

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.

Everybody must keep their environment and towns neat and tidy with development and to beautify the whole country: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects the upgrading work of the Kandaw Mingala Shankan Lake in Pyinmana Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 8 May 2023.

IT is necessary to consider the supply of water to the full brim of lakes as well as feeding agricultural water to farmlands, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on his inspection tour of upgrading Kandaw Mingala Shankan Lake in Pyinmana Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday afternoon.

Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Tin Oo Lwin reported on the dredging of silt and sand

from the eastern part of the lake, the use of heavy machinery, the systematic use of dredged silt and a plan to upgrade the mid-streamed Buddha image and chamber of Mingala Shankan Lake.

After hearing the reports, the Senior General stressed the need to improve Kandaw Mingala Shankan Lake in Pyinmana through a systematic process. If dredging the lake is complete, it is necessary to make preparations to fill water into the lake.

The Senior General disclosed that research is being conducted in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area to seek the sites of water availability. The Senior General highlighted that arrangements must be made for efficiently utilizing rainwater in monsoons without waste. He noted that it is necessary to consider the supply of water to the full brim of lakes as well as feeding agricultural water to farmlands. The Senior General stressed that everybody must keep their environment

and towns neat and tidy with development and to beautify the whole country.

The Senior General and party inspected progress in dredging Kandaw Mingala Shankan Lake and instructed officials to consider systematic construction of a circular path's shoulders of the lake, sites for physical fitness exercises of the people and convenient walking. The Senior General noted that the chamber of Shin Uppagutta statue in the lake must be lifted

in parallel to the path shoulder with the new design. The path in the middle of the lake must be upgraded for public walking. Arrangements should be made to build the gravel-filled retaining walls in the coming open seasons. Shade trees and flowery plants must be grown along the circular path to create a recreation centre, the Senior General noted.

Later, the Senior General coordinated with officials and gave guidance. — MNA/TTA

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Judgements passed on 8 special civil appeals; 3 cases heard

A special appeal tribunal consisting of Chief Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union U Myo Tint, U Khin Maung Gyi, U Tin Hone, and Daw Thin Thin Nwet, was convened yesterday morning at the Supreme Court and passed judgements on eight special civil appeal cases: Nos 17/2022 (Rakhine), 18/2022 (Rakhine), 54/2022 (Magway), 55/2022 (Magway), 16/2021 (Bago), 27/2022 (Bago), 44/2022 (Kachin), and 56/2022 (Ayeyawady).
In addition, a total of three special civil appeals: Nos 43/2020 (Yangon), 33/2022 (Mandalay) and 36/2022 (Mandalay) were heard following the COVID-19 prevention and control guidelines. – MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Announcement No 19/2023

5th Waning of Kason 1385 ME
8 May 2023

Allowing Akha National Development Party to register as political party

AS of 8 May 2023, Akha National Development Party, with its headquarters located at No 281, Akha Market Street, WeinKyauk Ward, Tachilek, Shan State (East) has been allowed to register under Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law. The registration number of the Akha National Development Party is 14.

Sd/ Thein Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

2023 basic, advanced maritime and aviation youth courses opened in relevant townships

FOR new generation youth to develop knowledge, make the most of holidays, and follow their hobbies during the summer vacation, and to turn out the future generation of maritime and aviation experts for the state, basic and advanced maritime youth courses, basic aviation youth courses (senior level), and basic aviation youth courses (junior level) were opened at training camps in the respective townships at the same

time by Tatmadaw (Navy) and Tatmadaw (Air) on 24 April.
The trainers from Tatmadaw (Navy) are training 43 trainees at the Myeik training camp in Taninthayi Region, 115 trainees at the Kyunsu training camp, and 50 trainees at the Pathein training camp in Ayeyawady Region. A total of 712 youths are also under training at 11 maritime youth training camps in respective townships.



Student trainees are seen at the basic and advanced maritime and aviation youth courses (above and left photos).



Likewise, a total of 680 trainees from 17 basic aviation youth courses (senior level and junior level) carried out field studies on the daily operations of the Tatmadaw (Air) in the flight line and air traffic control department at

the pilot training school. They were also trained to drive the RC stimulator and RC aircraft and helicopter drones under the supervision of trainers.
The chief ministers of the respective regions and states

and officials from the respective military commands visited the training sites and encouraged the youths. They also fulfilled the requirements in coordination with responsible personnel. — MNA/CT

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.

146 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 8 May, total figure registers 636,177

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to 636,177 after 146 new cases were reported on 8 May 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.
Therefore, a total of 10,451,265 laboratory samples were examined and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 636,177. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 615,307 including 107 new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at 19,492 on 8-5-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic.— GNLMM

MSMEs encouraged to substitute imported goods and increase exportation

- It is necessary to encourage rural businesses called agriculture and livestock farms.
- If rural people develop their socioeconomic lives, the demand for rural businesses will increase.
- If so, money circulation will improve, and the State economy will develop.
- As such, MSME businesses are being encouraged to substitute imported goods and increase the export volume.

(Excerpts from the discussion by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at a meeting with MSME businesspersons of Kachin State held on 13 December 2022)

Everybody must keep their environment and towns neat and tidy with development and to beautify the whole country: Senior General

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State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hears the report on the background history of the Kandaw Mingala Shankan Lake, the status of upgrading work and future plans to be done, yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Myanmar celebrates 2023 World Red Cross Day

THE 2023 World Red Cross Day Commemoration Ceremony took place in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Speaking at the event, Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win said the World Red Cross Day is celebrated every year on 8 May, which is the birth anniversary of Jean-Henry Dunant, the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The theme of this year is “Everything we do comes from the heart” and it highlights the true loving kindness and compassion of volunteers across the globe. About 15 million volunteers are participating in the Red Cross movement’s work through its network.

Moreover, the Myanmar Red Cross Society stands as the reserve force of the country protecting and saving the entire people regardless of their religion and social status in every disaster like flood, fire, storm and earthquake along its history. The significant activities of the Myanmar Red Cross So-



The 2023 World Red Cross Day in progress yesterday, addressed by Union Health Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win.

ciety are that it participates in national-level protection and response to natural disaster and other emergency cases, conduct disease preventive measures, makes efforts in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, conducts health awareness campaigns, cooperate with international red cross societies and

AHA Centre. Today, it should persuade the youths to participate in red cross movements more so as to keep abreast with the international Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. It also should accelerate the momentum to raise the basic red cross spirit at basic education schools.

The Myanmar Red Cross Society opened 17 model red cross camps with 3,379 members between 1971 and 1988 and 21 camps with 3,237 members between 1993 and 2019. He then said the government presented certificates of honours to the outstanding members of the Myanmar Red Cross Soci-

ety. The ministry will provide the required assistance to the Myanmar Red Cross Society. Then, Myanmar Red Cross Society President Prof Dr Myo Nyunt, Resident Representative of ICRC Ms Elena Ajmone Sessa and Resident Representative of IFRC Ms Nadia Christine Khoury made remarks respectively. The Union minister and relevant officials also gave prizes to the winners in the competitions of essays and poems marking the 2023 World Red Cross Day. The members of regional and state red cross societies who served the duties until they reach the age of 65 for Myanmar Red Cross Society were also honoured at the event. The Union minister and party had a documentary photo taken together with the attendees and viewed around the booths. The World Red Cross Day is celebrated annually from 8 May 1948 and now it reaches 75 years. — MNA/KTZH

Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev's interview with Rossiyskaya Gazeta (27 March 2023)

Security Council of the Russian Federation (31 March 2023)

Question: Mr Patrushev, the United States will hold its second Summit for Democracy in a couple of days. In its wake, if we are to believe the Department of State, Washington will speed up the so-called democratic renovation of the world. What do you think about this “gathering of Washington’s vassals” event?

Nikolai Patrushev: Organised by the White House, the Summit for Democracy is being held as part of the US presidential race that has got underway. It will be yet another meeting in favour of a world system where Washington wants to play the central role, while the dissidents, as should be expected, will be branded as “undemocratic states.”

The United States will once again declare itself the defender of international law and is sure to claim that the world must live according to its rules. Its geopolitical adversaries will be heaped with patently false accusations of military crimes and corruption, but, as usual, they will turn a blind eye to the real acts of genocide and financial machinations perpetrated with the White House’s approval. They will promise to feed the hungry and free unjustly imprisoned individuals. But they will keep silent about the fact that the US prison population amounts to about one-fifth of the entire world’s prison population, including people sentenced to several life terms. They will show special zeal in defending sexual minority rights and imposing their green agenda on the world, thereby aggravating the energy crisis in their satellite countries.

While hypocritically speculating about the freedom of choice, the United States, the self-appointed global dictator, will in fact scoff at countries whose sovereignty and democracy it has trampled underfoot.

Question: They will probably say again that the US is a paragon of democracy for the entire human race, and will not wish to hear any criticism about themselves?

Nikolai Patrushev: This goes without saying. After all, the main task of the political regime in the present-day US is to mislead their own population amid the system-wide crisis they are facing.

