

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.

Bejewelled items fixed at Unnalon Holy Hair of Maravijaya Buddha Image

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the ceremony to install Unnalon Holy Hair at Maravijaya Buddha Image being built in Maravijaya Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday morning.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and party recited Rattanattaya and Sabbasangaha verses three times to disperse Metta to all.

The Senior General, who is also a leading donor of the Buddha image, and his wife donated pieces of diamond to be installed at the Unnalon Holy Hair of the image dedicated to the Lord Buddha to Ovadacariya of building the Buddha image Presiding Patron of Pyinmana's Mingala Zeyon Pali Tekkatho Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Vimalabuddhi, who delivered a sermon related to the Unnalon Holy Hair.

At the auspicious time, the Senior General fixed one piece of three-kilogramme quartz, SEE PAGE-3



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing sprinkles scented water onto the Unnalon Holy Hair of Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 May 2023.

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MRTV to broadcast live on consecration, donation to 11,111 monks at Shwedagon Pagoda

THE Kason full moon day (Buddha Day) ceremony will be held in accordance with the religious customs and traditions. The consecration ceremony and rice alms donation ceremony for 11,111 monks will be organized at Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon on the morning of 2 May. It will be broadcast live on MRTV - HD Channel, MRTV Farmers' Channel, MRTV Parliament Channel, MRTV Sports Channel, MRTV - 4 Maha Bodhi, SkyNet Buddha Channel, Channel - 9, MWD Education, Knowledge & Sports Channel, TVM Channel, WAF Channel and Channel Light Channel starting 6 am on that day. — MNA/KTZH

Donation to 10,268 monks in Mandalay to be broadcast live on MRTV

THE Kason full moon day (Buddha Day) ceremony will be held in accordance with the religious customs and traditions. The alms food, cash and donations will be offered to a total of 10,268 monks, with 2,567 on each side of the Mandalay Moat on 3 May. It will be broadcast live on MRTV - HD Channel, MRTV Farmers' Channel, MRTV Parliament Channel, MRTV Sports Channel, MWD Education, Knowledge & Sports Channel, TVM Channel, WAF Channel and Channel Light Channel at 6 am. — MNA/KTZH

32nd SEA Games Men's Football match: Myanmar vs Timor-Leste to be broadcast live on MRTV

THE Group A match of the men's football tourney: Myanmar versus Timor-Leste will begin at 3:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time today. The match will be shown live on MRTV HD Channel, MRTV Sports Channel, MRTV Parliament Channel, MRTV Farmers' Channel, and tuned live on Myanma Radio. Cambodia will host the 2023 XXXII Southeast Asian Games from 5 to 17 May. Among the participating teams sports, the group stage competitions of the Under-22 Men's Football Tournament are being held from 29 April. — MNA/KZL

106 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 1 May, total figure registers 634,983

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to 634,983 after 106 new cases were reported on 1 May 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

Therefore, a total of 10,374,161 laboratory samples were examined and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 634,983. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 614,869 including 24 new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country rose to 19,492 on 1-5-2023 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

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

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.

Nation's strength lies within

WHATEVER challenges the country is faced with, efforts will have to be made for realizing two national policies: the prosperity of the State and the security of food with the concept that the strength of the nation lies within.

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the meeting 2/2022 of the financial commission held on 24 November 2022)

Bejewelled items fixed at Unnalon Holy Hair ...

FROM PAGE-1
two large pieces of diamond and 44 small pieces of diamond in the Unnalon Holy Hair and sprinkled scented water on it.
Members of the Sangha recited Jayanto Bodhiyamule Gatha three times.
The Unnalon Holy Hair, which is one of 32 primary physical characteristics of the Lord

Buddha, is located in the centre of the two eyebrows of the Lord Buddha. If such a Holy Hair is stretched, it will be some three feet long. The Holy Hair bears diamond and silver colours. The Lord Buddha possessed the Unnalon Holy Hair due to comprehensively restraining Himself from avoiding lying along the vicious circle.



The Unnalon Holy Hair—one of the 32 Excellent Signs of the Buddha.



The Senior General and his wife donate diamond pieces for the Unnalon – a treasure-like curl of hair of the Lord Buddha to be fitted on the Maravijaya Buddha Image.

The Unnalon Holy Hair is installed with two large pieces of diamond weighing 18.08 Rati (one Rati is equal to 0.388 carat), 44 small pieces of diamond weighing 4.34 Rati, 53 pieces of quartz, three ticals, one pe and four yways of gold (12 pe quality) and 427 ticals and eight pe of silver.
Maravijaya Buddha Image is being built with the aim of showing the firm flourishing of Ther-

avada Buddhism in Myanmar, to ensure Myanmar is reverent to Theravada Buddhism, to be a peaceful and prosperous country and to ensure the world is peaceful and prosperous. The part of the Buddha image comprising parts 1, 2 and 3 was conveyed onto the bejewelled throne on 26 January 2023 and successfully fitted on the throne on 31 January. Bejewelled items and religious objects donated by well-wishers

throughout the nation led by the Senior General were enshrined in the centres of the bejewelled throne on 27 January and 10 February. Part 4 of the Buddha image was conveyed onto the throne on 11 February. So far, the image has been completed by 95 per cent.
Moreover, other religious buildings and the Buddha Park are under construction with 82.3 per cent completion. — MNA/TTA



The event to install the Unnalon Holy Hair of the Maravijaya Buddha Image in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, attended by the Senior General, his wife and congregation.

MoTC celebrates 146th Anniversary of Myanmar Railways

THE 146th Anniversary of Myanmar Railways under the Ministry of Transport and Communications took place in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, State Administration Council member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San said Myanmar started running the first railway line on 1 May 1877 on the 161-mile Yangon-Pyay section. The name was changed to Burma Railway Company, Railways Board, and Railway Corporation over the years, and on 1 April 1989, the name was changed from Railway Corporation to Myanmar Railways. During the 146-year journey of Myanmar Railways, various systems have changed, but it still meets the country's requirements for transport due to the perseverance and dedication of the Myanmar Railways staff who carried out diligent work.

The country has over 3,800 miles of railway network with



Deputy Prime Minister MoTC Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San speaks on the occasion of the 146th Anniversary of Myanmar Railways in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



960 stations to date and a total of 42 trains—18 express trains, 10 mail trains and 14 passenger — trains offering services on Yangon-Mandalay, Yangon-Mawlamyine, Yangon-Pyay-Bagan, Mandalay-PyinOoLwin, Nay Pyi Taw-Kyaukpadaung-Bagan, Thazi-Shwenyaung, Patheingyi-Kyangin and Taunggyi-Saikhau sections while 35 Yangon circular trains in Yangon.

During the term of SAC, it filled 209,481 holes with ballasts, replaced 201,693 concrete sleepers and 45,000 wooden sleepers and 2,423 new rails.

He added that the railways play a key role in the country and the trains use the one-fourth to the one-sixth of the fuel that the cars use for the same amount of cargo and distance, so, it can reduce air pollution and impact on the environment. In certain countries, trains are mainly used as public transportation.

He then talked about the directives made by the Prime Minister regarding the train transportation sector and urged the staff to ensure the safe and smooth transport of passengers and goods in line with the motto of the Ministry of Transport and Communications “Transport and Communicate for the benefits of the people”.

