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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council: Five-Point Road Map

1. Priority will be given to fully realizing peace, stability and rule of law throughout the Union to safeguard the socioeconomic life of the people.
2. People-centred development work that enhances socioeconomic well-being will be undertaken to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.
3. Processes will further continue to consolidate a genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system and build a Union based on democracy and federalism.
4. Priority will be accorded to work aligned with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, in order to achieve enduring peace for the entire nation.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

Message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to ceremony to mark 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) of Chin National Day

20 February 2023

Esteemed ethnic national brethren in the Chin State,

I express my best wishes for all ethnic people

together with Chin ethnics in Myanmar and various global countries to have all auspiciousness on the significant occasion of the 75th Anniversary (Diamond

Jubilee) of Chin National Day which falls on 20 February 2023, today.

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Dams, sluice gates, river water pumping maintained every year to benefit 1,014,776 acres in Yangon Region



A drain and manufacturing road seen between thriving paddy farms. **PHOTO: KANU**

YANGON Region Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department is working on water supply and flood protection, as well as preventing saltwater entering low-lying fields.

A total of 1,014,776 acres of agricultural land in Yangon Region are being maintained every year, including dams, flood prevention, saltwater preventive dykes, sluice gates, and water pumping supply projects.

In Yangon Region, nine dams built by the government, 49 flood prevention and saltwater prevention dykes, 160 sluice gates, and 22 river water pumping stations are being run.

Ngamoeyeik Dam, Tabu Hla Dam, Paunglaung Dam, Mahuya Dam, Lagunbyin Dam,

SEE PAGE-6

Pyin Oo Lwin

NAN MYAING

Pure Arabica Coffee

Sales Department- Ph-085 2021740, 09 30529111
 STARMART Nine Mile Showroom- (9)mile, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph-09 263147385
 KHA YAE PIN MART - Mingalardone, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph- 09 671443555
 STARMART MANDALAY Wholesale -Corner of 26th st and 66th st , Mandalay.Ph-09 661702244
 STARMART Nay Pyi Taw -Yangon- Mandalay Highway Road, Ywar Gauk Ward, Pyinmanar.Ph- 09 685119077

Objectives of 78th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day

- To serve primary duties of Tatmadaw for successfully safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes, and protecting the State Constitution and shielding the genuine disciplined multiparty democratic system
- To emphasize agreements in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) as much as possible for the restoration of the durable and perpetual peace across the nation as ceasing of armed conflicts is an actual requirement for realizing the multiparty democratic system
- To render assistance in protecting the national interests of the State, in safeguarding the life and property of the people and in participating in relevant sectors with utmost efforts whenever natural disasters fall
- To provide the necessary assistance by Tatmadaw for holding a free and fair multiparty democratic general election upon completion of undertakings in accord with the provisions of the state of emergency for the emergence of the Union based on democracy and federalism.

Myanmar to designate Proeutropiichthys taakree as National Fish

EFFORTS will be made to recognize the Proeutropiichthys taakree, which inhabits Myanmar only among ASEAN countries, as the National Fish of the country, according to the handover ceremony of 100 Proeutropiichthys taakree fingerlings by the Fishery Institute (Twantay) to Myanmar Fisheries Federation to launch research on 16 February.

Myanmar's Proeutropiichthys taakree fish with proper foreign demand will be bred for commercial purposes if the initial hatchery processes are done successfully. Therefore, Deputy Director Daw Moe Thuzar Maung, Principal of the Fishery Institute under the Department of Fisheries handed over the Proeutropiichthys taakree fingerlings, that Viet Nam and Thailand do not possess the species, to Senior Vice-President Dr Toe Nandar Tin of Myanmar Fisheries Federation and party.

The Proeutropiichthys taakree saving centre is located at Twantay fish farm about 22 nautical miles from Yangon. The captured Proeutropiichthys taakree fingerlings are kept at the beach for about four or five days and the well-developed fish are kept at brick and soil farms of the Institute. The two-year pilot research shows 60 per cent

of success.

"The Proeutropiichthys taakree fish is a marine product that achieves good demand. As it inhabits Myanmar only, the fingerlings are kept at the Twantay fish farm and developed them at the Institute for two years as from 2021. They eat only the alive food and live underneath the water. But, they are bred at about 3 or 4 ft of water in depth feeding the food tube and the process is successful. If the 3 to 4-year-old fish farming process is successful, we will get a certain result. As we breed them in farms with natural water, if they can live well with nature having the needed nutrient, the hatching process will be accomplished. We hand over 100 fingerlings including four sizes from 2 to 3 years old to conduct research and produce commercially. As the specie does not exist in ASEAN countries, it will stand as the National Fish of the country," said the principal of the Institute.

The fish is seen in the lower part of Mandalay Region and they do not exist in the Mekong River and so it is standing as a pride for the country. Bangladesh recognizes the Hilsa as its National Fish and controls the foreign market today. The Department of Fisheries and



Fish farmers capture Proeutropiichthys taakree fish at the farm. PHOTO: KANU

Myanmar Fisheries Federation will work together to recognize the Proeutropiichthys taakree as National Fish to conserve as fauna of the country while exporting to foreign countries.

"The Department of Fisheries and Myanmar Fisheries Federation have been working together since years ago. Today's cooperation is such a wonderful event. I believe that we can hatch the specie of Myanmar's Proeutropiichthys taakree. We

will discuss will all the experts for hatchery of fish specie that is not seen in ASEAN countries. We will keep trying hard to recognize the Proeutropiichthys taakree as National Fish," said the senior vice-president of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

As the Proeutropiichthys taakree fetches the highest prices, it will be a product that earns the foreign income most for the country like the river catfish after the hatchery processes

are conducted successfully. The Proeutropiichthys taakree fingerlings are seen at the mouth of Twantay river, Nyaungdon Wegyithaung and Pantanaw of Ayeyawady Region. During the event, 100 fingerlings were transported to the Global Art fish farming zone for hatchery processes through research. If the plans are successful, the country can earn foreign income from the export sector. —Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

Public Notice for Elimination of Violence

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

17 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 19 February, total figure rises to 633,901

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **633,901** after **17** new cases were reported on 19 February 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,363**, including **five** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged **19,490** on 19-2-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic.

The country has vaccinated **30,932,581** people aged 18 and above for COVID-19 vaccines and **6,813,495** people aged under 18 till 18 February 2023. —MNA

Concerted efforts needed to ensure better enhancement of NCA

- ON the occasion of the 7th Anniversary of signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), I myself would like to urge all-
- to make concerted efforts for analyzing the advantages and disadvantages of peace and stability based on experiences along our route for ensuring better essence of NCA,
 - to regard the Our Three Main National Causes and deeply follow the commitments of NCA to ensure the success of building the Union based on democracy and federalism,
 - to nurture ourselves and our environment to become the persons with mindsets of good citizens endowed with knowledge of national politics and loyalty of citizens,
 - to organize and lure remnant organizations to sign the NCA as much as possible so as to post a historical milestone.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the 7th Anniversary of Signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) on 15 October 2022)

Message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to ceremony to mark 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) of Chin National Day

FROM PAGE-1

Chin ethnics of the Chin tribe have been residing in the Chin State in unity through thick and thin together with other ethnicities throughout history. Moreover, they cooperated with ethnic national brethren of the Union in anti-colonialist events and fighting in the independence struggles due to a lack of wish to accept the colonial rule and participated in dissolving the feudal system and unity of all ethnic people from hilly and plain regions with the nationalistic spirit.

After regaining independence, the Chin national conference took place in Falam with an attendance of more than 5,000 representatives from 19 to 22 February 1948. The Falam conference adopted future plans to exercise the democratic administration system.

Then, on 20 February when the circle headman administration system was changed to the democratic administration system as a fine tradition was designated as the Chin National Day. According to the historical event, today, 20 February 2023, is the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) of Chin National Day, a significant day for the entire Chin ethnics.

The leading role of Chin national leaders was very important in the emergence of Chin National Day. Among many Chin national leaders from the pre-independence period to the post-independence period, some Chin national leaders recognized as idols for Chin nationals in history were Bo Con Bik and Bo Khai Kam who led the fighting against British colonialists, Chin national representatives U Hlur Hmong, U Thong Za Khup and U Kio Mang who signed the Panglong Agreement, Independence Mawgun award winner (First Class) Thadoe Maha Sithu U Vammathumong who demanded to give the independence for the hilly regions and the mainland at the same time and took a leading role in the independence struggles and Captain Thura, Aung San Thuriya Taik Chun awarded the highest gallantry title Aung San Thuriya and Thura title of the Tatmadaw for his bravely wonderful serving the State defence duties. They were honourable Chin national leaders. So, I would like to urge the entire Chin nationals to strive for the emergence of good leaders capable of uplifting the prestige of the Chin State and

Chin ethnic people in the future while preserving the fine traditions.

