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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.

MRTV must take a leading role in the media sector and stand at the top position: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views round the News Channel Studio on the occasion of the 77th Anniversary of Myanma Radio and Television-MRTV in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 February 2023.

STAFF must have skills to thoroughly present typical Myanmar language and Myanmar pronunciation and must be correct in stress and

intonation in the presentation of English programmes, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

at the ceremony to mark the 77th Anniversary of Myanma Radio and Television at MRTV in Tatkon of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The Senior General and party were welcomed by Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn and officials from Myanma Radio and Television.

The staff of MRTV performed song and dance entertainment and a video clip on Jubilees to the 77th anniversary was presented

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Myawady border trade crosses \$151.543 million in January

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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.

Part 4 of Maravijaya Buddha Image combined with parts 1, 2 and 3 successfully

THE Maravijaya Buddha image is being carved in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory. The Buddha image combined with parts 1, 2 and 3 was successfully settled on the jewelled throne on 31 January. An auspicious ceremony to convey the remained part 4 of the Buddha image onto the jewelled throne took place on 11 February. Conveyance processes were being undertaken on the agenda. It was successfully settled on the jewelled throne at 2:43 am on 13 February.

The conveyance processes were being carried out and part 4 of the Buddha image was carried towards the Buddha image combined with parts 1, 2 and 3 using Skid Rail from 1:35 am to 7:20 am on 15 February. Then, the pieces were settled on the jewelled throne using the Hydraulic Jack successfully at 4:5pm on the same day.



The Maravijaya Buddha Image is seen after parts 1, 2, 3 and 4 are all combined successfully.

The combination processes will be conducted as procedures. Construction tasks are being carried out for a Sasana Beikman to accommodate 1,200 members of the Sangha and congregation at religious ceremonies and other religious edifices in the Buddha Park. In accord with the guidance of venerable Sayadaws, Pitaka

treatises in line with the version adopted by the Sixth Buddhist Synod are being carved on the marble plaques in Pali and Romanized languages with the use of modern machinery in order to keep the stone plaques. The already-carved inscriptions on Tri Pitaka, Athakatha and Tika treatises were posted in front of the Buddha image. Arrangements are being made for pilgrims to view the Athakatha and Tika treatises of the Tri Pitaka treatises in the stone inscription chamber. Moreover, a plan is underway to print the Pitaka treatises in Pali and Romanized languages to be distributed to monasteries across the world. Officials are making efforts for the construction of the Buddha image and religious buildings the whole day and offering electric lights at night for public obeisance. — MNA/KTZH



(၇၅)နှစ်မြောက် မြန်မာ-ရုရှား သံတမန်ဆက်သွယ်ထူထောင်မှုအထိမ်းအမှတ်

မြန်မာ - ရုရှား ချစ်ကြည်ရေးနှင့် ပူးပေါင်းဆောင်ရွက်ရေးဖိုရမ်

Forum on Myanmar - Russia Friendship and Cooperation

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MICC-2၊ နေပြည်တော်

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 school-teachers, 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.

MRTV must take a leading role in the media sector ...

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in the MRTV Documentary programme.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that MRTV is a long-lasting public service organization which has been dutifully serving its functions in successive eras. It can be seen that the work process of MRTV cannot be undertaken by a person or an organization but through collaborative efforts.

Today's celebration honoured the 77th anniversary of MRTV as well as proved the unity of the staff. In successive eras, MRTV staff upholding the interests of the State and the people have dutifully served their assignments in unison.

During the tenure of the State Administration Council, the Senior General attended the 75th anniversary of MRTV and spoke words of encouragement to the staff. Moreover, a building was built on a grand scale to recognize the diamond jubilee hall of the MRTV and commissioned into service on 1 February 2022. Moreover, the Senior General recounted that he launched the MRTV News Channel and MRTV DTH system for broadcasting the programmes.

Currently, everybody knows some big countries wishing to influence internal traitors and expatriates with attempts to focus on their interests and their organizations turning a blind eye to public interests are still trying to cause utter devastation to the nation.



The Senior General and dignitaries inaugurate the News Channel Studio of MRTV in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Currently, it is important to educate people about the dissemination of information. Continuous dissemination of knowledge by media will be more effective. Those from the media sector need to cooperate with relevant departments in paving the way for the people to have correct attitudes and work for ensuring perpetual peace of the nation, development and improvement of the socioeconomy of the people.

The Senior General instructed TV, radio and newspapers including MRTV to urge the people to donate cash and kind for the

construction of religious buildings and the great walls of the Maravijaya Buddha image.

Although the MRTV News Channel was broadcast from the reserved studio, a separate studio facilitated with a new broadcasting room and modern machinery by spending K1,150 million from the State fund will be commissioned for broadcasting the programmes.

The Senior General expressed his pride taken in the significant features of MRTV as its functions by broadcasting several kinds of ethnic languages.

The Senior General recognized the efforts of the Ministry of Information for arranging the artistes to do their works as usual in the nation while serving original assignments and separate tasks as well as convenience of artistes in daily food, clothing and shelter measures.

The Senior General stressed the need for MRTV to produce better news and programmes, create new content and release information, and enhance the capacity of staff for serving the interests of the nation and the people.

The Senior General presented K7.7 million as cash rewards for staff who participate in the successful presentation in the 10th ASEAN Quiz (Regional Level) on a grand scale and the Music Festival Season 2 to the Union Minister for Information.

The Union Minister presented the commemorative medal

and gifts to mark the 77th Anniversary of MRTV to the Senior General.

The Senior General and party sprinkled scented water on the signboard of the News Channel Studio. The Senior General cut the ribbon to open the studio together with Deputy Prime Ministers and Union Ministers General Mya Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Soe Htut, Admiral Tin Aung San and U Win Shein.

The Senior General viewed round the radio broadcasting rooms, broadcasting of Myanma Radio (English FM Channel) and Thabyay Radio, Convergence News Room, news broadcasting of MRTV HD, MRTV News, Master Control Room, MRTV HD News Studio, MRTV News, Radio Tape Library, Radio News Room and Auditorium.

In response to the reports of the Union Minister for Information and officials, the Senior General said that MRTV must take a leading role in the media sector and take the top position. It must have a broadcasting system in conformity with the current era while preserving Myanmar traditions. Staff must have skills to thoroughly present typical Myanmar language and Myanmar pronunciation and must be correct in stress and intonation in the presentation of English programmes.

MRTV was formed as Burma Broadcasting Service-BBS on 15 February 1946. Its location was changed in the British era,

the Second World War, the Japanese era and the Parliamentary era under various names. It was formed as the Information and Broadcasting Department on 16 March 1972, and it tested the colour TV programmes on 3 June 1980. As of 1 November of the same year, colour TV programmes were launched. Then, it was re-constituted as the Myanmar Television and Radio Department-MTRD with a combination of radio services on 24 January 1991. Then, the service organization was formed as MRTV on 22 November 1997.

Now, MRTV manages the broadcasting of MRTV-HD and MRTV-News channels and MRTV-NRC, MRTV-Farmer's, Hluttaw Channel, and MRTV Sports Channel. Moreover, 17 languages of ethnics such as Kachin, Kayah, Skaw Kayin, East Poe Kayin, West Poe Kayin, Chin (Cho), Chin (Laizo), Mon, Rakhine, Shan, Wa etc are being broadcast. It operates the MRTV website and online services. In cooperation with private companies, MRTV broadcasts TV broadcasting services. Radio Myanmar broadcasts programmes from 5 am to 11 pm in addition to 17 ethnic languages. Moreover, Myanma Radio English FM Channel and Thabyay Radio are being functioned.

Currently, MRTV has turned 77 years and is standing tall as a State-owned media with progress in successive eras. — MNA/TTA



The Senior General presents cash awards to MRTV staff through Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn.

All ethnic national brethren urged to safeguard democratic system

OUR government is discharging State duties in line with the Constitution. I'd like to firmly say that our efforts following the Constitution and our standing for it are to safeguard the Constitution which emerged under the democracy and safeguard the democratic system the people aspire to as well. Hence, I'd like to urge all ethnic national brethren to safeguard the democratic system in cooperation with the government and walk on the track of peace.

(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)



The Thai ambassador calls on Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San yesterday.