Their democracy is nothing more than a pretty façade of a state structure designed to cover up how they ignore the rights of the common American. Those who have taken a closer look at the US legal and socio-political system have no illusions about whether there is freedom of speech or freedom of expression. How can there be freedom of opinion, if even the former president of the United States is prevented from speaking on social media or in the press about issues that interest the public, and while the media are propaganda outlets for major companies and elite groups?

While defending competition by word only, the American authorities have made the country’s economy dependent on corrupt and lobbying ties traced to the White House and the Capitol. The political process has degenerated into a clash between corporations, which put their people in key positions in the bodies of power. They also shape the US foreign policy and seek to maintain US global domination by creating hotbeds of tension all over the world for the sake of their billion-dollar profits from various contracts, the imaginary transparency of which they themselves control.

Though proclaiming democratic slogans in season and out of season, Washington has long become a cham-



UNSC Secretary Mr Nikolai Patrushev

pion in violating the sovereignty of states, in the number of wars and conflicts unleashed, and in the brutal and illegal hunting of citizens of other countries.

If the US really decides to advance towards democracy and stops humiliating its allies/vassals, we will only welcome that.

Question: Will we hear at the summit pompous statements about how Kyiv, with the support of the good people from NATO, is standing up to the universal evil embodied by Russia?

Nikolai Patrushev: I am sure this issue will top the discussion. In fact, NATO countries are a party to the conflict. They made one large military camp out of Ukraine. They are shipping weapons and ammunition, including with the help of satellite imagery specialists and a fair number of UAVs. NATO instructors and advisers are training the Ukrainian military, and mercenaries are fighting as part of neo-Nazi battalions. In an attempt to draw out the military confrontation as much as possible, they are not hiding their key goal, which is to defeat Russia on the battlefield and then dismember it.

Question: This policy of Washington never changes, because the American elite were never able to come to grips with a strong and independent Russia, correct?

Nikolai Patrushev: Yes. The US authorities’ unchecked push to maintain their leading role around the world has been the source of escalation of tensions on a global scale since at least 1945. They believe two great powers, Russia and China, are standing in their way and preventing them from achieving this goal. The Russian Federation is a problem because, in addition to pursuing an independent policy for strengthening the multipolar world, it defeats America spiritually, morally, and militarily. China is the United States’ main economic rival. Their attempts to suppress Russia will be followed by Washington’s taking on the PRC.

As you may be aware, concrete steps to destroy the Soviet Union were approved 75 years ago in a well-known NSC directive “US Objectives with Respect to Russia.” The West went euphoric with the collapse of the Soviet Union. The euphoria did not last long, though, because Russia corrected its mistakes. Today, our country can ensure not only domestic stability but national security against external threats as well.

Question: Earlier this March, a US strategic bomber practised a simulated nuclear strike on St Petersburg from a distance of 200 kilometres above the island of Gotland in the Baltic Sea in a deliberate attempt to exacerbate tensions. They don’t fear anything any more?

Nikolai Patrushev: For some reason, the US politi-

cians, who are held captive by their own propaganda, remain confident that in the event of a direct conflict with Russia, the United States is capable of delivering a preventive missile strike that will render Russia unable to retaliate. This is a case of shortsighted and very dangerous foolhardiness.

Some people in the West have forgotten the lessons of history and are talking about turning the tables and prevailing militarily over Russia. We can say only one thing in response to this: Russia is a patient country and does not intimidate anyone with its military advantage. However, it has unique modern weapons that can destroy any enemy, including the United States, in case it is faced with an existential threat.

Question: However, the West is betting not only on a military defeat but on the economic attrition of Russia as well...

Nikolai Patrushev: This is clearly so. Many Western companies left the Russian market under pressure from Washington. However, they were seriously mistaken in their projections concerning the collapse of our economy and the growth of protest sentiment.

In the last decade, the West has been implementing the idea of creating a technological order where it was the only beneficiary of economic prosperity, while the rest of the world was destined to remain on the fringes of socioeconomic progress. Therefore, its leaders are irate at Russia’s measured response to sanctions pressure. Russia is a pet peeve for the rulers in the United States and Europe as a country that is independent in terms of its economy, raw materials, and scientific research. For their part, Western countries are completely dependent on transnational companies and global supply chains. If sanctions of the same level were to be imposed on the United Kingdom or France, they would have quickly plunged into chaos.

However, Russia is not going to keep the rest of the world cut off from its economy. It will remain open and integrated with the economies of those sovereign countries that are concerned about their own prosperity, which is based, among other things, on cooperation with us.

Question: Clearly, undermining the Russian economy and bleeding the Russian army dry are two sides of one strategy that the West has been trying to implement for centuries now?

Nikolai Patrushev: No doubt about it. One should not naively believe that economic aggression is softer and more humane. European countries and Japan have stopped supplying a number of medicines, including vital ones, to Russia. In this regard, the Western pharmaceutical industry deserves an honourable mention as a successor to the “traditions” established by its predecessors. It’s a known fact that most of these companies have at some point worked on developing toxic gases and gas chambers commissioned by Nazi Germany, thus fully supporting the ideology substantiating the genocide of the “superfluous” nations.

Think back to how the Anglo-Saxons nurtured Nazis in the 1930s in the hope of using them against the Soviet Union. Having reaped financial and geopolitical benefits from the outcomes of World War II, Washington and London are again conniving with Nazism and fascism. They have no qualms about using Ukraine to set Europe or the entire world ablaze in a belief that they can get away with anything.

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Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev’s...

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Question: One gets the impression that the collective West is not even thinking about learning from the past. **Nikolai Patrushev:** The Western Internationale has challenged our country more than once under the banners of the Poles or the Swedes, Napoleonic eagles, the British flag or the Nazi swastika. The result has always been the same and the attempts to crush Russia were futile. The Westerners are unwilling to learn their lessons and keep looking for trouble.

Washington is not happy with the stability in Asia that came as a result of WWII and the liberation movement, either. The US Indo-Pacific strategy is an attempt to create an Asian NATO. The new alliance will be another aggressive bloc directed against China and Russia and will be used to subject independent states.

Rearming the Australian Navy under the new AUK-US alliance, including the supply of nuclear submarines, and military support for Taiwan and South Korea have a long-term goal of establishing US and NATO dominance over Eurasia on its eastern flank.

Washington nudged Tokyo to begin another militarisation. The Japan Self-Defence Forces are about to become a full-fledged army capable of conducting offensive operations. This has been confirmed by Japanese legislation, which in fact is a gross violation of one of the most important outcomes of World War II. Focusing on attack weapons, Prime Minister Kishida said his country was about to purchase 400 Tomahawk cruise missiles from the United States.

In addition to arming Japan, Washington is trying to revive the spirit of Japanese militarism, which seemed to have been uprooted in 1945. It appears that someone plans to turn residents of that island state into kamikazes dying for other people’s interests. The Westerners choose not to recall or deliberately keep silent about using Japan’s aggressiveness against the Soviet Union and China at the beginning of the 20th century, but, in the end, the Japanese turned their weapons against the Americans, the British and their allies.

Question: American and European politicians tend to not only conveniently forget about awkward facts from their past, but also deliberately rewrite history, even when it runs counter to common sense. This can be seen from the hypocritical campaign to rehabilitate Nazism. They have even gone as far as claiming that Ukrainians were the only soldiers to liberate Europe from Nazism. They are touting the myth about the Holodomor as an act of genocide.

Nikolai Patrushev: People who know the history and are not attempting to falsify it are well aware of the fact that access to food was a bigger problem in the RSFSR than in Ukraine in the 1920s and 1930s. This is a well-documented state of affairs, and facts abound to back it up. The biography of the Hero of the Soviet Union Grigory Boyarinov is a case in point. His 100th birth anniversary was marked at the end of last year. He was a renowned intelligence officer and a participant in the Great Patriotic War and many special operations. He died while leading the assault on Amin’s palace in Afghanistan. He was born in 1922 in the Smolensk Region. His father was chairman of a collective farm. However, in the 1930s, his family relocated to Ukraine, where food was more readily available and survival was more likely.

The Americans are using famine slogans on a global scale and accusing our country of provoking a global food crisis. I have no doubt that during the

Summit for Democracy, they will focus on this issue as well. Meanwhile, the Westerners are blocking exports of Russian grain and fertiliser abroad, robbing Ukrainians of their grain, which they resell at exorbitant prices to poor countries on predatory terms, as their colonial ancestors did.

Question: Sometimes it looks like the West is digging itself into a hole. The events underway in the EU evoke strong feelings about its uncertain future. **Nikolai Patrushev:** The collapse of the EU is not far off. Of course, the Europeans will not continue to put up with this supranational superstructure, which not only failed to justify its existence but is also pushing the Old World into an open conflict with our country. The United States is prepared to fight Russia not only to the last Ukrainian but to the last European as well. Even during the Cold War, at the slightest sign of a threat from the Soviet Union, the Pentagon was ready to turn Europe into a radioactive wasteland. I don’t think the US strategists have changed their minds in this regard.

