or healthcare team, they are

more likely to continue seeking care from the same provider or institution. This continuity facilitates better coordination of care, reduces medical errors, and ensures that patients receive comprehensive and consistent healthcare services.

◇ **Reputation and Referrals:** Patient satisfaction directly impacts the reputation of healthcare organizations and providers. Satisfied patients are more likely to recommend their healthcare provider to others, leading to positive word-of-mouth and increased referrals. A strong reputation built on

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Viral caffeine-heavy drink raises concerns for US kids

WITH its extremely high levels of caffeine, a hip new soft drink is raising fears in the United States that it might be dangerous for children, who have been snapping up the beverage since it was launched



According to the American Academy for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP), children under the age of twelve should completely avoid consuming a certain chemical. For individuals aged 12 to 18, the AACAP recommends a daily limit of 100 milligrammes, which is equivalent to half a can of Prime Energy. PHOTO: BRANDON BELL / AFP

by famous YouTube personalities.

Prime was created in 2022 by American Logan Paul and Briton KSI, two influential YouTubers whose wacky — and sometimes controversial — videos are devoured by child-heavy audiences.

A first drink, Prime Hydration, did not contain caffeine. But this year, a second line was launched: Prime Energy.

A single can contains 200 milligrammes of caffeine — far more than the 30 milligrammes in a can of Coca-Cola, for example, or the 80 milligrammes in a can of Red Bull.

A launch video showed the two internet stars playing video games and table tennis, very slowly and without enthusiasm at first, then frantically after drinking the beverage.

Since then, many TikTok videos have featured children proudly brandishing the famous bottles, set to a musical background proclaiming “We got Prime, boys!”

However, medical experts warn about the risks of younger children consuming caffeine.

Children under the age of twelve should not consume the chemical at all, according to the

American Academy for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP).

And between the ages of 12 and 18, a limit of 100 milligrammes per day is recommended — or half a can of Prime Energy.

In addition to restlessness, anxiety and headaches, too much caffeine can cause a child to vomit or to suffer from high blood pressure or heart rhythm problems, according to the AACAP. Some children may be more sensitive than others.

‘Eye-popping levels of caffeine’

“This product has one true target market: children under the age of 18, and that is why I am sounding the alarm,” said top Democratic Senator Chuck Schumer last week.

Prime Energy comes in flavours that might attract younger kids, such as orange-mango and raspberry-melon.

But the drink contains

“eye-popping levels of caffeine for a child’s body,” the Senate majority leader said.

The refreshment is fashionable because “it is born from the reels of social media and the enigmatic world of influencers,” the senator said in a statement.

Schumer announced he had written to the head of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), demanding an investigation into the levels of caffeine the drink contains and the marketing strategy adopted.

The FDA responded this week that it is “reviewing the concerns” raised by the senator, and that it would respond to him directly. “We encourage caregivers and families to read a product’s label before giving the product to their child,” an FDA spokesperson said in a statement.

The can does feature a discreet line indicating that the drink is not recommended for those

under 18, though the warning may not be obvious to everyone planning to pop one open.

The FDA — which has already issued warnings in the past against several companies marketing both alcoholic and caffeinated beverages — noted that adults can generally consume up to 400 milligrammes of caffeine per day without harmful effects, or four to five cups of coffee.

Expanding market

Paul partially responded to the controversy in a video posted to social media on Thursday.

He said he was offended by articles in some media that reported that Canada had recalled Prime Energy cans, though the move was only an action against illegal imports, as the drink is not officially distributed there.

“Prime formulas are complying with each specific country’s regulatory bodies,” he said.

SOURCE: AFP

patient satisfaction can attract more patients and contribute to the growth and success of healthcare institutions.

◇ **Quality Improvement:** Monitoring patient satisfaction allows healthcare organizations to identify areas for improvement and implement changes to enhance the patient experience. Patient feedback and satisfaction surveys provide valuable insights that can be used to address gaps in care delivery, improve processes, and enhance the overall quality of care.

At the moment, we need to encourage conducting the patient satisfaction surveys, such as structured questionnaires (feedback forms), discharge interviews, suggestion/complaint boxes, and periodic meetings with the public. Patient satisfaction surveys can be created and administered in-house, but many hospitals rely on third-party providers with experience in developing, administering and interpreting statistically valid patient satisfaction surveys. Some hospitals combine the

required Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems Survey (HCAHPS) questions with additional patient-centred questions to gain a comprehensive overview of the patient experience.