DPM MoTC Union Minister receives Thai Ambassador

DEPUTY Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San received Ambassador Mr Mongkol Visittump of Thailand to Myanmar at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The Deputy Prime Minister highlighted the collaboration of air transport between Thailand and Myanmar and uplifting the development of rail transport. Both sides exchanged views on the cooperation of the transport and communications sector and closer cooperation in the future. — MNA/TS

SPTT holds third-day meeting with NMSP peace delegation

THE third-day meeting between the State Peace Talks Team-SPTT and the peace delegation led by the vice-chairman of the New Mon State Party-NMSP was held yesterday morning at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by the State Peace Talks Team led by SAC Member Union Minister at the Government Office Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee-NSPNC Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, SAC Member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein and NSP-



The third-day meeting between the State Peace Talks Team and the NMSP peace delegation is in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

NC members: Lt-Gen Min Naing and Lt-Gen Aye Win, and NMSP Vice-Chairman Nai Aung Min, Hla, Central Executive Committee members Nai Banyar Lei

and Nai Aung Ma Ngay, and representatives of the peace talks.

Both sides discussed the issues of regional development, teaching of Mon literature and general purposes.

Following the three-day discussion and negotiation, the two sides agreed and signed the final comprehensive peace agreements and exchange it with each other. Afterwards, New Mon State Party Vice-Chairman Nai Aung Min and SPTT Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae gave their closing remarks. The latter provided the former with books on Myanmar, indigenous and world affairs published by the Ministry of Information. —MNA/TS

MoFA Union Minister receives Ambassador of Thailand

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe received Mr Mongkol Visittump, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at 9:30 am on 15 February 2023 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the courtesy call, both sides cordially exchanged views on the further advancement of the existing friendly relations and bilateral coop-

eration, and also discussed matters pertaining to the expansion of multi-faceted cooperation including tourism, trade and investment, promotion of people-to-people connectivity between the two countries as well as closer collaboration at both regional and multilateral arenas. — MNA

Union Minister U Than Swe receives Thai Ambassador Mr Mongkol Visittump in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



MRTV holds outstanding award-giving ceremony marking its 77th anniversary

THE outstanding award-giving ceremony marking the 77th anniversary of MRTV (Myanmar Radio and Television) was held at the Auditorium of MRTV in Nay Pyi Taw-Tatkon yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by State Administration Council Member U Maung Ko, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, Permanent Secretary, departmental heads, staff and invitees.

SAC Member U Maung Ko made an opening speech and presented awards to MRTV staff who won the gold medal at the national level of the 23rd Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition after the entertainment programme of MRTV staff.

In his remark, the Union minister said the MRTV should make efforts for bridging communication between the government, Tatmadaw and the public. He also urged the staff to work



SAC Member U Maung Ko, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn and dignitaries watch the performance on the occasion of the 77th Anniversary of MRTV yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.



for the sake of the country and people with goodwill and great perseverance.

The Union minister then presented 43 excellent performance awards to staff on behalf of recipients and staff who won first prizes in local and foreign training courses.

Next, the deputy minister, MRTV director-general and departmental heads also gave awards to the outstanding employees in news editing, news presentation, mechanical and production/broadcasting sections and so on.

Then, the former MRTV staff presented the gifts commemorating the 77th anniversary of MRTV to the Union Minister.

At night, the music show marking the 77th anniversary of MRTV was organized in front of the headquarters of MRTV and the staff danced accompanied by the Myanmar orchestra (Saingwine).

During the event, SAC member U Maung Ko, Union Ministers and Deputy Minister oversaw the drawing lots for the staff.

The SAC member and Union Ministers also gave cash awards to the Director-General of MRTV.

The Union minister and the deputy minister presented cash awards to the staff who served for 37 years and above.

Then, the SAC member, Union ministers, the deputy minister and departmental officials enjoyed the performance of MRTV staff, artistes and singers accompanied by the MRTV modern band and Myanmar orchestra. — MNA/KTZH

MoFA, MoIC Union Ministers virtually meet officials of embassies, consul office in Asia zone, Myanmar consul-general in LA

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe and Union Minister for International Cooperation co-hosted a videoconferencing to meet the heads of Myanmar Embassies, Permanent Representative Offices and Consulates-General, Charge d'affaires of embassies in foreign countries, and Consul-General of Myanmar Consulate-General in LA yesterday.

First, Union Minister U Than Swe appreciated the efforts of heads of embassies who are serving the State duties on the front line. Despite the challenges of the country, they are protecting the interests of the country on the front line in foreign countries. While the State Administration Council is undertaking State responsibilities under the 2008 Constitution, it is also implementing the Five-Point Road Map and 12 Objectives. The country practises independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

Similarly, the government focuses on the eradication of internal armed conflicts for national solidarity and peace which is absolutely essential to the country. Moreover, the government is implementing two national tasks – the country's prosperity and food security. The heads of embassies are responsible to carry out the activities for the governments of the countries where they are serving duties to know the accurate situation of the country. They should protect the interests of Myanmar nationals in their respective countries. They should train the staff to follow the rules and regulations.

The Union minister then called on the participants to follow the directives, not to misuse the authority, to serve their duties honestly and actively and to have mutual respect between the upper and lower levels.

Then, Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing highlighted the situation of the country, current political affairs, geopolitical impact on Myanmar, sharing of activities and accurate situation of the government, serving duties in unity among the embassy staff. — MNA/KTZH

5 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 15 February, total figure rises to 633,875

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **633,875** after **five** new cases were reported on 15 February 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,353**, including **eight** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country recorded **19,490** on 15-2-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic.

The country has vaccinated **30,926,950** people aged 18 and above for COVID-19 vaccines and **6,812,745** people aged under 18 till 14 February 2023.

Status of COVID-19 vaccination (as of 14 February 2023)

People aged 18 and above who received vaccines	30,926,950
People under 18 years old who received vaccines	6,812,745

According to the research, it is found that people who have been vaccinated do not suffer severely from the disease, need not to be hospitalized and unlikely to die. If they have received booster shot, the death rates can be reduced more.

As such, the people need to follow the new normal way in living with COVID. Hence, all the people above five have to fully receive COVID-19 vaccination inoculated by the Ministry of Health free of charge. Six months after the vaccination, they have to take booster jabs at relevant health centres and ward/village administration offices without fail. Moreover, they have to wear masks while in closed chambers and public places. They need to often wash hands with soap and water or the hand gel containing alcohol (at least 60 per cent) for 20 seconds.

People need to follow the social distancing rule and avoid the crowds as much as possible. While not wearing masks, if they cough and sneeze, they need to cover mouth and noses with elbows in line with the personal hygienic ways.

COVID-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health.—MNA

MoRAC holds 61st Maha degree convocation



THE 61st convocation was held by the Department of Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture at the Maha Pasana Cave in Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye hill in Yangon yesterday afternoon.

Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Nayaka of Bhamo Monastery in Mandalay Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivam-

Union Minister U Ko Ko and the congregation observe the Five Precepts at the convocation yesterday.

sa Bhamo Sayadaw, monks who passed the exam, Union Minister U Ko Ko, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and wife, the Yangon regional government ministers, officials and invitees attended the ceremony.

The congregation took the Five Precepts from the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman.

Afterwards, the Union minister, the chief minister and ministers of Yangon Region, the director-general of the Department of Religious Affairs and officials conferred certificates to 269 monks, 30 nuns and nine laymen. — MNA/KZW

CBM Governor receives officials of Myanmar Credit Bureau

THE meeting between the governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar and the chairman, board members and officials of the Myanmar Credit Bureau took place at the Central Bank of Myanmar, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

CBM Deputy Governor Dr Lin Aung, the directors-general and deputy directors-general of the Central Bank of Myanmar attended the meeting.

At the meeting, the CBM governor said that it is necessary to quickly provide access to credit, access to finance, trade financing and credit facilities for the SMEs, agriculture, manufacturing and service industries, for the Myanmar Credit Bureau to provide complete and accurate credit information for implementation of better credit risk management and draft and submit a plan to gather credit information from non-bank financial institutions (NBFI).

Afterwards, the chairman, board members and officials of Myanmar Credit Bureau explained the progress of Myanmar Credit Bureau.



The Central Bank of Myanmar holds talks with officials of the Myanmar Credit Bureau yesterday.

Then, CBM Governor Daw Than Than Swe said that such meetings between the CBM and MCB will be conducted regularly and it is necessary to continue to make efforts to obtain information on loans in a timely manner for the stable development of the banking sector, as discussed in the meeting. — MNA/CT



Yangon Mayor U Bo Htay inspects the site for the EV charging station in Hline Township.

