THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. X, No. 5 , 4th Waxing of Kason 1385 ME www.gnlm.com.mm Saturday, 22 April 2023

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

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

SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Don Pramudwinai and party

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Don Pramudwinai of Thailand at the Credentials Hall of the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Both sides cordially discussed cooperation among Myanmar, Thailand and Laos with each other in the reduction of transboundary smog pollution, peace and stability in the border region of both countries and plans to cooperate in the eradication of human trafficking in person, drug trafficking and arms smuggling.

After the meeting, the Senior General and the Thai Deputy Prime Minister exchanged gifts and had documentary photos taken. Also, present at the meeting were SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe, Union Minister for International Affairs U Ko Ko Hlaing and officials. The Thai Deputy Prime Minister was accompanied by Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Mongkol Visitstump and officials. — MNA/TTA

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Mr Don Pramudwinai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 April 2023.

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Former Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines Honorable Albert F Del Rosario passes away, condolences offered

YESTERDAY afternoon, at the embassy of the Republic of the Philippines in Pho Sein Road, Bahan Township, Director-General of the Strategic Studies and Training Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Zaw Phyo Win formally signed the Book of condolences for the demise of Honorable Albert F Del Rosario, former Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines, who passed away on 18 April 2023.

He held the position of Secretary of Foreign Affairs for the Republic of the Philippines from 2011 to 2016 and passed at the age of 83. — MNA/KZW

The director-general of the Strategic Studies and Training Department signs the condolence book on the demise of the ex-foreign secretary of the Philippines yesterday.

Ngapali Beach receives highest numbers of travellers in Thingyan period

THE Ngapali beach welcomed the highest numbers of local and foreign visitors during the 10 Thingyan holidays. Moreover, the airlines operated 105 flight services to Thandwe Airport, according to the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism of Rakhine State.

A total of 5,190 local visitors and 172 tourists arrived at Thandwe Airport to visit Ngapali Beach. Of 65 hotels, 58 hotels were opened and 28,002 domestic travellers and 803 tourists stayed there. During the 10-day Thingyan holiday, the visitors paid a visit by land or waterway. The Ngapali beach hosted about 150,000 visitors and the hotels, motels, guesthouses, dormitories and monasteries were crowded with travellers. There were over 27,000 travellers to Ngapali Beach in March and a total of 28,805 travellers stayed at the hotels and guesthouses during the Thingyan holidays the number of travellers in Thingyan holidays is higher than the number of travellers in March.

"During this 10-day Thingyan period, the Ngapali beach hosted higher numbers of travellers than in previous years. We are very glad that the holidays ended safely as we cooperated with the departments concerned regarding the safety, health and emergency cases of the visitors. We want the visitors to visit here coming years. The higher tourist arrivals can earn revenue for the country and a good transport system can also benefit the socioeconomic status of residents.

Beachgoers are seen thronging on the Ngapali Beach during the Thingyan holiday. **PHOTO : KANU**

Therefore, we all are satisfied with the arrivals of travellers this Thingyan period," said Director U Tin Htut Aung of the state Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

There were about 100,000 local and foreign visitors to the Ngapali beach during the Thingyan period of last year while there are 150,000 local and foreign visitors this year.

Similarly, 2,009 local visitors and one tourist stayed at three hotels in MraukU of Rakhine State during this 10-day Thingyan period. Moreover, arrangements are being made to hold the Shitthaung pagoda festival, Htukkant Thein pagoda festival and Andaw-thein pagoda festival from 2 to 6 May and the Kyauktaw Taung pagoda festival and Kyauktaw floating festival will be between 26 to 30 April.

A total of 6,186 local travellers and 239 tourists stayed at the hotels and guesthouses of Ngapali Beach during the Thingyan period of the previous year while there are 28,002 local visitors and 803 tourists this year. There were 3,195 local travellers to MraukU last year while there are 2,010 travellers this year. As the infection rate of COVID-19 declines and the transportation system is better, the tourism sector of the country will be improved and the proper economic opportunities will develop the region and increase the income. The Ngapali beach welcomed the highest numbers of travellers during this Thingyan period and the airlines operated 105 flight services, and 17 flight services just on 13 April. – Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

Continued efforts exerted to achieve nationwide peace

IN the political sector, multiparty democracy will be exercised and in the executive sector, a Union system will be adopted based on democracy and federalism. The NCA is a commitment made between the government and the EAOs with the international organizations acting as the witnesses. Positive results have been achieved in discussions with the EAOs. We will continue to make sustained efforts to achieve peace across the nation.

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the SAC meeting 2/2023 on 23 February 2023)

SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Don Pramudwinai and party

NEWS ON PAGE-1

Left & Right : The Senior General greets the Thai DPM and Foreign Minister and poses for the documentary group photo at the call event yesterday.

MoFA Union Minister receives Thai Deputy Prime Minister & FM

U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Don Pramudwinai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand at 3:30 pm yesterday at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, both sides cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the further enhancement of the existing cordial relations and bilateral partnership, and expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation especially in the arenas of trade and investment, combatting illegal trade and other illegal activities in the border area, as well as peace and stability along the border and necessary assistance to Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand. — MNA

The Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister calls on Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Than Swe in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing receives Ms Pornpimol Kanchanalak, Advisor to the Thai Foreign Minister yesterday.

MoIC Union Minister receives Advisor to Thai Foreign Minister

U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister for International Cooperation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received Ms Pornpimol Kanchanalak, Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand at 4 pm yesterday at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the call, both sides exchanged views on further strengthening the existing bilateral ties and cooperation and also discussed matters in the areas of transport, tourism, energy, rural development and people-to-people connectivity as well as the provision of humanitarian assistance through the AHA Centre. — MNA

15 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 21 April, total figure registers 634,258

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to 634,258 after 15 new cases were reported on 21 April 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, eight patients returned from foreign countries and seven cases were infected locally.

Status of new COVID-19 patients (as of 21 April 2023) (8:00 pm)

New COVID-19 Patient	New Patient	Percentage (%)
People returned from foreign countries	8	53.33%
People infected in the country	7	46.67%
Total	15	100%

Therefore, a total of 10,272,584 laboratory samples were examined and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 634,258.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 614,658 including two new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at 19,490 on 21-4-2023 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

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

Public Notice for Elimination of Violence

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

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.gnlm.com.mm
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Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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Torch relay celebration held for 32nd SEA Games & 12th ASEAN Para Games

THE torch relay ceremony to commemorate the 32nd Southeast Asian (SEA) Games to be held in Cambodia from 5 to 17 May and the 12th ASEAN Para Games to be held from 3 to 9 June was held yesterday at the Embassy of Cambodia to Myanmar on University Avenue in Yangon.

Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan, who is also the Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and regional government ministers, the representative of the Organizing Committee of the 32nd Southeast Asian Games, the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism of Cambodia, the Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar, representatives from Timor-Leste and ASEAN member countries specially invited for the torch relay programme, the director-general and officials of the Department of Sports and Physical Education, the vice-president of the Myanmar Paralympics Federation, athletes from Myanmar's sports federations, students, and public totalling about 1,800 people attended the event.

First, Ambassador Mr Chum Angvichet of Cambodia to Myanmar and the vice-president of the Myanmar Paralympics Federation gave memorable speeches.

Then, Myanmar Olympic Committee Chair Union Minister U Min Thein Zan expressed his pride and joy for Cambodia hosting the 32nd SEA Games for the first time and for the host country's hospitality and planning.