Question: How does this rhyme with the fact that the United States and Europe are the main allies in words? **Nikolai Patrushev:** The irony is that Washington has a stake in seeing the EU disintegrate in order to eliminate an economic competitor and to prevent Europe from prospering through cooperation with Russia. The Americans have done a lot to make sure the Old World loses its status as a strong economic player. In many respects, Washington has been fomenting the anti-Russia sanctions exactly for this purpose. We are witnessing a sea change in the EU’s economic model based on a mix of cheap energy from Russia and advanced European technology.

The implementation of joint plans with Washington to reduce raw material and technological dependence on Beijing will deal an equally devastating blow to Europe. In addition, the EU is facing a migration dead end. Many migrants are not only unwilling to become integrated into the European family but create their own caliphates and force the local governments and residents into living according to their laws. Criminals and gunmen are coming to Europe with other migrants. Most recent high-profile terrorist attacks in London, Brussels and Paris were committed by EU citizens hailing from ethnic enclaves. Keeping in mind that Al-Qaeda, ISIS (these international terrorist organisations are outlawed in the Russian Federation) and other terrorist organisations were created by the United States, and terrorists in Syria and Iraq are trained by CIA instructors, it cannot be ruled out that the terrorist attacks in Europe were made possible by the same individuals who seek to destabilise the situation in Europe, whose future the United States doesn’t care about.

The United States is ruling the roost in Europe, ignoring the fact that the leading role on this continent has historically been assigned to Russia. In the 19th century, it was the Russian Empire, and in the 20th century the Soviet Union. So it will be in the 21st century as well.

Question: Is the United States confident of its own robustness? Does it think decline can be a threat to anyone but them? I think the United States may be facing the risk of disintegration as well. **Nikolai Patrushev:** The United States acquired the status of a great power as a result of economic achievements based on the cynical seizure of terri-

tories, and resources, exploiting peoples and profiting from other countries’ war tragedies. Still, they remained a patchwork quilt that can easily burst at the seams and cleave into North and South the way things were early on. Moreover, we cannot rule out that the South will not start moving towards Mexico, whose lands the Americans seized in 1848. We are talking about over 2 million square kilometres. By the way, Latin American leaders are not hiding the fact that their awareness of the United States’ destructive role has become widespread. The fact of creating the Guantanamo base is considered an outright theft of Cuban sovereignty. This is just one of the many examples of systematic encroachment on the independence of Latin American countries. There’s no doubt that sooner or later US neighbours south of the border will take back the territories that were stolen from them.

Question: The United States is torn by multiple internal contradictions. There is no unity even within the American elite. **Nikolai Patrushev:** That’s right. The antagonism between Republicans and Democrats is exacerbating. Differences between various financial entities and transnational corporations that care about nothing, not even America’s prosperity, but their own capitalisation are mounting. The US elites who think of themselves as untouchables never thought of themselves as part of the American people.

Their projects like BLM, or Black Lives Matter, and the sweeping inculcation of transgender theories are aimed at the spiritual degradation of the public, which is already in a state of apathy. The Americans’ individualism and consumerism will play a cruel trick on the country. Ordinary citizens will not lift a finger to keep America whole as they are fully aware that the government does not need them. The US authorities don’t know what they are doing and are slowly destroying themselves.

America’s problem is that it has got carried away with playing geopolitical games and left its own pressing problems unattended. While the United States is busy developing new viruses in its military biological laboratories to destroy the peoples of objectionable countries, the once-clean American cities are drowning in filth and garbage.

Built with the help of the printing press, the US financial pyramid keeps faltering. The model that is based on unchecked emissions, where economic issues are literally flooded with money, cannot remain viable forever. With over \$31.5 trillion in foreign debt, the US is on track to default. The eroding confidence in the dollar that is not backed by actual goods and in inflated stock market speculations will plunge the United States into a devastating financial crisis.

Question: No matter how ostentatious it may sound, Russians not only don’t want war, but they don’t want to see the demise of the United States or any other country. **Nikolai Patrushev:** Absolutely. Our centuries-old culture is based on spirituality, compassion and mercy. Russia is a historical champion of sovereignty and statehood of all nations who turned to it for help. Russia saved the United States at least twice, once during the Revolutionary War and then again during the Civil War. I believe helping the United States to maintain its integrity this time would be pointless.

Myanmar citizens residing in Thailand donate instant noodles, Disaster Management Centre established

THE low-pressure area over the Southeast Bay of Bengal and the adjoining South Andaman Sea persists. It is likely to intensify into a Cyclonic Storm and is likely to move towards Myanmar. Therefore, the disaster response mechanisms have been activated under the lead of the National Disaster Management Committee.

In doing so, Myanmar citizens in Thailand donated 1,077,263 baht worth of 158,640 packs of instant noodles for those who are likely to face the storm in Myanmar with the participation of the Myanmar Embassy in Thailand. The donation ceremony was held at the Disaster Management Centre (DMC), Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. The donated items arrived in Yangon yesterday afternoon and the director-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs handed over them to the MoSWRR Union Minister and director of the Disaster Management Department of Yangon Region. Then, the deputy minister for Foreign Affairs on behalf of the donors donated the items to the



Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine receives the donations from Myanmar nationals in Thailand yesterday.

Union minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. Then, the Union minister gave a certificate of honour in return.

Officials will allocate 30,000 packs of noodles each to Rakhine State and Ayeyawady Region in advance and the remaining will be kept at the central warehouse of the Yangon Region Disaster Management Department and delivered to other places.

Then, National Disaster Management Working Committee Chair Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine presided over a coordination meeting on emergency response and management measures of the DMC on the same afternoon at the DMC.

During the meeting, the Union minister said the low-pressure area is likely to become a

cyclonic storm and enter Myanmar according to the weather forecast of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology. Therefore, the National Disaster Management Committee Chairman and Deputy Prime Minister organized an emergency meeting on 6 May and laid down the proper procedures. The standing order 2022 states emergency management. The

DMC is established to carry out the emergency response promptly. The Union minister proposed that the NDMC Secretary serve as the DMC leader, the MoSWRR deputy minister as the deputy leader, personnel of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office as the secretary and the director-general of the Disaster Management Department as joint secretary. The DMC will run 24 hours and there will be a meeting at 3 pm every day to manage proper measures as quickly as possible.

Then, the NDMC secretary MoSWRR deputy minister and representatives of the working committees discussed the establishment of DMC and working processes.

He will also lead the DMC and secretaries of 12 working committees under NDMC, military personnel of the Ministry of Defence and offices of the Commanders-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) and relevant officials will work together by cooperating with regional and state disaster management teams under the guidance of the NDMC Chairman. — MNA/KTZH

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, industrial materials, consumer goods and vehicles confiscated



Confiscated illgal goods at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint.

THE on-duty Customs teams under the supervision of Customs Department confiscated a total of 4,471 kilogrammes of silicone Sealant gasket marker (worth K28,168,560) that was not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a container at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint on 4 May and a Sidel brand new blower spare part (worth K1,118,218) that exceeded the 61 days of VPA and an air compressor

(worth K2,774,069) without Import Licence from luggage at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk) and three Roche medical devices worth K234,158,400, 13 kinds of excavator and bulldozer spare parts (worth K28,869,719), including 2,180 kilogrammes of water pipes without Import Licence, nine kinds of goods (worth K432,810), including 10 hydraulic jacks and accessories, and 2,500 Silkline disposable

wipes (worth K3.75 million) that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from four containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port Terminal container checkpoint on 5 May. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 7 May, the combined teams led by Bago Region Forest Department captured a total of 0.264 tonne of illegal teak, 1.998 tonnes of illegal hardwood and 3.079 tonnes of other illegal timbers worth K1,242,172 in Bago districts. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, eight arrests (estimated value of K300,513,948) were made on 4, 5 and 7 May, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Drugs seized in Nawngkhio, Taunggyi and Shwenyaung townships

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a passenger bus near the Oriental Tollgate in Nawngkhio township at 10:30 pm on 6 May and captured 1,880 stimulant tablets.

Similarly, Police Force searched the house of Ma Zar Zar Win in Taungni village of

Shwenyaung township and seized 11,000 stimulant tablets. After interrogation, the police arrested Ma Htay Htay Kyu, who is a chain perpetrator in the same village.

The offenders have been prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/MKKS



Two offenders are pictured along with seized stimulant pills.

Ceremony to provide cash assistance, foodstuffs to temporarily displaced persons in Pinlaung Tsp

THE Shan State government held a ceremony to provide basic food supplies and cash assistance to the temporarily displaced persons in Pinlaung Township of the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone in southern Shan State yesterday.

Shan State government ministers and responsible officials encouraged the temporarily displaced persons and provided them with K7.85 million, foodstuffs, school uniforms and school blank books.

Afterwards, the temporarily displaced persons put forward their requirements, and responsible officials fulfilled the necessary things. — Pinlaung Township IPRD/TS



The ceremony for providing cash assistance, foodstuffs and school supplies to the temporarily displaced persons in southern Shan State in progress yesterday.

Terrorists attack convoy carrying representatives of AHA Centre, Indonesia, Singapore embassies in Shan State



Car damage is seen after terrorist attack on foreign representatives in Yayphyu Village of Hsihseng Township southern Shan State.

