

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.

Bronze casting industries booming in Mandalay with many orders to cast images

THERE are a large number of customers who place orders for bronze images and portraits in the bronze casting industries in Mandalay, said U Aung Aung Moe, owner of a bronze casting industry from Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region.

At present, those who work with the bronze casting and trading are doing well because there are depositors and buyers.

As for the prices, the prices are set depending on the sizes of the portrait images and the sizes of the cast bronze images.

“There are a large number of customers who place orders related to bronze casting and who place portraits. These days, three feet and 3.5 feet high bronze statues are marketable. Almost every shop is doing well. As for the portraits, the price is based on the sizes. In the case of bronze statues, the price of bronze is rising now, so I am only speaking as an estimated price,” said U Aung Aung Moe.

“The exact price is calculated after buyers have confirmed the order. We will do it with the best craftsmanship and the best bronze to make the customer happy. Since 50 years ago, we have been sustaining the craftsmanship and quality of the images. We will continue to work harder,” he said.



Bronze Buddha images in various sizes seen at a site of bronze casting industry in Mandalay. PHOTO : MAUNG AYE CHAN

In the bronze casting business, the focus is on the portrait work, along with the making of the bronze Buddha images with various hand postures. These bronze statues and portraits are being delivered and sold to the customers from all over Upper and Lower Myanmar areas. It is reported that the bronze casting business is doing well at the moment.—Maung Aye Chan/KZL

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Request to the public

1. THE Ministry of Health is continuously analyzing infection of Covid-19 not only in global countries and neighbouring countries but in Myanmar and is carrying out necessary prevention and control of the pandemic.
2. According to the press release of the World Health Organization on 20 April 2023, infection rate of Covid-19 is rising in Myanmar's neighbouring countries such as India, Thailand, Bangladesh and other regional countries as from January 2023, with infection of variant XBB. 1.16 (Arcturus).
3. It was found that infection of Covid-19 has been slightly increasing in Myanmar from the early April 2023.
4. According to the surveys and monitoring till today, variant XBB. 1.16 of Covid-19 is spreading 1.27 folds quicker than previously found variants but the former does not cause higher violent infection, situation of medical treatment at hospital and dead rate. But, suffering from the variant can be affected by current drugs. The drugs being used in Myanmar are effective over the prevention of the disease. Booster dose of vaccines can reduce infection of the disease, intensification and dead rate.
5. As such, all the people especially the aged and those suffering from chronicle diseases are –
 - (a) to specially take care of receiving Covid-19 vaccine and booster dose,
 - (b) to follow primary ways for prevention of Covid-19 pandemic with social distancing and wearing masks to go to the public places and closed sites,
 - (c) to take necessary treatment by contacting nearby health centres as quickly as possible if suspect symptoms of the pandemic are found,
 - (d) to follow the health protocols released by the Ministry of Health not to spread the virus to others and quarantine themselves at home.

Ministry of Health
23-4-2023

Delegation led by Ex-UNSG Mr Ban Ki-moon arrives in Nay Pyi Taw



Deputy Chairman of the Elders former United Nations Secretary General Mr Ban Ki-moon and party being welcomed by Deputy Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Aung Lin Tun and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Myo Htut at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport on 23 April.

DEPUTY Chairman of the Elders former United Nations Secretary General Mr Ban Ki-moon and party arrived in Nay Pyi Taw by air yesterday evening.

The delegation was welcomed by Deputy Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Aung Lin Tun, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Myo Htut and officials at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.
— MNA/KZL

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

45 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 23 April, total figure registers 634,349

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to 634,349 after 45 new cases were reported on 23 April 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

Therefore, a total of 10,292,280 laboratory samples were examined and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 634,349. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 614,686 including eight new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at 19,490 on 23-4-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic.

The country has vaccinated 30,997,019 people aged 18 and above for COVID-19 vaccines and 6,848,931 people aged under 18 till 22 April 2023.

Status of COVID-19 vaccination (as of 22 April 2023)

People aged 18 and above who received vaccines	30,997,019
People under 18 years old who received vaccines	6,848,931

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 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 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.

Products must be of better quality to attract consumers

- For successful production, efforts must be made to ensure good quality products and modern packaging to attract consumers.
- If products are the same, prices should be cheaper. If prices are the same, products must be of better quality. With these, our goods will be marketable.

(Excerpts from the discussion by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at a meeting with MSME businesspersons of Myeik District held on 5 November 2022)

Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture leaves for PRC to attend ACHA



Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko being seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials on 23 April.

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko left for the People's Republic of China yesterday by air to attend the General Assembly of

the Alliance for Cultural Heritage in Asia (ACHA) which will be held in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province of PRC from 24 to 26 April. The delegation was seen

off by officials from the Embassy of China to Myanmar and Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture at the Yangon International Airport. — MNA/KZL

Reference wholesale price of palm oil published as K4,680 per viss

AS the Committee for the Supervision of the Import and Distribution of Edible Oils under the Ministry of Commerce is working to regulate the domestic palm oil prices in accordance with the global price changes, it publishes the wholesale reference price of palm oil for the domestic market by monitoring the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia daily. The transportation costs, bank expenses and taxes are also taken into consideration.

According to market and price in the world's palm oil exporters this week, the committee has announced the basic Yangon reference wholesale price of palm oil is K4,680 per viss between 24 April and 1 May.

In addition, it has been notified that action will be taken under the Essential Supplies and Service Law if any fraudulent activities are carried out for the purpose of price manipulation in the domestic market.

The basic wholesale quotes are available on the Department of Consumer Affairs website: www.doca.gov.mm and on the Facebook page of the Myanmar Oil Traders and Oil Entrepreneurs Association. — MNA/CT

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Discussion on development of agricultural cooperation between Myanmar-China held

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung received Mr Chen Hai, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, at the Yuzana Guesthouse on Natmauk Street in Yangon yesterday.

At the meeting, they had a friendly and open exchange of views regarding matters such as increasing practical agricultural sector development cooperation that is more beneficial for the peoples of the two countries, agricultural information and technology exchange, upgrading

of agricultural produce, cooperation in improving the quality control of germ-free hygiene in Myanmar, human resource building businesses, quick import and export of perishable vegetables, and direct export of aquatic products from Myanmar to China. — MNA/CT

Union Minister U Min Naung receives Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai at Yuzana Guesthouse in Yangon on 23 April.



MoSWRR provides K30,000 per storm-victim patients at Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000-bed)



UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khaing accompanied by Deputy Minister U Soe Kyi and departmental heads comforted storm-victim patients from TadaU and Aungmyingon villages of Lewe Township at Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000-bed) yesterday morning.

The Union minister and officials presented K30,000 per patient in the vulnerable group comprising pregnant women, older persons above 70 and children under five receiving medical treatments. The cash assistance went to 14 patients through officials of the Ministry of Health and Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000-bed).

Number of storm victims from both villages comprising pregnant women, older persons above 70, children under five and those with disabilities will be collected and the Social Welfare Department under the ministry will further provide K30,000 per person. — MNA/TTA

Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khaing presents K30,000 per storm-victim patient at Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000-bed) through officials on 23 April.

Palin Kanthaya elephant camp receives 655 times of food buffets online amid pandemic

ELEPHANT lovers across the country are feeding the elephants in Palin Kanthaya elephant camp online during the pandemic period, according to the officials from the elephant camp.

The Palin Kanthaya elephant camp is located near the west Palin village beside the Myingyan-Pakokku Road in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region.

“The camp was opened by the Myanmar Timber Enterprise of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. The camp was temporarily shut down on 25 March 2020 due to the COVID-19 outbreak. During the pandemic period, elephant lovers from across the country are buying elephant food buffets online and feeding the elephants. The number of people feeding the elephant buffet increased to 655 times. Some booked online to feed the elephant,” officials added.

There are a total of 22 elephant camps in states and regions. The elephant feeding can be done by contacting the elephant camps’ pages. The buffet includes sugarcane, grass, banana, pumpkin, watermelon, cucumber, mango, coconut and corn and seasonal crops. It costs K30,000 to K50,000 per meal, and K100,000 can be donated for six elephants a day.