The Union minister said that he believes that the 32nd Southeast Asian Games will fully represent the promotion of friendship and peace and harmony among Southeast Asian countries.

Afterwards, Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee of Cambodia Representative Mr Hor Sarun said that the torch relaying ceremony will start from Angkor Wat, the world's wonder temple in Cambodia, and will continue to 10 ASEAN countries and return to Cambodia on 27 April.

The torch relay event in marking the 32nd SEA Games and the 12th ASEAN Para Games in action yesterday in Yangon.

They continued to take commemorative photos and the torch commemorating the 32nd Southeast Asian (SEA) Games and the 12th ASEAN Para Games was carried by the representative of the Cambodian Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee from the Cambodian Embassy to Myanmar.

Next, the torch was carried from one person to another through the Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar, the Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, the vice-president of the Myanmar Paralympic Sports Federation, Paralympic athletes and rower, and the director-general of the Sports and Physical Education Department.

From there, it was handed over to the representative of Cambodia's Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee and taken to the Cambodian Embassy where it was lit and stored.

The torch will leave Myanmar for Laos on 22 April. — MNA/KZL

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, foodstuffs, consumer goods, auto parts, petroleum products and vehicles seized

THE combined teams led by the Township Forest Departments under the management of the Ayeyawady Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force captured a total of 33.883 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K2,216,207 in Hinthada, Pathein, Myaungmya and Kyonpyaw districts on 17 April. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 18 April, a combined team led by the Yangon North District Forest Department seized a total of 9.372 tonnes of illegal teak worth K3,092,826 from a Foton Auman truck (approximately K25 million) on the dirt road of the Ngarsutaung area that connected to the Phaunggyi-Hlegu road near the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway in Hlegu township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 19 April, an unregistered Toyota Voxy vehicle (approximately K5 million) was seized near U Wizaya Road and Yazadarik Road in Dagon Myothit (North) Township and the action was taken under the Law.

On 19 April, the on-duty teams under the supervision of the Customs Department confiscated four kinds of goods including 8,813 HMK stabilizer link worth K85,138,000 without Import Licence from a container at the Myanmar Industrial Port Terminal container checkpoint and 19,480 kilogrammes of PVC table cloth worth K28,635,600 without Import Licence from a container at the Hteedan Port. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

In addition, an inspection team at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint seized two kinds of goods including 60 cartons of Ding Fond sour plum-flavoured juice worth K12,030,808

Seized illegal goods.

without official import documents from a Charm express bus (approximately K15 million) heading to Yangon on Myawady-Hpa-an-Yangon route. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 19 April, the on-duty teams nabbed 3,500 gallons of diesel worth K33.25 million without official carried documents from a vehicle at the Yadanabon Bridge combined checkpoint in Sagaing Township and 9,100 gallons of diesel worth K125,791,750 and 3,250 gallons of fuel oil worth K44,897,500 without official documents from three vehicles at the checkpoint on Boaungkyaw street in Phaungpyin Township.

The action was taken under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

On 20 April, 3.956 tonnes of illegal teak, 0.841 tonne of illegal hardwood and 1.073 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K1,981,460 were captured in Pyu and Yedashe townships. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 16 arrests (estimated value of K348,784,151) were made on four consecutive days from 17 to 20 April, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Drugs seized in Myeik, North Okkalapa townships

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force examined suspected Shine Ko Ko near the traffic light in Myeik (South) Ward in Myeik Township at 4:30 pm on 20 April and seized 10,000 stimulant tablets.

According to the investigation, Police Force searched the house of Ma Kay Thwe Phyo in Myeik (South) Ward in Myeik Township at 8 pm and captured 22,000 stimulant tablets, 0.22633 kilogramme of opium extract and 0.274 kilogramme of heroin.

At 9:15 am on the same day, Myanmar Police Force examined suspected Maung Khin Win (aka) Khin Win on Thudhamma Road in North Okkalapa Township and captured 80,000 stimulant tablets.

The suspects were reportedly prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/MKKS

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.

So-called PDF terrorists commit terror acts taking cover of monasteries, schools, rural dispensaries and public houses in Pazigyi Village of Kanbalu Township and Magyikan Village of Myaing Township; security forces conduct rules of engagement-ROE in combatting terrorists

The entrenchment of PDF terrorists is pictured in Pazigyi Village.

STATE-OWNED dailies and TV on 13 April mentioned the news on limited airstrikes by the Tatmadaw as so-called PDF terrorists arranged to open the NUG terrorist headquarters near Pazigyi Village of Kanbalu Township on 11 April, according to the information of local people.

In the military operations against KIA battalion-12 and so-called PDF terrorists around Mang Wein, Sitha, Mankha, Simulay, Simugyi, Tongauk, Ywathitgon and Namlan villages where the eastern command of terrorist NUG will be built, bunkers and mine barriers were laid at monasteries, schools, rural dispensaries and public houses from 23 March to 8 April.

On 20 April, Tatmadaw columns engaged with KIA and PDF terrorists who arrived around Pazigyi Village and the surrounding area in Kanbalu Township, and those terrorists withdrew to the northern part.

A bunker for PDF terrorists is seen in the compound of the Magyikan Village rural dispensary, Myaing Township.

Confiscated arms and munitions.

In the incident, four bodies of terrorists were seized with arms and ammunition from the sandbag bankers and communication canals near the wall of the monastery and the school.

Likewise, security forces attacked PDF terrorists who arrived around Magyikan Village of Myaing Township on 18 and 19 April and seized their arms and ammunition from the rural dispensary and public houses.

In these incidents, terrorists built bankers in the precinct of the monastery, schools and rural dispensaries and laid homemade mine barriers around the village. In their moves, those terrorists took innocent villagers along with them and use them as human shields in the fighting. If those villagers are dead, they discredit the Tatmadaw through media propaganda.

On 20 April, terrorists under the disguise of Buddhist monks from a vehicle attacked security forces with small arms at the village administrator's office in Myakantha Village of Patheingyi Township, leaving some security forces injured.

Those terrorists brutally commit terror acts on pagodas, monasteries, monks and nuns. They use public places and non-military areas and people as human shields to commit war crimes. Hence, people inform the security forces about the information of terrorists depending on the situations.

Security forces under limited strength in line with the law combat terrorists. Moreover, security forces are serving duties under the Rules of Engagement- ROE in safeguarding the life and property of the people. — MNA/TTA

LOCAL BUSINESS

Factories, industries need to use Google sheet for easy purchase of fuel oil

FOR a smooth purchasing process, factories and workshops inside and outside of the industrial park have to create Google sheet to buy fuel oil easily, according to the event about a guide to filling in Google Sheet held on 20 April 2023 at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).

To facilitate the manufacturing businesses, the officials concerned about the industrial zones come together to buy the fuel oil. Similarly, the associations concerned also organized to seek approval for a smooth buying process.

Secretary U Moe Myint of the Working Committee on Facilitation of Trade and Goods gave an opening remark at the event that this meeting was to reduce the difficulties in purchasing fuel oil and loss caused by the price gap for the industrial parks. The series of meetings have been held from the fourth week of March. He encouraged them to follow the guideline instructed at the event in buying the fuel oil.

