

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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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.

It is necessary to achieve success in boosting the production of the double cropping process with the use of solar-powered river water station projects from four major rivers: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the meeting 1/2023 of the National Water Resource Committee in Nay Pyi Taw on 4 April 2023.

MYANMAR still uses five per cent of fresh-water although four main arteries flow along the country with more than 800 million acre-feet of freshwater yearly, said Chairman of National Water Resource Committee Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung

Hlaing at the meeting 1/2023 of the national committee at SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

On the occasion, the Senior General delivered a speech, saying that a survey of the World Health Organization in 2022 stated that a total of 1.4 million of the global population die of diseases resulting from unclean water

and toilets on a yearly basis and another 74 million people face shorter life span gradually. Some 2,000 million global people do not have access to safe water yet and some 3,600 million global people do not have clean septic systems, according to the statistics of the WHO and UNICEF in 2011.

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Myanmar is abundant in water sources, standing second in the availability of clean water from water sources apart from Indonesia in the ASEAN region and the fifth position in Asia after China, India, Indonesia and Bangladesh.

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THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
THE SUPREME COURT
of THE UNION

Press Statement

Publishing the Court Annual Report 2022

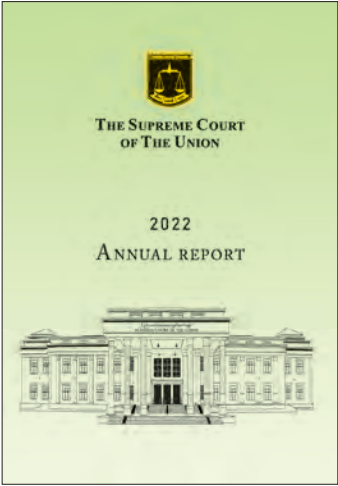
Nay Pyi Taw, 5 April

THE Court Annual Report 2022 (both English and Myanmar versions) was published by the Supreme Court of the Union on 5 April 2023. The Report is also uploaded and accessible on the website of the Supreme Court of the Union <http://www.unionsupremecourt.gov.mm>.

Court Annual Reports have been issued annually since 2016 to enlighten the performance of the Supreme Court of the Union and the Courts at different levels.

The objectives of issuing the Court Annual Report are to be transparent and accountable the process of the judiciary; to have a realistic assessment on the activities of the Court; to have a better performance of the Court and to raise public awarness about the judicial reform processes.

The Court Annual Report 2022 is arranged with four chapters: Overview of the Court System and Administration; Significant Performances of the Supreme Court of the Union in 2022 with highlight of performances during Covid-19 pandemic; Performance of the Courts; and Implementation of the Year Five Strategic Action Plan (2022) including the appendices and highlights so as to be easily comprehensible not only by the legal practitioners, court users but also by the public. Any comment and recommendation relating to the Report can be sent to the Court Annual Reporting Team email annualreport.ousc@usc.gov.mm.



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

Tankers laden with fuel arrive at Thilawa Port from Singapore

THE tanker ships from Singapore carrying fuel oil arrived at the oil tanks and jetties of Thilawa port under the management of the Supervisory Committee on Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil, Ministry of Energy and Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association yesterday. The officials of these three sectors and the Myanma Port Authority inspected the processes to ensure proper fuel consumption during the Thingyan period and post-Thingyan period.

Regarding the arrival of tanker ships, U Kyaw Kyaw, Chairman of the Information Committee of Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association said, "If I report on the fuel at Thilawa Terminal and in Myanmar, the country has 4,337,405 gallons of 92, 10,480,514 gallons of 95, 1,727,403galloons of 97, 30,932,299 gallons of diesel



Overseas-going tankers with fuel oils onboard are seen berthing alongside Thilawa Port,



Fuel oil storage silos are pictured at Thilawa Port.

and 2,978,945 gallons of premium. We have enough fuel for 30 days except for 97. Another 13 ships will arrive here within 15 days of April. It will be 218,014 tonnes and 60,837,308 gallons. It will arrive here within 15 days. On 5 April, we will have 16,000 tonnes which is 4,793,920 gallons and three ships will dock within the next five days.

Today, the remaining amount of fuel at Thilawa Terminals is over 41 million gallons of 92 Ron, 10 million gallons of 95 Ron, 1.7 million gallons of 97 Ron, 19 million gallons of diesel and 18 million gallons of premium diesel."

Then, U Naing Win Tun from the Petroleum Products Regulatory Department said the staff

and employees of the ministries concerned led by the Chief Inspector from Petroleum Products Regulatory Department inspected the fuel carried by the tankers, fuel storage at the tankers of Terminals, distribution to fuel stations under the instructions of Supervisory Committee on Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil. Moreover, the inspectors from respective regions and states also examined whether the fuel tanks filled with fuel at Thilawa terminals arrive at the fuel stations and whether the stations sell as per the reference rate. It also permits to distribute the fuel to factories, industries and other sectors and the country has enough fuel stock.

U Phyo Zaw Lwin, Manager of the Shipping Agency Department of Myanma Port Authority said, "Myanma Port Authority

arranges the entry and exit of ships. There are over 30 ships every month. At that time, we also make proper arrangements for the ships so that they can enter and exit day or night depending on the current without any delays. In March, a total of 32 ships unloaded fuel and there are five ships until 4 April. Currently, three ships are discharging fuel at the bridges. There will be eight or 10 more ships to arrive here. According to their nature, we are informed when they finish the loading processes in Singapore and Malaysia. So, there will be between 8 and 10 ships. We mostly import from Singapore now."

Officials are arranging for the entry of fuel oil tankers before and after the Thingyan period, according to the Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association. — Ko Ko Zaw/KTZH



U Kyaw Kyaw, MPTA Chairman.



U Naing Win Tun, Ministry of Energy.



U Phyo Zaw Lwin from Myanmar Port Authority.

Investment in education sector key to future democratic nation

Investment plans in the education sector will be the groundwork for a future democratic nation.

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadue Maha Thray Sithu Thadue Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing on 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day ceremony on 4 January 2023)

It is necessary to achieve success in boosting the production of the double cropping process with the use of solar-powered river ...

FROM PAGE-1

Myanmar is abundant in water sources, standing second in the availability of clean water from water sources apart from Indonesia in the ASEAN region and the fifth position in Asia after China, India, Indonesia and Bangladesh. Myanmar still uses five per cent of freshwater although four main arteries flow along the country with more than 800 million acre-feet of freshwater yearly.

The National Water Resource Committee has to supervise disposing of wastewater after systematic treatment into the rivers and creeks, sufficient supply of drinking water and agricultural water in urban and rural areas and distribution of freshwater to industries by adopting necessary policies.

The national committee marked World Water Day 2023 in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 March in conjunction with the subject-wise discussions at which key messages indicated re-

quirements for searching more freshwater sources for climate change and the growing population in Myanmar.

The Senior General urged the national committee to strive for improvement of the water sector benefiting the State and the people, systematic management of water sources and cooperation with the international community in the water sector.

Vice-Chairman of the national committee Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San and the secretary reported on the implementation of duties and functions of the national committee, activities on water sources, supply of water and future plans.

Union ministers, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council and officials reported on undertakings related to the water, cooperation with the international community in water sources development, water

...it is necessary to achieve success in boosting the production of the double cropping process with the use of solar-powered river water station projects from four major rivers. Moreover, he added that river water in all seasons should be stored in a suitable damming system for agricultural purposes.

quality control, water pumping process, supply of water for consumption and agricultural purposes, and future plans.

In his additional guidance, the Senior General stressed the need to seek the best ways of availability of water for agricultural and consumption purposes from the Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Sittoung and Thanlwin rivers.

In conclusion, the Senior General said that some regions and states are implementing short- and long-term water

supply projects during water shortage periods. The Senior General highlighted it is necessary to achieve success in boosting the production of the double cropping process with the use of solar-powered river water station projects from four major rivers. Moreover, he added that river water in all seasons should be stored in a suitable damming system for agricultural purposes. Hence, it is necessary to make preparations for water storage works for the coming water shortage

period, the Senior General noted.

