

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Saturday, 1 April 2023

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

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

Any ethnic armed organizations wishing to restore peace are invited to peace talks: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Rakhine State government and departmental officials in Sittway on 31 March 2023.

THE government always opens the door for peace to anyone who wishes to talk about peace honestly for ensuring peace and stability of the nation and serving the interests of the State and people, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with Rakhine State government and departmental officials at the state government office yesterday afternoon.

Reports on regional matters, regional development

The Rakhine State Chief Minister presented regional matters, regional peace and stability as well as development undertakings, the opening of schools and universities, healthcare services, electricity supply and transport facilities, border trade measures, development of agriculture and livestock farms, irrigation facilities, operating of livestock farms with the State economic promotion fund and plans to operate

The government set the national objectives as the prosperity of the State and food security. If the country is fulfilled with sufficient food, development undertakings can be seen. The Constitution (2008) entrusts equal rights to ethnics and the same positions to regions and states.

domestic cow and pig species through the cooperative fund. Departmental officials also reported on the eradication of illegal trade, requirements of student hostels at Sittway University of Computer Studies and Sittway Technological University, upgrading of some hospitals, needs of inputs, improvement of roads in the state and installation of power cables and constriction of extended power stations.

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Announcement of Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

11th Waxing of Tagu 1384 ME
31 March 2023

As it is necessary to continuously control infection of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), it is hereby announced that public requests, orders, notifications and directives (except for easing the restrictions) released by the Union-level organizations and Union ministries up to 31 March 2023 have been extended until 30 April 2023 for prevention, control and treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Public notice on installation of new embossed number plates

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

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

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

Road Transport Administration Department

Daily newspapers to be published alternately during New Year holidays

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

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

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

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

However, advertisements will be accepted throughout the holidays.

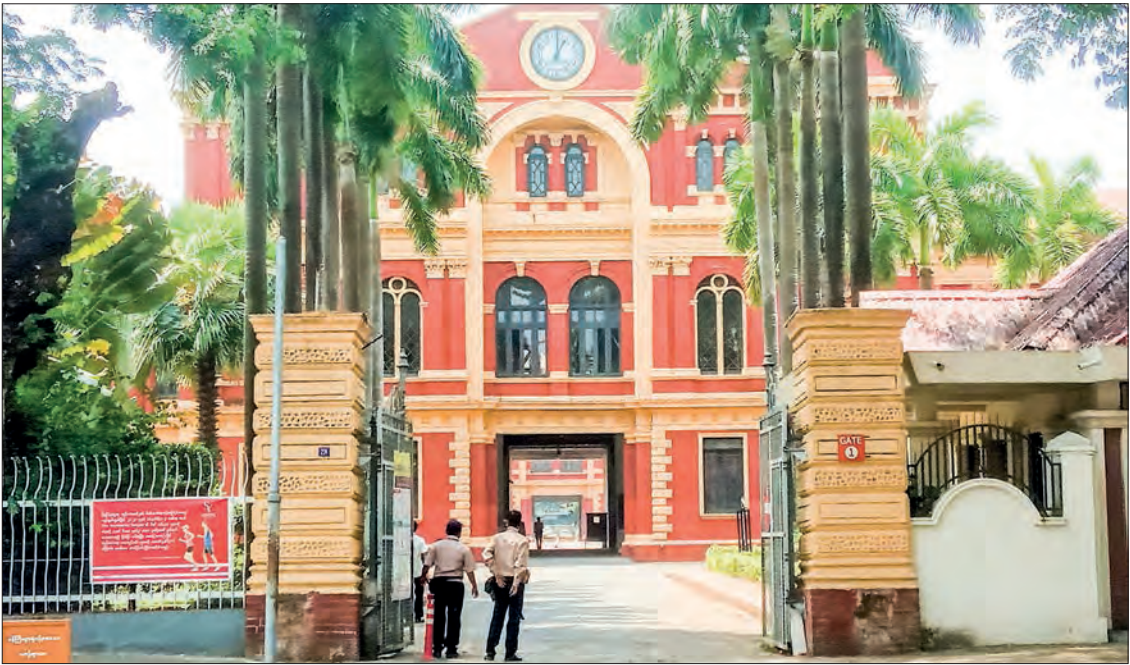
News and Periodicals Enterprise

Two new cases of COVID-19 reported on 31 March, total figure records 634,080

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases recorded **634,080** after **two** new cases were reported on 31 March 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,554**, including **one** new recovery.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at **19,490** on 31-3-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. — GNLM

More than 60,000 tourists arrive in Yangon in early 2023



The former Secretariat Office – one of tourist attraction sites in Yangon. PHOTO: KANU

THERE were over 22,000 foreign visitor arrivals in Yangon in March and more than 60,000 tourists entered Yangon in the first three months of this year.

The Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Yangon) estimates that more tourists will arrive in April during the Maha Thingyan period.

The tour groups visited Yangon and its neighbouring places such as Bago, Taikkyi, Thanlyin, Kyauktan and Kyaiktiyo in March marking Yangon Region's tourism to be more revived. The total of tourist arrivals at Yangon was 87,506 in 2022 and 16,774 in January, 22,038 in February and 22,000 in March 2023.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism welcomed tourists to visit Myanmar in the post-Covid period by implementing tourism to be an important business sector that earns foreign ex-

change for the State, long-term sustainability with preservation of the cultural heritage of all ethnicities, water, land, forest and cultural environment, development of the socioeconomic life of locals and domestic private sectors, the undertaking of the international and regional agreements with the State's interests and exerted efforts to develop as a sustainable and inclusive tourism sector contributes to peacebuilding.

Directorate of Hotels & Tourism (Yangon) Director U Nanda Aung said, "In January 2022, a total of 2,160 tourists entered Yangon and at the beginning of 2023, the number of tourists increased month by month. There were 16,774 tourists in January 2023, and the number of tourists surged in February and March. Therefore, more tourists can enter during the Thingyan Festival in April. The Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Yangon) is in cooperation with the Myanmar Hoteliers

Association and the Myanmar Tourism Federation to improve the tourism sector in Yangon."

Tourists enter Myanmar, which is a place of ancient cultural heritage sites, natural beauties of the mountains and lands appear in the seasons, seaside relaxing and rich and large national parks in flora and fauna every year except for two years of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Tourism activities were suspended during the outbreak of Covid-19 and Myanmar resumed the tourism industry in 2021 when the incidence of Covid-19 decreased. In the tourism season of 2022, the highest number of domestic visitors visited the Bagan cultural area and tourism and related business opportunities flourished again.

The Thingyan period is the last month of the Myanmar tourist season and officials estimate tourist arrivals to be more than February with the invitation of Yangon and cultural heritage places. —Nyein Thu(MNA)/MKKS

Ensuring per acre high yields needed for regional rice sufficiency

IT is necessary to ensure per acre high yields for regional rice sufficiency. Local farmers need to grow high-yield paddy strains with high consuming quality.

(Excerpts from the speech by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at a meeting with departmental officials and town elders in PutaO Township on 13 December 2022)

Any ethnic armed organizations wishing to restore peace are invited to peace talks: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views the upgrading of Shukhintha Road in Sittway yesterday.

FROM PAGE-1 Discussions in relevant sectors

Union Ministers and deputy ministers discussed landslide preventive measures, running of five airlines to Rakhine State, operation of more trains and vessels, the needs of the Rakhine State government for transforming manual to mechanized farming, smooth process of verifying land utilization, prevention of illegal extraction of forest resources, enumeration of the census in Rakhine State, plans to fulfil the necessary infrastructures for improvement of healthcare services, and participation of departmental personnel in security measures and peace and stability in the state.

State service personnel must serve the interests of the State and citizens

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that State service personnel must serve the interests of the State and its citizens. **They have to work in line with the disciplines mentioned in the Constitution. They have to be loyal to themselves and their workmates as well as the State.** As they are government service personnel, they have to prior-

itize the national cause rather than politics.

Political vision

The government is implementing the political vision to strengthen the multiparty democratic system and build the Union based on democracy and federalism. **Democracy is an administrative system with the wish of the majority under the laws, rules and regulations. Despite prioritizing the wish of the majority, all things must be done under the law but must not derail from the right way.** Federalism is sharing power at different levels. Hence, appropriate administrative power must be shared with all regions and states. Hence, it is necessary to discuss necessary topics for the Union, regions and states.

