

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.

Relevant ministries need to arrange decorated floats to participate in the columns in line with the treaties as such events will be broadcast through State-owned media: Vice-Senior General



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win presides over the coordination meeting for the Buddha Day Gala Ceremony on the full moon of Kason in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 April 2023.

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win who is also serving as Chairman of the Patron Committee of the Organizing Buddha Day Gala Ceremony on Kason Full Moon Day delivered an address at the coordination meeting between the patron committee and the leading committee at the Ministry of Religious Affairs

and Culture in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. In his speech, the Vice-Senior General said that the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the resolution 54/115 on 13 December 1999 for the FullMoon Day of Kason as the International Vesak Day or Visākha Day which is a noble day in history of Buddhism. The Vice-Senior General continued to say that the Nay Pyi

Taw Council and Uppatasanti Pagoda Board of Trustees jointly organized the watering of the Maha Bawdi banyan trees in the precinct of the pagoda in the past. From the 13th celebration in 2021, the International Vesak Day has been marked as the national level ceremony. The Vice-Senior General highlighted that the ceremony to mark the Buddha Day on the full moon day of Kason will com-

prise five portions offering alms and day meals to members of the Sangha, holding a paper-reading session to mark the Buddha Day, holding the ceremony of watering the Maha Bawdi banyan trees, conveying oil lamps and arranging the Dhamma preaching in the precinct of Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw on the full moon day of Kason. Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academies

Shwegyin Sangharaja Sitagu Sayadaw and rectors from three Buddha Universities were requested to choose four resource-person Sayadaws to compile and read research papers on significant events of the Lord Buddha to be submitted to the paper-reading session. Moreover, those three rectors Sayadaws were requested to preside over the paper-reading session. SEE PAGE-3

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL CBM holds Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism Forum PAGE-4

CRIME NEWS Illegal foodstuffs, electronics, industrial materials and vehicles seized PAGE-5



LOCAL BUSINESS Agriculture Dept calls for EOI to export rice to China PAGE-7



Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Announcement No 6/2023

2nd Waxing of Kason 1385 ME
20 April 2023

Allowing the Union Solidarity and Development Party to be
registered as a political party

Under Article 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law, it was announced that the Union Solidarity and Development Party with its headquarters located at Plot No 5, Corner of Yaza Thingaha Street and Shwepyi Tawwin Street of Dekkhinathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw has been approved for registration.
The registration number of the Union Solidarity and Development Party is 1.

Sd/ Thein Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Head of Service Organization
appointed

THE State Administration Council has appointed U Thein Toe, Deputy Director-General of the Forest Department under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, as Director-General of the Environmental Conservation Department on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

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.

30 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 20 April, total figure registers 634,243

MYANMAR’S COVID-19-positive cases rose to 634,243 after 30 new cases were reported on 20 April 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 15 patients returned from foreign countries and 15 cases were infected locally.

Status of new COVID-19 patients (as of 20 April 2023) (8:00 pm)

New COVID-19 Patient	New Patient	Percentage (%)
People returned from foreign countries	15	50%
People infected in the country	15	50%
Total	30	100%

Therefore, a total of 10,259,586 laboratory samples were examined and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 634,243.
The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 614,656 including seven new recoveries.
The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at 19,490 on 20-4-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic.
According to the research, it is found that people who have been vaccinated do not suffer severely from the disease, need not be hospitalized and are unlikely to die. If they have received booster shots, the death rates can be reduced more.
As such, people need to follow the new normal way of living with COVID. Hence, all people above five have to fully receive COVID-19 vaccination inoculated by the Ministry of Health free of charge. Six months after the vaccination, they have to take booster jabs at relevant health centres and ward/village administration offices without fail. Moreover, they have to wear masks while in closed chambers and public places. They need to often wash their hands with soap and water or the hand gel containing alcohol (at least 60 per cent) for 20 seconds.
People need to follow the social distancing rule and avoid crowds as much as possible. While not wearing masks, if they cough and sneeze, they need to cover their mouth and noses with elbows in line with the personal hygienic ways.
COVID-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health. — GNLM

State Administration Council
Press Release
Re-invitation to Myanmar citizens who reside in various regions for many reasons

1. Some student youths, State service personnel and citizens, with worries, have evaded to areas of EAOs and foreign countries due to the incitements and intimidation of NLD members, extremist followers, unlawful associations and terrorist groups such as CRPH and NUG, stimulation of CDM, and persons and organizations at home and abroad not wishing to restore peace and stability of the State since Tatmadaw assumed the State responsibilities on 1 February 2021.
2. They are further worried about the dictatorship statement and speeches of unlawful association and terrorist group CRPH and NUG, and some relevant persons. As they face no security guarantee and difficulties in socio-economic life in those areas, they wish to return to their native lands.
3. The State Administration Council will specifically ease restrictions for service personnel, intellectuals and intelligentsia, and persons from various arenas and citizens who, with worries, absconded from the country except for persons who committed murders, robberies, setting fires, mine explosions and intentional attacks on security troops, those who crowded to attack public service personnel and some people, those who destroyed government and private-owned buildings and those who are highly involved in the CDM activities by providing monetary assistance and other means.
4. As those who evade their native areas are also citizens, the State Administration Council will arrange their returns from the evaded areas to various parts of Myanmar.
5. As such, the information was released that if those who evaded to various areas, except for persons who committed any kinds of crime, wish to return to their native lands in Myanmar of their own accord due to multiple worries, the citizens abroad can contact nearby ward, village, township and district administration bodies and relevant embassies, military attaché offices and consulates in accord with the easing restrictions under the law.

Information Team
State Administration Council

THE State Administration Council will specifically ease restrictions for service personnel, intellectuals and intelligentsia, and persons from various arenas and citizens who, with worries, absconded from the country except for persons who committed murders, robberies, setting fires, mine explosions and intentional attacks on security troops, those who crowded to attack public service personnel and some people, those who destroyed government and private-owned buildings and those who are highly involved in the CDM activities by providing monetary assistance and other means.

Integration for harmonizing diversity key to building the Union based on democracy and federalism

IT is necessary to take lessons from the disunity and conflicts among the ethnics and the people due to racism, personal cult and dogmatism in the history of the country in building the Union based on democracy and federalism. Discriminating, setting aside and attacking persons as enemies for different attitudes and concepts are not in conformity with the democratic system. Likewise, localism and personal cult may cause disunity and harm the country to disintegrate, so I would like to urge all to deeply consider integration for harmonizing diversity.

(Excerpts from the message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to 76th Anniversary of Union Day ceremony which falls on 12 February 2023)

Relevant ministries need to arrange decorated floats to participate in the columns in line with the treaties as such events will be broadcast ...

FROM PAGE-1

Conveyance of oil lamps will be included on the agenda in line with the national-level celebration. Arrangements have been made for selecting 80 male Sasana flag bearers and 1,000 female oil lamp carriers.

Relevant ministries have been coordinated for the ceremony. Relevant ministries need to arrange decorated floats to participate in the columns in line with the treaties as such events will be broadcast through State-owned media,

the Vice-Senior General added. In conclusion, the Vice-Senior General urged all to take security measures for the ceremony in all aspects. Chairman of the Leading Committee Union Minister U Ko Ko reported on arrange-

ments for the grand ceremony and Chairman of the Work Committee Deputy Minister U Aye Tun on agenda on water pouring on Maha Bawdi banyan trees and marking the International Vesak Day. Officials participated in dis-

cussions to successfully hold the ceremony. Later, the Vice-Senior General made necessary coordination over the discussions and gave a concluding remark.—MNA/TTA



UEC Chair U Thein Soe and members are seen at the USDP headquarters yesterday.

USDP checked in compliance with political party registration laws, regulations: UEC

THE Union Election Commission, through announcement No 6/2023, has allowed the Union Solidarity and Development Party to be registered as a political party under Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 20 April 2023. It is reported that Union Solidarity and Development Party,

which has already been registered, was inspected by Union Election Commission Chairman U Thein Soe and members yesterday at the Union Solidarity and Development Party headquarters to see whether it has complied with the political party registration laws and regulations. — MNA/KZL

Coordination meeting on Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Award Event held

A coordination meeting on Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Award Event was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the meeting, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, in his capacity as Chairman of the Organizing Committee on Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Award Event said the ceremony for 2019, 2020 and 2022 is a sign of drive to revive the development of fine arts. It also lures the public interest most. Moreover, the preparations are being made in accordance with the wishes of outstanding artistes. All the artistes should join the event and the Fashion Award will be selected among the attendees.



