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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.

Duty-assigned staff members in eradicating illegal trade need to be free from corruption: Vice-Senior General



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the meeting 2/2023 of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 March 2023.

STAFF members need to inform nearby region and state governments or relevant military command headquarters about their difficulties in time to take action against offenders under the law, said Chairman of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the meeting 2/2023 of the steering committee at the Ministry of Commerce

in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General said that illegal trade is a hindrance to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises which lose the capability to compete in the market. The commodities which were imported without tax payment hindered to products of MSMEs. If the action cannot be taken against illegally imported commodities, MSMEs will face difficulties in their development.

Seizures in February 2023 of illegally imported goods in 477 cases were valued at over K12 billion, K4.63 billion (61 cases) more than in January. Likewise, the value of seizures in February 2023 was K8.86 billion (230 cases) more than that in the same period.

The Vice-Senior General stressed the need to generally review that the larger volume and amount of seizure indicated the larger volume of illegal trade.

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The commodities which were imported without tax payment hindered to products of MSMEs. If the action cannot be taken against illegally imported commodities, MSMEs will face difficulties in their development.

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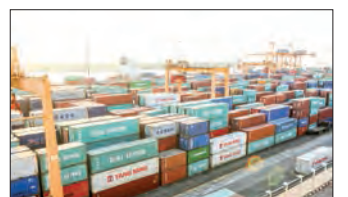
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Public Notice for Submitting Objection

1. The Mro National Development Party with its headquarters located at No 202, Sarthaik Street, Pyitawtha Ward, in front of the basic education high school, Kyauktaw, Rakhine State, applied on 28-3-2023 to be allowed continuity to exist and register as a political party under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law. It is reported that the party name, flag and emblem will be used as described below.
2. Under Rule 14 (d) of the Registration of Political Parties, it is hereby announced to the public that those who wish to object to the name of the party, the flag and the emblem to be used by that organization may submit their objection to the Union Election Commission with valid evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.



The flag design of the Mro National Development Party



The emblem of the Mro National Development Party

Union Election Commission

Public Notice for Submitting Objection

1. The Peace and Diversity Party with its headquarters located at No 2/2/232, Mahogany Street, Htaukkyant extension quarter, Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region, applied on 28-3-2023 to be allowed continuity to exist and register as a political party under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law. It is reported that the party name, flag and emblem will be used as described below.
2. Under Rule 14 (d) of the Registration of Political Parties, it is hereby announced to the public that those who wish to object to the name of the party, the flag and the emblem to be used by that organization may submit their objection to the Union Election Commission with valid evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.



The flag design of the Peace and Diversity Party



The emblem of the Peace and Diversity Party

Union Election Commission

Public Notice for Submitting Objection

1. The Union Farmer-Labour Force Party with its headquarters located at No A/406, Lansan Housing, Maw Kan 1st Street, Leikpyakan Ward, Bago, Bago Region, applied on 28-3-2023 to be allowed continuity to exist and register as a political party under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law. It is reported that the party name, flag and emblem will be used as described below.
2. Under Rule 14 (d) of the Registration of Political Parties, it is hereby announced to the public that those who wish to object to the name of the party, the flag and the emblem to be used by that organization may submit their objection to the Union Election Commission with valid evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.



The flag design of the Union Farmer-Labour Force Party



The emblem of the Union Farmer-Labour Force Party

Union Election Commission

Public Notice for Submitting Objection

1. The Kayin People's Party (KPP) with its headquarters located at Building No 28, Shwedargon Street, Mayangon Ward, Myaungmya, Ayeyawady Region, applied on 28-3-2023 to be allowed continuity to exist and register as a political party under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law. It is reported that the party name, flag and emblem will be used as described below.
2. Under Rule 14 (d) of the Registration of Political Parties, it is hereby announced to the public that those who wish to object to the name of the party, the flag and the emblem to be used by that organization may submit their objection to the Union Election Commission with valid evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.



The flag design of the Kayin People's Party (KPP)



The emblem of the Kayin People's Party (KPP)

Union Election Commission

Public Notice for Submitting Objection

1. The Modern People Party with its headquarters located at Room No 101, building No 100/101, Aung Thukha Street, 5th Ward, Kamayut Township, Yangon Region, applied on 28-3-2023 to be allowed continuity to exist and register as a political party under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law. It is reported that the party name, flag and emblem will be used as described below.
2. Under Rule 14 (d) of the Registration of Political Parties, it is hereby announced to the public that those who wish to object to the name of the party, the flag and the emblem to be used by that organization may submit their objection to the Union Election Commission with valid evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.



The flag design of the Modern People Party



The emblem of the Modern People Party

Union Election Commission

Public Notice for Submitting Objection

1. The Democracy and Human Rights Party with its headquarters located at No 24, 1st Floor, 101 Street, Phoemyay Ward, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region, applied on 28-3-2023 to be allowed continuity to exist and register as a political party under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law. It is reported that the party name, flag and emblem will be used as described below.
2. Under Rule 14 (d) of the Registration of Political Parties, it is hereby announced to the public that those who wish to object to the name of the party, the flag and the emblem to be used by that organization may submit their objection to the Union Election Commission with valid evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.



The flag design of the Democracy and Human Rights Party



The emblem of the Democracy and Human Rights Party

Union Election Commission

High knowledge and education key to nation's future

- As today is an age of technology, it should not be left behind.
- It is necessary for all to study for the improvement of one's knowledge and to help promote his or her children's education and knowledge.
- Only if knowledge is high will the democracy system and the nation's future be assured.

(Excerpts from the discussion by State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at a meeting with officers, other ranks and family members of Myitkyina Station held on 13 December 2022)

Duty-assigned staff members in eradicating illegal trade ...

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Hence, he noted that it is necessary to raise the momentum of the eradication of illegal trade which strongly affects the economic development of the State. Those who are engaged in illegal trade take advantage of weak points in trade policy, orders, directives and procedures, impossibility to check all commodities from the trucks and security restrictions. MACSS System of the Customs Department and Myanmar Tradenet 2.0 and QR Code system help ensure the smooth flow of commodities and help take action against illegal trade. System and staff must be deployed in harmony in conducting inspection tasks. If so, it will effectively eradicate

illegal trade. The Vice-Senior General noted that an e-lock system must be applied for curbing illegal trade by using containers for the transport of commodities as much as possible. It is necessary to discuss the setting limited time for an educative period not to distribute the illegally imported goods to wholesale and retail shops as well as shopping malls and a period for taking action against the offenders. With regard to the reviews of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, the seizures from January 2022 to date were overloaded commodities and trafficking the commodities mixed with the goods which were not mentioned in

the import declaration. Hence, duty-assigned staff members need to carefully check the commodities with the use of experience. It can be seen that some businesspersons relied on ethnic armed organizations in passing the checkpoints to carry their illegal trade commodities. Hence, staff members need to inform nearby regional and state governments or relevant military command headquarters about their difficulties in time to take action against offenders under the law. The Vice-Senior General pointed out that both governments need to coordinate the eradication of illegal trade not to pass the illegal commodities to other countries and not to en-

ter illegal goods into the mother country. He also urged staff to observe good ways and means of other countries in eradicating the illegal trade. The Vice-Senior General stressed that the duty-assigned staff members in eradicating illegal trade need to be free from corruption. Those related to the illegal trade will face action in any way. They all are to have security awareness and conscience and make preparations for security measures. The Vice-Senior General unveiled that businesspersons will be restricted to use containers in trading, applying modern technology, negotiating with neighbouring countries and checking illegally imported commodities in the market so

as to reduce illegal trade. Secretary of the steering committee Deputy Minister U Nyunt Aung reported on accomplishments over the minutes of the meeting 1/2023 and undertakings of the steering committee. Department officials read the letters presented to the meeting 2/2023. Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo, U Win Shein and U Aung Naing Oo, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Lin Tun and officials discussed the eradication of illegal trade. The leader of the office staff of the steering committee reported on the draft decisions of the meeting 2/2023. After coordinating the reports and discussions, the Vice-Senior General gave a concluding remark. — MNA/TTA

NSPNC, 7 NCA-signatory EAOs hold second-day meeting

THE second-day meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee-NSPNC and seven NCA-signatory ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) was held yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw. The meeting was attended by NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein, working committee member Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo (retired), NSPNC members Lt-Gen Min Naing, Lt-Gen Aye Win, U Hla Maung Shwe, Col Wunna Aung, supporting member Col Aung Kyaw Tun, and NCA-Signatory EAOs Informal Discussion and Coordination Group Leader Sao Sai Ngin (RCSS), assistant leaders Saw Mra Yaza Lin (ALP) and Nai Aung Ma Ngay (NMSP), members Saw Kyaw Than Htay (DKBA), Saw Kyaw Nyunt (KNU/KNLA-PC), Kyaphu (LDU), Khun Min Thein (PNLO) and support representatives.



The second-day meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee and seven NCA-signatory ethnic armed organizations in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the two-day meeting, both sides mutually discussed matters related to creating a framework for peace talks that all are inclusive in the discussion, the status of peace

processes and federal principles, protection of civilians, reaching common agreements on both sides, regional stability, holding elections and a peace conference, and amending ba-

sic articles of the Constitution (2008). After they recorded the summaries of their opinions according to the two-day negotiations, they wrapped up the meeting. — MNA/TS

CORRIGENDA

In the Press Statement by the Supreme Court of the Union on page 3 of The Global New Light of Myanmar on 29 March 2023, the following are corrected: -
Instead of ... **the date 1 April 2023 as the set date of ...**, please read ... **the date 1st April 2023 as the setting date of ...** in the first paragraph (Union Supreme Court ...).
Instead of ... **the High Court of Yangon Region has conferred ...**, please read ... **the High Court of Yangon Region is conferred ...** in the second paragraph (Notification No. 235/2023 ...).
Instead of ... **the Kyauktada District Court has conferred ...**, please read ... **the Kyauktada District Court is conferred ...** in the fifth paragraph (Notification No. 238/2023 ...).
Errors are regretted – Ed.

MoI Union Minister hears reports on academy stage construction, lighting, sound system, and stage design for film academy award ceremony

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn heard the reports on the construction of the academy stage with 3D Project Mapping, lighting, sound system and stage design by Nebula X Entertainment Co Ltd for the Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Awards ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 March.

First, the Union minister said the film academy awards presentation for three successive years will be held at national level. Although previous ceremonies were held by the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, the government will bear the costs for the event and Academy golden statue awards this year as the artistes including business people face hardships due to the



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn presides over the report presentation meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

outbreak of COVID-19.

It also should arrange to be different from previous events regarding the modern techniques, lighting and program. Therefore, all should participate in holding the ceremony successfully.

Then, the officials of Nebula X Entertainment Co Ltd explained the design concept, 3D Projection Mapping for stage construction, stage design and red carpet.

The Union minister concluded the event after discussions with the deputy minister, the permanent secretary, departmental officials, the chairperson and the vice-chair of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization and Academy Zinyaw Maung Maung. – MNA/KTZH

People in temporary shelter provided with cash, foodstuffs

CASH and consumer goods were donated to people in the temporary shelter in Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State, by Rakhine State government. The ceremony was held at the Kissapanadi Hall of the Kyauktaw Township Gen-

eral Administration Department yesterday.

Rakhine State government supported cash, foodstuffs and family kit boxes to representatives of the families from the temporary shelter.

Officials then greeted the people living in the temporary shelter. Military personnel, policemen, firefighters, Red Cross members and departmental staff assisted in delivering the goods. — Khin Maung Tun (IPRD)/ KZW



Officials greet IDPs and provide them with cash assistance and foodstuffs.

2 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 29 March, total figure registers 634,078

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases registered 634,078 after two new cases were reported on 29 March 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 614,533, including 33 new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at 19,490 on 29-3-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic.

The country has vaccinated 30,979,183 people aged 18 and above for COVID-19 vaccines and 6,846,645 people aged under 18 till 28 March 2023. — GNLM

Status of COVID-19 vaccination (as of 28 March 2023)	
People aged 18 and above who received vaccines	30,979,183
People under 18 years old who received vaccines	6,846,645

Courts to have jurisdiction for intellectual property matters from 1 April

THE Union Supreme Court of (USC) released a notification that courts will have jurisdiction over intellectual property matters as IP courts as the Trademark Law enacted in 2019 will come into effect from 1 April 2023.

The USC conferred jurisdiction and mandate over the appeal, revision of the judgment, order and decisions for IP matters under the Trademark Law.

According to Notification 82/2023 dated 10 March of the State Administration Council, the USC released five Notifications 235/2023, 236/2023, 237/2023, 238/2023 and 239/2023 re-

garding the Trademark Law.

The High Court of the Yangon Region has jurisdiction over the appeal cases against the orders and decisions issued by the Intellectual Property Agency under Section 66 of the Trademark Law and the cases against the suspension orders issued by the Director-General of the Customs Department in line with the section 72 of the Trademark Law.

The courts in Self-Administered zones and district courts can exercise judicial power over the criminal cases filed under the Trademark Law. The judicial power is vested in the High Courts of the regions

and states over the appeals and the revisions of the judgements, orders and decisions made by district courts and courts in the Self-Administered zones.

Meanwhile, Kyauktada District Court has original jurisdiction over the civil cases on infringement of intellectual property rights and provisional measures under Section 77 (a) of the Trademark Law.

The High Court of the Yangon Region has jurisdiction over the appeals and the revisions of the judgements, orders and decisions in civil cases made by the IP courts, the USC notified. – TWA/EM

Public Notice for Elimination of Violence

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

Octane surpasses diesel in prices



The photo shows filling a car with petrol at a fuel station.

THE fuel prices dip in the domestic market tracking the slump in world oil prices. The octane exceeded diesel significantly in price.

The prices moved slightly down to K2,037 per litre of Octane 92, K2,128 for Octane 95, K2,007 for diesel and K2,081 for premium diesel on 29 March. The price stood at K2,145 for Octane 92, K2,240 for Octane 95, K2,110 for diesel and K2,190 for premium diesel on 28 March.

Diesel is commonly used in generators and agricultural machines. Consequently, demand is higher than before. As a result of this, there is difficulty in purchasing in the industrial sector. Therefore, some hike up rent for agricultural machines for unreasonable assumptions despite the decrease in diesel price.

The diesel price hit a high of K3,245 per litre in August 2022.

This month, diesel price hovers at approximately K2,000 per litre. The price difference between diesel and Octane has narrowed. Earlier, diesel surpassed Octane in price.

Some businesses consume diesel as commercial power supplies were restricted to a certain extent in March. Yet, they can save some costs amid the diesel price decline.

I anticipate the diesel price to stay low like this for a long time, Ko Htaw, a truck owner told the Global New Light of Myanmar. — TWA/EM

Palm oil wholesale reference price for Yangon Region sets for two-week fall

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market continued to fall this week ending 2 April compared to that of the previous week, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The reference price stood at K4,570 per viss in the week from 20 to 27 March. For the week ending 2 April, the price was set lower at K4,440 per viss, showing a small decrease of K130 per viss this week.

The Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution under the Ministry

of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia including transport costs, tariffs and banking services, and issuing the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil every week.

Regardless of the reference price, the current market price is too high at over K6,000-7,000 per viss.

If those edible oil retailers and wholesalers are found overcharging, storing inventory intentionally and attempting unscrupulous action to manipulate the market, they will face legal action under the Essential

Supplies and Service Act, MoC released a statement.

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

At present, mobile market trucks operated by oil importing companies, in coordination with Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, were back to business in some townships on 17 July to offer palm oil at a subsidized rate. They offer palm oil at a fairer price to the consumers directly depending on the reference price. However, there are limited sources of supply although they directly sell palm oil at a reference rate depending on the volume quota. The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at 1 million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the oil sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/EM



People are lining up to purchase palm oil at the wholesale reference price.

