

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Friday, 28 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.



SAC offers Waso robes to members of the Sangha for 2023

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A glimpse of one of the hotels in Yangon, where new investment opportunities are flourishing.

YRIC approves K5+ bln worth of new hotel investment project

This significant investment creates 617 employment opportunities for Myanmar citizens

The Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC) has given the green light to an exciting new investment project, which will be operated by a Myanmar citizen, to further boost economic growth and create job opportunities. According to U Myo Khaing Oo, Director of Yangon Region Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, this project is set to generate around 617 jobs in the region. The approval was granted during the YRIC's meeting held on 26 July 2023.

The recently approved investment project is focused on the hotel sector, and it is estimated to involve an investment of K5,970.239 million. This significant investment will not only benefit the local economy but will also lead to the creation of 1,802 new job openings as

the project progresses. Such developments are crucial in fostering employment opportunities and contributing to the economic growth of the region.

Furthermore, the YRIC has also allowed existing businesses, in addition to the newly approved investments, to increase their investment amounts and workforce in July. This move aims to encourage further economic activity and expansion in the region, providing a conducive environment for businesses to thrive.

The YRIC, in adherence to the law and established procedures, continues to review and approve new local and foreign investment projects monthly. This approach helps in opening up avenues for job creation and economic development within the region. — ASH/KTZH

Illegal natural resources excavation to face effective legal action

Vice-Senior General Soe Win warns assigned staff of taking severe action for weakness and bribery cases at checkpoints along trade routes

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CURRENT AFFAIRS PAGE-10



Compulsory licensing required for brokers in Mandalay gem market

TRADE & BUSINESS PAGE-11



Corn price rebounds in domestic market

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Law Revoking Freshwater Fisheries Law State Administration Law No 53/2023

10th Waxing of Second Waso 1385 ME
27 July 2023

THE State Administration Council hereby enacted this law under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:

1. This law shall be called the Law Revoking Freshwater Fisheries Law.
2. The Freshwater Fisheries Law (the State Law and Order Restoration Council Law No 1/91) was revoked by this law.

I hereby signed this law under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Announcement No 40/2023

10th Waxing of Second Waso 1385 ME
27 July 2023

Allowing Wa National Party to register as political party

AS of 27 July 2023, Wa National Party, with its headquarters located at No 40, Thaya Street, Ward 1, Region 2, Lashio, Shan State (North), has been allowed to register under Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law. The registration number of the Wa National Party is 35.

Sd/Thein Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

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.

ADVERTORIAL

Dapein (1) Hydropower Company Limited

Gave Assistance to New Employees to Lay a Solid Foundation for Employment

DAPEIN (1) Hydropower Company Limited recently held the Kick-off Meeting of Education and Training for New Employees in 2023. The purpose of this training is further to strengthen the young talents cultivation of the company, as well as to help the new Myanmar employees to successfully change their roles, better perform their duties, and shoulder the mission of enterprise development, thus forming the localized talent cultivation characteristics of "profound foundation and strong ability with emphasis on practices" as soon as possible. This training covers a wide range of rich contents, and the training course consists of various aspects, such as corporate culture, rules and regulations, safety education, working process and quality system.

Dapein (1) Hydropower Company Limited is a joint venture company registered and established by China Datang Corporation and the Ministry of Electric Power in Myanmar, which is dedicated to serving the investment, construction and operation of power projects in Myanmar. Given that the company has attached great importance to training the younger generation of electric power talents in Myanmar, the kick-off meeting was held simultaneously in two languages of Myanmar and Chinese. During the meeting, a promotional video of China Datang Corporation was demonstrated



to publicize the basic enterprise system and introduce occupational safety training. The leaders expressed their wishes to new employees to cherish their work, abide by the enterprise system, and pay attention to the ability of work execution. The leaders also hope that new employees can quickly integrate into the enterprise and learn skills as fast as they can to reflect their own values and create social values. After the meeting, the new employees expressed their deep understanding of the green development concept and people-oriented corporate culture of China Datang Corporation, and they had a more clearly understanding towards the future work orientation and became more confident in good working performance.



Dapein (1) Hydropower Company Limited showed the determination to build the ladder for new employees to achieve self-development in all directions and guide new employees to adapt to the latest work in all aspects. The company also expressed the idea that good communication between the enterprise and employees should be strengthened, and the quality and efficiency of cultivating localized talents should be continuously improved to contribute more to the prosperity and development of Myanmar's energy undertakings.

Fostering business development through collective cooperative system

Exercising the cooperative system can help develop businesses, and all need to exercise the combined cooperative system.

(The excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with MSME businesspersons on 7 March 2023)



State Administration Council Chair Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends the Waso robe-offering event, and along with his wife, offers Waso robes yesterday (above and below photos).

SAC offers Waso robes to members of the Sangha for 2023

The State Administration Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar held the Waso robe-offering ceremony for 2023 at Sasana Maha Beikman in the precinct of Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, attended by SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla.

Led by Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Thanlyin Minkyaung Pahtamapyan Monastery Presiding Patron Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa, members of the Sangha graced the Maha Mingala ceremony.

The Senior General and wife offered Waso robe and alms to Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Thanlyin Minkyaung Pahtamapyan Monastery Presiding Patron Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa.

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe also donated Waso robe and offerings to SS-MNC Vice-Chairman Presiding Patron of Thiho Pariyatti Buddhist Learning Centre from Kyaukme of Shan State Agga Maha Pandita Dr Bhaddanta Cadanasara.

The council secretary and wife, the joint secretary and wife, council members and their wives, Union level officials, union ministers and senior military officers also presented Waso robes and offertories to members of the Sangha.

The Senior General and wife together with attendees offered day meals to members of the Sangha. —MNA/TTA

Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife present Waso robes and donations at the event yesterday.



NATIONAL

WHATEVER challenges emerge, the illegal trade process must be eradicated successfully, said Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the meeting 4/2023 of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee at the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General who is in the capacity of Chairman of the Steering Committee said that during the period from January 2022 to June 2023, the approximate value of seized illegal commodities amounted to K127.054 billion in 7,011 cases.

According to the statistics on Myanmar-Thai trade from May 2022 to April 2023, the Vice-Senior General disclosed that the statistics of Thailand mentioned the export value worth US\$2.932 billion but Myanmar statistics for import value, US\$1.293 billion, which showed US\$1.639 billion differences. So, it can be reviewed that these would be illegal trades within a year.

As illegal commodities still flow into the country due to the weakness of some assigned service personnel, the Vice-Senior General stressed the need to check and seize illegal commodities at warehouses and markets.

He noted that a total of 57 backhoes worth K4.531 billion used in the illegal excavation of natural resources were seized in Kachin State and Taninthayi Region in June 2023. From January 2022 to June 2023, the value of seizures amounted to K4.421 billion in 1,462 cases, accounting for 3.48 per cent of the total seizures.

The Vice-Senior General highlighted that the illegal trade process used detours for transportation and also passed the checkpoints and security gates with bribery money. Chairmen of special task forces and in-charge directors-general of OSS have to strictly supervise functions of checkpoints and security gates



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the meeting 4/2023 of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Illegal natural resources excavation to face effective legal action

Vice-Senior General Soe Win warns assigned staff of taking severe action for weakness and bribery cases at checkpoints along trade routes

not to commit bribery cases. If the union-level officials find the cases, severe action will be taken against the staff assigned to relevant posts and officials at different levels, he added.