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn inspects preparatory work for the Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Award Event yesterday.

Then, Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, in his capacity as Chairman of the Working Committee for the Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Award Event presented the

work plans for the event and the Art Director of Nebula X Entertainment Co Ltd reported on the presentation programmes. Then, the attendees coor-

minated the discussion and the Union Minister gave the proper instructions. After the meeting, the Union minister and party inspected the stage construc-

tion, media zone, red carpet, entranceway, light decoration, LED installation, sound system, seating plans and entertainment programmes. — MNA/KTZH



CBM holds Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism Forum



The Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism Forum in progress yesterday in Yangon.

JOINTLY organized by the Central Bank of Myanmar and Bank of China (Hong Kong) Yangon Branch, the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism Forum was held at the Central Bank of Myanmar in Yangon yesterday.

CBM Governor Daw Than Than Swe and the chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission made opening speeches respectively and Chief Executive Officer Mr Liu Ying of the Bank of China (Hong Kong) Yangon Branch, gave a word of greeting.

Two officials of the Bank of China (Hong Kong) discussed the international standards for anti-money laundering and inter-reviewing system among member countries, the anti-money laundering framework of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the attendees coordinated the discussion.

The forum was attended by Anti-Corruption Commission Member U Kyaw Win Thein, CBM senior officials, representatives of Bank of China (Hong Kong) Yangon Branch and other officials from ministries and departments concerned and state-owned banks, private banks and foreign subsidiaries. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar students attend SCO Students Talk online

TWENTY students from Myanmar via BEHS No 2 Latha Township, Yangon, attended the SCO Students Talk Taikonauts of Shenzhou 15 along with member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) hosted by China in a virtual system yesterday.

Shenzhou 15 taikonauts from the Tiangong Space Station and students from SCO member countries convened the round-table talks and Myanmar students learned the lifestyle of taikonauts in the spaceship and the technological advancement.

Students from countries such as Russia, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran, Belarus, and Mongolia participated in the Shanghai



The SCO Students Talk Taikonauts of Shenzhou 15 is underway, attended by Myanmar students virtually yesterday.

Cooperation Organization programme held in Beijing, PRC. Myanmar students attended and studied it online with keen interest at the invitation of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar through the Ministry of Education. —MNA/TS

Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council’s Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

The following telephone numbers, fax and email address can be reached to safely report information in connection with illegal trade.

Auto telephone number

- 067 409 883

Mobile phone

- 09 404339969

Fax

- 067 409 886

Email address

- antiillegaltradeinfo@gmail.com

Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council’s Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

Regarding the “request for money from departmental organizations in conducting trade”, the following numbers can be reached to safely report such information.

Auto telephone number

- 067 409 881

Mobile phone

- 09 699611116

Fax

- 067 409 887

Email address

- antiillegaltradeoffice@gmail.com

Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

CRIME NEWS

Illegal foodstuffs, electronics, industrial materials and vehicles seized

AN on-duty team under the management of the Customs Department made inspections at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint in Mon State on 18 April.

Officials confiscated 2,760 kilogrammes of frozen artificial meat (made in Thailand) worth K5.52 million without FDA approval and 550 kilogrammes of corn seeds worth K2.2 million without official documents from a Yutong express bus (estimated value of K40 million) heading to Yangon from Hpa-an. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 19 April, the on-duty

teams under the supervision of the Customs Department captured 17 kinds of goods (including 21,200 5W LED bulbs and 3,200 18W LED bulb UFO lights without Import Licence) worth K85,760,850 from three containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port Terminal and five kinds of goods (including FNC Pearl Nucleus used in farming industries without Import Licence) worth K1,004,796 from luggage at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk). The action was taken under Customs procedures.

In addition, an inspection team of Shwebo Myoma Police Station made a mobile

inspection and seized an un-registered Nissan Fairlady vehicle worth K16 million at the junction of Yogon village on the bypass in Shwebo township and action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

Therefore, eight arrests (estimated value of K150,485,646) were made on 18 and 19 April, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Confiscated illegal commodities at Myanmar Industrial Port Terminal.



Drugs seized in Kawkareik, Kutkai and Nawngkhio townships



An arrestee is pictured along with confiscated drugs.

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and searched a motorbike driven

by Zaw Win (aka) Mar Mah accompanied by Win Swe Oo (aka) Ah Kyee Gaung at the combined checkpoint in Tada-

kyoe village in Kawkareik township at noon on 19 April. A total of 3,700 stimulant tablets were found.

At 1 pm on the same day, Myanmar Police Force searched the house of Ma Min Wam Chin (aka) Ah Shan in Ward 8 of Kutkai township and seized 3,000 stimulant tablets.

At 8:45 am on the same day, Myanmar Police Force examined the house of Ah Tar Soe in the Railway Station Ward of Nawngkhio township and captured 27,000 stimulant tablets.

The suspects were prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, it is learnt. — MNA/MKKS

Public Notice

1. The Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to effectively curb corruption.
 2. The ACC used SMS on the mobile phone to ask the public who seek services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via Short Code No “1111” for feedbacks, including the Public Feedback Programme-PFP.
 3. According to the PFP, the right replies of the citizens via Short Code No “1111” will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.
 4. Therefore, the public should make a reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at Short Code No “1111” and such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.
- Anti-Corruption Commission*
Answer “1111” to fight against corruption
Answer “1111” to improve services
Let's work together to eliminate corruption towards prosperity

Over K1.1 bln worth of Happy Water captured in Tachilek township

MORE than 10 kilogrammes of Happy Water (stimulants) worth over K1.1 billion were captured in Tachilek township in Shan State (East) at 9:30 pm on 19 April, Myanmar Police Force stated.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Narcotics Task Force examined a Crown vehicle

driven by Sai Aung Sar accompanied by Sai Pu Kham on the bypass in Tachilek township.

A total of 10.03 kilogrammes of Happy Water worth over K1.1 billion were carried in 295 plastic bags in the car. Police have taken legal action against the offenders and an investigation is underway to identify the perpetrators of the crime chain. — MNA/MKKS



Two offenders are seen together with seized drugs and a saloon.

CURRENT AFFAIRS



The entrance sign of PyinOoLwin.

Authority to take action against non-compliant land sales in PyinOoLwin

PYIN OOLWIN District Administration Body issued a notice that action will be taken if the sale of land in Pyin Oo Lwin does not follow the rules set by the State.

Real estate agents and brokers are announcing the sale of vacant land, fallow land, uncultivated land, land for cultivation, forest land, village land, and the common land owned by the village by broadcasting live and selling raffle tickets on social networking sites. It is mentioned in the statement that legal action will be taken if sales of land are made in violation of the rules set by the government.

According to a notification by the district administration body, some people are selling plots of land without complying with the terms and conditions of the rights they have received.

It has been verified that plots of land in 21 wards in the downtown of PyinOoLwin are being sold on social networking sites as if they have legal permission to build houses on agricultural land.

Action is being taken under the rules by departments related to land types for making plots, erecting concrete pillars, and fencing the plots. — TWA/CT

Ministry of Health notifies of increasing day temperatures

THE Ministry of Health released a public notice to go to the nearest hospital and clinics as people may encounter heat stroke at increasing temperatures.

Moreover, extreme heat can cause heat stroke such as serious body temperature, dry sweat, delusion, fainting and convulsion.

“The people with underlying diseases, the elderly and children and those who are working in the sun in the daytime need to take care of their health more than others. Because the temperature is increasing currently and the volume of fresh air is low, the oxygen level becomes lower, they may feel tired and sweating (Hyperhidrosis) and muscle pain and cramp and they may be often thirsty. Due to the irregular living style and food including the outdoor temperature, blood pressure and diabetes can increase suddenly. Therefore, people should take

care of their health during this period especially the elderly, people with chronic disease and the children,” said a doctor of the township public health department.

The statement of the ministry also expressed the symptoms of heat stroke and first aid procedures.