Illegal timbers, electronics and vehicles seized

AN inspection team led by Myanmar Police Force made inspections on 27 March and captured an unregistered Kenbo 125 motorbike (approximately K300,000) in Shwebo township and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

On 28 March, the on-duty

Customs teams confiscated K37,231,650 worth of various electronics that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) at the Hteedan Port container checkpoint, two sets of Huawei power rating worth K30,049,284 that were not declared in the Import Declaration

(ID) at the Myanmar Industrial Port Terminal container checkpoint and an inspection team led by the Lashio Township Customs Department seized a total of 0.800 tonne of illegal timbers worth K3.5 million from a vehicle (approximate value of K22 million) heading to Muse

from Mandalay near a toll gate on the Mandalay-Lashio-Muse Pyidaungsu highway. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

In addition, a total of 74.8972 tonnes of illegal teak and hardwood worth K28,892,556 was seized in the Mukhar forest re-

serve in Minhla township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, six arrests (estimated value of K121,973,490) were made on 27 and 28 March, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee.— MNA/MKKS

CURRENT
AFFAIRS

Three-month ban on fishing
from April in Taninthayi



Fishing vessels are seen in Taninthayi Region.

KAWTHOUNG District Department of Fisheries announced that fishing is to be prohibited in the Myanmar waters for three months from April to June.

During these three months, offshore fishing boats will not be allowed to go fishing. Aquatic products obtained from inshore fish-

ing boats will be exported to neighbouring countries only if there is a surplus after domestic consumption.

During the non-fishing season, fishermen in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions, Rakhine and Mon states will be allowed to use inshore fishing boats. — TWA/KZW



CB Bank's advert on iBanking money transfer.

CB bank to start
money transfer
service to any bank
across country

CB bank stated that it will start a service for customers to transfer up to K50 million per day to any bank in the country.

The CB Bank customers will be able to transfer up to K50 million per day to any local bank by using CB bank's business i-banking service. In addition, CB Bank's Business i-Banking can be used on smartphones, tablets and laptops conveniently and easily without having to go to the bank.

Customers can visit https://cbbank.me/Business_iBanking and contact 01-231 7770 (the contact centre) for more information. — TWA/MKKS

Three fire outbreaks happen
in Yangon within one day

THREE fire outbreaks including Sweet Home mattress factory in Shwelinpan Industrial Zone happened in Yangon within one day according to the Myanmar Fire Services Department.

At 11 am on 29 March, an automobile caught fire at Pale Street, extension ward in Mingaladon Township and the fire was put out by the Htaukkyant fire brigade at 12:10 pm.

At 2:00 pm, a fire broke out in a reed forest located near

Yangon-Mandalay express way Milepost 17/6. The fire was subsequently extinguished by the 11-mile highway fire brigade at 2:28 pm.

At 3:27 pm, a fire erupted at the Sweet Home mattress factory situated in Hlaingthaya Township. The Myanmar Fire Services Department classified the incident as a level-three emergency, and the fire was eventually extinguished by the fire brigade at 4:29 pm. — TWA/KZW



Fire brigade members are seen struggling to put out the fire.

Weekly market update at Bayintnaung wholesale centre

BETWEEN 23 and 29 March, the prices of palm oil, onion, garlic, mung bean and Khayan Shwewah (Hteiksa) saw prices decline while the rice prices are still on the rise at the Bayintnaung market of Yangon.

Onion

On 28 and 29 March, the market saw the entry of 570,000 visses of onion from various regions. The onion prices for small sizes are higher than the large size ones on 29 March in the Monywa onion market. On the same day, the wholesale prices of Seikphyu (Pinlay) were ranging K1,000-1,175-1,150-1,050 while Myittha onion fetched K1,550-2,000-2,100-1,900 and Monywa onion was priced at K950-1,050-1,000-800 depending on the qualities and sizes.

On 29 March, the Pakokku market saw an entry of 80,400 visses of onion and the Yawsa onion was priced at K850 per viss while K800 for Palesa and K800 for Monywa onion. There

was an entry of 87,120 visses of onion on 29 March in the Myingyan market and the price of summer onion was between K500 and K1,000.

Garlic

On 29 March, the Shan Aungban garlic wholesale prices were K3,000-3,200-3,400-3,600 per viss depending on the va-



Kitchen groceries are pictured at the retail outlet.

rieties and qualities, whereas Kyukok garlic fetched K4,200 per viss.

Potato

On 29 March, the wholesale prices of potatoes in the Yangon market moved in the range between K1,300 and 1,850 per viss depending on producing areas. The potato from Bhamo and Banbwe was priced at K1,800 per viss.

Chilli pepper

On 29 March, the wholesale prices of chilli peppers were K11,000/10,500 per viss for Panye and Myarni long chilli pepper, K11,500/12,000 per viss for Moehtaung, K12,000/12,500 per viss for Sinphyukyun and K13,500/14,000 per viss for Viet Nam chilli pepper.

Rice

On 29 March, the prices stood at K5,500 per bag for summer rice grown under the intercropping system in the Yangon market while K58,000/61,000 per bag for summer rice (90

days), K65,000/67,000 per bag for monsoon rice (90days) and K65,000 per bag for new Pawsan rice. It was K71,000 for Pawsan rice from Bogale, K74,000 from Myaungmya and K90,000 from Shwebo.

Palm Oil

Between 28 and 2 April, the reference wholesale prices of palm oil in Yangon is K4,400 per viss and it drops about K130 per viss to the previous week.

There may be the entry of about K30,000 tonnes of palm oil before the long Thingyan holidays. The CIF price was only \$1,008 per tonne. On 29 March, the price was K6,530 per viss in the Yangon market.

Bean

On 29 March, the black gram RC was priced at K2,060,000 per tonne and K2,325,000 per tonne of SQ/RC, K2,377,500 per tonne of pigeon pea, K3,750 per viss of mung bean (Khayan Shwewah Hteiksa) and K4,600-4,800 per viss of chickpea.— TWA/KTZH

LOCAL BUSINESS

Export licences granted to traders via Tradenet 2.0 system from 1 April

EXPORT licences can be done through Myanmar Tradenet 2.0 portal starting from 1 April, Trade Department stated.

In order to facilitate the export/import licencing process and conduct exports/imports systematically, traders are allowed to export the goods only after seeking an export licence via Myanmar Tradenet 2.0 platform.

Having digitized the licencing system, licencing for certain lines that do not need to apply for export licence will be automatically passed on the system.

According to 2022 Myanmar Customs, commodities lines with 10-digit HS Code are available to be apply for an export licence on Myanmar Tradenet 2.0 from 1 April, according to Notification 6/2023 released on 22 March.

The department apprised the importers of the rules and regulations for imports that need

import licences as per Export/Import Notification 7/2023 dated 22 March.

Earlier, the Trade Depart-

ment under the Ministry of Commerce released Notification 50/2020 stating that all import items except goods stored in

customs warehouse that need import licences were not allowed to arrive at the Port before the port arrival processing permit

in order to comply with the customs regulation stipulated in Notification 68/2019 of the Ministry Planning and Finance.

Additionally, importers were notified to face legal actions under the Export and Import Law if early arrival of the goods without import licence or permit of the departments concerned was found, as per Notification 6/2022.

Import licence, therefore, is required for all items including goods to be stored at the Customs warehouse before arrival to steer trading activities, and maintain the quality of the goods due to failure to claim the goods from the Customs-bonded warehouse for a long period.

Thus, the Trade Department stated that Notification 50/2020 will cease to be in effect for six months from 1 April 2023 and suspension might extend if necessary. — NN/EM



Stacked cargo containers are seen in the container yard at Yangon Port..

Investments from Hong Kong SAR top US\$166 mln in 11 months until Feb

HONG Kong SAR, the second largest investor in Myanmar, pumped in US\$166.6 million from 12 permitted enterprises and existing enterprises as of February-end in the current financial year 2022-2023 beginning April, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Hong Kong puts investment into real estate development, electricity, and garment businesses.

Singapore is the top source of foreign direct investments in Myanmar in the past 11 months, bringing in \$1.15 billion under 15 projects, including capital expansion by existing enterprises.

China stood as the third-largest investor this FY with an estimated capital of \$113.49 million from 37 permitted enterprises and the existing enterprises.

Those enterprises listed from the Republic of Korea, Chinese Taipei, Belize, Japan, Thailand and the UK also put investments into Myanmar this FY. The existing enterprises from Bangladesh, Japan, Seychelles, Chinese Taipei, China, Hong Kong SAR, the Republic of Korea, India, Thailand, the UK, Switzerland and Samoa also increased investments.

Myanmar Investment Commission nodded 73 foreign projects from eight countries in (April-February) of the current FY 2022-2023. The country attracted a capital of US\$1.62 billion this FY, including expansion of capital by the existing enterprises, according to the DICA.

Myanmar drew FDI of \$647 million in the 2021-2022 mini-budget period (October to March), DICA's statistics indi-

cated.

The Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations has been inviting responsible businesses to benefit the country.

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) ensures the approval of responsible businesses by assessing environmental and social impacts. The commission is working together with the relevant departments to screen the projects as well.

MIC stated priority sectors for investments, including manufacturing of fertilizer, cement, iron and steel, value-added foodstuff, electric vehicle and pharmaceutical and medical supplies, agriculture and livestock farming and related industries, public transportation services and electric vehicles and related businesses.

The economic interaction between Myanmar and Hong Kong SAR has been increasing rapidly. Hong Kong emerged as the fourth largest investor in Myanmar after Singapore, China and Thailand. Between FY2016-2017 and February 2023, 289 enterprises from Hong Kong brought in an FDI of over \$10 billion into Myanmar, according to official data on permitted enterprises released by the DICA. — KK



Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 29 March 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,145
Octane 95	K2,240
Diesel	K2,110
Premium Diesel	K2,190

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,311,400 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,918,000 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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WORLD: ROLLING UPDATES

Germany to open its doors as labour shortage bites



The challenge for ArcelorMittal in the next decade will also be the transformation to greener technologies. **PHOTO: JOHN MACDOUGALL/AFP**

AN apprenticeship at a steelmaker brought Steven Maillot from the French island of Reunion in the Indian Ocean to Eisenhuettenstadt in Germany, a stone's throw from the Polish border.

Better pay and better job prospects were the deciding factors for Maillot -- a relief for ArcelorMittal, where the group's Germany chief Reiner Blaschek acknowledged that attracting young trainees like the 23-year-old is becoming "increasingly difficult".

A shortage of skilled workers has become a major head-

ache for businesses in Europe's largest economy, as vast cohorts of older employees go into retirement.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz's government is battling to find an answer to the challenge of Germany's rapidly ageing population.

Just under two million job posts were unfilled at the end of 2022 in Germany, according to the federal Institute for Employment Research (IAB).

Making the most out of the workers already in Germany would "not be enough" to fill

the gap, Scholz told parliament earlier this month.

"We will also attract urgently needed workers by opening up legal migration channels," he said.

Job seekers from the European Union, like Maillot, can already work in Germany with no additional visa hurdles, but even that pool of human resource is insufficient. On Wednesday, Scholz's cabinet signed off a new draft bill aimed at easing immigration rules to attract more workers from further afield to the country. — AFP

Biden kicks off campaign touting US economy

PRESIDENT Joe Biden launched a new drive Tuesday to promote a major theme of his expected reelection campaign, touting what he said was a resurgence of US manufacturing — and warning Republicans could tank the economy.

"I've been determined to make things in this country again, to build American manufacturing capacity," Biden said at Wolfspeed, a semiconductor manufacturing plant in Durham, North Carolina, that recently announced a \$5 billion expansion.

Ramping up US capacity in a global race to produce the tiny, high-tech components at the heart of most modern

technology has been a Biden priority since he took office in 2021.

His trip to the factory kicked off what the White House is calling a three-week "Investing in America" tour where top officials will visit some 20 states to tout newly created manufacturing jobs in the semiconductor industry and in a variety of other sectors boosted by massive government incentives.

According to the White House, more than \$435 billion in new investments has been announced under Biden, about half of that in clean energy and electric vehicle companies, and the other half in semiconductors. — AFP

Billion-dollar facelift as Bahrain bids to join Gulf boom

WITH a multi-billion dollar economic revamp in full swing, tiny Bahrain is vying to keep pace with its Gulf neighbours after more than a decade beset by political unrest.

It's a difficult path for the island nation that is a neighbour to gas-rich Qatar and connected by a causeway to Saudi Arabia, a key ally and the world's biggest oil exporter.

The United Arab Emirates, another regional powerhouse with well-developed trade, tourism and financial industries alongside its large oil sector, is just a short flight away.

Bahrain has witnessed turbulence since the crushing of an uprising in 2011 but has since begun a modernizing facelift,



Bahrain is seeking to decrease its reliance on its oil sector which accounts for 80 per cent of revenues, much of that from refining. **PHOTO: AFP**

instigating economic and fiscal reforms.

Extensive land reclamations are literally changing the shape of

the country, while a host of gleaming new buildings dot the skyline and cranes work above nascent housing developments. — AFP

Amsterdam targets rowdy Brits with 'stay away' campaign

AMSTERDAM launched a campaign on Tuesday to discourage tourists planning drug- and alcohol-fuelled parties -- starting with young British men.

The Dutch capital has long been trying to curb rowdy behaviour such as stag parties, especially near the famed red light area where sex workers operate.

The new campaign, dubbed "Stay Away", will involve people searching online for some getaways in Amsterdam receiving special warnings.



The Dutch capital has long been trying to curb rowdy behaviour such as stag parties, especially near the famed red light area. **PHOTO: AFP**

"The campaign will commence in Great Britain, aimed at males in the age category of 18 to 35 years," Amsterdam city council said in a statement.

"This online discouragement campaign is aimed at nuisance tourists who want to visit Amsterdam to 'go wild', with all the ensuing consequences."

It would be expanded to "potential nuisance-causing visitors from the Netherlands and other EU-countries" in the coming year, it said.

People searching for terms such as "stag party Amster-

dam" or "pub crawl Amsterdam" will be shown warning advertisements," it said.

The ads would show the "risks and consequences of anti-social behaviour and excessive drug and alcohol abuse" including fines, arrest, criminal records, hospitalization and health issues.

Amsterdam recently announced a ban on smoking cannabis in the Red Light district, coupled with further restrictions on alcohol consumption and earlier closures for cafes, bars and sex clubs. — AFP

NEC reveals 90% accurate landmine-predicting AI technology

NEC Corp on Wednesday said it has developed artificial intelligence technology that is capable to predicting where landmines are most likely buried with about 90 per cent accuracy.

The technology could lead to more efficient removal of landmines and reduce the number of yearly deaths from the underground explosives, and the Japanese company said it aims to provide AI landmine predic-

tion services to governments and international organizations by March 2024.

In an experiment conducted between April and October last year in conflict zones around Asia, NEC used open data on landscapes and military facilities provided by the International Committee of the Red Cross as well as reports from local residents in successfully predicting where landmines in

certain zones were buried, NEC said.

Using the technology, the time needed in narrowing 800 sites down to probable landmine burial sites can be shortened to a few hours from several years.

Although it is still necessary to manually confirm the landmine burial zones, the company said the technology is hoped to hasten the removal process. — Kyodo



Photo shows a member of the International Committee of the Red Cross searching for landmines in Iraq in 2017. **PHOTO: THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS /KYODO**

Hong Kong art market hits pre-pandemic highs despite curbs



Visitors look at works of art at Art Basel in Hong Kong on 21 March 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

AS thousands of visitors streamed through a Hong Kong exhibition hall and deals were struck for works by Picasso and Yayoi Kusama, art collectors celebrated the Asian financial hub's return to its

bustling heyday.

The scenes at Hong Kong's Art Basel fair last week had not been seen since 2019, with a crackdown on pro-democracy protests and pandemic restric-

tions in the intervening years radically transforming the city.