Yangon mayor inspects EV charging station

CHAIRMAN of the Yangon City Development Committee Yangon Mayor U Bo Htay and officials inspected the construction of the electric vehicle (EV) charging station near the car park of Thirimingala market in Hline Township and he instructed those responsible to meet the deadline and required standards.

Afterwards, the mayor and party made inspections in the market and suggested the roofs of the market be repaired.

Myanmar is making necessary preparations to introduce the use of battery electric vehicles (BEVs) and the Yangon City Development Committee will build five charging stations in Yangon Region. — MNA/KZW

LOCAL BUSINESS

YGEA, one Japanese company under negotiation for gold export

OFFICIALS of the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) engaged in negotiations with counterparts from a Japanese company for Myanmar's gold items to be placed in Japanese markets, according to the meeting held at YGEA on 15 February.

U Myo Myint, chair of YGEA elaborated that matters regarding exporting procedures to Japan were discussed at the meeting.

"We inquired about the export procedures of gold items to Japan. We delivered our gold items to Japan before the pandemic. The gold export started in the 2018-2019 Financial Year and it abruptly stopped amid the COVID-19 negative consequences. We have the plan to resume export activity once they order them. They asked for trading licence conditions, banking operations such as Telegraph-



The negotiations between officials of the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association and the Japanese company is in progress yesterday in Yangon.

ic Transfer (TT) and Letter of Credit (LC), transport conditions and customs procedures and the COVID regulations", U Myo Myint said.

So far, gold export has been suspended, he added.

However, we are making ready for gold exports.

As per the notification released by the Ministry of Commerce on 12 August 2020, transactions for gold export and import were able to be done only with the LC system earlier.

Myanmar is placed on the Grey List by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the inter-gov-

ernmental body that sets anti-money laundering standards. Therefore, the country needs to monitor the gold and jewellery exports and imports in order to ensure there is no illegal income. As per the notification released by the Trade Department, the payment method was changed

to LC. The payment using LC can take about two months, cost banking service charges on both sides, and increase the charges for security matters in transport. Consequently, gold trading in the international market has also stalled due to volatile prices. As a result of this, more than 10,000 local goldsmiths were unemployed.

The YGEA submitted a request for the resumption of the TT system to the Central Bank of Myanmar in early July 2021. From 20 December 2021, the TT system has been allowed for gold exports worth below US\$50,000 and the LC system needs to be used for exports worth above \$50,000,

Gold and other jewellery items are primarily purchased by Japan and the Republic of Korea, and other tourists also buy them, the YGEA stated. — NN/EM

Singapore top source of FDI in Myanmar in past ten months



The office of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration-DICA.

FIFTEEN Singapore-listed enterprises pumped in foreign investments of US\$1.157 billion into Myanmar in the past ten months (April-Jan) of the current financial year 2022-2023, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration's statistics showed.

Singapore companies mainly put investments into urban development, real estate, power and manufacturing sectors.

Hong Kong SAR stood as the second-largest investor this FY with an estimated capital of over \$165 million by 12 enterprises and the existing ones. China is ranked third in the line-up with

more than \$105 million from 36 businesses and the existing ones.

Two each from the Republic of Korea and China (Taipei) put investments into Myanmar, while one enterprise each from Belize, Japan and the UK also made investments in the past ten months respectively. The existing enterprises from Bangladesh, Japan, Seychelles, Chinese Taipei, China, Hong Kong SAR, the Republic of Korea, India, Thailand, the UK, Thailand, Switzerland and Samoa also increased investments.

Myanmar Investment Commission nodded 70 foreign projects from eight countries in

(April-January) of the current FY 2022-2023. The country attracted a capital of US\$1.476 billion this FY, including the expansion of capital by the existing enterprises, according to the DICA.

Those enterprises are engaged in agriculture, mining, manufacturing, power, hotels and tourism, real estate and service sectors respectively. The majority of the investments were brought into the manufacturing sector.

Singapore stood as the largest foreign investor in Myanmar in the previous years, pulling in the FDI of \$1.85 billion in the FY 2019-2020, \$2.4 billion in the FY 2018-2019, \$724.4 million in the mini-budget period (April-September, 2018), \$2.16 billion in the 2017-2018 FY, \$3.8 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, \$4.25 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, \$4.29 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$2.3 billion in the 2013-2014 FY and \$418 million in the 2012-2013 FY respectively.

Additionally, Singapore emerged as the second largest foreign investor in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, after a top investor – Japan. — KK

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 15 February 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,195
Octane 95	K2,270
Diesel	K2,275
Premium Diesel	K2,355

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,163,000 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,857,000 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	K2,845 to K2,860

The above prices may change from time to time.

The Global New Light of Myanmar

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Honestly emulate the life of educational outstanding students

OUTSTANDING students in education are more physically and mentally capable than other students although they all are equally pursuing education under the teaching of teachers. Hence, the authorities and educational officials choose the educationally outstanding students from their respective schools.

Choosing outstanding students aims to be idol students whom other students can emulate. If so, emulation will spark the confined talent of students with a vow to try hard in learning education. Moreover, selection of the outstanding students aims to initiate the turning out of human resources capable of improving society.

Most global countries invest in the education sector to be able to produce outstanding human resources to be deployed in nation-building tasks. Myanmar emphasizes the enhancement of the education sector to produce abundant educated persons.

This year’s outstanding student project aims to emerge talented, healthy and good moral students, turn out good and able citizens who are interested in educational development tasks and are keen to participate in welfare tasks of the nation and nurture student youths by showing outstanding students as samples. On 2 February this year, educational outstanding students at the district level in regions and states were announced in the grade-9, grade-10 and grade-11 in the basic education school of 2022-23 academic year. Those outstanding students are idols among the basic education students this year. In retrospect, the outstanding student project was initiated in Myanmar in 1964 but it was suspended in 1988. It resumed as the all-round outstanding youth project in 2013 and then, the project was renamed “educational outstanding student project” in 2018.

In successive eras, those students selected as outstanding students were allowed to take a rest at the camps such as Inlay Khaungtaing camp, Ngapali camp and Maungmakan camp. Although the outstanding students were selected in the 2019-20 academic year, they missed the chance to join the relevant camps due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. This academic year, the educational outstanding youth project resumed as infectious diseases could be controlled. So, a total of 478 outstanding students were selected this year.

It is believable that all the students have the chance to become outstanding ones but they have to overcome difficulties in competitiveness. Actually, life is competition. If anyone can enhance capacity, they can overcome challenges. To be able to secure the life of outstanding students, every youth has to uplift capacity. Their capacity level depends on their endeavours, and such capacity will help them along their lives in all aspects.

The Burma Circle of the Geological Survey of India and their Contributions to the Geology of Myanmar

Episode:6

SIR Thomas Henry Holland was a British geologist who worked in India with the Geological Survey of India, serving as Director from 1903 to 1910. He later worked as an educational administrator at Edinburgh University.

Thomas Holland was born on 22nd November 1868 in Helston, Cornwall, England, to John Holland and Grace Treloar Roberts. In 1884, Thomas won a scholarship to study at the Royal College of Science, graduating with a first-class degree in Geology. The dean at the Royal College of Science, Thomas Henry Huxley, made a great impression on Holland.

Holland was only 34 years of age when became Director on 25 February 1903. He had joined the Department in 1890, and from the very first showed a flair for the study of mineral deposits. His outstanding work, however, was that on the Chanockites of South India. He was for a time Curator of the Geological Section of the Indian Museum which was under the care of the Geological Survey of India. During the period of his Directorship, Holland’s personality was felt in many directions. He was instrumental in laying the foundation of the Mining and Geological Institute of India and was its first President in 1906. In his second Presidential address in the following year, Holland defined the aim of the Government geologists in India to be that of helping the development of the mineral resources of India. He also emphasized the importance of the study of mineral deposits without neglecting the academic side of geological mapping and for which he had to bear some criticism from the Geological Society of England through the Indian Office, which used his Annual Reports to those bodies for their opinion. Holland reorganized the work of the Department and raised its status in the eyes of both the Government and the public.

Holland retired from the service of the Government of India in 1909 at the early age of 41

years to accept a Professorship of Geology at Manchester University. As is well known, he was for several years Rector of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, and later Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Edinburgh University. At the same time, Holland was President of various scientific and technical societies and was Vice-President of the Royal Society from 1924-25. His great interest in the progress of the Geological Survey of India and in matters relating to geological research in this country remained till his death on 15th May 1947.