Daw Khine Khine Nwe, general secretary of the UMFCCI requested them to fill in the Google Sheet correctly. Those enterprises outside of the industrial park need the recommendation from the relevant associations before submitting the sheet to Myanmar Industries Association. She also reminded the businesspersons of the figure check before forwarding the Google Sheet. I believe the concerted efforts can reap fruitful results for sure, she said.

The guide to filling in Google Sheet event in progress on 20 April 2023 in Yangon.

Dr Thet Tun Aung, secretary of the Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association explained facts about making the Google Sheet in detail. The attendees raised some questions about that.

About 50 officials from the committee, UMFCCI, Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association and Industrial Zones were present at the event. — Aik Thon/EM

Diesel price dips below K2,000 per litre

THE price of diesel declined below K2,000 per litre in the fuel oil market.

The price stayed on the high side during Myanmar's New Year holidays. Then, the prices showed a gradual decline on 21 April, at K2,065 per litre of Octane 92, K2,160 for Octane 95, K1,995 for diesel and K2,075 for 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.

Last 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 steering 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 Supervision and Inspection 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 cost and health profit per cent.

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. Photo shows a fuel outlet in Yangon.

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 21 April 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,065
Octane 95	K2,160
Diesel	K1,995
Premium Diesel	K2,075

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,340,900 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,982,000 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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OPINION

Look after mother earth to be healthy for all

ENVIRONMENTALISTS speak aloud to protect the environment again and again. They disseminate ways of environmental conservation all over the world. So, it is visible that protective measures of the environment throughout the world are very important for global people.

The word representing the environment is inclusive of all diverse species including living beings and non-living beings all of which are standing on mother earth. As such, everybody needs to emphasize the health of Mother Earth. All kinds of environmental pollution surely harm mother earth. If so, the planet Earth gradually faces deterioration for the standing of all beings.

> Everybody should understand that only when mother earth is healthy with greening and conserving in a long run will it look after all living beings including humans. Hence, all global people need to carry out lush and green activities for mother earth to be healthy. If mother earth is healthy, it will serve its duties on a regular basis. Otherwise, mother earth with derailment from the regular process will terribly harm all living beings.

For example, oceans filling with plastic and turning more acidic, extreme heat, wildfires and floods, as well as so many acts and incidents to harm mother earth have finally affected millions of people. Notably, all kinds of harmful acts against mother earth will affect living beings including humans and human society.

All kinds of seasonal diseases and manmade diseases including manmade dangerous movements such as wars, scientific attacks, chemical tests, undisciplined disposal of, deforestation, inappropriate land utilization, intensified agriculture and livestock production or the growing illegal wildlife trade, narcotic drug production and so on are harmful to degradation of the mother earth.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/63/278 in 2009 to designate April 22 as International Mother Earth Day. Adopting the theme for 2023 "Invest in Our Planet", International Mother Earth Day promotes a view of the Earth as the entity that sustains all living things found in nature. Inclusiveness is at the heart of International Mother Earth Day; fostering shared responsibilities to rebuild a troubled relationship with nature is a cause that is uniting people around the world.

As such, everybody, the offspring of the environment, needs to pay back the debt of gratitude to mother earth. It is because mother earth nurtures and protects those offspring humans against the dangers in various ways while providing food, clothing and shelter.

Everybody should understand that only when mother earth is healthy with greening and conserving in a long run will it look after all living beings including humans. Hence, all global people need to carry out lush and green activities for mother earth to be healthy. If mother earth is healthy, it will serve its duties on a regular basis. Otherwise, mother earth with derailment from the regular process will terribly harm all living beings.

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ARTICLE

EPISODE: 10

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

By THAN HTUN
(GEOSCIENCE MYANMAR)

ALEXANDER McMillan Heron (1884 – 1971) was a geologist Assistant Superintendent and Director of the Geological Survey of India (1906-39). Fermor was succeeded by A. M. Heron, who became Director on the 7th of November 1935. Heron had a reputation for being a tough but sound field-geologist and competent stratigrapher.

He had spent the greater part of his career in the field, mostly in Rajputana, with a break of a couple of years in Burma where he worked with Coggin Brown in the tin and wolfram areas of Tavoy during the First World War. Heron with Coggin Brown described the geology and ore deposits of the Tavoy district. To Heron fell the lot of imparting field training to a number of junior officers, and his chief object was to see them turning out hardy and practical field geologists.

Heron possessed strong common sense and a grim sense of humour and was a strict disciplinarian in administrative matters. His grasp of the fundamentals, clear perception of the subject matter, and balanced judgment fitted him ideally for the post of Director. His pithy remarks on the files showed his aversion to getting entangled in a maze of detail and argument.

After retirement, Heron joined the Geology and Mines Department of Hyderabad State (Deccan) as Special Officer, in which post he continued till 1949 when he joined the Pakistan Geological Survey.

On the 1st of April 1937 Burma separated from India and the Burma Circle, then consisting of Clegg, Bradshaw, and A. B. Dutt, became the Burma Geological Department, but for all practical purposes functioned as an appendage of the parent department till the retreat of the Allied Forces during the inversion of Burma by Japan in 1942. In the senior grade, Chhibber's vacancy was filled by the recruitment of B. C. Roy in 1937.

In Burma, Clegg and Iyer continued the survey of the Mogok Stone Tract. According to Iyer all the rocks of the Mogok area arc of the Archaean age as had been suggested by previous observers. On the other hand, Clegg considered that some of the rocks, and especially the gem-bearing limestones of Mogok, might be of a later age and that it is quite possible that the limestones were metamorphosed by igneous intrusions during the preliminary uplift of the Shan Plateau from the sea in post-Triassic times. In 1937 Sondhi accompanied the Sino-Burma Boundary Commission on the border of Yunan and north-eastern Burma and found an extension eastwards, of the rocks of the Northern Shan States. Sondhi and Iyer were transferred to India from Burma in April 1937 when Burma was separated from India, but A. B. Dutt remained and continued mapping in central Burma.

Burma Circle

During the field season 1934-35, the Burma Circle consisted of Mr E. L. G. Clegg (in charge), Messrs. E. J. Bradshaw, V. P. Sondhi, Drs. H. L. Chhibber, M. R. Sahni and L. A. N. Iyer. Mr Bradshaw was stationed at Yenangyaung as Resident Geologist and on his proceeding on leave on 22 April 1935, Mr Clegg took over the duties of Resident Geologist in addition to his own.

Rangoon Office

In the laboratory of the Rangoon Office, Mr L. R. Sharma continued his duties as Chemical Assistant to the Burma Circle. Up to the end of November 1935, 26 specimens were received and reported upon, out of which nine were quantitatively determined. The specimens examined included minerals and rocks from the Shan States and the Pyinmana district. The Office of the Burma Circle has been moved from 593, Merchant Street back to the old quarters at 230, Dalhousie Street, Rangoon.

Geological Survey

Myitkyina district: The field season had hardly begun when Dr Chhibber, who had proceeded to the Myitkyina district to continue his survey in the jade Mines area, became ill and was unable to continue his work. As a result, the survey of the Jade Mines area was not continued.

Thayetmyo district: During January and February, Mr Clegg was engaged in the completion of work along the Eocene-Pegu boundary in sheets 85 I/15 and I/16 in the Thayetmyo district. During the 1923-24 field season, Mr Clegg worked in this area but was unable to find any evidence for fixing the Pegu-Eocene boundary between Thakutkyaw (19° 18': 94° 54'), and west of Thapangyo (19°5': 94° 57') to the south. As a consequence, the boundary was left as originally mapped by Theobald.