More than 86,000 visitors poured through the halls of the fair, reflecting a return to pre-pandemic numbers, with reported sales of more than \$98 million, double those of 2019, according to organizers. Among the biggest deals were a 1964 Picasso sold for \$5.5 million, as well as works by Japanese artist Kazuo Shiraga (\$5 million) and a strikingly surreal "pumpkin" by Kusama (\$3.5 million), according to reported sales figures released by the fair.

The energy at Art Basel reflected the increasing importance of the Asian art market, said organizers, who told AFP that their work was not impacted by the city's national security law. — AFP

Japan PM: No plans to dissolve lower house despite backlash

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Wednesday said he has no plans in the near future to dissolve the lower house of parliament and call a snap election.

"I'm not considering now dissolving the lower house for a snap election," Kishida told a parliamentary committee meeting.

Kishida said his priorities are dealing with important matters and making sure decisions made by the government are accountable.

His remarks were in response to a question by an opposition party member about dissolving the lower chamber of Japan's bicameral party.

Kishida's ruling Liberal Democratic Party-led coalition control both the more powerful lower and upper chamber.

Japan's prime minister also said in response to the question that there were urgent tasks that needed to be attended to including policies to support children and child-rearing amid the country's drastically low birthrate, as well as issues related to changing energy policies.

In addition, Kishida also said that bolstering Japan's defense capabilities was a pressing matter that also took precedence over the possibility of calling a snap election. — Xinhua

California's cannabis black market thrives despite legalization

OMAR Buddakey emerges from a nondescript building in Los Angeles with a joint in his hand.

Five years after cannabis was legalized in California, black market transactions like this one — where no one pays any taxes, and the product is not regulated — remain commonplace.

"Legal shops are too expensive," the 27-year-old tells AFP, as he lights up his preroll.

Over the course of a year Buddakey estimates he saves the equivalent of a paycheck from his patient transport job

by avoiding the state-sanctioned outlets.

"I'd rather pay less for the same thing. And I know it's the same thing, because it gives me the same feeling."

Buddakey's working-class neighbourhood in east Los Angeles is teeming with stores like this one, many marked by a green cross.

Although they are illegal, they openly advertise online, and many have their own websites.

Inside one of them, a man who gives his name only as "Joe" welcomes a steady



Green Goddess Collective in Venice Beach sells a huge range of cannabis products, from prerolls to gummies to drinks infused with THC. **PHOTO: PATRICK T. FALLON/AFP**

stream of customers who are offered a selection of buds and leaves.

Here, an ounce (30 grams) of weed sells for \$100 — \$35 less than at a state-regulated store.

"Cops have raided this shop probably eight to 10 times," he tells AFP. "They take the weed, our cameras and all the cash."

"We just re-open the next hour or the next day."

'Nickelled and dimed'

A 2016 referendum legalized recreational use of cannabis in California, 20 years after it was permitted for medical use with a prescription. — AFP

ENVIRON WORLD

Car battery recycling market gears up for future boom



In this file photograph taken on 9 September 2021, a worker dismantles an end-of-life vehicle at Indra Automobile Recycling facility in Romorantin, central France. With the boom in electric cars, millions of batteries are expected to reach the end of their useful life in a few years' time, and recycling facilities around the world are preparing to step up the pace. **PHOTO: AFP**

RESEARCHER Anna Vanderbruggen peers into a vat of dark bubbling liquid, the result of a process she has developed to recover graphite from old lithium-ion batteries.

Although graphite represents up to a quarter of the weight of the batteries, no one has yet come up with a viable plan to recycle it, according to Vanderbruggen.

The 29-year-old researcher is still fine-tuning her method but

has already received an award from the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) for her efforts.

As Europe shifts gear from fossil fuel vehicles to electrified cars, recycling graphite as well as other elements in batteries is gradually becoming a major focus. All the more so as the continent seeks to wean itself off its reliance on countries like China for raw materials.

"Battery manufacturers

were not interested" in recycled graphite up to now because "they could get it at low cost in China", Vanderbruggen told AFP.

Her method, developed at the Helmholtz Research Institute in Freiberg, Germany, involves extracting graphite from "black mass", a powder that also contains cobalt, nickel, lithium and manganese. "You put the black mass in water and add some chemicals and air bubbles, like in a jacuzzi," Vanderbruggen, who is from France, said. "The graphite attaches itself to the bubbles, whereas the metals are hydrophilic and therefore remain in the water."

Vanderbruggen also works as a consultant for businesses exploring the opportunities that recycling electric car batteries could bring in the future.

Rising costs

Increasing raw material costs and shortages have led to a surge of interest in the field.

The price of lithium has increased by 13 per cent over the past five years, according to Philippe Barboux, a professor of chemistry at PSL University in Paris.—AFP

Europe rights court hears climate cases against governments

THE European Court of Human Rights will hear cases against France and Switzerland over alleged failings to protect the environment Wednesday, the first time governments are in the court's dock for alleged climate change inaction.

The case against Switzerland is based on a complaint by an association of elderly people — who call themselves the "Club of Climate Seniors" — concerned with the consequences of global warming on their living conditions and health, the ECHR said.

They accuse the Swiss authorities of various climate change failings which they say

amount to a violation of the government's obligation to protect life and citizens' homes and families.

"This is a historic event," said Anne Mahrer, 64, a member of the Swiss club, backed by Greenpeace Switzerland, where the average age is 73.

Around 50 of its 2,000 members will travel to Strasbourg for the hearing, Mahrer told AFP. All reports on global warming over the past 20 years show that "everybody is affected", but the elderly more than others, especially older women because of cardiovascular and respiratory risks, she said.—AFP



Protesters demonstrate ahead of the European Court of Human Rights hearing in two climate change cases involving France and Switzerland, in Strasbourg, eastern France, on 29 March 2023.

PHOTO: PATRICK HERTZOG/AFP

T-Rex skeleton on show in Zurich before auction

YOLANDA Schicker-Siber gingerly fastens a pointy claw bone with a thin metal wire, putting the finishing touches on a giant Tyrannosaurus-Rex skeleton before a rare auction in Switzerland next month.

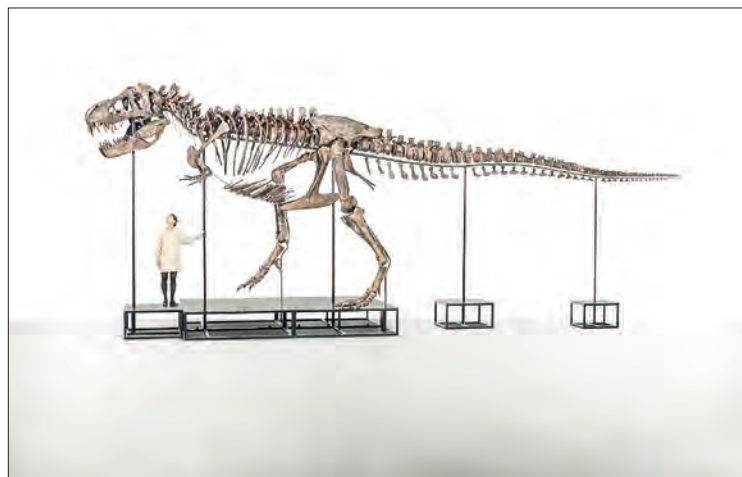
The Aathal Dinosaur Museum's curator was on Tuesday helping complete perhaps the world's biggest construction kit — reassembling a 67-million-year-old T-Rex dubbed Trinity.

Trinity was sent to Zurich from Arizona in the United States in nine giant crates.

The 3.9-metre (12.8-foot) skeleton has been mounted on a red carpet and under crystal chandeliers in a Zurich concert hall, where it will be on public display before going under the hammer on 18 April.

The Koller auction house has estimated it will fetch between six to eight million Swiss francs (\$6.5-8.7 million). But

Christian Link, in charge of natural history memorabilia at Koller, said he believed that was a "pretty low" estimate.—AFP



This photo handed out on Saturday, 11 March 2023, shows the skeleton of a Tyrannosaurus rex dating back 67 million years, dubbed 'Trinity,' which will be auctioned off in Switzerland in mid-April. **PHOTO: KOLLER AUCTIONS HANDOUT/AFP**

Race against time to save dozens missing after Ecuador mudslide

RESCUERS raced against time in southern Ecuador on Tuesday to find survivors of a weekend landslide that left at least 11 people dead and more than 60 missing.

Torrential rain overnight Sunday triggered a mudslide that buried dozens of homes and injured 30 people in the village of Alausi some 300 kilometres (180 miles) south of the capital Quito, officials said.

As hopes faded of finding survivors under the rubble, rescuers with dogs and neighbours alike worked feverishly at removing debris, some with their bare hands.

"My daughter is here, my granddaughter, my whole family," Carlos Maquero told AFP among the ruins, desperate for a breakthrough.

"I want you to understand the pain we're going through," the 40-year-old merchant said.

The same region was hit by an earthquake just over a week earlier in which 15 people were killed.

There is a "buildup of tonnes and tonnes of earth," making it difficult to find survivors, Fernando Yanza, a firefighter working to rescue those trapped, told AFP.—AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Robotic exoskeletons expand options for paraplegic patients

LIN Han, 34, put the robot exoskeleton on a stool and eased himself into it, securing his feet, legs and waist with straps. Grasping the special crutches and pressing the buttons on them, he was slowly raised into a standing position.

He is one of several people in China making use of modern robot technology to give them mobility — and a new lease on life — following serious illness or injury.

Lin has suffered from paraplegia for nearly a decade, after he fell from the fourth floor at work, seriously injuring his spine and losing all sensation below the navel. The accident brought him tremendous pain, both physically and mentally, until he was introduced to a wearable robotic exoskeleton.

Once he has the exoskeleton on, with a click of a button, he can stand up, walk and even take a stroll around the neighborhood.

“In addition to providing walking assistance, it’s also



A paraplegic tries the exoskeleton robot for a rehabilitation training with the help of a scientific researcher from the Robotics Research Centre at University of Electronic Science and Technology of China (UESTC) in Chengdu, southwest China’s Sichuan Province, 6 March 2023. **PHOTO: LIU KUN/XINHUA**

very helpful in rehabilitation training,” said Lin, adding that he now takes an hour-long walk every morning and afternoon,

which helps prevent muscle atrophy. “My whole body is getting stronger,” he said.

Research and development

(R&D) on the robotic exoskeleton began in 2010 at the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China.

In August 2015, the team brought the robotic suits to a rehabilitation center in Chengdu, capital of southwest China’s Sichuan Province, looking for volunteers to try them out. Lin, who was receiving treatment there, was reluctant to give it a try. The team offered meticulous instructions to help him get used to the fancy new suits. He worked hard and gradually gained confidence in using the apparatus safely.

Lin says the exoskeleton has enabled him to wave goodbye to the old days, in which he faced a range of problems including urinary incontinence.

In November 2020, Lin tied the knot. Now he is the happy father of two children. “We continue to improve and make breakthroughs in human-computer interaction, materials and artificial intelligence algorithms, so that disabled people can use exoskeleton robots more comfortably,” said Cheng Hong, head of the R&D team. — Xinhua

Italy government seeks to ban synthetic meat



Israeli chef serves a burger made with “cultured chicken” meat at a restaurant adjacent to the SuperMeat production site in the central Israeli town of Ness Ziona on 18 June 2022. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ AFP/FILE**

THE Italian government on Tuesday introduced legislation to ban the production and sale of synthetic foods, including artificial meat.

The new parliamentary bill “is based on the precautionary principle because today there is no scientific evidence of possible harmful effects linked to the consumption of synthetic foods”, said Health Minister

Orazio Schillaci, at a press conference following a cabinet meeting that gave the green light to the initiative. Fake meat has long been produced, with varying degrees of success, from vegetable sources like soya, peas or beans.

But the new legislation targets synthetic products being developed in laboratories from animal cells, without killing the

donor animal.

If the ban is approved by parliament, penalties for violators would include fines of up to 60,000 euros (\$64,000).

Italy’s agricultural association Coldiretti organized a flash mob near the seat of government in central Rome on Tuesday afternoon, with the message “no to synthetic food”.

“Italy, which is a European leader in food quality and safety, has a duty to be at the forefront of food policies to defend citizens and businesses,” Coldiretti president Ettore Prandini said in a statement.

In order to come into force, the bill will have to be adopted within two months by parliament, which will have the possibility to amend it during debates.

Currently no marketing applications for such foods have been made in the EU, and it is likely to be at least 2025 before such foods appear on shelves in Europe. — AFP

Over 10 % of Japanese children with COVID-related brain disease pass away: survey

MORE than 10 per cent of Japanese youngsters who acquired acute brain syndrome after contracting COVID-19 have passed away, according to the findings of a recent national survey released by a study team from the health ministry.

Between January 2020 and May 2022, the survey discovered 34 cases of acute encephalopathy linked to COVID-19 infection in individuals under the age of 18.

The team looked at 31 patients who had no underlying conditions that might have contributed to the brain damage.

Of the 31 children, 19 made a full recovery, but four of them did not, and problems were identified in eight more. Of the eight, five were said

to be suffering from severe side effects, including being bedridden and unconscious.

Seizures, which roughly half of the patients had, diminished consciousness, and altered speech or behaviour were the main initial symptoms, according to the survey.

When the Omicron coronavirus strain became common in January 2022 or later, the majority of individuals experienced acute encephalopathy.

The ratio of children with COVID infection who experienced brain symptoms before and after 2022, however, showed no appreciable difference, suggesting that Omicron may not necessarily be making the brain disease more likely to manifest, the study showed. — Xinhua

OPINION

Contribute a great deal to zero-waste initiatives

PEOPLE from Myanmar society are generous to supply food and aid to others as part of making meritorious deeds in line with the advice of Buddhism. Generally, people from all walks of life consume foods in various meals without limit for daily consumption.

Everybody should understand the whole world is facing a scarcity of foods for public consumption. Hence, the majority of families set restrictions as relevant family rules in the consumption of foods not to be wasted. They all value the foods because various kinds of crops which are raw for foods yield in impacts of climate changes. Farmers try hard to produce crops while defying the climatic conditions.

As such, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution at its 77th session on 14 December 2022 to proclaim the day of 30 March as the International Day of Zero Waste. From then onward, the commemorative day has been held yearly to raise public awareness of the important role of minimizing waste. Hence, it aims to minimize waste and loss of food and materials.

The International Day of Zero Waste aims to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, support the societal shift towards circularity and raise awareness about how zero-waste initiatives contribute to the advancement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The waste sector contributes significantly to the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity and nature loss, and pollution. Every year, some 931 million tonnes of food is lost or wasted and up to 14 million tons of plastic waste enters aquatic ecosystems throughout the world.

Zero-waste initiatives can foster sound waste management and minimize and prevent waste, protect the environment, enhance food security and improve human health and well-being. A zero-waste approach entails responsible production, consumption and disposal of products in a closed, circular system. It is necessary to emphasize that resources are reused or recovered as much as possible to minimize the pollution of air, land or water.

As the global population is growing and growing, the population density is higher and higher. Consequently, those numbers of global people including Myanmar people are a basic factor to raise the food demand. This being so, the initiative to ensure zero-waste measures will be crucial in relevant societies with farsightedness for efficiently providing food supplies to the people.

Now is the best time to start any moves of initiating zero-waste measures in society. The best move for zero waste will be sound foundations for posterity in the future.

Bike riding

becomes a trendy sport once more

By TWA

AGE-FRIENDLY cycling is one of the sports activities that people of all ages

from younger children to older adults can take part in. Nonetheless, the bicycling sport was

declining in popularity and it has nearly disappeared over time.

Nowadays, young people have actively participated in biking activities with a group of friends through Facebook groups. They have started to go on a bike tour in the early morning during weekends as physical exercise.