THE terrorists attacked the convoy heading to Hsihseng from Taunggyi to deliver supplies to temporarily displaced persons in Yayphyu Village of Hsihseng Township in Shan State (South).

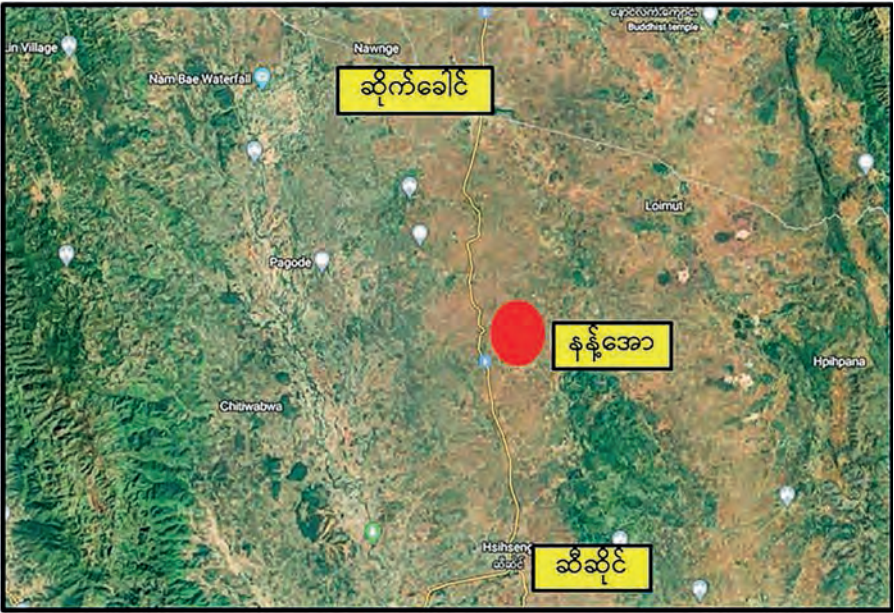
On the morning of 7 May, the representatives of the AHA Centre, Indonesia and Singapore Embassies to Myanmar, to provide humanitarian assistance which is the fourth out of the five-point ASEAN consensus, went to Hsihseng from Taunggyi with the members of the security force. When they arrived about 200 metres north of Nanaw village of Hsihseng, the terrorists shot them using small weapons and the security forces launched a counterattack. The regional security force conduct operations near the vicinity of that place.

No one was injured and some bullets hit one of the cars.

The government is participating in providing humanitarian assistance which is mentioned in the fourth out of the five-point ASEAN consensus and making efforts to assist holding the principle that no one is left behind. Moreover, it also cooperates with dutiful people ensuring security and transport in addition to sending relief items to the residents who face hardships due to the doings of terrorists.

While the government and Tatmadaw are making efforts for sector-wise development of the country and developing international cooperation and bilateral relations with neighbouring countries, the current negative elements of terrorists affect the state stability and development and create difficulties for the temporarily displaced people.

The Security Force will conduct Counter Terrorism Operations to ensure the rule of law, peace and tranquillity under the law and the people should inform officials regarding the movement of terrorists. — MNA/KTZH



The location map of incident sites where the convoy of cars with representatives of the AHA Centre, Indonesian and Singaporean embassies in Shan State (South).

OPINION

Conserve fish resources in Myanmar seas

THIS year, the authorities set three months from April to June as the non-fishery season at the Myanmar seas. Such an activity aims to conserve fish resources in order to continuously extract fish and marine products from the Myanmar seas. Hence, it is important for those persons engaging in the fishery profession to follow the non-fishery season.

A Norwegian research vessel conducted research on Myanmar sea ecological system and fish resources. According to the findings, fish resources in the Myanmar seas are remarkably declining, and it needs to effectively conduct marine conservation in order to avoid unexpected losses of fish resources.

At this juncture, the three-month non-fishery season disallows capturing of fish totally but allows fishery tasks at some per cent. The non-fishery season was set in the 2014-15 financial year at 50 per cent, in the 2015-16 financial year at 10 per cent, in the 2016-17 financial year at 30 per cent and the 2017-19 financial year at 20 per cent.

Declining the fish resources in the Myanmar seas is based on climate change and environmental pollution. Moreover, it depends on undisciplined acts in extreme capturing of fish and shrimps in various ways and means such as blowing up mines, poisoning and using various sizes of fishing nets in any season.

of fishing nets in any season.

As such, it is concerned with dropping the percentage of fish resources at the Myanmar seas. As every fisherman knows that they could enjoy the fruits of fishery businesses in capturing a large volume of fish due to the full percentage of avoiding fishery works during the set period. Hence, all fishery businesspersons and local fishery workers are to participate in taking preventive measures in the long run for fish resources to bring benefits to themselves, the State and the people.

How the SAC Steered Myanmar’s Remarkable Economic Recovery in Post-Pandemic

NO one can deny the remarkable progress made by Myanmar in recent years, particularly in the realm of economic recovery following the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic. The State Administration Council (SAC) has played a pivotal role in this transformation, implementing policies and initiatives that have spurred growth and renewed investment. Indeed, the country’s resurgence can be attributed in no small part to the Council’s visionary leadership and unyielding commitment to fostering a sustainable and inclusive economic landscape, one that promises to propel Myanmar towards a brighter future teeming with opportunity and prosperity for all its citizens, from the bustling city of Yangon to the picturesque Inlay Lake region, setting

the stage for a promising new beginning.

To appreciate the impact of the SAC on Myanmar’s economic recovery, one must first understand the enormity of the challenges that the nation faced in the wake of the pandemic. With numerous sectors of the economy reeling and unemployment skyrocketing, in 2021, the SAC took bold and decisive action, investing in infrastructure projects, implementing policies to support small and medium-sized enterprises, and revising policies conducive to foreign investment. This forward-thinking approach has been integral to the country’s rebound, as evidenced by the emergent growth rates and renewed investor confidence seen in recent months – an undeniable testament to the Council’s dedi-

cation and ingenuity in navigating the complexities of a post-pandemic world, steering Myanmar towards a prosperous future filled with opportunities that continue to accrue.

Surmounting these challenges, the SAC has also prioritized the development of human capital, recognizing that a well-educated, skilled, and healthy workforce is the backbone of any thriving economy. Initiatives in education, healthcare, and vocational training have been rolled out across the country, providing citizens with the tools they need to contribute to the nation’s progress and improve their own lives in the process. The benefits of these efforts have been felt far and wide, bridging gaps in access to essential services and offering a renewed sense of hope to

countless individuals, from urban entrepreneurs to rural farmers, as they work tirelessly to rebuild and strengthen their communities from within, forging a resilient nation.

Amidst this whirlwind of change, the SAC has not lost sight of the importance of inclusivity and sustainability in Myanmar’s economic recovery. Policies and programs have been implemented to ensure that growth does not come at the expense of the environment or exacerbate social inequalities, striking a delicate balance between the need for development and the preservation of Myanmar’s rich natural and cultural heritage. This approach speaks to the Council’s commitment to creating a better future for all, one that is both economically vibrant and environmental-

ly responsible, a future to which the SAC is dedicated to guiding Myanmar.

Clearly, the State Administration Council has played an instrumental role in Myanmar’s economic recovery after COVID-19. Through a combination of targeted policies, strategic investments, and a commitment to sustainability and inclusivity, the Council has laid the groundwork for a brighter, more prosperous future for the nation and its people. As Myanmar continues to forge ahead on its path to renewed growth and development, there is little doubt that the SAC will remain at the forefront of this journey, guiding the country towards a future filled with promise and possibility, a future that says – resoundingly – yes.



Lorries laden with export cargoes are seen on the Sino-Myanmar border. PHOTO: GNLM/FILE

Do AI bots like ChatGPT threaten humanity if left unchecked?

LIKE nuclear weapons and biotechnology before them, artificial intelligence has brought the world to an existential crisis in which, according to some experts, humanity’s future could be at risk if proper checks are not put in place on a global scale.

Against this backdrop, AI models like ChatGPT were high on the agenda during a two-day Group of Seven Digital and Tech Ministers’ Meeting in Japan that concluded Sunday, with policymakers agreeing on the urgent need for continued discussion on how to govern the rapidly advancing technology.

In its joint declaration, the G-7 agreed to promote “responsible” use of AI while calling for broader stakeholder participation in developing international standards for governance.

ChatGPT, launched in November 2022 as a prototype, stands for Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer and is trained on massive amounts of data, enabling it to process and simulate human-like conversa-



Microsoft is planning to add OpenAI’s GPT-3 technology to its Office suite, including Word. PHOTO: AFP

tions with users.

Running on the GPT-3.5 model upon its initial release, the chatbot took the world by storm for the enormous number – said to be 355 billion – of adjustable variables it could use to generate text, a huge leap from

previous language models that typically only had a few million parameters.

On 14 March, US-based developer OpenAI released the next iteration of the model, known as GPT-4, which is more powerful than its predecessors and has

multimodal capabilities – meaning it can take both text and images as prompts.