Those who would like to donate can contact the assistant manager via phone number: 09 793820532. The elephant camps set up for the development of urban-based tourism are in short supply. Elephants in forest and mountain camps are not difficult to find feedstuffs and water, an official clarified. — Dipar Linn/KZL



Elephants at Palin Kanthaya elephant camp being fed at the camp through contributions of elephant lovers. PHOTO: DIPAR LINN

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

PDF terrorists assassinate Deputy Director General of UEC in Thingangyun Township



Photos show vehicle of U Sai Kyaw Thu and bullets used in shooting him on 22 April.

SO-CALLED PDF terrorists under terrorist groups NUG and CRPH with the aim of deteriorating the administrative mechanism of the government

and causing panic among the people, commit terror acts such as murdering, threat and intimidation and torturing monks and innocent people and civil

servants.
At 2:30 pm on 22 April, U Sai Kyaw Thu, Deputy Director General of the Union Election Commission, residing at 11/B on the first floor of building on Waizayanta Road in Thingangyun Township was shot with twelve rounds of pistol by two terrorists, when he came back to his home after sending his wife to hospital by Honda Odyssey. Then, the two terrorists escaped to the north of Waizayanta Road.
U Sai Kyaw Thu got wounds at his right temple, left neck, right forearm and left ribs with bullet-hits and died on the spot.
The security forces sent the dead body to the Sanpya Hospital in Thingangyun Township. — MNA



Wai Lu Thuta and Thura Aung arrested with narcotic drugs on 19 April.

Narcotic drug worth over K10 bln seized in Mandalay

THE Myanmar Police Force seized narcotic drug and stimulant tablets worth over K10 billion that was carried to evade Kywetatson checkpoint in Thazi Township, Mandalay Region on 19 April 2023.
According to the information from a local, a combine team consisting of Anti-Narcotic Task Force searched a Nissan Cabstar vehicle driven by Wai Lu Thuta accompanied by Thura Aung on the road from Yinmabin village to Taunggwa

Village in Thazi Township on 19 April and seized 6.18 million stimulant tablets, 10 kilos of Ketamine and 4.12 kilos of Happy Water worth over K10 billion. In investigating them, they carried the drug from Shan State (South) to Mandalay Region. An investigation is under way to identify the perpetrators of the crime chain. The suspects were reportedly prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/KZW

Illegal timbers, consumer goods, industrial materials, vehicles seized

AN on-duty team under the supervision of Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized 4,000 kilogrammes of PVC Pipe more carried than in Import Declaration (ID) estimated K10,079,280 and a Dong Feng Tractor Head and a trailer estimated at K55 million at the 16th-mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint on 19 April, totalling estimated value over K65 million and the action was taken under the customs procedures.
Similarly, an on-duty team under the supervision of Shan State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force searched a vehicle, driven from Tachilek to Yangon at Mae Yang combined checkpoint. They nabbed 500 kilogrammes of NK 6253 maize seeds without official documents estimated at K5.5 million and the action was taken under the customs procedures.
In addition, a combined team led by Yangon North District Forest Department carried out inspection at a vehicle near Theikwarchaug village in Taikkyi Township on 20 April. They found 0.997 tonne of ille-



PVC pipes seized at 16th-Mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint on 19 April.

gal timber estimated over K4.9 million and a Toyota Alphard which carried the timber estimated K15 million. And then, officials seized 15.613 tonnes of illegal timbers estimated K2.3 million and a Nissan Diesel Truck, which carried the timbers, estimated at K90 million in Thakayta Township. A total seizure amounted to over K107 million and the action was taken under the Forest Law.
In the same way, an on-duty team under the supervision

of Customs Department carried out inspection at Asia World Container Checkpoint on 21 April. And they found 820 iron cupboards estimated value over K48 million, which are arrived over 61 days before the Import Declaration and the action was taken under the customs procedures.
Next, an on-duty team under the management of Sagaing Region Illegal Trade Task Eradication Task Force served at Kanalu combined

checkpoint in Sagaing on 21 April and they found 4.34 tonnes of illegal teak estimated value at K6.5 million and the action was taken under the Forest Law. And then, a team from Monywa Myoma Police Station carried out searching near the Tamatan traffic lights in Monywa on 22 April. They seized a Toyota Alphard without licence estimated value at K5.5 million. And, a team from Kalay Myoma Police Station nabbed New Royal 125 motorcycle without licence estimated value K200,000 at Kalay totalling estimated value over K12 million and the action was taken under the Export and

Import Law.
Finally, combined teams led by Bago Region Forest Department seized 46.28 tonnes of illegal timber estimated over K1.4 million in Thayawady District on 21 April and 5.487 tonnes of illegal timbers estimated value over K2.3 million in Toungoo District on 22 April, totalling estimated value over K3.8 million and the action was taken under the Forest Law.
Therefore, 13 arrests at an estimated value of K242,694,112 were made from 19 to 22 April, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee.—MNA/KZW



Officials seize illegal timber.

CURRENT
AFFAIRS

Myanmar citizens in Chiang Mai
need to submit endorsements from
local authorities to renew passports



Myanmar citizens are waiting for renewing their passports at the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok in January 2023.

THE Consulate-General of Myanmar issued an announcement on 17 April that those arriving in Chiang Mai must submit

endorsements from the police stations and ward authorities in their residences in order to renew their visiting passports

and educational passports.

In order to renew these two types of passports, letters of recommendation from relevant township police stations and ward authorities, a letter from a gazetted officer, endorsement from both parents, detailing activities while abroad, and school recommendation of being a student are needed.

After having been verified the submitted evidences, it is necessary to continue to submit it to the relevant authorities to obtain approval and the passport needs to be valid for around 6 months.

The Consulate-General of Myanmar also informed them about not making pressured requests to show up when their passports and visas are about to expire.—TWA/KZL

Action to be taken if operation
is detected during power
restricted time

THE Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation has issued a request to businesses and industries in wards and villages that consume electricity in the set public groups in Yangon Region not to operate with electricity of YESC during the restricted time from 5 pm to 5 am from 23 April.

During this limited time, the electricity distributed YESC and the operation of the meter will be photographed and recorded.

If it is found that the violation has been committed, action will be taken against offenders according to the administrative method.

During this summer, the Yangon Electric Power Corporation has announced that emergency load reduction and alternate load reduction are required to dis-



Electric cables connected to the lamp-post.

tribute power in order to avoid power outages in the national grid network due to high temperature day and night, power consumption increases, annual maintenance and repair of generators, and power generation, transmission, and consumption imbalances, and because of the 230 KV and 132 KV Lawpita national grid towers were repeatedly blown up and there is a decrease in the power produced and transmitted from the generator-1, 2 and 3 on Bilu Creek.—TWA/KZL

Potatoes from Sinbyukyun enters Yangon market at cheap prices

ACCORDING to the Yangon potato market, potatoes from Sinbyukyun area have only entered the Yangon potato market for about three months, and the price was low.

It is learnt that Sinbyukyun potatoes have entered the Yangon market since 9 February 2023, except April before the Thingyan holidays.

While potatoes from the Sinbyukyun area dominate the domestic potato market for about three months, only Shan potatoes such as Heho (black) and Aungban (yellow) are primarily arriving at the market during the rest of the period. Other varieties of potatoes and imported potatoes also enter the market occasionally.

Chinese potatoes enter the market more often and are more

expensive than domestic ones, depending on the time of year. Potatoes from India sometimes enter the Yangon market, but the prices are low and less popular with buyers.

On 14 October 2022, the wholesale price of Shan Aungban potatoes and Chinese potatoes were K2,200 and K2,400 per viss. It is reported that the price of potatoes in the domestic potato market did not increase despite the arrival of kitchen goods, including onions and potatoes, from abroad.

In 2022, the price of onions was much higher than the normal price due to their export. While the price of onions rose to around K5,000 per viss in early December 2022, domestic potato prices were only K2,200 in 2022, but Chinese potatoes were at



A worker is sorting out the potatoes in Pakokku market.

K2,500.

In early 2023, when the Sinbyukyun potatoes entered the market, the wholesale price of large-sized potatoes (S1) was

K1,900 per viss, and the largest-sized potatoes (S2 and S3) were priced at K1,300 per viss.

In the local kitchen goods market, most of the hoarders

of onions, garlic, pepper, sugar, rice, and oil made a lot of profit, but the profit in the potato market was still low, a trader said.—TWA/CT

Write for us

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

LOCAL BUSINESS

Sagaing Region approves K8.24 billion for four Myanmar citizens' investments

THE Investment Committee of Sagaing Region hosted its 4/2023 meeting at the meeting hall of region government office on 21 April.