Taking a bicycle tour with a group of five members and 10 members to Dala, Twantay, Kawmu, Kungyangon, Latkhokgon, Bago, Thongwa and Kayan cities from downtown Yangon is attracting other young people to start cycling. This habit has become popular again on account of physical sports activities arising from COVID-19, urban traffic congestion and eco-friendly transport by reducing air pollution.

Japan-made classic bikes, mountain bikes, adventure bikes, road bikes, second-hand bikes and other different bikes imported from foreign countries have become popular among young people.

"I started bicycling five years ago. I live in Pazundaung

Township. I took a bike tour with a friend of mine Ba Kyaw who lives in Myanma Railway's staff housing compound in Mingala Taungnyunt. Then, I joined a cycling group of all ages at the park in front of the City Hall at 5 in the morning. I met a group of people from various townships in the centre of the city there. Then, they also hang out at tea shops. Bicycling tours are leaving for the Dala trip," said Ko Khant from Pazundaung Township.

When bicycling is an aerobic exercise with many health benefits. Following the popular actor Yaza Nay Win's cycling video clip spread online, the number of cyclists has increased significantly.

"A video interview of Ko Yaza Nay Win posted on social media encouraged some people to start cycling. However, it is not an addiction to cycling. Cycling has already become increasingly popular before the social influencer. Some cyclists blogged about a weekend bike tour to the sightseeing near Yangon. We can enjoy a cycling tour experience

on YouTube and observe the road condition, difficulties, fun and relaxing moments," said Ko Thet Ko, an amateur biker from South Okkalapa Township.

The number of cyclists has significantly grown since 2020. Seventy per cent of them are amateur cyclists for health and sporting activity, while 30 per cent



With the rocketing number of amateur riders, skilled cyclists will be produced for sure. The institutions concerned need to support those potential cyclists.

turn to ride bikes to avoid urban traffic and reduce costs amid rocketing oil prices, a market

observer pointed out. Moreover, riders offer food delivery service with bicycles. An increasing number of cyclists pushes up prices. Bicycle and spare parts businesses are thriving.

"A bicycle is worth K500,000 to over K10 million. Some are fantastically featherweight but expensive," said Ko Aung Myo, an amateur biker.

Bikes worth K300,000-8,000,000 are highly traded. The prices of bicycle parts also climb up. Young people choose bicycles depending on brand, brake and gear conditions. The prices vary on lightweight and gear speed, Ko Thet Ko continued.

The prices of popular mountain bikes are related to the dollar exchange rate. The prices of spare parts double these days.

Imported used bikes that are

assembled locally become more popular than new ones in big cities including Yangon, Mandalay and Mawlamyine. The bicycle shops can be found in suburban wards for now. Businesspersons bring in parts of used bicycles from foreign countries legally and assemble them and put them up for sale. Consequently, low-income people can buy them at an affordable rate.

With the rocketing number of amateur riders, skilled cyclists will be produced for sure. The institutions concerned need to support those potential cyclists. Moreover, setting a road path designated for cyclists will ensure road safety. This article is written to promote biking for healthy, safe, fun and sustainable rides.

Translated.

WHO says medium-risk adults don't need extra Covid jabs

The WHO is looking for new Covid vaccines that cover a broad spectrum of variants, have longer durability and better performance against infection and transmission.

THE World Health Organization said Tuesday it is no longer recommending additional Covid-19 vaccine booster doses for regular, medium-risk adults as the benefit was marginal.

For such people who have received their primary vaccination course and one booster dose, there is no risk in having further jabs but the returns are slight, the WHO's vaccine experts said.

The UN health agency's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunisation (SAGE) issued

updated recommendations after its regular biannual meeting.

SAGE's new advice reflects the impact of the dominant Omicron variant of the virus and high-level immunity now achieved in the population through infection and vaccination, the WHO said.

Three new, simplified priority categories

SAGE came up with three new, simplified priority categories for Covid vaccination: high, medium and low, based on risk of



A resident receives a dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in Australia's first drive-through vaccination centre in the outer Melbourne suburb of Melton, 10 August 2021. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

severe disease or death.

SAGE recommended additional booster shots after the first one only for people at the highest risk of developing severe Covid-19 disease.

They include older adults; younger adults with comorbidities such as diabetes, people with immunocompromising conditions like HIV, pregnant women, and frontline health workers.

The medium priority group includes healthy adults, usually under 60, and children and ado-

lescents with comorbidities.

SAGE recommends a primary series and a first booster dose.

"When it comes to the medium-risk group, additional booster doses... are no longer recommended," said SAGE chair Hanna Nohynek.

"The vaccine is safe and it's efficient against serious disease and death," she said, but for this risk group, while there was no harm in having another shot, "the benefit of these additional boosters is actually quite marginal".

The low priority group includes healthy children and adolescents aged six months to 17 years. While primary and booster doses are safe and effective for this group, considering the low burden of Covid disease, SAGE said countries' vaccination decisions should be based "on contextual factors" such as health programme priorities and cost effectiveness.

Search for new vaccines

As for the impact of Covid-19 vaccines on Long Covid, or

post-infection conditions, "the evidence on the extent of their impact is inconsistent", said SAGE.

Nearly 13.3 billion Covid vaccine doses have been administered around the world.

WHO vaccines chief Kate O'Brien said that versus Omicron, the existing vaccines provide very good immunity against severe disease, but "frankly they don't last very long for the performance that they do have against mild disease or infection".

SOURCE: AFP

Countries phasing out internal combustion engines

THE European Union approved on Monday a deal that will lead to the phaseout of sales of new fossil fuel cars by 2035, with a final green light by energy ministers due on Tuesday. The 27-nation bloc joins more than a dozen other nations which have set deadlines for ending sales of new cars with internal combustion engines (ICE) which emit toxic gasses that are a major driver of climate change.

Norway is the trailblazer in ending the reign of ICE vehicles, with only zero-emission new vehicles – either battery electric or hydrogen – to be sold from 2025.



A VW ID Buzz, the new fully electric-driven microbus of Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles. **PHOTO: AXEL HEIMKEN / AFP**

Britain, Israel and Singapore plan to ban the sale of new vehicles with internal combustion engines in 2030. In Britain, the measure is part of an effort to create a “green industrial revolution” that aims to create thousands of jobs. China has taken a lead in the manufacturing of battery electric vehicles, with hundreds of companies making cars and generous public subsidies available. Chinese firms also dominate the production of the raw materials used in electric batteries and their manufacture.

The world’s top polluter with the world’s largest auto market, China has set waypoints towards

eliminating new fossil fuel cars. It aims for battery electric, hybrid and fuel cell vehicles to account for 20 per cent of sales in 2025. It aims for them to account for a majority by 2035. According to President Joe Biden’s climate plan, half of new cars sold in the United States should be zero-emissions in 2030. Large subsidies are being used to protect local manufacturers and attract battery production. Plug-in hybrids are included in that goal, however. While these vehicles have fossil fuel motors, they can run several dozen kilometres on their batteries.—AFP

Pirates boarded Danish ship in Gulf of Guinea

PIRATES boarded a Danish-owned Liberian-flagged oil tanker in the Gulf of Guinea over the weekend, the owner said Tuesday, adding that contact with the 16 crew members had been lost.

The 135-metre-long Monjasa Reformer “experienced an emergency situation” on Saturday around 160 miles (260 kilometres) west of Port Pointe-Noire in the Republic of Congo, owner Monjasa said.

The shipowner added that the crew had sought refuge in the tanker’s secure room or “citadel” when the pirates boarded, “in accordance with the onboard anti-piracy emergency protocol”. “Onboard communications channels are currently down and we are working with the local authorities to establish communication to understand the situation on board and provide all the support needed by

the crew to overcome these dreadful events,” Monjasa said.

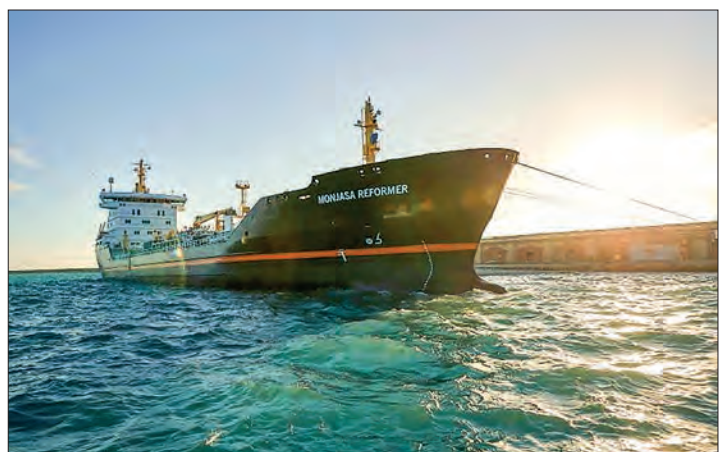
It said “the vessel was sitting idle” when the incident took place. Monjasa declined to give information on the nationalities of the crew members when asked by AFP.

According to an official at the port of Pointe-Noire, the ship had arrived in Congolese waters on 18 March and left on 22 March, and was in international waters when it was attacked.

“Three men took control of the ship and since then the crew can no longer be reached,” the official told AFP.

Piracy changing

Noel Choong of the International Maritime Bureau’s piracy reporting centre told AFP a “missing vessel broadcast had been issued for passing ships to report to us if they come across it.”—AFP



The Monjasa Reformer, seen in a handout picture from Monjasa, was boarded by pirates off Port Pointe-Noire. **PHOTO: MONJASA/AFP**

Paul Newman’s Rolexes celebrating his racing career up for auction

TWO Rolexes that carried “sentimental” value for actor Paul Newman will be auctioned as part of a broad collection of the late icon’s personal effects, with the timepieces each expected to earn up to \$1 million.

Sotheby’s said last month that more than 300 items owned by the movie star and car racer Newman and his wife of 50 years Joanne Woodward would go under the hammer on 9 June.

On Tuesday the auction house unveiled the two Rolex Daytonas, classic and coveted watches that celebrate the model’s 60th anniversary this year, and which Sotheby’s said Newman wore during his celebrated racing career.

The ‘Zenith’ Daytona Rolex was presented to Newman in 1995 to mark his victory in Florida’s 24 hours of Daytona Race



This Sotheby’s handout image shows two Rolex Daytona watches worn by iconic actor Paul Newman, and which are expected to fetch more than \$500,000 each when they are auctioned in June 2023. **PHOTO: SOTHEBY’S/AFP**

in the GTS-2 category. He was 70 years old at the time and became the endurance contest’s oldest winner. The other, in white gold, was a gift from Woodward which bears the inscription: “DRIVE VERY SLOWLY,” followed by

“JOANNE”.

Sotheby’s said the watches are “imbued with sentimental and historical value imparting from pinnacle moments in Newman’s celebrated racing career.”—AFP

Spain competition watchdog opens Google probe

SPAIN’S competition watchdog has launched an investigation into Google for alleged anti-competitive practices affecting news agencies and press publications.

The probe seeks to determine if Google and its parent company Alphabet abused their “dominant position” in the Spanish market, competition watchdog CNMC said in a statement

late on Tuesday.

“Specifically, these practices consist of the possible imposition of unfair commercial conditions on publishers of press publications and news agencies established in Spain for the exploitation of their copyrighted content,” it added.

The watchdog said it opened its probe following a complaint

from the Spanish Reproduction Rights Centre (CEDRO), a non-profit association of authors and publishers of books, magazines and newspapers.

It did not specify the period covered by the investigation, nor what sanctions Google could face if it is proven that Google had abused its dominant position in Spain.—AFP

TRADEMARK CAUTION

HUGO BOSS Trade Mark Management GmbH & Co. KG, a company incorporated in Germany and having its registered office at Dieselstr. 12, 72555 Metzingen, Germany is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:



Reg. No. 4/2809/2023 (16.3.2023)

In respect of “Spectacles and parts therefor; spectacle cases; cell phone cases; laptop cases; Smartwatches and Software; mobile Apps; wearable activity trackers; Electronic pens; ear phones; alarm bells; Films, Downloadable image files; Electronic magazines; Downloadable music files; Podcasts; USB web keys; Communications headsets; Microphones for communication devices; Mobile data receivers; Digital optical transmission apparatus; CD storage wallets; Digital notepads; Electronic memories; Labels with integrated RFID chips; Labels carrying magnetically recorded or encoded information; Labels with machine-readable codes; Cases for music storage devices; Memory sticks; Headsets for virtual reality games; Electronic book reader covers; Smart speakers; MP4 players; Headphones; Wireless headphones; In-ear headphones; Headphones for smart phones; Cases for headphones; Noise cancelling headphones; Wireless headsets for smartphones; Telephone headsets; Headphone-microphone combinations; Loudspeakers; Cabinets for loudspeakers; Wireless speakers; Portable speaker docks; Downloadable virtual goods, namely, computer programs featuring clothing, footwear, headwear and clocks and watches, jewelry, eyewear, fashion accessories, cosmetics and perfumery, bags, handbags, purses, card wallets, backpacks, household articles, namely household containers, household textiles, household linen, household utensils and household fragrances, shoe polishing sets, wine openers and wine decanters, stationery, candles, luggage, toys, sport bags, art for use online and in online virtual worlds; Gaming Software” included in **International Class 09**;

“Precious metals and their alloys and goods of precious metals or coated therewith (included in class 14), namely amulets (jewellery), ornaments (jewellery), charms for key rings, pins (jewellery), bracelets (jewellery), brooches (jewellery), cabochons, diamonds, precious stones, ivory (jewellery), jewellery findings, ornaments of jet, semi-precious stones, necklaces (jewellery), chains (jewellery), tie clips, tie pins, works of art of precious metal, beads for making jewellery, cuff links, lockets (jewellery), earrings, pearls (jewellery), platinum (metal), rings (jewellery), jewellery charms, ornamental pins, jewellery rolls, hat jewellery, clasps for jewellery, jewels, medallions, stick pins, cloisonné jewellery; jewellery; clocks and watches; jewellery boxes and watch boxes; alarm clocks; cuff links” included in **International Class 14**;

“Leather and imitations of leather, and goods made of these materials (included in class 18), namely Brief bags, Wallets, Casings, of leather, for stationery, Purses, Card wallets [leather ware], Garment bags for travel, Vanity cases, not fitted, Credit card cases [wallets], Toiletry bags, Cosmetic bags sold empty, Straps (leather-), Traveling sets, Key bags, Bags [envelopes, pouches] of leather, for packaging; trunks and travelling bags; bags; umbrellas and parasols; Luggage, bags, wallets and other carriers; Clothing for pets; collars for animals; dog collars; dog shoes; dog leashes; dog leads; dog parkas; dog clothing; dog apparel; dog coats; dog bellybands; raincoats for dogs; horse shoes; horse covers; horse blankets; horse cloths; horse collars; horse saddles; harness for horses; blinkers for horses; headbands for horses; rain sheets for horses; golf umbrellas; animal skins; hides; walking sticks; whips; harness and saddlery; attaché cases; feed bags; sport bags; leather shoulder belts; beach bags; card cases [notecases]; chain mesh purses; handbag frames; frames for umbrellas or parasols; handbags; suitcase handles; walking cane handles; haversacks; music cases; muzzles; purses; shopping bags; straps for skates; slings for carrying infants; umbrella rings; umbrella sticks; vanity cases, not fitted; walking stick seats; wheeled shopping bags; combination walking sticks and umbrellas; bags for umbrellas; covers for parasols; umbrella covers; beach umbrellas [beach parasols]; metal parts of umbrellas; suitcases; wheeled luggage; toiletry bags; travelling sets [leatherware]; tie cases for travel; cases of imitation leather; key cases made of leather; key cases; cosmetic purses; shaving bags sold empty; driving licence cases; tool pouches, sold empty; carry-on bags; travel luggage; boston bags; casual bags; bucket bags; shoulder bags; cross-body bags; children's shoulder bags; fashion handbags; drawstring bags; wheeled bags; flight bags; bags (game -) [hunting accessories]; bags for campers; hiking bags; work bags; wrist mounted carryall bags; saddlebags; evening handbags; travel baggage; travelling bags made of imitation leather; travel bags made of plastic materials; garment bags for travel made of leather; shoe bags for travel; garment carriers; canvas bags; diplomatic bags; leather bags and wallets; flexible bags for garments; waterproof bags; felt bags; briefcases [leather goods]; artificial fur bags; knitted bags, not of precious metals; bags for sports clothing; wash bags for carrying toiletries; towelling bags; shoe bags; tool bags sold empty; small bags for men; hipsacks; purses made of precious metal; leather purses; handbags made of leather; handbags made of imitations leather; pouches for holding make-up; keys and other personal items; hat boxes for travel; hat boxes of leather; straps for luggage; straps for coin purses; business card holders in the form of wallets; coin holders; travel cases; luggage covers; bumbags; clutches [purses]; card wallets [leatherware]; nappy wallets; all-purpose athletic bags; kit bags; bags for climbers; travelling bags; purse frames; wheeled suitcases; valises; hand luggage; hiking rucksacks; sports packs; harness fittings; studs of leather; straps made of imitation leather; laces (leather -); leather, unworked or semi-worked; leather for harnesses; leather for shoes; imitation leather; moleskin [imitation of leather]; carried skins; polyurethane leather; fur; faux fur; semi-worked fur; leather cloth; articles of clothing for horses; saddle trees; saddlery; animal harnesses; reins; fastenings for saddles; saddle blankets; covers for animals; hunting crops; jockey sticks; spats and knee bandages for horses; leggings for animals; covers and wraps for animals; saddlecloths for horses” included in **International Class 18**;