He continued to say that in reviewing the seizures in June 2023, the amounts of seizures were larger than that of the previous month. According to the reviews on commodity groups, the monthly balance of the seizures amounted to K11.816 billion and the vehicle group K7.822 billion, exceeding K4.254 billion rather than the previous month but seizures of agricultural produce, timbers, raw materials, personal goods, foodstuffs and live animals declined. The seizure volume at main checkpoints such as Mayanchaung, Kawka-reik Takyoe, Muse 105th-Mile,

international airports and ports remarkably declined. It must be reviewed that the root causes of declining the seized volume were based on the weakness of relevant task forces and assigned staff.

The Vice-Senior General underlined that the Bill of Loading system has been operated on test since 1 December 2022 for easing the inspecting the cargo trucks along the trade routes. So, it is necessary to submit the assessment of the difficulties of staff, drivers and businesspersons in applying the bill of loading system for making decisions.

Staff members from the checkpoints have to take care of export items and tonnage mentioned in the QR code to be in harmony with export items and tonnage on the trucks.

MACSS, Myanmar Tradenet 2.0 and MyCO systems are very good systems in the online trade process. But any system is not perfect. It is necessary to review the difficulties and weaknesses in applying the system to amend it to be better.

The Vice-Senior General stressed that relevant departments need to submit reports continuously to the steering committee on the implementation of the National Single Window System, the Single Window Inspection (SWI) and Single Stop Customs Inspection (SSCI).

He pointed out that whatever challenges emerge, the illegal trade process must be successfully eradicated. It is necessary to check and ban illegal trade goods to be taken action at border regions and trade routes as

well as warehouses and markets. Effective action must be taken against illegal excavation of natural resources at home, he added.

The Vice-Senior General urged all to submit an assessment on the bill of loading system and implement the e-lock system as quickly as possible.

Union ministers and officials reported on the accomplishments of the minute of the meeting on 3/2023, comparison of export and import between Myanmar and Thailand, prevention of illegal import goods through illegal routes, seizures of illegal commodities and implementation of modern systems.

The meeting ended with a concluding remark of the Vice-Senior General. — MNA/TTA



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NATIONAL

MoTC Union Minister receives Chengdu business delegation

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San received a business delegation consisting of supply and transport, rail transport, aviation and port sectors of Chengdu in Sichuan Province of China in Nay Pyi

Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they openly exchanged views on border facilitation for trade, supply and transport, gems and jewellery, transport of marine products and vegetables to China by cargo flights and the establishment of a pilot training school in Myanmar. —MNA/KTZH



SAC Member DPM Union Transport & Communications Minister Admiral Tin Aung San holds talks with the Chengdu business delegation yesterday.

SAC Member UM receives delegation led by Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of China



The Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of China calls on SAC Member Union Minister NSPNC Chair Lt-Gen Yar Pyae yesterday.

MEMBER of the State Administration Council Union Minister at the Union Government Office and Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Lieutenant-General Yar Pyae met

the delegation led by Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China Mr Deng Xijun, at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw at 3 pm yesterday.

It is reported that they ex-

changed gifts before discussing matters related to Myanmar-China friendly cooperation, peace and stability of the border regions, and the implementation of Myanmar's peace process. — MNA/CT

International Conference on Engineering Education Accreditation 2023 (ICEEA 2023) held online

THE Ministry of Industry held the International Conference on Engineering Education Accreditation 2023 (ICEEA 2023) via videoconferencing yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister Dr Charlie Than, in his capacity as Patron of the Myanmar Engineering Council, said the teaching system for social and science subjects in addition to the engineering

subject must be prioritized in engineering education.

Concerted efforts should be exerted to make preparations for engineering students to meet firm standards by the engineering society in order to fulfil the needs of a rapidly changing world.

He added that the conference will explore new solutions towards the specific criteria for sustainable development that

conforms with the 2030 Agenda.

Moreover, sharing of opinions is needed besides the cooperation in accelerating the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development through engineering, he said.

The participants will read papers based on the outcomes of the two-day conference that will end on 28 July. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar Gazette

Transfer and Duty-Assignment of Head of Service Organization

THE State Administration Council has transferred and assigned Daw Thanda Lay, Director-General of the Department of Administration, Training and Research under the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union, to the duties of Director-General of the Department of Technological Development and Training at the same institution from the date she assumes charge of her duties.

9 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 27 July, total figure registers 641,025

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to **641,025** after **nine** new cases were reported on 27 July 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of **11,010,243** laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached **641,025**. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **619,799** including **seven** new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered **19,494** on 27-7-2023 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



NATIONAL

Three media companies launch new TV channels on MRTV



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn briefs about the debut of three new TV channels on MRTV yesterday.

THE Ministry of Information announced the debut of three new TV channels on the MRTV DTH Platform (Direct to Home)

yesterday. For further enriching the broadcasting landscape in the country, the channels, introduced by Forever Group, ABC

Content Solution, and New Image Trading, will offer exciting content to viewers across the nation.

Forever Group Co Ltd, a prominent media company, is set to launch four TV channels through the MRTV DTH Platform. These four channels include two channels already being broadcast under the DVB/T-2 system of MRTV, in addition to their Digital Free-to-Air channels like Maha Bodhi, MRTV-4, Channel 7, and Readers Channel.

Meanwhile, ABC Content Solution Co Ltd is committed to shaping its two HD channels, Maha Variety Channel and Maha Esports Channel, into exceptional art products. These channels aim to provide viewers with high-quality entertainment and engaging content.

Similarly, New Image Trading Co Ltd has ambitious plans to broadcast entertainment channels through the MRTV DTH system. The company aspires to

become a leading movie and entertainment TV channel, offering support to local cinemas during their period of slow progress.

The Ministry of Information diligently reviews broadcasting programmes from various media companies, allowing them to broadcast through the MRTV DTH Platform. This approach ensures that a diverse range of quality content reaches the viewers, fostering the development of television media in the country.

The MRTV, under the Ministry of Information, has been actively expanding its offerings. In addition to broadcasting radio/FM programmes daily and in-house channels through the DTH system, it has been broadcasting private channels since 1 February 2022, contributing to the growth and evolution of the television media landscape. — ASH/KTZH

MoHT UM receives delegation led by president of Siberian Association for International Cooperation

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Aung Thaw met a delegation led by President Mr Pavel Ostroverhov of the Siberian Association for International Cooperation at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

A friendly and open discussion took place regarding the promotion of Myanmar's cultural and beach destinations to Russian tourists, fostering mutual travel by organizing online meetings between Russian and Myanmar

travel companies, establishing direct flights between Novosibirsk and Myanmar, providing support for investments in other business sectors alongside tourism in Myanmar; updates on the "Welcome Russia Programme in Myanmar" initiative, conditions for the Familiarization-FAM Trip, facilitating money usage for Russian tourists, and other matters of enhancing bilateral tourism cooperation between Myanmar and Russia. — MNA/CT



The Siberian Association for International Cooperation president calls on Union Minister U Aung Thaw yesterday.



Government supports millers with loans to upgrade oil mills

THE Oil Mills Development Loan Management Task Force led by the deputy minister for the Ministry of Planning and Finance has been formed to support the building of modern oil mills and to produce quality edible oils as such mills are needed as increased cultivation of oilseed crops is required to ensure domestic oil sufficiency and to decrease

imports.

Loan Monitoring and Evaluation Team leader U Khant Zaw, the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, made an inspection field trip to oil mills which are beneficiaries of government loan in Tatkon township of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday.

The permanent secretary

inspected Kyaw Than oil mill in Htantawgyi village, Sein See oil mill in Khyansattkon village, and Yan Naing oil mill in Saya San ward of Tatkon township to check the withdrawal of loan and compliance with the terms by the millers. He also made necessary arrangements in collaboration with relevant government departments. — MNA/TH

NATIONAL

MoIP Union Minister observes Aadhaar number issuance process in New Delhi

UNION Immigration and Population Minister U Myint Kyaing, accompanied by Myanmar Ambassador to India U Moe Kyaw Aung, paid a visit to the regional office of the Aadhaar Centre in New Delhi. During the visit, the officials in charge of the Aadhaar system provided a comprehensive explanation of the enrolment and update processes to the people in the region.