In conclusion, patient satisfaction is a fundamental component of quality healthcare. It reflects the patient’s perception of the care received and indicates whether their needs and expectations have been met. By prioritizing patient satisfaction, healthcare providers can foster patient-centred care, strengthen trust and communication, promote treatment adherence, ensure continuity of care, build a positive reputation, and drive continuous quality improvement efforts.

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Flood Bulletin

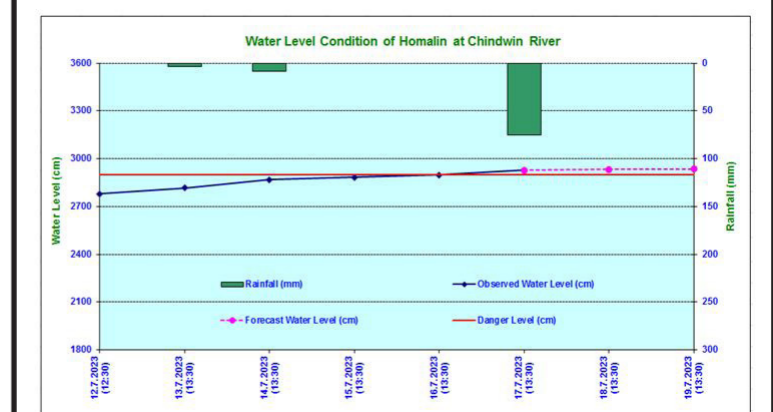
(issued at 14:00 hrs M.S.T on 17-7-2023)

Flood condition of Chindwin River

According to the (13:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Homalin has exceeded by about (1) foot above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (½) foot during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Homalin Township, to take precaution measure.



CURRENT AFFAIRS

Price of large purified water bottles jumps amid water supply problem

THE water supply problem in some areas of Yangon City this year prompted the urban people to buy more purified drinking water in large bottles (20 litres). Consequently, the price of water bottles is rising in the market on the back of high demand.

The price was up by K900 in July 2023 up from K700 in 2020 for the ground floor and K1,200 for the 7th and 8th floors, Ko Win, a resident on the 8th floor of an apartment on 5th lane, Lanmadaw Township, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The drinking water bottle of a popular brand is priced at K1,600. The 20-litre bottle fetched only K500 in 2016. Thereafter, the price is on a gradual rise.

The price of a 1-litre water bottle is K300-500 depending on the brand. An empty bottle (1 litre) is priced at K30, a seller of liquid soap who purchased the empty bottles from the restaurants for recycling, emphasized.

The water supply problem in Yangon is the shortage of water amid the electricity cut and salt content of salt. This year, the Yangonites are forced to use drinking water for washing,

sometimes beyond cooking and drinking.

The demand for 20-litre water bottles is increasing in 2023,

Ko Win Naing, a water deliveryman told the GNLM.

A household with four family members living in an apart-



The photo shows a pushcart with water bottles on the road and a delivery man.



ment has to buy around 10 bottles so the drinking water supply costs K10,000 per month. Furthermore, residents have to pay additional delivery charges for the top floor of the apartments.

The delivery for upper floors is exhausting but earns more. An average wage for delivery of 60 bottles for upper floors is K15,000 per day.

Some drinking water businesses have not been accredited with FDA approval. They are priced lower than the accredited brands. Some businesspersons are using those bottles without FDA approval.

Electricity outages, transportation charges and high raw materials costs are contributing factors to the high production cost of purified drinking water. There is a highly competitive market between some brands with reduced prices and FDA-approved brands, and entrepreneurs engaged in the drinking water manufacturing business.

Some drinking water businesses receive only K500 per bottle after deducting labour wages. Consumers are facing high costs of drinking water as well. — TWA/EM

MoL permanently suspends business licences of two overseas employment agencies



The photo indicates the office of the agency whose licence was permanently suspended by the Ministry of Labour.

THE Ministry of Labour has announced that it has permanently suspended the business licences of two overseas employment agencies — Myint Mo Phue Pwint Agency and Lu Kyaw Agency — which had collected service fees but failed to send them abroad to work.

Following the complaints of

workers, the two agencies were investigated, leading to the suspension of their licences. They are now facing legal prosecution under Sections 27 and 29 of the law relating to overseas employment.

