NURTURE STUDENT YOUTHS UNDER YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PLANS PAGE-8 (OPINION)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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

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

The door of peace is always open to ethnic organizations which have not reached the peace talks yet without any pre-restrictions: Senior General

State Administration Council Chair Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the meeting 1/2023 of the Central Committee on Implementing Development of Border Areas and National Races in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 May 2023.

TRAINEES from UDNR and training schools must be trained to have experiences in rural administration and regional development, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 1/2023 of the Central Committee on Implementing Development of Border Areas and National Races at the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In his speech, the Senior General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Central Committee on Implementing Development of Border Areas and National Races, said the central committee is implementing six kinds of duties. Peace and stability are crucial in striving for the development of border regions. Peace and stability are based on national unity.

Since its establishment, the State Administration Council has been emphasizing the prosperity of the State and food security, the socioeconomic development of the entire people, restoration of perpetual peace, and secure and smooth transport of the entire Union.

Border development and peace and stability are interrelated. In this regard, the transport sector plays a key role in mutual trust and friendly relations among ethnic people.

The development of the nation depends on the enhancement of education qualifications. During the period from 1999 to 2014, a total of 19,441,711 youths attended the school, 11,137,318 of whom attended the middle school, accounting for 57.29 per cent and 7,787,412 students joined the eighth standard, accounting for 40.06 per cent. Hence, it is necessary to enhance education promotion in border regions.

With regard to the health sector, the Union health life expectancy is 63.4 years for males and 72.2 years for females on average. So, it is necessary to accelerate healthcare services for the people.

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Announcement No 17/2023

2nd Waning of Kason 1385 ME
5 May 2023

Allowing Lisu National Development Party (LNDP) to register as political party

AS of 5 May 2023, Lisu National Development Party (LNDP) with its headquarters located at No 23/118, Rampu Ward, Myitkyina, Kachin State, has been allowed to register under Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law. The registration number of the Lisu National Development Party (LNDP) is 12.

Sd/Thein Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Announcement No 18/2023

2nd Waning of Kason 1385 ME
5 May 2023

Allowing Khami National Development Party to register as political party

AS of 5 May 2023, Khami National Development Party with its headquarters located at No 114, Singu Street, Ward 1, Sittway, Rakhine State has been allowed to register under Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law. The registration number of the Khami National Development Party is 13.

Sd/Thein Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Delegation headed by PRC State Councillor & Foreign Minister pays homage to Thatbyinnyu Temple

A delegation led by the People's Republic of China State Councillor and Foreign Minister Mr Qin Gang departed from Nay Pyi Taw for Bagan. Upon arrival, the delegation was welcomed by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Myo Htut, Mandalay Region Government Social Affairs Minister U Aung Min, and other officials yesterday.

The delegation met with young individuals from the Chinese embassy in Yangon at the Zhou Enlai Prayer Hall, located within the Shwezigon Pagoda complex in Bagan in the evening.

The delegation visited the Thatbyinnyu Temple, which is under renovation with the help of the Chinese government, and toured Bagan pagodas by car.

The delegation led by the Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister departed from NyaungU. Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Myo Htut, Mandalay Region government Social Affairs Minister U Aung Min and other officials saw him off at NyaungU Airport. — MNA/KZW

UMFCCI MSME Fair 2023 to be held for development of MSME businesses

THE UMFCCI MSME Fair 2023, aimed at promoting the development of MSME businesses, will take place at Lotte Hotel in Yangon from 9 am to 5 pm on 7 and 8 May.

In the exhibition, local products of MSMEs will be opened with more than 120 booths. To develop small and medium businesses and realize market opportunities. The event will feature an exhibition of products from MSME businesses, along with the MSME Outstanding Award program which recognizes innovation, packaging, and service excellence. Additionally, a fashion show will be held to highlight the cultural significance of MSMEs through traditional costumes.

Those who wish to attend the exhibition can attend by pre-registering at the UMFCCI website link https://bit.ly/3AReR81 and phone: 09 400039227 and 09 799242518. — Myo Min Thura/KZW

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 increase of death rate due to the disease.

208 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 5 May, total figure registers 635,660

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to 635,660 after 208 new cases were reported on 5 May 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

Therefore, a total of 10,418,900 laboratory samples were examined and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 635,660. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 615,046 including 48 new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered 19,492 on 5-5-2023 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, and when more than one person is in closed chambers, windows should be opened for good ventilation. 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

Building Union based on democracy and federalism

DEMOCRACY is a system of government chosen by all the eligible members of the State, typically through elected representatives. The federal system is a concept of dividing up the authoritative power on concerted efforts of the ethnic groups from different regions and states and is also a system or living in unison and sharing equal opportunities.

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing at the Passing Out Parade of the 64th Intake of Defence Services Academy on 2 December 2022)

The door of peace is always open to ethnic organizations which have not reached the peace talks yet without any pre-restrictions: Senior General

FROM PAGE-1

Agriculture and livestock are the primary business of the nation with expectations for food security of the nation as well as respective regions. Value-added products contribute much to regional development.

An emphasis is being placed on the development of human resources for youths from border regions. In this regard, 47 border youth development training schools are training 33,007 students and arrange them to continue learning in higher education and vocational schools. The University for Development of the National Races of the Union produces 14,058 students at different levels of degrees as well as teachership diplomas up to the 2022-23 academic year.

Nationalities Youth Resources Development Degree Colleges in Yangon and Sagaing turned out 4,701 students to obtain BA, BSc, AGTI diploma and BTech degrees and arranged for them to join relevant ministries as service personnel.

Everybody needs to specially take care of restoring peace and stability and national unity in the entire nation through undertakings of border region development which is essential for building the Union based on democracy and federalism the entire people inspire.

Seven NCA signatory ethnic armed organizations and three non-NCA signatory ethnic armed organizations held peace talks and the results from the talks came out for continuing the political peace and stability process. The Senior General noted that the door of peace is always open to ethnic organizations which have not reached the peace talks yet without any pre-restrictions.

While striving for the improvement of education, health, transport and economic sectors of the border regions, it is necessary to implement peace and stability as well as the rule of law in border regions.

Central Committee Secretary Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung reported on the formation of the central committee, duties and functions, policies, missions and visions, and progress of border regions and national races.

Members of the central committee, Union ministers, chief ministers of regions and states and officials participated in discussions on development undertakings for border regions and national races.

The Vice-Chairman of the central committee SAC Vice-Chairman instructed all to improve MSME businesses, undertake regional development tasks and develop human resources.

After hearing the reports, the Senior General highlighted that it is necessary to prioritize the improvement of school buildings and provide teaching aid to them. Arrangements should be made for running flights and waterway transport to the areas with lesser road transport facilities. Trainees from UDNR and training schools must be trained to have experience in rural administration and regional development.

The Senior General stressed the need to appoint nurses, health assistants and health officers in rural areas and medical doctors at the township level in the remote areas. The central committee must focus on the development of the nation based on rural areas. He underscored that it is necessary to turn out the youths capable of firmly safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes with patriotic spirit.

In conclusion, the Senior General pointed out that peace and stability of the border regions are of importance in the enhancement of border region development tasks. Hence, officials need to supervise the timely completion of the assignments in the relevant financial years despite restrictions of local situations, climatic conditions and the transport sector.

The Senior General noted that it can be seen that infrastructures of border regions and human resources are being undertaken with the funds provided by India and China as part of international cooperation. The Senior General expressed his thanks to the partner countries and organizations for their assistance in development undertakings contributing much to the ethnic national people from the border regions. — MNA/TTA

MoFA Union Minister attends meeting 1/2023 of Working Committee on Cooperation with UN Agencies & IOs under Central Committee on Rakhine State's Peace, Stability & Development

THE meeting of the Working Committee on the Cooperation with the United Nations Agencies and International Organizations 1/2023 under the Central Committee on the Rakhine State's Peace, Stability and Development was held at the Ayeyawady Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday.

Union Minister U Than Swe chairs the meeting 1/2023 of the Working Committee on Cooperation with the United Nations Agencies and International Organizations under the Central Committee on the Rakhine State's Peace, Stability and Development yesterday.