First, Committee Chairman Region Chief Minister U Myat Kyaw said the committee approved four Myanmar citizens' investments amounting to K8.24 billion in 2022-2023 FY and it created 339 job opportunities. It also supervised 46 companies and extended the construction period of 20 enterprises that cannot run properly after seeking the approvals.

He also talked about the

broadcasting of assembly and distribution of Maha Nilar two/three wheeled motorcycles via the website of investment committee, YouTube and Facebook page and the needs to work together to lure the investment in industry, agriculture, livestock and service sectors of the region.

Then, Director Daw May Myo Zaw of region Directorate of Investment and Company Administration briefed the meeting on the completed work processes and field studies conducted in March and other attendees participated in the discussion.—Region IPRD/KTZH



Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Myat Kyaw speaking at meeting of Region Investment Committee on 21 April.

Post Thingyan: Reasonable prices of tomatoes in Mandalay green market benefit consumers



Quality tomatoes seen at the market in Mandalay. **PHOTOS MIN HTET AUNG**

AT the end of the Maha Thingyan period, tomatoes are pouring into the Mandalay Thiri Marlar vegetable wholesale market, and the prices dropped to a half of what they were before the Thingyan period, according to the owners of depots in Mandalay.

In the green market, tomatoes from the Inlay area rose to

K45,000 per 18-viss box before Thingyan, and currently the prices are ranging between K37,000 and K40,000. The price of tomatoes from the Nawnghkio area is only K22,000 and 25,000 per box. In addition, foreign tomatoes that used to sell for up to K2,000 per viss before Thingyan are now traded between K1,000 and K1,300.

“Tomatoes from Nawnghkio and PyinOoLwin regions, and tomatoes from the southern regions of Shan State, such as Ywangan and Inlay areas, entered the Mandalay vegetable wholesale market earlier than in previous years, resulting in price competition and a decrease in prices. Consumers are also

at ease. As tomatoes from the plains are entering the market, as well as from the hilly regions, there are many items for sale at the green market. There may be a price change in May,” said U Aung Moe Naing, owner of the Aung Depot in Mandalay.

Tomatoes are currently entering the Mandalay market on a daily basis, and the transactions have been good so far. In addition to tomatoes, the rest of the green crops, such as cauliflower, cabbage, French beans, Chinese cabbage, eggplant, chayote, potato, and onion, are also trading well, as usual.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/CT

Mustard seed fetching higher prices marketable in Mandalay

AFTER Thingyan period, the mustard seeds from Kachin State, northern Shan State, Kalay, Kalewa, Bhamo, Katha, Nawnghkio, Hsipaw and Kyaukme flowing into Mandalay fetch good prices, and the transactions are soaring in Mandalay market, according to Mandalay bean merchants.

Although the mustard seeds were priced at only K3,200 per viss in the same period of last year, it is now K5,100 per viss and the transactions are good, said U Soe Win Myint, owner of Soe Win Myint Wholesale Centre in Mandalay.

"The mustard seeds in the market after the Thingyan period fetch higher prices compared to the same period of last year. There are two kinds of mustards for consumption

and oil production. The mustard for oil production is grown just in one season as winter crop. It starts growing in November and enters the market in January. It is a marketable crop. It is exported to India and Bangladesh yearly. Currently, there is demand from India. Therefore, the mustard farmers should expand sown acreage. It is more productive in hilly regions. The mustard for consumption can be grown in every region," he said.

The edible crop, mustard is mainly grown in northern and southern Shan State, Kachin State, Kayah State and upper Sagaing Region, and the mustard seeds from these regions are resold through Mandalay market. —Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/KTZH



Mustard seeds put on display in Mandalay market recently. **PHOTO : MIN HTET AUNG**

Polish own images to fresh the society

HUMANS are different in facial and physical features as well as concepts, attitudes and mindsets as a nature of the living world. Those who culture good morale and white souls have higher living standards in their lives. Even though their living standard is not high, their mental situation can be strong. On the other hand, those grasping bad minds and bad manners can possess lower living standards without free happiness even though they live with high living standards.

If so, everybody can take a lesson from the aforesaid proposal that only when anyone forges good morale will they enjoy the fruits of their good deeds. As such, everybody wishing to possess good results should choose the options they like to build their lives.

The mind can change from one to another in a short period. Hence, such a mind can bring various changes from good situations to bad and from bad situations to good ones in a minute. So, the Lord Buddha preached that the mind can change crores of crores events in a short time.

Moreover, physical situations are based on changes of mind. As such, everybody needs to analyze their minds continuously and control them not to bring any bad manners. If so, their physical and facial features will be clean and pleasant.

Those who give a helping hand to others sympathize with others, keep morals with delightedness at others' successes and do not have any conceit will have many good friends and will be clean in faces and minds. In fact, everybody needs to culture dispersing of compassion for all without discrimination against any others.

Those who commit bad manners against others, discredit others' images and destroy or disturb the businesses of others will surely face similar impacts on their lives with sufferings and plights based on varieties of frets. Consequently, they will suffer from ageing in physical structures and mental problems.

The secular world admits both the persons bearing good and bad mental attitudes and physical features, some of them do not have both good things but possess one good thing. Likewise, some of them occupy both bad things with an eagerness to make trouble for others. Actually, mental whiteness is more important than physical ones. Only when the persons polish their mindsets will be deserved to possess blessings of the Universe.

Naturally, everybody makes up themselves to have youthfulness. So also, they have to polish their mindset to be better. Only when the persons can possess both physical and mental goodness will they have the capacity to fresh their lives.

What Will Happen to a Teacher of All School Subjects

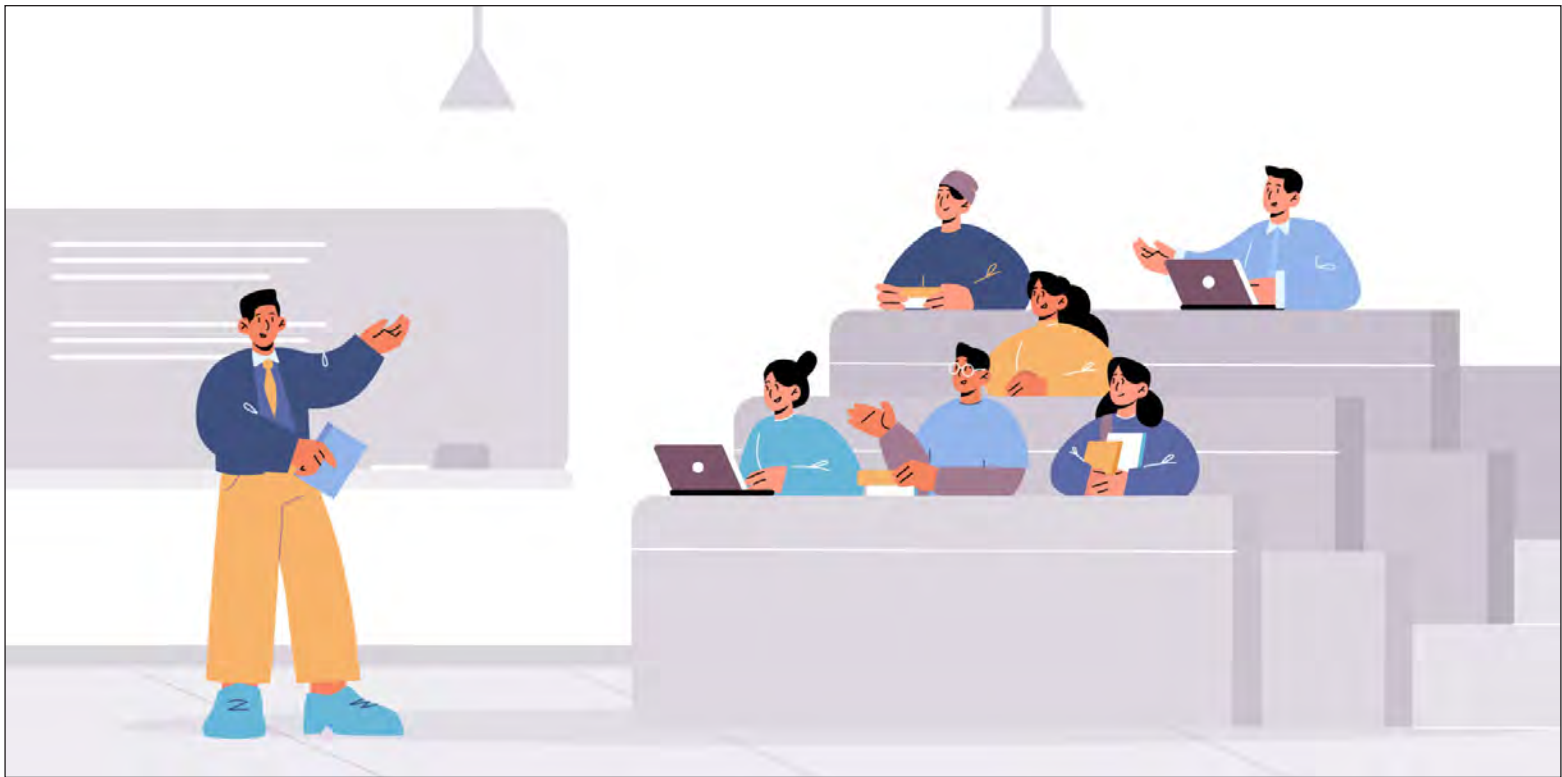
By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