The Chin State located in stable and peaceful areas of high mountainous regions is blessed with natural beauties such as the blossoming of Rhododendron flowers in the cold season, preserving traditions and customs. However, unrest and terror acts and cases of breaking the law are being committed as destructive acts in some parts of the nation including the Chin State, tarnishing the images of good traditions of the state and causing very danger to the country. Understanding the root cause of these instabilities, it is necessary to caution all ethnic people against acts of those who commit the disintegration of the State and for preventing destructive acts.

The State Administration Council pledges to successfully implement political, economic and social objectives as well as the five-point roadmap during its tenure. While striving for restoring internal and external peace and ensuring the nationwide ceasefire, the government is cementing friendly relations with international organizations and foreign countries as usual. Although the government is making efforts for ensuring peace and stability of the nation with development in all aspects, the country is far from prevailing peace and stability due to some foreign countries and some foreign follower organizations which do not wish to advantages and development of Myanmar and unrests and terror acts of those who commit utter devastation with focusing on grabbing the power of the State and selfishness discarding the State interests.

Only when the government has maintained and improved the peace and stability of the State, security and the rule of law to normalcy will it turn to future tasks and development of the nation.

As peace and stability and rule of law are crucial for the development of the nation and nation-building tasks, the government pledges to continuously sustain peace and stability and strive for ending the armed conflicts for the development of the country. Hence, I would like to urge all ethnic national people to join hands with the government in striving for the emergence of the Union based on the implementation of

democracy and federalism.

The government is prioritizing the socioeconomic development of the nation in all aspects while opening and upgrading basic education schools, maintaining education buildings and constructing new ones, appointing more teachers for the development of human resources in the Chin State, establishing hospitals and dispensaries for providing healthcare services to the people and assigning more medical doctors.

Moreover, strenuous efforts are being made to electrify all parts of the Chin State through the national grid the people of the Chin State aspire to. Highways and roads in the state are being extended for providing the region with transport facilities and for local people to have easy access to the mainland of the nation. In addition, the Kaladan Multimodal Project and Paletwa port project are being implemented for the local people to pay visits to foreign countries from the Chin State through the waterway.

Currently, the National Disaster Management Fund under the Ministry of Planning and Finance allotted K400 billion to be spent on economic development measures of the nation, contributing K10 billion to the Chin State. Moreover, Tiddim and Paletwa districts were formed in the Chin State for the smooth process of regional development undertakings and administrative measures. As such, I would like to urge the entire ethnic national people in the Chin State to cooperate with the government for the regional development of the state and the improvement of socioeconomic life.

As participation of all ethnics on equal terms is very important in building the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with various kinds of ethnic people to be a peaceful, stable, prosperous, modern and developed Union based on democracy and federalism, I send the message, urging all the entire people including Chin ethnics in the Chin State to unitedly participate in the nation-building endeavours.

**Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu
Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing
Prime Minister
Chairman, State Administration Council**

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SAC member U Maung Ko, Union Minister for Information hoist umbrella atop Sitagu Sanchi Stupa in PyinOoLwin

UNDER the leadership of Sitagu Sayadaw, Member of the State Administration Council U Maung Ko, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn and Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung hoisted an umbrella atop Sitagu Sanchi Stupa near Htonbo Village of PyinOoLwin Township yesterday morning.

Sitagu Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nyanissara administered the Five Precepts. Well-wishers and attendees conveyed the umbrella, the pennant-shaped vane and the diamond orb round the stupa three times.

After hoisting the umbrella, the pennant-shaped vane and the diamond orb atop the stupa, they performed rituals of golden and silver showers to mark the successful completion of the ceremony. The SAC member, the Union Minister and the Chief Minister planted three Bo



Congregation takes Five Precepts from Sitagu Sayadaw at umbrella-hoisting ceremony of Sitagu Sanchi Stupa in PyinOoLwin Township on 19 February.

trees and a *Buchania latifolia* sapling starting from the south-east corner.

The Sitagu Sayadaw and members of the Sangha consecrated the Stupa. Then, well-wishers donated cash to the fund of the stupa.

Sitagu Sanchi Stupa which is a replica of Sanchi Stupa built by King Asoka near Sanchi of India in the 3rd Century was built by well-wishers led by Sitagu Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nyanissara on 2.19 acres of land near Htonbo Village of



SAC member U Maung Ko and Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn conveying diamond orb and pennant-shaped vane on 19 February.

PyinOoLwin Township. The ground-breaking ceremony was held on 9 May 2022 and the cornerstones laid on 14 May 2022. The 37 feet high stupa is constructed on the three feet high platform within nine months. A total of 32 Buddha images in

various forms including Maravijaya bronze Buddha image in the cultural works from the 1st Century to the 19th Century as Yadanabon era are kept in the stupa. Construction of the stupa cost more than K600 million. —MNA/TTA

Union Construction Minister inspects progress of 7-storey building at YGH



Union Construction Minister U Myo Thant inspects progress of 7-storey building at Yangon General Hospital on 18 February.

UNION Minister for Construction U Myo Thant visited the construction site of the Yangon General Hospital's 7-storey building in Latha Township, Yangon Re-

gion, which is being constructed by the Special Construction Task Force (1), Department of Buildings, on 18 February.

Officials explained construc-

tion of the 7-storey building of the Yangon General Hospital in sections such as civil section, clean/sanitation section, and power supply section, progress of tasks

and future plans, and Director General of the Department of Buildings U Myo Myint, made a supplementary presentation.

In relation to the submissions, the Union Minister instructed officials to verify the needs of the Ministry of Health meeting the international standards for hospital buildings and to complete the construction tasks in time.

The seven-storey building construction work started on 27 May 2018, and now 55% of the project has been completed.

After that, the Union Minister met with staff from departments, special task forces and eight districts in Yangon Region at the Yangon Region Highways Department.

At the meeting, Director of

Yangon Region (Civil) U Htin Kyaw reported on the detail working processes of the construction of the buildings, bridges, and roads in Yangon Region.

The Union Minister said that they must continue to take their responsibility for the development of the roads and communication sector in Yangon Region with momentum.

The main responsibility of their ministry is to do their best to develop the transportation and housing sectors to make transportation and living easier for the people, he said.

He urged officials to work hard to build roads, bridges, civil, and housing development work progress in the region in line with the rules and regulations.—

MNA/KZL

Union Minister for Information tours garment factory (PyinOoLwin), Pwekawk waterfall resort, Mingalar (Mandalay) housing project



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn views running of sky cable cars at Pwekawk Waterfalls (BE falls) in PyinOoLwin Township on 19 February.

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn viewed round manufacturing and sales of Smart brand shirts at the garment factory (PyinOoLwin) of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd yesterday afternoon.

The factory installed with Korea-made machinery in 2015 to manufacture export quality

products distributes products to local department stores and others at fair prices through retail/wholesale system, earning the profits on a yearly basis. At Pwekawk Waterfalls (BE Falls), the Union minister cordially greeted the people who took relaxation on the Sunday holiday.

The Union Minister and

party took the sky cable car. Officials reported that a total of 36 four-person-capacity sky cable cars were installed along 553.642 metres long cables which are 34.8 metres high. A round trip takes 24 minutes. Fare for the trip is set at K5,000 per passenger. Some 10,000 people take the cable car on office holidays and

some 450 on weekdays.

The Union Minister viewed the people walking on the glass bridge and elephant show, public relaxation and plays of children.

Pwekawk Waterfalls was built on about 50 acres of land with landscapes and other facilities meeting the international standard.

At Mingalar (Mandalay) advanced housing development project, the Union minister inspected construction progress of the project, special sales of

Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The project implemented as from 2012 was completed in 2015. Although all separate housings, condo apartments and housing shops have been sold, rental houses will be rented for opening offices. The hotel service started in the post-Covid-19 period. New Star Light Company gives services for security, cleaning, landscaping, health and maintenance in the project area.—MNA/TTA



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn visits glass bridge at Pwekawk Waterfalls on 19 February.

