

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IX, No. 351, 13th Waxing of Tagu 1384 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Sunday, 2 April 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 Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits summer basic sports course conducted by Rakhine State Sports and Physical Education Committee

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday morning viewed the training demonstration at the summer basic sports course conducted by Rakhine State Sports and Physical Education Committee at Danyawady Sports Ground in Sittway.

The Senior General viewed skill demonstrations of trainees in relevant sports events and presented foodstuffs for those trainees through two trainee representatives.

The Senior General gave necessary guidance on systemat-



ic measures of the sports ground and development of the sports sector.

The sports training course is being conducted from 1 March to 5 April for the physical development of youths with an accumulation of sports knowledge, for improvement of national sports standards and efficient use of summer holidays for the youths. A total of 1,820 trainees are under training for 16 sports events. — MNA/TTA

SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views the training demonstration at the summer basic sports course in Sittway on 1 April.



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Public notice on installation of new embossed number plates

THE Road Transport Administration Department has issued Notifications regarding the installation of new embossed number plates not later than 31-3-2023. The department also makes operations as convenient as possible.

Currently, the deadline has come and there are still some vehicles to change and install new embossed number plates. It will recognize April 2023 as the period of educating programmes and actions will be taken over that period.

Therefore, the vehicle owners are urged again to contact the relevant RTAD offices to install new embossed license plates.

Road Transport Administration Department

Four new cases of COVID-19 reported on 1 April, total figure records 634,084

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases recorded **634,084** after **four** new cases were reported on 1 April 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,555**, including **one** new recovery.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at **19,490** on 1-4-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. — GNLM

Daily newspapers to be published alternately during New Year holidays

DAILY newspapers of the News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information will be in alternate circulation during the holidays of the Myanmar New Year.

The Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar dailies will be in circulation from 9 to 12 April, while the Myanmar Alinn daily will take a break.

The Myanmar Alinn Daily will be published from 13 to 17 April whereas the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar dailies will take holidays.

The Shwepyi Rakhine Image supplement published every Wednesday by the Sub-Printing House (Sittway) will take a holiday on 12 April, the Ethnic Sector in the Shan Language by the Sub-Printing House (Taunggyi) published every Thursday on 13 April, the Ethnic Sector in Mon, Skaw Kayin, Poe Kayin and Pa-O languages published every Sunday by the Sub-Printing House (Mawlamyine) on 9 and 16 April. After the Thingyan holidays, all dailies will be published regularly from 18 April.

However, advertisements will be accepted throughout the holidays.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Wahnet Elephant Camp ready for visitors during upcoming long Thingyan holidays



Visitors – mostly children – are seen enjoying elephant rides at the Wahnet Elephant Camp. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG**

WAHNET Elephant Camp in Mandalay Region is prepared for holidaymakers during the

long Thingyan holidays (8 to 17 April), said a person in charge of Wahnet Elephant Camp under

Myanma Timber Enterprise.

Wahnet Elephant Camp is located by the roadside of Yey-

wa Dam between Mandalay and PyinOoLwin. Thanks to maintaining the campgrounds, fun activities are provided for home-grown visitors and tourists to relax under the shady trees, enjoy the elephant ride and the natural scenic beauty and feed the elephant. Seven bamboo bungalows are prepared. There are charity feasts for 150-200 people during Thingyan. Elephants will splash water with their trunks. The pandals on a small scale will be constructed for the visitors to enjoy the water festival.

“Wahnet Elephant Camp is steadily developing after closure during the COVID-19. The camp is jam-packed with visitors during holidays. We have been preparing seven bamboo bungalows for visitors. We have also made outdoor stone tables and

benches. The camp gets ready for 100 visitors. We also raise awareness of elephant habits among visitors by hanging vinyl. Elephant camp mainly draws the attention of the children and there are playgrounds prepared for them as well. We will offer a full range of services for the needs of the customers,” he elaborated.

The visitors can observe the natural scenery of elephant rides, watch elephant theme shows, enjoy the natural fresh air, elephant ride and feed elephants and take documentary photos with the elephants. The entrance fee is K1,000 per person. A short trip is estimated at K3,000 while the elephant ride for a long-distance trip costs K5,000. – Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/EM

Illegal timbers, computer accessories, consumer goods and vehicles confiscated

ON 23 and 31 March, an on-duty team under the management of the Customs Department captured 80 Gpon Olt 8 Pon Ports worth K141.12 million and 840 kilogrammes of metal mouse traps worth K1.764 million that were different from the Import

Declaration (ID) from two containers at the Myanmar International Port Terminals (Thilawa). The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 25 March, the Lashio Township Customs Department inspection team near the orien-

tal highway tollgate nabbed a total of 0.8516 tonne of suspected gum-kino tree and 0.9632 tonne of suspected teak that were illegally carried from a Toyotetsu bus (approximately K22 million) heading to Muse from Mandalay. The action was taken under

Customs procedures.

On 31 March, a total of 23.088 tonnes of illegal teak, 8.512 tonnes of hardwood and 3.422 tonnes of other timbers worth K12,600,826 was seized in Nyaunglebin, Daik-U, Pyu and Letpadan townships. The

action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, eight arrests (estimated value of K180,984,826) were made on 23, 25 and 31 March, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Emphasis needed to improve the public economy

IT is necessary to focus on the improvement of the public economy rather than the economy of a group in order to develop the domestic economy. Hence, the government is enhancing the work process of businesses beneficial for the majority of the people.

(Excerpts from the speech by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at a meeting with officials from associates of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on 23 December 2022)

As everybody wishes compassion, the aged must be arranged with a compassionate living style: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla pay respect to the elderly at the Home for the Aged in Sittway yesterday.

THOSE aged must have taken meditation with consideration that now is a very important period of their lives, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with the older persons at the Home for the Aged in Sittway yesterday morning.

At the Dhammayon of the home, home committee chairman U Shwe Tun Aung reported on facts and figures of the home, food, accommodation and health care for the aged, contributions of well-wishers and assistance of the government, and the requirement of a hall for ailing aged.

The Senior General gave guidance to the Rakhine State Chief Minister and officials to fulfil the needs of the home.

The aged must be under care for their happiness. Those aged must have taken meditation with consideration that now is a very important peri-



The Senior General provides nutritious foodstuffs.

od of their lives. As everybody wishes compassion, the aged must be arranged with a compassionate living style. Mental health will contribute to physical health. The Senior General

prayed for the longevity of the aged.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla presented nutritious foodstuffs and equipment to the

aged individuals and cordially conversed with them. Those who accompanied the Senior General also presented nutritious foodstuff and utensils to the aged.

On behalf of the aged, 93 years old grandma Daw Ma Saw Khine thanked the Senior General and wife for their donations of nutritious foodstuffs and equipment.

The Senior General and party viewed round the mess hall and hostels of the aged and gave guidance on convenient accommodation of the aged to officials.

The Senior General and wife presented collectively donated cash to the chairman of the home committee who returned a certificate of honour.

Rakhine State home for the aged was opened in Thinganet Village in 1984. It was moved to Meyu Street in Danyawady A ward of Sittway in 1997. The home gives care to nine elderly males and 32 elderly females. The eldest grandma is 93 years old and the eldest grandpa is 86 years old. The home gives food, accommodation, health and social care to the aged. — MNA/TTA

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma 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

SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects upgrades for airports in Rakhine State



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hears the reports on Sittway, Kyaukpyu and Thandwe airports in Rakhine State on 1 April 2023.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday morning inspected plans to upgrade airports in Rakhine State.

At the lounge of Sittway Airport, the Senior General heard reports on brief histories of Sittway, Kyaukpyu and Thandwe airports, data on the

airports, landing of aircraft, necessary machinery, installation of aviation communication devices and security devices, plans to expansion of the runways and airports and accomplishment for the guidance of the Senior General on his trips to the airports by Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Transport

and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San and officials.