Next, the deputy prime minister, the deputy minister and relevant officials presented awards and certificates to the outstanding officers/staff for their outstanding performance. — MNA/KTZH

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

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

CRIME NEWS

Illegal teak, foodstuffs, industrial materials, consumer goods and vehicles confiscated

THE on-duty teams under the supervision of the Shan State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force confiscated 690 second-hand mobile handsets (worth K34.5 million) without official Import documents at the Nantaw checkpoint in Muse township on 28 April, nine kinds of goods (including 20 ceiling lamp LED complete sets) worth K15,194,240 without official documents that were stacked on the side of the Sinphyu checkpoint and 40 kinds of goods (including 17 Hoco True wireless speakers) worth K77,964,500 without

official documents from a Foton Toano mini-bus (approximate value of K30 million) heading to Taunggyi from Tachilek in Kengtung township on 29 April. The action was taken under Customs procedures. On 29 April, the on-duty teams captured 3.25 kilogrammes of bird's nests worth K10 million without official documents from luggage at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk). The action was taken under Customs procedures. On 30 April, an X-Trail car

worth about K12 million without official documents was seized in Shwebo township. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law. On 1 May, a total of 3.290 tonnes of illegal teak worth K945,600 was captured in Toun-goo district and the action was taken under the Forest Law. Therefore, seven arrests (estimated value of K180,604,340) were made on three consecutive days from 28 to 30 April, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS



Seized illegal commodities at Yangon International Airport.



Seized illegal goods in Shan State.



Confiscated vehicle in Sagaing Region.

Over K7.1 bln worth of drugs captured in Tachilek township



Two arrestees are seen together with confiscated drugs and a vehicle.

A total of 475.3 kilogrammes of heroin blocks, Ecstasy tablets and Happy Water worth over K7.1 billion were captured in Tachilek township in Shan State, Myanmar Police Force stated. Acting on a tip-off, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a Toyota HiAce

car at the Meyang combined checkpoint in Tachilek township at 9:30 am on 28 April. The car, with Saw Shwe behind the wheel, was heading to Tachilek from Namsang. The police captured a total of 475.3 kg of 1,358 heroin blocks that were hidden from goods in the car. After interrogation, the police arrested Aung Soe who

participated in trafficking drugs in Tachilek at 11:30 am. In addition, the police seized 235 Ecstasy tablets and 315 grammes of Happy Water from Sai Nuam (aka) Htun Lin Oo in Tachilek. Legal action has been taken against the offenders and an investigation is underway to identify the perpetrators of the crime chain. — MNA/MKKS

Drugs seized in Pyigyidagun, Monghsat townships

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force examined a suspect by the name of Kaung Htet Zaw (aka) Kaung Kaung who came to claim a parcel from a bus station on the 73rd street in Pyigyidagun township and captured 30,000 stimulant tablets at 2:30 pm on 29 April. After making some interrogations, the police arrested Ma Khin Htay Maw (aka) Ma Maw at a bus station on the 4th Myawadimingyi Street in Pyigy-

idagun township at 4 pm on the same day. In addition, the police searched the house of Kyaw Swa Min in Ma-O village of Monghsat township at 12:30 pm on 30 April and seized 100 stimulant tablets. After making some interrogations, the police also searched the house of Htun Htun Latt in Ma-O village at 1 pm and seized 5,800 more stimulant tablets. The offenders have been prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/MKKS



Two offenders are pictured along with seized drugs.

CURRENT
AFFAIRS

YRG to allow only
about 10,000 licences
for EVs per year

ACCORDING to the Road Transport Administration Department, around 10,000 electric vehicles (EVs) will be licensed in Yangon each year, depending on the approval of the Yangon Regional Government (YRG).

The Road Transport Administration Department stated that an old vehicle surrender slip (Form-D) will be required to register EVs, as well as EV taxis imported for resale by car companies, with a

Yangon licence. However, EVs that are allowed to be imported during the 2023 Pilot Project to operate taxis in Yangon City will be issued a Yangon licence without having to submit Form D.

In addition, if residents of the Yangon Region want to register EV vehicles without submitting Form D, region and state licences except for Yangon and Bago licences will be issued according to the owner's preference. — TWA/CT



The office of the Road Transport Administration Department.

50th Aungbalay tickets worth over
K4,700 mln sold



A K500-million award number is pictured at the 50th Aungbalay Lottery yesterday.

THE tickets of the 50th Aungbalay Lottery worth over K4,700 million were sold out, according to the Aungbalay Lottery Directorate of the Internal Revenue Department.

A total of 478,205 tickets beginning with the alphabets "A" to "G" were sold for the 50th

Aungbalay Award held on 1 May.

In the opening of the 50th Aungbalay Lottery, the winning number for K500 million was E 771792 and that for K100 million was E 898782 and the winning numbers for K50 million were A 213569, F 422163, G 517545 and A 861994.

Moreover, five prizes of K1 million, 60 prizes of K300,000, 100 prizes of K200,000 and 1,000 prizes of K100,000 were presented as additional awards, using the revenue of unclaimed prizes worth K143.750 million, according to the Aungbalay Lottery Directorate.—TWA/MKKS

CAD says complaints about online shopping can be made

THE Consumer Affairs Department (CAD) under the Ministry of Commerce has announced that consumers can complain to it about their grievances against local online shops. Some businessmen are promoting their products and services on social networking websites such as Facebook and are also doing commercial advertising on their blog pages.

Online-based businesses are becoming popular not only in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw but also in other cities and towns. Millions of people visit the website of online businesses. Mostly, consumers have



An illustration is seen describing online shopping.

to pay only when they received the goods. However, some online shops request payments first and then block the customer's account after receiving payments.

Therefore, the CAD informed that customers can lodge complaints about non-arrival of goods after payments, discrepancies with advertised product quality, being unable to contact after payments, exaggerating the information on the goods, and non-arrival of products within the agreed delivery time.

Complaints can be made on CAD's Facebook page and CAD Myanmar Application, or by contacting 1535. — TWA/CT

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

LOCAL BUSINESS

Over 1,270 Myanmar food processing businesses apply for GACC within 18 months

A total of 1,270 Myanmar food processing companies and factories submitted over 2,200 applications to the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) within 18 months, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

According to GACC Decrees 248 and 249, GACC registration is mandatory for food exporters starting from 1 January 2022.

Those individuals executing edible oil, oilseeds, stuffed pastry products, edible bird's nest and related products, edible grains, grains milling industrial products and malt, fresh and dehydrated vegetables, dried beans, plant species, nuts and seeds, dried fruits, unroasted coffee and cocoa bean, special dietary food excluding milk-based formula, functional foods, honey products, aquatic products including farm products, animal products and animals feed and livestock animal businesses need to apply for GACC

licences to place their goods in China's market.

The relevant authorities for the registration with GACC are the Agriculture Department, the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, the Fisheries Department and the Food and Drug Administration Department.

Between 1 December 2021 and 28 April 2023, 2,279 applications by 1,270 factories have been forwarded to the GACC through the Agriculture Department (2,136 applications), the Fisheries Department (120), the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (14) and the Food and Drug Administration Department (nine).