Yangon Region Chief Minister inspects Fishery Institute (Twantay)

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and regional ministers conducted a field

study of Fishery Institute (Twantay) to ensure the implementation of directives of

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein views fish farm at Fishery Institute (Twantay) on 17 February.

made during his visit to the institute, on 17 February.

At the meeting hall, Institute Principal Daw Moe Thuzar Maung reported on the need for a dormitory for trainees and estimated for construction of the stadium while Director U Kyaw Naing Oo of the region Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department about the location of the entrance to the institute. Then, Economic Affairs Minister U Myo Myint Aung and Development Affairs Minister Mayor U Bo Htay discussed their respective sectors.

Regarding the explanations, the chief minister said that Fishery Institute (Twantay) is established intending to be the Fishery College of Myanmar and breed fish by conducting research systemat-

ically. It should prepare for the trainees, fish farming business people, and fish farm owners and construct a stadium for certain games and sports. It also should upgrade the existing roads in addition to paving a new way to the institute and use underground electric cables for entry and exit of the institute and Wi-Fi devices. He then inspected the location for entry and exit of the institute.

The chief minister and party instructed the officials to report the estimation for repair work on the dirt road to the Khittiya village dispensary for residents of Khittiya Ywama-Nyaung Village-Okpo-new Khittiya village and provided cash assistance to patients at the dispensary. — San Kyaw Oo (IPRD)/KTZH

CURRENT AFFAIRS

FDA announces 37 kinds of unsuitable food for public



Officials of FDA inspect foodstuffs at the shop whether it sells suitable foods and snack.

THE Department of Food and Drug Administration under the Ministry of Health announced a list of 37 varieties of food that should not be consumed by the public on 18 February.

Benzoic acid, sodium cyclamate, residual So₂, sodium benzoate, and potassium sorbate were used more than the prescribed amount and disallowed dyes such as rhodamine B, orange II, and auramine O were found in 37 types of food incompatible with the microbiological criteria.

These foods should not be consumed long-term, which could damage the liver, and kidneys and cause cancer.

The FDA announcement included Shwe Oak peach jam, Kaung Hein plum jam, Queen peach (red), Yote Pone tamarind flakes, 123 mango jam, Hong Yuan plum jam, MK peach (red), ASA (Kisses You) Heart Jelly, Lantern-brand (bottle) bubble gum, Fruity juice, Zabukyaw lemon toffee, Ma Maw Zayan tea leaf, Aye Aye Aung fruity jam, New Choice peach (red), ABC

(rainbow) strawberry taste juice, Chinthemin chilli sauce, Lucky Tiger chilli sauce, Sun Light Cola taste juice, Zayan Shwe Taung roasted lablab bean.

Food manufacturers, distributors and sellers must not use dyes and preservatives that are not allowed to be used in foods at all. Those who do not comply with the use of permitted food additive chemicals only within the prescribed amount will be taken action under Section 28 (a) of the National Food Law. — TWA/KZW

Dams, sluice gates, river water pumping maintained every year ...

FROM PAGE-1

Banbwagon Dam, Kalintaw Dam and Taunglonmyaung Dam irrigate 79,022 acres of farmlands, 49 embankments 350,144 acres, 89 drain channels 357,550 acres, 160 sluice gates 203,542 acres and 22 river water pumping stations 24,518 acres annually.

In order to use irrigation water efficiently in the agricultural sector, as part of the implementation of an irrigation management system involving water users, more than 3,000 farmers have formed a water user group, and the farmers themselves have been able to participate in a cooperative irrigation system.

Instead of using the irrigation system, water is supplied directly from the main canals and tributaries. Under 50 farmers in the 100-acre irrigated area were formed as user groups.

The Yangon Region Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department is conducting water supply activities for successful thriving of summer and winter crops, drinking water supply works to Yangon, Thanlyin Township and Kyauktan Township, prevention of flooding for monsoon paddy farms and carries out maintenance of irrigation facilities on a yearly basis.—Nyein Thu (MNA)/KZL



A drain seen between thriving paddy farms. PHOTO: KANU

Department of Human Resources for Health invites applications for nursing-midwifery diploma course by 8 March



Trainees from the nursing-midwifery diploma course seen in practical works last year.

APPLICATIONS for the nursing-midwifery diploma course must be submitted by 8 March according to the Department of Human Resources for Health, Ministry of Health.

For the 2023 academic year, the three-year nursing-midwifery diploma course and the two-year midwifery diploma course (second batch) will be opened on 18

April 2023.

For admission to the nursing-midwifery diploma course, candidates will be selected depending on the total marks in Myanmar, English and Mathematics in the matriculation examination.

Applications must be downloaded from the social media pages of the Ministry of Health and Departments of

Human Resources for Health, and the necessary documents must be filled in, and these must be sent to Department of Public Health in regions and states where the examination centres are located.

The Department of Human Resources for Health warned the applicants not to directly send the applications to its. —TWA/KZW

LOCAL BUSINESS

Wholesale price of palm oil soars despite import of 30,000 tonnes

ALTHOUGH about 30,000 tonnes of palm oil were imported between 8 and 10 February, the wholesale price touched a high of K7,000 per viss, said a trader who sends edible oil to the regions outside the Yangon market.

The reference wholesale price for palm oil was set at K4,490 per viss for a week ending 19 February, which indicated only a small increase of K10 per viss from that of last week. The reference price showed only small changes between K4,430 and K4,490 per viss for five consecutive weeks from 16 January to 19 February.

The CIF price was US\$1,020 per tonne then. As the CIF price and exchange rate were quite stable, the market price is forecast to decrease. Yet, expectations turned out wrong in the markets with another fresh peak.

The delivery order price was only K5,150 per viss on 28 December 2022 while the reference price was only K4,360 per viss. The current market price is too high at K7,000 per viss with the reference price of K4,490 per viss.

On 16 August, the market price was exorbitantly high at K9,700 per viss when the reference price was set at K4,140 per



A retailer pouring palm oil into a bottle in the market.

viss.

Approximately 40,000 tonnes of palm oil were imported per month in 2022. In the second week of February, over 30,000 tonnes of palm oil were brought into the market. Nonetheless, the market

price peaked at K7,000 per viss. The price differences between the reference price and the wholesale market price were K250,000 per 110-viss and K1,250,000 per tonne.

Next, the fuel oil prices are set depending on international

oil prices. However, the edible oil market fluctuates depending on the foreign market price and exchange rate. Nevertheless, the market price is two times higher than the reference price. — TWA/EM

Plans underway to export 100,000 tonnes of onion in FY 2023-2024



Bags of onions are stockpiled at the jetty before sending them to the market. PHOTO: ZEYAR HTET

AN onion trader said that 100,000 tonnes of Myanmar onions will be shipped in the 2023-2024 financial year according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization of Ministry of Commerce.

It is known from the onion market reports that an official from the Myanmar Kitchen Crops Association admitted the proposal to the MoC Union Minister for exporting surplus onions this month.

A total of 30,000 tonnes of onions will be shipped in the first quarter of 2023-2024 FY, 15,000 tonnes in the second



Onions in various sizes displayed at the domestic market for local consumption.

quarter, 20,000 tonnes in the third quarter and 35,000 tonnes in the last quarter, it is learnt.

The first quarter of FY 2023-2024 is the time when hoarders buy and store summer onions. As 30,000 tonnes of onions (about 18 million visses) will be exported in these three months, onion growers are likely to get higher prices than normal years.

Since the second quarter is the rainy season, only 15,000 tonnes of onions (about 9 million visses) were planned to export. A total of 20,000 tonnes of onion (approximately 12 million visses) will be shipped in the third quarter, when onion prices tend to rise to the highest level domestically. In the fourth quarter, 35,000 tonnes of onion (around 21 million visses) will be exported.

Domestic consumption per year is 667,811 tonnes and the total estimated surplus tonnage is 597,043. In 2014-2015, only 36,135 tonnes of onions, which is around six per cent of the estimated surplus tonnage, were able to be exported. At the end of 2019, there were purchases up to onion storage regions for export to Bangladesh.

Even though some onion hoarders said that the cultivation of winter onions produced

in the summer of 2022 was less and the yield was reduced by a half due to weather issues, it is also known that 80,000 tonnes of onions were exported in mid-2022.

The statements of hoarders are absurd if the consideration of the domestic consumption and over 190,000 acres of onion is made. It may just be a statement to increase the price of onions.