After hearing the reports, the Senior General said that expansion of airports and upgrading works need to be systematically undertaken with the future plans. Upgrading tasks must meet the set standards. Aprons must be built systematically. As Kyaukpyu

deep sea port will have port industries in the future with the high volume of trade, arrivals of foreign travellers will be on the rise. As cargo planes will land there, it is necessary to set future plans for expanding the runways.

The Senior General stressed the need to expand the runways and upgrade Sit-

tway Airport on priority for admitting A-320 and B-737 aircraft. Likewise, it is necessary to upgrade Thandwe airport to admit the landing of Jets.

The Senior General viewed situations to upgrade Sittway Airport and gave necessary guidance and then inspected Sittway station in a motorcade. — MNA/TTA

NPE celebrates its 25th anniversary

THE News and Periodicals Enterprise (NPE) under the Ministry of Information held its 25th anniversary in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn said the NPE is a public service centre that mainly runs the information release and newspaper. Publishing a newspaper is not an easy operation as it faces many challenges.

The NPE set missions and visions following the policy of the ministry and changed the style of the three papers of the country.

It should make efforts to develop the Myanmar Digital News more than before. During



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn speaks on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the News and Periodicals Enterprise-NPE in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

the term of the State Administration Council, the NPE published special editions including

the supplement.

The Union minister then appreciated the efforts of NPE

staff and highlighted the key role of state-owned media. He also awarded the staff of Myan-

ma Alinn, Kyemon dailies and Myanmar News Agency.

Then, Deputy Minister U Ye Tint also awarded the staff of Myanmar Digital News Department and management team (News Department) and Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung and other officials also presented cash awards, certificates of honour and prizes to the staff of administration, finance and production departments, sub-printing houses (Mandalay, Mawlamyine, Monywa and Sittway) and seven winners of Good Civil Service Award.

The Union minister took documentary photos together with attendees and concluded the event.—MNA/KTZH



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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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

Union Constitutional Tribunal celebrates its 12th anniversary

THE Constitutional Tribunal of the Union celebrated its 12th anniversary in Nay Pyi Taw on 30 March.

First, the chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal made a speech and members gave awards to outstanding trainees, those who attend office

regularly and best sports award winners.

Then, the chairman provided uniforms to 119 staff.

The chairman, members and guests then had dinner together with the staff and enjoyed the performance of the staff. — MNA/KTZH



The celebration of the 12th anniversary of the Union Constitutional Tribunal in progress on 30 March in Nay Pyi Taw.

Yunnan Special Delegation of People's Republic of China arrives in Yangon



The Yunnan Special Delegation from the People's Republic of China is welcomed at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

A special delegation led by Yunnan Province Party Committee Secretary Mr Wang Ning of the People's Republic of China arrived in Yangon by international airline via Laos yesterday.

Yangon Mayor U Bo Htay, who is also Minister for Yangon Region Development and Yangon City Development Committee Chairman, Economic Affairs Minister U Myo Myint Aung, Director-General U Zaw Phyto Win of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Mr Chen Hai and embassy officials welcomed the special delegation at Yangon International Airport. — MNA/KZW

YGEA presents 21 metal licences



Presentation ceremony of 21 metal licences is in progress at YGEA's office in Yangon yesterday.

YANGON Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) offered 21 metal licences to the registration boards of Pabedan, Lanmadaw and Latha townships at the meeting hall of YGEA yesterday.

From December 2022 to April 2023, YGEA conducted four awareness training sessions on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing Terrorism for more than 400 trainees.

YGEA Chairman U Myo Myint gave one licence to the registration board of Lanmadaw Township, 19 licences to Pabedan Township and one licence to the Latha Township respectively. — NN/KZW

PDF terrorists open fire, burn houses in Paukgon Village of Kanbalu

PDF terrorists entered Paukgon Village of Kanbalu in Sagaing Region at 10 pm on 30 March and opened fire with guns, and burned down the houses, resulting in nine innocent civilians being shot and dead. A total of 70 houses and 31 cowsheds were reportedly destroyed by fire.

Security forces are reportedly taking the necessary security measures to arrest and punish the terrorists who entered the village, which was not a military target, attacked innocent civilians and burned down their homes. — MNA/KZL



PDF terrorist groups detonate mines destroying 2 reinforced concrete creek bridges in Pyu

PDF terrorist groups detonated two reinforced concrete creek bridges in Pyu Township, Bago Region with mines on 31 March.

PDF terrorist groups detonated two reinforced concrete creek bridges – a 40 feet long and 20 feet wide canal bridge locally known as Majemro Bridge and an 80 feet long and 20 feet wide Thitpat Creek Bridge – in Phayalaha Village, Kanyutkwin of Pyu Township in Bago Region at 12:15 pm on 31

March.

Due to the mine explosion, the Majamro Bridge was slightly damaged, and vehicles were unable to pass through the Thitpat Creek Bridge due to the damage.

Security forces are reportedly taking the necessary security measures to arrest and prosecute the terrorists who detonated the reinforced concrete bridges that are used by the public. — MNA/KZL

LOCAL BUSINESS

YRIC nods 11 domestic, foreign enterprises on 29 March



The office building of the Yangon Region Investment Committee.

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC) endorsed two domestic and seven foreign enterprises in the manufacturing sector and two foreign enterprises in the service sector, with an estimated capital of over US\$11.606 million at a meeting 3/2023 held on 29 March at YRIC office.

Those projects will execute warehousing services and logistics services, hotel service business, rice milling and processing, manufacturing of clothes on a Cutting, Making, and Packing (CMP) basis, electrical wires, and production and exportation of alumin-

ium, tin and copper. They will create over 4,000 jobs for the residents.

The manufacturing sector has attracted the most foreign investments in Yangon Region, with enterprises engaging in the production of pharmaceuticals, vehicles, container boxes, and garments on a Cutting, Making, and Packing (CMP) basis.

At the meeting, Next, 12 companies raised general matters at the meeting and the YRIC gave green light to one enterprise for capital expansion of \$0.62 million. — TWA/EM

Over 30,000 tonnes of rice worth US\$13 mln exported in March 2nd week

MORE than 33,250 tonnes of rice and broken rice worth the trade value of US\$13.289 million were exported to foreign countries in the second week of March, the statistics of the Ministry of Commerce indicated.

From 11 to 17 March, over 10,090 tonnes of rice were shipped via the maritime route to Asian countries and more than 9,000 tonnes of rice to EU member

countries. Myanmar exported rice to the Philippines, China and Malaysia in Asian countries, and Turkiye, Spain, Poland, Slovenia, Bulgaria, the Netherlands, Lithuania, Lebanon, Italy, Portugal, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Croatia and France in EU member countries.

As for broken rice exports, more than 11,990 tonnes of broken rice were delivered to EU mem-

ber countries, earning a trade value of \$4.156 million.

More than 1,460 tonnes of broken rice were shipped through the Myanmar-China border trade this week, pocketing the trade value of \$0.517 million.

Myanmar collected a total value of \$4.673 million from broken rice exports via maritime trade and border trade. — TWA/CT



Truckloads entering the Tachilek Trading Post.

Trade volume worth over US\$33 mln on Myawady, Tachilek borders in March 2nd week

ACCORDING to statistics from the Ministry of Commerce, a trading volume worth US\$33.173 million was recorded through the Myawady Trade Zone and the Tachilek Trading Post in the second week of March.

From 11 to 17 March, \$13.826 million worth of goods were exported and \$16.502 million worth of goods imported through the Myawady Trade Zone, the trade volume totalling \$30.328 million. Compared to the previous week's trading status, the value of exports and imports

increased by \$2.994 million and \$1.349 million respectively, and the value of trade rose by \$4.343 million as well.

Between 11 and 17 March, the Tachilek Trading Post carried out an export value of \$1.594 million, an import value of \$1.251 million and the trade value of \$2.845 million. Compared to the performance of the previous week, \$0.154 million and \$0.225 million in export and import value decreased respectively, and the trade value of \$0.379 million dropped. — TWA/CT



Export rice bags are seen being loaded onto a vessel.

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 increasing of death rate based on the disease.

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Price of Myanmar's watermelon exported to China dips

THE price of Myanmar's watermelon placed on the China market started to move down, traders engaged in Muse border said.