The Senior General pointed out that if underground water can be supplied to crop plantations cultivated earlier than the schedule of cropping pattern, agricultural tasks will have greater success. The Senior General urged the national committee to cooperate with relevant committees and ministries in successfully implementing the water sector for the comprehensive development of the State. — MNA/TTA

No new case of COVID-19 reported on 4 April, total figure records 634,086

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases recorded **634,086** after **no** new case was reported on 4 April 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,564**, including **one** new recovery.

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

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increasing of death rate based on the disease.

Public Notice for Elimination of Violence

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

Union Minister U Than Swe receives Mr Won Bae Dahn, Honorary Consul General



U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Won Bae Dahn, Honorary Consul General of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Busan, the Republic of Korea, at 10 am on 4 April 2023 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw. At the meeting, the Union Minister briefed recent developments in Myanmar and both sides cordially exchanged views matters pertaining to the enhancement of bilateral relations and economic cooperation between the two countries.—MNA

Myanmar, India discuss Agri-development cooperation

UNION Minister U Min Naung of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation received Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Vinay Kumar and a delegation at the ministry yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

They cordially discussed the Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), the enhancement of the role of the two countries in regional cooperation, the human resource development in the agricultural sectors between the two countries, cooperation in research and technology, imports and exports of agricultural products between Myanmar and India.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister Dr Tin Htut and responsible officials. — MNA/TS



Union Minister U Min Naung receives the Indian ambassador in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

CBM to implement Rupee/Kyat direct payments for India-Myanmar trade

THE Central Bank of Myanmar organized a meeting on procedures to implement Rupee/Kyat direct payments for India-Myanmar trade with governmental departments, state-owned banks and private banks in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was attended by the governor and vice-governors of the Central Bank of Myanmar, the joint secretary of the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods, the director-general of the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce, the deputy director-general of the Customs Department, directors-general, deputy directors-general, officials of state-owned banks and private banks.

During the meeting, the officials discussed the successful implementation of Yuan/Kyat

and Baht/Kyat direct payment on border trade with China and Thailand, plans to implement Rupee/Kyat direct payments for India-Myanmar trade, formation of a working committee on the implementation of Rupee/Kyat payment system under the lead of CBM comprising representatives of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Ministry of Commerce, state-owned banks, State Bank of India, Punjab Nation Bank and Yangon Representative Office.

It also focused on the Rupee/Kyat payment Concept Pa-

per approved by the Reserve Bank of India to be conducted by Myanmar and India with the cooperation of the Indian Embassy in Myanmar, designation of Punjab National Bank, India, as a designated bank to carry out Special Rupee Vostro (SRV) account of Myanmar banks, advantages for bilateral trade and payment methods approved by the central banks of two countries.

Then, CBM Governor Daw Than Than Swe said it will take into account the fact of the Rupee/Kyat direct payment system for normal trade in addition to border trade and the importers and exporters will be informed as soon as the instructions and approval of banking system are received, and she concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH



The meeting on procedures to implement Rupee-Kyat direct payments for India-Myanmar trade in Progress.

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

Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations receives Indian Ambassador to Myanmar

DR Kan Zaw, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, received Mr Vinay Kumar, Ambassador of the Republic of India to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

They cordially discussed the matters on investment and economic relations between Myanmar and India. The deputy minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and senior officials were also present at the meeting.—MNA



The Indian ambassador calls on MIFER Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw yesterday.

Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism workshop held in Magway



The Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism workshop in progress.

UNDER the sponsorship of the supervisory group of regional real estate agents and precious metal dealers, an awareness-raising workshop on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism was held at the meeting hall of the Magway Region General Administration Department yesterday morning. The joint secretary of the supervisory group of regional real estate agents and precious metal dealers gave an opening speech. Region-level officials, the chairman and secretaries of the district supervisory group, the chairman and secretaries of the

township registration group, and the chairman and members of the township association of gold entrepreneurs and real estate agents attended the workshop. Lectures on ALM/CFT were given by Deputy Director U Kyaw Swe of the General Administration Department (Headquarters), guidelines on real estate agents and precious metal dealers by Assistant Director U Kyaw Htoo, Anti-Money Laundering Law by Police Lt-Col Soe Naing, duties of Anti-Money Laundering by Director of Magway Region Bureau of Special Investigation U Win Oo. — Ko Sithu (Magway IPRD)/KZW

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, petroleum products, industrial materials, auto parts and vehicles confiscated



Officials check confiscated illegal timbers in Bago Region.

THE Mon State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force made inspections at the Mawlamyine railway station on 23 March and confiscated various sizes of car tyres worth K32,848,000 without official documents from freight trains. The action was taken under Customs procedures. On 26 March, the Lashio Township Illegal Trade Eradi-

cation Task Force at the Yepu permanent checkpoint captured an unregistered Nissan Diesel truck (approximately K8 million) and the action was taken under Customs procedures. On 1 April, an inspection team from Monywa police station seized 50 barrels of kerosene worth K25 million without official documents at the indus-

trial zone in Monywa township. The action was taken under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law. On 3 April, an on-duty team of the Customs Department at the Myanmar Industrial Port Terminal container checkpoint nabbed 53,525 kilogrammes of wood furniture screw worth K67,441,500 without the import licence from a container. The action was taken under Customs procedures. A total of 22.03 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K10,963,554 was seized in the Bago district and the action was taken under the Forest Law. Therefore, five arrests (estimated value of K144,253,054) were made on 23 and 26 March and 1 and 3 April, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Traffickers sentenced to jail for human trafficking

THE Insein District Court sentenced the traffickers to ten years imprisonment each with labour for their role in trafficking a girl to a Chinese man on 31 March. The victim Ma... from Thanlyin Township of Yangon Region, was sold to a Chinese man by Ma Kyi Than, Aung Kyaw and Thae Su Wai from Insein Township, Ma Cho (aka) Cho Cho Win from Hlinethaya Township and Ma Sabae (aka) Moe Moe Han from Thanlyin Township of Yangon Region. They persuaded the victim by saying that she would earn K2 million if she worked in a noodle shop in Lashio for three months. The traffickers were prosecuted at Insein Myoma police station under Section 24/32 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law. The two traffickers, Ma Kyi Than and Ma Cho (aka) Cho Cho, were sentenced to jail for ten years imprisonment each with labour under Section 24 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law and three traffickers, Aung Kyaw Kyaw, Ma Sabae (aka) Moe Moe Han and Ma Thae Su Wai, were sentenced to ten years imprisonment each with labour under Section 24/32 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law. — MNA/MKKS

CURRENT
AFFAIRS

Weekly prices of Bayintnaung
Commodity Market

FROM 29 March to 4 April 2023, the influx of onions decreased in the Yangon Bayintnaung market and so the price increased slightly. It is reported that palm oil twice as much as usual has been imported from abroad, but the price has not fallen.

Onion

On average, around 200,000 vissees of onions enter the Yangon market every day, but only 132,000 vissees of onions entered the Yangon market on 4 April. The price has also gone up a bit. The wholesale price of onion was around K900 per viss on 3 April, but it went up to around K1,000 per viss on 4 April.

On 3 April, 47,304 vissees of onions arrived at the Pakokku market and the highest prices per viss were K950 for onions from the Pale area, K710 for onions from the Kyaukse area and K875 for Yaw onions.

Garlic

On 4 April, the market prices of garlic were K2,800 per viss for the S2 variety from Aungban, Shan State, K3,000 per viss for the S3 variety, K3,200 per viss for the S4 variety and K3,400 per viss for the S5 variety. The wholesale price of Kyukok garlic was K4,100 per viss at the Yangon market.

Potato

The wholesale price per viss of potatoes was K1,300 for the A1 variety, K1,600 for the OK variety, K1,800 per viss for the S1 variety and K1,300 per viss for the S2 variety at the Yangon market on 4 April.

Chilli Pepper

On 4 April, the wholesale rates were K10,000 per viss for new long chilli pepper from delta regions, K10,000-K11,000 per viss for Panye long chilli pepper, K9,500-K10,000 per viss for Myarni variety, K11,500-K12,000

per viss for Moehtaung chilli peppers from Pyawbwe, K12,000-K13,000 per viss for Sinphyukyun bell pepper and K13,000-K13,500 per viss for bell peppers from delta regions.