Geological Surveys

A number of areas in India and Burma were geologically mapped during Holland’s Directorship. C. S. Middlemiss carried out mapping in the Vizagapatam Hill Tracts where he came across a number of interesting rock types in association with charnockites and khondalites which he described in a petrological paper. Later Middlemiss was entrusted with the geological surveys in Rajputana and Central India, in which work he was assisted by H. Walker, A. M. Heron, S. Sethu Rama Rau, and G. de P. Cotter. The coal deposits of Naga hills in Assam were examined by R. R. Simpson. Vredenburg also wrote a valuable account of the diamond-bearing conglomerates of the Panna State.

T. H. Holland revised Professor V. Ball’s report (1850) about corundum in Economic Geology of the Manual of the Geology of India. The significant points could be extracted as follows: -

Upper Burma

Although it is commonly said that no Europeans are ever allowed to visit the ruby mines of the King of Burma, there are, as a matter of fact, two descriptions by Europeans who have visited them. The first was by the Pere Guisepppe D’Amato, the date of whose visit is not known, but it was before the year 1833. The other visitor was Mr Bredemeyer, who about twelve years ago (1886)

was for a time actually in charge of certain mines (Sagyin) which are within 16 miles of Mandalay.

The Burma ruby may be regarded as associated with a magnesia-alumina spinel- the spinel which, from its constant presence, Tavernier speaks of as the “mother of ruby”. Mr Barrington Brown was the first to prove the existence of the ruby in situ in the crystalline limestones, which are found intercalated with various types of gneisses in the Mogok area, Upper Burma.

The crystalline limestones, whose petrological characters have been worked out in detail by Professor Judd, are sometimes dolomitic and contain a large number of accessory minerals, some of which are peculiar and some identical with those found in the associated basic gneisses, pyroxenites, and amphibolites. In the former class, we have, besides the ruby, phlogopite, wollastonite, spinel, pyrrhotite, diasporite, hematite, limonite, apatite (moroxite), and graphite, whilst in the latter class there are diopside, augite (diallage), sahlite, enstatite, bronzite, hypersthene, quartz, orthoclase (murchisonite and moonstone), oligoclase, anorthite, basaltic hornblende, biotite, fuchsite, scapolite, zircon, magnetite, titanoferrite, sphene, rutile, and garnet. Large crystals of chondrodite, however, do occur in the ruby-bearing crystalline limestone of Sagyin, 60 miles south-west of Mogok ruby mines, and 16 miles north of Mandalay.

Since about the end of the fifteenth century, Burma has been famous in Europe for its rubies. An account, from hear-say, is given by Jean Baptiste Tavernier in his “Travels”. Since Tavernier’s time accounts of the mines have been published by Mr Crawford; Pere Giuseppe Amato who visited the mines sometime before 1833; Dr T. Oldham, who collected information whilst with Sir Arthur Phayre’s mission to the Court of Ava in 1855; Mr Spears, and Mr Bredemeyer, who was in the service of the King of Burma in 1868, and visited some, but not the principal, ruby mines.

Various accounts have been given of the size of rubies that have been obtained in the past in Burma, but it appears difficult to correctly estimate the value of the accounts gathered by hear-say. According to official returns, the King of Burma derived an annual revenue of about R90,000 to R100,000 annually from the ruby mines, besides stones above a certain size, which according to order were reserved for the King. Besides rubies, Mr Crawford and others mention the occurrence of the ruby of sapphire, oriental topaz, oriental amethyst, oriental emerald, and girasol sapphire. This statement has been confirmed recently by Mr Barrington Brown and Professor Judd.

The ruby-bearing rocks extend over a large portion of Upper Burma chiefly on the eastern side of the Irrawaddy, and from thence into the Shan States, the principal centres are Mainglon State, Mogok Area (The ruby mines), Nanyetseik, and Sagyin.

Mainglon State

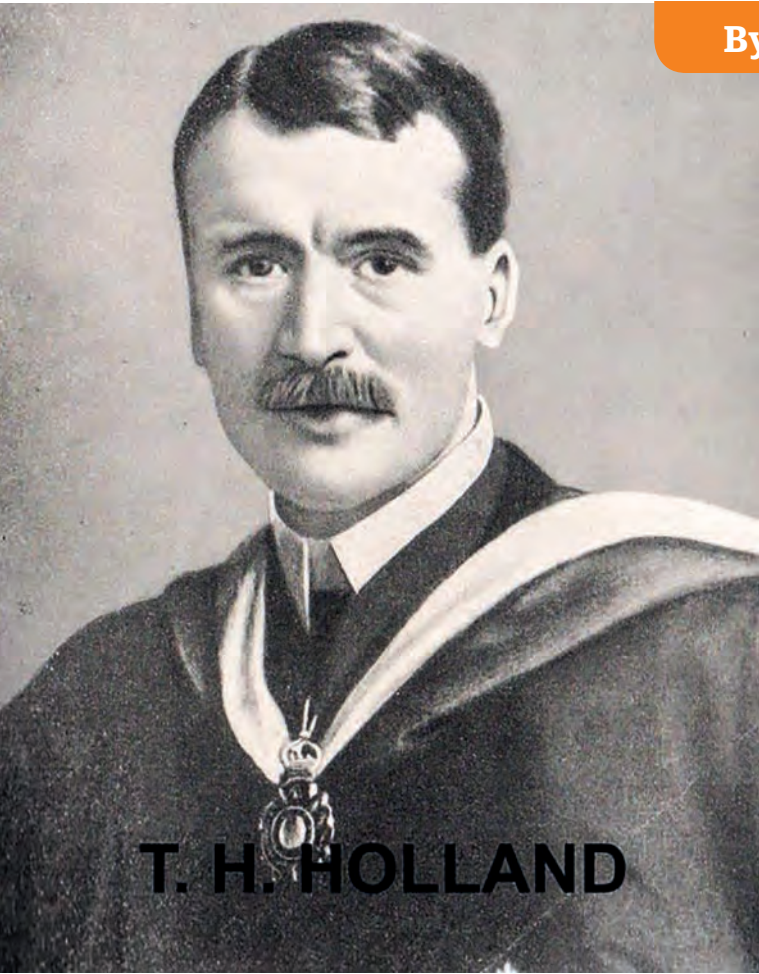
Valuable rubies are reported to have been found in the river gravels of the Nampai valley near Namseka village, 15 miles southwest of Mainglon (Lat. 22° 46’; Long. 96° 44’). Dr F. Noetling suggests that these if the report is reliable, may have been brought down by the Mogok stream from the ruby mines area. He found spinels, tourmalines, etc., in these gravels, where a large excavation had been made, but obtained no rubies.

Mogok Ruby Mines

The principal ruby mines of Burma are situated in a hilly region about 90 miles north-north-west of Mandalay, elevated between 4,000 and 5,500 feet above the sea. The chief workings are situated in the Kathay, Kyatphyen, and Mogok valleys, and cover an area of about 66 square miles. The rubies are found in (a) Crystalline limestone, (b) Hill-wash, and (c) Alluvium

Crystalline limestone

The gem mines of Upper



T. H. Holland (1868-1947): Source: GSI

Burma are situated along the outcrops of the crystalline limestone which is associated with and forms an integral part of, the gneissic rocks of this area, and which, Mr Brown first showed, is the parent rock of the ruby. Interfoliated with the gneisses are numerous bands of pegmatite, a feature of interest from the persistent occurrence of the same rock in the neighbourhood of the corundum deposits of Madras and elsewhere.

According to Mr Barrington Brown, the outcrops of this rock are easily discerned crossing the mountainsides and spurs of the open portions of the country, in the form of dark-grey masses rising above the surface of the enclosing gneiss. There are eleven distinct exposures of limestone between the falls on the Mogok Choung and the peak next to Toungnee on the southern slope of that mountain. The principal band, No. 3, along which the most important mines are situated, is some 300 feet wide, and, as far as it can be made out, extends in a sinuous line from Dattau through the end of Letny-

taung spur, on the edge of Mogok valley, onwards in a westerly direction through Bobadaung. There it curves in a south-westerly direction past Pyanbin to Pingu hill, where its course is altered to the north-westward as far as Bolog. Thence it passes through Wel-lo and Kyaukmyo to Kabein. Mr Barrington Brown estimates the width of the 11 limestone bands and the widths vary from 20 feet to 700 feet in various places.

The best section of a junction, as well as of one of the main limestone bands, is seen near Pyagone, where the latter (probably the No. 3 band) crosses through a ridge from Bobadaung.