The outright purchase of a truck is estimated at 20,000-48,000 yuan for the 855 watermelons and over 18,000-28,000 yuan for the Donkyithee variety.

The prices stand at six to eight yuan per kilogramme of muskmelon and three to five yuan for Taiwan melon per kilogramme.

On 22 March, the price of a truck carrying the 855 variety watermelon touched a high of 110,000 yuan, while muskmelon was priced at 9.2 yuan per kilo and Taiwan melon fetched 7.7 yuan.

Watermelon price fluctuation is related to demand and quality. More than 90 truckloads of watermelon and muskmelon are daily conveyed to China.

Myanmar's watermelon and muskmelon are heavily reliant on the Chinese market. The traders struggled with China's strict policy sometimes.

In early February, tight inspections by Chinese Customs hindered truck transport. That

being so, only 20-30 trucks were able to pass the checkpoint despite the delays despite the high price of watermelon and muskmelon.

Consequently, watermelon was sold out at the depots on the China side and more than 500 trucks queued in line on the Myanmar side.

In 2021, the COVID-19 restrictions hindered Myanmar's watermelon and muskmelon exports to China. Chinese Customs Regulation increased delay. Long delays of trucks caused harm to watermelon quality and only one in five trucks heading to China remained undamaged with quality watermelons.

The traders are observing delivery time, price and profitability as they are perishable fruit, while they are trying to explore new markets besides China.

On 1 April, Nantaw and Sinphyu borders were suspended in the wake of COVID-19 impacts. China has closed down the major crossing - Mang Wein - from 30 March 2021 following the COVID-19 cases in Myanmar.

On 8 July 2021, the two-re-



Photo supplied by Khwanyo Trading Co Ltd Facebook page shows Chinese traders are evaluating Myanmar's watermelons on the Sino-Myanmar border.

maining cross-border posts Kyinsankyawt and Panseng were suspended. As a result of this, the border trade between Myanmar and China was completely halted.

Among the Sino-Myanmar border, the Kyinsankyawt post resumed operations on 26 November 2021. Trade activity at the Muse-Mang Wein border, which

performed the majority of trade between Myanmar and China, resumed on 14 January 2023. Additionally, other goods except for agricultural products (watermelon, muskmelon), minerals and fisheries products are allowed to be sent to China through that border.

Additionally, Nantaw and

Sinphyu borders, which are the major border crossing, were reopened on 25 January 2023.

At present, Myanmar daily delivers rice, broken rice, rubber, various beans and pulses, fishery products, chili pepper and other food commodities to China through Kyinsankyawt by over 100 trucks. — NN/EM

1,246 Myanmar food processing businesses apply for GACC within 16 months

A total of 1,246 Myanmar food processing companies and factories submitted over 2,200 applications to the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) within 16 months, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

According to GACC Decree 248 and 249, GACC registration is mandatory for food exporters starting from 1 January.

Those individuals executing edible oil, oilseeds, stuffed pastry products, edible bird's nest and related products, edible grains, grains milling industrial products and malt, fresh and dehydrated vegetables, dried beans, plant species, nuts and seeds, dried fruits, unroasted coffee and cocoa bean, special dietary food excluding milk-based formula, functional foods, bee products, aquatic products including farm products, animal products and animal feed and

livestock animals businesses need to apply for GACC license to place their goods in China's market.

The relevant authorities for the registration with GACC are the Agriculture Department, the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, the Fisheries Department and the Food and Drug Administration.

Between 1 December 2021 and 31 March 2023, 2,237 applications by 1,246 factories have been forwarded to the GACC through the Agriculture Department (2,094 applications), the Fisheries Department (120), the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (14) and the Food and Drug Administration Department (nine).

Exporters can directly access China International Trade Single Window through <https://cifer.singlewindow.cn> by creating accounts for those food groups which are not listed

on those aforementioned 18 groups.

As of 22 March 2023, a total of 1,829 applications have been successful in registering with the GACC with the approval of the competent authority.

Regarding the registration of the importing companies, the Department of Animal and Plant Quarantine under the GACC will check quarantine access for the imported grains (raw coffee beans, cocoa beans, vegetables, spices, edible grains, pulses, oil crops and herbal animal products and plant for their origins.

The companies cannot directly proceed with registration and they need to carry out this step through competent authorities and departments concerned by sending emails via dapq@customs.gov.cn or submitting a letter to the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar or Myanmar Embassy in China. — NN/EM

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 1 April 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,105
Octane 95	K2,185
Diesel	K2,035
Premium Diesel	K2,145

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,319,700 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,935,000 per tical

US Dollar Vs Kyat

A US dollar set by the Central Bank of Myanmar	K2,100
A US dollar in the forex market	K2,855 to K2,870

The above prices may change from time to time.

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OPINION

ARTICLE BOOKRACK

Combat corruption in society as a national duty

THE problems of corruption happen as a disease of cancer across the world as well as in Myanmar. Its roots deeply penetrate various bodies and organizations in the least developed countries, developing countries and developed ones in addition to charity organizations, attempting to shake the society. Currently, corruption occurs in various sectors including the political arena.

The Anti-Corruption Commission was formed in Myanmar under the law in 2014. Till 2022, Myanmar could take action against 64 persons in the political arena, 35 high-ranking officials, 73 officers, 73 staff members, 19 public service personnel and 28 other persons, totalling 292. Taking action was based on taking and giving bribes

by abusing the authority entrusted to relevant ranks of service personnel, offending the existing laws, rules and regulations to lose money and materials of the State and harming the interests of the people.

Currently, efforts are being made to emerge a clean government and good governance for overcoming the challenges of corruption. Hence, it is necessary to remove corruption. Corruption free is crucial for the improvement of the administration, judicial, political, economic and social sectors of the State.

Myanmar is implementing the edutainment programme on the practice of righteousness for anti-corruption at schools and universities. It aims to organize a new generation of youths for keeping hatred of corruption in their minds. So, the Anti-Corruption Commission of Myanmar is striving for combatting corruption

across the nation to build prosperous lives for the people as its vision. As such, all the people need to join hands with the commission in fighting against corruption cases without any exemption.

Surely, corruption cases in various arenas can bring bad impacts and terrible losses to society. Corrupt acts of anyone can destroy good opportunities for other people. People need to uphold the concept that everybody should change their mindsets to combat the willingness of corruption in their minds.

The Anti-Corruption Commission of Myanmar arranges a feedback programme through the 1111 SMS service to pick out the replies from the people over the questions raised by the commission. Only when people give transparent feedback based on their attitudes towards the anti-corruption can the weak points of relevant departments and organizations be addressed to improve society.

That is why all the people should accept the concept that they have to combat corruption for the emergence of a clean government and good governance systems and ensure enhancement of prestige and responsibility in public administration measures to build a peaceful and prosperous nation for the new generations.

That is why all the people should accept the concept that they have to combat corruption for the emergence of a clean government and good governance systems and ensure enhancement of prestige and responsibility in public administration measures to build a peaceful and prosperous nation for the new generations.

Down but not out

By Myat Thura

DOWN but not out, Myanmar's economy has been resilient in the face of adversity following the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Southeast Asian home experienced a significant contraction in economic activity during the height of the crisis but has since shown signs of steady recovery. Numerous factors have contributed to this positive turnaround, including the implementation of government policies, cooperation with some international organizations and partners and the hard work and determination of our people. Myanmar's post-COVID economic recovery is a testament to the importance of unity and support

With the easing of lockdown restrictions and the rollout of vaccination programmes, businesses have gradually reopened, leading to a resurgence in both domestic and international demand for goods and services. Myanmar's vital economic sectors, such as agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism, have all shown signs of improvement. Additionally, the government's focus on digital infrastructure has helped boost the nation's burgeoning technology and e-commerce industries. These developments have contributed to a more optimistic economic outlook for Myanmar, fostering hope for a brighter future for the

country and its peoples.