“Clothing for men, women and children; stockings; headgear; underwear; nightwear; swimwear; bathrobes; belts; shawls; accessories, namely headscarves, neck scarves, shawls, dress handkerchiefs; ties; gloves; shoes; belts of leather” included in **International Class 25** and

“Business management, sales consultancy; Wholesale and retail services in relation to clothing, footwear, headgear and clocks and watches, eyewear, jewelry, fashion accessories, cosmetics and perfumery, goods of leather, namely trunks and bags, purses, card wallets [leather ware], garment bags for travel, vanity cases, not fitted, toiletry bags, straps (leather), backpacks, key bags, satchels, gym bags, bags [envelopes, pouches] of leather, for packaging, umbrellas and parasols; Wholesale and retail services in relation to bed linen, home textiles, household articles, namely household containers, household textiles, household linen, household utensils and household fragrances, shoe polishing sets, wine openers and wine decanters, stationery, luggage, sporting articles; Marketing services; Market research and market analysis; Advertising; Sales promotion; Rental of advertising space; Distribution of goods and advertising material for advertising purposes, including via electronic media and via the Internet; presentation of goods, in particular shop and shop window dressing; Organization of Exhibitions for commercial or advertising purposes; Promotion of business relationships by providing of commercial and business contacts; Commercial information and advice for consumers [consumer advice shop]; Business consultancy and administration; Business organization consulting; Professional business consulting; Fashion consultancy (business); organization of fashion shows for commercial, industrial and advertising purposes; Management of retail stores, online wholesale and retail services and online ordering services, mail ordering services and computerized online-ordering services in relation to clothing, footwear, headgear and clocks and watches, eyewear, jewelry, fashion accessories, cosmetics and perfumery; Management of retail stores, online wholesale and retail services and online ordering services, mail ordering services and computerized online-ordering services in relation to goods of leather, namely trunks and bags, purses, card wallets [leather ware], garment bags for travel, vanity cases, not fitted, toiletry bags, straps (leather), backpacks, key bags, satchels, gym bags, bags [envelopes, pouches] of leather, for packaging, umbrellas and parasols; Management of retail stores, online wholesale and retail services and online ordering services, mail ordering services and computerized online-ordering services in relation to bed linen, home textiles, household articles, namely household containers, household textiles, household linen, household utensils and household fragrances, shoe polishing sets, wine openers and wine decanters, stationery, luggage, sporting articles” included in **International Class 35**.

The above mark has been filed as European Union Trademark Application No. 018794193, on November 15, 2022.

Notice is hereby given that the trademark owner claims the colors “Pantone 661C” in respect of and as represented in the abovementioned trademark.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw Htoo Htoo, H.G.P
For HUGO BOSS Trade Mark Management GmbH & Co. KG,
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon.
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
hh@kcyangon.com

Dated 30 March 2023

Viet Nam growth slows as exports slump

VIETNAM’S economic growth slowed in the first quarter of the year as exports slumped due to re-	duced consumer demand, authorities said Wednesday. The communist man-	ufacturing hub’s economy expanded by 3.32 per cent in the January-March period, down from 5.05 per	cent in the same period of 2022. Viet Nam is one of the world’s largest exporters of clothing, footwear and	furniture but in the first quarter of 2023 the country faced “unstable and complicated developments in	the world economy”, the General Statistics Office (GSO) said in a statement.—AFP
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TRADEMARK CAUTION

HUGO BOSS Trade Mark Management GmbH & Co. KG, a company incorporated in Germany and having its registered office at Dieselstr. 12, 72555 Metzingen, Germany is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:

BOSS CAMEL

Reg. No. 4/2810/2023 (16.3.2023)

In respect of “Spectacles and parts therefor; spectacle cases; cell phone cases; laptop cases; Electronic memories; Labels with integrated RFID chips; Labels carrying magnetically recorded or encoded information; Labels with machine-readable codes; Memory sticks; Downloadable virtual goods, namely, computer programs featuring clothing, footwear, headwear and clocks and watches, jewelry, eyewear, fashion accessories, cosmetics and perfumery, bags, handbags, purses, card wallets, backpacks, household articles, namely household containers, household textiles, eyeshold linen, household utensils and household fragrances, shoe polishing sets, wine openers and wine decanters, stationery, candles, luggage, toys, sport bags, art not through music, video or electronic images for use online and in online virtual worlds; Gaming Software” included in **International Class 09**;

“Precious metals and their alloys and goods of precious metals or coated therewith (included in class 14), namely amulets (jewellery), ornaments (jewellery), charms for key rings, pins (jewellery), bracelets (jewellery), brooches (jewellery), cabochons, diamonds, precious stones, ivory (jewellery), jewellery findings, ornaments of jet, semi-precious stones, necklaces (jewellery), chains (jewellery), tie clips, tie pins, works of art of precious metal, beads for making jewellery, cuff links, lockets (jewellery), earrings, pearls (jewellery), platinum (metal), rings (jewellery), jewellery charms, ornamental pins, jewellery rolls, hat jewellery, clasps for jewellery, jewels, medallions, stick pins, cloisonné jewellery; jewellery; clocks and watches; jewellery boxes and watch boxes; alarm clocks; cuff links” included in **International Class 14**;

“Leather and imitations of leather, and goods made of these materials (included in class 18), namely Brief bags, Wallets, Casings, of leather, for stationery, Purses, Card wallets [leather ware], Garment bags for travel, Vanity cases, not fitted, Credit card cases [wallets], Toiletry bags, Cosmetic bags sold empty, Straps (leather-), Traveling sets, Key bags, Bags [envelopes, pouches] of leather, for packaging; trunks and travelling bags; bags; umbrellas and parasols; Luggage, bags, wallets and other carriers; Clothing for pets; collars for animals; dog collars; dog shoes; dog leashes; dog leads; dog parkas; dog clothing; dog apparel; dog coats; dog bellybands; raincoats for dogs; horse shoes; horse covers; horse blankets; horse cloths; horse collars; horse saddles; harness for horses; blinkers for horses; headbands for horses; rain sheets for horses; golf umbrellas; animal skins; hides; walking sticks; whips; harness and saddlery; attaché cases; feed bags; sport bags; leather shoulder belts; beach bags; card cases [notecases]; chain mesh purses; handbag frames; frames for umbrellas or parasols; handbags; suitcase handles; walking cane handles; haversacks; music cases; muzzles; purses; shopping bags; straps for skates; slings for carrying infants; umbrella rings; umbrella sticks; vanity cases, not fitted; walking stick seats; wheeled shopping bags; combination walking sticks and umbrellas; bags for umbrellas; covers for parasols; umbrella covers; beach umbrellas [beach parasols]; metal parts of umbrellas; suitcases; wheeled luggage; toiletry bags; travelling sets [leatherware]; tie cases for travel; cases of imitation leather; key cases made of leather; key cases; cosmetic purses; shaving bags sold empty; driving licence cases; tool pouches, sold empty; carry-on bags; travel luggage; boston bags; casual bags; bucket bags; shoulder bags; cross-body bags; children's shoulder bags; fashion handbags; drawstring bags; wheeled bags; flight bags; bags (game -) [hunting accessories]; bags for campers; hiking bags; work bags; wrist mounted carryall bags; saddlebags; evening handbags; travel baggage; travelling bags made of imitation leather; travel bags made of plastic materials; garment bags for travel made of leather; shoe bags for travel; garment carriers; canvas bags; diplomatic bags; leather bags and wallets; flexible bags for garments; waterproof bags; felt bags; briefcases [leather goods]; artificial fur bags; knitted bags, not of precious metals; bags for sports clothing; wash bags for carrying toiletries; towelling bags; shoe bags; tool bags sold empty; small bags for men; hipsacks; purses made of precious metal; leather purses; handbags made of leather; handbags made of imitations leather; pouches for holding make-up; keys and other personal items; hat boxes for travel; hat boxes of leather; straps for luggage; straps for coin purses; business card holders in the form of wallets; coin holders; travel cases; luggage covers; bumbags; clutches [purses]; card wallets [leatherware]; nappy wallets; all-purpose athletic bags; kit bags; bags for climbers; travelling bags; purse frames; wheeled suitcases; valises; hand luggage; hiking rucksacks; sports packs; harness fittings; studs of leather; straps made of imitation leather; laces (leather -); leather, unworked or semi-worked; leather for harnesses; leather for shoes; imitation leather; moleskin [imitation of leather]; curried skins; polyurethane leather; fur; faux fur; semi-worked fur; leather cloth; articles of clothing for horses; saddle trees; saddlery; animal harnesses; reins; fastenings for saddles; saddle blankets; covers for animals; hunting crops; jockey sticks; spats and knee bandages for horses; leggings for animals; covers and wraps for animals; saddlecloths for horses” included in **International Class 18**;

“Clothing for men, women and children; stockings; headgear; underwear; nightwear; swimwear; bathrobes; belts; shawls; accessories, namely headscarves, neck scarves, shawls, dress handkerchiefs; ties; gloves; shoes; belts of leather” included in **International Class 25** and

“Business management, sales consultancy; Wholesale and retail services in relation to clothing, footwear, headgear and clocks and watches, eyewear, jewelry, fashion accessories, cosmetics and perfumery, goods of leather, namely trunks and bags, purses, card wallets [leather ware], garment bags for travel, vanity cases, not fitted, toiletry bags, straps (leather), backpacks, key bags, satchels, gym bags, bags [envelopes, pouches] of leather, for packaging, umbrellas and parasols; Wholesale and retail services in relation to bed linen, home textiles, household articles, namely household containers, household textiles, household linen, household utensils and household fragrances, shoe polishing sets, wine openers and wine decanters, stationery, luggage, sporting articles; Marketing services; Market research and market analysis; Advertising; Sales promotion; Rental of advertising space; Distribution of goods and advertising material for advertising purposes, including via electronic media and via the Internet; presentation of goods, in particular shop and shop window dressing; Organization of Exhibitions for commercial or advertising purposes; Promotion of business relationships by providing of commercial and business contacts; Commercial information and advice for consumers [consumer advice shop]; Business consultancy and administration; Business organization consulting; Professional business consulting; Fashion consultancy (business); organization of fashion shows for commercial, industrial and advertising purposes; Management of retail stores, online wholesale and retail services and online ordering services, mail ordering services and computerized online-ordering services in relation to clothing, footwear, headgear and clocks and watches, eyewear, jewelry, fashion accessories, cosmetics and perfumery; Management of retail stores, online wholesale and retail services and online ordering services, mail ordering services and computerized online-ordering services in relation to goods of leather, namely trunks and bags, purses, card wallets [leather ware], garment bags for travel, vanity cases, not fitted, toiletry bags, straps (leather), backpacks, key bags, satchels, gym bags, bags [envelopes, pouches] of leather, for packaging, umbrellas and parasols; Management of retail stores, online wholesale and retail services and online ordering services, mail ordering services and computerized online-ordering services in relation to bed linen, home textiles, household articles, namely household containers, household textiles, household linen, household utensils and household fragrances, shoe polishing sets, wine openers and wine decanters, stationery, luggage, sporting articles” included in **International Class 35**.

The above mark has been filed as European Union Trademark Application No. 018793798, on November 14, 2022.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw Htoo Htoo, H.G.P
For HUGO BOSS Trade Mark Management GmbH & Co. KG,
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon.
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
hh@kcyangon.com

Dated 30 March 2023

Regional economic integration advancing in Asia: report

REGIONAL economic integration has been advancing in Asia, according to a report released by the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) on Tuesday.

The BFA Asian Economic Outlook and Integration Progress Annual Report 2023 states that in

2021, global dependence on Asian trade in goods remained stable, and the trade dependence between Asian economies remained at a relatively high level. The status of ASEAN and China as hubs for trade in goods remained unchanged.

Most major Asian economies have increased their dependence on Asian factories over the past decade, according to the report. “Asia has a significant advantage of producing competitive products in global value chains. Of the top 22 intermediate

products from Asian factories in terms of export value, 21 have shown significant growth in exports, with electronic component products such as integrated circuits growing the fastest, at a growth rate of up to 28.8 per cent in 2021,” the report said.—Xinhua



This aerial photo taken on 24 March 2023 shows the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) International Conference Centre in Boao, south China's Hainan Province. **PHOTO: GUO CHENG/XINHUA**

TRADEMARK CAUTION

HUGO BOSS Trade Mark Management GmbH & Co. KG, a company incorporated in Germany and having its registered office at Dieselstr. 12, 72555 Metzingen, Germany is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:

HUGO BLUE

Reg. No. 4/2808/2023 (16.3.2023)

In respect of “Spectacles and parts therefor; spectacle cases; cell phone cases; laptop cases; Smartwatches and Software; mobile Apps; wearable activity trackers; Electronic pens; ear phones; alarm bells; Films, Downloadable image files; Electronic magazines; Downloadable music files; Podcasts; USB web keys; Communications headsets; Microphones for communication devices; Mobile data receivers; Digital optical transmission apparatus; CD storage wallets; Digital notepads; Electronic memories; Labels with integrated RFID chips; Labels carrying magnetically recorded or encoded information; Labels with machine-readable codes; Cases for music storage devices; Memory sticks; Headsets for virtual reality games; Electronic book reader covers; Smart speakers; MP4 players; Headphones; Wireless headphones; In-ear headphones; Headphones for smart phones; Cases for headphones; Noise cancelling headphones; Wireless headsets for smartphones; Telephone headsets; Headphone-microphone combinations; Loudspeakers; Cabinets for loudspeakers; Wireless speakers; Portable speaker docks; Downloadable virtual goods, namely, computer programs featuring clothing, footwear, headwear and clocks and watches, jewelry, eyewear, fashion accessories, cosmetics and perfumery, bags, handbags, purses, card wallets, backpacks, household articles, namely household containers, household textiles, household linen, household utensils and household fragrances, shoe polishing sets, wine openers and wine decanters, stationery, candles, luggage, toys, sport bags, art for use online and in online virtual worlds; Gaming Software” included in **International Class 09**;