Rice

At the Yangon rice market on 4 April, a bag of rice was priced at K57,000 for new low-grade rice grown under a multi-cropping system, K61,000 for new low-grade 90-day rice variety and K66,000 for Pawkywe rice variety. The wholesale prices for a bag of Pawsan rice were K72,000 for the Bogale rice variety, K75,000 for the Pyapon rice variety, K79,000 for the Myaungmya rice variety and K94,000 for the Shwebo rice variety.

Palm oil

The wholesale reference price of palm oil in Yangon is K4,545 per viss from 3 to 9 April 2023, an increase of K105 per viss compared to the price of the previous week.

Despite the fact that 75,000 tonnes of palm oil were imported more than usual to ensure sufficient domestic consumption for the Thingyan long holiday, the DO price of palm oil is still at high price.

On 4 April, the wholesale price of palm oil in the Nyaungpinlay market was K6,600 per viss, which was still around K2,000 higher than the wholesale reference price.

Pulses

On 4 April, a tonne of black gram, SQ/RC and pigeon peas were traded at K2,062,000, K2,310,000 and K2,375,000 respectively. The price per viss of mung bean (Kayen Shwewah) was K3,750 and a viss of half of the chickpea was priced at K4,600-K4,800 per viss. — TWA/CT

CBM notifies maturity date extension
for term deposits with banks

THE date of maturity for time deposits with banks will be extended to six months until 30 September from 1 April, according to the Central Bank of Myanmar.

For liquidity support amid the adverse impacts faced by the banks triggered by the COVID-19 negative consequences, terms for all treasury bonds are temporary to be considered at 100 per cent for calculating the liquidity ratio. The maturity date for time deposits with banks is to be extended from a period of fewer than three months.



The photo shows the logo of the Central Bank of Myanmar on its signboard.

In the calculation of the liquidity ratio, the rules prescribed earlier will remain unchanged apart from the temporary extension of the periods. — TWA/EM

Myanmar's visitors to India warned to
declare US dollars: ME, New Delhi



The Gaya Airport in Bihar, India.

ON 3 April, the Myanmar Embassy in New Delhi urged those visiting India for various reasons to officially declare the amount of US dollars on arrival.

As stated in the Guide for Travellers by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and

Customs of the Department of Revenue under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, passengers with prohibited goods, customs items and items that exceed the specified tax exemption must fill out the customs declaration form and make an official

declaration at the Customs Office at the airport, according to the law of India. If the amount is more than US\$5,000 or the foreign currency equivalent of US\$500, it is necessary to make a declaration.

In addition, Myanmar nationals who are going to India can visit <https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources/htdocs-cbec/baggage-rules.pdf> for detailed information.

It is stated in the notice that Myanmar pilgrims to Bodh Gaya and those coming to India for medical treatment should use the money they brought only after making an official declaration since there are investigations about the possession of US dollars, seizure of foreign currency and arrest proceedings by immigration authorities at the Gaya Airport. — TWA/CT



A sign of "Grab Taxi" service at Yangon International Airport.

Grab Airport Taxi service starts at Yangon
International Airport

STARTING on 3 April, the Grab Airport Taxi service was launched at the Yangon International Airport for the convenience of passengers and it can be used at both domestic and international terminals, accord-

ing to the Yangon International Airport.

The passengers who do not have the Grab app will be able to book at the Grab taxi service counters at the airport and will have to wait for the taxi they have

to ride at the designated area.

The number of passengers and flights reportedly increased again after the restrictions on international flights at YIA were relaxed starting on 17 April 2022. — TWA/KZW

LOCAL BUSINESS

MoC: over 10,000 commodities lines compulsory for export/import licences

THE Ministry of Commerce made over 10,000 commodities lines mandatory for export/import licences.

The MoC released this directive dated 31 March, in the exercise of the power conferred by Section 4 (C) and Section 13 (B) of the Export and Import Law.

According to Notification 84/2022 dated 12 October, under the Customs Tariff of Myanmar 2022, 1,556 commodities lines with 10 digits HS Code for export and 8,774 for import are required to be applied for export/import licences on the Myanmar TradeNet 2.0 portal.

Only after traders of those items have received a licence first in line with the export/import regulations through the non-automatic licencing process, the shipment by air, sea and road will be given the green light.

This directive came into ef-



One container vessel is seen berthing alongside the Yangon Port.

fect starting on 1 April. It is an amendment of directive 51/2020 dated 8 July 2020. Similarly, directive 32/2022 dated 2 May 2022 was cancelled with this amendment incorporated.

Those who have sought

export and import licence and permits on TradeNet 2.0 platform through TradeNet 2.0 system are mandatory to withdraw licences within set periods and they will be fined for late withdrawal, the Trade

Department under the Ministry of Commerce released Notification 5/2023 dated 27 February.

The licence applicants need to make payment and withdraw the licence within seven days of approval by the department.

Those who fail to do so will be cancelled automatically, according to the Export/Import Notification 4/2022.

However, the timeline for striking off from the system will be changed to three months instead of seven days.

In addition to licence fees, fines are to be paid K45,000 for eight to 14 days, K90,000 for 15 to 30 days, K180,000 for two months and K360,000 for third months.

During the auto cancellation period for licence/permit processing, the applicants will have their licence temporarily suspended for six months if they fail five times in three months, Notification (20/2020).

Exporters and importers are therefore suggested to withdraw their licences within seven days. Auto cancellation of licence seeking process and temporary suspension of licence commenced from 1 March, the Trade Department stated. — NN/EM

Octane prices jump in domestic market

THE prices of Octane 92 and Octane 95 showed a sharp increase of K100 per litre within one day in the domestic fuel oil market.

On 3 April, the prices stood at K2,105 per litre of Octane 92, K2,185 for Octane 95, K2,065 for diesel and K2,145 for premium diesel. On 4 April, the prices touched a high of K2,250 for Octane 92, K2,310 for Octane 95, K2,160 for diesel and K2,240 for premium diesel.

The figures indicated an increase of K145 for Octane 92, K125 for Octane 95 and K95 for diesel and premium diesel.

The domestic fuel prices are set depending on the price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in southeast Asia, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil.

In August 2022, the oil prices surged to K2,605 per litre for Octane 92, K2,670 for Octane 95, K3,330 for premium diesel and K3,245 for diesel.

The committee is therefore

governing the fuel oil storage and distribution sector effectively not to have a shortage of oil in the domestic market and to ensure price stability for energy consumers.

The Petroleum Products Regulatory Department, under the guidance of the committee, is issuing the daily reference rate for oil to offer a reasonable price to energy consumers. The reference rate in Yangon Region is set on the MOPS's price assessment, shipping cost, premium insurance, tax, other general costs and health profit percentage.

The rates for regions and states other than Yangon are evaluated after adding the transportation cost and the retail reference rates daily covered on the state-run newspapers and are posted on the media and official website and Facebook page of the department daily starting from 4 May.

The committee is inspecting the fuel stations whether they are overcharging or not. The authorities are taking action against those retailers of fuel

stations under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law 2017 if they are found overcharging rather than the set reference rate.

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. The domestic fuel price is highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss between the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies and the prices are about 60 per cent cheaper than that of Myanmar. Every country lays down different patterns of policy to fix the oil prices. Myanmar also levies only a lower tax rate on fuel oil and strives for energy consumers to buy the oil at a cheaper rate. — NN/EM

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 4 April 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,250
Octane 95	K2,310
Diesel	K2,160
Premium Diesel	K2,240

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,335,000 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	K2,850 to K2,865

The above prices may change from time to time.

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OPINION

Help develop MSME businesses with the capacity for market competition

ILLEGALLY imported commodities are many hindrances to products of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises at home in the market competition. If it cannot inspect and take action against the commodities imported without payment of customs duties, MSME businesses are difficult in having to progress.