Stimulus packages and financial relief measures have played a crucial role in mitigating the economic impact of the pandemic on businesses and households. The government has provided low-interest loans and financial aid to struggling enterprises, helping them stay afloat during the most challenging times. This targeted support has also encouraged innovation and investment in new industries, promoting economic diversification and fostering long-term growth. Indeed, the government's quick and decisive actions have proven instrumental in steering Myanmar towards a path of economic resurgence and stabilisation, setting the stage for a promising future for

our nation's unity.

A focus on sustainable development and inclusive growth has been at the heart of Myanmar's post-COVID economic recovery strategy. The government has recognized the need to address the environmental and social issues exacerbated by the pandemic, implementing policies to promote green energy, reduce income inequality, and improve access to education and healthcare. These initiatives have not only helped the country bounce back from the crisis but also laid the groundwork for a more resilient and equitable future. By prioritizing long-term well-being over short-term gains, Myanmar is taking essential steps towards creating a more sustainable and prosperous society for all its cit-

izens, ultimately contributing to its overall progress and stable government.

Concluding, Myanmar's post-COVID economic recovery has been a multifaceted process that has required the concerted effort of government, businesses, and individuals alike. While challenges still lie ahead, the nation's resilience, adaptability, and determination have proven to be critical assets in navigating these uncertain times. With a focus on sustainable development, inclusive growth, and international cooperation, Myanmar is well on its way to rebuilding its economy and forging a brighter future for its people, setting an inspiring example for the world to follow in the face of adversity.



Myanmar's vital economic sectors, such as agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism, have all shown signs of improvement. PHOTO: GNLM/FILE



Book Title - Buddha's Scientific Approach to Human Nature
Writer - Dr Tin Sanda Aung
Publishing House - Nang Dewi
Publication Date - December 2022 (4th Edition)
Price - K4,000

Buddha's Scientific Approach to Human Nature

THE Vija nana is the key to the analytical insight and knowledge of the world and the Dhamma. Nonetheless, this book under review is a scientific approach to the nature of human beings as expounded by Lord Buddha. In other words, this book is a collection of the discourses by Sayagyi U Htay Aung relating to the nature of humans in the light of Dhamma. Matter-of-factly, it is appropriate here in this regard to explaining the profile of Sayagyi U Htay Aung as written by Say-amagyi Ludu Daw Ahmar. Sayagyi has applied diversified aspects to enable the Buddhists of these days to understand the Dhamma taught by Lord Buddha 2,500 years

ago. In such an attempt, Sayagyi has applied scientific approaches to enable those who are bent on scientific thinking to understand better the nature of humans in the light of Dhamma.

There are only two factors in the composition of human beings - mind and matter. He explains the interaction between mind and matter. With an aim to develop the wisdom to know the genuine nature of human beings, people need to be possessed with Yath-abuta nana - i.e., the wisdom to know things as they really are. To achieve this kind of wisdom, people are required to train their minds through contemplation and/or meditation. The compiler of this book is nobody but Dr Tin Sanda Aung, who defines science as the study of a discipline through

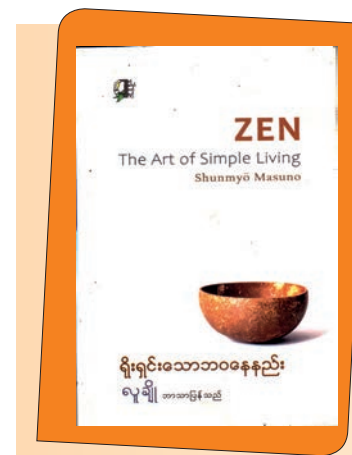
a combination of the system and the methodology. When delivering to sermons, Buddha used a system to preach the Dhamma; additionally, he provided the methodology to train one's mind to realize the truth. This being so, Dr Tin said that Buddhism is a scientific discipline. This being so, in their endeavour to realize the truth, those Buddhist devotees, who are familiar with the science disciplines, will find this book highly valuable to deprive themselves of ignorance. It is believed that this book will be of dramatic assistance to the readers to realize that there is no such thing as the ego, thereby resulting in the reduction of the attachment to both living beings and non-living things. In other words, this book will contribute towards the attainment

of Bhavana nana.

The book is opened with the statement that there are no such things as self, others, men and/or women. They are non-existent in reality - they are merely things of relative truth - not the absolute truth. In the field of Paramatta Sacca - the sublime truth, there are no such things as humans or animals, self or others, men or women; what exists is just the composition of the blood, the flesh and the bones. Additionally, there are also mental faculties that depend on and interact with the physical faculties. Nothing is permanent - everything is transitory, it is said. As long as a person is attached to these faculties, mistakenly thinking that these things belong to him, he will not witness for himself the relation and the interdependence of the matter and the mind.

Sayagyi uses teaching/learning aids for the study of the anatomy of living beings. Thanks to audio/visual learning aids, Buddhist devotees can behold vividly the contents and the compositions of the materials. In addition to learning anatomy, they have to study physiology.

The book contains nine episodes which deal with the Five Aggregates, Four Noble Truths and the Mindfulness - Satipatthana.



Book Title - The Art of Simple Living
Translator - Lu Cho
Publishing House - Gangaw Wutyi
Publication Date - November 2020 (1st Edition)
Price - K3,500

The Art of Simple Living

By Shunmyo Masuno

WE can go back to square one regardless of how terrible our past life is, it is said. It is imperative for a person to make a relentless effort to be able to begin a new life, not letting himself be depressed in the face of hardship and difficulty. If one wishes to grasp a thing he wants, he cannot rely on conventional methods. He has to seek new ways and different approaches. In this regard, this book will be of great assistance to decide on which approaches to choose from among the diversified methods.

The book starts with a statement that these days, many people are losing balance, and not

able to poise themselves. They have great difficulty striking a proper balance between what they are desirous of and what they are having in hand. They are being confounded with what they ought to do for their future. They are desperately in search of a haven as they are profoundly concerned about their safety and security. Worse still, people nowadays are stricken with anxiety and depression even though they may be leading a prosperous life.

True, it is not that easy to overcome worries or to get oneself out of confusion. What is worth pondering over is whether we can change the world. Obvi-

ously not. If we cannot change the world, we have nothing but to adapt ourselves to the world.

This book includes 100 daily practices from a Zen Buddhist Monk for a lifetime of calm and joy. Shunmyo Masuno is a Japanese monk and garden designer. He is the Chief Priest of the Soto Zen Temple Kenko-Ji, a professor at Tama Art University and president of a design firm that has completed numerous projects in Japan and overseas. He has been called Japan's leading garden designer.

This book has four parts. Part 1 deals with the 30 ways to energize your present self whereas part two is about the 30

ways to inspire confidence and courage for living. Part three discusses 20 ways to alleviate confusion and worry while part four focuses on 20 ways to make any day the best day. Part 1 encourages the readers to try making a subtle shift in their habits whereas part two calls on the readers to try changing their perspective. And part three insists on the readers to try changing how they interact with others while part four demands the readers to try shifting their attention to the present moment.

In part 1, the original writer said, "Be with yourself as you are, but without haste, without impatience;" It is also written somewhere that "Your desk is a mirror that reflects your inner mind". Another quotation worth mentioning is, "When we eliminate effort, we eliminate life's pleasures". True, we must make a sustained effort to achieve success in whatever we do. If we stop exerting effort, we cannot reach our goal, thereby eliminating our lives' pleasures. Last but not the least, I would like to provide a noteworthy quotation - Zen practice is not just seated meditation.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

People urged to enjoy Thingyan festival gently

THE Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture released a statement to participate in Myanmar's traditional Thingyan festival in a gentle manner.

The statement said it should avoid inappropriate manners that are not in conformity with Myanmar tradition and culture, serious water throwing, words, Thangyat, singing and activities that affect others or organizations directly or indirectly, and other manners that can cause loss of respect and value by foreigners and drinking alcohol and so on.

The Thingyan festival has been celebrated since the time of ancient Myanmar Kings. According to the changing trend, the people wear inappropriate



costumes, drink alcohol and fight each other and so the ministry issued a statement to participate in the 2023 Thingyan festival in line with the tradition and culture.