HONESTLY speaking, I have scraped a living from part-time tutoring for over a decade. I have also taught almost all school subjects to students of basic education as a part-time teacher. Now and then, a challenging question is arising in the world of education: is it possible or not for a teacher to instruct all school subjects by himself? Apparently, most people from the educational field cannot accept that only one teacher will be able to do every school subject all by himself. As we all probably know, the three educational subjects – Educational Theory, Educational Psychology, and Methodology – must be studied in our country's universities of education as major subjects by future teachers and so must just any three academic subjects in accordance with their respective subject volumes that were learnt for the matriculation examination, for example, ELT, Physics, and Biology, as special subjects. Of course, whatever kind of teacher anyone is, there may be possible reasons for a teacher instructing all school subjects, maybe including the inadequate number of teachers, no teachers under necessary and desired instructions to subjects, and teachers' very potential wish to be a mine of information or an all-rounder on each school subject. Surely enough, an all-subject teacher will face a variety of difficulties, challenges, strengths and weaknesses throughout his whole teaching process, more or less.

A teacher of all school subjects will have to study all the subject matter from them for certain. Here, he could have managed to learn all the textbooks by heart, involving how to solve mathematical problems, after a few years of teaching experience. Nevertheless, it is truly difficult to say that a teacher alone will be able to know each and every school subject inside out. For instance, even an English teacher cannot master all four language skills professionally or personally for sure. In my experience, a teacher who has got a great command of language writing is usually found not as fluent in speaking as most have expected. Despite the fact that the teacher has the fluency

and accuracy of all linguistic skills, his proficiency in a language tends to lie merely at an approximately equalized level of language achievement in all skills, and he rarely excels at those skills to such an extent that he is likely to be an authority on language. Also, in the sections of writing, the majority of authors are proficient only in a genre of written forms, viz. poetry, prose, and drama. Mathematically speaking from the point of view of academic qualifications, it is probable that the learning depth of subject knowledge will be inversely proportional to its study breadth. What I mean is that a teacher who is studying and teaching all school subjects is often capable to get generalized meanings as regards these school subjects, but probably not their specific meanings, that is, theoretical concepts or down-to-earth approaches to all. In other words, it is virtually impossible for an all-subject teacher to hold a grasp of a deep teaching process.

There is the most distinctive role in a teacher's art of instruction. This is nothing but his teaching style. As always, any teaching style consists of teaching methods and lesson plans as and when necessary. Before the teaching process, a teacher had better think about the subject nature, teaching techniques appropriate to the subject, and instructional materials as best he can. In the main, subjects are categorized as art subjects like English or Myanmar, and science subjects such as Physics or Mathematics. As far as I am aware, traditional teaching methods might be suitable for art subjects seeing that these subjects are founded on ideas, opinions, or thoughts and commonly call for so much book reading only; however, science subjects will certainly require modern teaching methods in that those subjects are primarily based on practicals and need a large number of tests or experiments in particular. Whether in art or science subjects, teaching aids would cost more and more to his heart's content. And an all-subject teacher, as usual, is busy drawing effective and efficient lesson plans. Without lesson plans, teaching is liable to look blind. But perhaps it is all right for a teacher to make



There is the most distinctive role in a teacher's art of instruction. This is nothing but his teaching style. PHOTO: ILLUSTRATION: FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/FREEPIK

lesson plans for every subject. An English teacher may do well in instructing Myanmar simply because these two subjects are related languages. So may a Maths teacher lecturing Physics since Mathematics is the language of Physics, as the saying goes. Nonetheless, art subjects and science subjects are definitely worlds apart in terms of their subject nature itself. It is scarcely surprising that a teacher is an expert on both art and science subjects, too.

Typically, deep learning necessitates memorization, conceptualization, practice, and repetition. Since learning and teaching often go together, time plays a tremendous part in performing those necessities. Not only learning but also teaching takes so much time that these processes will have to be carried out effectively and efficiently, whereas for a teacher of all-grade subjects, teaching all school subjects on the same day, or teaching a single subject throughout the whole day, or teaching more than the time allowed when students can turn the other cheek, in which child attention period is frequently no more than 15 minutes, or teaching two different subjects during the same time is out of the question by any means. Those teaching modes may drive students bored, lazy or

even aggressive towards teachers. Besides, experienced teachers like to spend adequate time giving students homework, projects, or term papers, and checking their exercises, sometimes with written tests, oral tests or practical tests as summative assessments. Enough practice and frequent repetition should contribute to the very learning, actually. Clearly, I expect that many teachers of all-grade subjects will have difficulty finding time for students' repetition and practice when absolutely necessary for the simple reason that they cannot do teaching over the maximum time of eight hours a day for love or money.

Teachers always ought to take good care of their competency skills whether they are getting higher or lower. Naturally, teacher competency skills comprise re-teaching previous lessons to students, additional teaching of external knowledge apart from textbooks, joining co-curricular or extra-curricular activities, attending courses, workshops, or seminars, going for excursions, and extended reading. Without these mentioned tasks, the teacher's competency skills are constantly declining consciously or unconsciously. Even worse, a teacher believes in himself under the illusion that his teaching meth-

ods have been wholly satisfactory, flawless, and enough for himself and his students, not noticing the fact that nothing is perfect. On the whole, time is the life of the above-mentioned tasks. If an all-grade-subject teacher cannot manage his own business on time or in time, he will necessarily face work overload and backlogs in his preparation for lessons and students' exercises before, while or after teaching as well as all his efforts on teaching may end up in failure among the colourful worlds of teaching sooner or later. Lower teacher competency skills lead to poor student achievement results in school lessons quite regularly. Moreover, most teachers feel able to find out their private personalities, mentalities, enjoyment, happiness, and job satisfaction only from a few of their favourite teaching subjects.

Speaking as my handy tips for teachers-to-be, it is best if they teach the one subject that they really concentrate on learning for their professional development, or that they will always be very patient with teaching, or that they can have a passion for sharing with students, taking up sufficient time for subject-related study as they like. Next, the teacher will be able to impart enough study and quality education to students on

condition that he must have been more knowledgeable about his responsible curriculums than them.

The pros and cons of all-subject teaching notwithstanding, a teacher should have had general knowledge about anything regarding education such as entrance examinations and scholarship opportunities, words of humour or anecdotes included. A teacher's sense of humour, sweet talk, good voice, and eloquence may be the key points to the effectiveness of all his instruction, particularly language teaching. Most importantly, a teacher to the core can manage a learned subject into an applied one in real-life situations. Finally, it is strongly advised that inexperienced little teachers refrain from teaching every school subject if at all possible. If and when the teachers must do so, all the subjects in their charge should have been well prepared systematically before the class. And again, care has to be taken that some students themselves are not interested in some subjects at all, especially mathematics. A teacher of all subjects would have done all the subject matter in curriculums for an academic year, but ten-to-one students' authentic achievement in the subjects will provide plenty of food for thought, I should think.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 23 April 2023)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 25 April 2023: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin and Kayin states, scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi regions and Shan and Chin states and isolated in the remaining regions and states. Degree of certainty is (80%).