On 20 April, the temperature of the upper Sagaing Region, Kachin State and Shan State (northern) are between 5 °C and 6°C higher than the average temperature of April while it is between 3 °C and 4°C in the lower Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, Magway Region, Shan State (Southern and Eastern) and Chin State, more 2 °C in Taninthayi Region and Rakhine and the temperature in other regions and states are at the average temperature of April. The unusual day temperatures are 45 °C in Myingyan, NyaungU and Chauk townships and 44 °C

in Kalewa, Tamu, Mingin, Shwebo, Monywa, Myinmu, TadaU, Gangaw and Sinphyukyun townships, according to the statement

of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology issued on 2 pm on 20 April. — TWA/KTZH

သတိပြုရမည့် အပူဒဏ် အန္တရာယ်များ

အပူဒဏ်ကြောင့်ပင်ပန်းနွမ်းနယ်ခြင်း (Heat Exhaustion)	အပူဒဏ်ကြောင့်သတိလစ်ခြင်း (Heat Stroke)
လူနာမရှိခြင်း	ခန္ဓာကိုယ်အပူချိန်အလွန်အကျွံမြင့်တက်လာခြင်း
ခေါင်းမူးနောက်ခြင်း၊ ခေါင်းကိုက်ခြင်း	အရေပြားပူ၍ခြောက်သွေ့ခြင်း(သို့) ချွေးခန်းခြောက်ခြင်း
ကြွက်တက်ခြင်းနှင့် နှိုးချီပျော့ရွေ့ခြင်း	ကယောင်ကတမ်းဖြစ်ခြင်း
အလွန်အမင်းရေဆာခြင်း	သတိလစ်ခြင်း၊ တက်ခြင်း
ခန္ဓာကိုယ်အပူချိန်မြင့်တက်ခြင်း	

အရေးပေါ်ရှေးဦးပြုစုခြင်း

- လူနာကိုအရောင်အေးမြသောနေရာသို့ ရွှေ့ထားပါ။
- လေပန်ကာ၊ လေအေးပေးစက်၊ ဖွင့်ထားပေးပါ။ မရှိပါကယက်ပေးပါ။
- လူနာ၏ခြေရင်းဘက်ကို မြှင့်ထားပေး၍ ပတ်လက်အနေအထားဖြင့်ထားပါ။
- လူနာ၏အဝတ်အစားများကို ချွတ်ပါ။
- လူနာ၏ လည်ပင်း၊ ချိုင်းနှစ်ဖက်၊ ဝေါင်ခြံနှစ်ဘက်တို့ကို ရေပတ်တိုက်ပါ။
- လူနာကောင်းမွန်သတိရနေပါက ရေအေးအေး (သို့) ငါတ်ဆားရည်တိုက်ပါ။

အပူဒဏ်ကြောင့် သတိလစ်ခြင်းဖြစ်ပွားမည့်လက္ခဏာများ ပေါ်ပေါက်လာပါကနီးစပ်ရာဆေးရုံဆေးခန်းသို့ ချက်ချင်းပို့ဆောင်ပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြင့်မားသောကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ကျန်းမာရေးအသိပညာမြှင့်တင်ရေးဌာနမှ ပြုစုထုတ်ဝေသည်။
(၁၅) ဇွန် ၂၀၂၁

Pamphlets of the Ministry of Health distributed to the public for heat awareness.

16 killed in 34 traffic accidents nationwide during Maha Thingyan

IN the Maha Thingyan period across the nation, 34 traffic accidents happened, claiming 16 lives and injuring 55, according to the office of the traffic

police (Nay Pyi Taw). Compared with last year's Thingyan period, the number of traffic accidents decreased.

During Thingyan, the traffic police formed traffic control teams to clear the traffic jam in preventing the occurrence of traffic accidents across Myanmar and devised ways to provide timely assistance in the event of traffic accidents.

In the 2022 Thingyan period, 37 traffic accidents occurred across Myanmar, leaving 11 dead and 65 hurt. — MNA/MKKS



An overturned 22 wheeler truck was seen on the Muse-Kyinsankyawt Road on 16 April 2023.

Companies to submit proposals to leading committee for manufacturing EV chargers, auto parts

ELECTRIC vehicles are being imported into the country and the companies that are willing to manufacture electric vehicles and related auto parts under the SKD system must submit proposals to the leading committee on the development of electric vehicles and related business.

The leading committee is supervising to invite foreign investments in the EV manufacturing sector locally and is carrying out human resource and research development

activities.

The leading committee has offered a tax relief scheme to EVs and related businesses. At present, battery electric vehicles are allowed to import during the initial phase.

Battery electric vehicles (BEVs) are entitled to zero-Customs tariff status under the approval of the Union Government, according to the Myanmar Customs' statistics 2022.

The companies need to submit proposals to the leading committee first to import the EVs, chargers

and auto parts, mentioning the detailed plans such as types of business, investment type, vehicle type, strong relationship with the vehicle manufacturer and future plan, specification, standard and norms, after-sales service, Level 3 or Level 2 charger plans for the public.

The leading committee will screen the proposals and under their approval of them, and the Ministry of Commerce will issue import licences to the approved companies. — TWA/EM

LOCAL BUSINESS

Agriculture Dept calls for EOI to export rice to China

THE Agriculture Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation called for Expression of Interest (EOI) to the companies which want to apply for rice and broken rice exporter registration.

Under the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Protocol for biosecurity between Myanmar and China, exporter registration for the rice companies is being processed.

Interested companies can submit EOI (hard copy and soft copy) to the Agriculture Department and technical working group for rice exports to China (Myanmar Rice Federation) after taking out the form by 19 May.

The forms can be downloaded on <https://www.doa.gov.mm>, <https://ppd.doa.gov.mm> and www.umfcci.com.mm. Additionally, they can contact the



People walk past the Sino-Myanmar border.

crops protection division of the Agriculture Department located on Bayintnaung Road, Insein, in order to take out the form and dial 01 644214 and send an email to directorppddoa@gmail.com

of the Technical Working Group and 01 218266-68, 01-2301128-29 of MRF (admin@mrf.com.mm).

Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) aimed to meet rice export targets of 2.5 million tonnes and generate an income of US\$1,000 million in the 2023-2024 financial year.

Last FY2022-2023 (April-March), Myanmar conveyed 2,261,203 tonnes of rice and broken rice worth \$853.472 million. Of them, over 775,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice were exported to China.

Myanmar has been exerting concerted efforts to grow 10 per cent yearly in the rice export sector. To raise foreign income, it has been prioritizing the exportation of high-grade rice and boosting export volume, MRF stated.

Myanmar bagged over \$809.135 million from 2,164,681 tonnes of rice export in the 2021-2022 FY. —NN/EM

New Shwebo Pawsan paddy persists on high side

THE price of new Shwebo Pawsan paddy continued to surge to K2.7 million per 100 baskets, according to Myanmar Shwebo Pawsan Paddy Producers and Exporters Association.

Starting from the end of 2022, newly harvested Shwebo Pawsan paddy has entered the market at K1.6 million per 100 baskets. The price was on a gradual rise and hit K2.7 million per 100 baskets.

Following the rocketing price of Shwebo Pawsan paddy, the price of Shwebo Pawsan rice also jumps to K97,000 per bag in the Yangon market.

The rice prices touched a high of K80,000 per bag of

Pawsan from Myaungmya and Pathein, K75,000 for Pawsan from Pyapon, K73,000 for Pawsan from Dedaye, K80,000 for Kyapyan variety, K68,000 for Khunni, K54,000 for Ngasein, K61,000 for short-mature rice (90 days), K54,000 for Emahta, K68,000 for Pawkywe, K55,000 for rice grown under the double cropping system and K74,000 for new Pawsan rice, according to Myanmar Rice Traders Association (Wadan Rice Wholesale Centre).

Starting from 3 August, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Rice Producers and Planters Association, Myanmar Rice Millers Association, and traders and brokers engaged in

Wadan Rice Wholesale Centre and Bayintnaung Rice Wholesale Centre have been working together to offer fair prices for Shwebo Pawsan from K75,000 per bag and other rice varieties to the consumers at the Wadan Wholesale Centre.

The offer prices are K52,000-55,000 per bag of Pawsan from the Ayeyawady area, K55,000-60,000 per bag of Kyapyan, and K35,000-37,000 per bag of short-matured rice varieties (90 days) at the Wadan Rice Wholesale Centre.