Exporters can directly access China International Trade Single Window through <https://cifer.singlewindow.cn> by creating accounts for those food groups which are not listed on those aforementioned 18 groups.

As of 21 April 2023, a total



Workers are pictured in the fishery processing line.

of 1,844 applications have been successful in registering with the GACC with the approval of the competent authority.

Regarding the registration of the importing companies, the Department of Animal and Plant Quarantine under the GACC will

check quarantine access for the imported grains, raw coffee beans, cocoa beans, vegetables, spices, edible grains, pulses, oil crops and herbal animal products and plant for their origins.

The companies cannot directly proceed with registration

and they need to carry out this step through competent authorities and departments concerned by sending emails via dapq@customs.gov.cn or submitting letters to the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar or Myanmar Embassy to China. — NN/EM

Salt prices decline in Mon State

THE prices of salt have moved down a bit in Mon State's salt market.

In early April, salt was priced at a low of K158-185 per viss. The prevailing prices touch a low of K110-130 per viss, showing a small decrease of K35-48 per viss within one month.

Low demand brought down the prices amid the high production of raw salt.

Additionally, the prices of raw salt from Mon State's sundried salt businesses are dropping, prompting the farmers to stop their businesses.

The current prices are lower than the production cost. So, the farmers are forced to stop the businesses to cover the possible loss. They have stockpiled the salt at warehouses as well, said salt farmers.

The salt harvesting process begins around mid-September in Mon State and raw salt is processed in December and January. High fuel oil prices usually weigh on production and transportation



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costs.

The traders faced low inventory despite the high price at the end of the salt season.

During the 2021 salt season, salt farmers were battered by losses.

Mon State, the second largest producer in Myanmar, yearly produces 40,000 tonnes of sundried salt, beyond magnesium chloride (MgCl₂), iodized salt (I₂)

and table salt (NaCl).

The 2019-2020 statistics of Mon State salt production businesses showed that there are 14 iodine salt processing plants and one factory each for magnesium chloride (MgCl₂) and table salt (NaCl) production, with a production capacity of 60 tonnes of magnesium chloride, 204 tonnes of table salt and 12,132 tonnes of iodized salt. — NN/EM

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 1 May 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K1,995
Octane 95	K2,075
Diesel	K1,900
Premium Diesel	K1,980

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,344,400 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,988,000 per tical

US Dollar Vs Kyat

A US dollar set by the Central Bank of Myanmar	K2,100
A US dollar in the forex market	K2,855 to K2,870

The above prices may change from time to time.

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Be ready to show off sports skills and talent in the coming SEA Games

ALL the people, especially sports fans are excitingly waiting for watching competitions in the coming SEA Games in which the Myanmar sports contingent will take part to show the brilliant skills of Myanmar athletes in relevant sports events.

The XXXII SEA Games will be hosted by Cambodia from 5 to 17 May 2023. The games are getting nearer and nearer. Currently, it is believed that selected athletes from the Myanmar sports contingent would be physically and mentally ready to compete in relevant sports events.

It is a great chance for athletes of the Myanmar sports contingent to show off their wonderful sports skills and talent in the coming SEA Games. Grasping such a chance, they have to uplift the prestige of the State through sports victories. Hence, as victories in all sports events are concerned with the prestige of Myanmar and Myanmar people, all athletes have to shoulder such a duty to bag wins in the competitions as a national duty.

utmost effort in their competitions so as to make the dreams of the people true. It can be said that those athletes pay back the debt of gratitude to the people.

It is a great chance for athletes of the Myanmar sports contingent to show off their wonderful sports skills and talent in the coming SEA Games. Grasping such a chance, they have to uplift the prestige of the State through sports victories. Hence, as victories in all sports events are concerned with the prestige of Myanmar and Myanmar people, all athletes have to shoulder such a duty to bag wins in the competitions as a national duty.

If the Myanmar sports contingent which will take part in the XXXII SEA Games bags a larger number of medals in the events than in the previous games, the contingent can polish the image of the victorious history as a wonderful sample for new generation athletes.

Use Plain English

By U Khin Maung (A retired diplomat)

Introduction

1. Love is so many a splendour thing. Love begets love. Love is blind. All three statements or old sayings use plain and simple English. In this article, I would like to present to you the usefulness of plain and simple English in making a statement or a declaration, so that the reader will understand clearly what it means.

2. In this article, I would like to write down the statements using simpler alternatives as follows: -

- For the sake of clarity, the officialese and the equivalent plain English are used.

“In the event of your being evicted from your dwelling as a result of willfully failing to pay your rent, the council may take the view that you have rendered yourself intentionally homeless

and as such, it would not be obliged to offer you alternative permanent housing.”

- Using plain words and splitting the sentence this would become:

If you are evicted from your home because you deliberately fail to pay your rent, the council may decide that you have made yourself intentionally homeless, if this happens, the council does not need to offer you alternative permanent housing.

3. I would like to present to you another example of a plain English guide as follows: -

- Our focus group found this version with 31 out of 35 preferring it. They gave it an average clarity mark of 17 out of 20, as against 12 for the original remarkable show of tolerance towards officialese.

“A hospital wants to resolve the chaos in the car parks by changing parking fees.”

If my proposals are accepted, the income from fees would ensure that car parking could be affected without using money that should be spent on health care.

4. Use simpler alternatives In this section, for the sake of clarity, the officialese and the equivalent plain English are underlined.

An official is writing to a citizen about a claim for housing benefits.

I am in receipt of information from the citizens’ advice bureau, which I believe is acting on your behalf, with regard to matters appertaining to your benefit claim, will you please furnish the bureau with particulars of

your savings.

This becomes – I have received information from the citizen’s advice bureau, which I believe acting on your behalf, about your benefit claim, will you please give the bureau details of your savings.

A firm’s conditions of service say

Holidays will be taken by mutual agreement after the needs of service have been considered.

Reconstruct the sentences

5. The technique is to spot the unusual word or phrase and use its plain meaning as an aid in revising the sentence.

Examples: (A) J. Edger Hoover, then head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the United States, was worried about Picasso visiting the country (he was said

to have the left-wing learnings.) Hoover wrote to a special agent in Paris.

“In the event information concerning Picasso comes to your attention, it should be furnished to the Bureau in view of the possibility that he may attempt to come to the United States. He might have said.

If you get any information about Picasso, please tell the Bureau in case he tries to visit the United States.

(B) Use Simpler alternatives - In the event of your being evicted from your dwelling as a result of willfully failing to pay your rent, the council may take the view that you have rendered yourself intentionally homeless and as such it should not be obliged to offer you the alternative permanent housing.



The technique is to spot the unusual word or phrase and use its plain meaning as an aid in revising the sentence. ILLUSTRATION: PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/FREEPIK

Using plain words and splitting the sentence, this could become.

-If you are evicted from your home because you deliberately fail to pay your rent, the

council may decide that you have made yourself intentionally homeless, if this happens, the council does not need to offer you alternative permanent housing.

Reference: Quick Reference Plain English Guide, By Martin Cutts.