Union Minister U Than Swe, in his capacity as Chairman of the Working Committee on Cooperation with the UN Agencies and International Organizations, underlined that the Government of Myanmar has been making efforts for the repatriation of the displaced persons from the Bangladesh side under a pilot project. The Union minister highlighted that necessary work should be done for the sustainable livelihoods of the returnees. Moreover, he also underscored that it is important to effectively cooperate with the United Nations agencies and international organizations for the sustainable return and livelihood of displaced persons.

Additionally, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Ko Ko Hlaing emphasized cooperation among stakeholders for effective humanitarian assistance in Rakhine State and dissemination of local information to the international community. Dr Wah Wah Maung, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and the Vice-Chair of the Working Committee, and members of the Working Committee deliberated the ongoing implementation and progress of the activities in the Rakhine State as well as the updates on activities carried out under the pilot project.

The permanent secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in his capacity as Secretary of the Working Committee, also discussed the updates on the implementation of the 1/2022 meeting decisions of the Working Committee and its future plan while the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Information, co-secretary of the Working Committee, stressed the effective dissemination of the credible information.

As a concluding remark, Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Than Swe, in his capacity as Chairman of the Working Committee, emphasized that it is important for a fair distribution of assistance to all communities in Rakhine State without discrimination.—MNA

The Fire Brigade has been serving duties focusing on the interests of the State and ethnic people in line with its fine traditions without political colours since its establishment: Vice-Senior General

State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win speaks on the occasion of the 77th Anniversary of Myanmar Fire Brigade Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

FIREFIGHTERS need to constantly study the advancement of firefighting techniques and apply them for the citizens of the nation, said Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the ceremony to mark the 77th Anniversary of Myanmar Fire Brigade Day at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General said the Myanmar Fire Brigade under the leadership of the Ministry of Home Affairs is strictly following three important sectors: management, fire safety and rescue works and review.

A total of 18,336 outbreaks of fire happened within 10 years from 2013 to 2022, losing more than K155 billion worth of property, according to the records of the Department of Fire Services. Annually, more than 1,800 times of fire broke out in the whole nation with some K15 billion worth of property.

The Vice-Senior General urged all firefighters to skillfully handle modern fire extinguishers and rescue vehicles and equipment and take training for having better skills in relevant arenas. Firefighters have to value their lives and follow the prescribed laws, rules and disciplines to become good firefighters.

The Vice-Senior General views round the exhibits at the event yesterday.

The Fire Brigade has been serving duties focusing on the interests of the State and ethnic people in line with its fine traditions without political colours since its establishment.

The Vice-Senior General praised permanent/auxiliary and separate firefighters for their sacrifices in dutifully serving assignments for the sake of the State and the people despite missing chances to secure honorary titles and medals.

The Vice-Senior General noted that as firefighters must solve the enormous dangers of the people firefighters, the role of the fire brigade is crucial in urban areas.

The Vice-Senior General said the Myanmar Fire Safety Code 2020 was issued on 30 December 2020 in order to minimize the loss in the outbreak of fire and reduce the danger to firefighters in putting out the fire.

Firefighters were urged to enhance their capacity to overcome the challenges of natural disasters and to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with those from international fire brigades.

The Vice-Senior General stressed the need to study modern technologies in extinguishing the fire and carrying out search and rescue works while taking training in groups in line with the international search and rescue advisory- INSERAG so as to encounter new challenges of natural disasters.

Firefighters need to constantly study the advancement of firefighting techniques and apply them to the citizens of the nation.

Next, a video clip on the 77th Anniversary of Myanmar Fire Brigade Day was presented. Vocalist U Tun Shwe presented a song on taking care of the fire.

The Vice-Senior General presented honorary awards and cash to vocalist U Tun Shwe, 90 years old, company commander U Wan Thaung, 94, of Paungde Township Auxiliary Fire Battalion of Bago Region and Sergeant U Tun Kyi, 92, of retired military personnel/fire service personnel respectively.

The Vice-Senior General viewed the display of ancient and modern fire trucks and equipment and fire extinguishers imported by MSME at the hall of the Department of Fire Services.

Auxiliary Fire Company Commander U Wan Thaung, 94, of Paungde Township Auxiliary Fire Battalion practically drove a Daihatsu (Pyitawtha) three-wheeled motorbike used in fire extinguishing tasks.

The Daihatsu (Pyitawtha) three-wheeled motorbike was manufactured by Japan in 1954. Such a vehicle arrived in Myanmar the same year and was used in putting out the fire. It could be used in narrow streets to put out the fire. U Wan Thaung has been serving duties of the auxiliary fire brigade for 69 years in good health from 25 years old to 94 years.

A dinner in commemoration of the 77th Anniversary of Myanmar Fire Brigade Day was held at MICC-II in the evening, attended by the Vice-Senior General and officials. — MNA/TTA

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MoIP Union Minister observes registration process of biometric data into e-ID cards & passports

UNION Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing and the team observed the Department of Citizenship and Immigration under the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Minsk, Belarus, yesterday morning. Department Head Colonel Starikovich Mikhail Vladimirovich explained that the National Database had been collated and the Central Control and Command System of Belarus has been established, incorporating the necessary management processes required for the system.

The registration operation had been completed as per the specifications of national verification registration documents with a biometric system. Practical demonstrations were provided to explain the procedural steps involved in creating a passport using an e-ID card and biometric information.

Subsequently, he and his team examined the forensic science systems, which verify the accuracy of personal information entered in e-ID cards and passports. In the afternoon, they proceeded to visit the cryptotech personal data protection and registration centre, which is under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, located in Minsk. — MNA/KZW

Union Minister U Myint Kyaing is pictured paying observation tours round the cryptotech personal data protection and registration centre in Minsk.

Myanmar granted dialogue partner status of Shanghai Cooperation Organization

The Myanmar ambassador to India and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization secretary-general ink the grant MoU in India on 5 May.

THE memorandum on granting the Republic of the Union of Myanmar the status of a dialogue partner of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was signed by U Moe Kyaw Aung, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of India, and Mr Zhang Ming, Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on 5 May 2023, at the sidelines of the Meeting of SCO Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) at Goa, India on 4-5 May 2023.

At the signing ceremony, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Maldives also signed the MoU with the SCO Secretariat along with Myanmar.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is an intergovernmental organization which established on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai, China. SCO currently comprises eight full-fledged members (China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan). SCO mainly focuses on promoting effective cooperation in politics, trade, environment protection, culture, education, energy and transport areas among the member countries. — MNA

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Brisk sales of Indian export beans hover over Mandalay market

IN early 2023, the prices of Indian export beans in the Mandalay market increased, and transactions were brisk, according to Mandalay beans and pulses dealers.

At the beginning of this year, the sales of Indian export beans (black gram, pigeon pea, green gram, kidney bean, and chickpea) had been good. In the previous year, the prices per bag containing three baskets of them were K150,000, K135,000, K120,000, K145,000, and K135,000, respectively. At this time of year, the prices rose to K215,000, K235,000, K200,000, K295,000, and K215,000, and there is a great demand in the market, according to U Soe Win Myint of the Soe Win Myint Depot in Mandalay.

"Compared to last year, Indian export beans (black gram, pigeon pea, green gram, kidney bean, and chickpea) fetch handsome prices in the market this year, and the prices are going up. Some record highs. There are needs in India for beans and pulses this year. Crops are yielding as usual since the weather is nice this year. There are also more and more continuous purchases from customer countries," he added.

At present, imported beans and pulses have entered the market, and the transaction is good. These crops are cultivated in Mandalay, Sagaing, and Magway Regions, regardless of season, and are grown only for one season as a winter crop in Yangon, Bago, and Ayeyawady Regions. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/CT

Traders are seen evaluating beans and pulses in the Mandalay market.

MoHT Union Minister holds talks with Russian Orthodox Archbishop

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Aung Thaw received a delegation led by His Eminence Sergiy, Russian Orthodox Archbishop for Metropolitan Singapore and South-East Asia yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Union minister first greeted the delegation and the Orthodox archbishop underscored that religious teaching is important in each and every country. It is a good blessing of Lord Buddha that the majority of Buddhists are living in Myanmar, he added.

He also highlighted that efforts are underway to establish one Orthodox Church for Russians and Russian tourists in Myanmar as Russians often visit Russian Orthodox churches in the countries where they visit. It would attract Russian tourists.