During the visit, the Union minister actively engaged with the officials and raised pertinent queries regarding the require-

ments for Aadhaar enrolment. The person in charge of the Aadhaar system addressed all the concerns and provided detailed responses.

The visit to the Aadhaar Centre in New Delhi marks a significant step in fostering collaboration and learning from India's experience in implementing this unique identification system. The Myanmar government continues to explore effective measures for streamlining services and providing better assistance to its citizens. — MNA/TS



Union Minister U Myint Kyaing and Ambassador U Moe Kyaw Aung seen during their visit to the regional office of the Aadhaar Centre in New Delhi.

Forum to enhance digital skills of Mekong-Lancang MSMEs held



Forum to enhance digital skills of Mekong-Lancang MSMEs in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

A forum to enhance the digital skills of Mekong-Lancang MSMEs was held yesterday morning at Office No 30 of the Ministry of Industry in Nay Pyi Taw.

MoI Deputy Minister U Yin

Maung Nyunt in his capacity as Secretary of the Work Committee on Development of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Mr Ouyang Daobing, Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar, direc-

tors-general and managing directors from the Ministry of Industry, the vice-chairman of the Mekong-Lancang Coordination Team, the deputy director-general from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, officials from the ministries, representatives and experts from the Mekong-Lancang region attended the forum.

The deputy minister said in his speech that digital technology could present MSMEs with a variety of excellent opportunities and make it easier for them to grow their businesses and enter new markets. He also said that MSMEs could improve their businesses, win more new markets or market shares, and make transactions with global clients

if they could effectively adapt to the digital markets.

Counsellor Mr Ouyang Daobing from the Chinese Embassy expressed his hope that good techniques and opinions would be shared in the forum as MSMEs development measures in Mekong-Lancang countries were started seven years ago.

The Mekong-Lancang Coordination Team vice-chair deputy director-general from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs explained that the cooperation between Mekong-Lancang nations is based on three pillars of peaceful co-existence between member states, collaborations in business and cultural exchange.

E-business models and con-

cepts, good practices of MSMEs in Mekong-Lancang nations in the transition to a digital business system and innovations, digital business system strategies and management, technology requirements in the transition to a digital business system, and steps that Mekong-Lancang nations should take to prepare for the transition to a digital business system, the most required digital skills for MSMEs and challenges will be discussed in the forum for two days. Groups will be formed during the forum to draft action plans for the transition to a digital business system and the results will be discussed. — MNA/TH

Statements issued over PDF in abducting seven persons including principal of Agriculture Institute (Dawei), killing deputy staff officer of Agriculture Department

PDF terrorists abducted the principal of the Institute of Agriculture (Dawei) and her 11 years old son together with five teachers from Sakhangyi Village of Launglon Township in Taninthayi Region on 20 July. Moreover, those PDF terrorists shot dead a deputy staff officer from Launglon Township Agriculture Department who was lecturing agricultural techniques at the institute, on 22 July.

The Myanmar War Veterans Organization and All Myanmar Theravada Buddhists Federation and Sasana Nuggaha Association for Border and Hilly Regions (Central) issued, on 27 July, statements that they strongly condemned the acts of abducting those teachers without holding any arms and brutally killing an agricultural official with small arms. — MNA/TTA

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OPINION

Staying on the path of learning: The guiding hand of teachers

IN SHAPING the lives of students and paving the way for a brighter future, teachers' hands are akin to those of sculptors and casters. As early trainers, they possess a vast array of knowledge that broadens the horizons of their students, enabling them to view the world panoramically.

In Myanmar society, teachers hold a position on par with parents. They teach children essential skills like reading, writing, and fluency in languages. Thanks to their guidance, children develop the capacity to read, write, calculate, engage in self-study, and acquire various techniques. These capacities become their reliable tools, unlocking doors to a broader world.

To effectively guide their students, teachers must continuously

lift their own capacities and accumulate knowledge to share. Additionally, they must possess the skills to analyze and assess events, extracting valuable lessons that can be applied practically. By teaching their students how to approach problems and develop analytical abilities, children of all age groups will gain the capacity to overcome challenges successfully.

Education, like any form of art, is an endless pursuit of knowledge. To develop comprehensive skills and techniques, children must diligently improve their capacities from an early age. Following the instructions and guidance of teachers without derailing from the correct path is crucial. Consequently, these children will grow up to become qualified and competent individuals, serving the interests of the State in various arenas.

It is imperative for both teachers and students to cultivate unity and harmony between them in order to improve the education qualification of the students. When their mindsets are aligned, their endeavours are more likely to meet with success, and their progress will be accelerated through relentless efforts. Enhancing reading skills, learning capacity, and knowledge-sharing techniques will become a natural part of this cohesive process.

Teachers must be enthusiastic about sharing their knowledge and techniques with their students. Simultaneously, students must diligently follow the guidance of their teachers while striving to secure their deserved positions in society. It is evident that their qualifications, derived from school education and a thirst for general knowledge, will determine their rightful place. In practice, students must surpass their teachers in learning and studying to truly thrive. By staying on the path of learning under the guidance of teachers, young minds can aspire to reach their full potential and make meaningful contributions to the world.

HEALTH diplomacy is a form of diplomacy that focuses on protecting the health and well-being of populations across national borders. It involves using health-related issues to build relationships, foster cooperation, and promote peace and stability between nations. Health diplomacy is a field of diplomacy that brings together the priorities of global health and foreign affairs. It brings together a variety of participants in areas that affect public health all around the globe.

Health diplomacy is the use of international relations and diplomacy to solve global health problems, improve public health outcomes, and promote health equity. Health diplomacy is important because it recognizes global health problems, like infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and access to health care.

As globalization progresses, it is becoming clear that matters which were once confined to national policy are now issues of global impact and concern. Pandemics, newly emerging communicable diseases and threats of bioterrorism are now clearly understood as direct threats to national and global security. The strategic relevance of health has changed, as health has become an integral part of economic, geopolitical, security, and social justice agendas, including human rights and domestic-foreign policy, among other emerging agendas. Policies in the areas

outside of the health sector, such as trade and economic development, now need to be complemented by those in the areas of environment and health.

In a changing global context, health diplomacy represents an important forum for negotiations on global policy issues that shape and influence the global environment for health. It brings together a wide range of actors in areas that affect public health. The main goals of health diplomacy are (1) better health security and population health; (2) improved relations between states and a commitment of a wide range of actors to work together to improve health; and (3) achievement of outcomes that are reasoned fair and support the goals of reducing poverty and increasing equity.