The Thingyan festival is preserved as a national-level intangible cultural heritage and arrangements are made to list the festival on the World Heritage List.

In preparation for the World Heritage List, the 2023 Myanmar traditional Thingyan water festival will be filmed and recorded as a documentary. — TWA/KTZH

Myanmar Thingyan Festival in Mon State in 2016.

Exports from manufacturing sector generate US\$10.73 bln as of 24 March



The picture shows a garment factory working on a Cutting-Making and Packing basis.

THE export value from the manufacturing sector amounted to over US\$10.73 billion as of 24 March in the financial year 2022-2023 beginning 1 April, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

Exports by the private sector were estimated at \$6.81 billion while exports worth 3.91 billion were performed by the public sector.

Garment export is ranked first among the top ten export items including

natural gas and minerals.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, livestock products, fisheries, minerals, forest products, finished industrial goods and other goods. Of them, the manufacturing sector poked the highest foreign income.

The export value from the manufacturing sector is up by \$2.18 billion from the year-ago period, the Commerce Ministry's data indicated. — TWA/EM

CBM issues notice again to take action against currency manipulators

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) warned of currency manipulators who spread malicious rumours of CBM changing a US dollar reference exchange rate to K2,500, trying to devalue their own currency and interfere with forex market stability to face legal actions, according to a notification dated 31 March.

Rumours have been circulating to disrupt the forex market in recent days. Therefore, the

CBM issued this notice again.

There is no way for the CBM to set the new reference exchange rate. Investigation and Prosecuting of market manipulation to hike the exchange rate in the local forex market with malicious rumours will be undertaken, according to the Central Bank of Myanmar's statement.

The CBM has been steering foreign currency flows. The market is quite stable for now.



The photo shows counting dollar bills.

The CBM is using necessary monetary policy to achieve price stability. However, those unscrupulous are attempting to intervene in the market to lower their own currency value

against the US dollar.

The reference exchange rate set by the CBM is K2,100 while it is exchanged at K2,850 in the unauthorized market. — TWA/EM

Tickets on sale for Thingyan special trains

PASSENGERS who will return to their hometown and travel by train during the Maha Thingyan holidays can purchase tickets starting from the first week of April, according to the Myanmar Railways.

Tickets for Thingyan special trains, which will start running on 7 April, will be sold three days in advance for Upper Class and one day in advance for the ordinary class.

Thingyan special trains — Yangon-Mandalay-Yangon and Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon will be operated on 7 April and Yangon-Mawlamyine-Yangon and Yangon-Pyay-Yangon special trains on 8 April.

In addition, all passenger trains will be temporarily suspended during the Thingyan period and special trains will resume on 17 April. Depending on passenger rides, MR plans to operate special trains on 9 and 18 April. — TWA/MKKS



The special train is seen at the Yangon Railway Station.

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Most populous county in US lifts public health emergency for COVID-19



Motorists drive along a Los Angeles freeway with the snow-capped San Bernardino Mountains seen in the distance in Los Angeles, California, on 2 March 2023. **PHOTO: FREDERIC J. BROWN/AFP**

LOS Angeles, the most populous county in the United States, will end its local public health emergency for COVID-19 on Friday, authorities said.

“As the longest emergency in LA County history draws to a close after 1,122 days, we honour the 36,000 who lost their lives and reflect on the opportunity to serve the public during this challenging time,” wrote county officials in a tweet.

The local state of emergency for COVID-19 was initially proclaimed on 4 March 2020, in Los Angeles County, home to over 10 million residents.

The county, once one of the hardest-hit parts in the United

States amid the pandemic, reported 1,269 new COVID-19 cases and 24 new related deaths earlier this week, bringing the county-wide tallies to over 3.72 million cases and 35,994 deaths as of Tuesday, according to the latest update of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

“The end of the emergency doesn’t mean the end of LA County’s support for residents who continue to struggle with COVID-19 and its impacts,” county officials tweeted. They noted in a statement that this means changes in some programmes but many services will continue to be available to support residents in the county. — AFP

The pianist who’s been playing for more than 100 years

COLETTE Maze has been playing piano for more than a century, and is still drawing thousands of fans on social media.

Born in June 1914, before the outbreak of World War I and when one of her favourite composers, Claude Debussy, was still alive, the French pianist practices four hours a day and is about to release her seventh album, “108 Years of Piano”.

From her apartment overlooking the Seine river in Paris, Maze moves cautiously between the three pianos in her living room, but retains a youthful enthusiasm. “Me? I’m young,” she says with a smile.

“Age is not something I’m interested in. There are people who are forever young, amazed by everything, and then there are people who don’t care about

anything and never loved anything, even their man — can you imagine?” she adds.

Piano is my life

Maze was a piano teacher for much of her life, and it was only after turning 100 that she started building a significant fanbase — through her Facebook page. Many are inspired by her continuing good health and refusal to give up the traditional French pleasures of wine, cheese and chocolate.

“She gives people strength — that’s why she has such crazy success,” said her son, journalist Fabrice Maze, adding with pride that she is one of the few people over 100 releasing albums.

She still remembers the sound of “Big Bertha”, the huge cannon used by the German army during World War I, but most of her memories revolve around her instrument. “Piano is my life, my friend. I need to feel it and hear it,” she adds, before offering a rendition of Debussy’s “Reflections in the Water”. — AFP



French pianist Colette Maze, born in June 1914, poses at a piano during a photo session in Paris on 24 March 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Iraq’s first sandstorm of the year blankets Baghdad

A sandstorm enveloped central Iraq, including Baghdad, on Friday, the first such weather event to hit the arid country this year.

In 2022, Iraq experienced more than a dozen sandstorms, an unprecedented number that

was attributed to desertification.

Iraqis who ventured outside on Friday afternoon were greeted with the increasingly familiar ochre sky and unbreathable air typical of sandstorms, with AFP journalists reporting greatly re-

duced visibility and a film of dust covering cars and houses.

Driven by westerly winds, the storm moved from Al-Anbar province before reaching Baghdad and Salaheddin province by late Friday. — AFP

Cancer-causing compounds found in everyday food: EU agency



Cancer-causing chemical compounds called nitrosamines have been detected in a range of everyday foods and could pose a health risk to consumers. **PHOTO: AFP**

CANCER-CAUSING chemical compounds called nitrosamines have been detected in a range of everyday foods and could pose a health risk to consumers, the European Food Safety Agency warned.

The 10 nitrosamines — which are not intentionally added to food but which can form during its preparation and processing — are carcinogenic and also genotoxic, which means they may damage DNA, according to a new study conducted by the European Union agency.

“Our assessment concludes that for all age groups across the EU population, the level of exposure to nitrosamines in food raises a health concern,” said Dieter Schrenk, chair of the EFSA’s

panel on contaminants in the food chain.

“Based on animal studies, we considered the incidence of liver tumours in rodents as the most critical health effect,” he added.

Nitrosamines have been detected in foods including cured meat, processed fish, cocoa, beer and other alcoholic drinks, the EFSA said.

The “most important food group” contributing to nitrosamines exposure is meat, it said.

Schrenk said the research deployed “a worst-case scenario” assuming that all nitrosamines detected in food had the potential to cause cancer as the most harmful form of the compound — “although that is unlikely”. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Indian tribunal upholds US\$162 mln fine on Google



Chief Executive Officer of Google Inc Sundar Pichai speaks at a news conference in New Delhi, India, 16 December 2015. **PHOTO: STRINGER/XINHUA/FILE**

AN Indian appeals court National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has upheld a penalty of 162 million US dollars imposed on Google by the country's antitrust regulator Competition Commission of India (CCI) in a case related to Android's market dominance.

The NCLAT said the CCI or-

der did not violate the principles of natural justice and Google was liable to pay the fine.

Google defended itself saying "we believe it (the CCI decision) presents a major setback for our Indian users and businesses who trust Android's security features, and potentially raising the cost of mobile de-

vices."

"We upheld this penalty," NCLAT said on Wednesday, adding that "the appellant (Google) is allowed to deposit the penalty."