Tracing the section northward it is as follows: -

1. Finely laminated grey gneiss, 2. Crystalline limestone, containing spinel, gneiss, feldspar, etc., 18 inches, 3. Finely laminated gneiss, 6 inches, 4. Coarsely crystalline limestone, containing graphite, mica, and augite, 50 feet, 5. Very coarsely crystalline limestone in irregularly shaped bands, probably 150 feet, 6. Finely crystalline limestone, containing

By **THAN HTUN (GEOSCIENCE MYANMAR)**

graphite, mica, and spinel, probably 10 feet, 7. Gneiss underlying the limestone just beyond mine e, probably 600 feet, 8. Band of crystalline limestone, probably 150 feet, and 9. Gneiss.

Mr Barrington Brown has also given the details of the extension of other limestone bands, some of which (bands Nos. 4 and 5 on Letnytaung spur) he found to be associated with coarse pegmatite containing large black mica and tourmaline crystals.

In the main set of limestone bands passing through the Letnytaung spur, not far from the Momeit road, and one-mile north-east of Mogok is situated the quarry which was formerly worked for the extraction of rubies from the matrix. The quarry, which is in the coarsely crystalline, semi-opaque limestone mentioned above, is 20 feet wide at the face and has been cut in for 15 feet, to where a small drift in its bottom has been advanced a short distance, making the entire length of the cutting at that part some 30 feet. The rubies are found in the rock over a space of 6 feet in width, extending almost vertically from the bottom of the quarry to the surface of the ground.

At the mines close to Bobadaung village there are some fine beds of statuary marble, similar to those seen at the ruby quarry at Mogok; and here the adjoining crystalline limestone has been quarried for the rubies it contains. This band is evidently the western extension of the one in which the Mogok quarry is situated. A cave-working nearby, called the Royal Loo, was formerly considered to be a very rich one.

Methods of Mining: The methods of mining for the ruby are suited to the three modes of its occurrence in the limestone, in the hill wash, and in the alluvium. Where the ruby-bearing earth is dug out of natural vertical tunnels and caves in the limestone, the excavations are known as Loodwins, that is, crooked or twisted mines. The open cuttings in the hill wash are called Hmyaudwins

or water mines. In the case of the alluvial deposits, where the sands and gravels are in a layer below the level of the riverbeds, they are reached by sinking pits called Twinlones, or round pits. Formerly these twinlones were made round and of small diameters but now they are sunk square and of large size.

Nanyetseik: On account of extensive washing for rubies, which has taken place previous to 1894, a “stone tract” has been declared near Nanyetseik, 32 miles north-west of Mogaung in the Bhamo district, and 22 miles east-south-east of the jade mines, to the trade of which the village of Nanya owes its existence. This stone tract was examined by Dr H. Warth, late Deputy Superintendent of, the Geological Survey of India, in April 1895, whose collection of specimens is preserved in the Geological Museum, Calcutta. Dr Warth obtained rubies and sapphires by washing the alluvium in this locality at different points over an area of 10 square miles.

Sagyin: Sagyin is easily accessible from Mandalay, either by road via Madeya in the dry season or by river via Sheinmaga. It is situated 21 miles north of the capital in the midst of a range of seven small hills, arranged in an N-S line, and isolated by the alluvium of the Irrawaddy plain. The mines have been worked for many years and King Mindoon is said to have obtained R30,000 worth of rubies in one month from an old cave-working pit in the adjoining alluvium, which was formerly called the Royal Loo.

According to a notification by the Burma Government, dated 6th November 1890, a portion of the Sagyin hills was declared a “stone tract” and all work except the quarrying of marble was prohibited.

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CURRENT
AFFAIRS

Myawady border trade crosses \$151.543 million in January



Cargo-loaded lorries are seen entering the Myawady trade zone.

THE value of trade through the Myawady border post amounted to US\$151.543 million in January 2023, the Ministry of Commerce’s statistics indicated. Trade via the Myawady bor-

der met 70.16 per cent of the target last month, with exports worth \$48.301 million and imports worth \$103.242 million.

The overall trade figures showed a sharp drop of \$66.737 million compared to that in the corresponding period last year, with a decrease of \$42.015 million in exports and \$24.722 million in imports.

The exports in agricultural products, livestock products, fishery products and manufacturing groups declined, while imports showed a decrease of \$1.519 million in capital goods, \$14.389 million in intermediate goods and \$8.814 million

in consumer goods.

Nonetheless, the trade value in January 2023 was up by \$55.301 million from that of December 2022, with an increase of \$11.672 million in exports and \$43.638 million in imports.

Exports of agricultural products, forest products, livestock products, minerals, finished industrial goods and other goods rose. Similarly, import growth of capital goods (US\$10.005 million), intermediate goods (\$16.095 million) and consumer goods (17.538 million) were recorded last month.—TWA/EM



China-made 60KW EV charger.

Five sets of EV chargers imported from China arrive

ANOTHER five sets of EV chargers for battery electric vehicles (BEVs) arrived at Yangon International Airport on 11 February, according to the Steering Committee on National-Level Development of Electric Vehicles and Related Industries.

The chargers were imported from China through NPK Motor Co Ltd. They will be used in the 60 kW charging station at the Thab-yaygon Market in Nay Pyi Taw.

The first batch of five units of 60 kW electric vehicle (EV) chargers and two sets of 200 kW EV chargers arrived on 1 February and they will be used at charging stations at No 3 Toll-gate on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, the Pyu bus station and Nay Pyi Taw Junction bus station.

There are forty electric vehicles, which are China-made BYD E2 models, have been imported and 10 electric vehicles will be used as taxis on a trial run at Yangon International Airport and another 10 at the Nay Pyi Taw Thabyaygon Market.—TWA/MKKS

New Shan garlic variety enters Yangon market

A new variety of garlic from the Aungban area, Shan State, entered the Yangon market in mid-February 2023, said a garlic dealer from Yaytama street in Bayintnaung market.

The large-size garlic was being sold at the wholesale price (sample price) of K5,500 per viss in front of the depots, due to the low supply. On the same day, the wholesale prices of old Shan garlic varieties ranged from K4,600 to K5,800 per viss.

The price of old Shan garlic started to rise on 19 December 2022, months before the season of new garlic varieties, as the stock is running low. On 19 January 2023, the price rose to K5100-6300 per viss.

Palm oil and garlic have been gaining market share in the domestic market for nearly two decades. Palm oil is an



essential item in the domestic edible oil market and has the largest market share. Similarly, the Chinese Kyukok garlic still has almost the same market share as Shan garlic.

The new Myanmar garlic, grown in the Pakokku district, can be seen in the Mandalay

market this month and traded at around K5,000 per viss. However, only a small amount of garlic was shipped to the Yangon market, due to low cultivation.

There are speculations that there is a special need to encourage and support the

domestic agricultural sectors in order to reduce the market share of similar kitchen products from abroad. Reducing the import of unnecessary foreign products will provide foreign currency to be used in importing essential goods.—TWA/CT



Thailand allows Myanmar workers with expired work permits to stay until May

MYANMAR Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand, said that the Thai government will allow Myanmar migrant workers whose work permits have ex-

pired to continue to stay until May.

The embassy added that the workers whose work permits have expired will be allowed to stay until 15 May, that new work permits can be applied for between 13 February and 15 May, and eligible applicants will be allowed to stay up to 13 February 2024 or

13 February 2025 and that the term of four CI camps will be extended to 13 May 2023.

The passport renewal for Myanmar migrant workers whose PJ passports expire in 2023 will be processed at the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok and the consulate-general office in Chiang Mai, the embassy stated.—TWA/MKKS

Migrant workers are seen applying for extension process at the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok.

HEALTH/PANDEMIC
WORLD

Japan inbound travel recovering amid airport staff shortage increases

INBOUND tourism to Japan has begun to recover since the easing of COVID-19 border controls but a shortage of staff has become an increasing problem for the airline industry, as many who left their jobs during the pandemic have not returned.

Airport staff quitting due to the sharp decline in travellers during the height of the pandemic has resulted in a more than 20 per cent decrease in security inspectors nationwide.

Although airlines have made concerted efforts to secure personnel for ground operations,

many occupations in the industry require qualifications and experience, meaning a return to an adequate supply of staff will take time. "Forty per cent of the security staff at Fukuoka Airport quit during the pandemic.

We don't have a normal situation," said Tatsuya Yamanka, an assistant manager of the human resources department at security firm Nishikei, which conducts security inspections at the airport.