An onion trader told the GNLM that the official notification of exporting onions may not push up the onion price to the highest, but it can be used as a reason for price speculation by some traders.

Correct onion yield information reports can also be an excuse of commodity hoarders to push the unprecedented price hikes experienced by consumers.

The Monywa market stated that three truckloads of new rain-grown onions will be shipped from Monywa to Wam Ding, China border on 18 February. One truck will be loaded with around 20,000 visses and the charge of freight is K4.8 million.

The announced 100,000 tonnes of onions to be exported includes 65,000 tonnes for the summer onion sales period. — TWA/CT

OPINION

Shape the Chin State better in all aspects

THE day of 20 February when the circle headman administration system was changed to the democratic administration system adopted by the Chin national conference took place in Falam was designated as the Chin National Day. According to the historical event, today, 20 February 2023, is the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) of Chin National Day, a significant day for the entire Chin ethnics.

The leading role of Chin national leaders was very important in the emergence of Chin National Day. They have strived for improvement of the Chin State in all aspects as well as participated in the independence struggles in relevant eras without focusing on their self-interests.

Among many Chin national leaders from the pre-independence period to the post-independence period, some Chin national leaders recognized as idols for Chin nationals in

history were Bo Con Bik and Bo Khai Kam who led the fighting against British colonialists, Chin national representatives U Hlur Hmong, U Thong Za Khup and U Kio Mang who signed the Panglong Agreement, Independence Mawgun award winner (First Class) Thadon Maha Sithu U Vammathamong who demanded to give the independence for the hilly regions and the mainland at the same time and took a leading role in the independence struggles and Captain Thura, Aung San Thuriya Taik Chun awarded the highest gallantry title Aung San Thuriya and Thura title of the Tatmadaw for his bravely wonderful serving the State defence duties. They were honourable Chin national leaders.

Currently, the entire Chin nationals have to strive for the emergence of good leaders capable of uplifting the prestige of the Chin State and Chin ethnic people in the future while preserving

fine traditions. They all need to enhance the socioeconomic life of ethnics in Chin State. Understanding the root cause of these instabilities, all the ethnic people are to notice acts of destructionists who commit the disintegration of the State and for preventing destructive acts.

The government prioritizes opening and upgrading basic education schools, maintaining education buildings and constructing new ones, appointing more teachers for the development of human resources in the Chin State, establishing hospitals and dispensaries for providing healthcare services to the people and assigning more medical doctors.

Participation of all ethnicities including varieties of Chin ethnics in equal terms is very important in building the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with various kinds of ethnic people to be a peaceful, stable, prosperous, modern and developed Union based on democracy and federalism.

Participation of all ethnicities including varieties of Chin ethnics in equal terms is very important in building the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with various kinds of ethnic people to be a peaceful, stable, prosperous, modern and developed Union based on democracy and federalism.

Goodwill visits of Myanmar-Russia leaders in 1955 paved the gold and silver road between the two countries

By Thiha Sithu

MYANMAR and Russian Federation (Soviet Union) established diplomatic relations on 18 February 1948 and it reaches its 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) on 18 February 2023.

The two countries established diplomatic relations in 1948 and Myanmar opened an embassy in 1950. The Myanmar Ambassador who served duties in the Soviet Union was U Ohn.

Prime Minister U Nu's friendship visit

Myanmar Prime Minister U Nu visited the Soviet Union between 17 October to 3 November 1955 and met with the Soviet leaders during the visits. Myanmar and the Soviet Union established close relations since then. During his visits, the Prime Minister signed with the Soviet Union on assistance in the building of the nation over the independence period and rice procurement.

Speaking at the reception ceremony of Soviet Prime Minister Marshal Bulganin, Prime Minister U Nu said, "The Soviet-Myanmar Trade Agreement concluded on 1 July 1955 has inaugurated an era of the close economic relation-

ship between our two countries. Rice is the most important export commodity of Myanmar. At a time when we could not dispose of our surplus rice, the decision of the Soviet Government to purchase our rice saved us from a difficult situation. Since we are just building a new state, we are lamentably in need of factories, kinds of machinery and technicians. We are now in a position to purchase from the Soviet Union machinery and equipment and to utilize the services of Soviet technicians commensurate with the purchases made from us by the Soviet Union. With such exchanges, the economic relations in addition to cultural exchanges between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Myanmar can be strengthened," according to Hanthawady Newspaper on 26 October 1955.

The Nu-Bulganin joint statement signed in the presence of Soviet leaders at the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow was released on 3 November 1955. Hanthawady U Sein covered the news in Hanthawady Newspaper on 5 November 1955. The statement said: "The Soviet Union and Myanmar will base their future relations on five

principles of peaceful coexistence that were already accepted by India, Communist China and other countries. The trade agreement inked recently by the two countries will make closer relations and reach another step on opinion exchanges ensuring the world peace and security."

Myanmar journalists in Moscow

Six Myanmar journalists came along with Prime Minister U Nu on his trips in 1955. They are U Thaug Nyunt from Myanmar Newspaper, U Hla Kyi from Mundeine Newspaper, U Pe Tin from New Times of Burma and Hanthawady U Sein.

In December 1970, two Soviet journalists and Dr Lubo Mudorota and Dr Sarolov from the Soviet Union Friendship and Culture Exchange Federation paid study tours in Myanmar. They were received by then Myanmar literary workers committee chairman U Wun (Min Thu Wun), Secretary U Htin Gyi (Takkatho Htin Gyi) and members U Ba Kyi (artist) and U Myat Thu (Takkatho Myat Thu).

The Soviet journalists met Minister Brig-Gen Thaug Dan

of the Ministry of Information and Culture and visited the Central Political Science Institute in Mingaladon and other places. They returned on 23 December 1970, according to the news records.

Myanmar-Russia paved way for gold and silver road

At the invitation of Prime Minister U Nu, Soviet Prime Minister Marshal Bulganin and Communist Party General Secretary Nikita Khrushchev came to Myanmar between 1 and 7 December 1955. They were welcomed by thousands of people at Mingaladon Airport. During the reception, Prime Minister U Nu said, "the statement released on 3 November 1955 is a sign of way not only for gold and silver road (Myanmar term Shwelan Ngwelan) and but also for world peace. Such mediation is adopted by many countries now."

During the visit of two Soviet leaders, they signed and released the Nu-Bulganin-Khrushchev declaration on 6 December 1955.

cal institute, Inya Lake hotel and Sao San Tun Hospital in Taunggyi. The construction processes were started in 1961. Besides these buildings, Kyetmaukaung Dam was also constructed with the help of the Soviet Union in 1967.

Regarding these processes, Myanmar Foreign Office released a statement containing Soviet-Myanmar trade saying "the Soviet Union Government will assist in the development of Myanmar's farming industry, construction of large-scale dams and factories. In exchange, Myanmar will have to send the rice supplies of equivalent value of materials, technologies and manpower, but it will give for a long period if the country has not had enough rice."

Closer relations

The trips made by Soviet and Myanmar leaders in 1955, the ties between the two countries became closer. In 1964, an agreement on airline cooperation was made. Moreover, the Russian artistes went to Myanmar to ex-



Soviet Prime Minister Communist Party First Secretary Khrushchev visited Myanmar on 1-7 December, 1955.

Speaking at the reception ceremony of Soviet Prime Minister Marshal Bulganin, Prime Minister U Nu said, "The Soviet-Myanmar Trade Agreement concluded on 1 July 1955 has inaugurated an era of the close economic relationship between our two countries.

It said: "The leaders believe that the peaceful co-existence can bring opportunities to cooperate in economic, cultural, scientific and technical fields. The two countries also pledged to launch closer bilateral ties for these sectors."

Luxury aeroplane

As a result of the trip, Prime Minister U Nu received an Aleutian luxury aeroplane and gifts. In January 1957, the Soviet Union and Myanmar signed an agreement to construct a technologi-

change culture in 1970 and the Russian sports team also played friendly matches with Myanmar football teams, according to the records.

In September 1965, General Nay Win visited Union Soviet Socialist Republics after being a Chairman of the Revolutionary Council and met with Soviet Leaders Leonid Brezhnev, Aleksey Kosygin and Anastas Mikoyan. In the 1970-1980s, they kept maintained Soviet-Myanmar diplomatic re-

lations. **First Myanmar hydrogeologist**

According to the bilateral educational cooperation, the student exchange programmes were launched in 1972 and Myanmar students were sent to universities in Moscow.