EU to unveil reforms for cheaper drugs



A pharmacy technician in Paris prepares medicines. PHOTO: ALAIN JOCARD/AFP

THE EU on Wednesday is to unveil a long-awaited proposed reform of legislation governing pharmaceutical drugs to make them cheaper, prevent shortages and speed

up delivery of new compounds.

The overhaul aims to bring “timely and equitable access for patients to affordable drugs” in the bloc, EU health commissioner Stella Kyriakides tweeted.

The reform is the biggest in two decades, and has in part been informed by Brussels’ swift, concerted action during the Covid pandemic that underscored the benefits of less-bur-

densome procedures, greater transparency and joint measures.

The pharmaceutical industry has been intensively lobbying ahead of the presentation of the proposals.

A leak in February of a draft version of them sparked criticism from companies worried that the exclusive period they had over selling new drugs could be shortened from 10 years to eight.

The European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations warned against steps that could constrain innovation.

While the European Commission aims to bring down the cost of medicines, it doesn’t have the power to set prices in the European Union.

That is the prerogative of national governments who negotiate with pharmaceutical groups.

The EU executive is also intent on tackling shortages of drugs for rare diseases, and unequal access to medicines across the 27-nation bloc, especially in eastern member states.

Another challenge to be tackled is increasing microbial resistance to existing antibiotics, which each year leads to 35,000 deaths in the European Union.

Because antibiotics are meant to be taken in moderate, defined doses they are less lucrative to pharmaceutical companies than blockbuster drugs. **Voucher system**

To address that problem, the commission is looking at introducing transferable vouchers that would allow a company coming up with a new, effective antibiotic to apply a lengthened period of exclusivity to another more profitable drug, or to sell that right to another company.

Around half the EU member states, including France, Belgium and the Netherlands, are wary of that idea though, worried it would weigh on national health systems.

The European Consumer Organization has also come out against that proposal.

“But so far, no one has proposed a better system,” said one EU lawmaker, Peter Liese, who is also a medical doctor.

He said that virtually no new antibiotic had been produced in 20 years. On this issue and the others the commission is proposing, “innovation-friendly regulation is indispensable,” he said.

The commission also wants a faster approval process to get new drugs to market faster, as happened with Covid vaccines. And it is suggesting a measure to force companies to be more transparent about the stocks of drugs they have, so that any looming shortfalls can be tackled earlier on.

For Pauline Londeix, co-founder of OTMeds, a French group monitoring levels of transparency on drugs policies, “a centralised system of alerts on shortages goes in the right direction but is not enough in itself”.

She argues that the EU should consider “coordinated action at the European level for the part-public production of essential medicines”.

SOURCE: AFP

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 1 May 2023)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 2 May 2023: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in (southern and eastern) Shan State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kachin and northern Shan states, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago regions and Chin, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states and isolated in the remaining regions and states. Degree of certainty is (80%).

The Condition of Cumulonimbus Cloud: The Cumulonimbus clouds are developing over the whole country. The area along the Cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance these phenomena.

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: Isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states.

SIC/ENVIRON WORLD

Mars rover Zhurong finds evidence of water at red planet's low latitudes



Photo released on 11 June 2021 by the China National Space Administration (CNSA) shows a selfie of China's first Mars rover Zhurong with the landing platform. **PHOTO: CNSA/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

CHINA'S Mars rover Zhurong has provided key observational evidence of liquid water at low Martian latitudes, the warmest regions on the red planet, according to a new study published in the journal *Science Advances* this week.

Previous studies found evidence of a large amount of liquid water on early Mars, but

dramatic climate changes led to very low pressure and water vapor content, making it difficult for liquid water to exist sustainably on the present-day planet. Scientists believe that water can now only exist there in solid or gaseous forms.

However, droplets observed on the robotic arm of NASA's Phoenix Mars lander prove that

salty liquid water can appear in the summer at high latitudes on Mars. Numerical simulations also suggest that climatic conditions suitable for liquid water can briefly occur in certain areas of Mars. But evidence of liquid water at the planet's low latitudes, where surface temperatures are highest, is still lacking.

Findings from the Zhurong rover now fill that gap.

Zhurong is part of China's Tianwen-1 Mars exploration mission. It landed on the Utopia Planitia, a vast plain in the northern hemisphere of Mars, on 15 May 2021. It has travelled approximately two kilometres and relayed a torrent of data to Earth before switching to dormant mode. Its landing site was in a low-latitude region of Mars.

A group of more than 20 researchers at the Chinese Academy of Sciences has since used data obtained by cameras and detectors aboard the rover to

study the different-scale surface features and material compositions of dunes in the landing area.

They found some important morphological features on the dune surfaces, such as crusts, cracks, granulation, polygonal ridges and a strip-like trace. Data analysis revealed that the dune surficial layer is rich in minerals including hydrated sulfates, hydrated silica and ferrihydrite.

"According to the measured meteorological data from Zhurong and other Mars rovers, we inferred that these dune surface characteristics are related to the involvement of liquid saline water formed by the subsequent melting of frost and snow falling on the salt-containing dune surfaces when cooling occurs," said lead researcher Qin Xiaoguang, who works in the academy's Institute of Geology and Geophysics. Qin explained that salts in dunes cause frost and snow

to melt at low temperatures to form salty liquid water. When the saline water dries, the precipitated hydrated minerals bind sand particles to form sand aggregates and crust. The crust is then cracked further by shrinkage. The process later repeats, resulting in the ridges and strip-like trace on the crust surface.

In the study, researchers estimated the dunes Zhurong found were formed about 400,000 to 1.4 million years ago. The exchange of water vapour between the higher and lower latitudes during this period led to repeated humid environments at low Martian latitudes, followed by the frequent occurrence of salty water when temperatures dropped in the region.

Qin said the discovery provides key proof of liquid water at Martian low latitudes, where surface temperatures are relatively warm and more suitable for life than high latitudes. — Xinhua

Germany hopes to help climate with discount travel card

GERMANY launches on Monday a new flat-rate public transport ticket valid across the country, but the 49-euro (\$54) price point has raised doubts about the pass's potential impact.

Touting the monthly pass as a "revolution", policymakers hope it will bring some relief for consumers amid soaring inflation, and encourage people to favour mass transit in the name of the environment.

The "Deutschlandticket" offers unlimited access to Germany's bus and metro systems, as well as local and regional trains -- with only long-distance high-speed services not included.

Transport Minister Volker Wissing was quick to call the new initiative "the biggest public transport reform in German history", but the pass's success is far from assured.

The association of German transport companies (VDV) expects 16 million of the country's 84 million inhabitants to take up the offer. Roughly 750,000 tickets have been sold already, without

counting people who will switch over from their current transport subscriptions.

How to finance the new policy was the subject of months of debate, delaying the roll-out of the ticket.

An agreement was reached between the federal government and Germany's states, which will both contribute 1.5 billion euros towards the ticket's financing to avoid adding to the national rail operator's debt pile.

The expenditure has come in for heavy criticism from the opposition, who argue the money could have been used to "improve and renovate rail infrastructure", in the words of conservative (CDU) parliamentarian Michael Donth.