With regard to the peace process, efforts are being made to restore peace based on the Constitution (2008) and the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA. **Peace talks are being held with ethnic armed organizations with momentum to bring positive results to the State.** The government is implementing the peace process based on the constitution (2008) and the NCA.

National objective

The government set the national objectives as the prosperity of the State and food security. If the country is fulfilled with sufficient food, development undertakings can be seen. The Constitution (2008) entrusts equal rights to ethnics and the same positions to regions and states. Hence, all need to clearly review different attitudes of ethnics depending on the equal rights of regions.

Restoration of perpetual peace

The government is solving internal armed conflicts under the law. **The government always opens the door for peace to anyone who wishes to talk about peace honestly for ensuring peace and stability of the nation and serving the interests of the State and people.** If the whole nation is peaceful and stable, it will have greater development. **Two basic factors to restore perpetual peace for the sake of the entire ethnic people are the Constitution (2008) and the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).** Entire people need to participate in restoring perpetual peace. **Any ethnic armed organizations wishing**

to restore peace are invited to peace talks. They all have to join the peace process for the interests of the nation, region and ethnic people.

Ensuring rule of law

Criminal cases can be seen in Rakhine State, and it is necessary to arrange rule of law and legal procedures there.

Encouragement of education for turning out human resources

Rakhine State is endowed with sound foundations. **If the state successfully operates agriculture and livestock farming businesses based on these sound foundations, production will increase and contribute much to regional development.** To improve human resources, agriculture, livestock and technical high schools are opened for the students.

Supporting businesses based on agriculture and livestock farms

The Senior General instructed officials to seek the best ways and means for successfully operating agriculture and livestock farms to increase export volume for benefiting the region.

Disciplinary enforcement

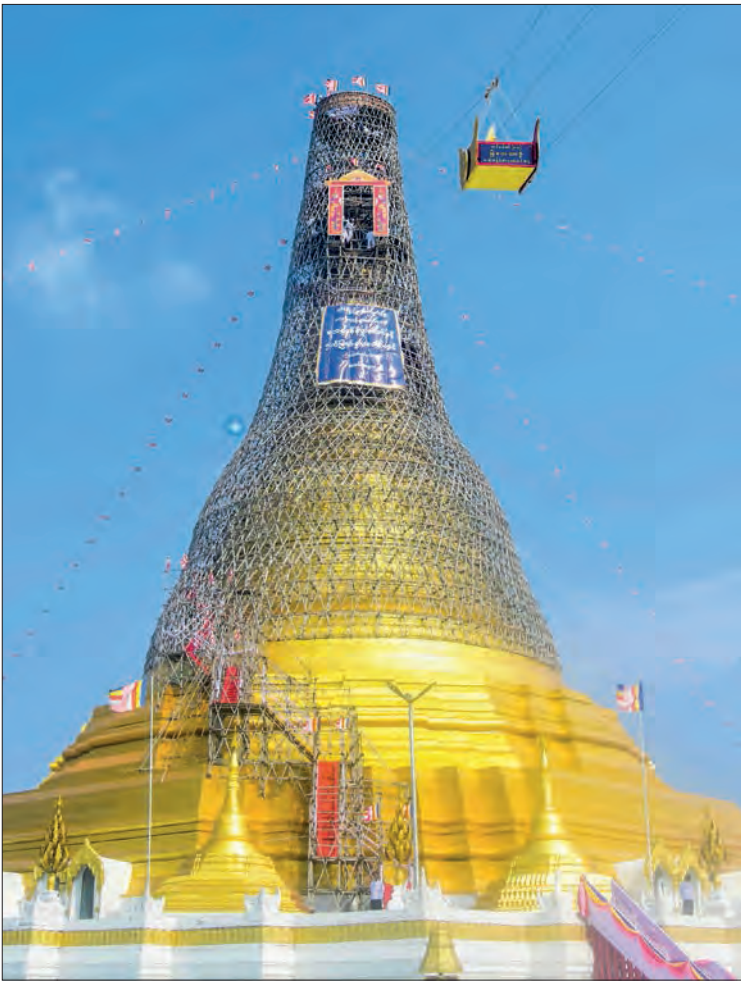
The Senior General noted that it is necessary to supervise the eradication of illegal trade processes. Officials need to supervise the use of unregistered vehicles and trading not to lose the income of country. Moreover, they have to carry out improvement of the roads in line with the relevant characteristics.

Development of the tourism industry

Many potential tourism facilities can be seen in Rakhine State. Beautification, peace and stability as well as better transport facilities can contribute to the development of the tourism industry for earning incomes for the locals and regions. **The government will focus on regional development as much as possible. Local people should participate in the relevant sectors as much as they can to have greater progress in Rakhine State.**

The Senior General and party inspected plans for full sand along the beach for public relaxation on Shukhintha Road in Sittway and gave necessary guidance. — MNA/TTA region.

Ceremonies to hoist jewelled diamond orb, pennant-shaped vane, consecrate Lawkananda Pagoda in Sittway of Rakhine State



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla offer the gemmed diamond orb to members of the Sangha.



CEREMONIES to hoist a jewelled diamond orb and a pennant-shaped vane atop Lawkananda Pagoda were held in conjunction with the consecration in Sittway of Rakhine State yesterday morning, attended by Joint Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Patron of Pariyatti Dhammikarama Buddhist Learning Centre in Minbya Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Agga Maha Gandhavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Indacariya Minbya Sayadaw and members of the Sangha.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and party paid homage to the Buddha image in the cave of the pagoda.

The Senior General, wife and attendees took the Nine Precepts from Minbya Sayadaw, and members of the Sangha recited Paritta.

The Senior General and his wife offered the jewelled diamond orb and the pennant-shaped vane dedicated to the Lord Buddha to members of the Sangha and donated offerings to venerable Sayadaws. The SAC Joint Secretary, SAC members and Union ministers together with attendees offered alms to members of the Sangha.

Presiding Patron of Dham-

ma Thukha of Sittway Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Soma delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

The Senior General, wife and party conveyed the jewelled diamond orb and the pennant-shaped vane by the decorated palanquin round the pagoda. At the auspicious time, the wife of the Senior General,



The hoisting ceremony of gemmed diamond orb and pennant-shaped vane in progress (top and above photos).

party and attendees conveyed a jewelled diamond orb and a pennant-shaped vane atop the pagoda by the decorated float. The Senior General and party fixed the jewelled diamond orb and the pennant-shaped vane atop the pagoda.

Before the consecration

ceremony, the Senior General and his wife presented cash for offering gold foils to the whole structure of the pagoda to Rakhine State Advocate-General U Hla Thein and Chairman of the pagoda board of trustees U Maung Thein Khaing.

Members of the Sangha con-

secrated the pagoda. The Senior General, wife and party paid homage to the Cakkamuni Buddha image in the Cakkamuni ordination hall and gave instructions on the long-term existence of the image and beautifying tasks to officials.

Lawkananda Pagoda is lo-

cated at the junction of Meyu and the mining department road in Yenwesu Ward of Sittway. Its construction was contributed by well-wishers led by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe from 18 February 1995. The golden umbrella was hoisted atop the pagoda on 28 February 1999 and consecration on 2 March. The pagoda is 162 feet with 232 feet in circumference on 459 square feet of terrace, encircled by eight Cetis. Four archways of the pagoda were decorated with ancient Rakhine artistic works and the interior of the wall was decorated with 550 Jataka of the Lord Buddha. Four Buddha images on marble thrones are placed in four dimensions in the cave. Currently, well-wishers led by the Senior General Min Aung Hlaing renovated the pagoda for long-term existence, and the jewelled diamond orb and the pennant-shaped vane were successfully hoisted atop the pagoda successfully. — MNA/TTA

MoHT Union Minister attends closing ceremony of Tourism Research Project

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Aung Thaw attended the closing ceremony of the Tourism Research Project implemented through the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund 2021 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the event, the Union minister said “The Establishment of Bakery & Pastry Trainings for the Vulnerable Persons Project” is being implemented under the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund 2022 and three further projects have been proposed for 2023.

The project developed with the use of the 2021 Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund benefited the ministry staff, educational staff and teachers regarding the survey and it also organized the research unit for the ministry, conducted a survey on tourism and produced skilled staff for the sustainability of projects.

Moreover, the Ministry is also compiling the guest list of local and foreign tourists daily and all should work together to issue accurate data.