Each household can buy only one bag. The traders and retailers are not entitled to buy them. — NN/EM



Workers organize rice bags at the rice depot.

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 20 April 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,125
Octane 95	K2,220
Diesel	K2,030
Premium Diesel	K2,110

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,351,500 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,975,000 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	K2,840 to K2,855

The above prices may change from time to time.

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Synchronize building families and the nation with human resources

HUMAN resources such as intellectuals and intelligentsia are crucial in building a country or a region. In order to turn out well-versed human resources, it is necessary to give encouragement to the youths of the nation or the region to learn school education as well as accumulate general knowledge.

Those who have weak education and knowledge will be weak in critical thinking and outlook. It will cause impacts on individuals or regional development. With regard to the education standard of Myanmar, as some 60 per cent of the total population is under the fifth grade of basic education, it is a situation which is dangerous for the State. Hence, the government is striving for creating chances for students to learn school education under the KG+9 scheme without fails.

It is believable that such a scheme will reflect the improvement of agriculture and livestock farming tasks. Consequently, productivity will increase, contributing much to regional development. Meanwhile, the government will provide necessary assistance for the development of the regions. It is not a dream. Even if it is a dream, every citizen needs to make concerted efforts in realizing such a scheme for the glittering nation in the not-far future.

To possess such a future, the government establishes agriculture, livestock and technical education schools in 50 districts. Those who passed the examinations and tests of these schools will have the chance to join the Agriculture, Livestock and Technical Institutes depending on their qualification. Again, those qualified students will have more chances to attend relevant universities and colleges to have further studies.

Great options can be seen in front of today's youths. Every option is an entrance to their better lives. It is sure that whatever they choose, these options will not be wrong for their lives. These will be great chances for them in building better lives as well as contributing to nurturing skilled workers for the nation.

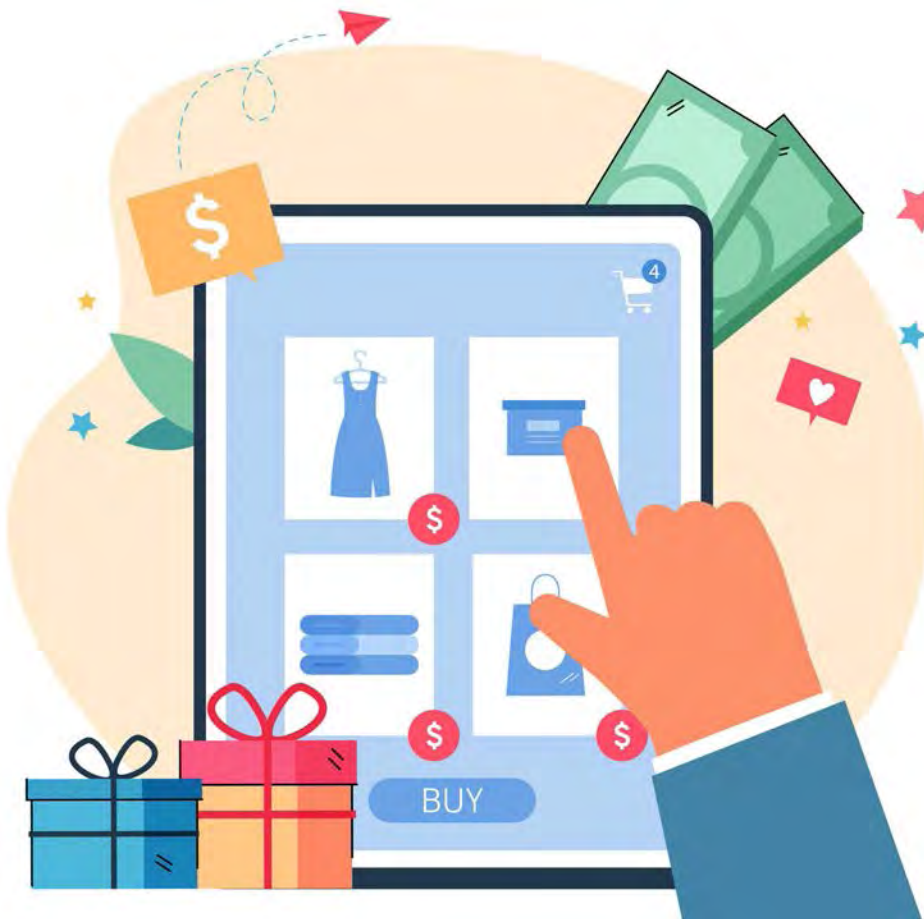
Today's agriculture and livestock farms depend on skills of applying modern machinery. Hence, skilled workers have to touch on technologies to operate relevant work arenas. The value of labour depends on skillfulness in handling the modern machinery of relevant farms through high technologies.

As such, the KG+9 scheme is the most appropriate for student youths to dream their brighter futures. Only when the youths have completed the KG+9 scheme at a minimum will they be reliable not only for their families but for society. Hence, all the entire people need to encourage the education of their offspring with colourful dreams.



Digital Economy Development 101

By U AC



E-commerce refers to the trading of goods and services over the internet. **ILLUSTRATION: FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/FREEPIK**

ACCORDING to the World Economic Forum, 70 per cent of the global economy will be made up of digital technology by the year 2030. This is the trend accelerated by the Covid pandemic and the tendency for everyone to go online. Using the same criteria, the size of Myanmar's digital economy could be around US\$70 billion, by 2030, assuming the economy grows at five per cent for the next seven years.

It is quite impracticable to precisely estimate the size of the digital economy. More so true for Myanmar: A large percentage of payments now-a-day is done digitally, yet one would be imprudent to assume that the majority of it contributes to the economy. Mobile wallets' transaction value alone exceeded \$20 billion in the year 2022, representing approximately 30 per cent of the country's GDP. Most of these transactions, however, are transfer payments. Knowing as such, it would be incorrect to state that digital payments contribute to the economy in any significant manner, without any evidence to the contrary.

If we consider e-commerce alone, the size of the industry can be appraised more precisely. In 2018, three established organizations estimated the industry size and the resultant number concurrently turned out to be around \$100 million, or 0.13 per cent of the GDP. The number is further validated in comparison with the region and the market leaders.

Nowadays, Myanmar's e-commerce is in the doldrums, performing worse than the economy itself. The economy was down nearly 20 per cent in 2021 (WB, IMF) and e-commerce was down nearly 80 per cent, on the basis of examining the sales volume statistics of the e-commerce majors within the country. Since the anti-establishment and pro-CDM activities happened predominantly in cyberspace, the e-commerce entities bore the brunt of attacks by NNCP terrorists. The fear of contagion cowed other digital players into oblivion on the world wide web. The startups are gone. Even some household brand names such as food2u, door2door, and grab taxis disappeared.

Current Challenges

The global tech industry itself is down. The end of Covid is once again pushing people back onto the streets, in the physical world, instead of wandering around in the digital arena. Combined with the blossoming of ChatGPT, we are now witnessing a chain of events never before seen in the tech industry. Microsoft, Facebook, and Google are all retrenching staff in excess of tens of thousands. All in all, tech industry layoffs exceeded 100,000 staff in the US alone in 2023. The trend is likely to get worse. Now even programming codes can be written by AI. Within a couple of years, AI would take over a lot of tasks being done by humans in the tech industry.

Even along our neighbouring shores, ASEAN tech giants are now cash-strapped. The heydays of unlimited spending in order to dominate the market are over. GoTo (Tokopedia plus Gojek), Shopee, Carousel, and Grab, all have been hammered in the stock market and all are reassessing their spending habits, in light of the cash deficiency.

In Myanmar, e-commerce players are also going for zero or low-budget options such as telegram or generic Facebook posts, and dropping their sponsored ads and websites that use AWS serv-

ers. The cyber-attacks by online terrorists only resulted in damaging Myanmar's e-commerce industry, allowing the market share to be captured by foreign-owned digital enterprises. All of these cyber terrorists should be charged with treason!

Cyber terror attacks on e-commerce entities resulted in one inadvertent negative externality of more fraudulent activities in cyberspace. Since the industry chieftains are no longer playing the leadership and guidance roles, Facebook has become the old West, with many snake oil salesmen trying to con the consumers of their hard-earned cash.