“Precious metals and their alloys and goods of precious metals or coated therewith (included in class 14), namely amulets (jewellery), ornaments (jewellery), charms for key rings, pins (jewellery), bracelets (jewellery), brooches (jewellery), cabochons, diamonds, precious stones, ivory (jewellery), jewellery findings, ornaments of jet, semi-precious stones, necklaces (jewellery), chains (jewellery), tie clips, tie pins, works of art of precious metal, beads for making jewellery, cuff links, lockets (jewellery), earrings, pearls (jewellery), platinum (metal), rings (jewellery), jewellery charms, ornamental pins, jewellery rolls, hat jewellery, clasps for jewellery, jewels, medallions, stick pins, cloisonné jewellery; jewellery; clocks and watches; jewellery boxes and watch boxes; alarm clocks; cuff links” included in **International Class 14**;

“Leather and imitations of leather, and goods made of these materials (included in class 18), namely Brief bags, Wallets, Casings, of leather, for stationery, Purses, Card wallets [leather ware], Garment bags for travel, Vanity cases, not fitted, Credit card cases [wallets], Toiletry bags, Cosmetic bags sold empty, Straps (leather-), Traveling sets, Key bags, Bags [envelopes, pouches] of leather, for packaging; trunks and travelling bags; bags; umbrellas and parasols; Luggage, bags, wallets and other carriers; Clothing for pets; collars for animals; dog collars; dog shoes; dog leashes; dog leads; dog parkas; dog clothing; dog apparel; dog coats; dog bellybands; raincoats for dogs; horse shoes; horse covers; horse blankets; horse cloths; horse collars; horse saddles; harness for horses; blinkers for horses; headbands for horses; rain sheets for horses; golf umbrellas; animal skins; hides; walking sticks; whips; harness and saddlery; attaché cases; feed bags; sport bags; leather shoulder belts; beach bags; card cases [notecases]; chain mesh purses; handbag frames; frames for umbrellas or parasols; handbags; suitcase handles; walking cane handles; haversacks; music cases; muzzles; purses; shopping bags; straps for skates; slings for carrying infants; umbrella rings; umbrella sticks; vanity cases, not fitted; walking stick seats; wheeled shopping bags; combination walking sticks and umbrellas; bags for umbrellas; covers for parasols; umbrella covers; beach umbrellas [beach parasols]; metal parts of umbrellas; suitcases; wheeled luggage; toiletry bags; travelling sets [leatherware]; tie cases for travel; cases of imitation leather; key cases made of leather; key cases; cosmetic purses; shaving bags sold empty; driving licence cases; tool pouches, sold empty; carry-on bags; travel luggage; boston bags; casual bags; bucket bags; shoulder bags; cross-body bags; children's shoulder bags; fashion handbags; drawstring bags; wheeled bags; flight bags; bags (game -) [hunting accessories]; bags for campers; hiking bags; work bags; wrist mounted carryall bags; saddlebags; evening handbags; travel baggage; travelling bags made of imitation leather; travel bags made of plastic materials; garment bags for travel made of leather; shoe bags for travel; garment carriers; canvas bags; diplomatic bags; leather bags and wallets; flexible bags for garments; waterproof bags; felt bags; briefcases [leather goods]; artificial fur bags; knitted bags, not of precious metals; bags for sports clothing; wash bags for carrying toiletries; towelling bags; shoe bags; tool bags sold empty; small bags for men; hipsacks; purses made of precious metal; leather purses; handbags made of leather; handbags made of imitations leather; pouches for holding make-up; keys and other personal items; hat boxes for travel; hat boxes of leather; straps for luggage; straps for coin purses; business card holders in the form of wallets; coin holders; travel cases; luggage covers; bumbags; clutches [purses]; card wallets [leatherware]; nappy wallets; all-purpose athletic bags; kit bags; bags for climbers; travelling bags; purse frames; wheeled suitcases; valises; hand luggage; hiking rucksacks; sports packs; harness fittings; studs of leather; straps made of imitation leather; laces (leather -); leather, unworked or semi-worked; leather for harnesses; leather for shoes; imitation leather; moleskin [imitation of leather]; curried skins; polyurethane leather; fur; faux fur; semi-worked fur; leather cloth; articles of clothing for horses; saddle trees; saddlery; animal harnesses; reins; fastenings for saddles; saddle blankets; covers for animals; hunting crops; jockey sticks; spats and knee bandages for horses; leggings for animals; covers and wraps for animals; saddlecloths for horses” included in **International Class 18**;

“Clothing for men, women and children; stockings; headgear; underwear; nightwear; swimwear; bathrobes; belts; shawls; accessories, namely headscarves, neck scarves, shawls, dress handkerchiefs; ties; gloves; shoes; belts of leather” included in **International Class 25** and

“Business management, sales consultancy; Wholesale and retail services in relation to clothing, footwear, headgear and clocks and watches, eyewear, jewelry, fashion accessories, cosmetics and perfumery, goods of leather, namely trunks and bags, purses, card wallets [leather ware], garment bags for travel, vanity cases, not fitted, toiletry bags, straps (leather), backpacks, key bags, satchels, gym bags, bags [envelopes, pouches] of leather, for packaging, umbrellas and parasols; Wholesale and retail services in relation to bed linen, home textiles, household articles, namely household containers, household textiles, household linen, household utensils and household fragrances, shoe polishing sets, wine openers and wine decanters, stationery, luggage, sporting articles; Marketing services; Market research and market analysis; Advertising; Sales promotion; Rental of advertising space; Distribution of goods and advertising material for advertising purposes, including via electronic media and via the Internet; presentation of goods, in particular shop and shop window dressing; Organization of Exhibitions for commercial or advertising purposes; Promotion of business relationships by providing of commercial and business contacts; Commercial information and advice for consumers [consumer advice shop]; Business consultancy and administration; Business organization consulting; Professional business consulting; Fashion consultancy (business); organization of fashion shows for commercial, industrial and advertising purposes; Management of retail stores, online wholesale and retail services and online ordering services, mail ordering services and computerized online-ordering services in relation to clothing, footwear, headgear and clocks and watches, eyewear, jewelry, fashion accessories, cosmetics and perfumery; Management of retail stores, online wholesale and retail services and online ordering services, mail ordering services and computerized online-ordering services in relation to goods of leather, namely trunks and bags, purses, card wallets [leather ware], garment bags for travel, vanity cases, not fitted, toiletry bags, straps (leather), backpacks, key bags, satchels, gym bags, bags [envelopes, pouches] of leather, for packaging, umbrellas and parasols; Management of retail stores, online wholesale and retail services and online ordering services, mail ordering services and computerized online-ordering services in relation to bed linen, home textiles, household articles, namely household containers, household textiles, household linen, household utensils and household fragrances, shoe polishing sets, wine openers and wine decanters, stationery, luggage, sporting articles” included in **International Class 35**.

The above mark has been filed as European Union Trademark Application No. 018793802, on November 14, 2022.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw Htoo Htoo, H.G.P
For HUGO BOSS Trade Mark Management GmbH & Co. KG,
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon.
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
hh@kcyangon.com

Dated 30 March 2023

Room for one more? Saudi moves in on Gulf aviation market

UNDETERRED by a crowded Gulf market, Saudi Arabia is going all in on an aggressive aviation expansion, with a massive jet order and the launch of a new national carrier.

The project aligns with a bid to remake the

once closed-off kingdom as a business and tourism magnet, but analysts say that even with official backing, its path to success is complicated.

This month Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Saudi Arabia’s de

facto ruler, unveiled Riyadh Air, the new airline which is intended to transform the capital into “a gateway to the world”, according to state media. Two days later, officials said Riyadh Air and Saudia, the kingdom’s existing flag-carrier based

in Jeddah, would purchase 78 Boeing 787 Dreamliner jets. The deal, which the White House valued at “nearly \$37 billion” with options for up to 121 planes, constitutes the fifth largest by commercial value in Boeing’s history. Riyadh

Air’s chief executive, Tony Douglas, told AFP that the airline would serve the international, regional and domestic markets -- putting it in direct competition with Gulf heavyweights Emirates and Qatar Airways. That raises hard

questions about how Riyadh Air will grab market share, especially at a time when long-haul non-stop flights that avoid the Middle East altogether are on the rise, said independent aviation analyst Alex Macheras.—AFP

TRADEMARK CAUTION

HUGO BOSS Trade Mark Management GmbH & Co. KG, a company incorporated in Germany and having its registered office at Dieselstr. 12, 72555 Metzingen, Germany is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:

HUGO RED

Reg. No. 4/2807/2023 (16.3.2023)

In respect of “Spectacles and parts therefor; spectacle cases; cell phone cases; laptop cases; Smartwatches and Software; mobile Apps; wearable activity trackers; Electronic pens; ear phones; alarm bells; Films, Downloadable image files; Electronic magazines; Downloadable music files; Podcasts; USB web keys; Communications headsets; Microphones for communication devices; Mobile data receivers; Digital optical transmission apparatus; CD storage wallets; Digital notepads; Electronic memories; Labels with integrated RFID chips; Labels carrying magnetically recorded or encoded information; Labels with machine-readable codes; Cases for music storage devices; Memory sticks; Headsets for virtual reality games; Electronic book reader covers; Smart speakers; MP4 players; Headphones; Wireless headphones; In-ear headphones; Headphones for smart phones; Cases for headphones; Noise cancelling headphones; Wireless headsets for smartphones; Telephone headsets; Headphone-microphone combinations; Loudspeakers; Cabinets for loudspeakers; Wireless speakers; Portable speaker docks; Downloadable virtual goods, namely, computer programs featuring clothing, footwear, headwear and clocks and watches, jewelry, eyewear, fashion accessories, cosmetics and perfumery, bags, handbags, purses, card wallets, backpacks, household articles, namely household containers, household textiles, household linen, household utensils and household fragrances, shoe polishing sets, wine openers and wine decanters, stationery, candles, luggage, toys, sport bags, art for use online and in online virtual worlds; Gaming Software” included in **International Class 09**;

“Precious metals and their alloys and goods of precious metals or coated therewith (included in class 14), namely amulets (jewellery), ornaments (jewellery), charms for key rings, pins (jewellery), bracelets (jewellery), brooches (jewellery), cabochons, diamonds, precious stones, ivory (jewellery), jewellery findings, ornaments of jet, semi-precious stones, necklaces (jewellery), chains (jewellery), tie clips, tie pins, works of art of precious metal, beads for making jewellery, cuff links, lockets (jewellery), earrings, pearls (jewellery), platinum (metal), rings (jewellery), jewellery charms, ornamental pins, jewellery rolls, hat jewellery, clasps for jewellery, jewels, medallions, stick pins, cloisonné jewellery; jewellery; clocks and watches; jewellery boxes and watch boxes; alarm clocks; cuff links” included in **International Class 14**;

“Leather and imitations of leather, and goods made of these materials (included in class 18), namely Brief bags, Wallets, Casings, of leather, for stationery, Purses, Card wallets [leather ware], Garment bags for travel, Vanity cases, not fitted, Credit card cases [wallets], Toiletry bags, Cosmetic bags sold empty, Straps (leather-), Traveling sets, Key bags, Bags [envelopes, pouches] of leather, for packaging; trunks and travelling bags; bags; umbrellas and parasols; Luggage, bags, wallets and other carriers; Clothing for pets; collars for animals; dog collars; dog shoes; dog leashes; dog leads; dog parkas; dog clothing; dog apparel; dog coats; dog bellybands; raincoats for dogs; horse shoes; horse covers; horse blankets; horse cloths; horse collars; horse saddles; harness for horses; blinkers for horses; headbands for horses; rain sheets for horses; golf umbrellas; animal skins; hides; walking sticks; whips; harness and saddlery; attaché cases; feed bags; sport bags; leather shoulder belts; beach bags; card cases [notecases]; chain mesh purses; handbag frames; frames for umbrellas or parasols; handbags; suitcase handles; walking cane handles; haversacks; music cases; muzzles; purses; shopping bags; straps for skates; slings for carrying infants; umbrella rings; umbrella sticks; vanity cases, not fitted; walking stick seats; wheeled shopping bags; combination walking sticks and umbrellas; bags for umbrellas; covers for parasols; umbrella covers; beach umbrellas [beach parasols]; metal parts of umbrellas; suitcases; wheeled luggage; toiletry bags; travelling sets [leatherware]; tie cases for travel; cases of imitation leather; key cases made of leather; key cases; cosmetic purses; shaving bags sold empty; driving licence cases; tool pouches, sold empty; carry-on bags; travel luggage; boston bags; casual bags; bucket bags; shoulder bags; cross-body bags; children's shoulder bags; fashion handbags; drawstring bags; wheeled bags; flight bags; bags (game -) [hunting accessories]; bags for campers; hiking bags; work bags; wrist mounted carryall bags; saddlebags; evening handbags; travel baggage; travelling bags made of imitation leather; travel bags made of plastic materials; garment bags for travel made of leather; shoe bags for travel; garment carriers; canvas bags; diplomatic bags; leather bags and wallets; flexible bags for garments; waterproof bags; felt bags; briefcases [leather goods]; artificial fur bags; knitted bags, not of precious metals; bags for sports clothing; wash bags for carrying toiletries; towelling bags; shoe bags; tool bags sold empty; small bags for men; hipsacks; purses made of precious metal; leather purses; handbags made of leather; handbags made of imitations leather; pouches for holding make-up; keys and other personal items; hat boxes for travel; hat boxes of leather; straps for luggage; straps for coin purses; business card holders in the form of wallets; coin holders; travel cases; luggage covers; bumbags; clutches [purses]; card wallets [leatherware]; nappy wallets; all-purpose athletic bags; kit bags; bags for climbers; travelling bags; purse frames; wheeled suitcases; valises; hand luggage; hiking rucksacks; sports packs; harness fittings; studs of leather; straps made of imitation leather; laces (leather -); leather, unworked or semi-worked; leather for harnesses; leather for shoes; imitation leather; moleskin [imitation of leather]; curried skins; polyurethane leather; fur; faux fur; semi-worked fur; leather cloth; articles of clothing for horses; saddle trees; saddlery; animal harnesses; reins; fastenings for saddles; saddle blankets; covers for animals; hunting crops; jockey sticks; spats and knee bandages for horses; leggings for animals; covers and wraps for animals; saddlecloths for horses” included in **International Class 18**;

“Clothing for men, women and children; stockings; headgear; underwear; nightwear; swimwear; bathrobes; belts; shawls; accessories, namely headscarves, neck scarves, shawls, dress handkerchiefs; ties; gloves; shoes; belts of leather” included in **International Class 25** and

“Business management, sales consultancy; Wholesale and retail services in relation to clothing, footwear, headgear and clocks and watches, eyewear, jewelry, fashion accessories, cosmetics and perfumery, goods of leather, namely trunks and bags, purses, card wallets [leather ware], garment bags for travel, vanity cases, not fitted, toiletry bags, straps (leather), backpacks, key bags, satchels, gym bags, bags [envelopes, pouches] of leather, for packaging, umbrellas and parasols; Wholesale and retail services in relation to bed linen, home textiles, household articles, namely household containers, household textiles, household linen, household utensils and household fragrances, shoe polishing sets, wine openers and wine decanters, stationery, luggage, sporting articles; Marketing services; Market research and market analysis; Advertising; Sales promotion; Rental of advertising space; Distribution of goods and advertising material for advertising purposes, including via electronic media and via the Internet; presentation of goods, in particular shop and shop window dressing; Organization of Exhibitions for commercial or advertising purposes; Promotion of business relationships by providing of commercial and business contacts; Commercial information and advice for consumers [consumer advice shop]; Business consultancy and administration; Business organization consulting; Professional business consulting; Fashion consultancy (business); organization of fashion shows for commercial, industrial and advertising purposes; Management of retail stores, online wholesale and retail services and online ordering services, mail ordering services and computerized online-ordering services in relation to clothing, footwear, headgear and clocks and watches, eyewear, jewelry, fashion accessories, cosmetics and perfumery; Management of retail stores, online wholesale and retail services and online ordering services, mail ordering services and computerized online-ordering services in relation to goods of leather, namely trunks and bags, purses, card wallets [leather ware], garment bags for travel, vanity cases, not fitted, toiletry bags, straps (leather), backpacks, key bags, satchels, gym bags, bags [envelopes, pouches] of leather, for packaging, umbrellas and parasols; Management of retail stores, online wholesale and retail services and online ordering services, mail ordering services and computerized online-ordering services in relation to bed linen, home textiles, household articles, namely household containers, household textiles, household linen, household utensils and household fragrances, shoe polishing sets, wine openers and wine decanters, stationery, luggage, sporting articles” included in **International Class 35**.