Then, the Chinese Minister Counselor and the Vice-Chair of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation National Coordination Unit (Myanmar) made remarks respectively.



Union Minister U Aung Thaw poses for the documentary group photo at the event yesterday.

Then, the Director-General of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism reported on the outcomes of projects, experiences and further work plans. — MNA/KTZH

SAC Information Team Leader Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun responds to news circulating on social media about CBM raising US dollar rate, some foreign banks no longer accepting currency in/out of Myanmar



“SOME media are asking me these questions. The first question is that the Central Bank of Myanmar has set an exchange rate of K2,100 per dollar. I would like to say that there is no change in the fixed rate of K2,100 per dollar. Rumours about some foreign banks have been viral since last week. Some foreign banks are saying that they no longer accept money in/out of Myanmar.

I would like to say that there is a regular operation. Plenty of attacks are directed at the financial system of Myanmar the same as in the past. That is why the public and businesspersons should not believe such rumours. I would like to say that people can contact and ask the Central Bank directly.”—MNA

Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, Information Team Leader of the State Administration Council.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal foodstuffs, consumer goods, industrial materials, electronics and vehicles seized

THE on-duty Customs team under the management of the Customs Department made inspections on 28, 29 and 30 March and nabbed three kinds of goods including 2,600 kilogrammes of clothes worth K1.092,000 that were not declared in the Export Declaration (ED) from three containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint, eight kinds of goods including 372 remote-control toy cars, 1,900 kilogrammes of sponges and 2,000 kilogrammes of textiles that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from five containers at the Hteedan Port container checkpoint and seven kinds of

goods including 40 cartons of RCBO 100mA breakers worth K361,210 that needed the Import Licence and K23,650,000 worth of cigarettes, eight mobile phones (used) without official documents from luggage at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk). The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 29 March, a combined on-duty team under the supervision of the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force at the 16th-Mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint confiscated industrial materials and household appliances worth K9.26 million that were not declared in the

Import Declaration (ID) from a Nissan Diesel tractor head and a trailer (approximately K100 million) heading to Muse from Mandalay. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

In addition, a combined team under the management of the Yangon Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force captured three kinds of goods including 44 cartons of Singha beer and 341 cartons of drinks worth K6,584,400 without official documents on Maydawi road and Thudhamma road in North Okkalapa township. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Therefore, 15 arrests (es-



Confiscated illegal commodities.

timated value of K279,638,401) were made on three consecutive days from 28 to 30 March, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

CBM discusses progress of Myanmar's banking sector at end of 2022-2023FY



Central Bank of Myanmar Governor Daw Than Than Swe presides over the meeting on Myanmar's banking sector yesterday.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar held a meeting on the financial progress of Myanmar's banking sector by the end of 2022-2023 FY, payment issues with foreign

banks and compliance with rules and regulations for money laundering in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the meeting, CBM Governor Daw Than Than

Swe discussed the progress of Myanmar's banking sector for three years from 2021 to 2023. She said the savings of private banks saw an increase of 14.42

per cent and 7.81 per cent in loans compared with the previous financial years. The Credit to GDP Ratio is 28 per cent. The saving of banks at the CBM and the balance shows an increase of 35 per cent and 36 per cent compared with last year. The Turnover of the Interbank Market increases 98 per cent to K1,166 billion compared to last year and the turnover between the foreign banks and private banks get higher. The banks get back their loans as the economy and circulation of businesses are good again and the failure of capital/interest repayment reduces for conducting Restructuring and Rescheduling.

The banks, exporters and importers should follow the regulations set by CBM. It should report to the CBM regarding the export earnings, the need for documents and KYC/CDD for

remittance of \$10,000 and above and if it fails to do so, actions will be taken with the relevant management activities. It also should supervise the lists to send to FIU. The CBM watches the financial sector of the country daily and adopts proper ways of financial policy to control inflation.

She also talked about the duties of management teams of banks, banking services via a digital platform, business strategy depending on the market to strengthen internal control, proper management for currency diversification and the use of the Rupee for trade after seeking approval from the Central Bank of India.

Then, the deputy governor of CBM and chairpersons and CEOs of private banks coordinated the discussion. -MNA/KTZH

MoRAC Deputy Minister discusses preservation of cultural heritage with Chinese counterpart

DEPUTY Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Daw Nu Mra Zan held a meeting with the Chinese Vice-Minister for Culture and Tourism on bilateral cooperation for the preservation of cultural heritage including the current ongoing renovation of Thatbyinnyu pagoda by the technical support of China at the meeting hall of Bagan Archaeological Museum on 30 March.

During the meeting, the deputy minister thanked the Chinese government to keep conducting renovation work after the ceremony to launch

renovation work on Thatbyinnyu pagoda in Bagan's World Heritage Region held on 1 January 2022. She then called for support in installing continuous controls monitoring system with advanced technology in the Bagan region and upgrading and displaying Anawrahta Palace.

Then, the Chinese Vice-Minister for Culture and Tourism said China will continue the preservation of Myanmar's cultural heritage and the Chinese President also proposed to promote the preservation of cultural heritage across



Deputy Minister Daw Nu Mra Zan holds talks with her Chinese counterpart on 30 March.

Asia. He also invited Myanmar to participate in such processes and pledged to enhance bilateral relations and cooperation for promoting cultural heritage.

The deputy minister and party inspected the renovation and ongoing work processes at Thatbyinnyu pagoda conducted by Chinese experts and visited

Sulamani pagoda, Dhammayangyi pagoda, Ananda pagoda, Shwezigon pagoda and Zhou Enlai Prayer Hall yesterday. -MNA/KTZH

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 454237515

ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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newsroom@gnlm.com.mm, gnlmnews@gmail.com
www.gnlm.com.mm

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

LOCAL BUSINESS

Sunflower seeds flooding Mandalay market in pre-Thingyan holidays

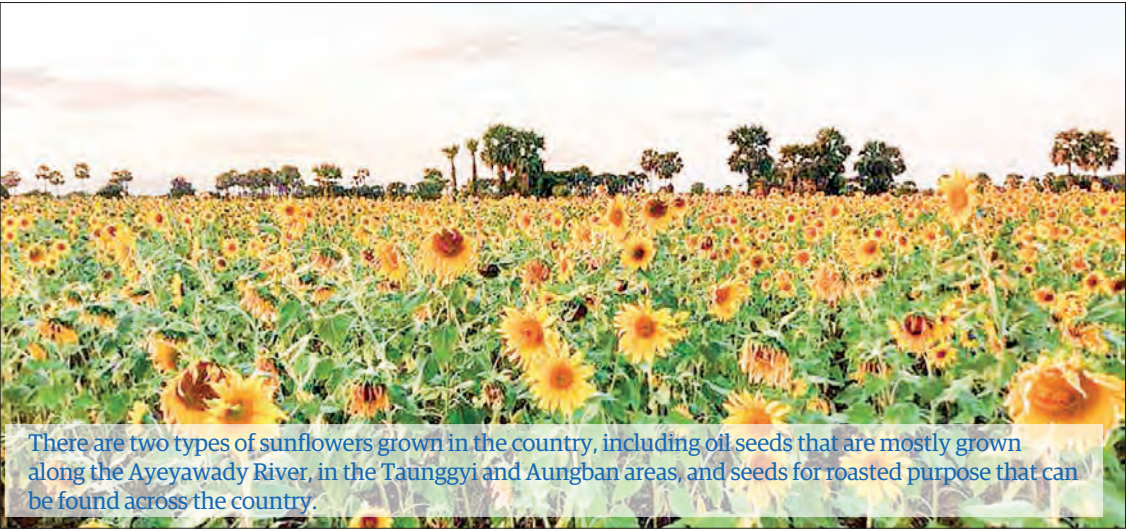
BEFORE the long holidays of Myanmar New Year (Thingyan Festival), sunflower seeds have been abundantly supplied to Mandalay markets in late March, traders said.

The sunflower seeds are mainly supplied by the Mandalay and Sagaing regions. The price rose to K100,000 per three-basket bag from K60,000 this year, said U Soe Win Myint, an owner of Soe Win Myint depot in Mandalay city.

“Earlier, sunflowers were cultivated as mixed crops. Now, the vast acres of sunflower fields are increasingly seen year after year. The

growers have no burden due to low cultivation costs. The State is also encouraging the growers to turn to sunflower crops as it can cut capital outflow from the import of palm oil. This year, a sunflower from Kachin State is entering the market surprisingly. Sunflower oil is good for health. As it is locally produced, the price is affordable. The sunflower meal is used as feedstuff. If sunflower is widely grown in the Ayeyawady region, it can contribute to the self-sufficiency of edible oil,” he elaborated.