The Condition of Cumulonimbus Cloud: The development of Cumulonimbus clouds over the Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Taninthayi Regions and Shan, Kayin, Mon States. Along the area where the Cumulonimbus clouds move, strong winds and rain accompanied the rain, thunder, lightning weather phenomena such as lightning and hail may occur, so it is recommended to be aware in advance.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4 - 6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 April 2023: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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China unveils plan for protection of aquatic ecosystems

CHINA has released a plan for the preservation of aquatic ecosystems in the country's major river basins.

The country aims to see a continued decline in its total discharge of main water pollutants by 2025, along with the persistent improvement of its aquatic ecosystems, according to the plan, which was jointly issued by state organs including the Ministry of Ecology and Environment and the National Development and Reform Commission.

By 2035, a "fundamental improvement" will be seen in the country's aquatic ecosystems, and such ecosystems will

function in a "virtuous circle," the plan says.

It singles out seven major river basins as key protected regions, including the Yellow River basin and the Yangtze River basin.

China has made solid progress in legislating and revising laws governing the protection of aquatic ecosystems in recent years, with the Yangtze River Protection Law and the Water Pollution Prevention and Control Law being exemplary cases.

The Yellow River Protection Law, China's second piece of legislation on a specific river basin, came into effect at the beginning of this month. —Xinhua



This aerial photo taken on 29 May 2020 shows the view of Qutang Gorge, one of the Three Gorges on the Yangtze River, in Southwest China's Chongqing. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CERN takes first small steps towards giant particle accelerator



The control centre at the European Organization for the Future Circular Collider (FCC) particle smasher in Geneva. **PHOTO: AFP**

EUROPE'S CERN laboratory has taken its first steps towards building a huge new particle accelerator that would eclipse its

Large Hadron Collider — and hopes to see light at the end of the tunnel. The Future Circular Col-

lider (FCC) particle smasher would be more than triple the length of the LHC, already the world's largest and most powerful particle collider, constructed in the hope of revealing secrets about how the universe works.

The FCC would form a new circular tunnel under France and Switzerland, 91 kilometres (56.5 miles) long and about five metres (16 feet) in diameter.

"The goal of the FCC is to push the energy and intensity frontiers of particle colliders, with the aim of reaching collision energies of 100 tera electron volts, in the search for new physics," CERN says. — AFP

Thousands rally outside UK parliament in biodiversity protest

THOUSANDS of protesters descended on Britain's parliament Saturday as part of a four-day campaign designed to "highlight the environmental failures" of government. Environmental group Extinction Rebellion (XR) kicked off the event on Friday, promising less disruption and more inclusion than the blockades that became its trademark.

The group says thousands of people protested outside government departments in London on

Friday "to highlight the environmental and social failures across them all," according to XR.

Saturday's protest focused on nature and biodiversity, and started from Westminster Abbey with attendees, many of them children, wearing animal costumes and masks.

"It's an emergency. Everybody needs to pull together so the future generations can enjoy our beautiful planet," said 47-year-old Jenny O'Hara Jakeway, who

made the six-hour journey from Wales with her two children.

"I should protest more but my life is work and family. Being passive is not an option anymore because of the urgency of the situation," she told AFP.

Many had made banners for the occasion, with one reading: "We defend the climate but police arrest us" and another "Extinction is forever". Others warned that a third of UK birds were "at risk of extinction". — AFP

Thousands protest planned motorway in France

THOUSANDS of protesters marched Saturday in southern France to denounce plans to build a new highway they say will pollute, add to global warming and threaten biodiversity.

The demonstration in the Tarn region against the proposed A69 motorway drew in 8,200 protesters according to organisers; 4,500 according to the local authority.

They marched under intermittent rain along the route of the proposed highway which would link the southern cities of Toulouse and Castres, carrying placards that read "Less energy, fewer cars and less tarmac" and other green messages.

Julien Bayou, a lawmaker from the Europe Ecology

Greens party (EELV), said the planned highway was "anachronistic".

Sandrine Rousseau, another Greens MP, said the project dated back to the 1990s when the thinking was that one could only travel by cars and on highways.

"There is really no need of another motorway," she said.

Others said the 53-kilometre (30-mile) highway would lead to a loss of farm land and endanger biodiversity.

Last month, protests against planned water storage facilities in another southern region led to clashes between demonstrators and police in which three people were seriously wounded. — AFP



Thousands of protesters marched on Saturday in southern France to denounce plans to build a new motorway they say will pollute, add to global warming and threaten biodiversity. **PHOTO: LIONEL BONAVENTURE/ AFP**

HEALTH/WELLNESS: WORLD

Americans seek cheaper dentistry in Mexico's 'Molar City'



Dr. Miguel Herrera installs dental implants for an American patient at the Rubio Dental Group offices Algodones, Mexico. **PHOTO: AFP**

HUNDREDS of thousands of Americans travel across the Mexican border every year to the tiny town of Los Algodones, in search not of sun and sand, but root canals and veneers.

Around 600 dentists cram the four main streets of the town, offering procedures at just a fraction of the cost in the United States.

"It's the highest concentration of dentists per square kilometer in the world," jokes one of the men jostling for customers near the border checkpoint.

Los Algodones is better known to Americans as "Molar City," a nickname that spread by

word of mouth long before the internet made shopping around for healthcare easier.

The town long ago embraced the moniker, and now operates a website — molarcity.org — to help potential patients choose doctors and resolve travel logistics.

Competition is fierce, with colorful signs hanging off every balcony, flyers advertising discounts for whitening, extractions and implants.

Despite so many dentists, there is still plenty of demand to go around.

During its November to April high season, Molar City's

7,000 population almost doubles with day-tripping Americans.

Even in the sweltering summer months, around 2,000 people come daily from US border states like California, Arizona or New Mexico.

The cost of a Tesla

A look at any dentist's price list reveals just why the place is so popular.

"In California my dentist wanted to put the equivalent of a Tesla in my mouth," quips Rene, a 65-year-old from California whose first visit to Molar City is for four implants. — AFP

US Supreme Court preserves access to abortion pill

THE US Supreme Court on Friday temporarily preserved access to a widely used abortion pill, freezing rulings by lower courts that would have banned or severely restricted availability of the drug.

Two conservative justices disagreed with the decision in the most significant abortion case to reach the nine-member court since it overturned the constitutional right to the procedure 10 months ago.

Without commenting on the merits of the case, the decision by the nation's highest court means that mifepristone, which accounts for more than half of the abortions in the United States, will remain available while the case plays out in an appeals court.

The Justice Department of President Joe Biden had filed an emergency appeal asking the Supreme Court to block the lower court rulings that would have banned or limited use of mifepristone.

The case stems from a ruling by a US District Court judge in Texas, in a lawsuit brought by anti-abortion groups, that would have banned mifepristone, which was approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2000.

An appeals court blocked a ban on the pill, but imposed tough restrictions on access, after which the baton was handed to the Supreme Court, where conservatives wield a 6-3 majority. — AFP



Protesters gather during a rally for women's rights in Foley Square in New York City. **PHOTO: JEENAH MOON/AFP**

Green atmosphere in early childhood does not protect against eczema

GREENERY around the home in early childhood does not appear to protect children against atopic eczema, according to a recent Finnish study. Instead, proximity to coniferous, mixed, and agricultural areas was linked to an increased risk of eczema.

The effect was most noticeable in youngsters born in the spring. "General greenness around the home did not protect children against eczema, which was contrary to our expectations and to the hypothesised allergy protective effect of nature contacts. Eczema is, however, only one of the allergic diseases in children, albeit generally the first to emerge," says MD Minna Lukkarinen, a paediatric spe-



A child wearing face mask runs in a park in Seville on 26 April 2020. **PHOTO: CRISTINA QUICLER/FILE**

cialist from the FinnBrain Birth Cohort Study at the University of Turku, Finland.

Atopic eczema occurs in 20-30 per cent of children. It breaks out most frequently in the early childhood and is often associated with food allergies and the

development of asthma and allergic rhinitis at a later age. It is thought that urbanisation and reduced biodiversity increase the risk of allergic diseases, but previous research findings on the topic are contradictory. — ANI

Heart injury biomarker might help COVID-19 patients avoid hospitalization: Study

ACCORDING to a study done by the University of St Andrews, a commonly used medical test for heart injury may one day be used to help COVID-19 patients avoid hospitalisation.