The Eocene-Pegu boundary, as revised by Mr Clegg as a result of his recent work, is adumbrated in Theobold's map by the limestones shown as occurring south and west by south of Thapangyo. The area examined, which is included between the Thayetmyo-Mindon road (latitude 19° 23') and the Made chaung (latitude 19°) and (longitude 94° 47'and 95°), forms a diagonal running N. N. E. and comprises Upper Eocene and Lower and Middle Pegu rocks.

The Upper Eocene rocks consist of shales, alternating flaggy sandstones and shales, false-bedded and lenticular sandstones of a missive character, and foraminiferal limestones. The foraminiferal limestones are in general associated with the more shaly bands in series, although foraminiferal do also occur as reefs and isolated tests in some of the sandy rocks. The Pegu rocks, from where the Eocene rocks are cut off six miles south of the Thayetmyo-Mindon road, consist of a massive series of rather shaly fine-grained micaceous sandstones, weathering out in lenticels in the harder bands of spheroidally in the thin, softer and more shaly intercalations.

The sandstone series passes gradually upwards into a shale series which can be followed down the Pyinaing-Satle valley, through Aukmanein, Singaw, and Kyaukpadaung, and thence to the southeast to underlie the Prome sandstones west of Kama. The above horizons can be identified with the Yaw stage, (foraminiferal limestone), Shwezetaw sandstones, Padaung clays, Okhmintaung sandstones, and Pyawbwe clays of Lapper.

A.M. Heron (1884-1971) Source: GSI

Mogok Stone Tract

From the latter part of March to the end of the season Mr Clegg completed the 4-inch sheet survey of the Mogok Stone Tract through a more detailed examination of certain areas, and in this work, he was assisted during April by Dr Iyer. The rock groups were the same as mentioned in last year's General Report.

Mogok: The main mass of the syenite which runs through Ongaing village was found to continue westwards as a thin band into the Yebu valley. On the north side of Yebu Valley, where the Mogok-Kyauknaga track crosses it, the rock is still definitely an augite-syenite consisting of microperthite, orthoclase, augite, apatite, and iron-ores, sometimes a little plagioclase also being present. Towards Yebu, in the isolated outcrops in the paddy fields, the rock is more acid in character and contains a fair amount of quartz; westwards along the Uyin Chaung, this granitic character prevails to Thapanbin where the augite or hornblende-syenite and granite series dies out.

The numerous crystalline limestones mapped south of Kyaukthinbaw Taung in the north of the Ongaing Reserved Forest are intruded by syenite and pegmatite, the pegmatite being a coarse whitish rock composed of felspar and smoky quartz, usually seen cutting through the limestone or capping it and occurring in a similar manner to the exposures seen on Chinthe Taung north-east of Kathe. On the south-east of Lada Taung, the jagged crystalline limestone hill immediately north of Mogok town, which continues eastwards to unite with the southern end of the Letnyo spur, occurs an exposure of weathered garnet-gneiss which takes off from the eastern end of the Injauk valley.

Oksaung Taung: On the southwest spur of Hmyaw Taung, at a height of 5,200 feet, a very irregular pegmatite of graphic granite continues intermittently to the steep valley immediately northwest of Oksaung Taung. In the valley to the east of this spur only decomposed calcareous gneiss and pegmatite debris can be seen to the 'col' north-east by north of Oksaung Taung, where the pegmatite which cuts through Hmyaw Taung from the Pinpyit area as a continuous exposure is met.

Thondaungmyaing: Thondaungmyaing is a mountain only three miles northeast of Mogok as the crow flies, but is concealed from the town by the intervening Letnyo spur. Its southern flank is composed of limestone which dips in a direction north of east and appears to have been at one time continuous with the limestone of the Onbin Yedwet spur to the southeast. Anastomosing pegmatite veins, which are well seen at the summit of the peak, penetrate the crystalline limestone.

Bernardmyo: In the Bernardmyo area an exposure of eclogite was found by Dr Iyer, E. S. E. of Ywathit at a height of 5,950 feet, whilst a few more exposures of Khondalite were noted on the west side of the Bernardmyo road and some isolated exposures of limestone in the thick forest on the northern slopes of Mawgiwa Taung.

Thabeitkyin-Kin Chaung area: Before joining Mr Clegg, Dr Iyer mapped on the one-inch scale the area lying between the Kin Chaung and the Irrawaddy River on the Survey of India old sheet No. 239 (93 B/1 and parts of 93 B/5 and 84 N/3 new). In addition to the rocks mentioned in the Mogok area Dr. Iyer was able to map hornblende-schist or epidote, and mica-schists and hornblende-granulite of the Tawng-Peng system.

Adjacent to the Irrawaddy a narrow strip of Irrawaddy sandstones dips westwards into the river; they form a low ridge of medium to coarse-grained false-bedded sandstones and are cut off, according to Dr Iyre, from the Mogok series to the east by a boundary fault. Major patches of gravel and silicified fossil wood occur to the east 700 feet above, on the shelf which the Mogok road traverses between miles 4 and 10, showing the once greater extent of this series.

Tawng-Peng system: The mica-schist series of Mong Long is found to continue in a westerly direction from the Mogok area and to pass south of Laungzin (22° 51': 96° 24'). Included in this series are hornblende-granulites, whilst tourmaline-granites intrude on it.

Kabaing granite: The Kabaing granite occurs in the eastern part of the area mapped in continuation of the main occurrence of the Mogok area. Westwards it occurs intermittently as small bosses and bands intrusive into biotite-gneisses and crystalline limestones.

Syenite and syenite gneisses: They were noted, although rarely. They have a similar mineralogical composition and occurrence and are always found in close association with the crystalline limestones, as in the Mogok area.

Quartzite: It occurs either as a more arenaceous facies of the calcareous suite of rocks or as a replacement of calcareous gneisses and is best seen near Kyaukhlebein (22° 54': 96° 13') as a lenticular mass associated with limestone and calc-gneiss.

Crystalline limestones and calciphyres: They attain their greatest development west of longitude 96° 11', as three trough-like folds intruded by granites, whilst at their western termination they are folded in with gneisses and hornblende-schist.

Hornblende-schist and hornblende-gneiss: They are confined to the area adjacent to the band of Irrawaddy sandstone north and south of Thabeitkyin (22° 53': 96° 1'); they also form massive hills and steep cliffs north and south of Ponna (22° 49': 96° 1'). Hornblende-schist is also seen folded with crystalline limestone and biotite-gneiss in stream sections.

Biotite-garnet-sillimanite-gneisses: Although no typical Khondalites were mapped in the area, biotite-garnet-sillimanite-gneisses were found to have a local occurrence.

Unclassified crystalline rocks: They occupied the greatest area mapped; the rocks of the series vary from coarse-grained normal biotite-granites and biotite-garnet-sillimanite-gneisses.

Thabyu Stibnite Deposits

Thabyu is located within a few miles of the Siam frontier. The locality is unfortunately very inaccessible, but Mr Heron saw several lodes, and the quantity of ore seems to be considerable. In spite of the inaccessibility of the locality and the consequent difficulties of transport and of labour, Mr Heron considers that the property offers a reasonable prospect of remunerative work.

References: Heron A. M. 1936: General Report of the Geological Survey of India for the year 1935., Record of GSI., Vol. 71.