There are two types of sunflowers grown in the coun-



There are two types of sunflowers grown in the country, including oil seeds that are mostly grown along the Ayeyawady River, in the Taunggyi and Aungban areas, and seeds for roasted purpose that can be found across the country.

try, including oil seeds that are mostly grown along the Ayeyawady River, in the Taunggyi

and Aungban areas, and seeds for roasted purpose that can be found across the country.

— Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/EM

Kyat depreciates at K2,870 against US dollar in black market

KYAT depreciation against greenbacks persists at K2,870 in the grey market although the Central Bank of Myanmar set the reference exchange rate at K2,100. CBM has set the currency trading band at 0.3 per cent for the Kyat to fluctuate between these two specified upper and lower exchange rates for transactions, selling or buying, according to a directive issued by the CBM on 10 August 2022.

Therefore, financial institutions including banks and informal money exchanges are instructed to set a dollar value at K2,094 for buying and K2,106 for selling. However, the over-the-counter Kyat-dollar exchange

rate was K2,855 for buying and K2,870 for selling on 31 March.

There is a large price difference between the reference rate of the CBM and the unofficial market rate. However, there is no way to set the new price, as per the notification released on 15 December. Investigation and Prosecuting of market manipulation to hike the exchange rate in the local forex market with the malicious rumours will be undertaken, according to the Central Bank of Myanmar’s statement released on 10 February.

Some exporters, importers and banks are attempting to raise the exchange rate owing to the rumours. The statement

called for bank institutions to govern the market and investigate those fraudsters who circulate rumours.

The CBM released a notice that the exporters, importers and banking institutions are asked not to elevate the exchange rate. Those banking institutions that will not abide by financial regulations will face legal action as well.

Last August, a dollar value hit an all-time high of over K4,500 in the grey market. Consequently, the CBM sold dollars at its auction market for the sectors in need, to control the soaring dollar. A total of \$443.8 million were sold at an auction rate in 2021 as well. — NN/EM

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 31 March 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,110
Octane 95	K2,200
Diesel	K2,070
Premium Diesel	K2,150

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,326,800 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,940,000 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.

Rubber price rebounds to above K1,300 per pound

RUBBER price regained to above K1,300 per pound in Mon State.

The prices of rubber are approximately K1,320 per pound of sundried Local 3 and K1,340 per pound of Ribbed Smoked Sheet at present. The prevailing prices moved up from K1,275 per pound of sundried local 3 and K1,295 per pound of Ribbed Smoked Sheet Local 3 on 18 March.

Global demand for rub-

ber, rubber production of the Southeast Asian nations and the market supply are contributing factors to the rubber price condition of Myanmar

The rubber price in Mon State, a major rubber production state in Myanmar, is positively related to those factors as well, the traders elaborated.

Myanmar shipped about 22,900 tonnes of rubber to foreign markets in February, according to the Ministry of

Commerce.

Myanmar exported over 20,600 tonnes of rubber worth US\$24.103 million to international trade partners by sea and over 2,290 tonnes worth \$2.606 million to neighbouring countries through the border.

The majority of rubber exports went to China (14,250 tonnes). It was also shipped to Japan (over 480 tonnes), the Republic of Korea (about 200 tonnes), Bangladesh (about

200 tonnes) and India (138 tonnes).

Rubber is commonly produced in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions in Myanmar. As per 2018-2019 rubber season data, there are over 1.628 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar, with Mon State accounting for 497,153 acres, followed by Taninthayi Region with 348,344 acres and Kayin State with 270,760 acres.

Myanmar’s rubber production is annually estimated at 300,000 tonnes. Seventy per cent of rubber produced in Myanmar goes to China. It is also shipped to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea, India, Japan, and other countries.

Myanmar bagged more than US\$449 million as incomes in rubber exports in the previous financial year 2020-2021. — NN/EM

Enhance capacity to analyze right and wrong acts in technologies

COMPUTER technology, science and technology and information technology have been developing with momentum year after year since 1990 when the information age opened its new page, contributing much to all sectors of the communities. For example, rapid advancements in Internet and mobile phone technologies can be seen in communication technology. As a result, aforesaid technologies benefit the global people, cutting time and cost in daily processes.

Currently, the rapid development of digital technology helps users have information from various digital technological arenas, learn newer knowledge, contact new and old friends, and seek opportunities for enhancement of the socioeconomic. As such, global countries have a chance to taste the fruits of new technologies in the new era.

On the other hand, advancements in these technologies unavoidably bring bad impacts on society. Cybercrimes of unscrupulous persons on social networks search for their victims and then manipulate and exploit them. Hence, not only those victims but their families cannot dare to reunite with society due to mental suffering and frightening to face everybody as cyber bullies they seem. Moreover, some crime breakers take advantage of developing technologies to commit disturbances, threats and monetary swindling cases. In fact, Myanmar started the use of computers in the 1990s and enjoyed communication technology in the 2000s. The 2019 interim census of Myanmar showed that some 86 per cent of households across the nation possess at least one mobile phone, 56 per cent of who apply internet at home. Thanks to advancements in communication technologies, Myanmar people can apply the internet, accounting for 74.7 per cent in the urban area and 48.8 per cent in the rural area. As the majority of Myanmar people have the chance to enjoy information and communication technology, the entire people need to strive for marching to the sustainable development goals without gender discrimination. Authorities need to give assistance to those who initiate innovation, enhancement of technology and digital knowledge and create chances for learning technologies. In Myanmar, the government is implementing the science, technology and innovative strategic plan (2022-2027) in harmony with the national comprehensive development project in line with the State policies. Especially, such a strategic plan helps improve the opportunity and all-inclusiveness for all the people in the technological arena. That is why the entire people in Myanmar need to take the development of social relations and an economy based on the improvement of technologies while avoiding misconduct from the information and technology sector; cheating and attempts to pave the wrong ways for victims committed by cybercrime offenders.

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That is why the entire people in Myanmar need to take the development of social relations and an economy based on the improvement of technologies while avoiding misconduct from the information and technology sector; cheating and attempts to pave the wrong ways for victims committed by cybercrime offenders.

Significant terms and their meanings in international law and diplomacy

SERIES FIVE (Alphabetical order) – C

U Khin Maung (A retired diplomat)

comme il faut (Fr): (adj)

Comme il faut means “being in accord with conventions or accepted standards; proper”.

[French: comme, as + il faut, it is necessary, proper.]

common law: (n)

Common law is used to refer to the system of laws that originated and developed in England and is based on court decisions, on the doctrines implicit in those decisions, and customs and usages rather than codified written laws.

common-law marriage: (n)

Common-law marriage is used to refer to a marriage existing by mutual agreement between a man and a woman, or by the fact of their cohabitation, without a civil or religious ceremony.

common market: (n)

Common market means an

economic unit, typically formed of nations, intended to eliminate or markedly reduce trade barriers among its members.

Common market which is officially known as European Economic Community (EEC) means an economic union established in 1958 to reduce tariff barriers and promote trade and cooperation among the countries of western Europe. The original members – Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, France, Italy, and West Germany were joined by Ireland, Great Britain, and Denmark in 1973, by Greece in 1981, and by Spain and Portugal in 1986.

corpus delicti (Lat): (n)

Corpus delicti means the material evidence in a homicide, such as the discovered corpse of a murder victim, showing that a crime has been committed.

Corpus delicti also means a corpse.

[New Latin: Latin corpus, body + Latin delicti, genitive of delictum, crime]

coup d'état (Fr): (n)

Coup d'état means the sudden overthrow of a government by a usually small group of persons in or previously in positions of authority.

The plural of *coup d'état* is *coups d'état* or *coup d'états*.

[French: coup, blow, stroke + de, of + état, state.]

coup de grace: (n)

Coup de grâce means the final stroke in a military or diplomatic campaign.

[French: coup, stroke + de, of + grace, mercy]

court-martial: (v & n)

Court-martial means a military or naval court of officers appointed by a commander to try persons for offences under



International Law is the study of the legal responsibilities that govern the interactions and relations between countries around the world. **ILLUSTRATION: FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY/FREEPIK**

military law. It also means a trial by such a military tribunal.

courtesy (n) call

Courtesy call is a social or business call by a diplomatic agent to senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or other Ministries in the host government.

covenant: (n)

Covenant means an agreement, convention, or promise of two or more parties, by deed in writing, signed, and delivered, by which either of the parties pledges itself to the other that something is either done, or shall be done, or shall not be done or stipulates for the truth of certain facts.