Health diplomacy becomes an essential tool in promoting the well-being of populations and advancing national interests. The followings are some key aspects highlighting the importance of health diplomacy from a national development perspective: -

- **Global Health Security:** Health diplomacy facilitates

cooperation between nations to address global health threats like pandemics, infectious diseases, and bioterrorism. By collaborating on surveillance, information sharing, and coordinated responses, countries can

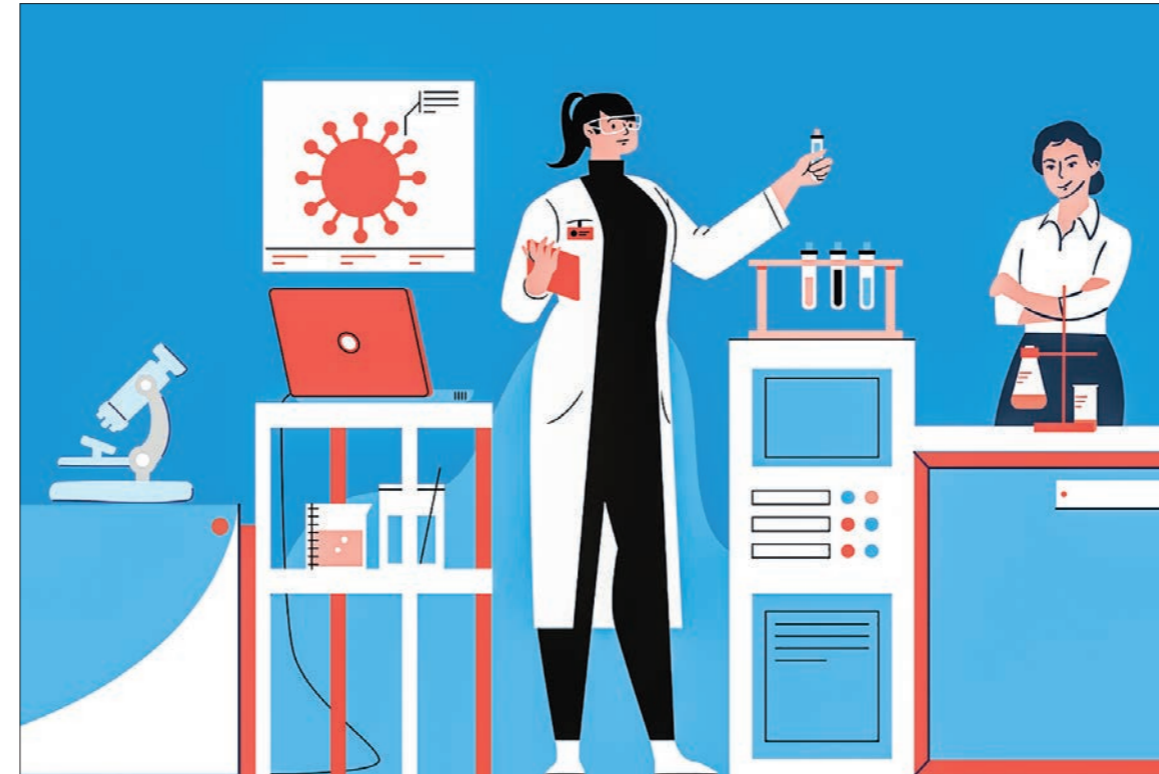
collectively prevent, detect, and respond to health emergencies, safeguarding their populations and economies.

- **Disease Control, Elimination and Eradication:** Health diplomacy supports joint efforts to control and

eliminate diseases that cross borders, such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis. Collaborative initiatives can improve access to medicines, vaccines, and healthcare resources, leading to healthier populations and

The Importance of Health Diplomacy in National Development Perspective

By Dr Than Lwin Tun



Health diplomacy promotes international cooperation in research and development by facilitating the exchange of knowledge, technology, and best practices among nations.

ILLUSTRATION FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY

increased productivity.

- **Economic Impact:** Healthy populations are more productive and economically active. By investing in health diplomacy and promoting better healthcare practices, countries can reduce the burden of illnesses and increase the workforce's capacity, leading to enhanced economic development and prosperity.
- **Soft Power and Diplomatic Relations:** Engaging in health diplomacy can enhance a nation's soft power and improve diplomatic relations with other countries. When a nation contributes to global health initiatives, it can build goodwill and foster positive perceptions among other nations, thereby strengthening its diplomatic relations.
- **Research and Innovation:** Health diplomacy encourages collaboration in research and development, allowing nations to share knowledge, technology, and best practices. Such partnerships can

lead to breakthroughs in medical treatments, healthcare delivery, and disease prevention, benefiting both local populations and the international community.

- **Health and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** Health is an integral part of sustainable development. By prioritizing health diplomacy, countries can work together to achieve the health-related SDGs, ensuring equitable access to healthcare, clean water, sanitation, and nutrition for all, contributing to overall human development.
- **Health Tourism and Trade:** Improving a nation's healthcare system through health diplomacy can attract health tourists, boosting the economy through medical tourism and generating revenue that can be reinvested in the healthcare sector.
- **Climate Change and Environmental Health:** Health diplomacy can address environmental health challenges arising from climate

change, such as increased vector-borne diseases and natural disasters. Collaborative efforts can lead to mitigating the impact of climate change on health and promoting sustainable practices.

- **Disaster Response:** During crises and disasters, health diplomacy enables the coordination of humanitarian support and response efforts, ensuring timely support to affected populations and strengthening international partnerships in disaster management.

- **Capacity Building and Knowledge Exchange:** Health diplomacy allows countries to learn from each other's successes and challenges, fostering capacity building and knowledge exchange in healthcare systems, public health policies, and disease management.

Briefly, Health Diplomacy is a strategic and integral component of the National Development Perspective. By collaborating with other nations to address health challenges, share resources, and promote global well-being, we can achieve sustainable development, strengthen diplomatic relations, and create a healthier and more prosperous life for our citizens.

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-www.diplomacy.edu
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Omega-3 fatty acids help in maintaining lung health: Study

This research provides the most compelling evidence to date on the connection between omega-3 fatty acids and lung health.

OMEGA-3 fatty acids, abundant in fish and fish oil supplements, are promising for maintaining lung health, according to new research from a sizable, thorough study in healthy individuals funded by the National Institutes of Health.

The study highlights the importance of consuming omega-3 fatty acids, especially in light of the fact that many Americans do not consume enough of them, and provides the most compelling evidence of this connection to date. "We know a lot about the role

of diet in cancer and cardiovascular diseases, but the role of diet in chronic lung disease is somewhat understudied," said corresponding author Patricia A Cassano, PhD, director of the Division of Nutritional Sciences at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. "This study adds to growing evidence that omega-3 fatty acids, which are part of a healthy diet, may also be important for lung health."

Whether nutritional therapies could aid in the fight against lung illness has recently gained

more attention. Because of their well-documented anti-inflammatory effects, omega-3 fatty acids have been linked to promising results in earlier studies. However, until recently, there haven't been any reliable investigations of this link.

To learn more, researchers developed a two-part study investigating the link between omega-3 fatty acid levels in the blood and lung function over time. In the first part, the researchers conducted a longitudinal, observational study involving 15,063 Americans from

the NHLBI Pooled Cohorts Study — a large collection of NIH-funded studies that helps researchers to study determinants of personal risk for chronic lung disease.

The participants studied were generally healthy when the study began, and the majority had no evidence of chronic lung disease. They comprised a racially diverse group of adults, with an average age of 56 years, and 55 per cent were female. The researchers followed participants for an average of seven years and up to 20 years.

The longitudinal study

showed that higher levels of omega-3 fatty acids in a person's blood were associated with a reduced rate of lung function decline. The researchers observed the strongest associations for docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), an omega-3 fatty acid that is found at high levels in fatty fish such as salmon, tuna, and sardines. DHA is also available as a dietary supplement.

In the second part, the researchers analyzed genetic data from a large study of European patients (over 500,000 participants) from the UK Biobank. They stud-

ied certain genetic markers in the blood as an indirect measure, or proxy, for dietary omega-3 fatty acid levels to see how they correlated with lung health. The results showed that higher levels of omega-3 fatty acids — including DHA — were associated with better lung function.