■

CURRENT AFFAIRS

CB Bank says holders can use prepaid cards from 21 April

THE CB Bank has announced that prepaid cards of the bank, which are eligible for spending US$1,000 per month or the equivalent Myanmar kyat, will be able to be used starting 21 April.

CB Bank's Prepaid Card is a type of card that can be used without having to have a saving account. Therefore, it can be more convenient than holding cash and can be used to withdraw cash from ATMs in more than 210 countries around the world, pay at a point of sale (POS), and make quick-and-easy payments for online shopping, foreign trips, restaurants, hotels, shopping centres, and hospitals. In addition, it can be easily topped up through CB Pay and iBanking. There were also initial notifications to customers that they could apply for CB Bank's debit, credit, and prepaid cards at their nearest CB Bank branches.

The photo shows an advertisement for CB Bank's Prepaid Card.

Customers who own this prepaid card issued by CB Bank will be able to use it starting 21 April. — TWA/CT

Mingala Yankin public rental housing opens for apartment applications

THE public rental housing placement committee has announced that those who want to rent apartments in the completed "Mingala Yankin" public rental housing near Shindawgon Village, Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region, can submit applications from 25 April to 19 May.

Public rental housing units will be rented to people, current employees, and retired employees, and rental applications can be purchased at the office of the director of the Mandalay Region Department of Urban and Housing Development in Aungmyaythazan Township during office hours from 18 April to 17 May.

According to the Department of Urban and Housing Development under the Ministry of Construction, the housing project was implemented and built for the convenience of the people.

The affordable rental housing projects are undertaken with 194 buildings (3,104 units) in Yangon Region, 28 buildings (448 units) in Nay Pyi Taw and 91 buildings (1,456 units) in Mandalay.

There are 91 buildings and 1,456 units in the "Mingala Yankin" public rental housing, and one can contact 09-965696406 and 09-254227859 for further information about the housing. — TWA/CT

Lweje border trade registers US$0.577 mln on 17 April

ACCORDING to statistics from the Ministry of Commerce, trade worth US$0.577 million was carried out from the Lweje border with the neighbouring country China on 17 April.

Myanmar exported agricultural products worth $0.472 million as follows: 36 truckloads of tissue-cultured bananas, 16 truckloads of watermelon, a truckload of broken rice, two truckloads of butter beans, and four truckloads of kidney beans.

As imports, Myanmar received three truckloads of cartons, four truckloads of cardboard, a truckload of fabric rolls, a truckload of artificial turf, a truckload of corks, a truckload of construction iron rods and iron sheets, a truckload of kitchen appliances, and five truckloads of goods from China, the Ministry of Commerce's data stated. — TWA/CT

A convoy of trucks lining to enter the Lweje border.

The photo shows Pawsan paddy produced from the delta region.

Prices of delta region Pawsan paddies spike in post-Thingyan period

THE price of Pawsan paddy from delta regions was up by K90,000 per 100 baskets in the post-Thingyan period compared to that of the pre-Thingyan period. Meanwhile, the prices of other paddy varieties showed an increase of K20,000 per 100 baskets.

Between 14 and 18 April 2023, the price of Pawsan paddy surged to K2.1 million per 100 baskets. Similarly, the prices of other paddies also increased to K1,780,000 from K1,760,000 per 100 baskets for Ayeya Padaytha, K1,750,000 from K1,730,000 for monsoon Moethukha, K1,650,000 from K1,630,000 for summer Moethukha, K1,630,000 from K1,610,000 for Nanka, K1,690,000 from K1,670,000 per summer short-mature paddy (90 days) and K1,550,000 from K1,530,000 for summer paddy grown under the intercropping system.

Tracking the increase in paddy prices, the prices of Pawsan rice from the delta region rose to K80,000 from K70,000 per bag. A price increase this year is six months earlier than usual.

Last mid-November 2022, Pawsan paddy was priced at only K1.6 million per 100 baskets. The price surged to K2.1 million per 100 baskets in late April 2023.

Some market observers pointed out that the prices of low-grade rice are likely to reach around the prices of high-grade Pawsan rice from delta regions. Popular Pawsan from Shwebo areas is expected to inch higher in mid-2023. – TWA/EM

HEALTH/WELLNESS: WORLD

Focus on reproductive rights rather than population numbers, UN urges

RATHER than fixating on the impact of the world's soaring population, the world should look at women's reproductive rights to shore up "demographic resilience", the UN said Wednesday.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) — the UN's sexual and reproductive health agency — acknowledged there was widespread anxiety over the size of the world's population, which is expected to peak at around 10.4 billion during the 2080s.

But the UNFPA said the focus should be on giving women more power to control when and how they have children.

"The question is: 'Can everyone exercise their fundamental human right to choose the number and spacing of their children?'. Sadly, the answer is a resounding no," said UNFPA chief Natalia Kanem.

She said that "44 per cent, almost half of women, are unable to exercise bodily autonomy. Unable to make choices about contraception, healthcare and whether or with whom to have sex. And globally, nearly half of all pregnancies are unintended."

She said countries with the highest fertility rates contribute the least to global warming and suffer the most from its impact.

In its flagship annual "State of World Population" report, the UNFPA found the most commonly-held view is that the world's population is too big.

But it said that passing the eight billion mark "should be a reason to celebrate. It is a milestone representing historic advances for humanity in medicine, science, health, agriculture and education". "It is time to put aside fear, to turn away from population targets and towards demographic resilience — an ability to adapt to fluctuations in population growth and fertility rate," it said.—AFP

The right to reproductive choice means that women have a right to choose whether or not to reproduce, including the right to decide whether to carry or terminate an unwanted pregnancy and the right to choose their preferred method of family planning and contraception. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

France 'risks' abortion pill shortage as US stocks up: gender body

A pharmacy's green cross sign in Nantes, western France. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ LOIC VENANCE/AFP**

FRANCE risks shortages of abortion pills as US states build up stocks during an intensifying legal and political battle over reproductive rights, the country's gender equality authority has warned. France gets most of its abortion drugs from a largely US-owned manufacturer, and supplies are already under pressure from a shortage in raw materials.

In addition, US states "are building up stocks to mitigate a possible halt in production or sales of mifepristone and misoprostol," France's High Council for Equality between Men and Women (HCE) said Tuesday.

"The American situation poses the risk of a shortage," the organization said. Abortion pills account for around 70 per cent of pregnancy terminations in France. Women take a dose of mifepristone and then a dose of misoprostol, which triggers expulsion of the embryo, 36 to 48 hours later.

The US Supreme Court is expected to rule Wednesday on a lower tribunal's finding that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) wrongly approved mifepristone for use in 2000, which has sowed legal chaos in reproductive health provision. The case is part of a wider campaign by conservatives against abortion rights, after the right-leaning Supreme Court last year overturned the Roe v. Wade ruling that guaranteed access to pregnancy termination for half a century.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Red Cross, WHO seek aid access amid Sudan fighting

THE Red Cross and the World Health Organization on Tuesday urged Sudan's warring parties to guarantee humanitarian access for those in need as the death toll in the fighting neared 200.