Only when authorities effectively inspect and take action against illegal trade measures will MSME at home meet development. Hence, the government emphasizes the eradication of illegal trade across the nation with assignments of departmental officials at checkpoints to inspect illegally imported commodities, the goods which were not mentioned in the import declarations, the commodities which were not paid customs duties, the overloaded volume of commodities exceeding the imported declarations and other goods which violate any rules and regulations for the official import process.

Taking action against illegal trade and avoiding purchases of illegally imported goods help develop the work process of MSME businesses. On the other hand, the activities of dutiful citizens in informing the authorities and relevant organizations about illegal trade offenders and illegally imported goods are giving a helping hand to the MSME businesses at home and creating great chances for them to have the capacity for competition in the domestic market. Hence, every citizen needs to be cautioned that only when MSME develops will the State economy thoroughly boom.

retail shops as well as shopping malls of not distributing illegally imported goods into the market by raising awareness, banning, inspecting and taking action against offenders. In so doing, it is necessary to set a time limit for taking public awareness measures before taking action against offenders under the law.

Taking action against illegal trade and avoiding purchases of illegally imported goods help develop the work process of MSME businesses. On the other hand, the activities of dutiful citizens in informing the authorities and relevant organizations about illegal trade offenders and illegally imported goods are giving a helping hand to the MSME businesses at home and creating great chances for them to have the capacity for competition in the domestic market. Hence, every citizen needs to be cautioned that only when MSME develops will the State economy thoroughly boom.

When technological breakthroughs rewrite the diabetes story

By Saya Norm

THE history of discovery is a long and complex one, spanning thousands of years of human history. In 1550 BCE, the ancient Egyptians described a disease that causes the passing of excessive amounts of urine, which is now recognized as a symptom of diabetes. And then in the 5th century BCE, the ancient Indian physician Sushruta identified diabetes as a distinct disease, calling it ‘Madhumeha’ which means honey urine. When in the 2nd century CE, the Greek physician Aretacus Cappadocia described a disease he had called ‘diabetes’ ‘which is originated from the Greek word for siphon because a condition that causes excessive thirst, urination and weight loss.

But the term diabetes mellitus which means sweet urine was coined by the English physician Thomas Willis in the 17th century. It was found that the pancreas plays a key role in diabetes in the late 19th century. In 1921, Fredrick Banting and Charles Best discovered insulin at the University of Toronto. They isolated the hormone from the pancreas of a dog and demonstrated that it can be used to treat diabetes. In 1936, the first clinical trial of insulin is conducted. But the first effective drug for diabetes was introduced only in 1959.

And the first portable blood glucose meter was invented in 1971 which allowed the monitoring of blood sugar levels at home. There were some improvements in diabetes therapy in the last quarter of the 20th century, but they were not extraordinary. Diabetes continued to be a major public health issue in the 21st century. There are estimated 463 million adults worldwide living with the disease. However, research made some major improvements in the diagnosis and treatment of the disease. And it shows that lifestyle changes are necessary to control diabetes.

At present, 10 per cent of diabetes patients are type 1 and 90 per cent are type 2. Type 1 diabetes is believed to be caused by an



Continuous glucose monitor.

autoimmune reaction and develops early in life. Type 2 diabetes develops over the course of many years and is related to lifestyle factors such as being inactive and excess weight. Both types of diabetes are chronic diseases that affect the regulation of blood sugar or glucose. To put the glucose into the cell as fuel, insulin hormone is needed. People with type 1 diabetes can't produce enough insulin in the body so they are dependent lifetime on insulin injections. Type 2 diabetes means the body isn't producing enough insulin or isn't able to use the insulin that it produces. Some experts said that type 2 is caused by the natural ageing process. This type can be seen mostly in senior citizens. But SARS-CoV-2 virus can directly destroy the insulin-producing cells in the pancreas and may cause type 1 or type 2 diabetes depending on the extent of damage is a distinctive feature.

Too much sugar in the blood streams puts the organs, nerves and blood vessels at risk and left untreated, can lead to heart and kidney disease that may later be fatal. And also, blindness and nerve damage may develop. The damage can lead to limb amputation. Diabetes can reduce one's lifespan by anywhere from five to fifteen years. But in recent years, technological breakthroughs and advanced knowledge of the disease made promising drugs and procedures for diabetes. Most scientists believe that they may soon have the science to beat the disease in near future. The breakthroughs are as follows.

Herbs

With advanced knowledge of herbs, management of diabetes type 1 and type 2 is more efficient and became reliable integrative medicine. Some herbs are efficacious to control blood sugar; espe-

cially for type 2 diabetes. Although they have some effects on type 1 diabetes, insulin is still needed for most patients. Herbs which are available in Myanmar for diabetes are giloy (Sindon Manwe), cinnamon (thitkyaipo), Curcumin (Nanwin), and holy basil (pin sane). The most effective are giloy and cinnamon. (As a traditional medical practitioner, I successfully put type 2 diabetes into remission for years with those herbs combining strict diet and walking exercise in the aged patients.)

Giloy can help the body to naturally create insulin which can be beneficial in managing type 1 and type 2 diabetes. Additionally, giloy can enhance the digestive system and gut health assisting in diabetes management. The most distinct characteristic of giloy (Tinospora cordifolia) is helping Beta cell regeneration. So, it is useful as an adjunct therapy in type 1 and type 2 diabetes. Although

cinnamon is suggested for use in type 2 diabetes, one research shows that 4 weeks of cinnamon supplementation does improve plasma glucose in patients with type 1 as well as patients with type 2 diabetes.

Lifestyle changes

With expanded knowledge of diabetes today, many people are aware that lifestyle changes are necessary for blood sugar control. Weight loss has always played a major role in controlling diabetes. And new research suggests it may be more important than controlling blood sugar. The research found that dropping 15 per cent of a person's body weight was more beneficial than lowering blood glucose.

The diet also is important for diabetes. Just following a meal plan of low-calorie low-carbohydrate and high-protein food may reduce the drug dosage or be free from medication. Exercise is one of the antidiabetic regimens. Exercising 150 minutes each week divided over five days can reduce the diabetic risk by as much as 60 per cent and also help blood sugar control in diabetic patients.

Stem cells

The most promising technological breakthrough for diabetes is stem cells. Stem cells are unique cells that have the ability to differentiate into different types of cells in the body. There are so many therapies for diabetes type 2 but type 1 is rare because the pancreas can't produce insulin. The best way to treat type 1 diabetes is to replace damaged pancreatic cells with functioning ones. It is not so sure currently if stem cell therapy is a definitive come for type 1 diabetes. However, the studies have shown promising results with the use of mesenchymal stem cells derived from various sources as a treatment for type 1 diabetes. Some studies reported that the transplanted stem cells were able to differentiate into insulin-producing cells and improve blood sugar control.

Although stem cell therapy is not the first priority for type 2 diabetes, in some patients with the long-term disease it may be helpful. All efforts currently focused on type 2 diabetes were to maintain a healthy diet, keep a healthy body weight and exercise regularly for the management of the disease. If diet and exercise aren't enough to control blood glucose levels well, those patients may also need diabetes medications or insulin therapy or both. Type 2 diabetes is also an age-related disease so some patients might need insulin therapy when they get older. Recent studies have demonstrated the promising results of using stem cells-bone marrow mononuclear cells and multipotent mesenchymal stem cells. Stem cell therapy preserves the function of beta-cells (Insulin-producing cells of the pancreas), decreases insulin dosage significantly, lowers the concentration of glycated haemoglobin, decreases the fasting blood glucose and improves the quality of life.

Continuous glucose monitors

Glucose monitoring is important for both types of diabetes. It is essential for type 1. Although there is no (approved) way of curing it yet, type 1 diabetes can be managed. For sufferers, that has meant regular finger-prick tests to check levels of blood glucose and find out whether food or medication is needed. The first device for continuous blood glucose monitoring was approved in 1999 and it became a wearable device (fixed on the skin) today and can be monitored easily via a smartphone or watch, and there is overwhelming evidence that it results in better glucose control and healthier people.