Germany's rail network is indeed creaking, with investment needs totalling around 8.6 billion euros a year for the next 10 years, according to official estimates. — AFP



Travellers board a regional train to the northeastern Germany city of Stralsund at Berlin Central Station (Hauptbahnhof) in Berlin on 4 June 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**



This photo taken on 15 April 2023 shows a flying vehicle exhibited at the New Energy and Intelligent Connected Vehicles exhibition section of the 133rd session of China Import and Export Fair, also known as Canton Fair, in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

China-made autopilot "drone taxi" to perform demo flights in Israel

A Chinese company, Guangzhou EHang Intelligent Technology, will showcase its autopilot "air taxi" in Israel, said Israel's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on Sunday.

The drone, called EHang 216S, can carry two passengers and fly at a speed of 130 kilometres per hour at a height of 500 metres.

This is the first demonstration of its kind in Israel and will be managed by the CAA and

the Israel Innovation Authority.

The demonstration is part of a CAA-led initiative to promote drone-related technologies in Israel, said the CAA, adding that two of the EHang drones had been transported to Israel. Cando Drones, an Israeli aviation company participating in the test flights, said the drones are expected to conduct trial flights in June once the aviation permits are received. — Xinhua

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Costa Rican sloth antibiotics offer hope for human medicine

THE fur of Costa Rican sloths appears to harbour antibiotic-producing bacteria that scientists hope may hold a solution to the growing problem of “superbugs” resistant to humanity’s dwindling arsenal of drugs.

Sloth fur, research has found, hosts bustling communities of insects, algae, fungi and bacteria, among other microbes, some of which could pose disease risk.

Yet, experts say, the famous-

ly slow-moving mammals appear to be surprisingly infection-proof.

“If you look at the sloth’s fur, you see movement: you see moths, you see different types of insects... a very extensive habitat,” Max Chavarria, a researcher at the University of Costa Rica, told AFP.

“Obviously when there is co-existence of many types of organisms, there must also be systems that control them,” he said.

Chavarria and a team took fur samples from Costa Rican two- and three-toed sloths to examine what that control system could be.

They found the possible existence of antibiotic-producing bacteria that “makes it possible to control the proliferation of potentially pathogenic bacteria... or inhibit other competitors” such as fungi, according to a study published in the journal *Environmental Microbiology*. — AFP



The researcher from the University of Costa Rica (UCR) and the National Centre for Biotechnological Innovations (CENIBIOT), Max Chavarria (R) works with a student in studies on the fur of sloths, in the laboratories of the UCR in San Jose on 18 April 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Uganda rules out Ebola outbreak after results from suspected case turn negative

UGANDA has ruled out an Ebola outbreak after laboratory results of a suspected case turned neg-

ative.

PCR tests carried out on a fatal Ebola suspect case from

Buwenge, Jinja District in eastern Uganda, turned negative for Viral Haemorrhagic Fevers, said Ugandan Ministry of Health in a tweet post on Sunday.

Viral haemorrhagic fevers are illnesses caused by several types of viruses. Some of these viruses cause mild illness. Many others lead to life-threatening diseases with no known cures. One of the best known of this group is the Ebola virus.

“Thank you to the communities for the vigilance,” the ministry said.

Uganda in January announced the end of the Sudan ebolavirus outbreak after the disease broke out in September 2022 in nine districts of the country. — Xinhua



A general view of the newly installed makeshift Ebola Treatment Unit with 32 beds, also to be used as a research centre for Ebola strains and vaccine trial, in Kampala on 9 December 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

Australia not prepared for outbreak of deadly avian flu: experts

AUSTRALIA is unprepared for the potential arrival of a deadly form of avian influenza, experts have warned.

The Invasive Species Council (ISC) recently called on the Australian government to draft a national response plan for a possible outbreak of avian influenza in wildlife.

The council identified high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) subtype H5 as a particular concern.

It has affected 300 species of wild birds globally and has caused widespread mass mortality events. Within weeks of arriving in Peru late in 2022, H5 had killed thousands of sea-

birds and sea lions.

The ISC called for the government to establish a national task force made up of environmental, biosecurity, wildlife and conservation experts to prepare for a possible outbreak.

“Australia is well prepared to respond to avian influenza infection in poultry, having previously eradicated it eight times, but there is no plan for wildlife,” principal policy analyst Carol Booth said in a media release.

The council said eradication would not be possible for outbreaks in wild Australian birds but that monitoring, reporting and research could minimize the impact. — Xinhua

Sudan conflict driving health sector towards ‘disaster’: UN

SUDAN’S already troubled health sector faces the risk of “disaster” after more than two weeks of heavy fighting have rocked the poverty-stricken country, a UN World Health Organization official warns.

Even before the deadly conflict broke out on 15 April, “the healthcare system in Sudan faced numerous crises... and was extremely fragile,” Ahmed al-Mandhari, WHO regional director for the eastern Mediterranean, told AFP.

Now — with hospitals bombed, medicines running low and many doctors fleeing the country — “it is a disaster

in every sense of the word,” he said, warning of the growing threat of cholera, malaria and other diseases.

The battles raging in Sudan have pitted the Sudanese Armed Forces led by Abdel Fattah al-Burhan against the powerful paramilitary Rapid Support Forces of his deputy turned rival Mohamed Hamdan Daglo.

More than 500 people have been killed and nearly 5,000 injured, according to official figures, but the real toll is feared to be much higher.

Only 16 per cent of Khartoum’s hospitals are now fully functional, Mandhari said, and

there is a “real shortage in medical staff... especially specialized medical staff, for example in surgery and in anaesthesia”.

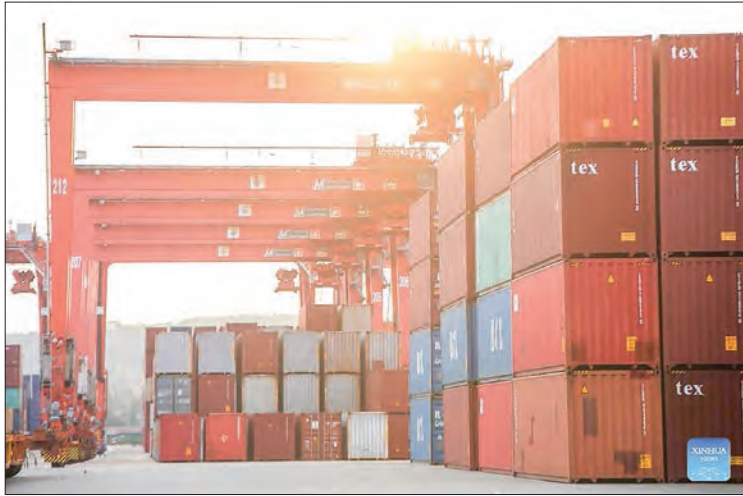
The most vulnerable include about four million sick or pregnant women and 50,000 children suffering from acute malnutrition who will no longer receive vital care, Mandhari said.