These agencies mainly sent workers to Thailand, Malaysia, and Japan, and the problem

was that they collected money in advance from the workers and had not been able to send them abroad for several years.

Out of the total 455 agencies with agent licences for sending workers abroad, the licences of 24 agencies have been permanently revoked. — TWA/CT

MRCS invites applications for community representatives

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), those interested can apply for the post of community representative at the MRCS.

Calling for applications from members representing the community aims to participate as supervisory committee members for the term of the conference from 2023 to 2026 of the District Red Cross Supervisory Committee. Applicants must be red cross brigade members of the township

they live in and have been permanent members for two years or have paid annual dues for exactly two years as ordinary members.

Application forms are available at the respective districts or townships, and anyone can apply to be a district or township community representative of the Myanmar Red Cross Society. The regional or state-level work committee will select members representing the community from the applicants. — TWA/CT



The voting in progress to elect community representatives of the Myanmar Red Cross Society in Botahtaung Township in 2019.

Kyoto river tour resumes after fatal boat accident in March

A popular river tour in Kyoto Prefecture reopened Monday following a suspension of several months as a result of an accident in which two were killed when one of the traditional wooden sightseeing vessels capsized with 29 aboard.

Tours on the Katsura River, also known as the Hozu River, in Kameoka, were initially scheduled to restart last week but were postponed when the river's water level rose due to heavy rain, according to Hozugawa Yusen Kigyō Kumiai, operator of the sightseeing tours.

The first tour left a boat

landing spot near JR Kameoka Station at around 9:20 am Monday and finished the 16-kilometre journey in Arashiyama, in the prefectural capital of Kyoto, around 80 minutes later.

Mizuho Mizota, a visitor from Tokyo, said, "The boatmen's talks were fun and I took the ride with no fear."

Masato Numata, a resident of Kameoka, hailed the enhanced safety measures implemented by the tour operator, saying, "They have perfect and safe control and give a thorough explanation of how to use the lifejackets."

The accident occurred on 28

March when a boatman made a steering error and fell into the water. The boat then hit rocks and capsized, with all those aboard also falling into the water, leaving two boatmen dead.

The operator released a document earlier this month showing measures it has implemented to stop a repeat of the accident as well as plans it has in case of another emergency.

It said the boats have been upgraded with equipment, including handles and footholds to prevent boatmen from falling, as well as ropes for easier steering. — Kyodo



A traditional wooden vessel moves on the Hozu River in Kameoka in Kyoto Prefecture on 17 July 2023, as a popular river tour reopens following a suspension in the wake of a fatal accident in March. PHOTO: KYODO

Threatened Ethiopian cabaret lives to dance another day



A member of Ethiocolor dance group performs a traditional dance at Fendika Cultural Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 23 June 2023. PHOTO: AFP

A beloved monument to Ethiopia's traditional cabaret culture, the historic nightclub Fendika is running on borrowed time, having just escaped demolition.

Two decades earlier, Fendika was one of 17 "azmari bet" (a venue hosting performances by Ethiopia's azmari musicians) in the Kazanchis district, a neighbourhood harkening back to Addis Ababa's jazz-fuelled era.

Today, it is the only one still standing, says Melaku Belay, the 43-year-old owner and director of Fendika.

Comparable to medieval

troubadours, the azmari are itinerant poet-musicians from rural Ethiopia, who improvise songs while playing the masenqo, a single-string bowed lute made of wood, horsehair and raw hide.

Their songs are rich in metaphors and double meanings, humorously mocking their audience, civil society and even powerful elites — reflecting a freedom of expression rarely seen in Ethiopia.

Under the watchful eyes of Melaku, an internationally-renowned dancer and choreographer who took the reins in 2008, Fendika grew to become

a cultural hub.

Its nondescript entrance and dilapidated walls — covered with faded posters — belie the thriving life inside, where patrons can browse its library, attend performances and visit a gallery exhibiting the work of young Ethiopian painters.

In addition to the azmari, Fendika hosts Ethio-jazz performers and bands revisiting the country's musical traditions.

It is usually packed with Ethiopians and foreigners, many enjoying a glass of beer or tej, an Ethiopian honey mead. — AFP

'Haunted Mansion', a premiere without stars as strike bites

THE first major world premiere since Hollywood actors went on strike featured no stars — and a mournful director who said he backed the walkout but missed his cast "terribly".