While the seemingly limitless potential for generative AI has caused concerns that technological development may be getting out of hand, expert opin-

ions are varied on whether it may signal doom for humankind.

In March, the Future of Life Institute, a think tank focusing on the responsible development and use of technology, published an open letter calling for a minimum six-month pause in the training of AI systems more powerful than GPT-4.

Citing dangers such as perpetuating biases, misinformation, destabilizing labor markets and the concentration of power in a small number of corporations in an attached paper on policy recommendations, the letter collected over 27,000 signatures as of 30 April, including from Tesla’s Elon Musk, who co-founded OpenAI, and Apple Inc co-founder Steve Wozniak.

Advanced AI systems “could themselves pursue goals, either human- or self-assigned, in ways that place negligible value on human rights, human safety, or, in the most harrowing scenarios, human existence,” the think tank wrote.

Musk, who is one of the institute’s backers, also sounded the alarm on hyper-intelligent AI in an interview with Fox News earlier this month, saying it “has the potential of civilization destruction.”

“(If) we only put a regulation after something terrible has

happened, it may be too late to actually put the regulations in place. The AI may be in control at that point,” he said.

Katja Grace, co-founder and lead researcher of AI Impacts, a project that focuses on the long-term consequences of sophisticated AI, said she estimates there is a 19 per cent chance humanity’s failure to control AI will result in humankind’s extinction.

“I think the biggest risk is that current progress leads soon to AI systems that are as good at making decisions about everything as current AI systems are at making decisions about Go or chess, and are strategizing to bring about objectives that are contrary to human welfare, leading to the destruction of humanity,” she said.

The systems are still far from perfect, however. Inaccurate information presented as fact, dubbed hallucinations, remains a challenge in large language model technology, making them impossible to rely on for critical applications.

Satoshi Kurihara, chairman of the Ethics Committee of the Japanese Society for Artificial Intelligence, said AI currently only exists as a tool for humans, and “it is humans who will destroy humankind.”

SOURCE: Kyodo

Low Pressure Area Condition

Issued at (19:00) hours MST on 8-5-2023

- According to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over the Southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining South Andaman Sea still persists. It is likely intensify into a Depression around (9.5.2023) and into a Cyclonic Storm over the Southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining Central Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea around (10.5.2023). The Cyclonic Storm is likely to move North-Northwestwards and reach to Eastcentral Bay of Bengal around (11.5.2023) and then recurve North-North-eastwards and move to Bangladesh-Myanmar Coasts.
- General caution**
SQUALLS with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) mph from (9.5.2023) to (11.5.2023) and frequently squalls with rough to very rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (70-80) mph.
- Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and (Southern and Eastern) Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin, Mon States with regionally and isolated heavy falls in some Regions and States and scattered to fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin and Northern Shan from (11.5.2023) to (15.5.2023).
ADVISORY
UNDER the influence of the Cyclonic Storm, people should be aware of strong wind, heavy rain, flash flood and landslide in the hilly areas and near small rivers and also domestic flight, trawlers, vessels and ships off and along Myanmar Coasts. Therefore, people should watch the forecasts of The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology and make the necessary preparations.

CURRENT
AFFAIRS

Myanmar bags US\$384 mln from CMP garment sector in April 2023-2024 FY



EXPORTS of garments manufactured under the cut-make-pack (CMP) system hit US\$384 million in April during the financial year 2023-2024, according to Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association.

Myanmar’s manufacturing sector which is largely concentrated in garment and textiles on a CMP basis attracts the largest foreign direct investment. The CMP garments are mostly shipped to Thailand, China, Singapore and European countries. The garment exports worth \$200 million was conveyed to Thailand and China through the border, while exports valued at \$184 million were sent to Europe and other European countries by sea.

Out of the foreign countries (China, Thailand, the Republic of Korea, Japan and China Taipei investing in the CMP garment sector, China is ranked first in the line-up.

There are 505 garment factories, 48 footwear factories, eight wig manufacturers and other 177 factories engaged in the manufacturing of bags, sports suits, sports shoes and socks, bringing about job opportunities for more than 100,000 workers.

Myanmar generated an income of \$1.551 billion from the CMP garment export sector in the 2022-2023 FY. — TWA/EM

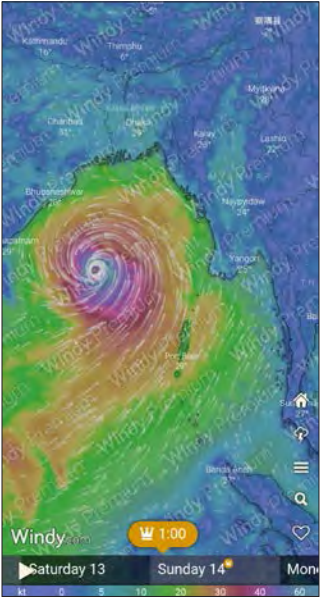
UMFCCI warns associated organizations, entrepreneurs to prepare in advance for consequences of natural disasters

THE Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) has issued a notice for associated organizations, entrepreneurs, and farmers to take necessary measures in advance to prevent the rise of foodstuff and medicine prices, speculation, shortages of goods in the market, which are the consequences of a natural disaster.

In addition, the related associations and traders have been informed that they can contact the federation in time in order to be able to make the necessary preparations and enlist cooperation in the event of an emergency.

According to the forecast of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology at 10:30 am MST yesterday, the low-pressure area over the Southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining South Andaman Sea persists. It is likely to intensify into a depression around 9 May 2023, continue to move northward, and likely intensify into a cyclonic storm over the Central Bay of Bengal and adjoining North Andaman Sea around 10 May 2023.

It is reported that strong winds will hit Myanmar’s Delta region, the Gulf of Mottama, the Rakhine coast, and the offshore seas. There may be large waves, and wind speed can reach up to 80 to 90 miles per hour. — TWA/CT



The situation of a storm that may occur on 13 May is seen in the Windy App.

Shwewah green gram prices up by K50,000 per tonne in Yangon market

THE price of green gram (Shwewah variety) showed a significant rise of K50,000 per tonne in recent days in Yangon’s pulses market.

The prices have remained unchanged for over a month until 2 May from 23 March. The prices increased to K3,830 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilograms) from K3,570. The price was up by K50,000 per tonne of green gram.

The price surged to K2.455 million per tonne in Yangon’s market on 8 May.

Nonetheless, the price of black gram plummeted to K2.169 million per tonne on 8 May from K2.189 million per tonne on 29 April.

The black gram hit the highest of K2.189 million per tonne on 29 April 2023, while the pigeon pea price reached a record high of K2.455 million per tonne on 8 May during the 2022-2023 period.

The green gram price peaked at K4,035 per viss on 13 February 2023.

The various pulses exports amounted to over \$1.342 billion in the 2020-2021 FY. Myanmar bagged \$1.4 billion from over 1.97 million tonnes of pulses exports in the 2022-2023 FY.



Of them, green gram exports earned approximately \$489 million with 691,399 tonnes. Myanmar shipped 532,149 tonnes of green gram to foreign trade partners and 159,349 tonnes to neighbouring countries. — TWA/EM

The photo shows the quality assessment of the green gram.



Upgrade of asphalt repaving on Maha Bandoola, Strand roads in Lanmadaw Tsp

A new layer of asphalt is being added on Maha Bandoola Road and Strand Road in Lanmadaw Township before the rainy season and two large drains have been constructed across Anawrahta Road near the Sanpya cinema on Phonegyi Road to ensure a smooth flow of water.

Ko Tayoke, a taxi driver, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM) that he saw asphalt paving work underway along Maha Bandoola Road in Lanmadaw Township on 7 May.

Most roads in Yangon have been converted into concrete roads but some concrete roads have been covered with a layer of asphalt.

By the end of 2024, a large number of vehicles will be passing through Dala Bridge in Lanmadaw Township, so some vehicle owners say that repaving a new layer of asphalt on the roads in the township can reduce traffic accidents. — TWA/MKKS

The asphalt repaving work is underway on Maha Bandoola Road in Lanmadaw Township.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar-China border trade values cross US\$267 mln in April

THE trade value between Myanmar and China topped US\$267.129 million in April of the current financial year 2023-2024, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The figures soared from \$135.111 million recorded in the corresponding period last FY2022-2023.

This FY, the Sino-Myanmar border trade value was up by \$122.018 million from the year-ago period.

Myanmar conducts cross-border trade with China through Muse, Lweje, Chinshwehaw, Kampaiti and Kengtung borders. Muse border performed the majority of Sino-Myanmar border trade with \$185.342 million.

The value trades stood at \$44.147 million at Chinshwehaw, \$27.728 million at Kampaiti,



Lorries with export cargoes onboard are pictured on the Sino-Myanmar border.

\$9.568 million at Lweje and \$0.344 million at Kengtung respectively. Myanmar carries out bor-

der trade with the neighbouring countries China, Thailand, Bangladesh and India.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, livestock, fisheries, minerals, forest products,

manufacturing goods and other goods to external markets while capital goods, consumer goods, intermediate goods and raw materials from the CMP enterprises are imported.