“There are approximately three million women or girls who are exposed to various types of... gender-based violence”, including sexual violence, he said, adding that children face “psychological pressures” from conflict and displacement. — AFP



A picture taken on 1 May 2023 shows an abandoned hospital in El Geneina, the capital of West Darfur, as deadly fighting continues in Sudan between rival generals’ forces. Sudan’s already troubled health sector faces the risk of “disaster” after more than two weeks of heavy fighting have rocked the poverty-stricken country, a UN World Health Organization official warns. **PHOTO: AFP**

ECONOMY WORLD



This photo taken on 1 May 2023 shows containers stacking up at the Sihanoukville Autonomous Port in Sihanoukville, Cambodia. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Cambodia to transform Sihanoukville seaport into hub port by 2029

CAMBODIA on Monday started the construction of a new container terminal at the Sihanoukville Autonomous Port, aiming to transform this feeder port into the hub port by 2029.

At a groundbreaking ceremony held here, Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen said the port development will respond to the kingdom's economic growth and rising international trade.

"The expansion project will allow large container ships to dock at the port and significantly reduce ocean freight costs for Cambodia," he said. "It will help attract investors and accelerate our economic development."

Minister of Public Works and Transport Sun Chanthol said the new terminal will be constructed in three phases.

The first phase includes the construction of an onshore

general cargo terminal and a 350-metre-long and 14.5-metre-deep container terminal that will be able to handle 60,000 deadweight tonnages (DWT) ships, or those carrying 4,000 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units), he said, adding that the first phase construction is estimated to cost 275 million US dollars and is expected to be completed by 2026. — Xinhua

Land port on China-Nepal border resumes two-way trade

ZHAM, a land port on the China-Nepal border, resumed two-way cargo trade on Monday.

Three lorries carrying goods worth more than 100,000 yuan (14,442 US dollars) arrived at the port from Nepal, marking the resumption of the two-way trade of the land port in the city of Xigaze in southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region.

Zham was forced to stop service after a mega-earthquake hit Nepal in 2015, which destroyed roads, bridges, and

facilities at the port. In 2019, it partially reopened to allow exports to Nepal.

In the first quarter of this year, more than 17,000 tonnes of goods worth 249 million yuan were exported through the port.

The resumption of two-way cargo trade via the port will not only help boost foreign trade in Xigaze but also will bring benefits to Tibet for a higher level of opening, said Peng Yihao, deputy Party chief of Xigaze. — Xinhua

Energy firms from China, US hold forum to seek cooperation opportunities

ON the eve of the annual Offshore Technology Conference (OTC), more than 50 energy companies from China and the United States gathered here at a forum on Sunday to seek more cooperation opportunities as worldwide disturbances are shaking the industry.

Addressing the 9th "China-US Energy Enterprise Cooperation Forum", Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner welcomed Chinese energy entrepreneurs to visit the US energy capital and join the OTC, an influential platform on ocean energy technology.

"We recognize the importance of working together and by working together we all win and benefit," Turner said, adding that cooperation and idea sharing among energy firms will push the energy transition forward together and thus benefit the whole world.



Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner delivers remarks at the 9th "China-US Energy Enterprise Cooperation Forum" in Houston, Texas, the United States, on 30 April 2023. **PHOTO: CHENGYUE LAO/XINHUA**

"It is very important for us to find ways to continue to move together. Otherwise, we all lose," he said. Zou Lianyang, the chief expert of China Petroleum & Petrochemical Equipment Industry

Association, said his organization will try to help its members to "find bigger markets and more business opportunities" via win-win cooperation in the future. — Xinhua

US regulators seize California's First Republic Bank

US financial authorities have taken possession of California's troubled First Republic Bank, which will be acquired by JPMorgan Chase, government regulators announced Monday in the latest banking failure.

"To protect depositors, the FDIC is entering into a purchase and assumption agreement with JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, Columbus, Ohio, to assume all of the deposits and substantially all of the assets of First Republic Bank," the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation said (FDIC) in a statement.

JPMorgan will assume "all deposits, including those uninsured, and a majority of the assets", California's Department of Financial Protection and Innovation said.

First Republic had failed to come up with a workable rescue plan and last week disclosed that it had lost more than \$100 billion in deposits in the first quarter, causing its shares to plummet.

The federal government stepped in with the FDIC, an agency in charge of guaranteeing bank deposits, and the US Treasury approaching six banks last week to gauge their interest in buying First Republic assets, a source told AFP last week on condition of anonymity.

With its assets standing at \$233 billion at the end of March, First Republic would be the second largest bank to fall in US history — excluding investment banks, like Lehman Brothers — after Washington Mutual's bankruptcy in 2008. — AFP

Chinese state-owned firm to build major Sri Lanka port complex

A Chinese state-owned firm said on Monday it plans to take its investment in Sri Lanka to \$2 billion by building a major logistics hub.

Sri Lanka is looking to kick-start its economic recovery after defaulting on its foreign debt last year, when shortages of essentials such as food, fuel and medicines sparked widespread anti-government protests.

The investment by the China Merchants Group in a large logistics complex at Co-

lombo Port, with an estimated construction cost of \$392 million, is the first major foreign investment in Sri Lanka since the default.

The logistics centre project will take CMG's "accumulated investment in Sri Lanka to... over two billion US dollars, making it the largest foreign investment enterprise in the island", the company said in a statement on Monday. CMG will have a 70 per cent stake in the company set up to build the logistics complex at

Colombo, the only deep-sea port between Dubai and Singapore.

Describing the project as South Asia's largest logistics hub, CMG said it expects to complete it by the end of 2025.

CMG also manages the port complex at Hambantota on the southern tip of Sri Lanka.

That port was considered among the white-elephant projects launched by former president Mahinda Rajapaksa, who ruled the country for a decade until 2015. — AFP

S Korea’s online shopping grows 7% in March

SOUTH Korea’s online shopping grew in March due to solid demand for travel and leisure services, statistical office data showed on Monday.

Shopping in cyberspace came to 18.84 trillion won (14.1 billion US dollars) in March, up 7.0 per cent from the same month of last year, according to Statistics Korea.

Online demand for travel and transport services spiked 95.3 per cent, and the culture and leisure services transaction soared 66.2 per cent.

It was attributed to the lifting of measures against the COVID-19 pandemic, which expanded outdoor activities.

Online transactions for clothing and footwear jumped in double digits ahead of springtime, but demand for food delivery services retreated 13.0 per cent amid the eased worry about the pandemic.

Mobile shopping through smartphones gained 5.0 per cent over the year to 13.8 trillion won (10.3 billion dollars) in March. — Xinhua

‘Super Mario’ is year’s first film to pass \$1 bln globally

“THE Super Mario Bros Movie” easily held its first-place position on North American movie screens this weekend while its accumulated global total pushed past the \$1 billion mark, analysts said Sunday.

The video game-based film earned an estimated \$40 million for the Friday-through-Sunday period in the United States and Canada for a domestic total so far of \$490 million, industry watcher Exhibitor Relations reported.

With overseas earnings now at \$532 million, its accumulated global total has hit \$1.02 billion. That makes “Super



Japanese producer and video game designer Shigeru Miyamoto attends Universal's "The Super Mario Bros Movie" special screening at the Regal LA Live in Los Angeles, 1 April 2023. PHOTO: AFP

Mario” — a joint project of Universal, Nintendo and Illumination studios — the year’s first film to pass the billion-dollar mark and only the 10th animation ever to do so, according to the Hollywood Reporter. — AFP

Ministry of Immigration and Population
Department of Population
Invitation of proposals for
an International Consultant

1. The Ministry of Immigration and Population (MOIP) plans to conduct the 2024 Population and Housing Census using the Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) method for data collection, capture, and processing. This is one of the major activities of Population and Housing Census, and as such, MOIP is looking to hire an international consultant to develop comprehensive work plans, design the data collection system, offer technical guidance, and provide training to enhance capacity.