The above mark has been filed as European Union Trademark Application No. 018793801, on November 14, 2022.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw Htoo Htoo, H.G.P
For HUGO BOSS Trade Mark Management GmbH & Co. KG,
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon.
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
hh@kcyangon.com

Dated 30 March 2023



A prototype car of Honda Motor Co's ultracompact electric vehicle.
PHOTO: HONDA MOTOR CO.

US, Japan strike deal on boosting supplies of EV battery minerals

THE United States and Japan said Tuesday that the two countries have reached an agreement on reinforcing supply chains of minerals vital in producing electric vehicle batteries.

The agreement will

allow Japanese companies to receive EV tax breaks if critical minerals from the United States or countries with which it has free trade agreements are used in the cars’ batteries, the two governments said.

The deal is part of a larger effort by the administration of US President Joe Biden to strengthen its economic security by diversifying procurement sources of important materials among allies and like-minded countries, as

well as to counter China’s growing influence in high-tech sectors. The accord means that Japan will be treated as equivalent to an FTA partner in relation to the five minerals, including cobalt, lithium and nickel. —Kyodo

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Techtronic Industries Company Limited, a company formed and existing under the laws of Hong Kong, and having its registered office at 29/F, Tower 2, Kowloon Commerce Centre, 51 Kwai Cheong Road, Kwai Chung, New Territories, Hong Kong, hereby declares that the Company is the Owner and Sole proprietor of the following Trademarks:



TECHTRONIC

The above Trademarks are used in respect of "Machine tools; power-operated tools; agricultural implements, other than hand-operated hand tools; electric gardening tools; applicators for lawn care products (machines); hand-held tools, other than hand-operated; air suction machines; blowing machines; electric hand drills; screwdrivers, electric; drill chucks [parts of machines]; drilling bits [parts of machines]; drilling heads [parts of machines]; drilling machines; dust extractors [parts of machines]; hammers; blades [parts of machines]; current generators; chucks [parts of machines]; saw blades [parts of machines]; saws [machines]; cutting machines; diggers [machines]; grinding machines; guides for machines; handling apparatus for loading and unloading; industrial robots; sanitizing machines; hoists; jacks [machines]; sprayers (machines) for garden use in spraying fungicide, herbicide and insecticide; spraying machines; spray guns for paint; glue guns, electric; machines and apparatus for cleaning, electric; machines and apparatus for carpet shampooing, electric; cleaning appliances utilizing steam; brushes for vacuum cleaners; steam mops; suction nozzles for vacuum cleaners; vacuum cleaner attachments for disseminating perfumes and disinfectants; vacuum cleaner bags; vacuum cleaner hoses; vacuum cleaners; pumps [machines]; washing apparatus; high pressure washers; mechanized livestock feeders; tracks being part of power tools; sewer cleaning machines; drain cleaning machines; drainage machines; electric drain unblocking devices; electric pipe evacuators; riveting machines; electric soldering irons; holders for machine tools; parts and fittings for the above goods." in **Class 7**; "Hand tools, hand-operated; hand-operated manual tools; hand-operated tools for drilling; cutters; hand tools for use in decorating; hand tools for use in the garden; expandable handheld shaft garden hand tools and interchangeable attachments including loppers, pruners, shears, shovels, rakes, pruning saws, and hoes; saws; cutlery; side arms; belts; tool bags filled with hand-operated hand tools; parts and accessories therefor." in **Class 8**; "Scientific, research, navigation, surveying, photographic, cinematographic, audiovisual, optical, weighing, measuring, signalling, detecting, testing, inspecting, life-saving and teaching apparatus and instruments; apparatus and instruments for conducting, switching, transforming, accumulating, regulating or controlling the distribution or use of electricity; apparatus and instruments for recording, transmitting, reproducing or processing sound, images or data; batteries, electric; solar batteries; cells; battery boxes; battery chargers; power sources; converters, electric; distance measuring apparatus; distance recording apparatus; Global Positioning System [GPS] apparatus; height measuring instruments; lasers, not for medical purposes; levels [instruments for determining the horizontal]; locks, electric; loudspeakers; measures; measuring devices, electric; remote control apparatus; rulers [measuring instruments]; squares for measuring; headphones; radios; clothing, footwear and gloves for protection against accidents, irradiation and fire; body harnesses for support when lifting loads; protective goggles; protective helmets; protective masks; protective harnesses; protective headwear for industrial use, including hard hats, face shields, safety visors; glasses and glass storage; computer software applications, downloadable; application software and mobile app for tool control, inventory management and tool reporting; downloadable virtual goods (metaverse); MP3; USB (Universal Serial Bus) adapters; memory stick; rotating inspection scopes; digital inspection cameras; laser markers; body cooling gear; body cooling gear namely vests, towels, head bands and caps that cool down body temperature; pet cooling gear; pet vests that cool down body temperature; parts and fittings for the above goods." in **Class 9**; "Apparatus and installations for lighting, heating, cooling, steam generating, cooking, drying, ventilating, water supply and sanitary purposes; air purifying apparatus and machines; humidifiers; air-conditioning installations; sterilizers; disinfectant apparatus; electric fans for personal use; fans [air-conditioning]; fog machines; light tubes being parts of insect killing apparatus; head torches; portable headlamps; electric torches; electric flashlights; lamps; electric lights for Christmas trees; blankets, electric, not for medical purposes; electrically heated clothing; heating cushions, electric, not for medical purposes; heating pads, electric, not for medical purposes; laundry dryers, electric; laundry room boilers; refrigerators, freezers, wine cellars, electric; wine coolers; cooling installations for liquids; coolers, electric; dish sterilizers; gas condensers, other than parts of machines; coffee capsules, empty, for electric coffee machines; coffee machines, electric; coffee percolators, electric; coffee roasters; food dehydrators, electric; kettles, electric; hand dryers; hand drying apparatus for washrooms; hand and face dryers; electric hand dryers; hair dryers; hair dryer attachments namely hair diffusers, smoothing nozzles, concentrator nozzles, hot air comb nozzles; stands for hair dryers; filters for hair dryers; mats for hair dryers; heat guns; cases, boxes, bags, and stands specially adapted for all for the aforesaid goods; parts and fittings for the above goods." in **Class 11**.

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

Daw Aye Tha Zin Myo (H.G.P)
For **Techtronic Industries Company Limited**
c/o **Baker & McKenzie Limited**
Suite 28, Level 14, Junction City Tower,
No.3/A Bogyoke Aung San Road,
Pabedan Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
Dated: **30 March 2023**

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Professional Dietetics International S.r.l. (*limited liability company*), a company incorporated in Italy and having its registered office at Via Ciro Menotti 1/A, 20129 Milano, Italy is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademarks;

SUNEKOS

In respect of "Cosmetic products for the treatment and prevention of wrinkles and skin inaesthetics" included in **International Class 03** and "Pharmaceutical preparations for the treatment of wrinkles and skin inaesthetics; injectable preparations for the treatment of wrinkles and skin inaesthetics; food supplements for medical use; food supplements for dietetic use" included in **International Class 05**.

NUTRAKOS

In respect of "Cosmetic products; cosmetic products for the treatment and prevention of wrinkles and skin inaestheticisms" included in **International Class 03** and "Pharmaceutical preparations for the treatment of wrinkles and skin inaestheticisms; injectable preparations for the treatment of wrinkles and skin inaestheticisms; food supplements for medical use; food supplements for dietetic use" included in **International Class 05**.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Marks shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw Htoo Htoo, H.G.P
For **Professional Dietetics International S.r.l.**,
C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.**,
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated **30 March 2023** hh@kcyangon.com

TRADEMARK CAUTION

KALBE INTERNATIONAL PTE. LTD., a company incorporated in Singapore and having its registered office at 21 Bukit Batok Crescent #27-79 WCEGA Tower, Singapore 658065 is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:

Red-G

Reg. No. 4/2889/2023 (17.3.2023)

In respect of "Herbal extracts for medical purposes; plant extracts for pharmaceutical purposes; pharmaceuticals; medicinal drinks; medicines for human purposes; mint for pharmaceutical purposes; medicinal herbs; syrups for pharmaceutical purposes" included in **International Class 05**; "Crystallized ginger; ginger, preserved" included in **International Class 29**; "Peppermint sweets; turmeric; ground ginger" included in **International Class 30** and "Energy drink; ginger beer / ginger ale; non-alcoholic beverages" included in **International Class 32**.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw Htoo Htoo, H.G.P
For **KALBE INTERNATIONAL PTE. LTD.**,
C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.**,
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Dated **30 March 2023** hh@kcyangon.com

TPP close to agreeing to Britain’s membership, 1st expansion

MEMBERS of the Trans-Pacific Partnership are close to agreeing to Britain joining the free trade pact, Japanese government sources said Wednesday, in the first expansion of the 11-nation deal that currently covers over 10 per cent of global economic output. Britain’s accession, which will be approved as early as this year, is hoped to help build momentum for the return of the United States, which withdrew from the pact in 2017 under then President Donald Trump, the sources said. In a sign of tilting to the Indo-Pacific region following Brexit, Britain in 2021 became the first non-Pacific country to formally request to join the TPP. China, Taiwan and Uruguay followed suit.—Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC HAIPHONG VOY.NO. (2306S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC HAIPHONG VOY.NO. (2306S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-3-2023** 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2305S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2305S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-3-2023** 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SEOUL GLOW VOY.NO. (310W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SEOUL GLOW VOY.NO. (310W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-3-2023** 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

TRADEMARK CAUTION

S & W Fine Foods International Limited, a company formed and existing under the laws of British Virgin Islands, and having its registered office at Trident Chambers, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands, hereby declares that the Company is the Owner and Sole proprietor of the following Trademarks:

S&W Sweet 16

The above Trademark is used in respect of "Fresh fruits, fresh vegetables and fresh produce." in **Class 31**.



The above Trademark is used in respect of "Canned meat, fish, and oysters; salad dressings; pickles; preserved, frozen dried or cooked fruits and vegetables; canned fruits; bottled fruits; fruits in glass; canned vegetables; bottled vegetables; vegetables in glass; bread or nuts; shelled nuts; tomato paste; olives (preserved), maraschino cherries; mayonnaise; all kinds of beans in bags, cans or glass jars; glace fruits." in **Class 29**; "Salad dressings; vinegar; preserved, or bottled sauces; coffee; pasta; honey; ketchup and tomato sauces." in **Class 30**; and "Aerated and other non alcoholic beverages; fruit juice beverages, fruit juices and vegetables; fruit juices and vegetables of box and of bottles; fruit syrups, syrups for beverages and other preparations for making beverages." in **Class 32**.

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

Daw Aye Tha Zin Myo (H.G.P)
For **S & W Fine Foods International Limited**
c/o **Baker & McKenzie Limited**
Suite 28, Level 14, Junction City Tower,
No.3/A Bogyoke Aung San Road,
Pabedan Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
Dated: **30 March 2023**

8,000 steps once or twice a week cuts mortality risk: study

WALKING 8,000 steps — about four miles (6.4 kilometres) — one or two days a week may significantly reduce the risk of an early death, according to a study released on Tuesday.

While regular exercise is known to lower mortality risk, the study published in the journal JAMA Network Open looked at the health benefits of walking intensively

only a few days a week. For the study, the researchers from Kyoto University and the University of California, Los Angeles analyzed data from 3,100 American adults.

They found that those who walked 8,000 steps or more one or two days a week were 14.9 per cent less likely to die over a 10-year period than those who never reached that mark.—AFP



People walk around Columbus Circle in New York, 12 June 2020. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Unilever Global IP Limited, a company incorporated and existing under the laws of United Kingdom, and having its principal office at Port Sunlight Wirral, Merseyside CH62 4ZD, United Kingdom, hereby declares that the Company is the Owner and Sole proprietor of the following Trademark:

LUX

The above Trademark is used in respect of "Soaps; perfumery, toilet water, aftershave, cologne; essential oils; deodorants and antiperspirants; preparations for the care of the scalp and hair; shampoos and conditioners; hair colourants; hair styling products; toothpaste; mouthwash, not for medical use; preparations for the care of the mouth and teeth; non-medicated toilet preparations; bath and shower preparations; skin care preparations; oils, creams and lotions for the skin; shaving preparations; pre-shave and aftershave preparations; depilatory preparations; sun-tanning and sun protection preparations; cosmetics; make-up and make-up removing preparations; petroleum jelly; lip care preparations; talcum powder; cotton wool, cotton sticks; cosmetic pads, tissues or wipes; pre-moistened or impregnated cleansing pads, tissues or wipes; beauty masks, facial packs." in **Class 3** and "Pharmaceutical preparations; disinfectants for hygiene purposes and antiseptics; sanitary preparations for personal hygiene, other than toiletries; dental wax; bandages, plaster for medical use, material for dressings for medical use; medicated skin and hair preparations; medicated preparations for the lips; petroleum jelly for medical purposes; dietetic substances for medical use; herbal preparations for medical purposes." in **Class 5**.

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

Daw Kyi Nyein Chan (H.G.P)
For **Unilever Global IP Limited**
c/o **Baker & McKenzie Limited**
Suite 28, Level 14, Junction City Tower,
No. 3/A Bogyoke Aung San Road,
Pabedan Township, Yangon, Myanmar
Dated: **30 March 2023**

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TRADEMARK CAUTION

Unilever Global IP Limited, a company incorporated and existing under the laws of United Kingdom, and having its principal office at Port Sunlight, Wirral, Merseyside CH62 4ZD, United Kingdom, hereby declares that the Company is the Owner and Sole proprietor of the following Trademark:

VASELINE

The above Trademark is used in respect of "Soaps; cleaning preparations; perfumery; essential oils; deodorants and antiperspirants; hair care preparations; non-medicated toilet preparations; bath and shower preparations; skin care preparations; oils, creams and lotions for the skin; shaving preparations; pre-shave and aftershave preparations; depilatory preparations; sun-tanning and sun protection preparations; cosmetics; make-up and make-up removing preparations; petroleum jelly; lip care preparations; talcum powder; cotton wool, cotton sticks; cosmetic pads, tissues or wipes; pre-moistened or impregnated cleansing pads, tissues or wipes; beauty masks, facial packs, medicated soap." in **Class 3** and "Pharmaceutical preparations; disinfectants and antiseptics; deodorants and air-freshening preparations; sanitary products and preparations; dental wax; bandages, plasters, material for dressings; medicated skin and hair preparations; medicated preparations for the lips; preparations for the treatment and/or alleviation of sunburn; petroleum jelly for medical purposes; dietetic substances for medical use; herbal preparations for medical purposes; herbal supplements and herbal extracts; medicated herbal beverages; vitamins, minerals; nutritional supplements." in **Class 5**.

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

Daw Kyi Nyein Chan (H.G.P)
For **Unilever Global IP Limited**
c/o **Baker & McKenzie Limited**
Suite 28, Level 14, Junction City Tower,
No. 3/A Bogyoke Aung San Road,
Pabedan Township, Yangon, Myanmar
Dated: **30 March 2023**

Sri Lanka to reduce fuel prices as economic conditions improve

SRI Lanka's Power and Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekera said on Wednesday that fuel prices will be reduced in the country from 29 March at midnight.

The price of 92 Octane petrol will be reduced by 60 rupees (0.18 US dollar) to 340 rupees per litre, and that of 95 Octane petrol will fall by 135 rupees to 375 rupees per litre.