Cardiac troponins are proteins that form part of the heart's contractile machinery and are released into the bloodstream when the heart is damaged. It can be measured in a blood test which is widely used in the assessment of heart attacks and other heart conditions.

Existing studies since 2020 have shown that COVID-19 patients who have ele-

vated troponin levels are more likely to die or suffer adverse clinical outcomes compared with those who have normal troponin levels.

However, despite this evidence, cardiac troponins are still not used in clinical practice to directly risk assess COVID-19 patients and this new paper, led by the University's Dr Alexander Liu and supervised by Dr Robert Hammond, Professor Peter Donnelly and Professor Anthony Coates, investigates the diagnostic properties of cardiac troponin and its potential to be used in mainstream clinical practice. — ANI

ECONOMY WORLD

Canada pledges Can\$13.2 bn subsidies for VW battery plant

CANADIAN Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced Friday up to 13.2 billion Canadian dollars (\$9.8 billion) in subsidies over 10 years for Volkswagen's first overseas battery plant, to be built in St. Thomas, Ontario.

The production support matches incentives by US President Joe Biden's administration, as Washington's trading partners work to keep up with subsidies under the ambitious Inflation Reduction Act amid anxieties surrounding it.



Canada is luring Volkswagen with a multi-billion subsidy to build its first overseas EV battery plant in this country. Pictured is its new ID Buzz, the electrified EV incarnate of its classic Microbus, unveiled in March 2022 in Austin, Texas. **PHOTO: ROGER KISBY / AFP**

Already, European leaders fear EU-based companies could move to the US due to benefits from the act — which funnels some \$370 billion into subsidies for the United States' energy transition.

"With this historic project, we're not just bringing back manufacturing, we're bringing back a strong thriving economy for this community, and we're delivering a national anchor for Canada's electric vehicle supply chain," Trudeau told a news conference

on Friday.

He called the funding "a generational investment" in a new plant that is expected to generate about Can\$200 billion in value. Volkswagen, which announced in March plans to build the plant in St. Thomas, is investing Can\$7 billion in the 370-acre facility — about the size of nearly 400 football fields — which, according to a statement from Trudeau's office is "the largest electric vehicle-related investment in Canadian history." — AFP

Jack Ma accepts university teaching post in Hong Kong



Alibaba founder Jack Ma speaks during the welcoming ceremony of Gateway '17, a conference held by Alibaba, in Detroit, the United States, 20 June 2017. **PHOTO: WANG PING/XINHUA/FILE**

JACK Ma, founder of Chinese tech giant Alibaba, has been made an honorary professor of business at a top Hong Kong university, the school announced

Friday.

The appointment comes weeks after the billionaire made a rare public appearance in China following his fall from grace

during a government crackdown on the tech industry over two years ago.

Ma has kept a low profile since late 2020, when a speech he made attacking Chinese regulators was followed by Beijing pulling the plug on a planned IPO by Alibaba affiliate Ant Group.

A record fine of \$2.75 billion was later imposed on Alibaba for alleged unfair business practices.

The University of Hong Kong on Friday said Ma had accepted an honorary professorship from its business school.

A spokesperson for the institution said it welcomed Ma sharing "his rich knowledge and experience in business innovation and development". — AFP

US inflation now 'broad-based,' top Fed official says

INFLATION in the United States has become "broad-based," a top Federal Reserve official said Friday, suggesting the US central bank's fight against price rises through interest rate hikes has some road left to run.

The Fed has raised its benchmark lending rate nine times in a row since March last year to tackle inflation, which remains well above its long-term target of two percent.

Several senior Fed officials have suggested in recent weeks that interest rates may need to increase further, and remain high, to control

inflation.

Overall inflation, and other underlying measures of consumer price increases, remained high, Fed governor Lisa Cook said in prepared remarks in Washington on Friday.

"All of these measures have come off their peaks but remain elevated, suggesting that inflation has become broad-based in the economy," said Cook, who is a member of the Fed's 12-person rate-setting committee.

Cook said the path back to stable inflation "could be long and is likely to be uneven and bumpy." — AFP

A real gem: in Bahrain, only natural pearls will do

CUSTOMERS at a Bahrain jewellery store study displays of pearls that are, unusually, 100 per cent natural — the result of attempts to preserve a centuries-old industry.

While rare elsewhere, natural pearls prised from seabed oysters by divers are the only variety produced in the Gulf kingdom, which is fiercely proud of its pearling tradition.

Bahrain, a tiny island state neighbouring Qatar, is the sole country worldwide to have banned the cultivation of artificial pearls, which have flooded the market since the 1920s.

"We can't mass-produce," said Faten Mattar, who works

at the family-run jewellery shop.

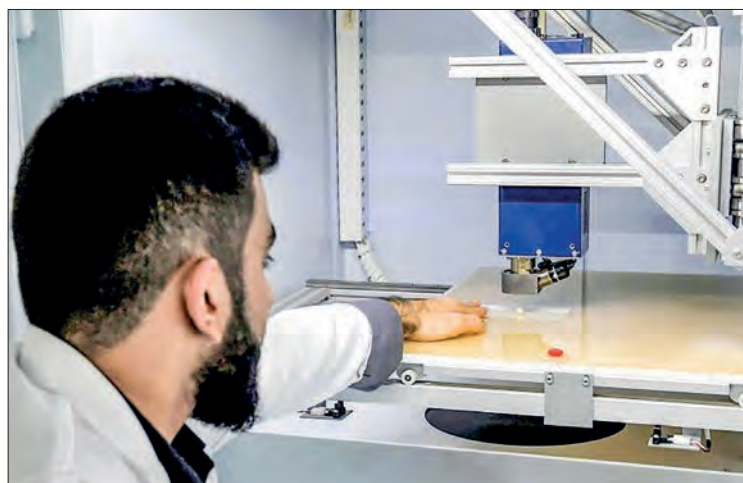
It can take up to five years to complete one strand of a necklace by sourcing pearls directly from divers, she said, admitting it is "a challenge".

And larger pieces, which can go for up to \$25,000, might take more than a decade to complete.

But with no two natural pearls identical, Mattar said that was part of the appeal.

"Each person... who owns or gets a piece of jewellery that contains natural pearls knows no one else has the same."

Mattar is one of the first women to work in a family business which was established more than two centuries ago,



Gemologists in Manama look for 'growth lines' that distinguish natural pearls from cultured ones. **PHOTO: AFP**

making it one of the oldest in Bahrain.

Pearls adorn bracelets,

necklaces, cufflinks and other items in the small store.

"One of our goals... is to

make pearls more attainable for everyone, so we created different lines instead of having just big pieces," she explained, mentioning designs for men and "daily jewellery for a younger crowd".

Cultured 'shock'

Like other Arab Gulf states, Bahrain's economy before the discovery of oil had relied on pearl harvesting.

Bahraini free-divers would spend months aboard traditional dhows, the wooden sailboats that have plied Gulf waters for centuries, to capture pearls prized by the region's royal families as well as European fashion houses. — AFP

Japan eyes shift to “quality” experiences as inbound tourism recovers

JAPAN’S planned end of existing COVID-19 border control measures early next month is fueling hopes for a further recovery in inbound tourists to pre-pandemic levels and beyond.

The country is set to change its legal classification of the coronavirus and start treating it the same as the seasonal flu on 8 May. Incoming travelers will no longer be required to show proof that they have been vaccinated at least three times or present a negative test result.

Inbound tourism had already become an inte-



Tourists swamp Tokyo’s Asakusa district, a popular spot filled with shops and eateries, on 13 March 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

gral part of Japan’s economy prior to the imposition of COVID restrictions and its revival will likely be a welcome boost. The government has set a target for spending per visitor of 200,000 yen (\$1,490) in 2025,

up from the pre-pandemic figure of about 160,000 yen. It also wants to encourage foreign visitors to spend more time in the countryside on trips. They spent only a night or so on average in 2019. — Kyodo

Manufacturers hope for AI boost in factories



Manufacturers see potential for artificial intelligence in the sector. **PHOTO: AFP**

MANUFACTURERS are hoping for the artificial intelligence revolution to reach their factories, envis-

aging robots being used to repair complex machinery. There has been an explosion of interest in uses

of AI across many sectors since the launch last year of chatbot ChatGPT from US startup OpenAI.