How to Develop Myanmar's Digital Economy

1. Digital trust is the key
According to the World Economic Forum (Aug 22), building digital trust in the world's digital economy could unleash trillions of dollars of opportunities. The World Bank estimates that the digital economy contributes to more than 15 per cent of the global gross domestic product (GDP), and in the past decade, it has been growing at two and a half times faster than the physical world GDP.

Digital trust is individuals' expectation that digital technologies

and services – and the organizations providing them – will protect all stakeholders' interests and uphold societal expectations and values. But a 'digital trust gap' is emerging that threatens to undermine the full potential and benefits of a thriving global digital economy.

Digital identity is a vital element of building trust both online and in our wider economies – to everyone's benefit. Apple Co-founder Steve Wozniak was asked if he would do anything differently with regard to the creation of the Internet. He responded that if we had known what we know now, we would have built-in security and identity right from the start.

That identity must be the foundational element to building digital trust, and therefore our digital economy. If you don't know for sure that you are interacting with your bank, not a fraudster, or a real person, not a fake social media or fake news account, how do you trust in a digital world?

Almost half of all consumers surveyed by the World Bank expect governments to create a more secure digital world. That brings us to the second prerequisite...

2. Develop a Safe and Better Cyberspace

Here I would recommend taking a leaf out of China's play-

book. China is number one in e-commerce as a percentage of its GDP. Despite its handicap in the language, its apps, high-end products and AI tools have captured a sizeable market share in the world.

In President Xi's Governance of China IV, three steps are listed as to how China leapfrogged everyone in the developed world in the digital economy (DE).

A. Sound cyberculture. The government clearly mandated that China's civil culture must not only exist in the physical world but also must imbue in the digital world.

Contrast that to ourselves - while we behave very civilized when we meet each other, Myanmar's Facebook pages are full of swearing, cursing, killing orders, etc. Why do we have a different culture and become brutes when we get onto the internet?

Solution - digital identities and cyber governance.

B. By reinforcing cyber governance, China has enriched and improved online content and achieved notable results in promoting civility, decency and desirable practices and trends online.

Contrast that with us - Myanmar people are bullying, attacking, slandering, defaming, and character assassinating the leaders, the government and anyone in support of them in building up our nation. And most of these criminals and culprits have not been served justice yet. As long as they continued to get off scot-free, Myanmar will never prosper.

Solution - better cyber governance and control by the government, relentless law enforcement and more severe penalties for offenders.

C. Coordinate development and governance, and online and offline efforts, and bring together all positive forces for the common good.

Contrast that with Myanmar - the internet was set free around 2012/2013. It helped the country's growth tremendously. Yet the development was not accompanied by governance, resulting in the near destruction of the country ten years later, by ghoulish and perverted forces.

Solution - time to refocus on

governance again and buttress the basic principle that no allowance should be made for development without an infrastructure set in place for governance.

3. One Practical Matter on Writers and Artists (WA)

No one worth his salt would argue that WA contributed significantly to the destruction of the state during the years 2021 and 2022. They can express their creativity and artistic freedom, but it must not go against the interest of the country. E.g., encouraging the CDM movement is definitely asking for ruining of Myanmar. Here, the government must guide them so that their arts contribute to the development of the country.

1. Writers and artists (WA) must champion the cause of national interests and invest their enthusiasm in showcasing the achievements of our nation in the new era.

2. WA to continue to innovate on the basis of what has succeeded in the past and open up new horizons for literature and art with masterpieces that reflect the times we live in.

3. WA should put their heart and soul into telling our stories and present Myanmar as a country worthy of friendship, trust and respect.

4. WA to keep the right path and realize your life's worth by pursuing both moral integrity and artistic success.

Without getting to grip with governance, law enforcement, harsher penalties and guidance for WA, it will not matter what approaches or strategies we take to develop the DE. The DE might grow in the short term, but the lack of the above 'sine qua non' would, without a doubt, come back to haunt us within the next ten years.

We opened up the digital economy once in 2013, without the above-mentioned fundamentals in place. At that time, no one is far-sighted enough to warn us of the dangers of unruly digital space that could even lead to levelling of a State. Now, you have been warned. As Anthony Weldon said in 1650... Fool Me Once, Shame on You; Fool Me Twice, Shame on Me!



WHO warns Covid pandemic still volatile

THE World Health Organization on Tuesday warned the Covid pandemic was still volatile, saying there could be further trouble before the virus settles into a predictable pattern.

In the last 28 days, more than 23,000 deaths and three million new cases have been reported to the WHO, in the context of much-reduced testing.

While the numbers are decreasing, "that's still a lot of people dying and that's still a lot of people getting sick", WHO emergencies director Michael Ryan told a press conference.

He said respiratory viruses do not pass from a pandemic to an endemic phase, but instead move to low levels of activity with potentially seasonal epidemic peaks.

"We don't turn off a pandemic switch," said Ryan. "It's much more likely that we're going to see... a bumpy road to a more predictable pattern."

The WHO's emergency committee on Covid-19 meets every three months and is due to assemble in early May.

As at its previous meetings, it will decide whether the virus still constitutes a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) — the highest level of alert that the UN health agency can sound.



People cross a street in the Shinjuku district of Tokyo on Tuesday. **PHOTO: AFP**

The WHO declared Covid-19 a PHEIC on 30 January 2020, when there were fewer than 100 cases and no deaths outside China.

But it was not until WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus described the situation as a pandemic in March 2020 that the world jolted into action.

Ryan said the virus would not be eliminated and would, like influenza, still cause significant respiratory disease in vulnerable people.

Some countries still have large populations of highly vulnerable people who are unvaccinated, he said, while in others Covid is no longer an emergency event.

The Covid-19 committee presents its advice to Tedros — who has the final say — on whether the virus still constitutes a PHEIC.

"I would hope that as the emergency committee meets in May, they will have further positive advice to give Dr Tedros around their assessment of the trajectory of the pandemic and the existence or not of a PHEIC," said Ryan.

SOURCE: AFP

China’s CATL unveils battery planned to power planes

CHINA’S CATL said Wednesday it was working with partners to develop electric passenger planes as they unveiled a condensed matter battery it said was strong enough to power such an aircraft.

The world’s biggest maker of batteries for electrical vehicles made the announcement at the Shanghai Auto Show and said it would also launch a version for cars that would go into mass production this year.

“The launch of this cutting-edge technology breaks the limits that have long restricted the development of the battery sector and will open up a new scenario of electrification

centring on a high level of safety and light weight,” the company said in a news release.

CATL did not specify who its airline partners were but said it was practising aviation-level standards and testing in accordance with industry requirements.

“We believe that condensed batteries will have a positive and far-reaching impact on achieving carbon neutrality,” CATL’s chief scientist Wu Kai told a media conference.

The company announced on Tuesday that its core operations would be carbon neutral by 2025, with the rest following in 2035.—AFP



People visit a booth at the Shanghai Auto Show. PHOTO: AFP

European Space Agency chief eyes tapping private industry partners

EUROPEAN Space Agency director Josef Aschbacher promised a “transformation” of the continent’s space sector in the coming years during an interview with AFP, including more collaboration between government and private industry.

Private firms will be “encouraged to be a partner and not only a contractor,” Aschbacher said, answering questions on the sidelines of an aerospace industry conference taking place this week in Colorado Springs, in the United States.

US space agency NASA has long incorporated private firms into its space exploration, planning to send its astronauts to commercial orbiting outposts once the International Space Station is retired.

But any major reorientation of the European space programme will need to be discussed at the second European space summit, to be held in Seville, Spain, in November. Here are Aschbacher’s answers to questions posed Tuesday by AFP.

When will we know more about Europe’s vision for space?

Towards the space summit at the end of the year, I think



The European Space Agency’s JUICE probe blasts into space on 14 April 2023 aboard an Ariane 5 rocket from Europe’s spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana, on a mission to explore Jupiter’s icy moons. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

we’ll have a clearer picture of what is Europe’s ambition in the next decade, which decisions we need to prepare today in order to get there. So there’s a lot of work that’s happening right now in Europe. I’m preparing the scenarios, and I’m preparing the facts, so that politicians can make a decision. It’s up to them.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

‘Hotter and hotter’: Swathes of Asia sweat in heatwave

SWELTERING under a blistering sun, people across South and Southeast Asia have been taking cover beneath any shelter they can find as they pray for cooling rains with record temperatures hitting the region. Bangladesh saw its highest temperature for almost 60 years in the past week, while in India at least 13 people died from heatstroke along with two in Thailand, according to local media.