During the 1970s, postgraduate students who studied Geology at Moscow University were U Maung Thynn, U Kyi, U Hote Moe and U Thein Win. Prof Dr Pyota Klimin of the university said: "U Maung Thin graduated from the University of Yangon majoring in Geology and arrived in Moscow to study groundwater flow. The paper he submitted is about research on hydrogeology, Geology in southern Myanmar. It is about the way to find groundwater in the tropical climate. U Maung Thynn might be the first hydrogeological geologist of Myanmar."

1970 Soviet Cultural Arts Ex-

hibition

Under bilateral cultural exchange programmes, the Cultural Arts Exhibition of the Union Soviet Socialist Republics was organized by the Ministry of Culture of Myanmar and the Soviet Government on the first floor of the National Museum in Pansodan in Yangon between 19 to 27 December 1970. The exhibition supported the mutual understanding and relations between the people of Myanmar and the Soviet Union, said the Soviet ambassador to Myanmar.

Current Russia-Myanmar relation

Currently, the two countries maintain mutual relations and cooperate in economic, social and education sectors and the Russian Company Tyazhpromexport also participated in the construction of No 2 Steel Mill (Pinpet) near Taunggyi Township using Romelt's unique Russian

technology.

Moreover, military-technological cooperation is the fact that supports the relationship between Myanmar and Russia and the two countries keep stepping towards further cooperation in defence sectors.

Currently, Myanmar scholars have been sent to Russian universities 15 years ago. By 2018, over 6,000 Myanmar students had reportedly obtained postgraduate degrees or PhD from Russian universities, and thousands of students are still studying at Russian universities so far.

In conclusion, the Myanmar-Russia Diamond Jubilee Diplomatic ties initiated in 1948 will support the bilateral comprehensive cooperation on a wide scale in building Myanmar as a peaceful and developed nation in the future.

Translated.



In January 1957, the Soviet Union and Myanmar signed an agreement to construct a technological institute, Inya Lake hotel and Sao San Tun Hospital in Taunggyi.

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD



Using synthetic aperture radar (SAR) images provided by China's L-SAR 01, researchers accurately portrayed the extent of the damage caused by the earthquakes and provided important data support for post-earthquake rescue efforts in Türkiye. A Long March-4C rocket carrying L-SAR 01A satellite blasts off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China, 26 January 2022. **PHOTO: WANG JIANGBO/XINHUA**

Chinese satellites deployed for Turkish earthquake relief

CHINA has deployed several satellites to capture images of the quake-hit areas in Türkiye, helping the country to analyze the disaster situation and allocate relief resources more effectively, according to the industry newspaper China Space News.

Using synthetic aperture radar (SAR) images provided by China's L-SAR 01, researchers accurately portrayed the extent of the damage caused

by the earthquakes and provided important data support for post-earthquake rescue efforts in Türkiye, said the newspaper.

China's L-SAR 01 is a satellite group composed of two satellites equipped with L-band SAR, namely the L-SAR 01A and the L-SAR 01B. Both satellites were launched last year, and were tasked with providing data to support land resource management, mapping, forestry, and disaster prevention and

relief.

"SAR" refers to a microwave-imaging radar system that emits electromagnetic waves to Earth and receives echoes. It can take high-definition microwave pictures of the land surface.

Following the twin earthquakes that rocked Türkiye and Syria on 6 February, Chinese researchers acquired post-earthquake SAR images from L-SAR 01 on 10 Feb. —Xinhua

Protecting high seas off Chile's coast depends on UN vote in New York

IN international waters off the coasts of Chile and Peru, the ocean teems with plant and animal species — some do not exist anywhere else and many are endangered.

Urgently seeking to prevent biodiversity loss in these waters, Chile is pushing for a new marine protected area (MPA) to be created, and hoping to seal the deal during an upcoming summit at UN headquarters in New York.

With more than 6,400 kilometres (3,970 miles) of coastline, the South American country already has 42 MPAs covering some 150 million hectares or 43 per cent of its exclusive eco-



70 percent of the Salas y Gomez and Nazca ridges fall outside of Chile's exclusive economic zone. **PHOTO: AFP**

nommic zone, according to the environment ministry.

Now it is looking further afield: to international waters surrounding the Salas y Gomez

and Nazca ridges — two seamount chains that flourish with biodiversity but are unprotected by law because they fall outside any national jurisdiction.—AFP

Concerns and impatience over mining the world's seabeds

THE prospect of large-scale mining to extract valuable minerals from the depths of the Pacific Ocean, once a distant vision, has grown more real, raising alarms among the oceans' most fervent defenders.

"I think this is a real and imminent risk," Emma Wilson of the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, an umbrella organization of environmental groups and scientific bodies, told AFP.

"There are plenty of stakeholders that are flagging the significant environmental risks."

And the long-awaited treaty to protect the high seas, even if it is adopted in negotiations resuming on Monday, is unlikely to alleviate risks anytime

soon: it will not take effect immediately and will have to come to terms with the International Seabed Authority (ISA).

That agency, established under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, has 167 member states.

It has authority over the ocean floors outside of member states' Exclusive Economic Zones (which extend up to 200 nautical miles, or 370 kilometres, from coastlines).

But conservation groups say the ISA has two glaringly contradictory missions: protecting the sea floors under the high seas while organizing the activities of industries eager to mine untapped resources on the ocean floor: —AFP



The Pacific island nation of Nauru wants to award a contract for undersea mining. **PHOTO: TORSTEN BLACKWOOD /AFP /FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

For a best friend to Florida bees, each rescue is personal

MELISSA Sorokin sees herself as "a bee advocate," deeply passionate about helping to rescue the at-risk creatures that play such a critical role in biodiversity.

Often called in by spooked or concerned residents, she acts as emergency responder for the vital pollinators, spending the substantial time it takes to move threatening or threatened hives to safer locations.

Sorokin, who lives in Florida, says rescuing hives is infinitely better than homeowners or businesses allowing pest control services to swoop in and simply kill the bees.

"If they don't call me, as a beekeeper, they are most likely going to get an exterminator, who instead kills the bees. It's easy, it's quick, it's good money, cheap for them," says Sorokin, 54.

On the other hand, "I'm like a bee advocate, a bee tender," she says. "I love them. And I have a friendship with them."

Sorokin's mission is vital, she adds, because bees are under threat from climate change, pesticides, large cultivation of single crops, urbanization and invasive species. —AFP

France drops Covid testing for travellers from China

FRANCE has dropped Covid testing restrictions imposed on travellers from China, the French embassy in Beijing said.

Since January, visitors aged 11 and over travelling from China to France have had to present a negative test taken 48 hours before the flight to board the plane.

The restrictions were introduced as China experienced a wave of coronavirus infections after lifting its stifling zero-Covid policy in December.

“Travellers from China

to France are no longer required to present the result of a negative RT-PCR test within 48 hours or fill a health declaration form,” the French embassy in Beijing said in a statement on Thursday.

“Random screenings on arrival are also abolished,” it added.

China reopened

China reopened its borders and scrapped mandatory quarantine for those entering the country in January, ending its international isolation after nearly three years.

The relaxation led to a surge in outbound travel. Overseas bookings via China’s largest travel service were up 640 per cent during the Lunar New Year holiday in January compared with last year.

China is now allowing group tours to 20 countries, according to the tourism ministry.

Several countries, including Japan, South Korea and Singapore, have also eased restrictions on travellers from China in recent weeks. —AFP



Passengers of a flight from China wait in a line for checking their Covid-19 vaccination documents as a preventive measure against the Covid-19 coronavirus, after arriving at the Paris-Charles-de-Gaulle airport in Roissy, outside Paris, on 1 January 2023. PHOTO: JULIEN DE ROSA /AFP

China’s health insurance reform to benefit outpatient service users



A staff member explains medical insurance policies to a resident at a hospital in Sanming, Fujian Province, 18 November 2020. PHOTO: JIANG KEHONG /XINHUA

A number of Chinese cities have been implementing a reform of health insurance for urban employees and retirees, which adjusts the amounts deposited each month into their person-

al accounts, while raising the reimbursement percentage for outpatient medical bills to at least 50 per cent.

According to the National Healthcare Security Adminis-

tration (NHSA), over 354 million employees and retirees had joined China’s medical insurance system by the end of 2021. Experts said the reform, which is expected to be rolled out nationwide, will provide further help to citizens — especially older people — in outpatient services.