Union Minister U Aung Thaw receives the Russian Orthodox Archbishop yesterday.

Afterwards, the Union minister said that the Russian Orthodox religious organization should be respected. Although the majority of the population in Myanmar are Buddhists, the people have the right to enjoy freedom of religion, he added.

He reiterated his belief that the establishment of the Russian Orthodox Church in Myanmar will support the further development of Myanmar-Russia tourism cooperation. The Union minister and the Orthodox archbishop exchanged souvenirs and had documentary group photos taken with the attendees. — MNA/TS

2023 maritime and aviation youth basic, advanced courses continue in townships

WITH the aim to develop the knowledge of new generation students during the summer holidays, spend their holidays efficiently, follow their hobbies and emerge new generation who are mastered in maritime and aviation skills and knowledge, Myanmar Navy has been running the basic maritime youth course and advanced courses, while Myanmar Air Force, basic aviation youth courses (senior) and basic aviation youth courses (junior) simultaneously at respective townships since 24 April.

Myanmar Navy runs basic maritime youth courses and advanced courses at 11 maritime youth camps in respective townships with 712 trainees in total. It trained 97 trainees at the youth camp in Yangon,

71 trainees at the Coco Island training camp and 60 trainees at the Heinze training camp in Taninthayi Region and so on.

Similarly, Myanmar Air Force operates senior and junior-level basic aviation youth courses at 17 training camps in respective townships with 680 trainees in total.

It trained 40 trainees each at the Mawlamyine camp in Mon State, Mingaladon camp in Yangon Region, Magway camp in Magway Region, Meiktila camp in Mandalay Region, Kengtung camp in Shan State (east) and Taunggyi camp in Shan State (south).

The relevant regions' chief ministers, commanders and officials inspected the training sites and comforted the youths. They also provided the needed assistance to the trainees. — MNA/KTZH

Illegal industrial materials, consumer goods, foodstuffs, auto parts and vehicles seized

AN on-duty team seized two kinds of goods, including 17,582.4 kilogrammes of mass motor engine oil that were different from the Import Declaration (ID) worth K128.08 million from a container on 2 May and two kinds of goods, including 102.5 kg of display stand, worth K1,678,343 that were submitted to waive by owner for Import Licence needs from a container on 4 May at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 3 May, a combined team led by Dawei Myoma Police Station conducted a patrol inspection and captured 12,000 kg of Thai-made Tiger fertilizer worth K21.6 million without official documents from a Nissan Condor truck (approximately K20 million) at a bus station compound in Dawei township. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

In addition, an on-duty team at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint confiscated 7,500 Lippo bottles worth K2.7 million without official documents from a Higer bus (estimated value of K18 million) heading to Yangon from Myawady. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Therefore, six arrests (estimated value of K192,058,343) were made on three consecutive days from 2 to 4 May, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

LOCAL BUSINESS

Watermelon fetches good price during late season

WATERMELONS exported to China are offered at a high price at the end of the watermelon season, fruit traders involved in the Muse trade zone said.

The prevailing prices of watermelons are 40,000-70,000 yuan per 15-tonne truck.

"The watermelon prices remain high when the season ends. The prices of watermelon from Shan State rebound on maturity stage and high quality. The outright purchase of 855 watermelon varieties is on the rise," Sai Khin Maung from Khwanyo fruit depot emphasized.

Additionally, fruits are moved from border trade to normal trade under the 2.0 system on China's side. Therefore, exporters are still closely observing the impacts on fruit exports, he continued.

"China has commenced customs duty payment with the 2.0 system for fruit imports via normal trade. If there is more than a 300-kilogramme gap for weight measurement of watermelon, muskmelon and mango fruit trucks stated on the QR code, the trucks are not permitted. China asked the brokers, growers and freight forwarders to carefully check the tonnage mentioned in the QR code (trade net licence) with the actual weight," he added.

Myanmar's watermelon and muskmelon are heavily reliant on the Chinese market. The traders struggled with China's strict policy sometimes.

In early February, tight inspections by the Chinese Customs hindered truck transport. That being so, only 20-30 trucks were able to pass the checkpoint despite the delays amid the high prices of watermelons and muskmelons.

Consequently, watermelon was sold out at the depots on the China side and more than 500 trucks queued in line on the Myanmar side.

In 2021, the COVID-19 restrictions hindered Myanmar's watermelon and muskmelon exports to China. Chinese Customs Regulation increased delay. Long delays of trucks caused harm to watermelon quality and only one in five trucks heading to China remained undamaged with quality watermelons.

The traders are observing delivery time, price and profitability as they are perishable fruit, while they are trying to explore new markets besides China.

The prevailing prices of watermelons are 40,000-70,000 yuan per 15-tonne truck. Traders are pictured evaluating watermelons onboard the lorry at the Sino-Myanmar border.

On 1 April, Nantaw and Sinphyu borders were suspended in the wake of COVID-19 impacts. China has closed down the major border crossing Mang Wein from 30 March 2021 following the COVID-19 cases in Myanmar.

On 8 July 2021, the two-remaining cross-border points Kyinsankyawt and Panseng were suspended. As a result of this, the border trade between Myanmar and China was completely halted.

Among the Sino-Myanmar border points, the Kyinsankyawt border resumed operations on 26 November 2021.

Trade activity at the Muse-Mang Wein crossing point, which performed the majority of trade between Myanmar and China, resumed on 14 January 2023. Additionally, other goods except agricultural products (watermelon, muskmelon), minerals and fisheries products are allowed to be sent to China through that border point.

Additionally, Nantaw and Sinphyu, which are major border crossings, were reopened on 25 January 2023.

At present, Myanmar daily delivers rice, broken rice, rubber, various beans and pulses, fishery products, chilli pepper and other food commodities to China through the Kyinsankyawt border. — NN/EM

Myanmar foreign trade crosses US$1 bln as of 21 April

MYANMAR'S trade with foreign trade partners increased to US$1.625 billion as of 21 April in the financial year 2023-2024 from $1.536 million recorded in the year-ago period, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

Myanmar's export was worth over $606.67 million whereas the country's import was valued at $1.018 billion between 1 and 24 April. With border posts between Myanmar and China resuming, the border trade bounced back to $503.89 million, showing an increase of $210.3 million as against the year-ago period. Similarly, Myanmar's seaborne trade amounted to over $1.1 billion in the FY2022-2023, indicating a sharp drop of $121.89 million from the year-ago period.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, raw industrial materials, and consumer goods.

The country's export sector relies more on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. The Ministry of Commerce is focusing on reducing trade deficit, export promotion, import substitution and market diversification.

The external trade tremendously grew to US$33.9 billion last Financial Year 2022-2023 (April-March), according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The figures surged from $30.35 billion in the corresponding period of FY 2021-2022.

The external trade stood at $15.5 billion in the past mini-budget 2021-2022 (October-March) period and $29.58 billion in the 2020-2021 FY, as per the Commerce Ministry's statistics. — KK

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 5 May 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K1,875
Octane 95	K1,945
Diesel	K1,805
Premium Diesel	K1,885

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,403,300 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,998,000 per tical

US Dollar Vs Kyat

A US dollar set by the Central Bank of Myanmar	K2,100
A US dollar in the forex market	K2,840 to K2,855

The above prices may change from time to time.

OPINION

Nurture student youths under youth development plans

YOUTHS possess the future society and they are resources of the State to build the future society. Correct nurturing of the youths will turn out highly-qualified human resources who can shape the future State. Hence, it is necessary to nurture the youths to have five kinds of capacity to become State builders.

Daily newspapers as well as various media such as television channels show active movements of youths in regions and states under the youth development programmes this year. Outstanding students under the supervision of teachers started their excursions to relevant recreation camps in the 2022-2023 academic year to refresh their minds and take relaxations due to making hard work for their learning periods.

> In truth, the minds of youths are soft and tender. Their physical and mental natures can be shaped as expected. Hence, the government, officials, parents and teachers have to nurture the youths to become valuable ones for the State. Thanks to their nurturing, student youths will have the confidence to shape not only the future of Myanmar society but their lives. If so, it is sure that the future of the nation will be in harmony with the new generation of youth.