“It’s hotter and hotter every year,” said Mikako Nicholls, shielding herself from the blazing rays with an umbrella near Bangkok’s central Lumpini Park on Wednesday.

Scientists say global warming is exacerbating adverse weather, with a recent report from the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warning that “every increment of global warming will intensify multiple and concurrent hazards”.

Nicholls said Bangkok’s warmer spell was the hottest she had experienced in five years in the capital, and she was trying to stay indoors or in the shade.

Thailand’s Meteorological Department said Wednesday that temperatures hit a record-equalling 44.6 degrees Celsius (112 Fahrenheit) in the western province of Tak on 15 April, warning that the baking weather would continue into next week.—AFP

Ailing Pakistan elephant may be euthanized after collapsing

ANIMAL experts will decide in coming days whether an ailing elephant at a zoo in Pakistan needs to be euthanised after it collapsed in its pen last week and has since failed to stand up, officials said.

The 17-year-old African elephant underwent emergency treatment for a tumour in Karachi on 5 April, but collapsed days later and has since lain stricken on its side.

The pitiful plight of Noor Jehan is being shared by animal rights activists on social media in Pakistan and abroad, prompting calls for the zoo to be shut down.

Pakistan’s zoos are frequently accused of disregarding animal welfare, and in 2020 a court ordered the only facility



The elephant Noor Jehan may have to be euthanized after collapsing in her pen at Karachi Zoo and failing to stand for days. PHOTO: AFP

in the country’s capital to close because of its decrepit state.

Noor Jehan’s fate now lies with a committee waiting for the arrival of Amir Khalil, the Austria-based chief vet of animal charity Four Paws International.—AFP

HEALTH/WELLNESS:
WORLD

Thailand air pollution leads millions to seek medical help

ABOUT 2.4 million people in Thailand have sought hospital treatment for medical problems linked to air pollution since the start of the year, health officials said, as toxic smog chokes parts of the country.

Bangkok and the northern city of Chiang Mai were among the most polluted cities in the world on Thursday morning, according to air quality monitoring firm IQAir.

The poor air quality has seen 2.4 million people seek medical treatment since the start of the year, with 184,465 hospital ad-

missions this week alone, Public Health Department permanent secretary Dr Opas Karnkawinpong said Wednesday.

Opas said respiratory problems, dermatitis, eye inflammation and sore throats were among the most common medical issues.

Health officials have urged people to use high-quality N95 anti-pollution masks, close windows and doors, minimise time outside and exercise indoors.

"Today is so smoggy. I cough so much," a Thai Facebook user said.

"I have a sore throat and cough so much. I did a test for Covid but it's not that. Looking at the pollution level, that could be it."

Smoke from forest fires and farmers burning crop stubble have polluted the air in parts of the country, according to experts. Thailand is home to more than 70 million people and its poor air quality has become a hot button issue ahead of the country's 14 May election, with the incumbent government accused of not doing enough to tackle the problem.—AFP



A searcher checking an air quality sampler atop the National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (NARIT) in Chiang Mai.
PHOTO: AFP

Vitamin D can play role in prostate cancer disparities: Study



Vitamin D helps the body absorb calcium, which is essential for bone health, but it also helps stimulate the maturation of cells, Campbell said.
PHOTO: PIXABAY

A study has found that vitamin D can play role in prostate cancer disparities.

The study was published in the journal, 'Cancer Research Communications'.

While previous research has investigated vitamin D in

the context of health disparities, this is the first study to look at its functions in a genome-wide manner in African American versus European American men.

"African American men are more likely than European

American men to develop prostate cancer, and are twice as likely to die from the disease," said Moray Campbell, PhD, research scientist at Cedars-Sinai Cancer and senior author of the study. "Large-scale studies have shown that differences in access to healthcare do not fully account for this health disparity, and our study identifies biological factors that might explain it."

Vitamin D helps the body absorb calcium, which is essential for bone health, but it also helps stimulate the maturation of cells, Campbell said. Unlike normal cells, cancer cells do not mature and die. They continue to divide, creating more and more abnormal cells.

"Without sufficient levels of vitamin D to cause them to mature, the cells in a tumor continue to multiply out of control," Campbell said.—ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

Superbugs pose 'huge challenge' in treating Ukraine war wounds

INFECTIONS with superbugs that are resistant to most drugs have presented a "huge challenge" in treating the devastating injuries of people wounded in the war in Ukraine, doctors in Germany said on Tuesday. Superbugs – strains of bacteria resistant to antibiotics – were already considered a major health problem in Ukraine before Russia invaded, and researchers have warned the conflict could make the situation worse. Out of 47 wounded patients evacuated from Ukraine to Berlin's Charite University Hospital for treatment last year, 14 had injuries infected with multidrug-resistant bacteria, according to new research.—AFP

Takeda showcases digital health solutions at G20 meeting in India

TAKEDA Biopharmaceuticals India Private Limited, (formerly known as Baxalta Bioscience India Pvt Ltd), a global values-based, R&D-driven biopharmaceutical leader showcased its cutting-edge digital innovations at the G20 Health Working Group meeting, held in Goa, India, from 17 April to 19 April. The G20 Health Working Group is a forum that brings together health experts and policymakers from the world's 20 largest economies to discuss key health issues and develop policy recommendations. Dr Man-sukh Mandaviya, Union Health Minister, Government of India, inaugurated the digital health exhibition.—ANI

US Supreme Court to weigh in on abortion pill ban

THE US Supreme Court will step into the divisive and emotional battle over the abortion drug mifepristone Wednesday, when it is expected to rule on tough new court-ordered restrictions on the widely used pill.

It sets up the conservative-leaning bench for its most significant intervention on reproductive rights since a seismic rul-

ing 10 months ago that stripped women in America of the constitutional right to a termination.

Since then, anti-abortion groups have refocused their efforts on banning mifepristone, which was approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) back in 2000 and currently accounts for more than half of all abortions in the United States.

Those efforts bore fruit earlier this month when a federal judge said the FDA approval was flawed and the drug should be withdrawn. An appeals court blocked any ban on the pill, but imposed tough restrictions on access, after which the baton was handed to the Supreme Court which has until midnight Wednesday to step in.—AFP



Mifepristone is one component of a two-drug regimen that can be used through the first 10 weeks of pregnancy. It has a long safety record, and the FDA estimates 5.6 million Americans have used it to terminate pregnancies since it was approved. **PHOTO: AFP**

ECONOMY
WORLD



Tourists visit the Potala Palace in Lhasa, Tibet autonomous region. PHOTO: HE PENGLEI/CHINA NEWS SERVICE

Tibet receives 2.55
mln tourists in Q1

SOUTHWEST China’s Tibet Autonomous Region received more than 2.55 million tourists from home and abroad in the first quarter of this year, raking in tourism revenue of over two billion yuan (about 291 million US dollars), regional tourism authorities said on Wednesday. The region reported year-on-year growth of 39.63 per cent in tourist numbers and 42.89 per cent in tourism revenue, indicating its tourism sector has

improved vitality with positive growth momentum, according to Wang Xiaodong, head of the regional tourism development department. In 2023, Tibet will continue to develop its rural tourism and cultivate a number of special and high-quality travel routes with local characteristics, Wang said, adding that the region aims to receive 39 million tourists and earn 51 billion yuan in tourism revenue this year.—Xinhua

UK inflation holds above 10% on
rampant food prices

UK inflation slowed last month but held above 10 per cent on soaring food prices, official data showed Wednesday, further fuelling a cost-of-living crisis despite a series of aggressive interest-rate hikes. The Consumer Prices Index rose by a stronger-than-expected 10.1 per cent in March from 10.4 per cent in February, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in a statement. Inflation held in double figures on surging food and housing costs, dashing expectations for a drop below 10 per cent after the Bank of England sharply raised borrowing costs. The rate had zoomed to a 41-year peak at 11.1 per cent last October on sky-high energy bills after key gas producer Russia invaded Ukraine. The UK’s Conservative government, headed by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, had last

month unveiled a budget aimed at tackling the cost-of-living crisis, which has sparked strikes as wages drop in value. “These figures reaffirm exactly why we must continue with our efforts to drive down inflation so we can ease pressure on families and businesses,” said

finance minister Jeremy Hunt. “We are on track to do this... and we’ll continue supporting people with cost-of-living support.” Despite the efforts, official data this week showed that pay continues to grow more slowly than prices.—AFP