The order is seen as a major setback to Google in India.

The NCLAT has held that Google asking the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) to pre-install the entire suite of Google applications amounts to imposition of unfair conditions.

Over 95 per cent of smartphones in India use the Android system.

Last year in October, the CCI imposed a fine on Google for anti-competitive practices in relation to Android mobile devices. Google had challenged the ruling before the NCLAT.

Meanwhile, the search giant has been given 30 days to pay the penalty and implement the order. Google now has the option to challenge the order in India's Supreme Court.— Xinhua

OpenAI's ChatGPT blocked in Italy

ITALY'S privacy watchdog said Friday it had blocked the controversial robot ChatGPT, saying the artificial intelligence app did not respect user data and could not verify users' age.

The decision "with immediate effect" will result in "the temporary limitation of the processing of Italian user data vis-a-vis OpenAI", the Italian Data Protection Authority said.

The agency has launched

an investigation.

ChatGPT, created by US startup OpenAI and backed by Microsoft, can answer difficult questions clearly, write code, sonnets, or essays — even passing difficult exams for students.

But the app that appeared in November is controversial, with teachers fearing students will use it to cheat, and policymakers concerned about the spread of misinformation.

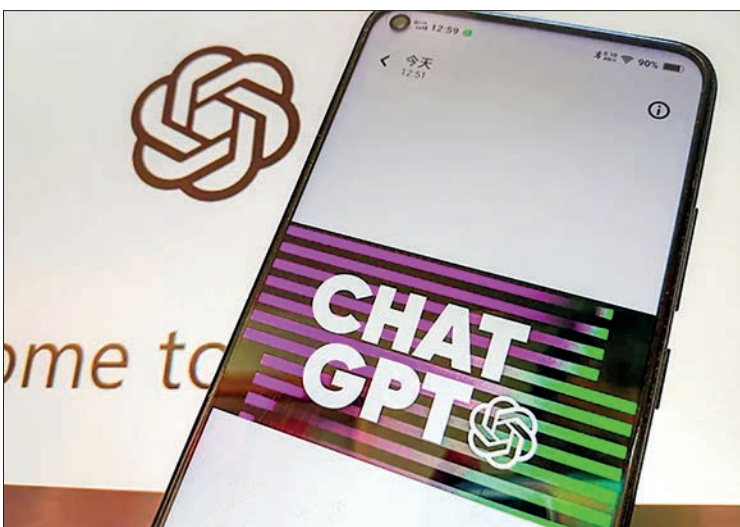
The watchdog said that on 20 March, the app experienced a data breach involving user conversations and payment information.

It said there was no legal basis to justify "the mass collection and storage of personal data for the purpose of 'training' the algorithms underlying the operation of the platform".

It also said that since there was no way to verify the age of users, the app "exposes minors to absolutely unsuitable answers compared to their degree of development and awareness."

It said the company had 20 days to respond how it would address the watchdog's concerns, under penalty of a 20-million-euro fine, or up to four per cent of annual revenues.

The blocking of ChatGPT in Italy comes days after the European policing agency Europol warned that criminals were set to use the app to commit fraud and other cybercrimes, from phishing to malware.— AFP



ChatGPT, created by US startup OpenAI and backed by Microsoft, can answer difficult questions clearly, write code, sonnets, or essays — even passing difficult exams for students. **PHOTO: AFP**

Inflation pain to continue for Japan consumers in new fiscal year

JAPAN will see another wave of price hikes at the start of the new business year from Saturday as higher raw material costs eat into company margins, dealing yet another blow to consumers already facing inflation rates that have outpaced wage growth.

Nearly 5,000 food items, ranging from mayonnaise and cheese to instant noodles will be pricier. In a sign that price hikes are broadening, consumers will be sluggish with more expensive services like public transportation and package delivery, while theme parks are raising ticket prices in response to the double whammy of COVID-19 aftershocks and surging costs. Consumers are already bearing the brunt of inflation that has hit a four-decade high above four per cent, even though the outcome of annual wage nego-

tiations between labour unions and management for the new fiscal year will likely deliver the largest salary increases in three decades.

The government, for its part, is scrambling to protect consumers by reducing utility bills and handing out cash to low-income households as it looks to head off voter discontent ahead of key local elections in April.

The spread of the avian flu is exacerbating the pain, sending the prices of eggs and products made of them like mayonnaise higher. Condiment makers Kewpie Corp and Ajinomoto Co are going ahead with their fourth price hike since July 2021.

Kewpie's 450-gramme mayonnaise will be sold at 520 yen (\$4), nearly a 10 per cent increase on the most recent hike.— Kyodo



A shopper selects vegetables at a supermarket in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Mexico's central bank slows pace of key interest rate hikes

BANXICO, Mexico's central bank, on Thursday raised its key interest rate again but reduced the pace of increases given the downward trajectory of inflation. The Board of Governors unanimously decided to raise the benchmark interest rate by 25 basis points to 11.25 per cent effective Friday, the bank said in a statement.

Since December 2021, Banxico has opted for key interest rate increases of 75 and

50 basis points, given the acceleration of inflation. The central bank highlighted that inflation has slowed down more than expected, estimating it will close the year at 4.8 per cent.

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said Thursday that the country's economy maintains a growth trajectory and will not fall into a crisis due to recent external turbulence in the banking sector.— Xinhua

Power supply forecast to remain tight for Tokyo this summer

ELECTRICITY supply-demand conditions in the Tokyo area are projected to remain tight this summer after power crunch concerns hit resource-poor Japan last year, according to estimates compiled by the government.

The reserve power supply capacity ratio in the metropolitan area in July could drop to three per cent, the lowest level for maintaining stable supply, if a once-in-a-decade level of extreme heat grips



People walk under the scorching sun in Tokyo on 9 August 2022. PHOTO: KYODO

the region served by Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc.

Utilities in other areas are expected to see power supply reserves of above

three per cent even if such severe weather conditions prevail, according to estimates released in late March by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

The forecast is based on the supply plans of electricity service businesses, compiled at a time when most nuclear power reactors remain offline after the 2011 nuclear disaster and many aged thermal power plants have been shut down. — Kyodo

Swiss watchmakers counting the clock until Chinese tourists return

SWITZERLAND'S major luxury watch brands are cautiously optimistic that Chinese tourists will boost sales this year, if they return to Europe in large numbers after the easing of domestic Covid restrictions. Exports to China, a key market for watchmakers, contracted by 13.6 per cent in 2022 due to Beijing's zero-Covid policy and the surge in infections when it was lifted at the end of the year. However, exports began

to rebound in February — up 8.2 per cent year-on-year, according to the Federation of the Swiss Watch Industry.

“China will regain a positive dynamic,” the federation's president Jean-Daniel Pasche, told AFP at the industry's annual Watches and Wonders trade fair in Geneva, where 48 brands such as Rolex, Cartier and Patek Philippe were showing off their latest creations. — AFP

Federal govt sues US railroad over discharge of pollutants, hazardous substances

THE US Department of Justice (DOJ) announced on Friday a complaint against Norfolk Southern related to a train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, last month.

The complaint seeks

penalties and injunctive relief for “the unlawful discharge of pollutants, oil, and hazardous substances”, and declaratory judgment on liability for past and future costs.

On 3 February 2023, a

Norfolk Southern train carrying hazardous materials, including hazardous substances, pollutants, and oil derailed in East Palestine, a community of approximately 5,000 residents located on the Ohio-Pennsyl-

vania border.

The derailment resulted in a pile of burning rail cars, and contamination of the community's air, land, and water. Residents living near the derailment site were evacuated. — Xinhua



Switzerland's major luxury watch brands are cautiously optimistic that Chinese tourists will boost sales this year. Morgan Stanley analysts expect Chinese consumer spending on luxury goods to increase by 20 per cent in 2023. PHOTO: AFP



Hong Kong's economy to rebound by 4% in 2023: Fitch

INTERNATIONAL rating agency Fitch on Thurs-

A man puts up an advertisement of a store for rental or sale, in Causeway Bay of Hong Kong, south China, 24 August 2019. PHOTO: LIU DAWEI/XINHUA/FILE

day predicted that Hong Kong's economy will rebound by four per cent this year, following a contraction of 3.5 per cent in 2022.