Those outstanding students were selected at different levels. As they are outstanding in relevant academic matters as well as general knowledge. After passing physical fitness, general knowledge and personality tests, the students were selected as outstanding students this year. Hence, they are valuable for their families, schools and residences as well as for the State.

In implementing the youth development projects, relevant sorts of training such as youth maritime courses and youth aviation courses at basic and advanced levels are being conducted in regions and states starting from 24 April. Currently, 712 female and male youth trainees are under training at 11 camps in Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi and Mandalay regions and Rakhine, Mon and Shan states. Meanwhile, a total of 680 trainees are being trained at 17 camps in Mandalay, Magway, Sagaing, Yangon, Bago, Taninthayi and Ayeyawady regions and Kachin, Shan and Mon states.

These training courses aim to nurture the youths to have experience and knowledge related to maritime and aviation and to become new generation youths to be able to easily conduct further studies in the aforesaid knowledge. Similarly, English proficiency, spoken English, computer, domestic science, sports courses as well as cultural courses will help the youths have knowledge and skills to be applied in the present arenas as part of efficiently spending time during the long summer holidays.

In truth, the minds of youths are soft and tender. Their physical and mental natures can be shaped as expected. Hence, the government, officials, parents and teachers have to nurture the youths to become valuable ones for the State. Thanks to their nurturing, student youths will have the confidence to shape not only the future of Myanmar society but their lives. If so, it is sure that the future of the nation will be in harmony with the new generation of youth.

ARTICLE

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

By THAN HTUN (GEOSCIENCE MYANMAR)

EPISODE:11

Cyril Sankey Fox, son of John Henry Neat Fox, was born in Calcutta on 24 February 1886. He received his early education in India completing it with a degree from the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur. He then joined the University of Birmingham and in 1908 obtained a BSc degree in Mining. Between 1910 and 1911 he was a lecturer in Mining at that University.

Fox joined the Geological Survey of India in 1911 as an Assistant Superintendent (subsequently the post was redesignated "Geologist") and was engaged in the systematic mapping of parts of Madhya Pradesh, collaborating with LL Fermor. During the 1914-18 World War, Fox was in active service with the army as a gunner, leaving with the rank of Captain, and partial deafness caused by proximity to artillery emplacement. On demobilization, he was seconded to the High Commissioner for India in London, at the same time obtaining his DSc degree in Mining from his old University in Birmingham. His original interest was evidently in Mining but as Geology is clearly an essential facet of the subject, Fox became doubly fitted by training to undertake research in the scientific and economic aspects of mineral occurrences, which proved to be an essential background throughout his career.

C. S. Fox was appointed Director on 25 March 1939 and consisted of Superintending Geologists, E. L. G. Clegg, H. Crookshank, A. L. Coulson, and J. A. Dunn. On the declaration of the Second World War in 1939 Fox rose fully to the occasion. He not only inspired his colleagues to make extra efforts, but convinced the Government that an expansion of the Geological Survey was essential with the increased demands for its services for locating new mineral deposits to replace the imports that had been abruptly cut off, to enable the industry to survive, and thus to further the War effort.

With the opening of the Burma Front, Fox initiated a Strategic Branch within the Survey to help advise the army in unknown terrain on road, bridge, and air-strip construction. This unit was headed by an officer of the Survey with field experience in Burma. Interpretation of air photography played an essential part in these operations, as it did also in civil use in the study of dam sites by a section of the Department at the end of the war that became the Engineering Geology and Groundwater Division. Fox retired on 1 July 1943, having left his mark on the Department in no uncertain manner.

Fox retired to England. While on a professional visit to India, he died in Calcutta after a brief illness on 28 December 1951 in the city of his birth and the country which had been his own, and for which he had done so much.

Burma Geological Department

The officers who were on loan to the Burma Geological Survey Department consisted of E. L. G. Clegg, Superintending Geologist with E. J. Bradshaw, Resident Geologist in the Yenangyaung Oilfield, A. B. Dutt, Assistant Geologist, and R. L. Sharma, Assistant Chemist. They carried out mineral investigations on coal, gold, iron ore, petroleum, wolfram, etc., and also attended to engineering geology and water supply questions. Clegg was considering the question of the likelihood of the Mergui, Moulmein, and Mawchi series being equivalent and ranging in age between the Carboniferous and the Cretaceous.

Cretaceous Cephalopods in the Red Beds of Kalaw

C. S. Fox discovered Cretaceous Cephalopods in the Red Beds of Kalaw, Southern Shan States and reported in Record of Geological Survey of India, Vol. LXIII in 1930. The summary account of the report is as follows: -

Red beds, consisting of soft sandstones and shales with calcareous conglomerates, are well exposed around the station of Kalaw (96º 35': 20˚ 38') in the Southern Shan States of Burma. These 'Red Beds' of Kalaw comprise part of C. S. Middlemiss"Purple Sandstone Zone'. T. H. La Touche, writing of the Purple Sandstone zone, considered it "to be the equivalent of the Namyau series… The only difference is the presence in Middlemiss' area, of interbedded conglomerates, of considerable coarseness and thickness, apparently at several different horizons; and thin seams of coal".

Cyril Sankey Fox (1886-1951), Source: GSI

The marine (brachiopod) fauna of the Namyau series has been described by S. S. Buckman. He thought the Namyau series might be divided into two parts; a lower fossiliferous limestone part with brachiopods of Bathonian affinities and an upper fossiliferous part with soft purple sandstones and shales. For the former Mr. Buckman suggested the name Namyau Limestones and the latter Namyau Shales.

In 1922 during his examination of the Loi-an coal field, three miles east of Kalaw G. de P. Cotter found the following plant fossils in the coal measures of Middlemiss' 'Purple Sandstone zone': -

Filicales: Cladophlebis denticulate (Brong), Gingkoales: Gingkoites digitata (Brong), Coniferales: Pagiophyllum divaricatum Bunb). Brachyphyllum expansum (Sterub.), Bennettitales: Ptilophyllum sp. cf. P. (non Otozamites) hislopi (Oldh.), Incertae sedis; Podozamites dislans (Morris).

Dr Cotter expressed the view that the 'Red Beds' of Kalaw were considerably younger than the Loi-an coal measures and hinted that they might be Cretaceous in age. His duties in connection with the coal fields of Burma took me to Kalaw in January 1929. He was aware of the possible two-fold character of the Namyau series of the Northern Shan States and the probability that Middlemiss' 'Purple Sandstone zone' might have a three-fold character, as it might comprise (1) the 'Red Beds' of Kalaw, (2) the Loi-an coal-measures and (3) the equivalents of the Napeng beds.

'Red Beds' of Kalaw: At the time of his visit to Kalaw an effort was being made to improve the local Race Course, and, to fill up the hollows in the track, the material was being taken from the Red Beds from the little hillock (with a small pagoda on it) between the Railway Station and the Kalaw Hotel. The strata exposed in the cuttings were very soft, friable sandstones and shales of a purplish-red colour. The beds dip westward (i.e., towards the hillock and the Race Course) at about 25º. The section laid bare probably represented 30 feet of the strata. At this place, with the help of his interpreter, orderly, and a few coolies. He collected two baskets full of fragments of sandstone in which evidence of fossils was visible. Unfortunately, the material was exceedingly fragile and easily crumbled to pieces. In spite of the greatest care, only two specimens survived the train and sea journeys to Calcutta. Dr Cotter, then a Palaeontologist at the Geological Survey of India, examined these two specimens. The specific determinations are of course open to emendation, but Dr Cotter was in no doubt that these Cephalopods were similar to those in the Trichinopoly beds of the Madras Coromandel Coast, which are Upper (Ariyalur) to Middle (Utatur) Cretaceous in age.

Loi-an coal-measures: The terrestrial flora of these beds has been shown that the Loi-an coal-measures are Lower Oolite to Liassic in age. The exact correlation of the Loi-an strata with the Namyau Limestone must always remain uncertain, as the age of the latter is based on marine fauna. The probability is that they are very close in age. There is thus evidence of shore conditions in Liassic times in the Madras region on the one hand and in the Southern Shan States on the other. Fluviatile conditions were present in the Rajmahal area and, contemporaneously, marine deposition was in progress in the Northern Shan States.