One caveat of the current study is that it only included healthy adults. As part of this ongoing project, researchers are collaborating with the COPD Gene study to examine blood levels of omega-3 fatty acids in relation to



Researchers have turned their attention to exploring the potential effects of omega-3 fatty acids on lung health. One promising avenue of exploration lies in the realm of nutrition, particularly the potential benefits of omega-3 fatty acids found abundantly in fish and fish oil supplements. ILLUSTRATION FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/FREEPIK

the rate of decline in lung function among people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or COPD — including heavy smok-

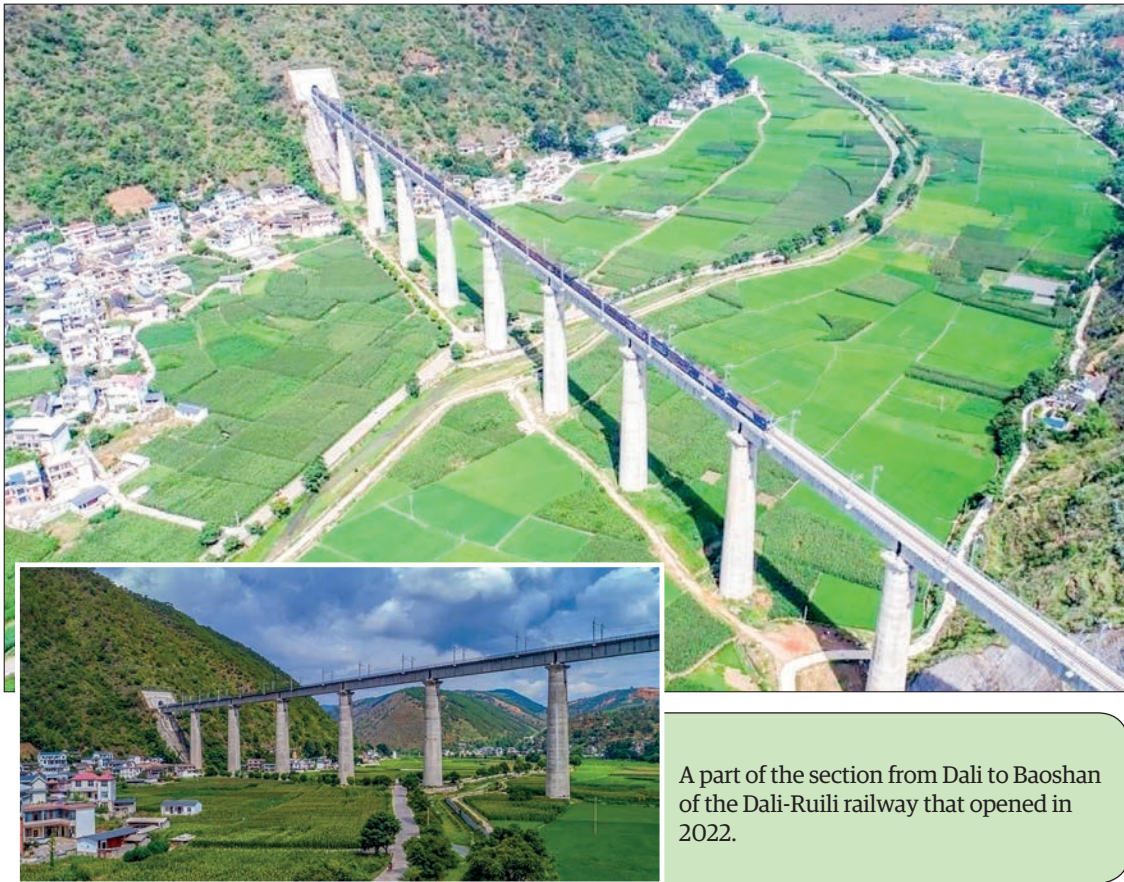
ers — to determine if the same beneficial associations are found.

SOURCE: ANI

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Advancing cross-border freight connectivity: China's high-speed rail network and Myanmar's rail system at the heart of the discussion

China's high-speed rail projects will be completed in 2027 in Ruili



A part of the section from Dali to Baoshan of the Dali-Ruili railway that opened in 2022.

TO increase bilateral trade between China and Myanmar, a memorandum of understanding on facilitating cross-border transport, including connecting with the railway network, was signed in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 July.

The Union Minister for Transport and Communications and Mr Wei Gang, the Governor of the People's Government of Dehong Autonomous Prefecture under the Yunnan Province, China, attended the signing ceremony and had a discussion.

Mr Wei Gang discussed matters concerning the operation of flights between Mangshi, the city of Dehong Autonomous Prefecture, and Mandalay, four times a week by Ruili Airlines; the expansion of passenger and cargo flights to potential cities, in addition to the round trips of Yangon-Mandalay-Mangshi flights three times a week by Myanmar

National Airlines; and issues regarding the transit of Chinese goods through the Yangon port.

It is known that China's high-speed rail projects to Ruili will be completed in 2027.

The Chinese Embassy to Myanmar stated that the flow of goods between Myanmar and China will be more convenient, and it will be possible to open a new channel for the flow of goods between China and Southeast Asian countries by combining maritime, road, and rail transportation since the section from Dali to Baoshan of the Dali-Ruili railway was successfully opened in August 2022.

Therefore, the role of the Dali-Ruili railway will be more significant for the construction of the Belt and Road and the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor, the embassy added. — TWA/CT

King Power duty-free shops in Thailand offer special discounts for MNA boarding pass holders

MYANMAR National Airlines-MNA and King Power jointly announced that international passengers who purchase items at King Power Duty-Free shops in Thailand will receive attractive discounts.

Customers can avail of a 500-baht discount for specified items worth at least 5,000 baht and a 200-baht discount for specified items worth at least 3,000 baht by presenting their MNA International Boarding Pass.

This promotion will run until 30 September 2023 and is valid at King Power stores in Suvarnabhumi, Don Mueang, Chiang Mai, U-Tapao Airports, as well as King Power Rangnam, Srivaree, Pattaya, and Phuket. — TWA/MKKS



A King Power Duty-Free shop in Bangkok, Thailand.

FDA approves above 2,000 active food & drinking water industries

ACCORDING to the Department of Food and Drug Administration (FDA), there are more than 2,000 active food and drinking water businesses that have received approval from the FDA in the first six months of this year.

A total of 736 food businesses and 1,310 drinking water businesses were approved by the Manual + E-Submission system from 1 January to 30 June 2023.

According to the decision of the Management Committee Coordination Meeting 3/2023, the FDA has notified that food products without a switch bill of lading (Second BL/ Truck Bill) in applying IHC at the food division through the E-submission system

will be subject to temporary inspection with an invoice that consists of full date marking and lot identification and the importing company's guarantee.

It has been informed that such applications will be allowed only at the relevant border station, or Nay Pyi Taw, as the application office.

Market field inspections are also being conducted regularly by the FDA to prevent the use of hazardous chemicals and prohibited drugs in food and consumer goods sold in the market, in cooperation with related departments, including regional FDAs and the Township Food and Drug Supervision Committee. — TWA/CT



The photo shows some booths in the Mandalay gems market.

Compulsory licensing required for brokers in Mandalay gem market

LICENCES are mandatory for gem brokers involved in the Mandalay gem market and legal action will be taken if they are found doing illegitimate dealings.

"The notification boards regarding legal actions for trading without licences are installed in the market," Ko Arkar, a dealer from Mandalay gem market, told the Global New Light of Myanmar. The brokers involved in cutting and polishing and trading gems need to seek a licence. Under Section 26 of the Myanmar Gemstone Law, a licence is compulsory for those executing the trading of raw gemstones, finished jewellery and gem products, it is mentioned in the notification.

Those who break the rules will be fined or sentenced to up to three years under the existing law.