2. An international consultant with experience in conducting censuses will be recruited through a competitive selection and evaluation process. Interested candidates are invited to refer to the following information to submit their proposals:

(a) The date and time the interested candidates can obtain TOR for the international consultant position

(b) The location designated for proposal submission

(c) The way of submitting the proposal

(d) The proposal submission deadline

(e) The date and time for the interview

- From 5-5-2023 to 31-5-2023 (during office hours). TOR can also be available from www.dop.gov.mm

- Department of Population, Ministry of Immigration and Population, Office No. 48, Nay Pyi Taw

- In person or by email: pop.dept.mm@gmail.com

- On 31-5-2023 at 16:30 PM MMST. (During office hours)

- The shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

3. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

4. For additional information regarding the proposal form and terms and conditions, you may contact phone numbers (during office hours) and email address provided below:

Department of Population, Nay Pyi Taw
Phone No. +95 67-431066, +95 67-431339
email address. pop.dept.mm@gmail.com

Tender Acceptance and Evaluation Committee

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V FILOTIMO VOY.NO. (316W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V FILOTIMO VOY.NO. (316W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-5-2023 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V KOTA HAPAS VOY.NO. (KHPS0382N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HAPAS VOY.NO. (KHPS0382N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-5-2023 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 PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (168N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (168N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-5-2023 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MITHI BHUM VOY.NO. (269W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MITHI BHUM VOY.NO. (269W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-5-2023 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

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

UN says Sudan near 'breaking point' as battles flare despite truce



Sudanese refugees from the Tandelti area who crossed into Chad, in Koufroun, near Echbara, are seen on 30 April 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

GUN battles and explosions again rocked Sudan's capital Monday despite the latest truce formally agreed between the warring parties as the United Nations warned the humanitarian crisis had brought the country near its "breaking point".

The chaos and bloodshed, now in their third week, have sparked a mass exodus of tens of thousands of Sudanese to neighbouring countries including Egypt, Chad and Central African Republic.

More than 500 people have been reported killed since fighting

erupted on 15 April between Sudan's army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who commands the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces.

Millions of Sudanese around the capital and beyond have sheltered in their homes with dwindling food and water and frequent power cuts, as fighter jets thundering through the sky on bombing raids have drawn heavy anti-aircraft fire.

"Warplanes are flying over southern Khartoum and anti-aircraft guns are firing at

them," said one resident, while another witness told AFP he was also hearing "loud gunfire".

Burhan and Daglo have agreed multiple, poorly observed ceasefires and extended the latest by 72 hours late on Sunday, with each side repeatedly blaming the other for the frequent violations.

While foreign nations have evacuated thousands of their citizens by air, road and sea, some 50,000 Sudanese have fled overland to neighbours, said the UN. — AFP

Jordanian, Syrian FMs underline Arab world's role in finding political solution to Syrian crisis

JORDANIAN Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi and his Syrian counterpart Faisal Mekdad on Monday underlined the Arab world's leading role in finding a political solution to Syria's crisis.

Safadi met Mekdad in the Jordanian capital of Amman before attending a consultative meeting on Syria that brings together the foreign ministers of member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and those of Jordan, Iraq and Egypt, the Jordanian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

During the meeting, the two officials discussed issues that include border security, water, refugees and the fight against the smuggling of narcotics, it added.

The larger meeting, which was attended Arab foreign ministers and their Syrian counterpart, focused on ways to find a political settlement of Syria's more than decade-old conflict. It follows up a consultative meeting of the Arab ministers hosted by Saudi Arabia in Jeddah on 14 April. — Xinhua

Nurses in England walk out as dispute intensifies

NURSES in England walked out again Monday, with some critical services due to be hit for the first time.

The industrial action is the latest stoppage in an increasingly bitter dispute with the government over pay and conditions.

The 28-hour strike, which started at 8:00 pm (1900 GMT) on Sunday, comes after members of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) earlier this month voted to reject a five-percent government pay increase offer.

The walkout is one of many across the private and public sector over the past year as workers have grappled with double-digit inflation.



Healthcare workers hold placards as they demonstrate on Westminster Bridge, near to St Thomas' Hospital in London on 1 May 2023 as members of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) continue their industrial action. **PHOTO: AFP**

All hospitals have been guaranteed a minimum level

of cover for intensive care and trauma. — AFP

French mass in 1 May show of anger against Macron pension reform

HUNDREDS of thousands of people on Monday massed in France on labour day to vent their anger against President Emmanuel Macron's pension reform, with unions vowing not to stop fighting even after the changes were signed into law.

Unions had been hoping for a vast turnout across France for the 1 May protests to further rattle Macron, who has been greeted by pot-bashing and jeers as he toured the country seeking to defend the reforms and relaunch his second mandate.

Macron last month signed a law to raise the retirement age from 62 to 64, despite months of



A protester holds a placard reading "Macron you are done for, we won't give up" next to French gendarmes in riot gear, with French Communist Party stand in the background during a demonstration on May Day (Labour Day), to mark the international day of the workers, more than a month after the government pushed an unpopular pensions reform act through parliament in Paris on 1 May 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

strikes against the bill.

"The law has been passed but has not been accepted, there is a desire to show discontent peacefully to have a reaction in response that shows a certain level of decency," said Celine Bertoni, 37, an academic in the central city of Clermont-Ferrand.

"I still hope that we are going to be told it will be withdrawn," she added.

"Macron has the impression that as he was elected he has all the power! But I want him to cede his place to the people," added Karine Catteau, 45, in the western city of Rennes.

The main march in Paris kicked off at 1200 GMT along the traditional protest route of Place de la Republique to Place de la Nation, with a heavy downpour suddenly beginning at the very moment it started.

Police had been given a last-minute go-ahead to use drones as a security measure after a Paris court rejected a petition from rights groups for them not to be used.

Police used tear gas in Toulouse in southern France as tensions erupted during the demonstrations, while a car was set on fire in the southeastern city of Lyon. — AFP



South Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol (R) and US President Joe Biden (L) participate in a State Arrival ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House 26 April 2023 in Washington DC. **PHOTO: AFP**

KCNA slams “legitimacy” of US strategic assets deployment to Korean Peninsula

THE state news agency of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Monday slammed the “legitimacy” rhetoric on the deployment of US nuclear strategic assets to the Korean Peninsula.

“Deploying nuclear strategic assets orchestrated by the US has been a main evil source of ever-escalating tensions on the Korean Peninsula,” the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA)

said in a commentary.

The commentary said the US-South Korean rhetoric has two intentions. One is to “dodge the responsibility for the worst-ever nuclear-related crimes it (the United States) has committed by systematically destroying and violating the nuclear non-proliferation system, and in particular, pushing the situation of the Korean Peninsula to the brink of a nuclear war through the es-

tablishment of aggressive and exclusive military blocs and frantic nuclear proliferation threatening human existence.”