"We have thousands of volunteers who are ready, able and trained to perform humanitarian services" in the country, said Farid Aiywar, the Sudan head of delegation for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

"Unfortunately, due to the current situation, they are not able to move," he told reporters in Geneva, via video-link from Nairobi.—AFP

China rolls out roadmap to promote TCM culture

CHINA has introduced a roadmap designed to promote traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) culture, said a health official at a press conference Thursday. China aims for more high-quality TCM cultural products and services, improved TCM culture and health literacy of the public, and wider spread of TCM overseas by 2025, said Xing Chao, an official with the National Administration of TCM. Xing made the remarks when elaborating on a plan designed to further support the development of TCM during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025).—Xinhua

Chinese experts stress improving seniors' immunization as society rapidly ages

HEALTH experts have called for developing vaccines to tackle diseases primarily affecting seniors and devising innovative methods to expand vaccine acceptance among the age group with China's swelling elderly population, China Daily reported Thursday.

As society rapidly ages and people born during the baby boom of the 1960s get older, China is and will be under great pressure to provide adequate social, medical and rehabilitation services for them, Feng Zijian, former deputy director of the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention and vice-president of the Chinese Preventive Medicine Association, was quoted by the newspaper as saying.

"The growing elderly population will be confronted with a greater risk of infections. We are in need of more vaccines to reduce infections during old age," he said. —Xinhua

A number of existing vaccine products are effective and important tools to protect the health of the elderly, such as doses against COVID-19, influenza, respiratory syncytial virus and herpes zoster, according to the newspaper. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ AFP**

ECONOMY
WORLD

IPEF negotiations could deliver results by yearend: USTR Tai

The negotiations of the IPEF centre around four policy pillars -- fair trade, supply chain resilience, clean energy with decarbonization and infrastructure, as well as proper taxation and anti-corruption. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

US Trade Representative Katherine Tai said on Thursday Indo-Pacific Economic Framework trade negotiations could deliver results by the end of the year to set economic rules and standards in the fast-growing region.

The US-led initiative comprising 14 nations is widely viewed as a counterweight to China's growing clout in the Indo-Pacific region, which accounts for about 40 per cent of the global economy. Tai told reporters at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan in Tokyo that negotiations, which started last year, are moving at a very quick pace.

"I'm very optimistic that you will see results soon and maybe even over the course of this year," Tai said. The negotiations of the IPEF centre around four policy pillars — fair trade, supply chain resilience, clean energy with decarbonization and infrastructure, as well as proper taxation and anti-corruption. Tai has not ruled out the possibility of announcing an agreement on some areas ahead of the others as the pace of negotiations differs among the various fields. The third round of IPEF negotiations are slated for next month in Singapore. During her two-day trip to Japan, Tai held talks with Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura and Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi, affirming close cooperation in the months ahead, as Japan hosts the Group of Seven nations' summit in Hiroshima in May and the United States hosts a summit of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum economies in San Francisco in November.— Kyodo

EU parliament approves world's most sweeping cryptocurrency rules

THE European Parliament approved the world's first comprehensive rules to regulate the "Wild West" world of cryptocurrencies on Thursday, hoping to protect investors against abuse and manipulation. EU member states have already backed the legislation covering cryptoassets, which include cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin and ethereum and other tradable tokens whose value is secured using blockchain technology, such as NFTs.

A physical representation of the Ethereum cryptocurrency. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

The rules, now approved by a large majority of European lawmakers, hope to whip into shape an industry that has been beset by scandals and failures.

One of the most recent cryptocurrency exchange failures came in November when the FTX platform and its sister trading house Alameda Research went bankrupt, dissolving a virtual trading business that at one point had a market value of $32 billion.

The EU commissioner for financial services, Mairead McGuinness, said during a parliamentary debate on Wednesday that the rules would have regulated FTX's activities and perhaps prevented its collapse at great cost to some investors.—AFP

Security guards at London's Heathrow airport to strike in May

SECURITY guards at London's Heathrow airport will strike for a further eight days next month in a dispute over pay, their union announced Wednesday, as various UK industrial action rumbles on.

Around 1,400 security officers, who walked out for 10 days over Easter, will stage their latest stoppage at Heathrow's Terminal 5 on 4-6, 9-10 and 25-27, May the Unite union said.

It warned of "inevitable disruption and delays", as the start of the walkout coincides with people expected to travel to the UK for King Charles' coronation on 6 May.

The announcement comes on the same day Britain's Office for National Statistics (ONS) revealed UK inflation held stubbornly above 10 per cent last month, further fuelling the worst cost-of-living crisis in a generation.

It has prompted strike action by various public and private sector workers, from nurses to port workers, as the double digit inflation rates of the past year spark demands for increased wages. "Our members have been crystal clear they are seeking a substantial permanent increase in pay," Unite regional officer Wayne King said of his members' dispute with Heathrow.—AFP

Workers at London's Heathrow Airport will walk out on strike again next month. **PHOTO: AFP**

France to speed debt reduction through cuts and growth

THE French government said Thursday that public spending cuts and hoped-for faster growth would help it slash its annual budget deficit and public debt, one of the highest in the eurozone. It is time to "cool off" public spending, Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire told reporters, adding that "this is about France's European credibility".

Stretched by the government's "whatever it takes" response to the coronavirus pandemic and massive support to consumers and industry through recent peaks in inflation, France's budget deficit hit 4.7 per cent of GDP in 2022 and is forecast higher this year, at 4.9 per cent. Le Maire said he aims to slash it to 2.7 per cent of output in 2027, the end of President Emmanuel Macron's second term.—AFP

Strike brings rail traffic to a halt in Germany

RAIL traffic came to an almost complete standstill in Germany on Friday as workers across the country went on strike to demand higher wages to help offset inflation.

"Almost no trains" were running due to the shortage of staff, Achim Stauss, a spokesman for national rail operator Deutsche Bahn, told reporters at Berlin's deserted central station.

More than 15,000 employees from 50 companies have joined the strike, according to the EVG transport union, which represents some 230,000 workers.

The strike, which is due to last until 11:00 am local time (0900 GMT), is intended to "increase pressure on employers", EVG representatives Cosima Ingenschay and Kristian Loroch said in a statement.

"Employers think they can ignore the demands of their employees and want to dictate collective bargaining from above. This is unacceptable," they said.—AFP

ICE high speed trains of Germany s railways operator Deutsch Bahn are parked on railtracks in Munich, southern Germany, during a strike of rail workers on 21 April 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

French food delivery gig workers to get minimum wage

MAJOR food delivery platforms on Thursday agreed a minimum hourly wage with representatives of French riders, the workers' FNAE union said.

People delivering takeaways on bikes and scooters for the likes of Deliveroo and Uber Eats will be paid at least 11.75 euros ($12.85) per hour, said the FNAE, which represents self-employed people.

That figure is slightly higher than France's legal minimum wage, which rose on 1 January to 11.27 euros before taxes and social contributions.