Mandalay Gem Traders Association has already notified the traders to apply for a licence. The licence fee for an individual and manufacturing business of finished gems and carvings is set at K30,000 for one year and K50,000 for a jewellery shop owner. — TWA/EM

ECONOMY WORLD

Rafale sales help France reach arms exports record

FRANCE said Wednesday its arms exports hit a record last year, helped by Rafale aircraft sales, in a context of rising global defence spending after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

French weapons exports totalled 27 billion euros (\$30 billion) in 2022, up from 11.7 billion euros the previous year, the ministry said in its annual report to parliament, seen by AFP.

France is the world's third biggest arms exporting nation, after the United States and Russia.

A contract with the United Arab Emirates for 80 Rafale combat aircraft alone contributed more than 16 billion euros to the French total.

Indonesia placed a firm order for six Rafale, as did Greece, further cementing the global success of the fighter made by Dassault Aviation.

Since then, India has signed a memorandum of understanding for 26 Rafale for navy use, after 36 were delivered for its air force.

Greece last year also or-

dered three French defence and intervention frigates, and signed maintenance and associated weaponry contracts. — AFP



The Rafale is a multirole fighter jet manufactured by the French aerospace company Dassault Aviation. It is considered one of the most advanced and versatile fighter aircraft in the world and is used by the French Air Force, French Navy, and several other international air forces. **PHOTO: FRENCH AIR FORCE/FILE**

German consumer mood improves as inflation slows



Consumer prices in Germany are not rising as quickly as they did towards the end of last year, although inflation remained high in June at 6.4 per cent. **PHOTO: AFP**

GERMAN consumer confidence rose heading into August, a key survey showed Thursday, as once red-hot inflation looked to be on the way back down.

Pollster GfK said its forward-looking survey of around 2,000 people rose to minus 24.4

points in August from minus 25.2 points in July.

The mood among consumers hit a low of minus 42.8 points in October, as prices soared and consumers worried about the cost of heating their homes over the coming winter.

Since then, the index climbed steadily until July, when it suffered a small drop.

The August rebound meant there were good chances the "consumer climate will be able to resume its recovery course", said GfK expert Rolf Buerkl. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Putin says Russia's oil, gas exports to Africa increased by 2.6 times over past 2 years

RUSSIA has increased its exports of crude oil, oil products and liquefied natural gas to African countries by 2.6 times over the past two years, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday.

"Over the past two years, Russia's exports of oil, oil products and liquefied natural gas to Africa have increased by 2.6 times," Putin said at the plenary session of the Russia-Africa summit in St Petersburg. — SPUTNIK

ECB to mark year of hikes with inflation still high

EUROPEAN Central Bank policymakers looked set to deliver another interest rate increase on Thursday as their fight against eurozone inflation reaches the one-year mark with consumer prices still rising fast.

The ECB began lifting borrowing costs in July last year to combat soaring prices, kicking off the most aggressive hiking cycle in the central bank's history.

Key rates have since risen by four percentage points, and "virtually everyone" expects a fresh quarter-point increase at Thursday's meeting, German central bank boss Joachim Nagel said last week.

It would be the ECB's ninth straight hike, and take the closely watched deposit rate to 3.75 per cent — its highest level since 2000.

The outlook for the ECB beyond Thursday's meeting was however less clear, as the wind looks to have gone out of the sails of the eurozone economy. — AFP

Yemen speciality coffee 'wave' sweeps war-hit capital

TUCKED amid shell-pocked buildings and roadside tributes to fallen fighters, a less obvious byproduct of wartime is spreading across Yemen's capital: speciality coffee houses serving steaming cups of top-rated pour-over.

The Arabian Peninsula's most impoverished country, locked in an eight-year conflict

between Iran-backed Huthi rebels and forces supporting the internationally recognized government, has deep ties to coffee.

Legend has it that Sufi mystics on Yemen's western coast were the first people to brew coffee beans back in the 15th century.

Yet Yemeni entrepreneurs have until recently focused on

exporting their best product to wealthy overseas markets.

The most famous among them is Mokhtar Alkhanshali, whose death-defying bid to ship a container full of speciality beans during the war's early stages was chronicled in Dave Eggers' 2018 best-selling book "The Monk of Mokha". — AFP



In Yemen, there is a war going on between rebel groups and the government. Despite the difficult situation, there are coffee houses in the capital city that serve speciality coffee. **PHOTO: AFP**

TRADE & BUSINESS

Coord meeting held on bilateral trade between Myanmar & Dehong Autonomous Prefecture

A coordination meeting on bilateral trade between Myanmar and the Dehong Autonomous Prefecture of China was held at the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am yesterday.

The meeting was attended by a group led by Director-General U Myint Thura of the Trade Department, responsible personnel, and Mr Wei Gang, the Governor of the People's Government of De-

hong Autonomous Prefecture under the Yunnan Province, China.

At the meeting, the participants discussed the opening of more border gates between the two countries, policy issues, the smooth flow of goods, financial cooperation, the greater cooperation between the two countries in agricultural sectors, and the status of increasing exports between the two countries. — MNA/CT



The coordination meeting on bilateral trade in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Corn price rebounds in domestic market



The corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. The photo shows the corn for sale in the market.

THE price of corn rallied to K1,170-1,190 per viss in the domestic market as the FOB corn prices rise to US\$290-310 per tonne, according to Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Commodity Depot).

Myanmar conveys corn to China and Thailand through the border and also sent corn to China, India, Viet Nam and the Philippines by maritime shipping at present, according to the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

China is purchasing Myanmar's corn through cross-border trade under the opium substitution program. Legitimate corn trade between Myanmar and China commenced at the end of 2022. A total of 112 companies have been given the green light for legitimate corn exports.

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

The directive released on 30 June 2022 said that transactions for the exports of agricultural products including corn, rice, bean and oil crops are to be made in dollars instead of Yuan-Kyat/Baht-Kyat. Therefore, 65 per cent of export earnings (US dollars) of the corn have to be exchanged according to the reference rate

of the Central Bank of Myanmar (K2,100). The CBM eased the foreign currency conversion order to 50 per cent from 65 per cent for the exporters on 13 July 2023, according to its notification 15/2023.

At present, the CBM sets the reference exchange rate at K2,100 whereas the US dollar is transacted at K3,300 in the grey market, showing a large gap between the reference exchange rate and the grey market rate.

Myanmar exported over 2 million tonnes of corn to foreign trade in the 2022 corn season. The majority of them were sent to Thailand and the remaining went to the Philippines, China, India and Viet Nam.

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

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

UMFCCI welcomes Chinese business delegation to bolster investment, trade

UNION of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI)'s officials met the Chinese business delegation led by Mr Wei Gang, governor of Dehong Autonomous Prefecture Government regarding the investment and trade promotion matters on 25 July.

The meeting highlighted business, trade and investment promotion and facilitation between Dehong Autonomous Prefecture of the People's Republic of China and Myanmar.

During the UMFCCI's discussion with a Chinese business delegation including 26 members, UMFCCI Vice-President Dr Myo Thet gave a remark that he strongly believed the discussion will

result in positive outcomes and Myanmar is willing to cooperate in the bilateral cross-border trade and investment and trade promotion matters.

Mr Wei Gang also emphasized closer cooperation in business, trade and investment activities as the province is focusing on business development and endeavouring to be a business development partner of Myanmar.

Later, the businesspersons from both countries exchanged ideas regarding the agriculture and fisheries sector, industrial development, food security, price stability, banking sector development, cross-border logistics and export promotion of vegetables. — NN/EM

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

Volkswagen profits dip as it struggles in China

VOLKSWAGEN said Thursday its profits slipped in the second quarter as it battles to regain ground in China, the German auto giant's most important market.