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Funding the search for answers about post COVID-19 condition: how Stichting Long COVID is stimulating research in the Netherlands



The risk of hospitalization for former Covid-19 patients, for any reason, increased 10 per cent to 20 per cent. **PHOTO: FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/ AFP**

“WHAT I don't understand is why there isn't more of a sense of urgency about funding research into long COVID, when it is costing society so much,” says Ellen Bark, co-founder of Stichting Long COVID, the Dutch long COVID foundation. “So far, much of the focus has been on the epidemiology, logging of symptoms, sending out of questionnaires, and the organization of health care,” says her fellow co-founder, Annelies Bos, who has herself been living with long COVID for the past 3 years. “There have been very few studies looking at the biomedical part of this disease.”

The long COVID foundation seeks to fill this gap by dedicating itself exclusively to fundraising for biomedical research, or research that examines the biological and physical reasons for the condition, including reasons for

autoimmunity (where the body's immune system attacks its own tissues).

Annelies describes how this complements the work of other long COVID organizations in the Netherlands that concentrate more on supporting patients with information, care and rehabilitation, organizing peer contacts or political lobbying, for instance.

“It works because we are all aiming for the same goals, and we are all sending the same message that we need to understand the causes of long COVID so that we can develop treatments. And to do that, we need money.”

A clear focus

Both Ellen and Annelies come with experience very relevant to developing the foundation: Ellen has expertise in fundraising for start-up businesses and is used to managing complex

multiparty innovation projects, while Annelies is a doctor with a large network of contacts in the medical and scientific world and an active member of the Dutch community of long COVID patients. Together, they are raising money from private sources, both through crowdfunding and through targeted fundraising from high-net-worth individuals, family-run businesses and non-profit organizations.

With studies showing that 10–20 per cent of people who develop COVID-19 go on to experience a variety of mid- and long-term effects after they recover from their initial illness, the foundation is driven by patients' need for urgent answers.

Therefore, the long COVID foundation has 4 clear values that shape its mission: speed, solution orientation, collaboration, and focus.

Speed and solution orientation

The long COVID foundation has created a team of 8 dedicated researchers who scan and compile the latest research into the condition, so that funding can be directed towards the research they've assessed as having the greatest potential. “Scientists can approach us with proposals for research projects that require between US\$ 15,000 and US\$100,000 of funding, and within 2 weeks we can let them know whether or not it's in our scope, or whether we need to know more before funding it.” They currently have a patient sounding board, composed of doctors who themselves have long COVID, which means that any funding decisions can be fairly assessed by people with an understanding of both the condition and the science behind it. They are now

expanding the board to include non-medical participants.

Collaboration

Another part of their work is stimulating new research, as Ellen explains. “We don't just raise money. We also go directly to scientists to see how we can develop concrete research plans or pilot projects to fund. Since there is so little knowledge, we need to stimulate a lot of good ideas that can generate pilot projects that could give direction to bigger research programmes. Then we envisage a top-down, global research set-up, which brings together different disciplines from different medical fields.” To this end, the foundation aims to team up with scientists leading flagship projects and to encourage collaborative work that brings results and stimulates more research.

SOURCE: WHO

CURRENT
AFFAIRS

Thailand to allow only 14 visa-free days



The Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand.

ACCORDING to the statement of the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok, those who will visit Thailand

will be allowed to stay only for 14 visa-free days. Previously, visitors to

Thailand were granted 45 days without having to apply for a visa in advance, but from 1 April onwards, they will be allowed to stay for 14 visa-free days.

During the period from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023, foreigners with a visa-free agreement (including Myanmar) can stay up to 45 days and those with visas on arrival are allowed to stay for up to 30 days.

However, those who want to stay longer can apply for a visa at the Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon, as only 14 visa-free days will be allowed starting 1 April. — TWA/CT

Grade-8 passers allowed to attend Performing, Painting, and Sculpture courses in art high schools

THE Department of Fine Arts of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture announced that those who have passed the eighth grade can attend the Performing, Painting, and Sculpture courses in Yangon and Mandalay art high schools. New trainees will be recruited for the 2023-2024 academic year (first year) including Performing, Painting, and Sculpture courses.

Applicants between the ages of 13 and 17 must have passed the grade eighth and completed any of the basic subjects of the relevant course.

The announcement states that students will have to attend the courses for 3 years and will have a certificate of completion.

During the period of study, they will be provided K30,000 per month of stipends, according to the announcement.

Those who take courses in literature and arts will have the opportunity to learn basic education in addition to arts subjects. Details can be enquired at the Department of Fine Arts and applications can be submitted until the last week of May 2023. —TWA/KZL

Over K5.2 bln earned in 49th Aung Bar Lay lottery sales

OVER 520,000 lottery tickets were sold for the 49th Aung Bar Lay Lottery according to a statement from the Aung Bar Lay Lottery Directorate of the Internal Revenue Department under the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

A total of K3.6 billion, 70 per cent of the total ticket sales, will

be given as prizes. The prizes include one K500 million prize, one K100 million prize, one K50 million prize, one K20 million prize, one K10 million prize while one K5 million prize, one K2 million prize, one K1 million prize and K300,000, K200,000, K100,000, K50,000 and K10,000 prizes are also included.



Moreover, K1 million, K300,000, and K200,000 prizes will be given away, using K138 million which has accumulated as some winners did not claim the prizes. — TWA/KZW



The Department of Performing in State High School of Fine Arts (Mandalay).

Onion wholesale price slumps below K1,000 per viss in Yangon market on 30 March

THE prices ranged between K850-950 per viss depending on producing areas (Monywa, Myingyan, Seikphyu and Pakokku). Yet, the popular onions from the Myittha area stayed higher at K1,500-2,100 per viss.

Approximately 5.4 million visses of onions from various regions entered the Yangon market. There are only seven days remaining before the long holidays of the Thingyan Festival.

Starting on 4 June 2022, the prices started to climb. In early December, the prices of onions from the Myittha and Myingyan areas touched a high of K4,400-5,100 per viss. The prices plunged to a ten-month low of below K1,000 per viss in the Yangon market, said traders



The photo shows a retail shop for onions.

who send the goods to regions outside Yangon.

On 31 March, the highest

prices of onions were set at K925 per viss in the Yaw area, K825 per viss in NyaungU and

K800 each in the Pale area. Onion prices were K500-1,125 per viss in the corresponding

period last year.

The prices vary depending on the sizes and qualities. Last year, traders who kept the stocks in their hands made a great profit. So, they are preparing to store them this month. The prevailing price this year is slightly higher than that of last year although the prices of chilli pepper and rice traders doubled this year.

Onion cultivation in the producing countries might weigh on Myanmar's onion market. Onion is priced at only K240 per viss in the world's second-largest producing country India.

Erratic rainfall in India in late March did not affect the onions but grain, chickpeas, some fruits and vegetables. — TWA/EM

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Centralized bulk procurement halves drug prices, relieves patients' burden



People purchase medications at a pharmacy in Chongqing on 16 December 2022. PHOTO: CUI LI/FOR CHINA DAILY

ANOTHER 39 drugs were selected in the new round of a bulk-buying programme endorsed by the Chinese government, which will be accessible to patients in July at a price 56 per cent lower on average.

The centralized procurement inked on Wednesday is estimated to save 16.7 billion yuan (about 2.4 billion US dollars) in medical expenses each year.

The purchase will effectively ease patients' financial burden and also help improve the market environment, said Jiang

Changsong with the research institute of national healthcare security under the Capital Medical University.

Since 2018, China's National Healthcare Security Administration (NHSA) has organized eight rounds of drug bulk-buying, approximately halving the prices of 333 medicines treating diseases ranging from rare ailments to cancer and chronic diseases.

As its name suggests, the programme takes advantage of the vast quantity of procurement in exchange for lower prices.

Experts believe this eighth round of procurement will deliver substantial benefits to patients, as it covers drugs for various common illnesses and chronic diseases, including cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases, mental health conditions and allergies. For instance, the price of medicine treating premature delivery was cut by 80 per cent from over 1,000 yuan to 240 yuan per dose.