At present, border trade between Myanmar and China returned to normal after the Myanmar New Year's holidays, with around 200 trucks passing the border posts. Additionally, the Sino-Myanmar border is expected to grow this year compared to that of last year.

Myanmar sends agricultural products such as rice, broken rice, pulses, corn, onion, chilli pepper, sesame seeds, watermelon, muskmelon, mango, rubber and fishery products to China, whereas it brings in construction materials, electrical appliances, equipment, food products and pharmaceuticals. — NN/EM

Yangon region palm oil wholesale reference price sets for three-week fall



A seller is seen measuring edible oil at the grocery.

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market indicated a sharp drop of K300 per viss for a week ending 14 May within three weeks, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The reference price was set at K4,790 per viss from 10 to 23 April. For the week ending 1 May, the price was set lower at K4,680 per viss. Then, the price decrease persisted at K4,570 per viss during a week (2-7 May). This week from 8 to 14 May, the reference price was set at K4,500 per viss. The figures showed a drastic decrease of K290 per viss within three weeks.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia including transport costs, tariffs and banking services, and issuing the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil every week.

Regardless of the reference price, the current market price is too high at over K6,000-7,000 per viss.

If those edible oil retailers and wholesalers are found overcharging, storing inventory intentionally and attempting unscrupulous action to manipulate the market, they will face

legal action under the Essential Supplies and Service Act, MoC released a statement.

The Ministry of Commerce is striving for consumers not to worry over the supply of edible oil. The ministry is also trying to secure edible oil sufficiency, supervise the market to offer reasonable prices to the consumers and maintain price stability.

At present, mobile market trucks operated by oil importing companies, in coordination with Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, were back to business in some townships on 17 July to offer palm oil at a subsidized rate. They offer palm oil at a fairer price to the consumers directly depending on the reference price. However, there are limited sources of supply although they directly sell the palm oil at reference rate depending on the volume quota.

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at a million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the oil sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/EM

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 8 May 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K1,880
Octane 95	K1,965
Diesel	K1,830
Premium Diesel	K1,910

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,381,000 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K3,000,000 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	K2,845 to K2,860

The above prices may change from time to time.

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ECONOMY

WORLD

Markets rise after strong US jobs, rebound in banks



People pass an electronic board showing the closing numbers on the Tokyo Stock Exchange along a street in Tokyo on 1 May 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

ASIAN and European markets rose Monday, tracking a rally on Wall Street fuelled by a strong rebound in US regional banks and forecast-beating jobs data that eased fears over a recession in the world's top economy.

But investors remain wary of any further upheaval in the US financial system following last week's turmoil that saw the sale of the embattled First Republic Bank to JPMorgan Chase.

That followed the collapse in March of three other banks and the takeover of Credit Suisse by UBS, which sparked panic on

trading floors.

An indication last week from the US Federal Reserve that it could pause its interest rate hikes — after announcing another increase — did little to soothe concerns.

Still, a surge Friday in US regional lenders and the strong jobs report provided a shot in the arm for Asian markets at the start of the week.

Hong Kong, Shanghai, Mumbai and Bangkok led gainers by putting on more than one per cent each, while Sydney, Seoul, Taipei, Wellington and

Jakarta were also in the green.

But Tokyo was dragged down by a retreat in banks as investors returned from an extended break to play catch-up with last week's sell-off.

Paris and Frankfurt were slightly higher in the morning. London was closed for a holiday.

While the quarter-of-a-million jump in the non-farm payroll figure will give the Fed reason to hold rates higher for longer, it also showed the US economy remained resilient despite higher rates and inflation. — AFP

Sri Lanka earns nearly US\$700 mln from tourism in 4 months of 2023

SRI Lanka has earned nearly 700 million US dollars from tourism in the first four months of 2023, an increase of 17.8 per cent from the same period last year, an official said on Monday.

Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) Chairman Priantha Fernando told media that the country earned 166.5 million dollars from tourism in April.

According to figures from the SLTDA, Sri Lanka has received 335,679 tourists in the first three months of this year.

Fernando said last month that Sri Lanka's tourism industry is aiming to attract two million visitors in 2023, as compared to the previous target of 1.5 million, and the SLTDA amended the estimates due to a positive trend in the first quarter of the year. — Xinhua



Tourists visit Galle Fort in Galle on 21 April 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

COVID downgrade tipped to boost Japan economy by 4.2 tril yen

JAPAN'S downgrade on Monday of the legal status of COVID-19 will likely deliver the Japanese economy a 4.2 trillion yen (\$31 billion) boost, driven in part by an increase in the number of inbound tourists, according to an estimate by a private sector economist.

The coronavirus is now treated the same as the seasonal flu, with the government relinquishing its legal authority to ask those who have tested positive to stay in hospital or to quarantine. Japan has already reopened its doors to foreign tourists after enforcing a stringent antivirus border control regime.

Of the 4.2 trillion yen estimated economic boost, Hideo Kumano, executive chief economist at the Dai-ichi Life Research Institute, said more than half, or around 2.6 trillion yen, would come from a revival of inbound tourism. Some 1.1 trillion yen would be generated by increased productivity as people will be less frequently kept away from work under the new guidelines.



Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter shows sightseeing ships and cruisers parading on Lake Biwa in the Shiga Prefecture capital of Otsu, western Japan, in a ceremony marking the start of the tourist season at Japan's largest lake on 4 March 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Close contacts are no longer asked to quarantine and it is up to each person testing positive for COVID-19 to decide whether to stay home, even though the government recommends such people refrain from going outside for five days.

The return of people who would otherwise have felt compelled to stay home due to COV-

ID-19 and pent-up demand for travel and dining out are expected to boost the world's third-largest economy.

Economists predict overseas visitors who enter Japan will spend more due to the weaker yen that has made travelling and the buying of goods cheaper for those with foreign currencies. — Kyodo

S Korea's jobless claims rise 3.1% in April

SOUTH Korea's jobless claims rose last month amid growing worry about economic slump, labour ministry data showed on Monday.

The number of new applicants for job-seeking benefits was 96,000 in April, up 3.1 per cent from the same month of

last year, according to the Ministry of Employment and Labour.

It was down from an increase of 8.5 per cent in March, but the number rebounded this year on the mounting worry about the economic downturn driven by continued export fall and faltering housing market.

The benefit applicants mainly expanded in the construction, the information and communications, and the lodging and eatery sectors.

Financed by the state employment insurance fund, the job-seeking benefits are offered by the government to help the

unemployed seek jobs, taking up a majority of unemployment benefits.

The number of the benefit receivers totalled 658,000 in April, up 0.9 per cent from a year earlier. It kept an upward trend for the third straight month.

The total payment of

job-seeking benefits declined 1.1 per cent to 961.7 billion won (727.5 million US dollars) last month.

The per-capita payment reduced two per cent to about 1.46 million won (1,100 US dollars) in the cited month. — Xinhua

Recession fears mount as German industrial output falls

GERMAN industrial production declined more than expected in March due to a heavy fall in car manufacturing, official data showed Monday, deepening fears Europe's top economy faces a sharp downturn.

Output dropped 3.4 per cent on the previous month, seasonally adjusted figures from the federal statistics agency Destatis showed.

It follows two strong months of growth in January and February, and was worse than the one per cent decline forecast by analysts surveyed by financial data

firm FactSet.

The news comes after data released last week showed a surprise plunge in new orders at German factories, as the country's vast industrial sector is pummelled by high energy prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

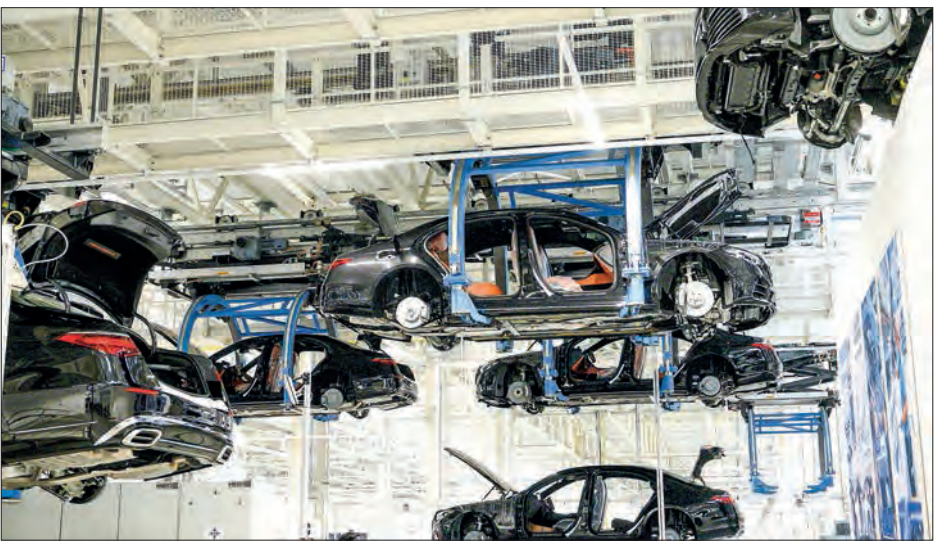
While hopes had been growing that Germany could dodge a downturn, the latest batch of negative data has fuelled fears a recession may be on the cards.