The "Haunted Mansion" premiere at Disneyland in California on Saturday evening was scaled back after actors took to picket lines and movie and television production ground to a halt in the most serious Hollywood strike in decades.

Screen Actors Guild (SAG-AFTRA) members have joined writers who have been on strike for weeks, triggering the first industry-wide walkout for 63 years.

"I'm a director and a writer and an artist in this industry. And it's really, really hard," Justin Simien, director of "Haunted Mansion", told AFP at the premiere.

"I absolutely support them (the actors). And I'm part of the fight myself."

Disney still laid on a red carpet at the theme park's Haunted Mansion ride, but none of the movie's stars were in attendance, including LaKeith Stanfield, Tiffany Haddish, Danny DeVito and Jamie Lee Curtis, who has been active in the strike organization.

"I miss them terribly," Simien said. "I wish I could celebrate with them here." — AFP



Props from the movie are displayed on the red carpet at the world premiere of Disney's "Haunted Mansion" at the Hyperion Theatre inside the Disney California Adventure Park in Anaheim, California, on 15 July 2023. PHOTO: AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Global debt dominates as G20 finance chiefs meet



India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman (R) speaks next to US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen during a joint statement with US as part of the G20 Finance Ministers, Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) and Finance & Central Bank Deputies (FCBD) meetings, at the Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar on 17 July 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

G20 finance ministers and central bank chiefs opened talks Monday on debt restructuring deals, multilateral bank reform and finance to tackle climate change, as they aim to bolster a sagging global economy.

Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, chair and host of the summit in Gandhinagar, began by telling finance leaders of “the responsibility we have... to steer the global economy towards strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth”.

Key on the two-day agenda will be “facilitating consensus to intractable issues associat-

ed with rising indebtedness”, Sitharaman said earlier on Monday, speaking to reporters alongside US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen.

Talks will also focus on “critical global issues such as strengthening the multilateral development banks and taking coordinated climate action”, Sitharaman added.

Yellen said: “The world is looking to the G20 to make progress on key challenges like climate change and pandemics as part of our work to strengthen the global economy.”

She also cited work to tackle debt distress among

the world's poorest countries, noting debt restructuring progress in Zambia, which she had discussed when visiting Beijing this month.

China, the world's second-largest economy and a major lender to several stressed, low-income countries in Asia and Africa, has so far resisted a common multilateral understanding on the issue, officials said.

Yellen on Sunday said the Zambia deal had taken “too long to negotiate”, and added she hoped debt treatments for Ghana and Sri Lanka could be “finalized quickly”. — AFP

New Zealand PM calls for deepening economic, environmental cooperation with China

NEW Zealand Prime Minister Chris Hipkins called for deepening economic, trade and environmental cooperation with China at the 9th Annual China Business Summit held on Monday in Auckland.

In a keynote speech, Hipkins recalled his China visit at the end of last month, leading a delegation of New Zealand's top businesses and exporters and representatives from its tourism, technology and education sectors.

“The New Zealand export story to China is well-known.

It's a phenomenal success story propelled by our 2008 Free Trade Agreement that took two-way trade from eight billion NZ dollars (5.08 billion US dollars) that year, to more than 40 billion NZ dollars (25.4 billion US dollars) today,” Hipkins said.

New Zealand's top three exports to China are dairy, meat, and forestry, he said, adding that New Zealand has built up sizeable economic interests in China, its largest offshore market and one of the world's largest consumer markets. — Xinhua

Singapore's key exports decline 15.5% in June for 9th consecutive month

DATA from Enterprise Singapore (EnterpriseSG) on Monday revealed that Singapore experienced a more pronounced decline in its key exports in June, marking the ninth consecutive month of contraction.

On a year-on-year basis, non-oil domestic exports (NODX) contracted by 15.5 per cent in June 2023, extending the 14.8 per cent decrease in the previous month. Both electronics and non-electronics declined.

NODX posted a decrease in June 2023 mainly in Malaysia, Indonesia and South Korea, but the figure for the Chinese mainland and China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region



Vessels are seen berthed at Pasir Panjang container terminal port in Singapore on 26 May 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

rose.

In real terms after adjusting for inflation, NODX decreased

by nine per cent following the 7.8 per cent fall in May, EnterpriseSG said. — Xinhua

Japan PM in UAE to pitch green technology ahead of COP28

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida arrived in the UAE on Monday to discuss cooperation on clean hydrogen, ammonia and recycled carbon fuels ahead of this year's UN climate talks in Dubai.