Type 2 diabetic patients still need to test blood glucose levels frequently, but have more scope to manage their condition. Type 1 diabetes does not produce any of its own insulin, so is entirely reliant on injections to manage glucose levels. They have to test several times a day and during the

night if they fear low blood sugar levels. When a continuous glucose monitoring system is linked with insulin pumps, type 1 diabetes patients (also some type 2 patients) got more easier and effective glucose control. Some clinicians said that patients who use the system would drop their HbA1c levels up to 20 points within a few months.

Drugs

Current drugs for diabetes management seem efficient, but the newer classes of drugs are having a major impact on treatment because they do more than just lower glucose. One class which is called GLP 1 receptor agonist helps with weight loss, while another-SGLT2 inhibitors-reduces the risk of heart and kidney disease. People with diabetes don't die from high sugar levels. They die from cardiovascular diseases

-about two out of three patients in the coronary unit have diabetes, while two out of five patients in dialysis units have it. A medication that will decrease the heart and kidney disease risks by 20 to 30 per cent is huge.

New technological breakthroughs and new knowledge of the disease from the research are encouraging. But all the new research into new treatments and tools won't make a difference if diabetes patients can't access or afford them. World Health Organization and related governments must try to overcome those obstacles. And about 90 per cent of diabetic patients are type 2 sufferers and it is preventable with good health education. With all of this momentum, there will be a cure (and also prevention) in the very near future.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 4 April 2023)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud to partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal and a few cloud elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 5 April 2023: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State and isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago and Taninthayi regions and Shan, Chin and Rakhine states. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4 - 7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kachin and Chin states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 April 2023: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 April 2023: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 April 2023: Partly cloudy.

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

First woman, Black astronaut to make 2024 flight around Moon



(L-R) Astronauts Jeremy Hansen, Victor Glover, Reid Wiseman and Christina Hammock Koch stand onstage after being selected for the Artemis II mission who will venture around the Moon during a news conference held by NASA and CSA at Ellington airport in Houston, Texas, on 3 April 2023. Travelling aboard NASA's Orion spacecraft during Artemis II, the mission is the first crewed flight test on the agency's path to establishing a long-term scientific and human presence on the lunar surface. **PHOTO: AFP**

NASA unveiled the crew on Monday for its first human mission to the Moon in more than 50 years — including the first woman and Black man to voyage into deep space.

Christina Koch, a NASA astronaut who holds the record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman, will be a mission specialist on next year's Artemis II flight around the Moon.

NASA's Victor Glover, a naval aviator, will pilot the Orion spacecraft that circles the Moon in November 2024, becoming the first Black man to take part in a lunar mission. Rounding out the crew are veteran NASA astronaut Reid Wiseman, 47, the mission commander; and Jeremy Hansen, also 47, a former fighter pilot now with the Canadian Space Agency.

The three Americans and one Canadian will become the first astronauts to venture that

deep into space since the historic Apollo missions ended in 1972.

The Artemis II flight is a prelude to returning humans to the Moon for the first time in a half century and an eventual mission to Mars. The three American astronauts have all spent time on the International Space Station (ISS) while Hansen, the Canadian mission specialist, will be making his first space flight.

The four astronauts, dressed in blue flight suits, were introduced by NASA administrator Bill Nelson at an event at the Johnson Space Centre in Houston. "The largest, most powerful rocket in the world is going to propel them onward and upward into the heavens," Nelson said.

Koch, 44, an electrical engineer, spent a record 11 consecutive months in space and took part in the first all-female spacewalks while on the ISS. — AFP

Kenya to launch first operational satellite next week

KENYA will launch its first operational satellite next week in a landmark achievement for the country's space programme, the government said on Monday. Taifa-1, or Nation-1 in Swahili, is scheduled to be launched on 10 April aboard the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from the Vandenberg Space Force Base in California.

"The mission is an important milestone," the defence ministry and Kenya Space Agency said in a joint state-

ment, adding that it would contribute significantly to the country's "budding space economy". The observation satellite is "fully designed and developed" by Kenyan engineers and will be used to provide data on agriculture and food security, among other areas, the statement said.

Testing and manufacturing of the parts were done in collaboration with a Bulgarian aerospace manufacturer, it added. — AFP

New Zealand greenhouse gas emissions fall 3.5%

NEW Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions decreased 3.5 per cent, or 696 kilotonnes, in the September 2022 quarter, according to the statistics department Stats NZ on Tuesday.

The fall in emissions follows successive increases over the previous three quarters and was driven mostly by significant reductions in the electricity, gas, water, waste

services and the manufacturing industry, which decreased by 26 per cent compared with the June quarter, NZ said. "The fall was mostly due to a smaller share of fossil fuels being used to generate electricity, and a higher share of renewable energy sources," said Stats NZ environmental-economic accounts manager Stephen Oakley.—Xinhua

Ozone-depleting CFCs hit record despite ban: study

THEIR power to dissolve the ozone layer shielding Earth from the Sun prompted a worldwide ban, but scientists on Monday revealed that some human-made chlorofluorocarbons have reached record levels, boosting climate-changing emissions.

Despite being banned under the Montreal Protocol, the five chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) measured increased rapidly in the atmosphere from 2010 to 2020, reaching record-high levels in 2020, according to the study published in the journal *Nature Geoscience*.

It said the increase was probably due to leakage during the production of chemicals that are meant to replace CFCs, including hydrofluorocarbons (HFOs).

Although at current levels they do not threaten the recovery of the ozone layer, they contribute to a different threat, joining other emissions in heating the atmosphere.

"If you are producing greenhouse gases and ozone-depleting substances during the production of these next-generation compounds, then they do

have an indirect impact on the climate and the ozone layer," said co-author Isaac Vimont of the Global Monitoring Laboratory at the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

CFCs are potent greenhouse gases that trap heat up to 10,000 times more efficiently than carbon dioxide — the biggest cause of the global warming that drives climate change, according to data from the Global Carbon Project.

In the 1970s and 1980s, CFCs were widely used as re-

frigerants and in aerosol sprays.

But the discovery of the hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica as a result of their use led to the global agreement in 1987 to eliminate them. After the Montreal Protocol entered into force, global concentrations of CFCs declined steadily.

The study analysed five CFCs with no or few current uses, beginning at the point of their total global phase-out in 2010. In 2020 all five gases were at their highest abundance since direct measurements began.—AFP



Refrigerant tanks sit at the Tradewater Refrigerant Solutions Warehouse in Elk Grove Village, Illinois, on 11 August 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Emissions cuts can slash heat deaths in Mideast, N Africa: study

MEETING world targets to limit climate change would avert hundreds of thousands of heat-related deaths in the Middle East and North Africa, scientists said on Tuesday, urging the region to adapt better.

A modelling study published in The Lancet Planetary Health journal found slashing carbon emissions to limit the rise in Earth's average temperature to two degrees Celsius would reduce heat-related deaths in the region by 80 per cent compared to a high-emissions scenario.

The regional focus on the heat risk came as Dubai prepares to host the United Nations COP28 climate summit in November. Countries have pledged to limit global warming to 1.5C under the Paris climate accords, prompting efforts to switch to low-carbon energy sources.

In the highest-emissions scenario without cuts, around 123 people per 100,000 in the region would die per year from



A man walks on cracked and dried up soil in the Hawiza marsh near the city of al-Amarah in southern Iraq on 27 July 2022. PHOTO: AFP

heat-related causes by the end of this century, according to the study, led by specialists at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

That would be 60 times greater than the current heat-death rate and far higher than in other regions of the world. Of the 19 countries analyzed,

Iran was expected to have the highest annual death rate under a high-emissions scenario — 423 deaths per 100,000 of population.

Lead author Shakoor Hajat told AFP temperatures were projected to be very high in parts of Iran. Ageing will also occur at a faster rate there than in many other countries in the region.

Hajat said health impacts would be “catastrophic” if the 2C target were not reached.

“Even with stronger action, countries in the region need to develop ways other than air-conditioning to protect their citizens from the dangers of extreme heat,” he said. “Public health measures such as national heat protection plans and heat alert warning systems could be introduced.