While the company had been capable of handling six passenger lanes at security checkpoints



Photo taken on 4 February 2023, shows Fukuoka Airport's international terminal crowded with passengers. PHOTO: KYODO

for international routes before the pandemic, it can currently only manage three to four at a time.

At the international terminal, where the number of visitors to Japan from South Korea, Southeast Asia and other regions has increased significantly since the relaxation of border measures, it is now not uncommon to see long lines of people snaking through the baggage inspection area, with waiting times often over 30 minutes. But congestion is also a daily occurrence for domestic flights.—Kyodo

WHO urges cross-border aid delivery between Türkiye, Syria



Workers with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) receive relief supplies donated by the Chinese community in Syria, in Damascus, capital of Syria, 12 February 2023. PHOTO: AMMAR SAFARJALANI/XINHUA

THE World Health Organization (WHO) has urged governments and civil society to work together to ensure cross-border delivery

of humanitarian aid between Türkiye and Syria and within Syria itself.

The WHO's Regional Di-

rector for Europe, Hans Kluge, called the earthquakes "the worst natural disaster" in the region in a century, and emphasized the importance of all parties cooperating on aid delivery.

"The needs are huge, increasing by the hour. Some 26 million people across both countries need humanitarian assistance," said Kluge during a press conference on Tuesday.

Türkiye has suffered cataclysmic casualties, Kluge underlined, with more than 31,000 deaths and 100,000 people injured due to the earthquakes. An additional one million people are estimated to have lost their homes, and are currently living in temporary shelters.—Xinhua

French study links Covid-19 to spike in depression among young

A major French mental health study has found a huge rise in the number of young people reporting depression, with the most likely cause seen as Covid-19 and restrictions to control the disease.

Public Health France on Tuesday published the results of the latest round of a regular mental health survey which took place in 2021, a year after the most acute stage of the global pandemic.

It found that 20.8 per cent of 18 to 24-year-olds reported having experienced a depressive



Students protested against university coronavirus policies on 20 January 2021. PHOTO: GETTY/AFP/FILE

episode in the last 12 months, compared with 11.7 per cent in the previous survey conducted in 2017.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Thousands rally in Colombia in support of president's reforms

THOUSANDS of people took to the streets in Colombia's main cities on Tuesday to express support for President Gustavo Petro's health and pension reforms.

Labour, teacher and health worker unions answered a call from the country's first ever left-wing government to support an ambitious battery of reforms that Petro has submitted to Congress.

The reforms are likely to pass as Petro's left-wing supporters in Congress enjoy a majority thanks to a coalition with centrist and moderate right-wing parties.

Petro is due to explain his reforms in a public address later on Tuesday afternoon from the seat of power in Bogota.

"Those who won (the elections) were the people and the people want change in Colombia," said Petro on Twitter.

"We are going to change into a democratic and peaceful country."

Waving Colombian flags and holding up signs praising health reforms, Petro supporters congregated in Bogota, Medellin, Cali and other cities. So far, the Petro government has only shared the details of its health reform proposals, which aim to increase the role of the state and reduce that of the private sector in the health system. It is opposed by the right-wing opposition and the union of business owners that deliver private healthcare.— AFP

China to resume short-term visa issuance to S Korean citizens

THE Chinese Embassy in Seoul said Wednesday it will resume the issuance of short-term visas for South Korean citizens this weekend, lifting restrictions it imposed in early January as a retaliatory step for its neighbor's tighter border controls over COVID-19.

The restart of visa issuance on Saturday follows South Korea's termination of similar restrictions last weekend as COVID-19 infections in China subside.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning had said at a press conference last Friday that Beijing would "actively consider" removing restrictions introduced on 10 January on its short-term visa issuance to South Korean citizens. Earlier this year, South Korea, Japan and several other countries strengthened border controls for travellers from China, which reopened its borders and scrapped quarantine measures on 8 January amid fears over widespread COVID-19 infections in the country.—Kyodo

ECONOMY

WORLD/AD



PM hopes new BOJ chief will guide policy “appropriately” with gov’t

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Wednesday expressed hope that academic Kazuo Ueda, his nominee for the next Bank of Japan governor, will guide monetary policy appropriately in coordination with the government.

Kishida said he wants the BOJ to continue to “consider economic, price and financial conditions” while working together with the government under Ueda, 71.

The prime minister called Ueda, a former BOJ board member, the “most appropriate” choice for governor, describing him as an “internationally renowned economist” who has “deep knowledge of the field of finance in terms of theory and practice.”—Kyodo

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of **Zibo NAB Agrochemicals Limited** have registered the following products in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name “**Topagri Myanmar Co.,Ltd**”, to new distributor name “**Our Farm Co.,Ltd**”. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. **Our Farm Co.,Ltd**. Ph-09401573814

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	NAB-Htate Tan 10 EC	Bifenthrin 10% EC	P2018-4077

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of **Shandong Max Agro Co.,Ltd** have registered the following products in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name “**Myanmar Max Agro Service Co.,Ltd**”, to new distributor name “**Golden Lion High Tech Agricultural Resources Co.,Ltd**”. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. **Myanmar Max Agro Service Co.,Ltd**. Ph-09401573814

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	Cobra 1	Emamectin Benzoate 40g/kg + Thiamethoxam 110g/kg WDG	P2022-5963

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of **Shanghai Topchems Industry Co.,Ltd** have registered the following products in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name “**Agriman Myanmar Co.,Ltd**”, to new distributor name “**Our Farm Co.,Ltd**”. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. **Our Farm Co.,Ltd**. Ph-09401573814

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	Top-Carbsect 20 EC	Carbosulfan 20% EC	F2022-3410

Iran woos Chinese, other tourists as Westerners stay away

WESTERN tourists, who flocked to Iran just a few years ago, are being advised by their governments to stay away, forcing the Islamic republic’s struggling tourism industry to look elsewhere.

Hoping for better days, tourism professionals are wooing visitors from countries like China and Russia which maintain good ties with Iran. Westerners have long been attracted to Iran’s many ancient and Islamic sites, its mountain scenery and its millennia-old



Tourists visit the Lotfollah Mosque on Naqsh-e Jahan Square in the central Iranian city of Isfahan. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

culture. European visitors began to return to Iran in 2015, when it emerged from decades of isolation after signing a landmark nuclear deal with major powers led by the United States.—AFP

UK inflation retreats further, remains above 10%

BRITISH annual inflation dropped further last month on easing transport costs, official data showed Wednesday, but remains above 10 per-

cent, prolonging a cost-of-living crisis that has sparked massive strikes. Inflation around the world is easing after striking the highest levels in decades last year as the invasion of Ukraine by Russia fuelled energy and food prices.—AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR SOLO VOY.NO. (988N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR SOLO VOY.NO. (988N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-2-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V FILOTIMO VOY.NO. (307W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V FILOTIMO VOY.NO. (307W/E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-2-2023** 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC JAKARTA VOY.NO. (2304S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC JAKARTA VOY.NO. (2304S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-2-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

White House unveils deal with Musk on EV chargers

TESLA'S US charging network will be available to other electric vehicle brands for the first time following White House negotiations with Elon Musk, the Biden administration announced Wednesday. Tesla has agreed to make at least 7,500 chargers nationwide open to non-Tesla EVs by the end of 2024, according to a White House fact sheet laying out its latest efforts to add 500,000 EV chargers

by 2030. The White House has frequently had prickly relations with Musk but Biden administration staff said Tuesday the billionaire had been responsive when officials contacted major EV players to extend the charging network. A lack of sufficient charging capacity has been seen as a major hurdle for the EV transition in the United States, with driver fear at the lack of available chargers called

"range anxiety". Currently, Tesla owners can purchase an adapter to charge at non-Tesla EV stations but other brands are not able to do the same at Tesla's network. Tesla's network of "Superchargers" is widely viewed as constituting a head start over those being built by other companies. Bipartisan 2021 legislation backed by Biden included \$7.5 billion in funding for EV chargers. Tesla's

shift to allow charging of other brands with an adapter allows Musk's company to qualify for US subsidies, Biden administration officials said Tuesday. The Biden administration's policy update also listed charging commitments from other leading companies, including a joint venture between Hertz and BP and initiatives by General Motors, ChargePoint and others.—AFP



The Biden administration reached a deal to ensure that non-Tesla brand electric vehicles can fuel up at some Tesla charging stations. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**



The parent of All Nippon Airways Co was the first customer for Mitsubishi's SpaceJet, Japan's first domestically manufactured passenger jet, ordering 25 aircraft when the project was officially launched in 2008. **PHOTO: FLIGHT GLOBAL/AIRTEAMIMAGES/KYODO**