Napeng beds: The age of the Napeng beds of the Northern Shan States was finally established as Rhaetic by Miss M. Healy. These beds in the Southern Shan States should therefore underlie Dr Cotter's Loi-an coal measures and overlie the Upper Plateau limestone. A series of hard sandstones and conglomerates, quite distinct from the soft 'Red Beds' of Kalaw, occur south-south-west of Legaung (96º 30': 20º 50'), roughly east of the Thazi-Kalaw road, about 38th mile from Thazi. My examination of these beds was very hurried, but there is little doubt that they underlie the coal measures in the synclinal of the Legaung ridge.

From the evidence now available the stratigraphical succession of the Mesozoic formations of the Shan plateau may provisionally be classified as follows: -

Age	Northern Shan States	Southern Shan States
Cretaceous (Upper)	Namyau Shales	'Red Beds'of Kalaw
	Break	
Jurassic (Lower) (Lias)	Namyau Limestones	Loi-an coal measure
	Break	
Triassic (Rhaetic) (Bunter)	Nampeng Beds	Beds at mile 38 Thazi Road
	Break	
Permian (Middle)	Upper Plateau limestone	Upper Plateau limestone

Distribution of Cretaceous beds

Although no Cretaceous fossils have previously been found on the Shan Plateau there are records of the discovery of ammonites, of believed Cretaceous forms, in the Arakan Yoma and the Assam hills bordering Burma. W. Theobald secured a single specimen, Ammonites (Schanbachia) inflatus near the village of Ma-I (94º 13':19 20') in the Sandoway district, Arakan. F. Noetling picked up an ammonite (evidently derived from beds in the Patkoi range) in the Hukong Valley. H. H. Hayden found an ammonite in the Naga Hills and recorded that T. H. La Touche had found Cretaceous echinoids in the Lushai Hills. Fossiliferous Cretaceous strata have long been known from the southern scraps of the Shillong plateau about Tharia Ghat (91 45': 25º 11') and Jowai (92˚ 12': 25˚ 27') in Assam.

General Conclusion

Spengler concluded that both in Assam and in the Pondicherry (Madras) areas the Cretaceous fauna indicated a Senonian age. From the fact that Cretaceous fauna in the Himalayan and Tibetan strata is quite different from that in the rocks of the Assam and Madras areas, it must be concluded that these two marine areas were separated by a land barrier in Cretaceous times. This belief is supported by the evidence of the coal seams, suggestive of a shoreline, of Upper Cretaceous age in the Garo Hills tract of western Assam.

It is difficult to trace the changes in the distribution of sea and land in this region previous to the Senonian epoch of the Cretaceous period. However, it is clear, from the widespread occurrences of an Anthracolithic (Permian) fauna in Burma and the Himalayan region, followed by the almost isolated position of the Napeng (Rhaetic) marine fauna in the Northern Shan States, that extensive land conditions were prevalent in the early epochs (Bunter and Keuper) of the Mesozoic era.

A similarly restricted sea evidently existed in the Lower Jurassic period (as indicated by the marine fauna of the Namyau Limestones) but with the closing epochs of the Cretaceous period, a great marine transgression was in progress. This ocean appears to have attained its maximum extent about the time of the eruption of the basaltic lavas (the Deccan volcanic period) in the Peninsular region of India.

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

MOEAF inks MoU with medical check-up centres for workers going to work in Malaysia & Thailand

The documentary group photo of the MoU signing event.

MYANMAR Overseas Employment Agencies Federation-MOEAF has announced that MoUs have been signed with eight accredited hospitals and clinics to conduct health check-ups for workers who will work in Malaysia and Thailand.

Workers who will legally go to these two countries will be probably prevented from the exploitation of brokers, cheating by using overseas employment agencies, and human trafficking, it is stated.

Eight medical centres in Myanmar recognized by Malaysia and Thailand are Aya Medical Centre, Elotus Medical Laboratory & Diagnostics, Htet Marn Diagnostics & Specialist Clinic, Konbaung Health Centre, Lamin Medical Clinics, Moe Thee General Hospital, Sabaidee Special Clinic and Shwe Bon San Medical Centre. — TWA/MKKS

EVs, components expo to be held at People's Park on 12 May

UNDER the guidance of the Yangon Region government, the Electronic Vehicles and Components Expo will be held on 12 May at the People's Park, according to a coord meeting for organizing the EV expo with the companies.

The companies will exhibit EVs, charging stations and components at the event. The situations of EVs running in and out of Yangon will be presented as well.

Amid the global warming issues, natural disasters, air pollution and its impacts on the economy, the EVs will run in three big cities (Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay) as a pilot project to mitigate climate change and reduce carbon emissions.

The distributors of EVs and installers of EV charging stations; Chindwin Shan Co (CDS), Essential Motors Co Ltd (EM), Myanmar Brilliance Auto Co (MBA), Asia Pacific Automaker Corporation (AP AC), NPK Motors Co Ltd and Super Seven Star (SSS) will participate in the expo. — TWA/EM

The photo shows several recently imported battery electric vehicles (BEVs).

Aungmyintmoh & Thilawa low-cost housing to sell flats by drawing lots

Thilawa low-cost housing flats.

A total of 204 flats in Aungmyintmoh low-cost housing in Dagon Myothit (South) and Thilawa low-cost housing in Kyauktan township will be sold through lot drawing, according to the Ministry of Construction.

There are 2,788 customers on the list of having deposited K3 million and above with the Construction, Housing and Infrastructure Development Bank (CHID) until end-December 2023.

The previous price of 900 and 1,300 square feet is K29.6 million-K55.6 million but it changed to K32.6 million-K61.2 million for building maintenance after these flats were used as COVID-19 treatment centres. In addition, the price of 468 square feet area has been adjusted from K11.1million-K18.6 million to K12.2 million-K21.6 million.

The first 25 registrants out of 699 registrations to purchase the flats will be allowed to attend lot-drawing events at the Urban and Housing Development Department on Bogyoke Aung San Road in Yangon on 9 May in order to avoid overcrowding as per Covid-19 rules and regulations. — TWA/MKKS

Onion wholesale price jumps to K2,100 per viss

Onion bags are seen arriving at the Bayintnaung onion depot.

A total of 156,000 visses of onions flooded the Bayintnaung market in Yangon and the depot opening price was K2,100 per viss on 4 May.

The prices of Seikphyu onions, Monywa onions, and Pakokku onions ranged between K1,700 and K2,100 per viss, depending on the quality.

After the weekends, the price of large-sized onions increased by around K500 per viss. In addition, 22,500 visses of onions entered the Seikphyu market with the highest price on 4 May.

A total of 5,000 visses of onions entered the Pakokku market on 3 May for K1,700 per viss. Then, the next day, it gradually rose to 66,990 visses with the highest rate of K2,000 per viss, according to the market data.

On 4 May this year, the price of onions was up threefold compared to the same period of the previous year. Thus, the onion growers are enjoying the benefit of a price increase this year. — TWA/CT

HEALTH/WELLNESS: WORLD

Japan's child population falls for 42nd straight yr to new record low

JAPAN'S estimated child population fell for the 42nd consecutive year to hit a new record low, government data showed Thursday, as Prime Minister Fumio Kishida calls for implementing "unprecedented" measures to boost the birthrate.

The number of children aged 14 or younger, including foreigners, was 14.35 million as of 1 April, down by around 300,000 from a year earlier, the data from the internal affairs ministry showed.

The ratio of children to Japan's overall population was 11.5 per cent, down by 0.2 percentage point, also the lowest figure since 1950 when comparable data became available, according to the figures.

The government last month created the Children and Families Agency to oversee child care policies and is considering various measures, such as securing financial resources for child-rearing households, although doubts persist about whether such initiatives will be effective in reversing the declining birthrate.

According to UN data, Japan has the lowest ratio among 36 countries with a population of over 40 million, behind South Korea with 11.6 per cent and Italy with 12.4 per cent.

By gender, boys accounted for 7.35 million of the total number of children, with girls making up another seven million, according to the data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.—Kyodo

People play on a beach in the Wakayama Prefecture town of Shirahama, western Japan, on 3 May 2023. The popular swimming beach, known for its white sand, opens the same day, the earliest among the beaches of the Japanese main island of Honshu. **PHOTO: KYODO**

'Remarkable' Alzheimer drug reduces cognitive decline, results show

US drugmaker Eli Lilly on Wednesday announced its experimental Alzheimer's drug significantly slowed cognitive and functional decline, results hailed as "remarkable" by experts.