"After production in the industrial sector developed dynamically at

the beginning of the year the beginning of the year, there was an unexpectedly sharp decline in March," the economy ministry said in a statement.

The automotive industry was a major contributor to the decline in March, with the manufacture of vehicles and parts falling 6.5 per cent.

That compared to a 6.9- per-cent increase in February. Germany is home to carmakers including Volkswagen, BMW and Mercedes-Benz, and the auto sector is a pillar of the country's industry. — AFP



Mercedes-Benz EQS and S-Class passenger cars are transported automatically to their next production step at the 'Factory 56', a completely digitized assembly line, at the Mercedes-Benz manufacturing plant in Sindelfingen, southwestern Germany, on 13 February 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Toyota Chairman Toyoda apologizes for Daihatsu's improper testing



Toyota Motor Corp Chairman Akio Toyoda holds a press conference in Bangkok, Thailand, on 8 May 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

TOYOTA Motor Corp Chairman Akio Toyoda on Monday apologized for its small-car subsidiary Daihatsu Motor Co's improper vehicle testing that has affected models sold in Southeast Asia and other markets.

"It was a practice that should have never occurred," Toyoda said at a press conference held in Bangkok. "The (Toyota) group as a whole will do its utmost to regain trust," he said, pledging to spearhead efforts to address the problem.

Daihatsu said last month front door cards of

four models for overseas markets, including Yaris that it makes for Toyota, were "improperly modified" in side collision tests. About 88,000 units passed the test with such modification, many of which were sold in Thailand and Malaysia, it said.

Daihatsu's rigging of the crash test, discovered after a report by a whistleblower, comes after Toyota's truck arm Hino Motors Ltd last year admitted to engine data falsification and Toyota Industries Corp revealed in March improper inspections of its forklift engines. — Kyodo

Over US\$10 bln of investment signed at central China RCEP expo

A total of 113 projects with a combined investment of about 75 billion yuan (10.84 billion US dollars) were signed during a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) economic and trade expo held in central China's Hunan

Province.

The event that kicked off on 4 May in the province's Huaihua City has served as a new platform for exchanges and cooperation between RCEP member countries and China's provincial-level re-

gions along the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor, which is a trade and logistics passage jointly built by provincial-level regions in western China and ASEAN members, according to the organizer. — Xinhua

Transferring Distributor Registered Herbicide

Distributor of the herbicide, **Tetris 75 EC (Profoxydim 7.5% EC)** with its registration number P2023-5162 is transferring from **BASF Myanmar Limited** to **Farm Link Company Limited**.

Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayinnaung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon within 14 days.

BASF Myanmar Limited
Phone – 01 8650976

The Global New Light of Myanmar

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MTT SAISUNEE VOY.NO. (23MS098N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MTT SAISUNEE VOY.NO. (23MS098N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-5-2023** 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 MTT SHIPPING SDN BHD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (039N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (039N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-5-2023** 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 (ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE



A handout photograph taken and released on 12 July 2019 by the Turkish Defence Ministry shows a Russian military cargo plane, carrying S-400 missile defence system from Russia, during its unloading at the Murted military airbase (also known as Akincilar military airbase), in Ankara. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / TURKISH DEFENCE MINISTRY / AFP**

Türkiye rejects US proposal to send Russian-made air defence system to Ukraine: FM

TÜRKIYE has rejected the US proposal to send its Russian-made S-400 air defence system to Ukraine, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Sunday.

Washington suggested Türkiye should hand over control of the S-400 system to the US or another country, the semi-official Anadolu Agency quoted Cavu-

soglu as saying.

“The US asked us to send the S-400s to Ukraine, and we said no,” Cavusoglu said.

He added that these proposals were unacceptable for Türkiye because they directly concerned Turkish sovereignty.

Tensions between the United States and Türkiye escalated when Ankara and Moscow struck

the S-400 deal, as Washington claimed that the S-400 system would be incompatible with the NATO system and may expose its confidential military information to Russia.

Washington later halted the delivery of F-35 fighter jets to Türkiye and imposed sanctions on Türkiye for its purchase of a Russian-made system. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

At least 8 killed as SUV rams group outside Texas migrant centre

At least eight people were killed and several others injured on Sunday when an SUV ran a red light and plowed into a group waiting at a bus stop outside a migrant aid centre in the US state of Texas, police said.

Law enforcement said they were treating the incident as an accident for now, although a witness told AFP the driver had yelled insults at the group before accelerating. — AFP

At least 27 dead in Peru gold mine fire tragedy

At least 27 workers have died in a fire at a gold mine in a remote area of southern Peru, authorities said on Sunday, making it one of the worst mining tragedies in the country's recent history.

Grief-stricken relatives gathered near the mine looking for news of their loved ones.

“Where are you darling, where are you?” cried Marcelina Aguirre. Her husband Federico Idme Mamani, 51, was amongst the victims.

“We know there was a short circuit and from that an explosion. We are very shocked by everything that happened,” added the victim's brother, Francisco. — AFP

Airstrikes rock Sudan as truce talks yield no breakthrough

AIR strikes again shook Sudan's capital Monday while the latest truce talks in Jeddah have yielded no progress, with a Saudi diplomat saying both sides consider themselves “capable of winning the battle”.

Sudan was thrown into deadly chaos when fighting broke out on 15 April between the forces of army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his deputy turned rival Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who heads the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

The battles have since killed hundreds, wounded thousands and left millions barricaded inside their homes amid dire shortages of water, food and basic supplies.

The feuding generals have sent representatives to Saudi



In this picture taken on 7 May 2023, smoke billows in Khartoum amid ongoing fighting between the forces of two rival generals. **PHOTO: AFP**

Arabia for talks on establishing a humanitarian truce in an effort also backed by the United States, but to no avail so far.

By Monday, the talks had yielded “no major progress”, a Saudi diplomat told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity. — AFP

Iran urges West not to ‘procrastinate’ over nuclear deal revival

IRAN on Monday said it is possible to salvage an agreement on reviving its nuclear deal if Western parties, particularly the US, put an end to repeated delays.

It comes five years after the US withdrew from a 2015 nuclear deal that gave Iran relief from international sanctions in return for curbs on its nuclear programme.

An agreement “is possible both in term of the technical and political aspects”, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani said.

He charged that “the other sides, especially the US, have



Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Nasser Kanani speaks during a press conference in the capital Tehran on 5 December 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

procrastinated” on reviving the deal, while expressing hopes that they would show “political determination” for a committed return to its implementation.

Exactly five years ago, then US president Donald Trump unilaterally pulled out of the deal and reimposed sanctions on Iran, prompting Tehran to walk back on its commitments that were intended to prevent it from developing a nuclear weapon — an aim Iran has always denied having.

Kanani on Monday said Iran's policy “is not to allow issues related to Iran's peace-

ful nuclear activity to become an obstacle in the process of Iran's cooperation” with the UN nuclear watchdog.

In March, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Rafael Grossi visited Tehran after his agency's inspectors in the country found uranium particles enriched to just under weapons-grade level.

Tehran denies wanting to acquire atomic weapons, and has said it had not made any attempt to enrich uranium beyond 60 per cent purity, noting that unintended fluctuations may have occurred during the enrichment process. — AFP

At least 22 dead after India boat capsizes

AT least 22 people died when a double-decker tourist boat cap-sized in India’s southern state of Kerala, officials said Monday.

The incident happened late Sunday in Tanur, a coastal town in Kerala’s Malappuram district. Rescue operations were ongoing.

Dozens of people searched for survivors in and around the stricken vessel during the night, which was partially submerged. Some used ropes to stabilize the vessel while others were in the water, looking inside the boat’s windows.

“We have recovered 22 bod-ies, including 15 females and

seven males. There are around six people in the hospital. Res-cue operations are on,” a police officer from Tanur police station told AFP.

There were around 30 peo-ple on board, the officer added.

Local publication Onmano-rama reported that 11 people, from a family, including three children, had died in the acci-dent.

The state’s sports and fish-eries minister V Abdurahiman, who was helping to coordinate rescue efforts, said most of the victims were children on school holidays.

More than 30 people were

believed to be on the vessel at the time of the incident.

Abdurahiman said four people were taken to hospital in a critical condition, according to the Press Trust of India news agency.

Survivors told local media that many of the passengers were not wearing life jackets.

“Pained by the loss of lives due to the boat mishap in Mal-appuram, Kerala. Condolenc-es to the bereaved families,” Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Twitter, adding that the next of kin of each victim would be entitled to compensation. — AFP



An Indian navy helicopter conducts a rescue operation at the site of a boat accident in Tanur, in Malappuram district on 8 May 2023. At least 22 people died when a double-decker tourist boat capsized in India’s southern state of Kerala, officials said. **PHOTO: AFP**

Danish oil tanker crew kidnapped off W Africa rescued



This undated and unlocated handout picture released by Monjasa shows the Liberian-flagged oil tanker, Monjasa Reformer, owned by Monjasa, and technically managed by Montec Ship Management. A Danish-owned Liberian-flagged oil tanker was boarded by pirates over the weekend in the Gulf of Guinea, the owner said on 28 March 2023, adding that contact with 16 crew members had been lost. **PHOTO: AFP**

SIX crew members kidnapped by pirates last month from a Danish oil tanker off Congo have been

rescued from Nigeria, the ship’s owner said Monday.