Removal of most pandemic-related restrictions has led to visible improvements in business activi-

ty and cross-border connectivity since early 2023, the firm said, adding that “We believe the economic recovery will endure well into next year.”

Fitch forecasts growth of 3.5 per cent in 2024, modestly above the

pre-pandemic trend of around three per cent.

Calling the region's credit fundamentals strong, Fitch affirmed Hong Kong's long-term foreign-currency issuer default rating at “AA-” with a stable outlook. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MITRA BHUM VOY.NO. (139W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MITRA BHUM VOY.NO. (139W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-4-2023** 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V FILOTIMO VOY.NO. (313W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V FILOTIMO VOY.NO. (313W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-4-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

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

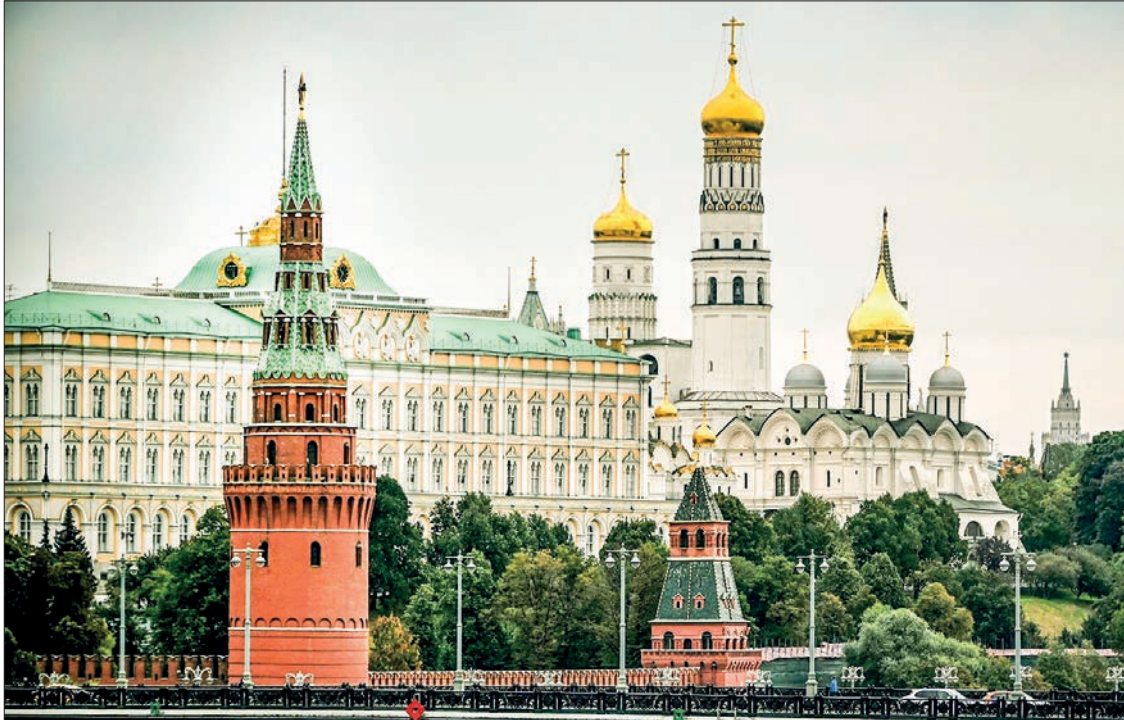
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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Russia to focus on ending US hegemony: Foreign Policy Concept



A view of the Kremlin during the last day of the three-day parliamentary and local elections in Moscow, Russia, 19 September 2021. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin approved on Friday a new version of the Foreign Policy Concept, in which Russia expressed the country's intention to end US hegemony.

To build a multipolar world, Russia will focus on eliminating the US dominance in world affairs and create conditions to counter any "neo-colonial and hegemonic ambitions", the document said.

Russia called the United States "the main inspirer, organizer and executor of the aggressive anti-Russian policy of the collective West, the source of the major risks to the security of Russia, international peace and balanced, equitable and progressive development of mankind."

Russia voiced its readiness

to maintain strategic parity and peaceful coexistence with the United States and to establish a balance of interests between the two countries.

But the prospects for such relations depend on the US readiness to abandon its policy of forceful domination and revise its anti-Russian course in favour of interactions with Russia, the document said.

As for the normalization of Russia-Europe ties, the concept criticized the strategic policy of the United States to "draw and deepen dividing lines in Europe to undermine the competitiveness of the economies of Russia and European states, limit the sovereignty of European states, and ensure the US global dominance." — AFP

Japan launches new agency to deal with children's issues



A female staffer (R) delivers free diapers to a household with a baby in October 2020 in the western Japan city of Akashi, Hyogo Prefecture, under a program to support childrearing. PHOTO: AKASHI CITY OFFICE / KYODO

JAPAN on Saturday launched a new agency for overseeing child

struggles to reverse the country's declining birthrate.

The Children and Families Agency, under the direct supervision of the prime minister, will tackle a wide range of challenges, including the perilously low birthrate, child abuse and poverty, as the "control tower" in compiling policies while eliminating sectionalism. The agency, the first governmental body to be established after the Digital Agency in September 2021, brought together relevant departments from the Health, Labour and Welfare Ministry as well as the Cabinet Office. Combined with people from the private sector and local governments, the agency has around 430 officials. Yumiko Watanabe, a senior bureaucrat of the welfare ministry, heads the agency. — Kyodo

policies as the government under Prime Minister Fumio Kishida

Dominion's US\$1.6 bln defamation suit vs Fox News to go to jury trial

A US judge on Friday ordered a jury trial in the \$1.6 billion defamation lawsuit filed by Dominion Voting Systems against Fox News over the 2020 presidential election.

Delaware Superior Court Judge Eric Davis, in a blow to the Rupert Murdoch-owned television network, denied a bid by Fox

News to get the suit dismissed.

Instead, the judge said Dominion, a voting technology company, had proven some elements of its defamation claim, and the case should be heard by a jury.

A trial is expected to begin in April, and may be one of the most consequential defamation cases

ever heard in the United States.

Dominion sued Fox News in Delaware in March 2021 alleging that the news behemoth promoted Donald Trump's false claims that its machines were used to rig the presidential election, while knowing they were untrue. — AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

UN Security Council concerned over Russian nuclear weapons in Belarus

THE UN Security Council was divided Friday as Western nations expressed concern about Moscow's announcement it will deploy tactical nuclear weapons in neighbouring Belarus, but permanent Council member Russia remained defiant.

China and Brazil, for their part, condemned nuclear proliferation in general as the Council met to discuss the 25 March announcement from Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"This is a further blow to the arms control architecture, to strategic stability in Europe, and to international peace and security," French Ambassador Nicolas de Riviere said at the meeting requested by Ukraine, which has been fighting off a Russian invasion for more than a year. — AFP

Mexico's army accused of withholding info on missing students

AN independent commission investigating the 2014 disappearance of 43 Mexican students has accused the armed forces of deliberately withholding information about the case.

Officially, cartel members killed the students and incinerated their remains. But exactly what happened to them has been hotly disputed. — AFP



A political display outside of the Fox News headquarters in New York City, 21 July 2020. PHOTO: TIMOTHY A. CLARY/AFP

Greek PM wants EU aid for steel fence extension along Türkiye border

GREEK Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis on Friday called on the European Union to “seriously consider” providing financial aid to help extend an anti-migrant steel fence along the border with Türkiye.

“I think it’s about time for the EU to seriously consider providing European funds for these types of projects,” the head of government told AFP, on the sidelines of a visit announcing the project at Feres in northeastern Greece.

“After all, we’re contributing towards European security and we are also contributing towards a more integrated and effective European asylum policy.”

Athens has decided to extend by 35 kilometres a five-metre high

steel fence which runs along the Evros river marking the border with Türkiye.

The fence is currently 37.5 km long, and Athens aims to carry out the extension within a year, adding a total of 100 km by 2026.