In a placebo controlled trial of nearly 1,200 people with early forms of the disease, donanemab slowed the progression of symptoms by 35 per cent over a period of 18 months, as measured by their ability to carry out daily tasks like managing finances, driving, engaging in hobbies and conversing about current events.

This follows a 27 per cent reduction in decline found for Biogen and Eisai's lecanemab, which was also declared a blockbuster and was approved by the US in January.

Lilly said it would rapidly submit its results to the US Food and Drug Administration as well as other global regulators.

"We are extremely pleased that donanemab yielded positive clinical results with compelling statistical significance for people with Alzheimer's disease in this trial," said Daniel Skovronsky, Lilly's chief scientific and medical officer, in a statement. — AFP

A volunteer attends to Alzheimer's patients at a centre for Alzheimer's patients in Dax, southwestern France. **PHOTO: AFP/ FILE**

Nigerian politician faces sentencing in landmark UK organ plot

NIGERIA'S former deputy Senate president faces up to life in jail in Britain on Friday when he is sentenced for plotting to harvest a man's kidney for his sick daughter.

In the first UK case of its kind, Ike Ekweremadu, 60, was found guilty in March at London's Old Bailey criminal court of conspiring to traffic the young street trader into Britain for his body part.

Also convicted were Ekweremadu's wife Beatrice, 56, and Obinna Obeta, 50, a doctor who acted as a middle man in the plot. They too will be sentenced Friday.

The Ekweremadus' daughter Sonia, 25, shed tears as she was cleared of the same charge after jurors deliberated for nearly 14 hours.

Ike Ekweremadu and David Nwamini Ukpo. Ukpo, whose kidney was to be harvested for Sonia, daughter of the Ekweremadus, said he was lured to the UK and the move was without his consent. **PHOTO: AFP**

In Britain, it is legal to donate a kidney, but not for financial or material reward.

It was the first time organ harvesting conspiracy charges had been brought under the UK's 2015 Modern Slavery Act.

The maximum sentence under the legislation is life imprisonment. — AFP

Florida lawmakers bar treatment for transgender minors

LAWMAKERS in the southern US state of Florida on Thursday approved a proposal barring physicians and health workers from offering transition-related medical care to transgender minors.

The proposal, a priority for conservative Governor Ron DeSantis, who is nearing a likely campaign for the presidency, will become law once he signs it.

The proposed ban, approved by both chambers of the Florida legislature, prohibits gender confirmation surgeries or the offering of treatments such as puberty blockers or hormone therapy to transgender minors.

These methods are used to combat gender dysphoria: the sense of distress that people whose gender identity differs from their biological sex may feel.

DeSantis, 44, a rising star in the Republican party, has promoted a conservative agenda on issues related to education, immigration and abortion rights. — AFP

ECONOMY
WORLD

Japan pledges $25 mln for ADB's new climate financing scheme

JAPAN will contribute $25 million to help countries in the Asia-Pacific region address the issue of climate change via a new financing mechanism by the Asian Development Bank, Finance Minister Shunichi Suzuki said Thursday.

The funds will go to the Innovative Finance Facility for Climate in Asia and the Pacific, through which the ADB plans to extend loans of up to $15 billion for incentivizing action on the issue in a region that is vulnerable to climate-related disasters.

"In recent years, the region has frequently suffered damage from extreme weather events and large-scale natural disasters caused by climate change. Therefore, a balanced approach toward adaptation, in addition to mitigation measures, is also essential," Suzuki said at a meeting of the ADB's board of governors.

Suzuki also emphasized the need to achieve "ambitious" net zero emissions targets while preventing or managing trade-offs between climate action and other important development objectives in areas such as health and education.

The solar panels at the roof deck of a mall in Manila. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ NOEL CELIS/ AFP**

Besides Japan, Denmark, South Korea, Sweden, Britain and the United States are the initial partners of the ADB's new financing scheme.

More than 40 per cent of all climate-related disasters that have occurred in this century took place in the Asia-Pacific region, according to the ADB, which has set a goal of providing $100 billion in climate financing to developing member states between 2019 and 2030.

Climate change is among the key agendas for Japan, which holds the rotating presidency of the Group of Seven. Other areas considered important include issues related to debt and the provision of universal health coverage. In his speech, Suzuki acknowledged the higher risks faced by low- and middle-income nations concerning debt vulnerabilities amid the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

He welcomed the recent launch of a coordinated debt restructuring programme for the bilateral creditors of crisis-hit Sri Lanka, with Japan, India and France announcing the start of the process in April. China is also a major creditor.

"It is essential to improve debt data transparency and accuracy to prevent future debt crises," the minister added. — Kyodo

German exports slump in March

GERMAN exports fell sharply in March compared to a month ago, a sign of fragility in Europe's biggest economy, which recently reported stagnating growth for the first quarter.

Germany exported 129 billion euros' worth of goods in March, down 5.2 per cent from February, data published by federal statistics agency Destatis showed.

The drop came after two straight months of growth. Imports fell as well during March, by 6.4 per cent to 113 billion euros, leading to a trade surplus of 16.7 billion euros for the month. Demand for German goods was down across the board, with exports to EU states slumping 6.2 per cent.

Particularly concerning was a 10.9 per cent drop in exports to the United States, a key market for Europe. — AFP

Germany exported 129 billion euros' worth of goods in March, down 5.2 per cent from February, data published by federal statistics agency Destatis showed. **PHOTO: AFP**

US pick Ajay Banga confirmed as new World Bank president

THE World Bank confirmed Wednesday that Ajay Banga will be its next president, handing him the reins at a pivotal time as it looks to reshape its role to better address climate change.

"The Board looks forward to working with Mr Banga on the World Bank Group Evolution process," the development lender wrote in a statement published shortly after executives voted to approve his leadership for a five-year term.

The bank said it looked forward to working with Banga on its "ambitions and efforts aimed at tackling the toughest development challenges facing developing countries."

Ajay Banga has been confirmed as the next president of the World Bank Group. **PHOTO: AFP**

Banga, the US candidate who was the sole nominee for the top job, will begin his new role on 2 June, taking over from David Malpass who is stepping down early amid criticism over his stance on climate issues. — AFP

Africa eyes potential bounty from space

AFTER decades on the sidelines, African countries are venturing into the space industry, hoping to reap rewards in agriculture, disaster prevention and security.

Ivory Coast, which recently hosted a "NewSpace Africa" conference organized by the African Union, has announced the creation of a space agency and plans to build the country's first nanosatellite by 2024. In April, Kenya's first working satellite was put into orbit by a SpaceX rocket launched from the United States.–AFP

Adidas posts loss as Kanye West split 'hurts' business

GERMAN sportswear giant Adidas reported Friday a hefty first-quarter loss, acknowledging its split from controversial US rapper Kanye West was "hurting" its bottom line.

The company booked a net loss of 39 million euros ($43 million) from January to March, compared to a profit of 482 million euros in the period a year earlier.

The end of its highly successful Yeezy line, designed in collaboration with West, hit sales by about 400 million euros in the quarter.

But overall sales were not as bad as feared, with analysts seeing early signs of improving fortunes, and Adidas's share price rose 7.5 percent in the afternoon on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange.

Adidas halted its tie-up with West — now known as Ye — in October after he made a series of anti-Semitic outbursts.

The loss of Yeezy, along with falling revenues for its lifestyle brands, "are of course hurting us", said new CEO Bjorn Gulden in a statement. But there was no news Friday about what it would do with its huge stock of Yeezy trainers. — AFP

Adidas, launched in 1949, employs over 59,000 employees. **PHOTO: JUAN MABROMATA/AFP**

'Beautiful Corolla': Afghanistan's enduring love affair with Toyota

LITTLE is certain in Afghanistan — armies invade and retreat, governments rise and fall — but when the key of a Toyota Corolla turns in the ignition, the engine can be relied upon to roar to life.

A humble Japanese runabout with a reliable albeit unglamorous reputation, the Toyota Corolla is said to be the world's most popular car, with over 50 million trundling off production lines since 1966.