China’s health insurance system for urban employees and retirees consists of two parts: mandatory personal accounts with contributions from both employees and their employers that mainly pay for ordinary outpatient services; and a pooled fund contributed by employers that is used to reimburse hospitalization bills, outpatient bills for serious diseases, and expenses for some chronic diseases. —Xinhua

Mobile health intervention can help to prevent secondary stroke: ICMR study

MOBILE health intervention can lead to improved lifestyle-related behaviours that can prevent secondary stroke, according to a research paper published by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

The study was done across 31 stroke centres in India. The trial’s intervention was a package composed of SMS text messages, health education videos and a stroke prevention workbook for

patients.

The messages focused on control of blood sugar, blood pressure, and cholesterol, improving physical activity, eating a healthy diet and not missing taking medicines to prevent stroke. The results of the trial were published in the *Lancet Global Health* journal on 14 February 2023.

The awareness material was systematically developed in 12 different regional languages.

The patients in the control group received standard care whereas those in the intervention arm received awareness material at weekly intervals to promote healthy living and adherence to medicines. A total of 4,298 patients were randomly allocated to the intervention arm (2148) and control arm (2150). 1502 patients in the intervention arm and 1536 patients in the control arm completed 1-year follow-up. —ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

US oldest living Ex-President Jimmy Carter to get hospice care

THE oldest living United States former president, Jimmy Carter will begin receiving hospice care at his home in Georgia, CNN reported citing The Carter Center’s statement.

“After a series of short hospital stays, former US President Jimmy Carter today decided to spend his remaining time at home with his family and receive hospice care instead of additional medical intervention. He has the full support of his family and his medical team,” the statement said.

Jason Carter, a one-time Democratic state senator in Georgia and the former president’s grandson, said he visited his grandparents and they are “at peace and as always - their home is full of love.”

Jimmy Carter, who turned 98 last year, became the oldest living US President after George Bush died in 2018 at the age of 94, reported CNN. —ANI

Pregnant women are more likely to develop Type 2 diabetes later in life: Study

ACCORDING to studies, a pregnant woman who has gestational diabetes is more likely to develop Type 2 diabetes later in life. Gestational diabetes is another common cause of large-for-gestational-age neonates (LGA).

Infants who weigh more than 90 per cent of all infants of the same gestational age are considered to be LGA. LGA newborns had a higher likelihood of being admitted to the neonatal critical care unit and later developing health issues, such as obesity and Type 2 diabetes.

What has not been studied, until now, is whether someone who does not have gestational diabetes but gives birth to an LGA baby is also at risk of developing diabetes later in life.

In a new study to be presented today at the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine’s (SMFM) annual meeting, The Pregnancy Meeting™ – and published in the *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology* – researchers will unveil findings that suggest pregnant people who do not have diabetes but deliver a large-for-gestational age baby are at an increased risk of developing prediabetes or Type 2 diabetes 10-14 years later. —ANI

ECONOMY WORLD

Japan posts 1st trade deficit in electronics for half-year period

JAPAN posted a trade deficit of 81.2 billion yen (\$605 million) in electronic equipment in the second half of 2022, government data showed, marking the first time on record imports have exceeded exports for a half-year period amid a decline in the competitiveness of Japanese products.

The deficit in the balance of trade in electronics also reflects a move by Japanese manufacturers to shift their production bases overseas.

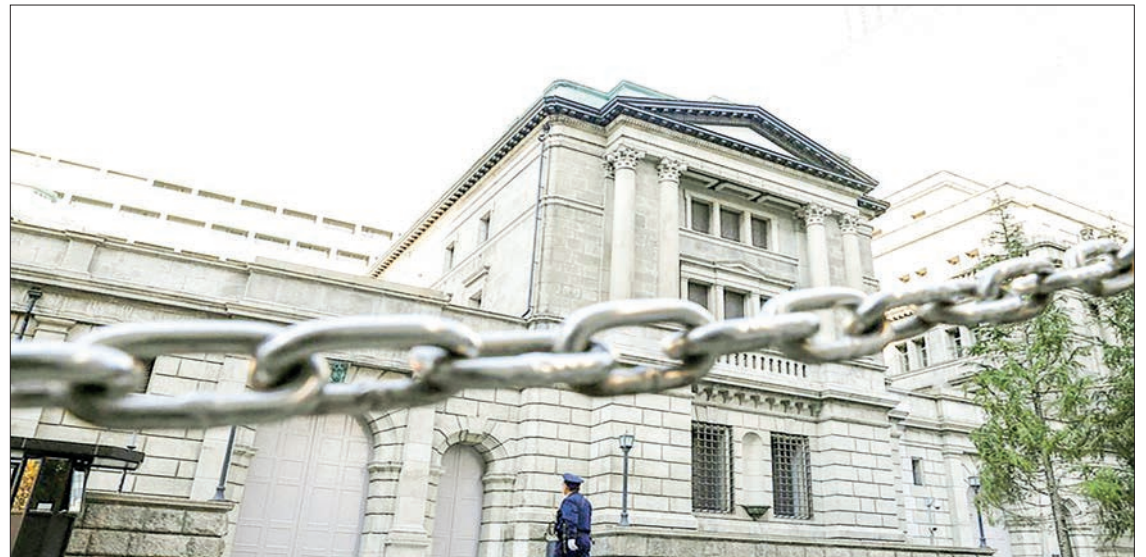
The first red ink since comparable data became available in 1988 provides a stark contrast to the 1990s, when the industry propped up the nation's trade with an annual surplus of almost 8 trillion yen.

According to the Finance Ministry's trade data, exports of electronic equipment in the six months through December totaled 9.23 trillion yen, up 13.9 per cent from the first six months, while imports rose 17.2 per cent to 9.31 trillion yen. —Kyodo



Sluggish growth in exports of electrical equipment and automobiles is cited as a factor contributing to Japan's largest ever trade deficit in 2022. **PHOTO: YOSHIKAZU TSUNO /AFP/FILE**

Bank of Japan to launch digital yen pilot program



This photo taken 12 December 2019, shows the Bank of Japan head office in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO /FILE**

THE Bank of Japan (BOJ) will start a pilot program to test the use of a digital yen with commercial financial institutions in April, the central bank said on Friday.

Under the programme, the BOJ will conduct simulated transactions with private entities in a test environment, which will help the central bank get ready in case the government decides

to issue a digital yen.

Dozens of financial institutions including the nation's top banks, regional lenders and digital payment service companies are expected to take part in the trials, the bank said, adding that it does not yet expect actual stores or consumers to participate.

The pilot program will mark

the final phase in Japan's consideration of a digital yen, which proponents say will give a boost to the digital economy in a country where cash still accounts for a major share of payments.

The BOJ will establish the Central Bank Digital Currency Forum, which will serve as a platform for discussions with private companies. —Xinhua

Earthquake sends tremors through Türkiye's fragile economy

TÜRKIYE was already battling runaway inflation and relying on rich allies for funding to keep its economy afloat when a massive earthquake killed tens of thousands, razed entire cities and left millions needing urgent help.

Now, it must pour billions of dollars into rebuilding 11 southeastern provinces flattened by the 6 February tremor — the worst disaster of its post-Ottoman history.

That money will have to come on top of the billions of dollars in election promises that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has made in the run-up to crucial polls still tentatively planned for 14 May.

All this cash could turbo-charge consumer spending and industrial production — two key indicators of economic growth.

The problem for Erdogan, however, is that Türkiye is very short of funds.

The central bank's van-



Civilians look for survivors under the rubble of collapsed buildings in Kahramanmaraş, close to the quake's epicentre, the day after a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck the country's southeast, on 7 February 2023. **PHOTO: ADEM ALTAN /AFP/FILE**

ishing coffers have been replenished by assistance from Russia and oil-rich Gulf states, which has helped Türkiye spend tens of billions of dollars propping up the lira in the past few years.

But economists believe that money is only sufficient to keep Türkiye's finances in order — and the troubled lira

from collapsing — until the May polls.

Now, Erdogan must repair some \$84.1 billion in quake damage, according to an estimate from a prominent business group.

Other experts' estimates are more conservative, putting the total closer to \$10 billion. —AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

US Supreme Court takes on immunity for tech giants

THE US Supreme Court this week examines a quarter-century old law that has protected tech companies from lawsuits and prosecution for content posted by their users, with a chance that the rules governing the internet will no longer stand.