“These are common in countries in Europe and North America and parts of Asia, but not in the Middle East,” he said. “Many men (Middle East and North Africa) countries also need to strengthen their existing health systems to better prepare for climate change impacts.” — AFP

Infertility affects one in six: WHO



A TV grab taken from a video released by the World Health Organization (WHO) shows WHO Chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus attending a virtual news briefing on COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) from the WHO headquarters in Geneva on 6 April 2020. PHOTO: AFP

AROUND one in every six adults experiences infertility, the World Health Organization estimated Tuesday as it called for an urgent increase in access to fertility care.

The WHO determined that around 17.5 per cent of adults worldwide are affected by infertility at some point, and found little variation between regions and wealthy and poorer countries. “Globally, an estimated

one out of every six people are affected by the inability to have a child at some point in their life,” WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in the foreword to a fresh report on the issue.

“This is regardless of where they live and what resources they have.”

Across their lifetime, 17.8 per cent of adults in high-income countries and 16.5 per cent in

low- and middle income countries were affected by infertility, it found.

Tedros said the report — the first of its kind in a decade — revealed “an important truth: infertility does not discriminate.”

The WHO designated the issue a “major health challenge globally”, but stressed the difficulty of comparing the situation in various regions due to a lack of data from a number of countries.

‘Jury still out’

Infertility is classified as a disease of the male or female reproductive system defined by the failure to achieve a pregnancy after 12 months or more of regular unprotected sexual intercourse.

Tuesday’s report did not examine the causes of infertility, and did not seek to determine trends over time, or infertility differences between the sexes.

Instead, it provided a first estimate of the global and regional prevalence after experts ploughed through piles of studies conducted around the world between 1990 and 2021. — AFP

UN chief calls for greater inclusion, accessibility for persons with autism

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres issued a message on Sunday, calling for increased efforts to advance the rights of individuals with autism, in honour of World Autism Awareness Day, which falls on 2 April annually.

“Despite important progress, persons with autism continue to face social and environmental barriers to the full exercise of their rights and fundamental freedoms, in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” said the top UN official. “We must do better, by promoting inclusive education, equal employment opportunities, self-determination, and an environment where every person is respected,” he said.

“As we do so, we also recognize the role of families, caregivers, and support networks in the lives of persons with autism.” Stressing the impor-

tance of recognizing the active and diverse contributions of people with autism to society, Guterres said, “let us work together with persons with autism to build an inclusive and accessible world for all.”

World Autism Awareness Day is an internationally recognized day, aimed at raising awareness about autism and promoting inclusion and acceptance of people with autism.

The day was first observed in 2008 after a UN resolution was passed on 18 December 2007, declaring 2 April as World Autism Awareness Day.

The observance of the day is to increase public knowledge and understanding of autism spectrum disorder, a developmental disorder that affects communication, social interaction, and behaviour. It also aims to promote early diagnosis, early intervention, and support for individuals with autism and their families. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Global art market up slightly at \$67.8 billion in 2022



Visitors look at artwork at Art Basel in Hong Kong on 23 March 2023. **PHOTO: PETER PARKS / AFP**

THE art market rose slightly to \$67.8 billion last year despite an uncertain global climate, thanks to high-end and digital sales, an annual report said on Tuesday.

Worldwide sales of art increased three per cent in 2022 compared to the previous year, lifting them above the level seen in 2019 before the disruptive impact of the Covid-19

pandemic.

“The year 2022 saw the art market hold onto its post-pandemic rebound and strengthen further despite severe economic uncertainty and the return of war to Europe,” said the report by Art Basel, a major organizer of art fairs, and Swiss bank UBS.

Growth in the market came from sales of high end

art and from digital art backed by non-fungible tokens (NFTs). The report added that the “US market roared back to life, again securing its premier position in the global ranks”.

By contrast, sales in mainland China and Hong Kong eased as a result of strict Covid restrictions that were in force until late last year.

The report said last year’s “cautious growth in the face of deep uncertainty” was “testimony to the strength of the post-pandemic art market and reason to believe in its resilience”.

Art Basel CEO Noah Horowitz pointed to the growth in digital art in spite of the sharp fall in cryptocurrencies that boosted this segment of the market.

“Despite the crypto winter, the popularity of digital, film and video art increased substantially, from one per-cent of dealer sales in 2021 to five per-cent last year,” Horowitz noted. — AFP

ADB says developing Asia’s growth to accelerate after China reopening

THE Asian Development Bank raised its 2023 growth forecast for developing Asia on Tuesday, after China’s abrupt loosening of Covid-19 restrictions and reopening of its borders brightened the region’s prospects.

The Philippines-based lender

expects economic growth of 4.8 per cent this year, up from its 4.6 per cent projection in December. That compares with growth of 4.2 per cent last year.

Developing Asia refers to 46 members of the ADB, stretching from Kazakhstan in Central Asia

to the Cook Islands in the Pacific.

China, the world’s second-largest economy, accounts for about half of the region’s growth. It began to emerge in December from a strict zero-Covid strategy that hampered economic activity. — AFP



This photo taken on 17 March 2023 shows the Wat Arun Buddhist temple in the background as tourists ride a Hop-on Hop-off cruise boat along the Chao Phraya river in Bangkok. **PHOTO: AFP**

Soaring inflation wallops Cubans already battling shortages

CUBAN retiree Xiomara Castellanos gets a monthly pension equivalent to \$13.80. A carton of 30 eggs in the inflation-battered country costs \$14.10 — almost four times more than two years ago.

“It is hitting us hard, very hard,” the 80-year-old told AFP of inflation that officially reached 39 per cent last year, but is likely much, much higher.

In 2021, the one-party communist government moved to end parallel currencies in Cuba, phasing out a convertible peso that was pegged to the dollar, leaving only the regular, weaker peso, or CUP.

Since then, the currency has fallen from 24 to an official rate of 120 to the dollar. On the black market the rate is 180.

To compensate for the currency devaluation, the govern-

ment two years ago raised all salaries and pensions by 450 per cent.

But then, “prices... exploded and salaries did not follow,” Castellanos told AFP.

Reality is worse

According to official figures, inflation — which has several countries in Latin America and elsewhere in its grips — reached 70 per cent in import-dependent Cuba in 2021 and 39 per cent in 2022.

But Pavel Vidal, a Cuban economist with the Javeriana University of Cali in Colombia, said real inflation was five to six times higher.

“Real inflation in 2022 exceeded 200 per cent, one of the highest in the world,” Vidal said, citing his own calculations. — AFP



An elderly woman check prices of food products, 31 March 2023, in Havana. Cuba, one of the Latin American countries facing the highest inflation, will participate in a teleconference next week with the presidents of Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, and Argentina to adopt common strategies. **PHOTO: AFP**

L’Oreal buys Australian brand Aesop from Natura in \$2.5 bln deal

L’OREAL announced Tuesday the signing of an agreement with Brazil’s Natura & Co to acquire its Australian luxury cosmetics brand Aesop in a deal valued at \$2.53 billion.

The Aesop brand posted sales of \$537 million in 2022, according to a statement.

“Aesop taps into all of today’s ascending currents and L’Oreal will contribute to unleash its massive growth potential, notably in China and travel

retail,” L’Oreal CEO Nicolas Hieronimus said in the statement.

“We have great confidence that Aesop will join the L’Oreal Luxe Billionaire brands club and therefore contribute significantly to the growth of the division in the years to come,” said Cyril Chapuy, president of the group’s luxury division L’Oreal Luxe, adding that he looked forward to welcoming Aesop CEO Michael O’Keeffe and his teams. — AFP

Most markets rise but oil surge weighs on Fed rate hopes

MOST markets edged up Tuesday but concerns about the impact of surging oil prices on inflation tempered data indicating a slowing US economy that could allow the Federal Reserve to ease back on its interest rate hikes.

Crude built on Monday's surge of more than six per cent that came after top producers announced a surprise output cut, providing a fresh headache for central bankers as they battle inflation.

Regional investors were given a positive lead from Wall Street, where the S&P 500 and Dow chalked up healthy gains after a closely watched

gauge of US factory activity from the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) missed forecasts and showed a fifth consecutive month of contraction.

Analysts said the figures suggested the world's top economy was showing signs of slowing down and could give the Fed room to ease up on its rate-hiking cycle.