ANA says would buy future Japan-made jets despite SpaceJet failure

ANA Holdings Inc President Koji Shibata said Wednesday the company would consider buying domestically made passenger jets if there is a future project, a week after Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd formally scraped its plan to develop one. The parent of All Nippon Airways Co was the first customer for Mitsubishi's SpaceJet, Japan's first domestically manufactured passenger jet, ordering 25 aircraft when the project was officially launched in 2008. But the development was delayed repeatedly due to a lack of know-how and skilled engineers, leading the company last week to finally pull the plug on the high-profile project that has cost about one trillion yen (\$7.5 billion).—Kyodo

Lufthansa flights cancelled, re-routed after IT outage

GERMAN airline giant Lufthansa said Wednesday it was forced to cancel or delay flights across its airlines after construction work in Frankfurt caused a major IT outage. Frankfurt airport, Lufthansa's main hub, said it had stopped most planes from landing to avoid overcrowding as thousands of passengers were unable to board flights. Lufthansa said the IT systems failure had been caused by construction work in the Frankfurt region that had damaged broadband fibre-optic cables. "Flight operations are expected to stabilize in the early evening," it added. Lufthansa is Europe's biggest airline group. It also owns Eurowings, Swiss, Brussels and Austrian Airlines.—AFP

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of **Forward(Beihai)Hepu Pesticide Co.,Ltd PRC** have registered the following products in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name "**FORWARD (MYANMAR) Co.,Ltd**", to new distributor name "**SIM SIM Co.,Ltd**". If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. **SIM SIM Co.,Ltd**. Ph-09401573814

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	Forazole 5 SC	Hexaconazole 5% w/v	F2013-614
2.	Foral 50 WP	Iprodione 50% WP	F2014-1107
3.	Formeta 25 WP	Metalaxyl 25% WP	F2014-1106
4.	Forward Zineb 80 WP	Zineb 80% w/w	F2013-861
5.	Fortrazine 80 WP	Atrazine 80% w/w	F2014-857
6.	Forprefit 300 EC	Pretilachlor 30% w/v	F2013-859
7.	Formectin 1.8 EC	Abamectin 1.8% w/w	F2013-856
8.	Forphate 75 SP	Acephate 75% w/w	F2013-144
9.	Shenphos	Aluminium Phosphide 56% w/v	F2013-145
10.	Forsulfan 25 EC	Carbosulfan 25% w/v	F2013-854
11.	Forcythrin 10 EC	Cyfluthrin 10% EC	F2014-1104
12.	Forgen 50 SC	Fipronil 5% w/v	F2013-860
13.	Forgen 800 WG	Fipronil 80% w/w	F2013-858
14.	Fortavin 37.5% SC	Thiodicarb 37.5% SC	F2014-1105
15.	Forcis 2.5 EC	Deltamethrin 2.5% EC	F2014-1102
16.	Formisin 20 EC	Amitraz 20% w/v	F2013-855
17.	Forwathrin C440 EC	Cypermethrin 4% + Profenofos 40% w/v	F2013-672
18.	Formalathion 50 EC	Malathion 50% w/v	F2013-654

TRADEMARK CAUTION

British American Tobacco (Brands) Inc., a company formed and existing under the laws of United States of America, and having its registered office at 251 Little Falls Drive Suite 100, Wilmington DE 19808-1674, United States of America hereby declares that the Company is the Owner and Sole proprietor of the following Trademark:



The above Trademark is used in respect of "Cigarettes; tobacco, raw or manufactured; roll your own tobacco; pipe tobacco; tobacco products; tobacco substitutes (not for medical purposes); cigars; cigarillos; cigarette lighters for smokers; cigar lighters for smokers; matches; smokers' articles; cigarette paper; cigarette tubes; cigarette filters; pocket apparatus for rolling cigarettes; hand held machines for injecting tobacco into paper tubes; electronic cigarettes; liquids for electronic cigarettes; tobacco products for the purpose of being heated." in **Class 34**.

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the above Trademark or other infringements whatsoever thereto will be dealt with according to law.

Daw Aye Tha Zin Myo (H.G.P)
For **British American Tobacco (Brands) Inc.**
c/o **Baker & McKenzie Limited**
Suite 28, Level 14, Junction City Tower,
No.3/A Bogyoke Aung San Road,
Pabedan Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
Dated: **16 February 2023**

GLOBAL
AFFAIRS

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

N Korean leader Kim's daughter to be featured on new stamps



A new stamp design released by North Korea's Korea Stamp Corp on its website in commemoration of the successful test launch of the new "Hwasong-17" intercontinental ballistic missile launch test shows North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (R) with a girl believed to be his daughter Kim Ju Ae. **PHOTO: KYODO**

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un's daughter will be featured on stamps to be issued by the country's authorities on Friday, according to the website of state-run Korea Stamp Corp., in a move that raises the profile of Kim's potential successor.

Kim's "beloved daughter", believed to be his second child Kim Ju Ae, who is around 10 years old, will appear in five of the eight stamps to be sold in commemoration of the successful test launch of the new "Hwasong-17" intercontinental ballistic missile last November, the website showed.

The stamps are based on images released by North Korean media, and carry descriptions that say the photographs were taken on 18 November when the ICBM was fired, and 26 November when the leader and his daughter took part in a photo session with people who contributed to the missile's development.

The girl accompanied Kim at a military parade held on 8 February in Pyongyang to mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of the country's armed forces, according to pictures released by state media, reinforcing speculation that she is being groomed as a potential successor.—Kyodo

China urges US to thoroughly probe alleged illegal balloon flights

CHINA repeated its claim on Tuesday that US high-altitude balloons have illegally flown over its airspace more than 10 times since last year, urging Washington to thoroughly investigate the matter and provide an explanation.

The United States on Monday flatly denied the Chinese claim, with White House national security spokesman John Kirby saying it is "just absolutely not true."

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said at a press conference in Beijing that many balloons launched by the United States have travelled across the globe since May last year

and flown over China without local authorities' approval.

Asked about details of the alleged US balloon flights over Chinese airspace such as the altitudes and areas traversed, Wang only said Washington "needs to give an explanation on this".

Wang on Monday called the United States "the No 1 surveillance country," alleging it has "the largest spy network in the world".

The trading of barbs came after the US downing of a suspected Chinese spy balloon off the coast of South Carolina on 4 February. The US military has since destroyed three unidentified flying objects.—Kyodo

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Russia denies plotting coup in Moldova

RUSSIA on Tuesday slapped down as "completely unfounded" accusations from Moldova that Moscow was plotting to violently overthrow the country's pro-European leadership with the help of saboteurs.

"Such claims are completely unfounded and unsubstantiated," the Russian foreign ministry said. Moldova's President Maia Sandu on Monday accused Russia of plotting her government's overthrow. Ukrainian leader Volodymyr

Zelensky said last week that Kyiv had "intercepted the plan for the destruction of Moldova by Russian intelligence".

On Tuesday, the Russian foreign ministry accused Kyiv of seeking to pit Moldova against Russia and accused Moldovan authorities of Russophobia. "Unlike Western countries and Ukraine, we do not interfere in the internal affairs of Moldova and other countries of the world," the ministry said.—AFP

UK embassy guard caught after spying for Russia: prosecution

A British security guard at the UK's embassy in Germany who pleaded guilty to spying was snared in an elaborate sting after sending sensitive material to Russia, prosecutors said Monday. David Ballantyne Smith, 58, has admitted to eight charges and London's Old Bailey criminal court is now considering arguments ahead of his sentencing on Friday. Smith, who

worked at the Berlin embassy for five years, pleaded guilty in November to violating the Official Secrets Act. The court was told that he was motivated by an intense hatred for his homeland.

Making their case for a strong sentence, prosecutors on Monday said Smith had sent a letter to a member of the military staff at the Russian embassy in Berlin.—AFP

On EU, Ukraine borders, Belarus special forces are 'ready'



Paratroopers of the 38th Separate Guards Air Assault Brigade - a special forces brigade of the Armed Forces of Belarus - mount a tank during training exercises at the brigade's grounds in Brest on 13 February 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

IN reclusive Belarus, just a few kilometres from the EU frontier, special forces in the army of Kremlin ally Alexander Lukashenko are simulating forest combat while paratroopers nearby practise jumping from aircraft.

The strongman has ruled

his ex-Soviet country with an iron fist for nearly three decades and for years flirted with the West before backing Russia's intervention in Ukraine last year.