Sprawling families cram into the Corolla, with passengers far outnumbering seats. **PHOTO: AFP**

Sturdy, uncomplicated and affordable, it is finely tuned for a nation where roads dissolve into punishing terrain, repairs rely on frayed supply chains, and a "make do" mentality has emerged from decades of hardship.

"These cars have always been there for people," says mechanic Mohammad Aman. "If you travel with these cars, they can take you anywhere."

"The Corolla is quick, their metal is bold, they work well," the 50-year-old told AFP. Other cars "are flimsy like paper" by comparison, he insists. — AFP

HSBC faces shareholder vote on splitting bank

BANK giant HSBC faces a vote by shareholders on Friday over a proposal by its largest stakeholder, Chinese insurer Ping An, to split the business to seek better returns. Asia-focused HSBC has urged shareholders to vote down the proposal at its annual general meeting in Birmingham, central England. The vote comes at the end of a week in which the London-headquartered bank posted a surge in quarterly net profit, boosted by rising interest rates and its rescue of the UK arm of failed US lender Silicon Valley Bank. – AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (782N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (782N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-5-2023** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (283N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (283N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-5-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

Notice for Change of distributor

Notice is hereby given that the official distributor - **Y Agro Solution Co.,Ltd.** to **Myanmar Arysta LifeScience Co.,Ltd.** has been changed for the following fungicide manufactured by **Arysta LifeScience India Limited**.

Sr.	Trade name	Active ingredient	Registration type	Registration no.
1	Pluto 80 WP	Sulphur 80%WP	Full	F 2017-1629

Y Agro Solution Co.,Ltd. invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

Y Agro Solution Co.,Ltd. No.19, Lanthit Road, Nant Thar Kone Quarter, Insein Township, Yangon. T:(+95)9 - 787630272, 778188008

Transferring Distributor for Registered Product

Distribution of following pesticide registered by **Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Singapore)** is transferring from **Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Myanmar Branch)** to **Y Agro Solution Co., Ltd**. Any Objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, West Gyogone, Insein Township within two weeks.

Sr	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Type of Reg.	Reg No.
1.	**Stout 15 EC**	Pyridaben 150 g/l EC	Full	F2022-3752

Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Myanmar Branch). Room 209, Rangoun Business Centre; No. 97. West Shwe Gon Daing Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. Tele: 09-5145328

Advertise with us/ Hot Line : 09251022355, 09974424848

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Thai parties in financial bidding war as election heats up

IN the searing hot sun, Preeya Phunatung toils long hours on a rural Thai construction site to support her family of four.

It is a struggle for Preeya to buy even staples such as rice, fish sauce and cooking oil because her $9-a-day income is not keeping pace with inflation.

Thailand goes to the polls on 14 May with major parties promising to ease poverty as low-income households struggle for survival in the face of soaring prices and deep-seated inequality.

But analysts warn that the populist policies being bandied about will do little to address structural problems that have left Thai economic growth lagging behind its Southeast Asian neighbours.

"I live from hand to mouth," Preeya told AFP at her small house in the eastern province of Sa Kaeo, where the number of people living below the poverty line jumped by almost 25 per cent between 2020 and 2021, according to official data.

"Life after the pandemic is very hard."

Thailand has nearly 30 billionaires, according to Forbes magazine, but it also has one of the highest rates of income inequality in East Asia and the Pacific.

In the wake of the 2014 military coup that brought current Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha to power, momentum in reducing poverty that had built up since the 1990s was lost.

The Covid-19 pandemic deepened the stagnation and the kingdom has struggled to bounce back.

Campaign posters for the upcoming general election lining a street in Bangkok on April 20, 2023. **PHOTO: LILLIAN SUWANRUMPHA/AFP**

Thailand is the only country in Southeast Asia apart from coup-hit Myanmar where GDP has not yet recovered to pre-pandemic levels, according to the World Bank.

'Suffered enough'

As the election campaign enters the home straight, parties across the political spectrum are locked in a bidding war to attract the country's millions of low-income voters — pledging higher wages, pension increases and debt relief.

The main opposition Pheu Thai party has promised a $300 handout to every Thai over 16 to stimulate the economy.

Srettha Thavisin, a wealthy former real estate mogul and one of Pheu Thai's candidates for prime minister, insists the $16 billion policy can be paid for without tax increases.

Pheu Thai, linked to the ultra-rich Shinawatra family whose patriarch Thaksin won two elections on a raft of populist economic pledges, is leading in the polls. — AFP

Russia says US masterminded drone attack on Kremlin

A 'No Drone Zone' sign sits just off the Kremlin in central Moscow as it prohibits unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) flying over the area, on 3 May. **PHOTO: AFP**

RUSSIA on Thursday accused the US of masterminding a drone attack on the Kremlin and said sabotage attacks by Ukraine behind Russian lines had reached "unprecedented momentum".

The Kremlin has said Ukraine carried out the attack with two drones aiming to kill President Vladimir Putin — a charge which Kyiv has denied.

"Decisions on such attacks are not made in Kyiv, but in Washington," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

"Kyiv only does what it is told to do."

"Washington should understand clearly that we know this," he said.

Peskov said Putin was working in his office in the Kremlin as normal on Thursday but added that security measures in Moscow would be beefed up following the attack, which the Kremlin said occurred in the night between Tuesday and Wednesday.

"Of course, everything will be strengthened. Everything has already been strengthened in preparation for the Victory Day parade" on 9 May, he said. — AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Ukraine 'realistic' about not joining NATO during war: Zelensky

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky said Thursday that Ukraine was "realistic" that it would not be able to join NATO while still fighting Russia.

"We are realistic, we know we will not be in NATO during the war," Zelensky said after meeting Dutch and Belgian Prime Ministers Mark Rutte and Alexander De Croo.

"But we want a very clear message that we will be in NATO after the war," Zelensky added. – AFP

Berlin police probe Zelensky visit leak

BERLIN police said Thursday they would open an investigation after details of a possible trip by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to Germany attributed to the force appeared in the media.

Investigators had launched a probe "into a suspected betrayal of secrets... in relation to a possible visit by a state president", police said in a statement.

Local daily BZ on Wednesday reported that law enforcement in Berlin were readying for a visit by Zelensky to the German capital in mid-May. – AFP

JR Kanazawa Station in Ishikawa Prefecture is overcrowded with passengers as shinkansen bullet train service is suspended amid the Golden Week holidays in the wake of a powerful earthquake that rocked the central Japan prefecture and its surrounding areas. **PHOTO: KYODO**

M6.5 quake rocks central Japan amid Golden Week holidays, 1 dies

AN earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.5 rocked Ishikawa Prefecture in central Japan and its vicinity on Friday, leaving one person dead, while some buildings collapsed and traffic and events were disrupted during the nation's Golden Week holidays.

The quake occurred at 2:42 pm, registering an upper six on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of seven in Suzu, at the tip of the Noto Peninsula in the Sea of Japan coast prefecture, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency.

It was the largest among a series of quakes that have been hitting the Noto area since December 2020. —Kyodo

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Maduro accuses Biden administration of 'looting' Venezuelan oil firm

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro accused the administration of US President Joe Biden of 'looting' over the proposed sale of Caracas' most valuable overseas asset. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / VENEZUELAN PRESIDENCY/AFP**

VENEZUELAN President Nicolas Maduro on Thursday accused US President Joe Biden's government of "looting" over the proposed sale of Caracas' most valuable overseas asset, oil refiner Citgo.

A court in the US state of Delaware ruled that shares of Citgo, a subsidiary of Venezuelan state oil company PDVSA, can be sold to pay off its creditors, with the US Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control endorsing the move on Monday.

"What Joe Biden's government is doing is one of the thefts, one of the biggest lootings that has ever taken place against any nation in the world and we reject it," Maduro said during an event in Caracas.

Venezuelan Vice-President Delcy Rodriguez indicated Wednesday that the acts "are absolutely null and void," while accusing Washington of green-lighting the "judicial auction of Citgo".

Maduro's 2018 reelection was not recognized by Washington, which considers the results of those polls fraudulent, and for some time recognized opposition candidate Juan Guaido as the country's leader. The next year, Washington ramped up sanctions against Caracas, which were first imposed in 2015 over the brutal repression of anti-government protests. — AFP

Pomp and protests as UK holds first coronation in 70 years

BRITAIN'S first coronation in 70 years takes place on Saturday, with Charles III crowned king in an elaborate Christian ceremony steeped in solemn ritual and more than a millennium of history.