Kishida's visit to the United Arab Emirates, which will host COP28 in November-December, is part of the first Gulf tour by a Japanese premier since the late Shinzo Abe in 2020.

Japan relies almost entirely on imports for its crude oil, with Saudi Arabia, the UAE and



Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (C) attends the UAE - Japan Business Forum in Abu Dhabi on 17 July 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Qatar accounting for the bulk of its supplies.

As the Asian country increases the role of renewables in its energy mix, the Gulf states, too, are moving more towards cleaner energy sources.

Kishida flew in from Saudi Arabia, where he met de facto leader Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on Sunday. After talks with UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi, he will head to Qatar on Tuesday.

The Japanese PM plans

to offer Japan's “cutting-edge decarbonization technologies” as part of a green energy initiative for the Middle East, he said in an open letter carried by the UAE's official WAM news agency.

Tokyo's embassy confirmed the comments.

Under the initiative, the UAE and Japan “will be well placed to collaborate in the related fields of hydrogen and ammonia production and utilization as well as carbon recycling”, Kishida added. — AFP

Cambodia hopes RCEP, bilateral FTAs to boost exports of garment, footwear, travel goods

CAMBODIA has pinned hopes on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement and bilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) to boost its exports of garment, footwear and travel (GFT) goods.

Cambodian Footwear Association president Ly Khun Thai said the Southeast Asian country has seen a significant rise in the exports of shoes to China and South Korea since the RCEP and Cambodia's bilateral FTAs with China and South Korea

entered into force last year.

"There are many countries under the RCEP agreement. With preferential tariffs, we expect to receive more purchase orders for our GFT products from those RCEP member countries," he told a local TV channel on Friday.

The current major markets for Cambodia's GFT goods are Europe, the United States and Canada.

His comments came after the kingdom recorded a drop by almost a fifth in the export of GFT



Garment workers make clothes at a factory in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 17 December 2021. PHOTO: XINHUA

products during the first half of 2023. The country exported GFT goods worth 5.26 billion US dollars from January to June this year, down 18.7 per cent from 6.47 billion dollars in the same period last year, according to the General Department of Customs and Excise's report.

The GFT goods industry is the largest foreign exchange earner for Cambodia. The sector consists of roughly 1,100 factories and branches, employing about 750,000 workers, mostly female. — Xinhua

Stock markets drop as China data disappoints

STOCK markets retreated Monday as official data showed China's economy grew less than expected in the second quarter, offsetting hopes of an end to US interest-rate hikes.

The euro reached \$1.1249, the highest level since February 2022 on expectations of an end soon to the Federal Reserve's tightening, while the yen and sterling have also pushed to mul-

ti-month highs in recent sessions.

While traders reacted to economic storm clouds — oil prices also slid Monday — a typhoon forced the closure of the Hong Kong stock market.

Finance ministers and central bank bosses from the Group of 20 meanwhile began a two-day meeting in India, where they will discuss ways to bolster the stut-

tering global economy.

Equities last week surged as news that US inflation slowed more than forecast fanned hopes that the Federal Reserve would soon end its campaign of tightening borrowing costs.

The advance was bolstered by pledges from Beijing to introduce stimulus measures for the struggling Chinese economy.

However, "investors have been greeted by a dismal Chinese data dump to start the week", said SPI Asset Management's Stephen Innes.

The scale of the work facing Chinese officials was laid bare with data showing gross domestic product expanded 6.3 per cent on-year in April-June, much less than forecast in an AFP survey.

The National Bureau of Statistics added that youth unemployment hit a record 21.3 per cent in June and retail sales also missed estimates, adding to months of data highlighting softness in the world's number-two economy behind the United States.

"China's recovery is going from bad to worse," said Harry Murphy Cruise at Moody's Analytics.

"After a sugar injection in the opening months of 2023 (following the lifting of zero-Covid measures), the pandemic hangover is plaguing China's recovery." — AFP

Companies in Viet Nam struggle to recruit staff at professional level: report

MANY companies in Viet Nam have had difficulty hiring human resources at the professional level this year, mainly due to their skill set requirements, local media reported on Monday, citing a recent report.

About 83 per cent of companies surveyed in the Southeast Asian country face challenges in recruiting at the professional level, 18 per cent at the executive level and 60 per cent

at the management level, Vietnam News reported.