"This is an immediate win for delivery riders, of whom around 20 percent were below the threshold" of 11.75, FNAE president Gregoire Leclercq said. Thursday's agreement "is a sector-wide agreement that applies to all platforms doing home delivery, those that already exist and in the future," he added.Another self-employed people's union, Union-Independants, said it would consult members about the pay deal. — AFP

People delivering takeaways on bikes and scooters for the likes of Deliveroo and Uber Eats will be paid at least 11.75 euros ($12.85) per hour, said the FNAE, which represents self-employed people. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V DUBAI GALACTIC VOY.NO. (128)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V DUBAI GALACTIC VOY.NO. (128)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-4-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V LUCKY CATHERINE VOY.NO. (103827)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V LUCKY CATHERINE VOY.NO. (103827)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-4-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AIPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO LTD

The Global New Light of Myanmar
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သတင်းစာ မှာယူလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်
09 454 237 515

သတင်းစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နိုင်ငံတကာစံချိန်မီ
ပုံနှိပ်လိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်
01 860 4530

ကြော်ငြာဒီဇိုင်းနှင့် ကြော်ငြာအေဂျင်စီများ ကြော်ငြာ ထည့်သွင်းလိုပါက
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09 974 424 848

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V FILOTIMO VOY.NO. (311S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V FILOTIMO VOY.NO. (311S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-4-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V CHERRY VOY.NO. (202N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CHERRY VOY. NO. (202N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-4-2023** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (1688N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (1688N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-4-2023** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Erdogan launches Black Sea gas deliveries ahead of vote

People watch as Scarabeo 9, a 115-metre-long and 78-metre-high Frigstad D90-type semi-submersible drilling rig, passes on the Bosporus Strait en route to the Black Sea in Istanbul on 29 August 2019. **PHOTO: OZAN KOSE/AFP/FILE**

PRESIDENT Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Thursday launched Türkiye's first delivery from a Black Sea gas reserve a few weeks ahead of a general election, as Ankara aims towards energy independence.

The ceremony comes as Erdogan braces for a tight race on 14 May in what is widely seen as the most consequential vote in Türkiye's modern history.

In 2020, the country discovered gas reserves off the coast of Zonguldak in the Black Sea region, which Erdogan hailed at the time as Türkiye's largest ever natural gas field and a way to wean the country off its dependence on energy imports.

In June, Türkiye started the construction of an underwater pipeline connected to the seabed from the port of Filyos — around 400 kilometres (250 miles) east of Istanbul on the Black Sea coast.

The facility will begin producing 10 million cubic metres of gas daily in a first phase — which Erdogan said is expected to reach 40 million cubic metres daily after other wells go into operation.

Experts say 10 million cubic metres of gas per day would meet around six percent of Turkey's annual consumption which stands at 60 billion cubic metres, delivering a boost for the economy. — AFP

Iran says it forced US sub to the surface in Gulf

This handout photo released on 7 April 2023 by the US Defence Visual Information Distribution Service (DVIDS) shows guided-missile submarine USS Florida (SSGN 728) transiting the Suez Canal en route to the Red Sea. **PHOTO: AFP**

IRAN said on Thursday it had "forced" a US submarine to surface as it was crossing the strategic Strait of Hormuz in the Gulf, a claim the Americans promptly denied.

Admiral Shahram Irani, the commander of Iran's navy, told state TV the USS Florida nuclear submarine was "approaching and passing in complete silence" when it partly entered Iranian waters.

An Iranian submarine then forced it to "surface and cross the strait", he said, adding that Tehran would raise the matter with "international authorities".

In a Twitter statement, the US Navy's Bahrain-based 5th Fleet said the claim was "absolutely false" and "represents more Iranian disinformation".

The "US 5th Fleet continues to operate wherever international law allows", it added. — AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Zelensky asks Mexico to help organize summit with Latin America

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky asked Mexico for its support Thursday to organize a summit with Latin American countries to help end the Russian invasion, in a message to Mexican lawmakers.

"Ukraine has already proposed to the Latin American community to organize a special summit and show its unity and position on important global principles of territorial integrity, peace and respect between peoples," Zelensky said through an interpreter.

Mexico could help to make that happen more quickly, he said in the video address, during which he denounced the Russian invasion of his country. The appeal follows a row over comments by Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who said in China last week that Washington should stop "encouraging" the war, and that the United States and European Union "need to start talking about peace." Lula also angered Ukraine by saying that it shared the blame for the conflict and suggesting it should agree to give up the Crimea peninsula, which Russia forcefully annexed in 2014 in a prelude to its invasion of Ukraine last year.—AFP

Fox CEO Lachlan Murdoch drops 6 January defamation case

FOX Corporation chief executive Lachlan Murdoch on Friday abruptly dropped a high-profile defamation case against an Australian website that accused his family and firm of fuelling the 2021 US Capitol riots.

Lawyers for the Crikey website said that Murdoch — the eldest son of billionaire conservative media mogul Rupert Murdoch — had halted eight months of legal proceedings, days after his company settled a major US libel suit.

Lachlan Murdoch had sued Crikey for coverage that labelled Murdoch's family and their "poisonous" Fox News commentators as "unindicted co-conspirators" in the 6 January post-US-election riots. The articles referenced Fox News's decision to amplify unfounded conspiracy theories that the presidential election, won by Joe Biden, was stolen from the then-incumbent Donald Trump.

Murdoch, with the support of a high-powered legal team, had widely been expected to win the case and saddle the small independent publisher with potentially ruinous legal costs.

His decision to drop the lawsuit came after Fox News agreed to pay $787.5 million to US firm Dominion for falsely claiming their election voting machines were rigged. — AFP

A person walks past the Fox News headquarters at the News Corp. building in New York City on 9 March. **PHOTO: TIMOTHY A. CLARY/AFP**

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Military cooperation in spotlight as S Korea's president heads to US

US soldiers during a field artillery battalion gun raid drill at a military training field in Pocheon on 19 March . **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ JUNG YEON-JE/AFP**

SOUTH Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol heads to Washington Monday, as the allies bolster military cooperation — including with US regional partner Japan — over North Korea's expanding nuclear weapons programme.

Pyongyang has conducted another record-breaking string of sanctions-defying launches this year, including test-firing the country's first solid-fuel ballistic missile this month — a key technical breakthrough for Kim Jong Un's military.

In response, Yoon has pulled South Korea closer to long-standing ally Washington, and even sought to bury the hatchet with former colonial power Japan in a bid to contain North Korea.

But the South Korean president has seen his domestic approval ratings dive, hit hard by public disapproval over his handling of a recent US intelligence leak that appeared to reveal Washington was spying on Seoul.

He is also struggling to reassure the South's increasingly nervous public about the US commitment to so-called extended deterrence, where US assets — including nuclear weapons — serve to prevent attacks on allies. A majority of South Koreans now believe the country should develop its own nuclear weapons, multiple surveys show. Yoon has hinted Seoul could pursue this option. — AFP

Tough at home, steady abroad: Six months of Italy's Meloni

SIX months after taking the helm of Italy's most right-wing government since World War II, Giorgia Meloni has talked tough on domestic issues but not rocked the boat internationally.

Meloni's Brothers of Italy party, which has roots in the post-war Fascist movement, sent shock waves across the European Union when it came top in September elections.

She took office in October at the head of a coalition comprising Matteo Salvini's anti-immigration League and Silvio Berlusconi's right-wing Forza Italia. Within weeks, they introduced laws to tackle mass migration and, after vowing to protect traditional family values, stopped local authorities registering the children of same-sex couples. But Meloni is aware of the need for economic credibility, and despite handing out billions of euros to help Italians manage soaring inflation, and moves to cut taxes, she has committed to reducing Italy's colossal debt and the deficit.

The self-described "Christian mother" has toned down her once-inflammatory rhetoric. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

The self-described "Christian mother" has also toned down her once-inflammatory rhetoric and sought to project stability on the world stage, including strongly supporting Ukraine following Russia's invasion. Commentators say that while she portrayed herself as a radical to win power, she needs to widen her appeal if she wants to stay there.

"She's moved to the centre very, very quickly… to look beyond the radical right electorate," said Daniele Albertazzi, professor of politics at the UK's University of Surrey.