The coronation, the first of a British king since 1937, is the religious confirmation of his accession after the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, last September.

Much of the Anglican service at London's Westminster Abbey — which will also crown Charles's second wife Camilla as queen — would be recognizable to the 74-year-old king's forebears 1,000 years ago.

But there will also be a clear departure with the involvement of women bishops, minority faith leaders and a more diverse and representative guest list of British society than the lords and ladies of old.

So too is the environmental theme at the ceremony, including vegan anointing oil and recycled ceremonial garb, reflecting Charles's lifelong championing of sustainability and biodiversity.

Coronation organizer the Earl Marshal, Duke of Norfolk Edward Fitzalan-Howard, called the event "a proud moment" in British history.

"During the coronation, the king will swear before God and the nation to serve our country as head of state, upholding our laws and maintaining justice for all," he told reporters this week.

Charles is facing opposition in the 14 countries outside the UK where he is also head of state. **PHOTO: ASTON BROWN/AFP**

Opposition

The duke, whose family has organized state events since 1483, said the coronation was also a chance to unite Britain and the 56-nation Commonwealth grouping, which Charles also heads.

Not everyone is in the mood to celebrate, however. Republican opponents who want an elected head of state plan to protest on the day with signs declaring "Not my king".

Younger people, too, say the coronation — and the monarchy in general — leaves them cold, according to polling. — AFP

China, Russia pledge to boost ties, SCO cooperation

CHINA and Russia have agreed to further develop bilateral relations and build the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) into a platform for mutually beneficial cooperation.

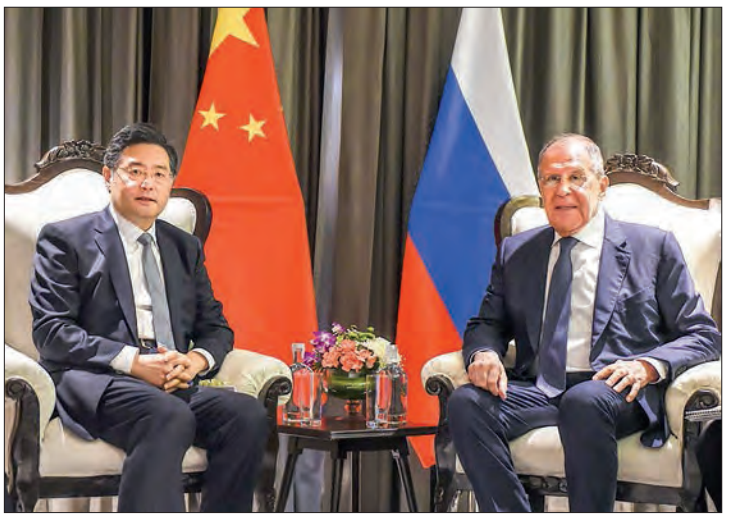
At a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov Thursday on the sidelines of the SCO foreign ministers' meeting, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang said that China is ready to join hands with Russia to implement the important consensuses reached between heads of state of the two countries and strengthen strategic communication.

The two countries have conducted frequent exchanges at all levels and strengthened cooperation in various fields, said Qin.

Lavrov said that Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Russia in March has injected great impetus into the development of bilateral relations. Russia is willing to jointly push forward cooperation with China in various areas and elevate bilateral ties to a new high.

Both sides agreed to plan and arrange high-level exchanges and exchanges at various levels, enhance economic and trade cooperation, deepen cultural and people-to-people exchanges, and facilitate personnel exchanges.

They vowed to enhance communication and coordination with other SCO member states, and maintain the SCO solidarity and cooperation so as to build the SCO into a platform for mutually beneficial cooperation. — Xinhua



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang (L) meets Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) foreign ministers' meeting in Goa, India, 4 May 2023. **PHOTO: JAVED DAR/XINHUA**

Top Colombian court nullifies election of key Petro ally

COLOMBIA'S top administrative court annulled on Thursday the election of the Senate president, Roy Barreras, a key figure in the ambitious reform drive of President Gustavo Petro.

The court, known as the Council of State, declared that Barreras did not leave his old political party soon enough to seek re-election with his current party, violating electoral rules.

The senator breached "his duty to quit his seat 12 months before the registration deadline for congressional elections for the period 2022-2026", the court said.

Barreras was a congressman for the Union Party for the People between 2018 and 2022, but was reelected in March 2022 as a senator for the Historic Pact for Colombia, the leftist coalition that Petro heads.

Barreras said on Twitter that he would respect the decision since "court rulings must be respected even when they seem unjust to me". — AFP

Thai parties in financial bidding war as election heats up
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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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.

CAMBODIA 2023 32nd SEA GAMES 12th ASEAN PARA GAMES

Myanmar wins silver, bronze medals in XXXII SEA Games' Vovinam (Kun Bokator) event

Silver and bronze medallists are seen after receiving the prizes.

THE XXXII Southeast Asian Games are being held in five cities of Cambodia, and Myanmar athletes are competing and claiming medals in the Vovinam (Kun Bokator) events at Hall C, Chroy Changvar Convention Centre in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Ma Nila Soe Oo won the very first silver medal for Myanmar in the Women's Single Bokator Spirit Form Competition, while Maung Hlaing Chit Oo garnered the first bronze medal for Myanmar in Men's Single Bokator Spirit Form Competition.

Next, Myat Noe Wai bagged another bronze medal in the Women's Single Bamboo Shield Form Competition, and Maung Khant Lun Zaw secured the third bronze medal for Myanmar in Men's Single Bare Hands Form Competition. After the competitions, the awarding ceremony was held on 4 May, and Ma Nila Soe Oo, who won the first silver medal for Myanmar, was awarded by the Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee, Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan.

In turn, first, second, and third prize winners in other competitions were awarded by officials.

Individual and double competitions of Chess (Men and Women) were also held at Phnom Penh University yesterday.

Next, the Malaysian team beat the Myanmar team 3-1 in Men's Volleyball Competition at National Olympic Stadium Indoor Hall.

In the Men's Football Competition, Indonesia won over Myanmar by a score of 5-0 at the National Olympic Stadium.

Myanmar athletes have won four medals including one silver, and three bronzes in the XXXII SEA Games till 4 May. — MNA/KZL

Philippines' Kaila Napolis grabs gold at SEA Games 2023 with Jessa Khan clinching silver

THE first medals of the SEA Games 2023 were awarded in jiu jitsu. Cambodia won its first gold in the men's artistic duo event, with Philippines taking gold in women's Ne-waza Nogi -52kg discipline.

The Southeast Asian Games 2023 kicked off in style when the first medals were awarded on Thursday (4 May), on the eve of the Opening Ceremony.

First-time hosts Cambodia were thrilled when Kong Mona Pithora and Touch Pikada took gold in the jiujitsu competition, in the men's artistic duo event with Thailand claimiing silver, and Vietnam and Philippines sharing bronze. — AFP

Cambodia all set for SEA Games 32 opening ceremony

CAMBODIA will welcome thousands of athletes from across the region coming to participate to the 32nd SEA Games at Morodok Techo National Stadium in Phnom Penh on 5 May, the first time the country plays host.

According to Vath Chamroeun, Secretary-General of the Cambodia SEA Games Organizing Committee (CAMSOC), the opening and closing ceremonies of the 32nd SEA Games will be carried out at "Olympic level".

The athletes from 11 regional nations will parade their flags on the opening night at Phnom Penh's 60,000-seater Morodok Techo National Stadium.

"Welcome Cambodia", "This is our time" and "Cambodia is our home" composed by the Union of Youth Federation of Cambodia (UYFC) will be staged on the opening night. In addition to the songs, the celebration will also see performances of band MCT125 of the Royal Gendarmerie of Cambodia, an Asia martial arts duel between Cambodian Kun Bokator fighters and Chinese Shaolin.

In particular, Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen will announce the opening of the 32nd SEA Games and light the torch of the Games. Besides, fireworks display around Morodok Techo Stadium will also be performed. — VNA

Cambodia all set for SEA Games 32 opening ceremony. **PHOTO: KHMERTIMESKH.COM**