Also included are some heparin products in short supply, which are usually used in the treatment of myocardial infarction and dialysis, noted Yue Xiaolin from the Xuanwu Hospital under the Capital Medical University. "This procurement will help hospitals stabilize drug supplies." China has worked to advance medical reform and address expensive access to medical treatment of great concern to the people. "Centralized procurement has effectively lowered the prices of medicines and medical consumables to a reasonable level, achieving tangible results in medical reform," said Li Shuchun, an NHSA official.—Xinhua

India reports over 3,000 COVID cases for second consecutive day

INDIA continued to report over 3,000 COVID cases for the second day in a row with 3,095 new infections in the last 24 hours, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said on Friday.

The country recorded the highest one-day fresh infections in the last nearly six months.

The country had reported 3,016 cases on Thursday with a case positivity rate of 2.73 per

cent which declined to 2.61 per cent today. The weekly positivity rate jumped to 1.91 per cent today from 1.71 per cent yesterday.

According to the Ministry, the active caseload in the country increased from 13,509 yesterday to 15,208 today which is 0.03 of the total number of cases.

As many as 1,390 patients recovered from the disease in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of recoveries to 4,41,69,711.

The recovery rate in the country currently is 98.78 per cent. The Ministry informed that 220.65 crore vaccine doses have been administered so far under Nationwide Vaccination Drive, of which 95.20 crore are second doses and 22.86 crore are precaution doses. 6,553 COVID vaccine doses have been administered in last 24 hours, the Ministry said.—ANI



Random sample testing for coronavirus conducted at airports for international passengers in December 2022. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE/ ANI

WHO report reveals health emergency situation in Afghanistan

THE healthcare situation in Afghanistan is as deteriorated as any other sector after the Taliban seized power in August last year. The people of the country now, are dependent on humanitarian aid for healthcare as well.

Revealing the contributions made to the crisis-hit country in the healthcare sector, the WHO in its 26th Health Emergency Status Report for Afghanistan on Thursday said that the WHO established new primary healthcare facilities in remote areas of the country for the most needful people. Over 2,20,000 people received services through that, TOLONews reported.

In February 2023, WHO and its aid cluster partners will have made a major contribution to helping the Afghan people in the vital healthcare fields, the report stated.

"With the target for 2023 of 15.6 million people, WHO, with its partners, has continued to build up the effort to ensure

access to essential healthcare services throughout the country, including remote and hard-to-reach areas, the report read.

Citing the report, Khaama Press reported further that, "By the end of February, WHO established 185 primary healthcare facilities in underserved/white areas across 26 provinces, in which over 220,000 people received services. In addition, WHO distributed more than 2,800 cubic metres (CBM) of medical and non-medical supplies to the partners in response to ongoing health emergencies."

The economic stability in Afghanistan is extensively dependent on humanitarian aid flows as the country continues to remain in deep crisis.

Afghanistan is currently grappling with a serious humanitarian crisis as according to international assessments, the country now has the highest number of people in emergency food insecurity in the world.—ANI



Afghanistan is currently grappling with a serious humanitarian crisis as according to international assessments, the country now has the highest number of people in emergency food insecurity in the world. PHOTO: AFP

WHO certifies Azerbaijan and Tajikistan as malaria-free

THE World Health Organization (WHO) has certified Azerbaijan and Tajikistan for achieving elimination of malaria in their territories. The certification follows a sustained, century-long effort to stamp out the disease by the two countries.

"The people and governments of Azerbaijan and Tajikistan have worked long and

hard to eliminate malaria," said WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

"Their accomplishment is further proof that, with the right resources and political commitment, eliminating malaria is possible. I hope that other countries can learn from their experience."—WHO

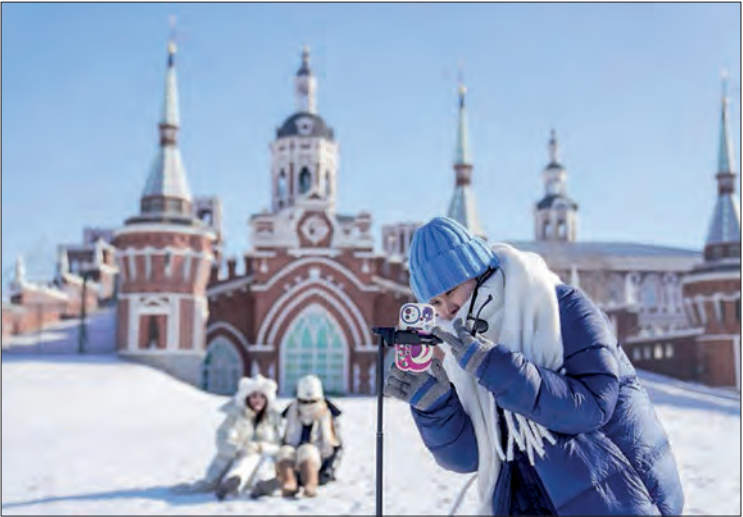
ECONOMY

WORLD

China to encourage development of tourism industry in its northeastern region

CHINA'S Ministry of Culture and Tourism and National Development and Reform Commission have jointly issued a plan laying out tasks and requirements for the development of the tourism industry in the country's north-eastern region until 2030.

The plan, covering the three northeastern provinces of Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang, as well as part of the northern Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, has set goals to improve air and railway services and build a mature highway network for the development of the tourism industry in the region. It calls for measures to promote snow and ice tourism in the areas, build them into ideal destinations for summer holidays and self-driving tours, and develop tourism industry clusters featuring snow and ice, forests, and the sea and coasts. The plan also encourages the development of border tours. It suggests the establishment of a mechanism for tourism cooperation in Northeast Asia, and the exploration of the potential of cross-border tourism in the region. —Xinhua



A tourist takes photos at the Volga Manor in Harbin, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, 26 January 2023. **PHOTO: WANG JIANWEI/XINHUA**

EU deal to nearly double renewable energy by 2030



The EU has set an ambitious target to become a "climate neutral" economy by 2050, with net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE European Union Parliament and EU states reached a deal on Thursday to almost double the share of renewables in the 27-nation bloc's overall energy consumption by 2030.

The provisional political agreement seeks to raise the share of renewable energy to 42.5 per cent, from 22 per cent today, according to a Council of the EU statement, which represents the bloc's governments.

The EU has set an ambitious target to become a "climate neutral" economy by 2050, with net-zero greenhouse gas emissions.

The move also comes as the EU has sought to slash its dependence on Russian fossil fuels after Moscow cut gas supplies last year and the bloc placed bans on seaborne crude and other petroleum products from the country.— AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Inflation in Germany, Spain eases on lower energy prices

INFLATION slowed in Germany and Spain in March as energy prices fell, official data showed Thursday, adding to hopes that the eurozone was past the worst of the price increases.

In Germany, Europe's biggest economy, price growth eased to 7.4 per cent year-on-year in March, according to preliminary data from federal statistics agency Destatis.

In January and February, Germany's inflation rate had held steady at 8.7 per cent.

While food prices continued to show "above-average growth" this month, the increase in energy prices had "slowed considerably" compared with March 2022, when Russia's invasion of Ukraine sent energy costs surging, Destatis said.—AFP

Greece extends residency rights for migrant children

GREECE on Wednesday approved a law extending the duration of residence permits for migrant children born and raised in the country.

Second-generation migrants born in Greece are now entitled to receive 10-year residency permits, up from a maximum of five years previously, Migration Minister Notis Mitarachi told parliament.

The same rights will apply to non-EU nationals who have completed six years of Greek school prior to the age of 23, he said.

For unaccompanied minors, the requirement is at least three years of secondary schooling, Mitarachi said. The new legislation will apply from January 2024, the minister said.—AFP

Nigeria's cash shortage eases after strike threat

A lingering cash crunch in Nigeria, which saw long lines of customers at banks and cash dispenser machines was easing on Wednesday after the central bank reissued old naira notes back into circulation.

The queues at banks in Lagos and most cities had started disappearing since Monday as most customers began to be able to access physical cash.

The National Labour Congress (NLC) union movement had threatened strikes over the cash scarcity starting Wednesday, but on Tuesday announced they would postpone for two weeks to monitor how Nigerians were accessing cash.