The Liberian-flagged Mon-

jasa Reformer had 16 sailors on board when it was attacked by pirates on 25 March. Despite be-ing owned by a Danish company, none of the crew were Danish.

When the 135-metre-long (443-feet) tanker was found by the French navy the following week off the coast of Sao Tome and Principe in the Gulf of Guinea, the remaining crew said six of their colleagues had been kidnapped.

“All six crew members who were kidnapped from the oil tanker, Monjasa Reformer, are now safely recovered from an undisclosed location in Nigeria,” Monjasa said.

It did not specify if ransom was paid. Monjasa CEO Anders Ostergaard said they “are in a relatively good health condition given the difficult circumstances they have been under in the last more than five weeks. — AFP

Western Canada wildfires force more evacuations

WESTERN Canada’s spread-ing wildfires prompted fresh evacuation orders on Sunday as authorities registered over 100 active blazes.

Around 30,000 people have been told to leave their homes in Alberta, where more than two dozen fires have not yet been brought under control.

Calling the situation “un-precedented”, Alberta Premier

Danielle Smith declared a state of emergency on Saturday.

The province — one of the world’s largest oil-producing re-gions — “has been experienc-ing a hot, dry spring and with so much kindling, all it takes is a few sparks to ignite some truly frightening wildfires,” she said.

Christie Tucker, a spokes-person with Alberta’s wildfire agency, said that “light scattered

showers in the southern part of the province” on Sunday allowed firefighters to approach previ-ously unreachable areas due to “extreme wildfire behaviour”.

Conditions in the north of the province remained very dif-ficult, she added.

“Our priorities today have been and always are wildfires that are threatening communi-ties or human lives.” — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Xi to chair China-Central Asia Summit

THE China-Central Asia Summit will be held on 18 and 19 May in Xi’an, Shaanxi Province. Chinese President Xi Jinping will chair the summit, foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying announced here on Monday.

At China’s invitation, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of Ka-zakhstan, President Sadyr Japarov of Kyrgyzstan, President Emomali Rahmon of Tajikistan, President Serdar Berdimuhamedov of Turk-menistan and President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan will be attending the summit, Hua said. -- Xinhua

3 villagers killed as MiG-21 jet crashes in India’s Rajasthan

THREE people were killed after a MiG-21 fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) crashed Monday in the western state of Rajasthan, officials and local media reports said.

The aircraft crashed into a house in the Dabli area of Hanu-mangarh district of Rajasthan, about 415 kilometres north of Jaipur, the capital city of Rajasthan.

A new Delhi-based television channel quoting local officials said two women and one man were killed in the village because of the crash. — Xinhua

Israel launches incentive plan to curb scientific brain drain

ISRAEL on Sunday launched an incentive plan to encourage out-standing overseas scientists to return home, in a bid to strengthen the national research capacity.

Dubbed “promoting scientific research and bringing back brains,” the plan is aimed at improving the quality of research by hiring the best researchers, and more, Israel’s Council for Higher Education said in a statement.

Under the plan, the council will allocate 116 million shekels (about 31.9 million US dollars) to cover a third of the cost of employing up to 40 researchers in selected research institutes over a period of five years.

The plan will also help returning residents and overseas Israeli post-doctorate graduates to better integrate into research activity in the Israeli academy. — Xinhua

Türkiye rejects US proposal to send Russian-made air defence system to Ukraine: FM

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SPORT

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

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

- To enhance development based on agriculture and livestock using modern production techniques and to strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- 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.
- To advance the socioeconomic life of the people, in order to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.

3. Social affairs

- To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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's Chinlone, Vovinam teams grab gold medal each in SEA Games

MYANMAR Chinlone team won one more gold medal at the XXX-II SEA Games Chinlone competition (Men and Women) held at Basketball Hall NSTC, Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 7 May.

Team Myanmar won the gold medal in the Women's Sames Stoke-Event-2 competition with a score of 221 points.

In this competition, the Cambodian team earned the silver medal and the Lao team bagged the bronze medal.

In the Men + Women Event-2 Mixed competition, Cambodia, Lao, and Myanmar competed and the Myanmar team collected the silver medal with a score of 198 points.

Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Malaysia competed in the Men's Same Chinlone Event-2 competition, the Myanmar team won another bronze medal with 174 points.

After the Chinlone competitions, the awards ceremony continued.

The first, second and third prize winners were awarded by the Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee, Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan and the leader of the Myanmar Sports Association director-general of the Department of Sports and Physical Education.



Myanmar's Chinlone team is pictured competing in the 32nd SEA Games.

Next, Men's and Women's Vovinam competitions were held at Chroy Changvar Convention Centre, Hall (F).

Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Viet Nam and Lao competed in the Men's Dual Form, and Myanmar won the gold medal, Viet Nam the silver, and Lao and Cambodia the bronze respectively.

Myanmar won bronzes at the Women's Cross Form, 60-kilo Women's event, 60-kilo Men's event, Women's Ying-yang Sword Form, Mixed Basic self-defence, a team of three men plus three women event, and four women's one-handed sword competition.

Next, gold, silver, and bronze medalists of the Women's Single Shooting event were awarded by the Union Minister.

Next, the Union Minister enjoyed Myanmar vs Cambodia men's football match at Olympic Stadium (Prince Stadium) where Myanmar beat Cambodia 2-0.

On 7 May, Myanmar teams competed in Chess, Vovinam, Chinlone, Tennis, Billiard, Kun Khmer, Lethwei, Football, and Volleyball events and garnered two gold, one silver, and eight bronze medals.

On 8 May, Myanmar teams participated in Vovinam (Kun Bokator), Chess, Vovinam, Chinlone, Billiard, Athletics, Kun Khmer, Volleyball, and Lethwei.

In the XXXII Southeast Asian Games, Myanmar has won five gold medals, two silver medals and 18 bronze medals for a total of 25 medals to date. — MNA/KZL

Tsunoda wins Japan's first gold of judo world championships

NATSUMI Tsunoda won her third successive global title on Sunday as judo superpower Japan collected their first gold medal of the world championships.

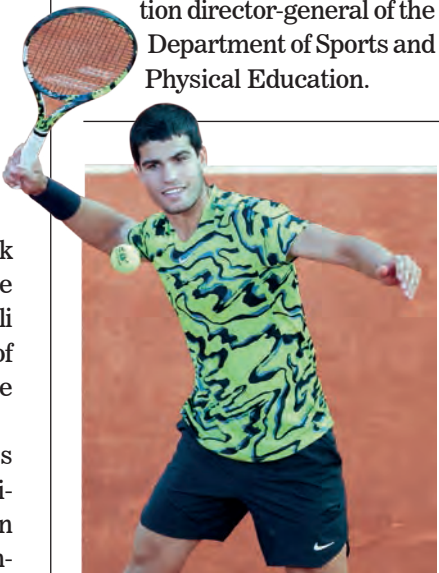
Tsunoda, 30, beat world number one Shirine Boukli of France by ippon in the under-48 kg category in Doha, adding to the titles she won in Tashkent in 2022 and Budapest a year earlier. Wakana Koga also won one of the bronze medals for Japan, with the other going to Assunta Scutto of Italy.

In the men's title of the opening day, Spain's Francisco Garrigos added the world gold in the under-60 kg category to

the European championship he won last year.

Garrigos beat Dilshodbek Baratov of Uzbekistan in the final, while Giorgi Sardalashvili of Georgia and Lee Ha-rim of South Korea each took bronze medals.

These championships mark the return to competition of Russian and Belarusian judokas, albeit as neutral competitors, after they were banned in reaction to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. A Russian, Sabina Giliyazova, was in action in the women's under-48 kg category on Sunday but was beaten in the second round by Blandine Pont of France. — AFP



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz celebrates after winning the 2023 ATP Tour Madrid Open tennis tournament singles final match against Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff at Caja Magica in Madrid on 7 May 2023. PHOTO: AFP

Alcaraz retains Madrid Open title in battling win over Struff

WORLD number two Carlos Alcaraz defended his Madrid Open title with a hard-fought 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 win over Jan-Lennard Struff on Sunday.

The US Open champion earned his 10th career title and can reclaim the world top ranking from Novak Djokovic simply by playing a single match at the Rome Masters next week, before the French Open. Alcaraz continued his Roland Garros build-up by adding the Madrid trophy to victories in Barcelona, Buenos Aires and Indian Wells this year,

although he was below his vibrant best against lucky loser Struff, the world number 65. The 20-year-old was given a tricky time by his German opponent but eventually became the youngest player since Rafael Nadal in 2006 to defend an ATP Masters 1000 title.

"Today I enjoyed it in parts, in other parts I suffered more than I enjoyed it, but it's what you have to live with," said Alcaraz.

"Nerves come into play and it's difficult, but I think I enjoyed it more than I suffered today." — AFP