And at last week’s Hanover Fair on industrial technology in Germany, the potential for artificial intelligence in the manufacturing sector was firmly in focus.

Via the tablet in his hands, a young employee of American IT services provider HPE chatted with an AI-equipped virtual assistant, asking it to operate the arm of a robot. — AFP

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (3/2023-2024)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(1)	DMP/L-062(23-24)CAP	Seismic Interpretation and Processing Workstation & X-Teminal (3) Items	Ks
(2)	DMP/L-063(23-24)CAP	Seismic Acquisition Instruments & Accessories (3) Items	Ks
(3)	DMP/L-064(23-24)CAP	Assorted Sizes of Ball Valve and Pipe Fitting (2) Groups	Ks
(4)	DMP/L-065(23-24)CAP	Heat Shrinkable Sleeve and Closure Patches (7) Items	Ks
(5)	DMP/L-066(23-24)CAP	Welding Electrode (4) Items	Ks
(6)	DMP/L-067(23-24)CAP	Shale Shaker Unit, Desilter Unit, Degaser Unit and Desander Unit (4) Items	Ks
(7)	DMP/L-068(23-24)CAP	Skid Mounted Crude Transfer Pump with Motor (4) Items	Ks
(8)	DMP/L-069(23-24)CAP	Skid Mounted Water Transfer Pump with Engine (7) Items	Ks
(9)	DMP/L-070(23-24)CAP	Skid Mounted Water Transfer Pump with Motor (3) Items	Ks
(10)	DMP/L-071(23-24)CAP	Spare Parts for L-Type Compressor (1) Lot	Ks
(11)	DMP/L-072(23-24)CAP	Spare Parts for ZW-Type Compressor (1) Lot	Ks
(12)	DMP/L-073(23-24)CAP	Spare Parts for Safe Compressor (1) Lot	Ks
(13)	DMP/L-074(23-24)CAP	Spare Parts for Kwangshin Compressor (1) Lot	Ks
(14)	DMP/L-075(23-24)CAP	Spare Parts for Aspro Compressor (1) Lot	Ks
(15)	DMP/L-076(23-24)CAP	Spare Patrs for IMW Compressor (1) Lot	Ks
(16)	DMP/L-077(23-24)CAP	Spare Parts for L-Type and ZW-Type Dispenser (1) Lot	Ks
(17)	DMP/L-078(23-24)CAP	Spare Parts for Aspro, Kwangshin & Enric Dispenser (1) Lot	Ks
(18)	DMP/L-079(23-24)CAP	Spare for Electrical Parts (Aspro Compressor) (1) Lot	Ks
(19)	DMP/L-080(23-24)CAP	Spare for Electrical Parts (Safe Compressor) (1) Lot	Ks
(20)	DMP/L-081(23-24)CAP	Spare for Electrical Parts (L-Type & ZW-Type Compressor) (1) Lot	Ks
(21)	DMP/L-082(23-24)CAP	Spare Parts for Generator (1) Lot	Ks
(22)	DMP/L-083(23-24)CAP	Foam Fire Fighting System for Crude Tank (4) Nos	Ks
(23)	DMP/L-084(23-24)CAP	Skid Mounted Crude Transfer Pump with Engine (5) Items	Ks
(24)	DMP/L-085(23-24)CAP	Raw Materials for Repairing of MTB-IV (3) Groups	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from **24 April, 2023** at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications and Commercial Quotation with Original Bid Bond in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **13:00 pm on 9, May 2023**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – **9-5-2023, 13:00 pm**

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. + 95 67 – 411206

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ORA BHUM VOY.NO. (497W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ORA BHUM VOY.NO. (497W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-4-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BIEN DONG STAR VOY.NO. (23010N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BIEN DONG STAR VOY.NO. (23010N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-4-2023** 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 X-PRESS FEEDERS LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HANSA HARBURG VOY.NO. (314W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HANSA HARBURG VOY.NO. (314W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-4-2023** 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.

Brazil’s Lula visits Lisbon, at odds with Europe on Ukraine



Brazil’s President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (L) and Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa give a press conference after the Portugal - Brazil summit at CCB (Centro Cultural de Belem) in Lisbon on 22 April 2023. PHOTO: PATRICIA DE MELO MOREIRA / AFP

BRAZILIAN President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Saturday was again at odds with Europe over Ukraine while pressing his first European tour since resuming office in January.

The veteran left-winger is seeking to revive his country’s diplomatic ties after four years of relative isolation under his far-right predecessor Jair Bolsonaro, but tensions have been on display with the West over Ukraine.

On Saturday, Lula again called for a “negotiated” settlement between Kyiv and Moscow more than a year after the Russian invasion.

The Brazilian leader has angered Ukraine by saying Kyiv shares blame for the war and has not joined Western nations in imposing sanctions on Moscow or supplying ammunition to Kyiv.

“While my government con-

demns the violation of Ukraine’s territorial integrity, we support a negotiated political solution to the conflict,” Lula told journalists after meeting Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa in Lisbon.

“We urgently need a group of countries to sit round a table with both Ukraine and Russia,” Lula said.

“Brazil does not want to take part in this war. Brazil wants to create peace.”

‘Different position’

Rebelo de Sousa said: “President Lula believes the road to a just and lasting peace implies making negotiation a priority.

“Portugal has a different position. We think that for a road to peace to become a possibility, Ukraine must first have the right to respond to the invasion.”

— AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINE

India court rejects Rahul Gandhi’s plea for stay on conviction

AN Indian court on Thursday rejected a plea by top opposition figure Rahul Gandhi for a stay on a defamation conviction that prompted his expulsion from parliament last month.

Gandhi, 52, who was sentenced to two years imprisonment for remarks he made in 2019 seen as insulting to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and those sharing his surname, had been looking to overturn the conviction before national elections due next year.

Modi’s government is widely accused of using defamation law to silence critics.

The case in the premier’s home state of Gujarat is one of several lodged in recent years against Gandhi, who is Modi’s chief opponent and the foremost member of the opposition Congress party.

The judge in Thursday’s hearing rejected Gandhi’s plea for a stay, Congress member Naishadh Desai told reporters, adding that the verdict would be appealed in the Gujarat High Court. — AFP

Morocco king appoints new second-in-command

MOROCCO’S King Mohammed VI on Saturday appointed a new second-in-command of the armed forces, a release from the royal palace said, amid tensions with neighbour Algeria over the Western Sahara.

Under the North African country’s constitution, the king himself commands the armed forces.

His new number two is Inspector General Mohammed Berid who replaces General Belkhir El Farouk, the announcement carried by the official MAP news agency said.

No reason for the change was given, but at the handover Farouk, 75, appeared in a wheelchair. His successor is around seven years younger



This handout photograph released by the Moroccan Royal Palace on 6 November 2022, shows Moroccan king Mohammed VI delivering a speech to the nation to mark the 47th anniversary of the Green March, in Rabat. PHOTO: HANDOUT / MOROCCAN ROYAL PALACE / AFP

and was in charge of the zone that includes disputed Western Sahara.

According to the website

Global Firepower, Morocco has about 310,000 regular soldiers and 150,000 reservists. — AFP



Shoppers carry purchases as they look at their smartphones on the main shopping district on Oxford Street in London on 13 December 2018. PHOTO: TOLGA AKMEN/AFP

UK to test alert system on millions of phones

THE UK will conduct its first test of a new emergency alert service on Sunday, with millions of mobile phones set to emit a loud alarm and vibrate at 3:00 pm (1400 GMT).

The national system, modelled on similar schemes in Canada, Japan, the Netherlands and the United States, aims to warn the public if there is a danger to life nearby but has generat-

ed criticism over “nanny state” intrusion.

A message will say: “This is a test of Emergency Alerts, a new UK government service that will warn you if there’s a life-threatening emergency nearby.”

Emergency services and the government hope to use the system to alert people to issues such as severe flooding and fires.

The 10-second alarm, which

will sound even if phones are on silent, is expected to disrupt entertainment and sporting events, including Premier League football matches.

Organizers of the World Snooker Championship will pause play just before the alert, while the Society of London Theatre has advised its members to tell audiences to turn off their phones. — AFP

China, Philippines vow to promote friendship, cooperation

CHINA and the Philippines agreed on Saturday to further deepen friendship and promote cooperation between the two countries.

When meeting with visiting Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang, Philippine President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos said his country and China have maintained close exchanges and yielded fruitful results in cooperation.