The price of diesel will be reduced by 80 rupees to 325 rupees per litre and that of super diesel will be reduced by 45 rupees to 465 rupees.

Meanwhile, the price of kerosine will be reduced by 10 rupees to 295 rupees.

Wijesekera said last week that the Sri Lankan government would reduce fuel prices as a result of falling international oil



In this file photo dated 11 March 2022, a worker fills petrol in an auto rickshaw at a Lanka IOC fuel station in Colombo. **PHOTO: AFP**

prices and the crisis-ridden country now having the ability to get competitive prices from suppliers due to the International Monetary Fund loan approval.

The minister also said the Sri Lankan rupee is appreciating against the US dollar.

According to the minister, President Ranil

Wickremesinghe had advised him to reduce fuel prices following the IMF bailout package and the stabilization of the economy.

Sri Lanka increased fuel prices by over 200 per cent in 2022 amid an economic crisis in the South Asian country. (1 US dollar equals about 324.5 Sri Lankan rupees).—Xinhua

Tourism expo in Shanghai signals strong economic recovery



People visit the Tourism Plus Shanghai 2023 in east China's Shanghai, 28 March 2023. A comprehensive tourism expo, Tourism Plus Shanghai 2023, opened here on Tuesday. **PHOTO: CHEN AIPING/XINHUA**

A comprehensive tourism expo, Tourism Plus Shanghai 2023, opened here on Tuesday.

Covering an area of 600,000 square metres, the expo includes six main exhibitions, over 90 forums and summits, and 22 competitions and award events.

About 5,000 exhibitors will participate in the expo. The expo includes two stages, with the first one running from 28 to 31 March and the second from 29

May to 1 June. "The return of large-scale exhibitions makes us more confident about the development of the tourism economy," said Sun Jian, general manager of BTG Homeinns Hotels (Group) Co Ltd, one of China's major hotel groups. Sun said the occupancy rate of the hotels under the group in first-tier cities such as Beijing and Shanghai increased by 30 per cent year on year from January to February 2023.—Xinhua

Senegal's gold rush brings hope and despair

MOHAMED Bayoh climbed into the deep, pitch-black hole, hoping to emerge with a nugget that would change his life.

The 26-year-old Guinean is one of thousands of West Africans who have flocked to remote eastern Senegal in search of gold.

The rush for the precious metal has dramatically transformed Bantakokouta, a town on the borders of Mali and Guinea.

The locals numbered just a few dozen two decades ago, now there are several thousand on the back of a floating population of dream-seekers and risk-takers with gold in their eyes.

Over time, their ant-like labour has left the landscape looking like a Swiss cheese.

As far as the eye can see, through the pervasive dusty mist, small huddled groups protected from the sun by makeshift branch shelters haul up spoil scratched from the ground.

Women sit nearby, sorting the rocks into two

mounds — a big one for the discards and a much smaller one for the promising samples.

The same scenes are played out every day, with no guarantee of any success.

"Working here is like playing the lottery, you are never sure of winning," sighed Bayoh, who said he was nonetheless determined to stay put until he gets rich.

Other sites in the gold-rich region have been taken over by mining corporations, sometimes triggering land disputes with local people. But in Bantakokouta, informal mining has been allowed to carry on.

Diggers stay typically stay for a few months — sometimes just days — to chance their arm, hoping for a lucky strike that will enable them to send money home or start a business.

Bayoh was clear in his objective: to "find a lot of gold," he said.

"Not a little... a lot. To start another life in Guinea."—AFP

Credit Suisse ex-chairman says owes nothing after debacle

THE former chairman of Credit Suisse says he never received any bonus and owes nothing following the scandal-plagued bank's emergency sale to UBS, a Swiss newspaper reported Tuesday.

Urs Rohner's decade-long tenure was mired in a series of controversies, including the bank's exposure to the collapses of in-

vestment firms Archegos and Greensill in the last year of his chairmanship in 2021. Already roiled by past scandals, Credit Suisse shares sank earlier this month over concerns of contagion from the failures of three US regional banks, leading to its government-engineered buy-out by Swiss rival UBS.

Pressures is growing

for Credit Suisse bosses to be held to account and return their bonuses in light of the bank's failings.

Rohner's spokesman told the CH Media newspaper group that the former chairman received his payments regardless of the bank's results.

"As chairman of the board, he did not get a bonus, which is why there is

nothing to reimburse," the spokesman said.

Rohner voluntarily turned down a total of five million Swiss francs (\$5.5 million) that he was owed as part of his pay package between 2014 and 2021, the spokesman added.

CH Media reported that Rohner was paid around 52 million francs during his tenure.—AFP

Russia launches large-scale command-and-staff exercise

RUSSIA'S Strategic Missile Forces have launched a large-scale command-and-staff exercise that will involve the Yars intercontinental ballistic missile system, the Russian Defence Ministry said on Wednesday.

"The exercise will involve over 3,000 servicemen and about 300 pieces of military hardware. A commission of the Strategic Missile Forces' command will assess cohesion among the personnel fulfilling their tasks," the ministry said in a statement.

The Omsk Missile Formation and the Novosibirsk Missile Formation, equipped with Yars mobile launchers, will participate in the exercise, said the statement.

The servicemen of the Strategic Missile Forces would carry out a complex of measures to train concealment and counter-measures against modern aerial survey systems, it added.

The RS-24 Yars, a modification of the Topol-M missile, is Russia's strategic missile system armed with a solid-propellant intercontinental ballistic missile. It reportedly has an operational range of up to 12,000 kilometres and can carry multiple nuclear warheads. — Xinhua



A member of Russia's Strategic Missile Forces participates in special tactics training in Serpukhov, outside of Moscow, on 14 December 2017. PHOTO: RUSSIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE/FILE

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

The flying hospital bringing Ukraine's wounded west

YOU can see the pain held just in check in the faces of Ukraine's war wounded as they are evacuated in a flying hospital.

"It's the first time I've taken a plane," says 22-year-old Mykola Fedirko, who was hit by a shell holding off Russian troops in a trench in the Donetsk region. "I would have loved to be going to Denmark for a holiday and not to hospital because of my wound," says the 22-year-old salesman-turned-soldier, whose lower leg is held in place by metal pins. —AFP

UK's Guardian apologizes for founders' slavery links

THE owner of British newspaper The Guardian apologised Tuesday for the role of its founders in transatlantic slavery and announced a "decade-long programme of restorative justice", following an independent investigation. The more than two-year "academic review" into the newspaper's early 19th century creation discovered its main founder John Edward Taylor and many of his financial backers had links to slavery, the paper said. —AFP

US aircraft carrier enters S Korea port amid N Korean posturing

A US nuclear-powered aircraft carrier arrived at a port in the South Korean city of Busan on Tuesday, as tensions ratchet up with North Korea following a series of missile tests and other provocations. The warship's arrival came a day after North Korea fired two ballistic missiles in an apparent response to US-South Korea joint military exercises and, according to the North's state media, leader Kim Jong Un inspected work related to the country's nuclear weapons programme.

It is the first time since September last year that a US nuclear carrier entered a South Korean port.

The US Navy's Nimitz participated in a training exercise with the South Korean navy in open waters near South Korea's southern island of Jeju on Monday.

It also conducted a drill with the Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force in the Pacific Ocean and the East China Sea for four days through Sunday.—Kyodo



The USS Nimitz, a US Navy aircraft carrier, makes a port call in Busan, South Korea, on 28 March 2023. PHOTO: KYODO



Afghan evacuees prepare to board a plane in an evacuation at Kabul Airport in August 2021. PHOTO: AFP

Rights groups warn over UK plan to move Afghan refugees from hotels

BRITAIN on Tuesday announced it would move around 8,000 Afghan refugees out of temporary hotel accommodation and into permanent homes, but rights groups warned it could cause them "misery and anxiety".

The UK has welcomed around 24,500 Afghans under resettlement and relocation schemes introduced as the Taliban took over their country in 2021. Around 8,000 of those, half of them children, remain in temporary hotel accommodation.

Veterans' affairs minister Johnny Mercer on Tuesday told MPs that it was an "unsustainable situation" that "needs to change. "Bridging hotels were not and were never designed to be a permanent solution... we have a duty to end this practice," he said.

Mercer added the government wants to "step up our support" to help resettled and relocated Afghans access "independent settled accommodation".—AFP

Morocco treads fine line between courting Israel, Palestinians



Moroccans burn the Israeli flag as they gather to protest the normalization of ties with Israel, outside the parliament building in the capital Rabat on 24 December 2022. PHOTO: AFP

MOROCCO is struggling to balance its alliance with Israel with support for the domestically popular Palestinian cause, an increasingly complex challenge with Israel ruled by its most right-wing government ever.

The North African country normalised its ties with Israel in December 2020, part of a series of deals known as the Abraham Accords, backed by the admin-

istration of then-US President Donald Trump.

In exchange, Rabat won a key concession from Washington: recognition of its sovereignty over the disputed Western Sahara, where the Polisario movement seeks independence.

But the move was at odds with a strongly pro-Palestinian public mood in Morocco.

That square has been hard-

er to circle in recent months as violence has surged in the Israel-Palestinian conflict, with the army carrying out deadly raids in the occupied West Bank.

But Rabat has been quick to defend itself.

A case in point is the royal palace's reaction after the opposition Islamist Justice and Development Party (PJD) "deplored" the Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita for allegedly defending Israel publicly, even as it commits "criminal aggression against our Palestinian brothers". King Mohammed VI's office hit back, accusing the PJD of voicing "irresponsible excesses and dangerous approximations regarding relations" between Morocco and Israel.

"Morocco's position towards the Palestinian question is irreversible," it said, adding that Rabat's foreign relations are the prerogative of the monarch.—AFP

Peru prosecutors probe president over alleged money laundering

PERUVIAN prosecutors said late Tuesday they were investigating President Dina Boluarte and her ousted predecessor Pedro Castillo for alleged money laundering and illegal campaign financing during the 2021 presidential election.

The probe is an expansion of an investigation against the pair over allegations of illegal financing.

Boluarte, Castillo and his former adviser Henry Shimabukuro were being investigated for "the crimes of prohibited financing of political organizations, money laundering and criminal organization", the public prosecutor's office said on Twitter.

"The alleged commission of these crimes would have occurred during the electoral campaign of (the left-wing party) Free Peru in 2021," when Castillo was running for the presidency and Boluarte for the vice-presidency, it said.

The prosecutor in the case,



Richard Rojas, made the decision after Shimabukuro declared he had evidence Boluarte was aware of alleged irregularities in the collection of campaign funds.

Peru has been embroiled in a political crisis since Castillo was ousted and arrested on 7 December charged with rebellion for trying to dissolve congress and rule by decree.

Boluarte took over as president but has faced calls to resign by protesters also demanding fresh elections.

The prosecutors' announcement comes shortly before congress, controlled by the right but now an ally of Boluarte, will debate on Thursday the admission of a motion to remove the president.—AFP

At least 38 migrants dead in Mexico detention centre fire

A fire believed to have been started by migrants protesting against their deportation killed at least 38 people at a Mexican immigration detention centre near the US border, authorities said Tuesday, prompting demands for justice.

The blaze broke out late Monday at the National Migration Institute (INM) facility in Ciudad Juarez, prompting the mobilization of firefighters and dozens of ambulances.

The migrants were believed to have lit the fire as a demonstration because they

feared they would be deported, President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said.

"They put mats at the door of the shelter and set them on fire as a protest, and did not imagine that it would cause this terrible tragedy," he told reporters.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi expressed solidarity with relatives of the victims and appealed to countries in the region "to deal in a humane, just, effective manner with growing population flows through the Americas."—AFP



Anger boiled outside the detention facility, with relatives chanting demands for justice. PHOTO: AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Germany prepares pomp for Charles III's first foreign trip

BRITAIN'S Charles III will arrive in Germany on Wednesday for his first state visit as king, after a planned trip to France was postponed in the face of political protests.

British Union Jack flags have been raised along Berlin's central Unter den Linden avenue, which leads to the Brandenburg Gate, in anticipation of the monarch's arrival.

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and German first lady Elke Buedenbender will welcome Charles and Queen Consort Camilla with military honours at the famous landmark, the first time it has provided a backdrop for receiving a state guest.—AFP

Pence ordered to testify against Trump in insurrection probe

A US judge has ordered former vice-president Mike Pence to testify about his conversations with Donald Trump leading up to the 2021 assault on the Capitol, multiple media outlets reported on Tuesday.

Washington's Chief Judge James Boasberg reportedly ruled that Pence should have to provide answers to a federal grand jury on any questions probing potential criminality by the then-president.

But Pence can decline to discuss his actions on the day of the insurrection itself, when he was serving as president of the Senate for the certification of the election, the reports said.—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.



Myanmar women's team players are seen in the training session. PHOTO: MFF

Team Myanmar make final preparations for Paris Olympic qualifiers

THE Myanmar women's national team is preparing for the first stage of the 2024 Paris Olympic qualifiers, which will be held in early April.

The women's squad returned from a friendly trip to China on 24 March and started training on 25 March.

The Myanmar women's national team is training with a total of 26 players, including the 24 players who went on a friendly trip to China, including striker Win Theingi Tun, who is playing for a Thai women's club, and defender Khin Than Wai, who was unable to go on the friendly trip to China due to injury.

As the final 22 players must be selected for the Paris Olympic qualifiers, the Myanmar women's team will have to reduce four players.

Team Administrator Daw Myat Myat Oo, Head Coach Daw Thet Thet Win, Assistant Coaches Daw San San Maw, U Sa Htet Naing Win, and U Yin Min Aung will handle the team during the trip.

The team includes goalkeepers: May Zin Nwe, Zulat Nadi, Myo Mya Mya Nyein, Defenders: Moe Ma Ma Soe, Zun Yu Ya Oo, May Thet Mon Myint, Aye Aye Moe, Khin Myo Win, Phyu Phyu Win, Ei Ei Kyaw, and Khin Than

Wai, Midfielders: Khin Marlar Tun, Nant May Thazin, Khin Mo Mo Tun, Yupar Khaing, May Sabel Phoo, Pone Pone Pyae Maung, Lin Myint Mo, Naw Htet Htet Wai, Wai Phoo Eain, and Forward Players: Win Theingi Tun, Su Pyae Pyae Kyaw, Myat Noe Khin, San Thaw Thaw, July Kyaw, and Shwe Yi Tun.

The Myanmar women's team is in Group B of the Paris Olympic qualifiers, and the matches will be held from 5 to 11 April at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon. Team Myanmar is falling into the same group as Iran, Maldives, and Bangladesh. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Joselu started for Spain as they fell to a surprise defeat by Scotland in Glasgow. PHOTO: AFP

Early Spain setback for coach De la Fuente 'no accident'

NEW Spain coach Luis de la Fuente's project suffered an early setback in a chastening defeat by Scotland in Glasgow on Tuesday in Euro 2024 qualifying.

After a solid win over a Norway side without in-form striker Erling Haaland on Saturday in their first qualifier, Scott McTominay's brace secured a shock 2-0 home win over La Roja at Hampden Park. De la Fuente — a relative unknown who has never managed in La Liga — was promoted to the job after Luis Enrique departed in December following Spain's disappointing 2022 World Cup campaign. Spain put in a disjointed, wayward performance after falling behind early on, suffering their first defeat against

Scotland since 1984 and first loss in a Euro qualifier since 2014. De la Fuente made eight changes from the side which beat Norway, retaining only goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga and midfield pivots Rodri and Mikel Merino. The coach wanted to explore his options in only his second match in charge but tinkered too much. Spain's five substitutions didn't help improve the performance, which worsened as the night went on, with the side lacking leadership. One of De la Fuente's early decisions was not to rely on Paris Saint-Germain defender Sergio Ramos, 36, who retired from international duty after the coach phoned him to explain the situation. — AFP