The primary issue was their skill set requirements, with 74 per cent of companies saying they were unable to find people with the right skills at the right price and 64 per cent saying there are fewer qualified ready-to-hire candidates in the market, the newspaper cited a report by Talentnet Corporation and Mercer. — Xinhua



People walk past a store window marked with masking tape as a precaution as Typhoon Talim passes near Hong Kong on 17 July 2023. PHOTO: AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NITHI BHUM VOY.NO. (277N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NITHI BHUM VOY.NO. (277N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-7-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

ROLLING UPDATES ASIA

Thwarted Thai PM candidate chases support for next vote

THE liberal reformist seeking to become Thailand's prime minister said Monday he was marshalling support for his next tilt at the job after military-appointed senators foiled his first attempt.

Efforts to elect a government have deadlocked on parliament's refusal to endorse the candidacy of Pita Limjaroenrat, whose Move Forward Party (MFP) won the most seats in May elections.

Establishment lawmakers consider his party's pledge to reform the kingdom's strict royal defamation laws a red line and the Harvard-educated poli-



Pita Limjaroenrat (C), leader of Move Forward Party (MFP) and candidate for prime minister, speaks to the media during a presser following a meeting with the eight-party coalition in Bangkok on 17 July 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

tician's nomination fell 51 votes short last week.

Pita said the eight-party coalition supporting him had agreed to renominate him for a second vote on Wednesday, adding that he was canvassing senators who did not support him in the first round.

"We still are talking to find more support," he told reporters.

"There are several who missed the vote because of other duties," he said. "It is still possible they might vote."

Pita's Move Forward Party (MFP) won nearly 40 per cent of the vote in May's poll but his at-

tempt at forming a government was blocked by supporters of the Thai establishment.

Junta-appointed senators oppose MFP's proposal to soften the kingdom's royal defamation law, under which offenders can be jailed for up to 15 years.

Just 13 members of the 250-strong upper chamber voted for him last week.

Thailand's Constitutional Court could also take up a case Wednesday on whether Pita, 42, should be disqualified from parliament entirely for owning shares in a media company, prohibited for MPs under the Thai constitution. — AFP

Thousands evacuated as typhoon nears southern China, Viet Nam

TENS of thousands of people were being evacuated in southern China and Viet Nam on Monday, and dozens of flights cancelled as a typhoon barrelled towards land.

Powerful winds, storm surges and lashing rains were forecast to hammer the southern coastline from Guangdong to Hainan provinces when typhoon Talim makes landfall on Monday night, the China Meteorological Administration said.

The forecaster has issued an orange alert, the second-highest warning in a four-tier colour-coded system, saying the storm was expected to increase in intensity to become a severe typhoon.

Authorities in Viet Nam

said they were preparing to evacuate about 30,000 people from the areas forecast to be hardest hit in Quang Ninh and Hai Phong provinces from Monday afternoon.

The storm "might be one of the biggest to hit the Gulf of Tonkin in recent years", Viet Nam's top disaster response committee said in an online statement.

Tourists have been advised to leave outlying islands and airlines have rescheduled services to avoid the storm.

Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh directed disaster response teams to prepare for "immediate rescue and relief works" late Sunday, warning of possible floods. — AFP

S Korea president vows 'complete overhaul' of approach to extreme weather

SOUTH Korea's president vowed Monday to "completely overhaul" the country's approach to extreme weather from climate change, after at least 40 people were killed by recent flooding and landslides during monsoon rains.

Rescue workers waded through thick mud as they drained a flooded underpass in central Cheongju, searching for more victims after vehicles were trapped in the tunnel by flash floods, the interior ministry said, with nine people still missing nationwide.

South Korea is at the peak of its summer monsoon season, and days of torrential rain have caused widespread flooding and landslides, with rivers bursting their banks, and reservoirs and dams overflowing. More rain is forecast in the coming days.



South Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol (C) walks past piles of fallen trees at a village, where more than a third of houses were damaged in landslides and two people remain missing, in Yecheon on 17 July 2023. **PHOTO: STR / YONHAP / AFP**

"This kind of extreme weather event will become commonplace — we must accept climate change is happening, and deal

with it," President Yoon Suk Yeol said during an emergency response meeting Monday. — AFP

Over 1,600 volcano evacuees down with respiratory illnesses in Philippines

AT least 1,624 people displaced by the unrest of the most active Mayon volcano in the Philippines have suffered from acute respiratory infections, the Philippines' Department of Health said on Monday.