Eyes are now on US jobs data due Friday that will provide the latest snapshot of the economy and the effects of monetary tightening.

Last month's turmoil in the banking sector had increased bets that monetary policymakers would

pause their tightening early, while news Friday that US inflation — as judged by the Fed's favoured measure — eased further in February had given dealers an extra spring.

However, OPEC's shock weekend announcement of a production cut of more than a million barrels a day sent inflation fears soaring again as oil prices jumped more than six per cent. "The services ISM equivalent on Wednesday will, realistically, be more telling about the state of the US economy (and inflation) than (Monday's) release," said National Australia Bank's Ray Attrill. — AFP

Oil prices soar over 6% after OPEC+ output cut

OIL prices surged on Monday after major producers unveiled a surprising decision over the weekend to cut output.

The West Texas Intermediate (WTI) for May delivery rose 4.75 US dollars, or 6.28 per cent, to settle at 80.42 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Brent crude for June delivery increased 5.04 dollars, or 6.31 per cent, to close at 84.93 dollars a barrel on the London ICE Futures Exchange.

The rally marked the biggest daily gain for WTI since 12 April 2022, and the best daily performance for Brent since 21 March 2022, according to Dow Jones



A photograph taken on 17 March 2022 in the Bay of Saint-Brieuc, western France, shows the drilling platform ship "Aeolus", on the sidelines of a protest of fishermen against the planned construction of 62 wind turbines offshore the bay. **PHOTO: AFP**

Market Data. Members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies, known collectively as OPEC+, on Sunday unexpectedly announced crude output cuts of more than 1 million barrels per day (bpd) from May until the end of 2023. — Xinhua

Credit Suisse chiefs face the music at AGM

CREDIT Suisse shareholders will get their first chance to voice their frustrations at the beleaguered bank's takeover by UBS, at its annual general meeting in a Zurich concert venue Tuesday.

Shareholders in Switzerland's second-biggest bank were given no say in the mega-merger, which was swiftly arranged behind closed doors by the Swiss government, the central bank and the financial regulator on 19 March.

The AGM is being held at the Hallenstadion, Zurich's biggest indoor arena more used to staging the likes of Queen, ABBA, The Rolling Stones, Adele, Madonna and Ed Sheeran.

More than 2,000 shareholders are expected to attend, way up on the usual turnout of around 1,300, said the Swiss newspaper Blick, which expected them to "give free rein to their frustration". — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (195N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (195N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-4-2023** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V NITHI BHUM VOY.NO. (268W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NITHI BHUM VOY.NO. (268W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-4-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Member's' Voluntary Winding-up & Appointment of a Liquidator for Myanmar Fujita Kanko Limited (Registration No. 110701160) pursuant Articles 147(a)(ii) and 152(a) of Insolvency Law 2020 & Notice to Creditors

With respect to Myanmar Fujita Kanko Limited (Registration No. 110701160) (the "Company") which is located at #14-12, Level 14 Sule Square, No. 221, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyaktada, Yangon Region, Myamar, it is hereby noticed that:

1. According to Article 147(a)(ii) of Insolvency Law, the Company unanimously passed the following resolutions:

- (i) to wind up the Company voluntarily effective on 31 March 2023; and
- (ii) to appoint the following liquidator (the "Liquidator") pursuant to Article 152(a) of Insolvency Law, effective on 31 March 2023:

Name: Daw Nilar Thwin
Name of the Company/Title: Global United Myanmar Ltd./Managing Director
MAIP member serial: 00120
Phone number: 095049113
Address: #14-11, Level 14, Sule Square, 221 Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar 11182

2. Any creditors who have any debts or claims against the Company are required to submit their names, addresses, and details of their claims, together with any documentary evidence in their possession, to the Liquidator on or before April 30, 2023.

Daw Nilar Thwin
Liquidator
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Russian UN envoy defends his country's Security Council presidency



Russian Ambassador to the United Nations Vassily Nebenzia, president of the Security Council for the month of April, speaks at a press conference on 3 April 2023 at the United Nations in New York. **PHOTO: AFP**

RUSSIAN ambassador to the United Nations Vassily Nebenzia on Monday defended his country's rotating presidency of the Security Council for the month of April.

"Some countries are pretending they can decide, at their own will, who they want or do not want to be in the chair of the presidency of the Security Council," he said, referring to objection to Russia's Security Council presidency.

"As long as the current world order with the UN and the Security Council stands, there

will be no change in the rules of procedure. The order of the presidency is well-defined. It's not for them to change it," said the ambassador.

Rule 18 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council states that the council presidency shall be held in turn by the members of the council in the English alphabetical order of their names and that each president shall hold office for one calendar month.

Asked whether Russia would recuse itself as president in council discussions on Ukraine, as his

country is directly involved in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine military conflict, Nebenzia said, "No."

"If you put the question this way, then I think other countries on the Security Council should also withdraw from the discussion, and namely, three members of the P5 (the five permanent members) who are directly involved in the situation," Nebenzia said. The Russian ambassador was referring to France, Britain and the United States, which are providing support for Ukraine against Russia on the battlefield. — Xinhua

Brazil presidential adviser met Putin to discuss peace talks for Ukraine

AN adviser to Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow to discuss opening peace negotiations with Ukraine, shortly before a visit to Brazil by Russia's foreign minister, an official in the Brazilian presidency told AFP Monday.

Celso Amorim, head of a special advisory group to the Brazilian president, met with Putin on 25 March in the Kremlin, in a meeting that lasted for an hour and had been kept confidential.

The trip by Lula's top adviser on international affairs came less than two weeks before the Brazilian president visits China, another country that is also pushing for a peace deal between

Russia and Ukraine.

Lula proposed creating a group of countries to mediate in the war in Ukraine, an issue he intends to discuss with his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, on 13 April in Beijing.

The leftist wants to position Brazil as a facilitator of multinational dialogue. "To say that the doors are open (for peace talks) would be an exaggeration, but to say that they are closed is not true either," Amorim told CNN Brasil on Monday, when asked about the outcome of the meeting with Putin. During the conversation, bilateral issues were also discussed, such as fertilizer trade between Russia and Brazil. — AFP

Trump and New York, America's ultimate love-hate relationship



Former US president Donald Trump arrives at Trump Tower in New York on 3 April 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

"I can't get a fair trial in New York!" fumed Donald Trump when he learned he was being indicted by a Manhattan grand jury, as though he knew his

hometown — where the former US president built his fortune — would always be hostile to its controversial son.

When Trump was elected

to the White House in 2016, his surprise win was received poorly in Manhattan, with protesters chanting "New York hates Trump!"

At the time, The New York Times and the BBC reported on Trump's love for the metropolis that did not love him back, saying the real estate magnate "hates being hated" by the city, the economic and multicultural hub of the country. Arriving Monday evening at Trump Tower in Manhattan, on the eve of his first court appearance after being indicted in a hush money scheme, the billionaire may have found some reassurance in the handful of supporters gathered outside chanting, "We love Trump!" — AFP

Argentina official beaten, bloodied by striking bus drivers

A provincial government official in Argentina was beaten, kicked and pelted with stones Monday by a group of bus drivers protesting the death of a colleague.

Buenos Aires province's security minister, Sergio Berni, 61, was attacked when he arrived at a protest by bus drivers against unsafe working conditions in La Matanza, on the outskirts of the capital.

Berni is seen bleeding from the face and staggering to his feet after falling during the attack, which was broadcast live on local television.

He was eventually removed by police who took him to hospital.

Eight police officers and three bus drivers were injured in ensuing clashes, according to the emergency services.

The protest was sparked by the death of bus driver Daniel Barrientos, 65, who was shot by two delinquents who boarded to rob passengers in the early hours of Monday.