"Yes there is compliance, but the NLC.... doubted the sustainability of that compliance," Joe Ajaero, NLC president told reporters. "We felt we have to monitor this compliance for the next two weeks."—AFP



Dozens of people queue to withdraw new Naira notes from an ATM at a bank premises in Lagos on 1 February 2023. **PHOTO: PIUS UTOMI EKPEI/AFP**

Chinese banking sector’s net external assets at US\$166.5 bln

CHINA’S banking sector had 1.5186 trillion US dollars of external financial assets and 1.3522 trillion dollars of external liabilities at the end of 2022, re-



A visitor interacts with a smart banking robot at the service robots exhibition area of the 2020 China International Fair for Trade in Services in Beijing, capital of China, 5 September 2020. PHOTO: LU PENG/XINHUA

sulting in net external assets of 166.5 billion dollars, new data showed Thursday. In terms of external financial assets, deposits and loans reached 988.3

billion dollars, accounting for 65 per cent of the total, and bonds stood at 330.4 billion dollars, accounting for 22 per cent of the total, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange said.

In terms of currencies, RMB assets were 294.4 billion dollars, accounting for 19 per cent, while US dollar assets stood at 938.4 billion dollars, accounting for 62 per cent. In the case of external liabilities, deposit and loan liabilities were 760.6 billion dollars, accounting for 56 per cent, and bond liabilities amounted to 230.7 billion dollars, accounting for 17 per cent of the external liabilities. —Xinhua

Spending by foreign visitors to Japan jumps sevenfold in 2022

SPENDING by foreign visitors to Japan in 2022 grew sharply from the year before to 898.7 billion yen (\$6.8 billion) as arrivals began increasing from October when border restrictions, initially imposed due to the coronavirus pandemic, were eased, a government survey showed Friday.

The figure was 7.4 times higher than the 120.8 billion yen spent in 2021, the lowest amount recorded since comparable data became available in 2010, but still down 81.3 per cent from the 4.8 trillion yen recorded in 2019, the highest spending ever by overseas travelers. According to the Japan Tourism Agency survey, the average expendi-



People walk along Nakamise shopping street in Tokyo's Asakusa area on 11 October 2022. PHOTO: KYODO

ture per person was 234,524 yen, a 47.9 per cent increase from 2019. The government on Friday announced a basic plan to promote tourism in the country. Without setting a specific time limit, the aim is for 5 trillion yen in annual expenditures by foreign arrivals. The goal

is attainable if 28 million visitors spend 180,000 yen each, it said. In 2022, Japan had 3.83 million overseas arrivals. Between October and December, they spent 594.9 billion yen, which accounted for two-thirds of expenditures for the entire year.—Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SINAR BANGKA VOY.NO. (453S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANGKA VOY.NO. (453S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-3-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AYIT** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB312A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB312A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-4-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V TI2 APPLE VOY.NO. (016E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TI2 APPLE VOY.NO. (016E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-4-2023** 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 TI2 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V HAN REN VOY.NO. (R2302E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HAN REN VOY. NO. (R2302E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-4-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-4** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S WALLEM SHIPPING (THAILAND) LIMITED

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V JIN XING LING VOY.NO. (103718)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V JIN XING LING VOY.NO. (103718)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-4-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIPL** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO LTD

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

သတင်းစာ ဖတ်ရှုလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်
09 454 237 515

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GLOBAL
AFFAIRS

Finland's far right aims to oust 'rock star' PM



Fighting to hold onto power: Finland's Prime Minister Sanna Marin.
PHOTO: AFP

FINNISH politics could see a dramatic shift to the far right in elections on Sunday as an anti-immigration party aims to replace "rock star" Prime Minister Sanna Marin's Social Democrats.

The mother-of-one, who took office in 2019 as the world's youngest prime minister at age 34, is Finland's most popular prime minister this century, polls show.

But the latest polls on Thursday put her centre-left

Social Democratic Party (SDP) in third place, behind the anti-immigration and nationalist Finns Party and the centre-right National Coalition, which held on to a thin lead.

"It is a very exciting situation and it's hard to say at the moment which party will be the biggest on election day," Tuomo Turja of the polling firm Taloustutkimus told AFP.

A top spot for the far-right Finns Party, and a far-right prime minister, would be a first

in Finland — though the party has previously served in government. It currently looks set to top its record 19 per cent from the 2011 election.

Traditionally, the biggest of the eight main parties in parliament claims the top post and tries to build a government.

Marin leads a centre-left coalition of Social Democrats, the Centre, the Greens, the Left Alliance and the Swedish People's Party of Finland. —AFP

Rare delays at Singapore airport due to immigration system issues

A disruption at automated immigration clearance counters Friday led to rare delays at Singapore's Changi airport, affecting hundreds of travellers.

The Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) said in a Facebook post it was "experiencing slowness at selected passenger clearance checkpoints", leading to the delays.

It advised travellers to postpone all non-essential trips outside the country.

Long lines formed at Changi, often voted the world's best airport where clearing immigration is normally a breeze.

"It's very chaotic at T4 and very little communication," wrote one person on Facebook. His comment was accompanied by a photo showing passengers packing the terminal lobby.

Passengers whose flights were departing soon were being called to be cleared at the manual counters, one more traveller wrote.

There were also "super long" lines at the airport's Terminal 1 but manual counters were clearing them up fast, another traveller said.

"An immigration system disruption has affected the auto-lanes for departing and arriving passengers across the terminals," Changi Airport said in a statement.

It advised passengers to come to the airport earlier.

Long lines of vehicles also formed along two border crossings between Singapore and neighbouring Malaysia, among the busiest crossings in the world. Selected automated lanes at those crossings were affected, ICA said. —AFP



Travellers arrive at the departure hall in Singapore Changi airport in Singapore on 31 March 2023. **PHOTO: CATHERINE LAI / AFP**

Türkiye approves Finland's NATO membership bid amid Russia fears

THE Turkish parliament has approved Finland's bid to join NATO, clearing a path for the country to join the security alliance amid continued fears about the threat posed by Russia among its European neighbours following its invasion of Ukraine.

Türkiye was the last of NATO's 30 members to ratify the accession of Finland, which shares a land border with Russia and had long maintained neutral relations with its neighbour. Thursday's move could trigger a reaction from Moscow, which has previously warned of military repercussions if Finland joined NATO.

Alongside Sweden, Finland applied to join the alliance in May last year in the wake of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. Sweden's membership, however, is still being held up by Türkiye and Hungary, as all NATO members' parliaments must give their approval. Finland shares a 1,300-kilometre-long border with Russia and, until its application to NATO, had a neutrality

agreement with the country after losing significant amounts of territory to the Soviet Union, Russia's predecessor state, during World War II. Finland is now in the process of formal admittance to NATO, with the process expected to last a number of weeks.

Türkiye has made its approval of both countries into the alliance conditional upon their support in fighting the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or the PKK,

deemed a terrorist organization by Türkiye and believed to have been behind decades of attacks in the country. Following a meeting on 17 March with Finnish President Sauli Niinistö, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that Türkiye will approve Finland's NATO application ahead of Sweden's, due to what he described as its full cooperation in measures against the organization. —Kyodo



A general view of the Turkish Grand National Assembly as the parliament approved Finland's bid to join NATO, in Ankara, Türkiye, on 30 March 2023. **PHOTO: ANADOLU AGENCY/KYODO**

Trump indicted, first US president to face criminal charges

A New York grand jury on Thursday indicted Donald Trump over hush-money payments made to a porn star during his 2016 campaign, making him the first former US president to face criminal charges. The historic indictment of the 76-year-old Republican —

who denies all wrongdoing in connection with the payments made ahead of the election that sent him to the White House — is certain to upend the current presidential race in which Trump hopes to regain office. And it will forever mark the legacy of the

former leader, who survived two impeachments and kept prosecutors at bay over everything from the US Capitol riot to missing classified files — only to land in court over a sex scandal involving Stormy Daniels, a 44-year-old adult movie actress. —AFP