The second intention was depicted as a design to hype the “legitimacy” of the regular deployment of US strategic nuclear submarine near the Korean Peninsula and thus invent the “legal justification” for openly bringing its huge strategic assets there in the future, it said. — Xinhua

Syrian president hails China's support for Syria, peacemaking role in Mideast

SYRIAN President Bashar al-Assad has hailed China's supportive stance toward Syria and its role in solving critical regional issues, including the Iranian-Saudi reconciliation.

Assad made the remarks during his meeting with the visiting China's special envoy on Middle East affairs, Zhai Jun, in the capital Damascus on Saturday.

Assad said Syria appreciates China's firm support in issues concerning Syria's national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

The president said Syria looks forward to strengthen-

ing practical cooperation with China in various fields within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative.

Meanwhile, Assad congratulated China on successfully mediating the Iranian-Saudi reconciliation, saying it will have an important and positive impact on the regional and international situation.

Voicing appreciation for China's positive role in promoting Syria's relations with other Arab nations, Assad said China is welcome to play a greater role in maintaining regional peace and stability. — Xinhua

Leading Thai opposition PM candidate gives birth two weeks from polling day

AN opposition frontrunner in Thailand's upcoming general elections has given birth two weeks before the polling day, her party confirmed on Monday.

The kingdom is entering the final stretch before the 14 May election with reformist groups, including Pheu Thai and Move Forward, surging ahead of establishment parties.

Paetongtarn Shinawatra, daughter of billionaire former leader Thaksin Shinawatra, is one of Pheu Thai's prime ministerial candidates and has been polling strongly.

A near-constant presence on the campaign trail, for the past week she has rallied virtually, appearing by video link at an event on Saturday in Thailand's eastern Si Sa Ket province.

“She gave birth this morning,” Rinthipond Varinvatchara-



(FILES) In this file photo taken on 3 April 2023, Pheu Thai Party candidate Paetongtarn Shinawatra arrives for the first day of the constituencies candidates registration ahead of Thailand's general election, in Bangkok. **PHOTO: AFP**

roj, Pheu Thai acting spokeswoman, told AFP. It is unclear how long Paetongtarn will rest, she said, but Rinthipond was confident that she would be present at Pheu Thai's final rally in Bangkok

on 12 May. On her official Instagram page, Paetongtarn said the baby boy would be named Prutthasin Sooksawas and nicknamed “Thasin”. — AFP

Evacuation order lifted in last of 6 impacted Fukushima areas

THE Japanese government on Monday lifted an evacuation order for parts of a village near the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, meaning entry restrictions are no longer in place in any designated reconstruction base across six municipalities in the area.

The restrictions were removed for the village of Iitate after the lifting of similar orders in five other municipalities that began in June 2022. The restrictions have been in place since the March 2011 nuclear disaster left the areas inhabitable due to high radiation levels.

The five other municipal-



Gates to a previously restricted section of Iitate, Fukushima Prefecture, are opened after an evacuation order was lifted on 1 May 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

ities where restrictions have been lifted earlier are Futaba, Namie, Tomioka, Okuma and Katsurao.

In the wake of the nuclear disaster, the government imposed a “difficult-to-return” zone across a 337-square-kilometre area of Fukushima straddling seven municipalities. The zone is, in principle, inaccessible due to high levels of radiation.

Within that zone, around 27 square kilometres of land in six of the municipalities were listed as “reconstruction and revitalization” bases, where state-funded decontamination work and infrastructure pro-

jects have been carried out to facilitate the return of residents.

The latest change covers a 1.86 sq km section of Iitate that was designated as one of the bases.

The evacuation order for the village was also lifted for an area outside the base. It was a first for such an order to be lifted for somewhere outside the base.

Iitate is located between 30 and 50 kilometres northwest of the Fukushima Daiichi power station, which suffered a multiple-reactor meltdown in the wake of the massive earthquake and tsunami in 2011. — Kyodo



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.

Arteta adamant Arsenal still in Premier League title race

MIKEL Arteta has insisted Arsenal are still contenders for the Premier League title despite slipping from the top of the table at the weekend.

Arteta's men were replaced at the summit by Manchester City following the champions' 2-1 win at Fulham on Sunday.

City now lead the Gunners by a point, with a game in hand, after winning eight successive league matches as they eye a fifth title in six years.

Arsenal, by contrast, have stumbled in recent weeks, taking just three points from their last four fixtures.

They are at least assured of

a return to Champions League football after a six-season absence from Europe's leading club competition, but Arteta stressed the Gunners' squad were not satisfied with that achievement alone.

Arteta now wants Arsenal, beaten 4-1 by City last week, to stage a revival when they face London rivals Chelsea at the Emirates on Tuesday.

"We have achieved what it was difficult to achieve and we can still achieve the Premier league because there are five games to go and a lot of things are going to happen still," he said. — AFP



Myanmar U-22 players take training hard ahead of the SEA Games Men's Football Tourney. PHOTO: MFF

SEA Games Men's Football: Myanmar to play Timor- Leste today

MYANMAR men's football team will take on Timor-Leste men's team today in the Group A second-day match of the SEA Games men's football tournament.

The match of team Myanmar will start at 3:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time, while host Cambodia will play against the Philippines at 6:30 pm MST.

The Myanmar team started the first game, but the other three teams had to compete in the second match.

Since the Myanmar team is

playing the first match against Timor, which is the weakest team in the group, they need to score more goals in addition to full points.

In the first match, team Timor lost four goals to the host Cambodia.

The Myanmar squad has to start with Timor before playing tight matches against Indonesia and Cambodia.

The Myanmar team has met Timor three times in a row in the group stage of the SEA Games, winning in the 2019

tournament by 3-1 and the 2021 tournament by 3-2.

Michael Feichtenbeiner, a German citizen, is handling the Myanmar U-22 team that will compete in the Cambodian SEA Games as the head coach, and this is the coach's first international competition with team Myanmar.

The currently formed Myanmar U-22 team includes only a few players who have competed in the previous SEA Games. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Myanmar placed in Group B of SEA Games Men's Volleyball Event

MYANMAR men's volleyball team is falling in Group B, according to the fixtures of the Cambodian SEA Games men's volleyball tournament.

Previously, only seven teams would compete in the SEA Games men's volleyball tournament, but after the drawing-lot ceremony, the addition of the Philippine national team was added to the three-team Group A.

According to group distribution, Indonesia is placed in Group A with host Cambodia, the Philippines, and Singapore while Group B sees Thailand, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Viet Nam.

According to the group match schedule, the Myanmar team will play against team Viet Nam on 3 May, Malaysia on 4 May, and Thailand on 6 May.

The Myanmar squad is

in a tough group and is likely to play hard to qualify for the semi-finals.

The Myanmar volleyball teams are preparing for the SEA Games with local coaches and trained in China as a

pre-competition preparation.

Team Myanmar missed out on a medal in the last Viet Nam SEA Games and was also eliminated from the group stage. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Myanmar volleyball players (dark blue) stretch their arms to block the ball during the previous 2019 SEA Games Volleyball match against Thailand. PHOTO: THAW GYI