From April to June, net profit came in at 3.8 billion euros (\$4.2 billion), 3.1 per cent below the same quarter a year earlier.

The 10-brand group —whose models include

Audi, Seat and Skoda -- makes a big chunk of its overall sales in China.

But it has faced increased competition in the world's number two economy, particularly in the booming electric car market.

In the first half of 2023, Volkswagen's deliveries of vehicles in China were down 1.2 per cent compared to the previous year, weighed down by a



Volkswagen has faced increased competition in China, particularly in the booming electric car market. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

poor start to the year.

The auto giant nevertheless struck a positive note about its prospects in the major market, saying it was stepping up the pace of "transformation in China".

On Wednesday, the carmaker announced it would invest over 600 million euros in Chinese electric vehicle manufacturer XPeng, acquiring a stake of just under five

per cent.

The two companies plan to develop two mid-sized VW-branded electric models to be rolled out on the Chinese market in 2026.

VW's premium Audi brand has also signed a memorandum with the group's existing Chinese partner SAIC to expand their cooperation and work on new high-end electric vehicles.— AFP

Ryanair accused of 'invasive' facial recognition use

A prominent digital privacy campaign group on Thursday filed a complaint against Ryanair in Spain, alleging the popular budget carrier was pushing customers to undergo "invasive facial recognition process".

Austria's noyb said some customers of the Irish no-frills airline were

required to go through "a mandatory 'verification process' involving invasive facial recognition" when booking through an online travel agent rather than directly on the company's website or app.

"There is no reasonable justification for Ryanair to implement this system. Instead, it seems

like the airline is willingly violating their customer's right to data protection in order to obtain an unfair competitive advantage over alternative booking channels," the group said in a statement.

Ryanair did not immediately reply an AFP request for comment.

Noyb said the complaint came from a customer from Spain who booked a Ryanair flight through the Barcelona-based online travel agency eDreams and then received an email from Ryanair requesting her to complete a "verification process". The case was filed with the Spanish Data Protection Agency (AEPD).—AFP



The complaint alleges that the budget airline is forcing customers to go through an invasive facial recognition process. PHOTO: AFP

Mattel reports profit dip despite glow from 'Barbie' blockbuster

MATTEL reported a drop in profits Wednesday on lower sales, including a decline in Barbie products in the second quarter.

Profits fell 59 per cent to \$27.2 million, on a 12 per cent fall in revenues to \$1.1 billion. Business was negatively hit by retailers trimming inventory levels and "some overall industry softness", said Chief Financial Officer Anthony DiSilvestro. "At this point, we believe the retail inventory correction is mostly behind us, and we look forward to meeting consumer demand for our product as we enter the second half of the year and all-important holiday season," DiSilvestro said.

Mattel's toy categories were mixed, with "Hot



A child looks at a Barbie-themed computer in Anhembi, northern Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 26 July 2023. PHOTO: AFP

Wheels" and the overall vehicles category scoring increased gross billings compared with last year, while Fisher Price and the action figures/building sets/games categories fell.

Barbie had a six per cent drop in worldwide

gross billings to \$282.7 million. But the iconic doll is expected to be a cash-cow for Mattel in the coming period after the star-studded "Barbie" movie raked in a stunning \$155 million in its opening weekend in North America.—AFP

The Global New Light of Myanmar
www.gnlm.com.mm

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (291N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (291N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-7-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0299-748N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0299-748N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-7-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD.

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

N Korea's Kim hosts Russian defence minister at arms exhibition



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (front R) shows Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu (front L) around an arms exhibition in Pyongyang on 26 July 2023. **PHOTO: KCNA/KYODO**

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un met Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu on Wednesday and showed him round an arms exhibition held in the capital to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Korean War armistice, state-run media in Pyongyang said.

Photos released Thursday by the official Korean Central News Agency showed Kim and Shoigu at the exhibition that featured weaponry including solid-fuel Hwasong-18 and other intercontinental ballistic missiles as well as a new drone.

It is rare for the North Korean leader to host a senior foreign military official at a location where the nation's advanced weapons are on display.

Shoigu will attend a military parade marking the armistice anniversary later Thursday, Russia's Tass news agency quoted the country's defence ministry

as saying.

The talks between Kim and Shoigu mark the Asian leader's first contact with a senior foreign official since 30 June 2019, when he met then US President Donald Trump at the Demilitarized Zone dividing the two Koreas.

KCNA reported that during a meeting with Shoigu a day ahead of the anniversary, the two sides reached a consensus after exchanging views on matters of mutual concern in the field of national defence and security, and on the regional and international security environment.

Kim expressed his views on the issues of mutual concern in the struggle to "safeguard the sovereignty, development and interests of the two countries from the high-handed and arbitrary practices of the imperialists and to realize international justice and peace", it added. — Kyodo

Entire pod of 97 pilot whales dies in Australia beaching

NEARLY 100 pilot whales have died after beaching in Western Australia, wildlife officials said Thursday, following desperate rescue attempts.

The pod of 97 long-finned pilot whales gathered in shallow water off Cheynes Beach, about 400 kilometres (250 miles) southeast of Perth, on Tuesday, with scores stranding themselves on the sand.

By the next morning, 51 of the cetaceans had died.

Some 250 volunteers joined 100 wildlife experts in a vain struggle to save the rest of the pod throughout

the day Wednesday. Dozens of people in wetsuits stayed in the water, a few on kayaks or surfboards, trying to coax the tightly packed group of remaining pilot whales into deeper waters, and then out to sea.

"Volunteers and everyone attempted to get them back out into the deeper water, and then they re-beached themselves," a spokeswoman for the Parks and Wildlife Service told AFP.

"From that point, the vets assessed them and it was determined on welfare grounds that they needed to be euthanized." — AFP



Scores of pilot whales stranded at Cheynes beach, near Albany in Western Australia. **PHOTO: AFP**

Kashmir Shiites march to mourn martyr after 33-year ban lifted

THOUSANDS of Shiite Muslims marched through Indian-administered Kashmir's largest city Thursday for a major religious procession permitted in the restive territory for the first time since a ban was imposed decades ago.

The Islamic calendar is currently in the month of Muharram, the holiest time for Shiites across the world when large processions mark the martyrdom of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson Hussein in the seventh century.

But authorities in Kashmir had banned the traditional ceremony in 1990, the year after an armed revolt against Indian rule erupted in the disputed region that is also claimed by Pakistan.



Shiite Muslims march through Kashmir's largest city for a major Muharram religious festival allowed to proceed for the first time in 33 years. **PHOTO: AFP**

Since imposing direct rule on the territory four years ago, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government

has been eager to claim improved security in the territory after decades of unrest. — AFP

Kuwait hangs five, including 2015 mosque bombing convict

KUWAIT put to death five people on Thursday, including a man convicted of involvement in a 2015 Islamic State group suicide bombing that killed 26 people, the Public Prosecution said. The mul-

tiple executions in the Gulf emirate — relatively rare compared to neighbouring Saudi Arabia — are the first since seven people were put to death in November last year ending a five-year morato-

rium. In a statement, the Public Prosecution said it oversaw the "implementation of the death sentence in Kuwait's Central Prison" against five people, most of them accused of murder.—AFP

Over 35,000 illegal migrants detained in Türkiye, 16,000 deported in 2 months

MORE than 35,000 illegal migrants have been detained in Türkiye, and over 16,000 of them have been deported from the country in the last two months, Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said Wednesday.

“In the last two months, we detained 35,797 illegal migrants as a result of raids. Of them, 16,018 migrants were deported,

and necessary procedures are being carried out against another 19,502 in deportation centres,” Yerlikaya said in a televised appearance.