UK food price inflation rocketed in March to 19.1 per cent, hitting the highest level since August 1977. A man purchases fruit on a market stall in London. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

NEWS IN BRIEF

European car sales shift higher in March:
data

SALES of new cars jumped last month in Europe, surpassing the level of one million for the first time since June 2021, according to data from the European Automobile Manufacturers Association published on Wednesday. New car registrations hit 1,087,939 in March, an increase of 28.8 per cent from the same month last year. Sales rose in all EU nations, but the jumps were especially remarkable in Italy, where sales growth hit 40.7 per cent, and in Spain where it reached 66.1 per cent.—AFP

EU unveils reform of bank bailout rules to
protect taxpayers

THE EU unveiled long-awaited measures Tuesday to shield taxpayers from the bill for bank bailouts, acting with renewed urgency after recent turmoil in the US and European banking sectors. Under the proposals, troubled medium-sized and smaller banks will be encouraged to use funds from the financial sector instead of public money, the European Commission, the EU’s executive arm, said. The EU was under pressure to act fast after three US banks failed last month and the merger of Swiss investment banking giant Credit Suisse with its regional rival UBS.—AFP

Bulgaria bans Ukraine grain imports,
Hungary widens restrictions

BULGARIA’S government on Wednesday approved a temporary ban on imports of Ukrainian grain and other food products after Hungary widened the scope of its ban to include more foodstuffs. In recent days, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia banned the import of grain and other food items from war-hit Ukraine after

a slump in prices triggered protests from local farmers. “The government... passed a decision that temporarily bans... a range of products originating from Ukraine... following the example of three other countries,” Bulgarian farming minister Yavor Gechev said after a government meeting. Sofia said it was “forced to

adopt... today’s extreme measure” after unilateral bans by other countries were announced, “seriously” increasing the risk for Bulgaria due to the potential diversion of goods. The ban will enter into force from 24 April and last until the end of June, but will not apply to the transit of goods through Bulgarian territory.—AFP



The export of Ukrainian grain and other food products is causing tension in certain eastern European nations as farmers feel the pinch of competition. PHOTO: AFP

Tesla profits fall on vehicle price cuts sending shares down

TESLA reported a drop in first-quarter earnings Wednesday as price cuts at Elon Musk’s electric vehicle company boosted demand but hit profit margins.

Profits came in at \$2.5 billion, down 24 per cent from the year-ago period on revenues of \$23.3 billion, which were up 24 per cent.

Shares fell on the results, which were in line with Wall Street expectations for earnings per share, but showed a lower profit margin than expected.

Faced with more EV competition from other automakers, Tesla has undertaken a series of price cuts in 2023, most recently over the last 24 hours on some models in the United States.

The company said its profit margins had been trimmed at “a manageable rate,” as it pointed to a “unique opportunity for Tesla” while signalling more price cuts ahead.

—AFP



A sign marks the location of a Tesla dealership on 19 April 2023 in Schaumburg, Illinois. PHOTO: SCOTT OLSON/AFP

Nokia signals lower customer spending after mixed results

FINNISH telecom giant Nokia reported Thursday a lower-than-expected rise in earnings in the first quarter as economic headwinds affect spending by its customers.

The telecommunications equipment maker, which is locked in a battle for 5G networks with Swedish rival Ericsson and China’s Huawei, said its net profit jumped 32 per cent to 289 million euros (\$317 million).—AFP

Japan posts record 21.73 tril yen trade deficit for FY 2022



Container port in operation in Nagoya, Japan. PHOTO: AFP

JAPAN’S trade deficit roughly quadrupled to a record 21.73 trillion yen (\$160 billion) in fiscal 2022 ended March, as increased energy costs and a weaker yen led imports to grow far more than exports, the Finance Ministry said Thursday.

Imports jumped 32.2 per cent from a year earlier to 120.95 trillion yen, while exports increased 15.5 per cent to 99.23 trillion yen. Japan remained in the red for a second straight year, with both figures the highest since comparable data became available in fiscal 1979.

The trade deficit of 13.76 trillion yen registered in fiscal 2013 was previously the highest.

Crude oil, coal and liquefied natural gas were among the major items that contributed to the surge in imports.

With the waning of the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, strong overseas demand supported exports of cars, iron and steel, and other items.

The dollar averaged 135.05 yen in fiscal 2022, sharply up from 111.91 yen in the previous year. The yen’s rapid depreciation last year added to the pain for resource-scarce Japan by inflating the import costs.

Japan had a trade surplus of 6.65 trillion with the United States but ran a record deficit of 6.81 trillion yen with China.—Kyodo

China’s digital freight industry shows promising prospect

ON an online digital freight platform, a truck driver can find suitable freight orders in a few minutes, enabling his truck to head for the next destination without being empty.

“This platform is like a freight-version taxi-hailing app,” said Chai Shuman, an official with the iron and steel enterprise Rockcheck Group. It uses machine learning, automation and other software services to connect shippers and carriers.

The platform’s business covers 30 provinces, regions and cities. Its “intelligent dispatching” function means carriers can avoid driving between locations with empty loads, Chai added. Being able to match any truck to any shipment creates a more efficient network with lower market transaction costs.

Since the digital freight platform was developed by Rockcheck in 2018, it has seen 172,000 vehicles registered and a cumulative shipment volume of over 82 million tonnes.

The platform’s progress reflects the rapid development of China’s digital freight industry under the tide of informatization.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB315A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB315A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-4-2023** 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 MAERSK VALENCIA VOY.NO. (313W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAERSK VALENCIA VOY.NO. (313W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-4-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
HOLIDAY NOTICE

AS the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 1st MAY 2023 (World workers Day) and 3rd MAY 2023 (Full-moon Day of KASON), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

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Japanese mayor raps lack of PM Kishida security in wake of Abe killing

THE mayor of a western Japanese city, who witnessed the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, criticized on Thursday the lack of security that culminated in the weekend attack against Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, noting how lessons from the July 2022 shooting had not been learned.

Nara Mayor Gen Nakagawa said it is hard to believe that precautionary measures were seriously lacking before Kishida was about to make a stump speech on Saturday in the city of Wakayama where a man threw an explosive device at the prime minister.

Kishida was uninjured and his attacker was arrested at the scene.

“It’s unthinkable to allow an unspecified number of people into the venue without any bag checks, and to let them near an incumbent prime minister,” Nakagawa said.

Nakagawa was standing close to Abe when he was fatally shot last July during a stump speech in the city of Nara last July ahead of the upper house elections. “There may have been



Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida is escorted by security officers at an election campaign event in Chiba prefecture on 15 April, hours after being evacuated unharmed from the scene of an apparent “smoke bomb” blast at another event earlier that day. **PHOTO: AFP**

an assumption that (an attack) is unlikely to happen, or that re-

stricting activities were unrealistic,” he added. “But it’s a matter

that could significantly affect the fate of the country.”—Kyodo

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Nato’s Jens Stoltenberg visits Kyiv

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg made an unannounced visit to Kyiv on Thursday - his first since the Russian military offensive - Ukrainian media and a Nato official said.

The Kyiv Independent newspaper published images of Stoltenberg in central Kyiv, in front of a memorial for fallen soldiers.

The photographs showed Stoltenberg with his head down in front of the memorial.

Many Western officials travelling to Kyiv do not announce their trips in advance for security reasons.

“The Nato Secretary-General is in Ukraine. We will release more information as soon as possible,” a Nato official said.

Stoltenberg’s visit comes 14 months into Russia’s offensive and ahead of an expected Ukrainian counter-offensive.

Nato has pledged to stand by Ukraine as it fights Russia.

Earlier this month, Stoltenberg invited Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to a Nato summit in July.