UAE president names son as crown prince, presumed future leader



This file photo taken on 11 November 2019 shows Sheikh Khaled Bin Mohammed Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan during a ceremony marking the second anniversary of Abu Dhabi's Louvre Museum. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE United Arab Emirates' president named his eldest son as crown prince of Abu Dhabi late on Wednesday, making him the oil-rich Gulf monarchy's likely next leader and cementing his family's hold on power. President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan tapped Sheikh Khaled, 41, his jiu jitsu-loving son, as crown prince of the UAE's richest emirate — a position traditionally held by

the leader-in-waiting. It was part of the biggest political shake-up since Sheikh Mohamed, 62, sometimes known as "MBZ" and the UAE's long-time de facto ruler, became president last May following the death of his half-brother Sheikh Khalifa, who had been sidelined by ill health for years. MBZ's brother Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed, the owner of Manchester City football

club, became vice-president, joining Dubai's ruler and UAE Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum in the role. Two other brothers of the president — Tahnoun bin Zayed, the UAE's national security adviser and chairman of the ADQ sovereign wealth fund, and Hazza bin Zayed — became deputy rulers of Abu Dhabi, which controls the bulk of the country's oil reserves. MBZ's ascension to the presidency last year prompted speculation over who would succeed him as Abu Dhabi crown prince, with Sheikh Khaled and Tahnoun both tipped for the honour. The UAE, one of the world's biggest oil-producers and an ally of the United States, Russia and China alike, has become a major power in the Middle East as traditional heavyweights such as Egypt and Iraq fell back in recent years. —AFP

UK unveils plans to house asylum seekers in military bases

THE UK plans to temporarily house asylum seekers in disused military bases and could use ferries and barges in the future in a bid to reduce hotel bills, immigration minister Robert Jenrick announced on Wednesday. He told MPs that the government planned to house "several thousand" asylum seekers at repurposed barracks buildings and portable buildings at two former Royal Air Force bases in

southeast and eastern England. A separate site on private land in East Sussex in southeast England will also be used, Jenrick added. The government is also exploring the "possibility of accommodating migrants in vessels" such as ferries and barges as it looks to reduce a \$2.8 billion annual bill for hotel accommodation. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has made stopping illegal crossings of the Channel one of his

priorities, and Jenrick said the prospect of hotel accommodation was a draw for those making the dangerous journeys. "These hotels take valuable assets from communities and place pressures on local public services," he told MPs, adding "we must not elevate the wellbeing of illegal migrants above those of the British people". "Accommodation for migrants should meet their essential living needs and nothing more, because we cannot risk becoming a magnet for the millions of people who are displaced and seeking better economic prospects," the minister said. But the plans face opposition from charities, who branded the accommodation "grossly inadequate", and the Labour Party, whose shadow interior minister Yvette Cooper called the proposals an "admission of failure". The government also appears set to encounter legal challenges on using the airfields from local councils run by their own Conservative party.— AFP



WETHERSFIELD: A board reads "Stop asylum centre" at the entrance of this village where the British government plans to house asylum seekers at a former air base. **PHOTO: AFP**

Montenegro votes in presidential run-off after months of gridlock

MONTENEGRO is girding for a closely watched presidential run-off on Sunday, when a young upstart could upend the Balkan nation's political landscape, dominated for decades by incumbent Milo Djukanovic. The outcome of the race will likely determine the balance of power ahead of a snap parliamentary vote due in June, following months of deadlock after the government collapsed in August. The election comes two weeks after the first round, where Djukanovic fended off a range of rivals hoping to shake up the political scene, garnering 35 per cent of the

vote compared to 29 per cent for his main challenger, Jakov Milatovic. However, analysts have largely tipped Milatovic to win the presidency, saying the pro-European economist is likely to appeal to a large number of voters desperate for change after decades of rule by Djukanovic and his Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS). "The fall of Djukanovic would probably mean the fall of the DPS as we know it, which had absolute power in Montenegro," Predrag Zenovic, a political analyst based in the capital Podgorica, told AFP.— AFP



Djukanovic was installed at the helm of the former Yugoslav republic in 1991 by former Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic. **PHOTO: AFP**

WORLD: TOP HEADLINE

Lebanon airport expansion sparks transparency concerns

CIVIL society organizations and lawmakers in crisis-hit Lebanon have raised concerns over the awarding of a multi-million dollar contract to build and operate a second terminal at Beirut's international airport. Cash-strapped Lebanon announced last week that private company Lebanese Air Transport and Irish firm daa International would partner for the revamp. Public Works and Transportation Minister Ali Hamieh said the private sector would fund the \$122 million project, which would "create around 2,500 jobs". The firms would operate the terminal for a 25-year period, he added. But civil society groups and some lawmakers have decried opacity in the tender process and a lack of involvement of the Public Procurement Authority. "Marginalizing or disregarding" the role of the authority undermines the effectiveness of Lebanon's 2021 public procurement law, 10 civil society groups said in a statement Tuesday.—AFP

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UAE president names son as crown prince, presumed future leader

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SPORT

Myanmar weightlifting team to compete in 32nd Southeast Asian Games

AN official from the Myanmar Weightlifting Federation said that Myanmar will compete in weightlifting at the 32nd Southeast Asian Games, which will be hosted by Cambodia in 2023.

“Six weightlifters have been selected for the SEA Games, two men and four women have been selected in the preliminary round. We have tried to ensure that all six weightlifters can enter the competition.

“The host is allowed to compete in six classes in each of the seven classes for both men and women. “Therefore, the host has the right to compete in six of the 14 classes,” said U Thi Han, secretary of the Myanmar Weightlifting Federation. In the SEA Games, Myanmar Weightlifting Federation is intended to compete in the 45, 49, 59, and 71 kilograms classes for women

The Myanmar female weightlifters compete in the qualifiers for the 32nd SEA Games. **PHOTO: BALA SOE**

“Thailand, Viet Nam, and the Philippines, which will be the main competitors, are the countries that won gold at the Olympics, so we are trying hard not to miss a medal,” the Myanmar Weightlifting Federation Secretary continued.

The Myanmar weightlifting team has been taking training since July 2022 at the Nay Pyi Taw Gold Camp twice a day, except for Sundays.

It is reported that the Myanmar weightlifting team has not missed a medals since the 1st Peninsular Games until the 31st SEA Games, except that the game was not included in the 1999 Brunei Games and the 2015 Singapore Games. — Bala Soe/KZL

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.

Dortmund target overcoming Munich hoodoo on Tuchel's big day

BORUSSIA Dortmund can gatecrash former boss Thomas Tuchel's unveiling party at Bayern Munich on Saturday and take another step closer to thwarting the Bavarian giants' bid for an 11th consecutive Bundesliga title. Dortmund sit one point clear of Bayern but face their title rivals at Munich's Allianz Arena, which has been a graveyard for their aspirations in the post-Jürgen Klopp era.

Winning nine of 10 league matches in 2023, Dortmund come into the match in blistering form.

Bayern have won five from 10 in that period, leading to the dismissal last week of manager Julian Nagelsmann for former Dortmund boss Tuchel.

Dortmund's last league win in Munich came in 2014 under

Klopp with the title race well and truly decided in Bayern's favour.

Since then, Bayern have chalked up eight 'Der Klassiker' victories in a row, scoring 33 goals and conceding just six.

“It's a huge game for all of us. It's a matter of building confidence and anticipation,” said Tuchel.

“There's no bigger challenge than starting my time here with a game against Dortmund. It's the biggest game in German football, and has an added element to it, given the current state of the league table.”

In 2018-19, the last time Dortmund headed to Munich in first place late in the season, the visitors were handed a foot-balling lesson.—AFP

Howe backs Newcastle to reach Man Utd's level on and off pitch

EDDIE Howe insists Newcastle can “buck the trend” as they try to become the equal of Manchester United on and off the pitch.

Howe's side host United on Sunday just over a month after they met in the League Cup final at Wembley.

Newcastle were beaten 2-0 by Erik ten Hag's team, making it a frustrating first major final appearance for the Magpies in 24 years.

Despite that defeat, Newcastle boss Howe is confident his club are capable of matching the Old Trafford outfit in the long-term after their rapid rise since he took charge in November 2021.

With the help of sizeable investment from their Sau-



Newcastle boss Eddie Howe.

PHOTO: AFP

di-backed owners, Newcastle have climbed to fifth in the Premier League.

They sit three points behind third placed United and two adrift of fourth placed Tot-

tenham with two games in hand on the north Londoners in the race to qualify for the Champions league via a top four finish.

While Newcastle have already closed the gap on United on the pitch, they have some way to go off it.

United's forecast turnover for 2022-23 is approaching £600 million (\$371 million), around three times the figure for Newcastle.

“I think you can buck the trend, of course you can, it's possible. It's not easy to do,” Howe told reporters on Friday.

“I go back to my early coaching experiences and we were always trying to buck the trend. We were going against teams with far superior budgets to us for years and years.—AFP