He allowed the Kremlin to use his country as a launching pad for its military operation against Kyiv last February and

fears have been building since that his troops could also intervene.

"We are ready to fulfil any tasks, including the most difficult ones if we have to," Vadim Lukashевич, deputy commander of the Special Operations Forces of Belarus, told AFP.—AFP

Verdict for Italy’s Berlusconi in starlet bribery trial

AN Italian court is set to rule Wednesday on whether billionaire ex-prime minister Silvio Berlusconi bribed witnesses to lie about his “bunga bunga” parties in an underage prostitution case.

Milan prosecutors have called for the media magnate, 86, to be jailed for six years for allegedly paying young starlets and others for “silence and lies” about his notoriously hedonistic soirees, which he insists were elegant dinners.

Berlusconi, whose Forza Italia party is a member of Prime

Minister Giorgia Meloni’s governing coalition, has long been dogged by legal battles, nearly all of which he has won.

A guilty verdict in Milan would be a serious blow for the senator, though his age and fragile health mean he would not serve any time behind bars.

He would also have the right to appeal, meaning a definitive sentence could take years.

But a conviction would be embarrassing for Meloni, whose hard-right government has been in power since October.

At the weekend, she was



Berlusconi was Italian prime minister three times between 1994 and 2011.
PHOTO: AFP

forced to reiterate her new government’s support for Ukraine after yet another challenge by Berlusconi, this time when he

criticized President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Hush money

Berlusconi is accused of bribing witnesses to lie in a previous trial in which he was charged with paying for sex in 2010 with then 17-year-old Moroccan nightclub dancer Karima el-Mahroug, better known by her stage name “Ruby the Heart Stealer”.

He was initially found guilty, but acquitted in 2014 after an appeals court found there was no proof he knew she was a minor.— AFP

Cambodia rejects ‘biased’ concerns over news outlet closure



Supporters of online media outlet Voice of Democracy (VOD) hold placards in front of VOD office in Phnom Penh on 13 February 2023, after Cambodian Prime Minister said VOD would have its operating licence revoked. PHOTO: SUY SE / AFP

CAMBODIA on Tuesday hit back at “politically driven” and “biased” concerns from Western governments over the shut-

down of one of the country’s last independent media outlets ahead of national elections.

Online Khmer- and English-language outlet Voice of Democracy (VOD) stopped broadcasting on Monday. Prime Minister Hun Sen had ordered its licence revoked over what he said was an erroneous report about his eldest son.

Late Monday night the United States said it was “deeply concerned” by the “abrupt” closure of the broadcaster, adding to a chorus of criticism over Phnom Penh’s actions.— AFP

Pandemic racism, mass shootings spur Asian-Americans to take up guns

RICKY Lam has always stayed away from guns. But since two mass killings in the space of a couple of days rocked California’s Asian community, this 35-year-old Chinese-American is thinking again.

“I’m still on the fence. I don’t know if I want to purchase a gun. But the last shootings reminded me that I need to decide,” he told AFP.

Lam lives with his family in the suburbs of Los Angeles just a few miles (kilometres) from Monterey Park, where last month an elderly Asian gunman killed 11 Lunar New year revelers at a dance studio.

Two days later in the north



Gun seller David Liu proudly displays the weapons he has for sale.
PHOTO: AFP

of California, seven farmworkers, most of them Asian, were gunned down in what prosecutors say was a workplace shooting carried out by a 66-year-old Chinese man.

In that case, Zhao Chunli is due to appear in court near Half Moon Bay on Thursday.—AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Nikki Haley announces 2024 US presidential bid

FORMER US ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley announced Tuesday she is running for president, becoming the first high-profile candidate to challenge Donald Trump -- her onetime boss -- for the Republican nomination.

Casting herself as a younger, fresher alternative to the 76-year-old Trump, Haley had been hinting at a possible run for weeks and teasing a “big announcement” on 15 February.

In the end, the 51-year-old declared her candidacy a day early, on Valentine’s Day.

“I’m Nikki Haley and I’m running for president,” the former governor of South Carolina and the child of Indian immigrants said in a video statement. “It’s time for a new generation of leadership -- to rediscover fiscal responsibility, secure our border and strengthen our country, our pride and our purpose,” she said in the video shot in Bamberg, the South Carolina town of her birth.

Haley is positioning herself as a changemaker who can reinvigorate a party and country she says have lost their way in recent years, and she played up her personal background as part of her appeal to unite a nation strained by racial tensions.— AFP

Hundreds wed in Valentine’s Day ceremony in Mexico

HUNDREDS of couples wed Tuesday in a mass ceremony on Valentine’s Day in one of the last Mexican states to legalize same-sex marriage.

“It’s an important date for us because we met on 14 February,” said 24-year-old Sarai Vargas, who wed her partner Yazmin Acosta, 27.

“We’re happy because same-sex marriage was approved just three months ago here in the State of Mexico, so we decided to marry this year,” she added.

Nearly 1,000 couples took part in the event, which included 35 same-sex unions, according to a municipal official.

The authorities provided a hairdressing and make-up service for those taking part.

Marriage equality was approved in October in the State of Mexico, the most populous of the country’s 32 states, located on the outskirts of the capital Mexico City.

Same-sex marriage is now legal throughout the Latin American nation, more than a decade after Mexico City became the first to celebrate same-sex unions in 2010.—AFP



SPORT

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

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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

Woods lauds LeBron longevity, seeks his own late hurrah

TIGER Woods reflected on LeBron James's NBA career scoring record on Tuesday, marvelling at the Lakers great's continued dominance even as he tries to prolong his own superstar career. "That record, we thought it would never be surpassed," Woods said of James's move past Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to the top of the NBA's all-time scoring list — a spot Abdul-Jabbar had held for 39 years.

"What LeBron is doing, also the amount of minutes he's playing, no one's ever done that

before at that age. To be able to play all five positions, that's never been done before at this level for this long."

Asked about a possible equivalent in the golf world Woods said perhaps the record 82 US PGA Tour titles he shares with Sam Snead.

At 47, with 15 major championships on his resume and after litany of injuries that have left their marks on him, he's not giving up on adding to that tally — even if he knows his time is growing shorter. — AFP



Team Myanmar striker Win Naing Tun (red jersey) attempts for the header during their AFF Cup 2022 match against Team Malaysia. PHOTO: THAW GYI

Team Myanmar to play international friendlies in March

THE Myanmar national football team will compete in international friendly matches in March when international football week begins.

The Myanmar Football Federation is planning for Team Myanmar to play friendly matches, and two matches will be played, officials said.

The Myanmar national team has stopped training since the end of the 2022 AFF Cup and will be able to prepare for international friendly matches only in the third week of March.

Team Myanmar will play against the national teams from the Asian region, and they have reached an agreement with the Indian national team, and comparisons are being made for the remaining match.

As the head coach of the Myanmar national team, Antoine Hey, mutually terminated the contract with the Myanmar football federation at the end of January, a new coach or an interim coach must be appointed ahead of these friendly matches.

Myanmar has played five international friendly matches in 2022, drawing two and losing three including a goalless draw match against the Hong Kong team in May 2022, and one defeat match against Bahrain 0-2.

In September, they played two friendly matches against the Hong Kong team, losing the first match 0-2 and the second match with a goalless draw. They lost by six goals in a friendly match against Thailand in December. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

United manager Ten Hag wishes Barcelona tie was Europa League final

MANCHESTER United manager Erik ten Hag believes his side's last 32 Europa League clash against Barcelona would have been worthy of the final itself.

United have enjoyed a resurgence under their Dutch boss, who took charge ahead

of this season.

They now travel to Spain for Thursday's first-leg tie against La Liga leaders Barcelona in third place in the Premier League, five points behind table-toppers Arsenal but having played two games more than the Gunners.

Both Barcelona and United have rich European histories, with eight European Cup and Champions League titles between them, in addition to other continental trophies.

"I think Barcelona and (us) as well (would) have preferred to play (this match) in the final," Ten Hag told UEFA in comments published Wednesday.

"We are looking forward (to it), it (takes) a lot of energy searching for that finish, and it will be a great game.

"Hopefully, everyone is fit for Barcelona and for us. So we see a game (that will be played) at the highest level."

He also paid tribute to Barcelona counterpart Xavi, saying he had been a fan since his playing days. — AFP



Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag believes Thursday's Europa League meeting with Barcelona will be of 'the highest level'. PHOTO: AFP