He also said Russian President Vladimir Putin had “wanted to slam Nato’s door shut” but “failed”. —AFP

Russian envoy, Nicaraguan leader deride impact of US sanctions



Special Representative of the President of Nicaragua for Russian Affairs Laureano Ortega (L), Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov (C), Nicaraguan Foreign Minister of Nicaragua Denis Moncada (R). **PHOTO: RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY**

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega on Wednesday played down the impact of US sanctions on officials of their two nations.

During a four-hour stopover in Managua, Lavrov met with Ortega and his wife, Rosario Murillo, who is also vice-president. The issue of sanctions arose after the US Treasury Department announced that three Nicaraguan judges who played a role in stripping 316 Ortega opponents of their citizenship in February had been placed on a sanctions blacklist. “Today, the United States sanctioned three judges because they have applied justice against terrorists. We already have hundreds of fellow state officials sanctioned, but we are no longer afraid of that,” Ortega said in a dialogue with Lavrov broadcast on state television.—AFP



Sudanese greet army soldiers, loyal to army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, in the Red Sea city of Port Sudan on 16 April 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Japan to send SDF planes to Djibouti to evacuate nationals from Sudan

THE government on Thursday ordered the Air Self-Defence Force to despatch aircraft to Djibouti in preparation for the evacuation of Japanese nationals from Sudan, where military clashes are intensifying.

The ASDF planes are expected to leave for Djibouti this weekend, from where they will fly to Sudan to evacuate the

around 60 Japanese people living in the northeast African country, a government source said.

Japan’s Self-Defence Forces set up a base in Djibouti in 2011 as part of an anti-piracy mission in the Gulf of Aden off Somalia.

It remains unclear when the planes will head to Sudan. The

government is still determining what kind of aircraft and how many will be sent, according to a Japanese government official.

Fighting between Sudan’s armed forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces has escalated, including at the airport in the country’s capital Khartoum, making it difficult for people to evacuate.—Kyodo

Cambodia PM Hun Sen’s son becomes four-star general

CAMBODIAN leader Hun Sen’s eldest son was officially promoted to the rank of four-star general on Thursday, in another sign of plans for him to succeed his father.

Hun Sen has publicly backed Hun Manet to lead the kingdom in the future.

Hun Manet, who is commander of the army, received the four-star rank at a ceremony attended by more than 1,000 senior military officials.

Defence minister Tea Banh, who presided over the ceremony, said Hun Manet’s promotion reflected his efforts “to serve the nation, military and Cambodian people”.

Hun Manet — who was educated in Britain and the United States — has been officially backed by the ruling party as a

future prime minister, and has been active on social media in recent months to increase his public profile.

The 45-year-old has also had more diplomatic meetings with senior political figures than before, according to the Lowy Institute’s Asia Power Index.

In 2022 he met 10 world leaders, deputy leaders and foreign ministers, compared with only two in 2019, the institute said.

He will run for a parliamentary seat when Cambodia goes to the polls in July this year, according to a party document seen by AFP.

Hun Sen, who has ruled the country for 38 years, has repeatedly hinted at stepping down but has said he will run for office again in the coming election.—AFP



Tea Banh (left) said Hun Manet (right) has strived ‘to serve the nation, military and Cambodian people’.
PHOTO: AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Yemen stampede during charity distribution kills 85

MORE than 80 people were killed and hundreds injured in war-torn Yemen on Thursday after a charity distribution sparked one of the deadliest stampedes in a decade, Houthi officials said.

The latest tragedy to strike the Arabian Peninsula’s poorest country came days ahead of the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr which marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

At least “85 were killed and more than 322 were injured” after the stampede in the Bab al-Yemen district of the capital, a Houthi security official said.—AFP

US senators challenge Credit Suisse Nazi accounts probe

CREDIT Suisse announced that a two-year investigation had found no evidence to support claims that many Nazis in Argentina had accounts at the bank’s predecessor during the Nazi era.

United States senators, however, contested the way in which the probe had been carried out, saying it had left “blind spots” in forensic research for Nazi-linked records.—AFP

Cuban President Diaz-Canel to tackle ‘inefficiencies’ after reelection



Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel has clinched a second five-year term at the helm of the communist island. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

CUBA’S President Miguel Diaz-Canel vowed to “resolve inefficiencies” after clinching a second five-year term on Wednesday in a parliamentary vote for which

he was the sole candidate in a country where political opposition is illegal.

Diaz-Canel’s bid was confirmed with 459 of the 462 legis-

lators present in the Communist Party of Cuba-aligned National Assembly voting for his reelection, its president Esteban Lazo announced in the chamber.

The president then urged his cabinet to “face up to obstacles and resolve inefficiencies” in order to “increase the supply of goods and services and to control inflation.” Diaz-Canel also criticized “the bureaucratism, indifference (and) the unacceptable corruption” that he said was holding the country back during difficult times. The 62-year-old took over the reins in 2018 as Cuba’s first civilian leader after nearly 60 years of hegemony by the Castro brothers, and set out in pursuit of cautious economic liberalization.—AFP



Brazil security chief resigns after leaked video of rampage

ONE of Brazil’s top national security officials resigned on Wednesday after the disclosure of videos of him at the scene of the 8 January attacks on the capital Brasilia.

General Marco Edson Gonçalves Dias, head of the Institutional Security Bureau (GSI), submitted his resignation after CNN Brasil broadcast images

from security cameras showing Gonçalves Dias at the Planalto Palace, one of the federal buildings ransacked by protesters earlier this year. The protesters were seeking to restore defeated former president Jair Bolsonaro to power, just days after he left office. —AFP



SPORT

Kane can win a trophy at Tottenham, says Levy



Harry Kane has scored 23 Premier League goals this season. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

TOTTENHAM chairman Daniel Levy says Harry Kane can still fulfil his ambition of winning a trophy with the club but believes being a “legend” is also important.

The England captain has scored 23 Premier League goals this season — behind only Manchester City’s Erling Haaland — but is approaching the final

12 months of his contract at managerless Spurs.

The 29-year-old forward, who has been linked with a move to Manchester United or Paris Saint-Germain at the end of the season, has spent his whole senior career at Tottenham but is yet to win a trophy.

Spurs’ record goalscorer has

often made clear his desire to win silverware at his boyhood club but discussions over a new deal are yet to take place.

Levy said during a discussion at the Cambridge Union Society: “He (Kane) can absolutely win a trophy at Spurs, but being a legend is also important.”

— AFP

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

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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

Arsenal can rediscover title-chasing swagger, says Arteta

MIKEL Arteta is confident Arsenal can return to winning ways after damaging draws against Liverpool and West Ham cost them momentum in the Premier League title race.

The Gunners let two-goal leads slip in both games and the leaders are now just four points ahead of defending champions Manchester City, who have a game in hand. The two title-chasing teams meet at the Etihad Stadium next week in a match that could prove pivotal.

Arteta said his team had reacted well after their setbacks as he prepares them to face bottom side Southampton on Friday. — AFP

Team Myanmar’s fixtures confirmed for SEA Games Men’s Football event

THE group matches of the 32nd SEA Games Men’s Football Tournament, in which the Myanmar team will compete, have been announced.

Out of 11 Southeast Asian countries, 10 teams except Brunei will participate in the SEA Games Men’s Football tourney.

Myanmar is placed in Group A with the host Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Timor-Leste while defending champion Viet Nam is falling in Group B with Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, and Laos.

Group matches will be held from 29 April to 11 May, and the Myanmar team will play four matches in nine days.

Team Myanmar will take on Timor on 2 May, Indonesia on 4 May, the host Cambodia on 7 May, and the Philippines on 10 May respec-

tively.

The Myanmar squad is expected to compete mainly with Indonesia and the host Cambodia to qualify for the semi-finals.

Team Cambodia has improved in the last few years and as the host country of this tourney, they will try to win a medal, so the Myanmar team is likely to play hard.

Germany’s Michael Feichtenbeiner is handling the Myanmar U-22 team as the head coach ahead of the SEA Games.

As a pre-tournament, team Myanmar went to Thailand for over a week of training and played four friendly matches against Thai clubs.

The Myanmar U-22 team is currently preparing for training with 27 preliminary players. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



A Myanmar U-22 team player (white) prepares to control the ball during the previous friendly match against the Thai Club in Thailand. **PHOTO: MFF**