Health Undersecretary Enrique Tayag said health authorities in Albay province have reported that some people in

temporary shelters have been sick with coughs, colds, and sore throats.

"There is an increasing cough, colds, and sore throats among the evacuees," Tayag told a news conference. However, he added that there is no outbreak of respiratory infections in the evacuation centres.

Authorities have evacuated

nearly 19,000 residents within the six-kilometre danger zone at the foot of the Mayon volcano, approximately 500 kilometres southeast of Manila, since its recent unrest starting on 8 June.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology maintained the alert level around the Mayon volcano at 3 on a scale of 5. — Xinhua



A screen shows cancelled flights at Haikou Meilan International Airport as a precaution for the approaching Typhoon Talim, in China's southern Hainan province on 17 July 2023. **PHOTO: CNS / AFP**

UN says 23.4 mln people face acute food insecurity in Horn of Africa

PROLONGED drought in the Horn of Africa has left 23.4 million people acutely food insecure and 5.1 million children acutely malnourished, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has said.

It said 36.6 million people have been affected by the drought across the region, calling for “immediate and medium-to-long-term actions” to prevent and mitigate the worst impacts and reduce vulnerability and risks

while building and strengthening resilience.

An estimated 2.7 million people have been displaced by the drought, the WFP said in its latest situation update released on Sunday evening.

Successive below-average harvests, coupled with high production and transport costs, reduced local agricultural produce and led to food price spikes, the WFP said. It said the impacts of the 2020-2023 drought are likely

to persist for a long time, noting that as droughts have become more frequent and intense, it will take longer for the affected populations to fully recover.

The WFP said favourable rains over March-June led to better-than-normal vegetation conditions in the pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of Ethiopia, northern Somalia, and parts of Kenya, compared to the end of 2022 short rains season. — Xinhua



Cindy McCain (R), World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Director, talks with Halima Mohamed Hassan (3rd R), 38, during her visit to assess drought conditions at the Ladan internally displaced people (IDP) camp in Dolow on 1 May 2023. PHOTO: AFP

EU holds Latin America summit amid rifts over trade and Ukraine

THE European Union hosts Latin American and Caribbean leaders Monday hoping to soothe ties strained by deep divisions

over trade and Russia's invasion of Ukraine

The long-awaited summit is the first between Brussels

and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) since 2015, with several issues undermining closer ties.

“We need our close friends to be at our side in these uncertain times,” European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen said, welcoming Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

Von der Leyen promised that Europe would invest 45 billion euros in the Latin American economy under the Global Gateway programme, Brussels' answer to China's “Belt and Road” outreach to developing economies.

As EU and CELAC leaders gathered in Brussels, diplomats were struggling to agree on the wording of the final communique — with Europe pushing for a strong stance against Moscow. — AFP



(From L) European Council President Charles Michel, Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen pose as they arrive for the first day of a summit of European Union-Community of Latin American and Caribbean States Summit (EU-CELAC) at The European Council Building in Brussels on 17 July 2023. PHOTO: AFP

EU competition chief to face MEPs over job for American

MEPS will grill the European Commission's competition chief Margrethe Vestager on Tuesday after France raised questions about her hiring of an American economist.

Yale professor and former US anti-trust official Fiona Scott Morton has been appointed chief economist in Vestager's directorate, despite not being an EU citizen.

Several French ministers and MEPs have cried foul, arguing that an American should not hold a strategic European

post that oversees EU efforts to regulate US tech giants.

Some in Brussels have suggested that, despite Scott Morton's academic reputation and record of criticizing online monopolies, she may face a conflict of interest.

Along with professorships in Yale and Edinburgh and a post in former president Barack Obama's administration, Scott Morton has worked as a consultant for Apple, Microsoft and Amazon.

The EU is in the middle of an

overhaul of the rules governing online businesses, and a fierce lobbying campaign is underway in Brussels to dampen the impact of the US giants' bottom line.

After grumbles from French politicians, Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna on Thursday asked that the European Commission “reconsider” the appointment.

The EU executive, said it could see no reason to do so, but the leaders of the main conservative, centrist and socialist

groups in parliament made the same demand.

The co-leader of the Green group, Philippe Lamberts, initially signed the letter with his colleagues, but later announced that his concerns had been answered.