Enacted when Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg was just 11 years old and Google's creation still two years off, Section 230 is seen as a fundamental law of the internet and considered inviolable by its staunch defenders. —AFP

China's petrochemical industry sees increased revenue in 2022

CHINA'S petrochemical industry saw an increase in revenues and a decline in profits in 2022, according to the China Petroleum and Chemical Industry Federation (CPCIF).

The country's petrochemical industry registered a total revenue of 16.56 trillion yuan (about 2.41 trillion US dollars) in 2022, climbing 14.4 per cent year on year, while its total profit eased 2.8 per cent to 1.13 trillion yuan. In 2022, the import and export volume of petrochemical products rose 21.7 per cent year on year to 1.05 trillion dollars. —Xinhua

Near misses raise fresh questions for US air regulator

US air safety regulators are facing fresh questions following recent near crashes at American airports, further challenging an aviation industry ramp-up in response to rising travel demand.

The Federal Aviation Administration is already facing questions after the agency in January ordered a temporary grounding of planes nationally for the first time since 9/11 due to problems with a safety alert system.

At a Senate hearing earlier this week, acting FAA chief Billy Nolen was presented with a simulation video of a February 4 incident at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport in which a FedEx cargo plane nearly col-

lided with a Southwest Airlines passenger jet that was about to take off.

Nolen said the incident remains under investigation, adding that “we’ll go where the facts take us.”

There have been at least two other near misses that have garnered national attention in recent weeks.

On 13 January, an American Airlines jet taking off from New York’s JFK International Airport en route for London crossed a runway without air traffic control clearance and got within 1,400 feet (427 metres) of a Delta Air Lines jet heading to the Dominican Republic, according to a preliminary report by the National Transportation Safety Board. —AFP

Luxury sector eyes reopening of China

AFTER a year of record sales and profits despite slowing global growth the luxury sector is looking to the reopening of China to deliver further expansion in 2023.

The world’s largest luxury group LVMH posted a 23-per cent jump in sales to a record of 79 billion euros (\$86 billion) in 2022 and saw profits climb 17 per cent to 14 billion.

The company’s chief executive, Bernard Arnault, wants to continue along that path in 2023, “at the risk of becoming boring”.

LVMH’s rivals also managed blistering growth in sales and profits last year.

Sales at Hermes jumped 29 per cent to 11.6 billion euros and profits soared 38 per cent to a record 3.4 billion.

Kering, despite a tough time for its flag-



Luxury labels such as Hermes want back into the Chinese market as it opens up after the Covid crisis. PHOTO: AFP

ship brand Gucci, still managed a 15-per cent increase in sales to 20 billion euros, while profits rose 14 per cent to 3.6 billion.

Ferrari also saw sales race to a new record of five billion euros,

delivering 13,221 vehicles last year.

The 2022 results were barely dented by the disruption in China linked to end of its coronavirus-related travel restrictions and their progressive lifting at the end of the

year, with LVMH calling the month of December an “air pocket”.

Only Hermes escaped unscathed.

“There was no drop in traffic in our stores,” said Hermes chief executive Axel Dumas. —AFP

How India’s scandal-hit Adani Group hushes critics

INDEPENDENT Indian journalist Paranjay Guha Thakurta is being sued by tycoon Gautam Adani’s business empire in six different courts — and he is not allowed to speak about the conglomerate or its owner.

US investment firm Hindenburg Research,

whose explosive report on Adani Group last month triggered a stock rout that wiped \$120 billion off its value, said the company had long used the threat of litigation to shield itself from greater scrutiny.

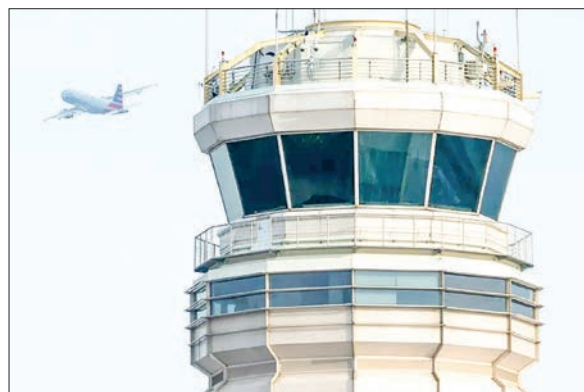
Hindenburg is a short-seller that not only

tracks corporate wrongdoing but also makes money by betting on shares falling.

It accused the globe-spanning ports-to-power conglomerate of accounting fraud and stock manipulation, adding that “investors, journalists, citizens and even

politicians have been afraid to speak out for fear of reprisal”.

Thakurta, 67, was hit with six defamation actions — three of them criminal — after writing a series of reports on Adani that included accusations a top judge gave it preferential treatment. —AFP



In a preliminary report, the NTSB says the American Airlines 777 crossed an active runway without clearance from air traffic control, causing a Delta 737 to abort its takeoff on Friday, 13 January. PHOTO: AFP

China’s exports of pickup trucks surge 70 pct in January

CHINA’S pickup truck exports surged 70 per cent year on year in January, according to the China Passenger Car Association.

A total of 10,000 pickup trucks were exported last month, said the association.

China’s pickup truck sales dropped 26 per cent year on year to 43,000 in January due to COVID-19 disruptions, the association added.

In 2022, a total of 128,000 pickup trucks were exported, up 65 per cent year on year and accounting for 25 per cent of total pickup sales, according to the association. —Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BIENDONG STAR VOY.NO. (23005N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BIENDONG STAR VOY.NO. (23005N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-2-2023** 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 X-PRESS FEEDERS LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0287-742N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0287-742N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-2-2023** 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.

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Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (S’PORE) PTE LTD.

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

G-7 foreign ministers vow to support Ukraine ahead of war's 1st anniv



Ukrainian servicemen get ready to repel an attack in Ukraine's Lugansk region on 24 February 2022. **PHOTO: ANATOLI STEPANOV/AFP/FILE**

THE foreign ministers of the Group of Seven industrialized nations on Saturday reaffirmed their commitment to support Ukraine in its fight against

Russia's invasion, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said, ahead of marking one year since Russia invaded its neighbour.

During a meeting in Munich,

southern Germany, the top diplomats also called for other countries to stop backing Russia and pledged to beef up their economic sanctions against Moscow, the ministry said in a release.

Referring to Russian President Vladimir Putin's threats to use nuclear weapons in the war against the Eastern European state, the G-7 ministers said that doing so would have dire consequences, adding that Russia's "irresponsible" rhetoric is unacceptable, the ministry said.

The meeting, held on the sidelines of an international security conference in the southern German city of Munich, is the first in-person foreign ministerial talks to be chaired by Japan since the Asian nation assumed this year's rotating G-7 presidency. —Kyodo

Ukraine conflict must not continue any longer: senior Chinese diplomat

THE Ukraine crisis is not what China would like to see, a senior Chinese diplomat said on Saturday, noting that everything China has been doing is to facilitate peace talks.

Wang Yi, director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Communist

Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made the remarks at the 59th Munich Security Conference (MSC) when answering a question concerning China's stance on the crisis.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, said as other

parties, China is also concerned that the Russia-Ukraine conflict might be escalated and protracted.

China is not a party directly involved, Wang said, noting that it did not choose to be a bystander or add fuel to the fire, still less exploit the crisis. —Xinhua

Ukraine unit faces blizzard of Russian attacks

ON the deserted edge of a town near the front line in eastern Ukraine, a Ukrainian soldier kneels in a firing position, a gloved finger on the trigger of his high-powered rifle.

"The Russians want to control this road," says his commander, who goes by the call sign "Virus", looking up and down a snow-covered residential street.

Dogs bark behind the garden walls and beyond as small-arms fire crackles in the near distance, in between the muffled sound of artillery shelling.

As the first anniversary of Russia's invasion approaches on Friday, expectations are high that the fighting will intensify in Ukraine.

But for "Virus" and his "Witcher" unit, who have been deployed across the disputed eastern region of Donetsk, there has been no let-up in Russian attacks for the last 12 months.

Up and down the front line, particularly in the city of Bakhmut, Russian forces have put Ukrainian troops under constant pressure, he said.

He insists that the Ukrainian line is holding — and that they are ready if the conflict escalates.