The minister added that nine mobile centers of the Directorate General of Migration Management had been set up in Istanbul as an experiment, where it is possible to instantly check a

migrant’s biometrics and migration status in the country. The ministry is planning to increase the number of centers up to 39, he said. Raids to detain illegal migrants under the new interior minister are now conducted daily, including on tourist ferries. Yerlikaya has pledged not to stop fighting illegal migration. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan



Refugees and migrants try to reach the shore of Lesbos in rough seas, 30 October 2015, after crossing the Aegean Sea from Türkiye. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AFP/FILE

has earlier said that Turkish nationals will soon feel a change as a result of operations against illegal migrants. — AFP

Russia turns away cargo ship ‘with traces of explosives’

RUSSIA’S FSB security service said Thursday it had found “traces of explosives” on a cargo ship bound for the Russian port of Rostov-on-Don through the Black Sea.

The ship, Bmo River, arrived from Türkiye and had previously sailed twice to the Ukrainian port of Reni, the state-run Interfax news agency reported, citing security officials.

The FSB said that the ship had previously sailed to the Ukrainian port of Reni and said it had now been turned back from Russian waters.

“The foreign ship may have been used earlier to transport explosive substances to Ukraine,” the FSB



The ship, Bmo River, arrived from Türkiye and had previously sailed twice to the Ukrainian port of Reni, the state-run Interfax news agency reported, citing security officials. PHOTO: BABUR HALULU/PORT SECURITY OFFICER / MARINETRAFFIC.COM

statement said.

“A decision was taken to prevent the ship’s passage un-

der the shipping arch of the Kerch Strait and it has been turned back from Russian ter-

ritorial waters,” it added.

Reni is located on the Danube near the Romanian border and a grain storage facility there was targeted by a Russian drone attack in recent days.

Russia has stepped up strikes against port facilities in southwest Ukraine after withdrawing from a deal to allow Ukrainian grain exports through the Black Sea.

This is the second such incident reported by the FSB.

On Monday, it said that traces of explosives had been found on a ship sailing from Türkiye to Rostov-on-Don which had previously been to the Ukrainian port of Kiliya and it too was turned back. — AFP

Prince Harry lawsuit against The Sun tabloid set for trial

PRINCE Harry’s lawsuit against The Sun tabloid alleging unlawful information gathering can go to trial but will not include phone hacking claims, a High Court judge ruled on Thursday.

Harry, 38, whose official title is Duke of Sussex, is suing several UK newspapers over alleged unlawful information-gathering, including News Group Newspapers (NGN) — publisher of The Sun and the now-defunct News of the World tabloids.

NGN is part of Rupert Murdoch’s global publishing empire and had asked the High Court in

London to throw out the claims — filed by Harry alongside actor Hugh Grant — arguing they were out of time.

But judge Timothy Fancourt ordered that Harry’s case can go to trial, concluding NGN had “succeeded in part on its application” related to time limits around alleged phone hacking but “failed on the remaining part”. Hugh Grant learned in May that he had won his court bid to bring to trial his claim against NGN, while other high-profile claimants are also pursuing the newspaper group. — AFP



Prince Harry is suing several UK newspapers over alleged unlawful information-gathering. PHOTO: DANIEL LEAL-OLIVAS/AFP/FILE

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sri Lanka massacres that triggered civil war haunt 40 years later

FORTY years ago, mobs in Sri Lanka burned 13 people alive, part of a week-long pogrom that turbocharged simmering ethnic unrest into all-out civil war.

Known in Sri Lanka as “Black July”, the brutal violence triggered a 26-year conflict that killed about 100,000 people and set development back by decades, ending only after the Tamil rebels fighting for autonomy were massacred in 2009.

The 1983 anti-Tamil mob attacks escalated on 29 July, when Mohan Panneer Selvam was just eight years old.

A rampaging gang torched his home in the tea-growing central town of Hawa Eliya, burning 13 people inside, including his parents, relatives and their staff.

“My grandmother started to escape, they shot her and threw her body into the house,” Panneer Selvam said, breaking down while recalling the events narrated to him by his older sister. He and his younger brother were away at boarding school when the riots broke out, returning as orphans to the ruins of their burned home two months later. His sister — then a child of 10 — was the sole survivor only because their mother “threw her out of the kitchen window”, he said. — AFP

N Korea's Kim hosts Russian defence minister at arms exhibition
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SPORT

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

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

- To enhance development based on agriculture and livestock using modern production techniques and to strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- 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.
- To advance the socioeconomic life of the people, in order to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.

3. Social affairs

- To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 Myanmar national team's head coach Gerd Zeise. **PHOTO: MFF**

Gerd Zeise to handle Yangon United as new head coach

YANGON United team has appointed former Myanmar national team's head coach Gerd Zeise to manage the team in AFC Cup and Myanmar National League matches. Gerd Zeise, who is familiar with Myanmar's football, achieved success with the Myanmar U-20 team as he was able to bring the team to the 2015 FIFA U-20 World Cup held in New Zealand.

In addition, he has also worked as a coach and technical director for Belgian and German clubs, as well as Asian clubs such as Vietnam Club Danang and Maldives Club New Radiant, and he is the one who managed to win the league.

The head coach managed the Myanmar U-19, U-20 and U-23 national teams, and Myanmar national team for 3 years

since 2015.

"I am glad to join Yangon United. Yangon is one of the great teams in Myanmar, and I feel good and work for the club. The team has got talented players and national players as well. I will build the team stronger. I saw matches of Yangon United and will find out which way is better to be the best. I will fix the team better and have fun in football.

"Hello to Yangon United fans, and I know Yangon United has big fans. I would like to ask you to support the team more and more," Gerd Zeise said.

The coach will arrive in Myanmar in the first week of August, and U Tin Maung Tun is currently handling the team as an interim Head Coach. — KZL

Liverpool's Henderson completes move to Saudi club Al-Ettifaq

LIVERPOOL captain Jordan Henderson completed his move to Saudi Pro League side Al-Ettifaq on Thursday, becoming the latest big-name player to be lured to the Gulf state.

The England midfielder, who posted a farewell message on Wednesday, has ended a 12-year stay at Anfield, during which he won every major trophy.

"We can confirm J Henderson has completed a transfer to Al-Ettifaq," Liverpool said on their social media channels.

Al-Ettifaq posted: "A leader. A warrior. We're simply thrilled to have him."

The 33-year-old, who played 492 matches for Liverpool, scoring 33 goals, has finalized a deal with reported wages of up to £700,000-a-week.

Liverpool are due to receive an initial £12 million (\$15.5 million) from the Saudi club.—AFP



Jordan Henderson has left Liverpool after 12 years for Saudi Pro League club Al-Ettifaq. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Nigeria fight back to stun World Cup co-hosts Australia 3-2

SECOND-HALF goals from Osinachi Ohale and Asisat Oshoala gave Nigeria a stunning 3-2 win over Australia at the Women's World Cup on Thursday to leave the co-hosts in danger of an early exit.

In front of 49,156 fans in Brisbane the Matildas missed a golden chance to reach the last 16 and instead now face a must-win final group game against Olympic champions Canada. In contrast, Nigeria top Group B and play Ireland — who are already out of contention — with the knockout rounds in sight.

"We've talked about believing in each other and that the success is going to be in the unity of the team," said Nigeria's coach Randy Waldrum, whose team held Canada 0-0 in their first game. "To think we got two results against two top teams says a lot about our heart and the competitive desire that the team has." — AFP



Nigeria defender Onome Ebi (L) and Osinachi Ohale celebrate their team's victory. **PHOTO: AFP**