A commission official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP that Vestager “appreciated” the opportunity to come to parliament to explain the decision. And the source pointed out that Scott Morton's appointment had been approved

by the 27-member college of commissioners while opposition had been “mainly French reactions”.

Meanwhile, 39 European economists, including some of France's most renowned scholars, signed an open letter supporting their American colleague's nomination.

“Scott Morton is one of the best economists in the world in the domain of industrial organization, a major contributor to policy thinking on tech regulation and strongly motivated for public service,” they wrote. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Türkiye's Erdogan seeks to salvage Ukraine grain deal

TURKISH President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday said that a multilateral deal allowed for shipments of grain and other agricultural products from Ukraine's Black Sea ports could be saved.

The Black Sea Grain Initiative, brokered by Türkiye and the United Nations to help alleviate the global food crisis after the Russia-Ukraine conflict, expired on Monday.

Moscow said the deal ended and it would not be renewed unless its conditions were met. — Xinhua

Russia confirms 2 die, 1 injured in emergency on Crimean bridge

TWO parents died in an emergency on the Crimean bridge, and their daughter was injured with moderate severity, Belgorod Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov confirmed on Monday.

The governor of Krasnodar, Veniamin Kondratyev, said that an operational headquarters was set up in the Temryuk district of the Krasnodar Territory to coordinate the actions of all services and to assist the people who were stuck in traffic jams near the bridge. — Xinhua

Thwarted Thai PM candidate chases support for next vote

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SPORT

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

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

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.



Former US football player Carli Lloyd poses with the Women's World Cup trophy during a trophy promotion event in Wellington on 14 July, 2023. PHOTO: AFP

World Cup set for lift-off with women's football at all-time high

THE first 32-team Women's World Cup kicks off in Australia and New Zealand on Thursday, with the United States favourites to win an unprecedented third consecutive title in a landmark month for women's football.

It has been a rapid expansion for a tournament that started in 1991 and featured only 16 teams as recently as 2011, then 24 in France four years ago when the USA retained the trophy.

That reflects a dramatic rise in interest in women's football over the last decade beyond its traditional heartland of the United States, and a swarm of European sides will be aiming to snatch their title.

Australia, led by the prolific Chelsea forward Sam Kerr, will hope to make the most of home advantage and go all the way to the final in Sydney on 20 August.

This World Cup is not just bigger in terms of the number of competing nations. — AFP

Ready to shine says YUFC midfielder Hlaing Bo Bo

YANGON United midfielder Hlaing Bo Bo said that his team is ready to battle against GFA FC in the Myanmar National League.

The star player underscored, "We are best prepared. In addition to the coach's instructions, all the players followed the strategies carefully, so they are ready to compete in the competition. In the first match of the second round, we will play for points. We can't underestimate the rival team either".

Yangon United will take on GFA FC at Yangon United Sports Complex today at 3:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time.

Regarding the GFA team, Hlaing Bo Bo highlighted, "Their team is playing well. Although, at the bottom of the table, there are good players. I hope to return in the best form in the second round".

"In tomorrow's match, I will try my best to compete with my teammates. I want to give a victorious gift to the fans of Yangon. Please come and enjoy the match," he invited.

Yangon United is currently standing in second place after 11 matches played, with nine wins, one draw, one loss, garnering 28 points and GFA is sitting at the bottom earning seven points from 11 plays, two wins, one draw and eight losses. — KZL



Yangon United player Hlaing Bo Bo is seen kicking the ball in his training session. PHOTO: YUFC

Alcaraz attempts to keep lid on great expectations

CARLOS Alcaraz is determined to quash any suggestions that his epic Wimbledon final win over Novak Djokovic represents the dawn of a new era despite all indications that tennis has witnessed a generational shift.

On Sunday, the 20-year-old became the tournament's youngest champion since Boris Becker in 1986.

His rollercoaster 1-6, 7-6 (8/6), 6-1, 3-6, 6-4 victory prevented 36-year-old Djokovic from becoming its oldest champion.

It also thwarted Djokovic's dream of equalling Roger Federer's best of eight titles at the All England Club and matching Margaret Court's record of 24 Grand Slam titles.

Alcaraz though is remaining cautious.

"I don't feel that I have confirmed something that we all expected," said the world number one. — AFP

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz raises his trophy after beating Serbia's Novak Djokovic during their men's singles final tennis match on the last day of the 2023 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Tennis Club in Wimbledon, southwest London, on 16 July 2023. PHOTO: AFP