"If you ask me, for our unit the situation hasn't changed," he said before heading out into a blizzard, hoping to take advantage of the cover of grey skies and snow drifts to scout out positions. —AFP



Soldiers from the 'Witcher' unit of the Ukrainian army on the front line in eastern Ukraine. **PHOTO: AFP**

WORLD: TOP HEADLINE

In Old Cairo, residents reconnect with their heritage

FOR most of their lives, children from historic Cairo's Al-Khalifa district only saw the mausoleums, mosques and madrasa schools that pepper their neighbourhood from outside heavy bronze doors.

In one of the world's oldest Islamic cities, communities were becoming increasingly separated from the centuries-old buildings they lived alongside — prompting architect and heritage management expert May al-Ibrashy to launch a programme to "foster



Architect May al-Ibrashy says a sense of belonging is integral to protecting heritage. **PHOTO: AFP**

a sense of ownership over this heritage".

Believing a sense of belonging is integral to protecting heritage, her "participatory conservation initiative" has included bringing the young through those once-closed doors.

"The first time we opened a heritage monument to children, they were ecstatic," Ibrashy said.

"Every day they had passed in front of this historic site, but had never been al-

lowed inside".

The Athar Lina initiative, whose name means "the monument is ours" in Arabic, has carried out workshops, tours and summer camps in the Egyptian capital since 2012.

After years of slowly earning the neighbourhood's trust with the children's programme — including play dates in the famous ninth-century mosque of Ibn Tulun, one of the oldest in Africa — Athar Lina expanded the workshops to include adults. —AFP

Senior Chinese diplomat expresses solemn position on airship incident to US

SENIOR Chinese diplomat Wang Yi on Saturday made clear China's solemn position on the so-called airship incident in an informal contact with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

Wang, director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, met with Blinken on the sidelines of the ongoing 59th Munich Security Conference at the request of the US side.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, urged the US side to change course, acknowledge and repair the damage that its excessive use of force caused to China-US relations. —Xinhua



Wang Yi accused the United States of trying to "smear" China. PHOTO: AFP

Israel spat erupts at African Union summit



Most of the sessions were to be held behind closed doors, with more than 30 presidents and prime ministers in attendance. PHOTO: AFRICAN UNION/AFP

ISRAEL accused arch-foe Iran of orchestrating the ejection of one of its senior diplomats from the African Union summit on Saturday, with the help of Algeria and South Africa.

The incident occurred on the first day of the summit, where leaders are discussing a slew of challenges facing the continent, including a record drought in the Horn of Africa and several deadly conflicts.

A video circulating on social media shows guards escorting Israel's deputy director general for Africa, Sharon Bar-li, out of the AU assembly, which opened on Saturday in

the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa.

An Israeli foreign ministry spokesman described the incident as "severe", noting Bar-li was "an accredited observer with an entry tag".

"It is saddening to see the African Union taken hostage by a small number of extremist states like Algeria and South Africa, which are driven by hatred and controlled by Iran," he added.

The incident follows a long-running dispute over Israel's accreditation as an observer to the 55-member bloc in 2021.

The decision by AU Commission chief Moussa Faki Mahamat triggered loud protests by powerful member states, notably South Africa.

Last year's AU summit suspended a debate on whether to withdraw the accreditation and established a committee to address the issue, but the bloc has not said whether it would be discussed this year.

An AU official told AFP the individual who was "asked to leave" was not invited to attend the meeting, with a non-transferable invitation only issued to Israel's ambassador to the AU, Aleli Admasu. —AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan, China agree to hold senior-level defence talks

JAPANESE and Chinese officials will hold senior-level security discussions next week for the first time since February 2019, Tokyo's top diplomat said Saturday.

Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi held a meeting for nearly an hour Saturday on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference in Germany, his office said in a statement. —AFP

US art fair visitor accidentally smashes \$42,000 Koons sculpture

A collector visiting a contemporary art fair accidentally toppled over a small glass sculpture by renowned artist Jeff Koons, shattering it to pieces.

The shiny blue sculpture, one of Koons' famous "balloon dog" series, was valued at \$42,000.

The mishap occurred during a VIP preview at Art Wynwood in Miami, and some collectors thought it was performance art or a staged stunt. —AFP

Tunisia's Saied expels Europe's top trade unionist for 'interference'

TUNISIAN President Kais Saied ordered the expulsion Saturday of Europe's top trade union official for "blatant interference" in the country's affairs, the latest escalation in a quickening showdown with labour activists.

"On the orders of President Kais Saied, Tunisian authorities ordered the departure of Esther Lynch," head of the European Trade Union Confederation, the presidency said in a statement.

Lynch "took part in a demonstration organised by the (UGTT trade union federation) and made comments that constituted blatant inter-

ference in Tunisia's internal affairs," it said.

It added that she had 24 hours to leave the country, where she was considered "persona non grata".

Earlier in the day, Lynch had given a speech to thousands of people at a demonstration organised by the UGTT in Tunisia's second city Sfax, one of several protests around the country over the faltering economy and the arrest of a top trade union official. Speaking through an interpreter, Lynch said she had come to deliver a message of "solidarity from 45 million workers around Europe". —AFP



Thousands of demonstrators in Tunisia's second city Sfax listen to a speech by European Trade Union Confederation chief Esther Lynch, that prompted authorities to order her expulsion. PHOTO: AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

G-7 foreign ministers
vow to support
Ukraine ahead of war's
1st anniv
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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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.



Ye Lin Oo lands a strong punch on Saw Nga Mauk during the four round challenge fights of Myanmar traditional Lethwei fights at Theinbyu boxing gymnasium in Yangon on 19 February 2023. **PHOTO: BALA SOE**

Myanmar traditional Lethwei challenges held in Yangon

WITH the supervision of the Myanmar Lethwei (traditional boxing) Federation, Myanmar Lethwei competitions were held at Theinbyu Boxing Gymnasium in Yangon yesterday afternoon.

In the four round challenge fights, Ye Lin Oo (Smart Fight) delivered low punches to Saw Nga Mauk (Doh Yoe Yar) in the second round.

In the third round, Saw Nga Mauk requested for a break as Ye Lin Oo hit him a bit.

In the fourth round, both fighters fought with care to finish the bout with a draw.

Next, a fight of Saw Shaw

Lamon (Yoe Yar Kyar) vs Mahuyar (Phoenix) went to a tie after drawing the fans' attention.

In the next fight, Saw Htoo (Yoe Yar Kyar) requested for a break as Aung Htet Oo (Doh Yoe Yar) delivered kicks on him.

Aung Htet Oo beat Saw Htoo in the second round after producing strong kicks plus punches.

In the three round challenges, fights of Daung San Lay (Daung Myanmar) vs Myint Myat Oo (Taw Win Ayeyar), Daung The Lay (Daung Myanmar) vs Naga Min (Fighting Fight), Salai Thang Khwi Shein

(Zwe Myanmar) vs Aung Lay (Eagle Club), and Shin Htet (Zar Htet Meiktila) vs Nyo Nang Win (Lone Chaw) concluded as draws.

In the match between Bo Mahtar (Taw Win Ayeyar) and Soe Lin Tun (APT), Soe Lin Tun had to take a break in the second round due to Bo Mahtar's punch and then faced loss in the second round.

After the competition, the best fighter award in posture went to Daung The Lay (Daung Myanmar) while the best fight award was given to the fight between Saw Nga Mauk (Doh Yoe Yar) vs Ye Lin Oo (Smart Fight).—Bala Soe/KZL

2026 Winter Olympics first step of Ski Mountaineering's ascent, says official

THE 2026 Milan-Cortina Olympic Winter Games will mark the beginning of a bright future for ski mountaineering (skimo), Olalla Cernuda, Head of Media and Communications of the International Ski Mountaineering Federation (ISMF) told Xinhua.

In June 2022, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) officially added skimo to the 2026 Winter Olympics. The ISMF is currently working on a qualifying process and waiting for approval from the IOC to begin the Olympic Qualifying Tourna-

ment during the 2023-24 season.

Thanks to the close relationship with the organizing committee of Milan-Cortina 2026 and Olympic Broadcasting Services (OBS), the ISMF is confident of showcasing the modern look of this time-honored sport.

"There will be three medal events of two disciplines in the coming Winter Olympics. Sprint includes all the sections in a full course of skimo, but the competition will be shorter and also faster," Cernuda said.—Xinhua



A participant in action during the 2019 World Ski Mountaineering Masters Mt. Gangshika in Menyuan County, northwest China's Qinghai Province, 24 May 2019. **PHOTO: WU GANG / XINHUA**