For more moderate Italians, "she's saying, I'm not a monster. I haven't done anything to rock the boat." Meloni's election victory was attributed in part to her appeal as a fresh face, as leader of the only party that stayed out of Mario Draghi's national unity government. — AFP

Police investigating $20 mln gold heist at Toronto airport

CANADIAN police said Thursday they are investigating a heist of more than Can$20 million (US$15 million) in gold and other "high-value" goods being moved through the Toronto airport.

The gold and valuables arrived Monday evening in a container that was offloaded from a plane and securely stored in a cargo holding facility, Peel Regional Police Inspector Stephen Duivesteyn told a news conference. It was reported missing shortly after. — AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

UK Deputy PM Dominic Raab resigns over bullying allegations

UK Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab on Friday resigned in the wake of bullying allegations.

"I am writing to resign from your government, following receipt of the report arising from the inquiry conducted by Adam Tolley KC.

I called for the inquiry and undertook to resign if it made any finding of bullying whatsoever. I believe it is important to keep my word," read Raab's statement.

Allegations surfaced about Raab in November, with former staff claiming he created a "culture of fear" in their departments.

He denied the allegations and requested an investigation into himself after two formal complaints were made.

The DPM and Justice Secretary, Raab was appointed by Rishi Sunak after he took power in October.

"It has been a privilege to serve you as Deputy Prime Minister, Justice Secretary and Lord Chancellor.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work as a Minister in a range of roles and departments since 2015, and pay tribute to the many outstanding civil servants with whom I have worked," he said.

Raab's departure follows Sunak's decision to dismiss Tory party chairman Nadhim Zahawi from his post in January after the former chancellor was found to have broken the ministerial code over his tax affairs. – ANI

Singapore to execute man over 1 kg of cannabis

A Singaporean man is scheduled to be hanged next week for conspiring to smuggle a kilogramme of cannabis, rights groups said, in the city-state's first execution in six months.

Singaporean Tangaraju Suppiah, 46, will be sent to the gallows on Wednesday, according to a notice from the prisons department received by his family and posted on social media by rights activists.

Amnesty International condemned the decision on Friday, calling it "extremely cruel". – AFP

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

SPORT

Myanmar U-22 team's friendly tour to Thailand concludes

Two Myanmar U-22 footballers practising at a training ground in Thailand. **PHOTO:MFF**

THE Myanmar U-22 team took training in Thailand as a preliminary preparation for the 32nd SEA Games, and the training ended on 20 April.

Team Myanmar went to practice in Thailand from 11 to 20 April and played four friendly matches. The Myanmar U-22 team played friendly matches against Thai clubs, winning one and losing three.

Germany's Feichtenbeiner, the head coach of the Myanmar U-22 team, took 26 players on the trip to Thailand. Hein Htet Aung, a winger who plays for the Malaysian club Selangor, will join the Myanmar team just before the SEA Games.

Therefore, the Myanmar U-22 squad is take training with 27 preliminary players, and the final players will be announced soon.

The Myanmar U-22 team started taking training for the SEA Games in the last week of March, and the head coach of the Myanmar national team is jointly managing the U-22 team.

Goalkeepers: Pyae Phyo Thu, Chit Min Htwe, Hein Htet Soe, Defenders: Shin Thant Aung, Kaung Htet Paing, Htoo Myat Khant, Thura Kyaw, Latt Wai Bhone, Kyaw Thiha Zaw, Thet Hein Soe, Nyan Lin Htet, and Naung Naung Soe, Midfielders: Aung Myo Khant, Arkar Kyaw, Yan Kyaw Soe, Zaw Win Thein, Ye Yint Phyo, Soe Min Oo, Khun Kyaw Zin Hein, Swan Htet, Okkar Naing, and Paing Htet Ko Ko, Strikers: Hein Htet Aung, Chit Aye, Nyi Nyi, Aung Thiha and Than Toe Aung are in the preliminary list for the Myanmar U-22. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

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

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

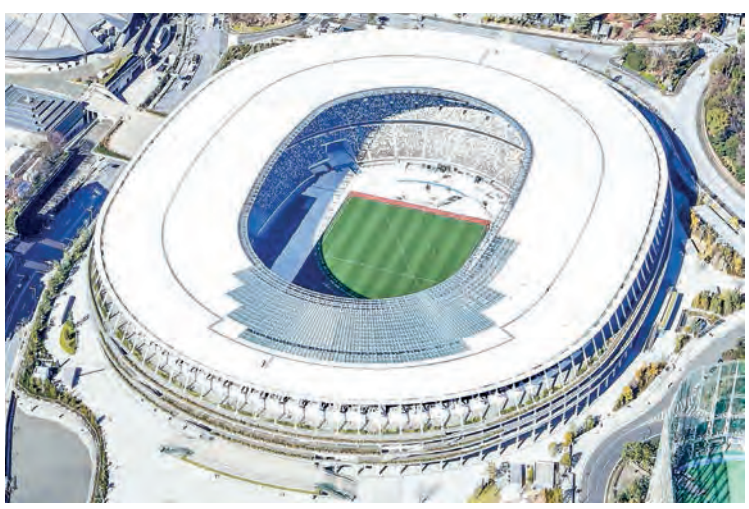
(a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
(b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National people and preserve and safeguard their faiths, beliefs, culture, and characteristics of patriotic nationalism.
(c) To strengthen basic health care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

Ex-chair of Tokyo Olympics sponsor handed suspended jail sentence

THE former chairman of a Tokyo 2020 Olympics sponsor was handed a suspended prison sentence Friday along with two others, in the first convictions in a spiralling bribery scandal surrounding the event.

Corruption allegations have mushroomed in the aftermath of the pandemic-delayed Games, implicating major companies and damaging Japan's bid to host the 2030 Winter Olympics in Sapporo.

Hironori Aoki, the 84-year-old ex-head of high-street business suit retailer Aoki Holdings, received a suspended prison term of two and a half years, a Tokyo District Court spokesman told AFP. Aoki pleaded guilty in December to accusations that he and two colleagues bribed a Tokyo 2020 board member to secure sponsorship rights, according to Japanese media.



The New National Stadium is the centrepiece of Tokyo's Olympic and Paralympic facilities. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/KYODO**

"These criminal acts damaged social trust in the fair operation of the Games, which attracted world attention and were important for the country," judge Kenji Yasunaga said Friday in comments reported by Jiji Press. —AFP

Spurs managing director Paratici resigns after failed appeal against ban

TOTTENHAM'S managing director of football Fabio Paratici resigned on Friday after losing an appeal against a 30-month worldwide ban.

Paratici was handed the suspension by the Italian football federation (FIGC) in January after his former club Juventus were found guilty of false accounting.Initially the ban only applied to his homeland, meaning he was free to continue working at Spurs, who he joined in June 2021.

However, FIFA last month extended the scope of the ban to having worldwide effect, following a request from the Italian federation. On Thursday, Paratici's appeal was dismissed by Italy's highest sports court. "Whilst there continues to be a dispute as to the scope and extent of the ban, the current worldwide ban prevents Fabio from fulfilling his duties as our managing director of football," Tottenham said in a statement.

"Fabio has consequently taken the decision to resign from his position at the club with immediate effect to focus on his legal position in respect of the FIGC and FIFA rulings."Paratici had already stepped back from his role pending the appeal with Scott Munn appointed as Tottenham's new chief football officer earlier this month.—AFP