Mitsotakis has insisted that, even without EU funds, the project, estimated at 100 million euros, will go ahead.

“What you see here is an obstacle that the Greek government has built in order to protect the borders of a country which also happens to be the external borders of the European Union,” he said. “I’ve always been a firm believer that we cannot reach a new agreement on migration and asylum unless we protect our external borders.



PM Kyriakos Mitsotakis walks next to the steel fence Athens wants the EU to help extend. PHOTO: AFP

“And what we’re doing here, I think, is a significant contribution

towards that end. What you see here has been funded exclusively

by the Greek budget, by Greek taxpayers.”—AFP

Ugandan troops join regional force in DR Congo as rebel fighters ignore retreat deadline



PHOTO: The Ugandan contingent of the East African Community (EAC) force entered Bunagana on Friday morning, according to the force commander, Kenyan General Jeff Nyagah. PHOTO: UGANDA PEOPLES’ DEFENCE FORCES

UGANDAN troops operating as part of an East African regional military force entered the east DR Congo border town of Bunagana on Friday, an army officer

and witnesses said.

The soldiers are intended to supervise the gradual withdrawal of the M23 rebel group, which has conquered swathes of territory in

eastern Congo since taking up arms again in late 2021.

The Ugandan contingent of the East African Community (EAC) force entered Bunagana on Friday morning, according to the force commander, Kenyan General Jeff Nyagah.

He explained to reporters on Friday that about 1,000 Ugandan soldiers had crossed into the town – which lies on the Ugandan border – as part of a contingent that is expected to eventually comprise 2,000 troops. A Bunagana resident also told AFP that Ugandan troops had entered the town, with vehicles and tanks.

On Thursday evening, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni stated that the troops are not due to fighting the M23. — AFP

Fifteen hurt as two Swiss trains derail in storm

FIFTEEN people were injured Friday when two trains derailed as stormy winds lashed northwestern Switzerland, police said.

The incidents, on regional passenger rail lines, took place within 20 minutes of each other, and about 30 kilometres apart, north of the Swiss capital Bern.

Three people were injured in the first derailment, including

the driver, and 12 were hurt in the second, including one person with serious injuries.

Wind speeds of 136 kilometres per hour were recorded nearby.

One train carrying 16 people derailed in the lakeside village of Luscherz at around 4:30 pm, police said.

“While a strong wind was

blowing... the front carriage of the train overturned on the right of the track, slipped down a small embankment for a few metres and finally came to a halt,” Bern cantonal police said in a statement. “Three people, including the driver in the overturned carriage, were injured, treated by four ambulance teams and taken to hospital.” — AFP

Trump ‘shocked’ by indictment but ‘ready to fight’

DONALD Trump’s legal team went on the offensive on Friday following his historic indictment, vowing the former president would never seek a plea deal and was ready “to fight” all charges.

The 76-year-old Trump, who is hoping to recapture the White House in 2024, chimed in with attacks on the prosecutors who brought the charges against him and even the judge expected to hear the case.

“ELECTION INTERFERENCE, KANGAROO COURT!” Trump posted on his social media platform Truth Social, add-

ing that Juan Manuel Marchal, the judge who may preside over an eventual trial, “hates me.”

Trump is to be booked, fingerprinted and will have a mugshot taken at a Manhattan courthouse on Tuesday afternoon before appearing before a judge as the first ever American president to face criminal charges.

“The president will not be put in handcuffs,” said Joe Tacopina, one of Trump’s attorneys, adding that he does not believe prosecutors will “allow this to become a circus”. — AFP



Supporters of former President Donald Trump protest near Trump’s Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach, Florida, on 31 March 2023. PHOTO: GIORGIO VIERA / AFP



Preliminary Myanmar national futsal team trains in Taunggyi



A Myanmar team futsal player is seen in the training session in Taunggyi. **PHOTO: MFF**

THE Myanmar national futsal team has been training in Taunggyi, Shan State since 28 March with nine members of the executive coach and 23 preliminary players.

The Myanmar futsal squad went to Taunggyi to prepare

for the Asian Futsal Championship Qualifiers to be held in October after the first round of domestic futsal leagues ended.

Team leader Dr Ye Mon Htut, Team administrator U Ye Win Htun, Head Coach Mr Burnlet, Assistant Head

Coaches U Htay Myint and U Kyaw Zin Nyunt (TG United), Goal Coach U Htun Htun Latt (MIU FC), Fitness Coach Mr Tawan Wutti, and physiotherapist U Thura Toe will handle the team during the training trip. — KZL

Madrid's Ancelotti confirms 'exciting' Brazil interest

CARLO Ancelotti confirmed the interest of the Brazilian national team in hiring him and his excitement at the prospect, but said Saturday he wanted to fulfil his contract with Real Madrid.

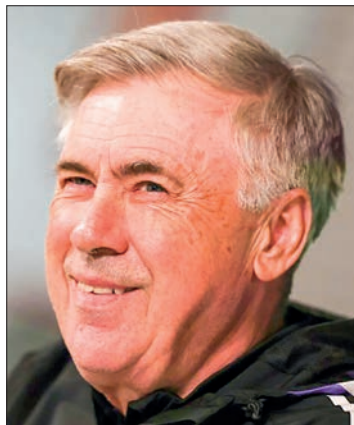
The Italian said the Brazilian Football Federation (CBF) want him to replace Tite, after the coach stepped down following the Selecao's World Cup 2022 surprise quarter-final exit, with Ramon Menezes currently in charge on an interim basis.

Ancelotti's contract with Real Madrid ends in June 2024 and the veteran Italian, 63, says he will respect his deal with the Spanish champions.

"Yes, the reality is that the Brazilian national team want me, I love that and it excites me," Ancelotti told a news conference.

"After that, you have to respect the contract, a contract that I want to see out."

Ancelotti said he is happy at Real Madrid in his second spell at the club, but that no-



Carlo Ancelotti. **PHOTO: AFP**

body knows what could happen in the future.—AFP

Man City thrash Liverpool but Jesus keeps Arsenal eight points clear

MANCHESTER City thrashed Liverpool 4-1 on Saturday but remain eight points adrift of Arsenal at the top of the Premier League after Gabriel Jesus scored twice in the Gunners 4-1 win over Leeds.

In the clash between the two sides that have dominated English football over the past five years, City were a class apart despite the absence of Erling Haaland due to injury.

Liverpool went in front through Mohamed Salah's 23rd

goal of the season but were blown away in the second half after Julian Alvarez brought City level before the break.

Pep Guardiola's men needed less than a minute in the second period to go in front as Kevin De Bruyne tapped home Riyad Mahrez's cross.

Ilkay Gundogan slammed home the third before Jack Grealish rounded off his best performance in a City shirt with a fine finish for the fourth.

"Now it's the Jack we

thought (we were buying). Aston Villa fans know this Jack," said Guardiola of Grealish, who joined for a Premier League record £100 million (\$124 million) in 2021 from the Birmingham club.

City still have a game in hand on Arsenal and the two meet in a potential title decider at the Etihad later this month.

A sobering defeat is another blow to Liverpool's hopes of a top-four finish as the Reds slip to eighth in the table. — AFP



Liverpool's Dutch defender Virgil van Dijk (L) and Liverpool's Dutch striker Cody Gakpo (C) jump for a header during the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Liverpool at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, north west England, on 1 April 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

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

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance development based on agriculture and livestock using modern production techniques and to strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To assure support for the sustainability of Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) that prioritize import substitution, export production, and the use of domestically produced raw materials, in order to increase domestic production and generate employment opportunities.
- (d) To advance the socioeconomic life of the people, in order to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.

3. Social affairs

- (a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- (b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National people and preserve and safeguard their faiths, beliefs, culture, and characteristics of patriotic nationalism.
- (c) To strengthen basic health care in order to achieve the emergence of a health system that enhances the longevity and health of the entire nation.
- (d) To comprehensively promote the education sector to make it capable of producing the human resources necessary for building a modern, developed, and progressive democratic nation.