The Taiwan question is China's internal affairs and the Philippines will continue adhering to the one-China policy as it has always done, he said, adding that his country will stick to strategic

independence rather than take sides.

The Philippines is willing to strengthen communication, properly handle maritime issues and prevent them from disturbing overall relationship of the two countries, so as to safeguard regional peace and prosperity.

For his part, Qin said mutual respect, friendship, keeping promises, trustworthiness, and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries are in the fundamental interests of both sides. Both experiences and lessons should be learned.

Both sides should further enhance communication, deepen mutual trust and overcome



Philippine President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos (L) meets with Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang in Manila, the Philippines on 22 April 2023. PHOTO: ROUELLE UMALI/XINHUA

difficulties and disturbances, in order to create favorable conditions for cooperation and ensure sound and stable development of bilateral ties, he said.

Qin said the two countries should make joint efforts to become good neighbors, good relatives and good partners as envisioned during President Marcos' visit to China earlier this year.

The Chinese official wished the Philippine side could properly handle Taiwan-related and maritime issues based on regional peace and stability as well as the fundamental interests of both peoples. — Xinhua

UK gears up for King Charles III's coronation

CHARLES III will be officially crowned king next month, in a solemn religious service eight months after the death of his mother Queen Elizabeth II.

The set-piece coronation at Westminster Abbey on 6 May is the first in Britain in 70 years, and only the second in history to be televised.

Charles will be the 40th reigning monarch to be crowned at the central London church since King William I in 1066.

Outside the UK, he is also king of 14 other Commonwealth countries, including Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

Camilla, his second wife, will be crowned queen.

For the royals, the occasion — described by the government as a "new chapter in our magnificent national story" — is a cause



Workers hanging a Union Jack flag along The Mall, leading to Buckingham Palace, in London on 18 April 2023. PHOTO: AFP

for celebration.

There are commemorative coins and chinaware as well as a special recipe — Coronation Quiche — and a series of celebratory events throughout the

weekend.

But with two weeks to go, there has been grumbling about the cost and signs of public apathy, as well as plans for republican protests. — AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

US and France evacuate citizens to escape Sudan battles

US troops swooped in on helicopters to evacuate embassy staff from Sudan's battle-torn capital, President Joe Biden announced Sunday, as other nations sought to help their citizens escape deadly fighting between rival generals.

France on Sunday also launched evacuation operations from the northeast African nation, where fighting has entered its second week. — AFP

Four badly hurt after car hits crowd at French kite festival

Eleven people were injured, four seriously, after a car ploughed into a crowd at an international kite-flying festival in northern France on Saturday, officials said.

The accident was caused by a disabled 76-year-old driver who "confused the accelerator and brake pedals", a statement from the local prosecutor's office said.

The accident happened in the early evening at the seaside town of Berck-sur-Mer where hundreds of thousands of people gather each year for the festival. — AFP

India arrests Sikh separatist after major hunt

INDIAN police arrested Sunday a firebrand Sikh separatist after a manhunt lasting more than a month that sparked protests and vandalism among the diaspora in Britain, Canada and the United States.

Amritpal Singh rose to fame calling for the creation of a separate Sikh homeland known as Khalistan, the struggle for which sparked deadly violence in India in the 1980s and 1990s.

Police said they arrested Singh at around 6:45 am (0115 GMT), having surrounded a village in the northern state of Punjab following intelligence that he was there in a gurdwara, or Sikh temple.

"Once he got the message that he had no escape route and he was surrounded, he was arrested," senior police official Sukhchain Singh Gill told reporters.

Singh, 30, styles himself on Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, a figurehead of the Khalistan movement killed when the Indian army stormed the Golden Temple in Amritsar, a major Sikh site, in 1984.

He sports a similarly styled blue turban and long beard and reportedly travelled to the former Soviet republic of Georgia last year for cosmetic surgery to look more like his hero. — AFP



Indian authorities deployed thousands of officers in the manhunt. PHOTO: AFP

Brazil's Lula visits
Lisbon, at odds with
Europe on Ukraine



SPORT

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

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance development based on agriculture and livestock using modern production techniques and to strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.

- (c) To assure support for the sustainability of Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) that prioritize import substitution, export production, and the use of domestically produced raw materials, in order to increase domestic production and generate employment opportunities.
- (d) To advance the socioeconomic life of the people, in order to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.

3. Social affairs

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

Myanmar fighter Vero Nika wins over
Italian fighter in Rome



MYANMAR star fighter Vero Nika beat Italian fighter Ester Viola in the Muay Thai Challenge fight held in Rome, Italy yesterday.

This event is her first international fight, according to the Thai Fight statement. They had to fight for three minutes of three rounds and

according to the initial reports, they won by points via referee decision.

This bout was Vero Nika's first glove fight, so there was some preparation to be done.

The fight was held yesterday (22 pm at 6:00 pm Italian time), and was organized by Thai Fight.

Vero Nika is the first female gold belt winner in Myanmar traditional boxing and is the current world champion who has won most of the Muay Thai fights. In addition, she is also the champion of the Thai King's Cup Boxing Championship.

According to the World Muay Thai Federation, among female fighters in the 53 Kg category, Vero Nika is ranked No 1 and has won 11 consecutive matches, including a fight with this Italian boxer.

This fight will also be played on the Thai Fight YouTube Channel.—KZL

Bundesliga title 'would
mean the world' to
Dortmund's Bellingham

BORUSSIA Dortmund midfielder Jude Bellingham said winning the Bundesliga would "mean the world" after his side went top of the table thanks to a 4-0 home win over Eintracht Frankfurt on Saturday. Bayern Munich's 3-1 loss at Mainz earlier on meant Dortmund knew they could move above the Bavarians with a victory against Frankfurt, with five league matches remaining in the season.

Bellingham, 19, scored Dortmund's first goal in the dom-

inant victory, with Donyell Malen adding two and veteran Mats Hummels another.

The England playmaker has won a German Cup with Dortmund since arriving from Birmingham in 2017, aged 17.

"To be honest, it would mean everything. It would mean the world to me," Bellingham told German TV after the game. —AFP



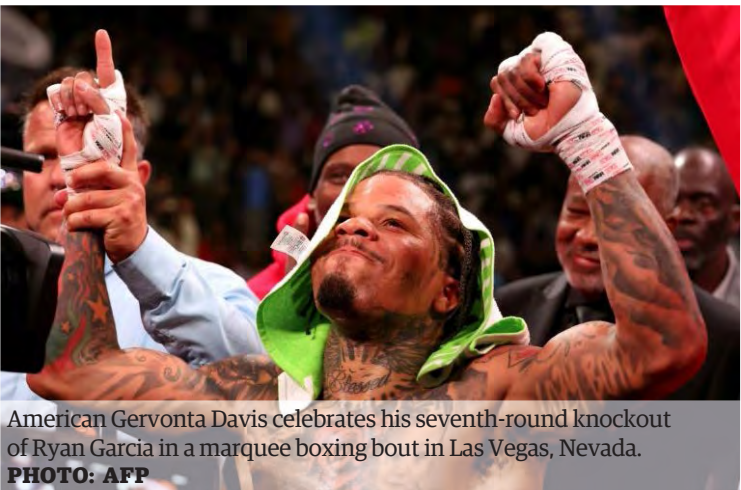
Jude Bellingham (right) is keen to lead Borussia Dortmund to the Bundesliga title. PHOTO: AFP

Davis stops Garcia to
remain unbeaten in
marquee bout

UNBEATEN Gervonta Davis handed Ryan Garcia the first defeat of his career on Saturday, stopping the Californian with a paralyzing body shot in the seventh round of their marquee fight in Las Vegas, Nevada. Da-

vis, who has won five world titles in three weight classes, added another highlight reel knockout to his collection as he improved to 29-0 with 27 knockouts.

Garcia was making the running in the second round



American Gervonta Davis celebrates his seventh-round knockout of Ryan Garcia in a marquee boxing bout in Las Vegas, Nevada. PHOTO: AFP

when Davis drilled him with a left overhand counterpunch to send him to the canvas. The knockout blow was blindingly fast as Davis took advantage of an advancing Garcia, landing another heavy left to Garcia's ribcage.

After staggering back, Garcia steadied and attempted to square up before dropping to one knee — unable to rise before referee Thomas Taylor counted to 10. — AFP