"We have already arrested the perpetrator," of that crime, Berni told the crowd before he was whisked away, adding that work was being done to guarantee drivers' safety. — AFP



A group of bus drivers protest the murder of a colleague in La Matanza, on the western outskirts of Buenos Aires on 3 April 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Japan to raise hydrogen supply sixfold by 2040 to promote renewables



Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (2nd from L) attends a meeting with relevant ministers at his office in Tokyo on 4 April 2023 to discuss revisions to the country's Basic Hydrogen Strategy. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN plans to increase its supply of hydrogen sixfold from the current level to around 12 million tonnes by 2040 in an effort to spur use of renewable energy, a draft revision to its resource

policies showed Tuesday. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's government will aim to generate 15 trillion yen (\$113 billion) in investment from both the public and private sectors over the next 15 years to achieve the goal, the draft said. At a meeting attended by relevant ministers on Tuesday, Kishida pledged to revise the Basic Hydrogen Strategy, formulated in 2017, by the end of May. Hydrogen does not emit carbon dioxide when combusted. Japan is aiming for net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, meaning hydrogen is viewed as a key driver in its

plan to bring about a green transition, otherwise known as "GX", an initiative to transform a fossil fuel-based economy into one centred on cleaner energy. "It is necessary to utilize GX bonds and prompt investment from the private sector" to promote decarbonization in Japan, Kishida said, referring to a new type of sovereign debt, to be issued for the first time during the fiscal year starting April. The government plans to issue the GX bonds worth about 20 trillion yen from the latter half of fiscal 2023. Kishida said the government is eager to accelerate building international supply

chains to provide more hydrogen in collaboration with Australia, as well as Middle Eastern and other Asian countries. He also said Japan aims to implement new technologies into Japan's power supply, such as next-generation "perovskite solar cells" that can directly convert sunlight energy into electricity, by 2030. In the Basic Hydrogen Strategy, the government promises to encourage the widespread use of vehicles and buses that use hydrogen fuel cells. The government has also vowed to realize the commercialization of hydrogen power generation by 2030. — Kyodo

China urges US to stop interfering in Hong Kong affairs: FM

CHINA urges the US side to immediately stop issuing annual reports of Hong Kong and stop interfering in Hong Kong affairs and other internal affairs of China, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Monday. Spokesperson Mao Ning made the remarks in response to the Hong Kong Policy Act report issued by the US State Department. Mao said that Hong Kong is a special administrative region of China, and Hong Kong affairs are purely China's internal affairs which brook no foreign interference, adding that the report

issued by the US disregards facts, makes irresponsible remarks, and levels groundless accusations at the Chinese Central Government and the Hong Kong SAR government. "China strongly deplores this and firmly rejects this," Mao said. — Xinhua

Cambodia needs US\$138 mln to achieve 2025 mine-free target: official

CAMBODIA needs 138 million US dollars for the next two years to achieve its mine-free target by 2025, Ly Thuch, first vice-president of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authorities (CMAA), said on Tuesday. "Of this sum, if the Cambodian government provides 30 million US dollars for each year for 2024 and 2025 as it did in 2023, we will have 60 million dollars of the 138 million dollars," he said during a technical working group meeting on

mine action in Phnom Penh. Thus, he said, the Southeast Asian country is looking to international donors to contribute another 78 million dollars for this humanitarian work for 2024 and 2025. "To this end, we welcome any announcements regarding fresh funding," Thuch said. "With your generous support, we can achieve our National Mine Action Strategy vision of 2025 as well as the Ottawa Treaty obligation to make Cambodia mine-free." — Xinhua

Huge fire destroys clothes market in Bangladeshi capital



A firefighter runs to extinguish a fire that broke out in a clothing market in Dhaka on 4 April 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

HUNDREDS of Bangladeshi firefighters battled an inferno that raged through a popular clothing market in the capital Dhaka on Tuesday and blanketed the city's oldest neighbourhoods in black smoke. No fatalities have been reported so far, but shop owners and fire officials told reporters that the famous Bongo Bazar and three adjacent markets had been almost completely gutted in the dawn fire.

Tempers flared as the morning wore on with a group of shop owners hurling rocks at firefighters, angered by the time it was taking to bring the blaze under control. "We dispersed them," police spokesman Faruq Ahmed said, adding that around 450 officers had been deployed to keep order and stop looting. Fire services chief Main Uddin told reporters that 600 firefighters from across the city brought the blaze under control after battling it for more than six hours, while hundreds of spectators watched from a nearby overpass. "An enthusiastic crowd and a lack of water" along with high winds had made it difficult to combat the fire, he said. — AFP



This photo taken on 27 September 2021 shows trainers training dogs at the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) in Kampong Chhnang province, where Cambodia's anti-landmine authorities are training dogs to detect the Covid-19 coronavirus in people carrying the virus. **PHOTO: AFP**



2024 Paris Olympic Women's Football Asian Zone Qualifiers (First Round) press conference held



Myanmar women's team head coach Daw Thet Thet Win (centre to the right) shakes hand with Iran women's football team responsible person during the press conference for 2024 Paris Olympic Women's Soccer Asian Zone Qualifiers (First Round) held at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 4 April 2023. **PHOTO: KANU**

THE press conference for the 2024 Paris Olympic Women's Soccer Asian Zone Qualifiers (First Round) which will be hosted by Myanmar was held at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday morning.

Head coaches and responsible persons of teams Myanmar and Iran attended the event.

The Myanmar team and the Iran team will play on 5 and 8 April at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon at 4 pm Myanmar time.

The team with the most points in two games will qualify for the second round of the Asian Zone qualifiers for the 2024 Paris

Olympic Women's Football Tournament.

If the score is the same after playing two games, after the match on 8 April, overtime will be played for 30 minutes.

If there is no result of winning or losing, the penalty decision must be taken.

"In the beginning, we had to play three group matches, so we prepared carefully how to play in each of the upcoming matches during the training trip in China. With the withdrawal of Maldives and Bangladesh, the focus will be on the match against Iran.

"We will prepare to win the

first match against Iran. For the second match, we will play based on the result of the first match. Iran is also a good team, so we cannot underestimate them. We will try to make our fans happy and satisfied", said Myanmar team head coach Daw Thet Thet Win.

Myanmar will host the 2024 Paris Olympic women's football tournament in the first round of the Asian zone qualifiers, where the hosts Myanmar, Iran, Bangladesh and the Maldives were drawn earlier:

Since the Moldovan team, and Bangladesh withdrew from the tournament, the host Myanmar team will only play against the Iranian team, and the winning team will advance to the second round of the Asian zone qualifiers.

"I would like to thank the Myanmar Football Federation for the best hospitality when visiting Myanmar.

"The Myanmar team is a good team and has good players, so it will be difficult. Our team has both newcomers and experienced players, so we expect a good result.

"We have also watched and studied the matches played by the Myanmar team on video. It could be a difficult match for both teams", said Iran women's football team head coach Maryam Azmoon. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KZL

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

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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

Xavi expecting 'wounded' Madrid to wage war in cup Clasico

BARCELONA coach Xavi Hernandez warned his team on Tuesday that their Copa del Rey semi-final opponents Real Madrid would be coming to wage a "footballing war" at Camp Nou.

The Catalans hold a 1-0 lead from the first leg and have beaten their rivals in each of the last three Clasicos.

"It doesn't mean anything that we have won the last three Clasicos, tomorrow is another footballing war," Xavi told reporters.

"They will be out for revenge, they will come here hurt,

they have lost the last three. They will come here wounded, I am sure."

Barcelona will be without four injured key players in Pedri, Ousmane Dembele, Frenkie de Jong and Andreas Christensen.

"Madrid come tomorrow and they can beat you perfectly well — they can against any team," said Xavi.

"They have a lot of experience, they are used to mounting comebacks. They are still favourites for me.

"We were better in the league game and in the Super



Barcelona's Spanish coach Xavi addresses a press conference following a training session at the Joan Gamper training ground in Sant Joan Despi, on 4 April 2023, on the eve of the Spanish Cup semi-final football match against Real Madrid. **PHOTO: AFP**

Cup, but we weren't in the first leg."

Despite Eder Militao's own goal handing Barcelona a narrow victory at the Santiago Bernabeu, Ancelotti's side dominated the Catalans.

Xavi said he expected Los Blancos to try and stop his team controlling the match and playing their usual possession football.

"(I predict) an aggressive Madrid, who want to take the ball off us, pressing us," added Xavi.

"We need to have a lot of personality tomorrow to keep the ball." — AFP