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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.

Manufacturing process needs to use modern techniques, rather than conventional methods: Senior General

TOURISM entrepreneurs need to prepare their lodges and hotels to be ready to admit the travellers with better services, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with departmental officials, town elders, businesspersons of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises at the city hall in Kengtung yesterday morning.

Individual discussions on requirements of booming businesses

Chairman of Shan State (East) Government Administration Body Branch U Ye Naing, Chief Minister of Shan State U Aung Zaw Aye and MSME businesspersons reported on the implementation of MSME businesses in Shan State, the need to preserve coffee quality and stabilize the coffee market, development of tourism industry in Kengtung, improvement of rice mills and tea industry, transport and communication measures.

Responses of Union ministers to relevant sectors

Union ministers discussed encouragement of the State to MSME businesses, plans of relevant ministries to provide machinery, heavy machinery, capital and technologies for operating businesses in Shan State (East),



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views the products displayed at the meeting with departmental officials, town elders and MSME businesspeople in Kengtung on 12 May 2023.

emphasis on increasing the area of forests in the region with environmental conservation, participation in MSME shows and contests, and eradication of illegal trade which can harm the improvement of MSME.

After hearing the discussions, the Senior General gave the necessary instructions.

Encouraging domestic manufacturing industries for value-added products to devel-

op the State economy

In his speech, the Senior General said that manufacturing plays a key role in MSME businesses, depending on the supply of raw materials. Such a business requires electricity, fuel,

pesticide and other materials. It needs capital for investment and human resources. In Shan State (East), perennial trees such as coffee, rubber and tea as industrial crops can be grown.

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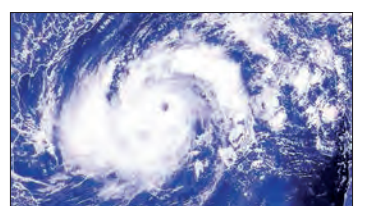
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Manufacturing process needs to use modern techniques, rather than conventional methods: Senior General

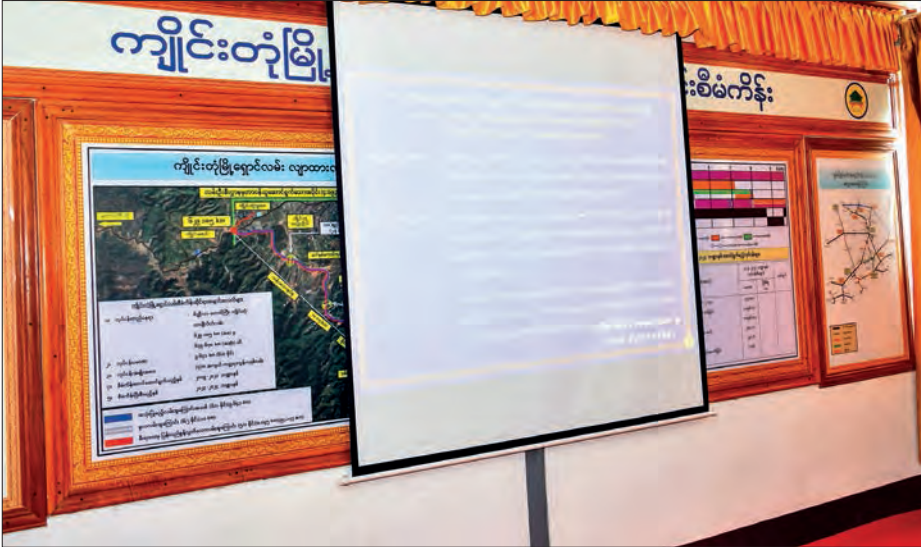
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Needs to successfully produce domestic crops including coffee and tea

The Senior General highlighted if businesspersons operate the coffee industry in Shan State (East), they will have a chance to enjoy the benefit. Controlling the coffee market depends on its quality. Likewise, tea can be distributed to other regions of the country as well as exported to foreign countries.

The Senior General disclosed that although there are many sites to generate hydro-power in Shan State (East), these projects cannot be implemented for various reasons. Hence, production cost rises. The manu-



The Senior General meets departmental personnel, town elders and MSME businesspersons yesterday.



The Senior General hears the report on MSME businesses in Shan State (East) yesterday while meeting departmental officials, town elders and MSME businesspersons.

facturing process needs to use modern techniques, rather than conventional methods. It is necessary to raise productivity. Efforts must be made for increasing the per-acre yield of crops in agricultural tasks and meeting the target production.

It is necessary to successfully cultivate oil crops in the region to meet the local oil demand for benefiting the relevant regions. The government will disburse loans as capital to the businesspersons to operate livestock farms. The Senior General stressed the need to raise rubber production.

Development of the tourism industry

The government is assisting in the development of the tourism industry in Shan State (East). Hotels and tourism entrepreneurs need to give services of accommodation, food supply and domestic food to the guests. Upgrading Kengtung and Tachilek airports will be a drive to attract



The construction site of the Kengtung detour.

travellers from neighbouring countries via aviation. So, tourism entrepreneurs need to prepare their lodges and hotels to be ready to admit travellers with better services.

Development of human re-

sources

The Senior General underscored that the government arranges the opening of agriculture and livestock high schools in 50 districts so as to improve human resources. Then, plans are underway to open more in-

stitutes, colleges and universities for students of these high schools to continue further learning. Universities give economics and law subjects to students to have a wider scope of business knowledge and legal affairs.

Inspection of domestic products

The Senior General viewed round products of natural resources, foodstuffs, personal goods, industrial products, traditional products, textiles and traditional medicines and asked about the marketable situations of these products.

Inspection of Kengtung detour

The Senior General inspected the construction of the Kengtung detour where Director U Ye Lin of the Department of Highways in Shan State (East) reported on the work progress.

The Senior General stressed the need to complete earthen works before monsoon as heavy rains may occur in monsoon. He instructed officials to timely complete the construction of the road and grow trees on both sides of the road.

The Senior General and party inspected the Kengtung detour by car. — MNA/TTA

Emphasis needed to improve the public economy

IT is necessary to focus on the improvement of the public economy rather than the economy of a group in order to develop the domestic economy. Hence, the government is enhancing the work process of businesses beneficial for the majority of the people.

(Excerpts from the speech by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at a meeting with officials from associates of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on 23 December 2022)

Tatmadaw members have to avoid indulgence for serving the State defence duties in full swing: Senior General

COMMANDERS need to organize Tatmadaw members as well as their families to love and rely on the Tatmadaw, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with Tatmadaw members and families of Kengtung Station at Pyi Nyein Aye Hall of Triangle Region Command Headquarters yesterday afternoon.

Efforts for political progress and economic development

The Senior General said that the government pays back the foreign debts to foreign countries as much as possible. Currently, the State economy leads to im-



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Tatmadaw members and families of Kengtung Station in the Triangle Region Command Headquarters yesterday.



The Senior General cordially greets Tatmadaw members and families.



The Senior General warmly greets student trainees of the basic maritime youth course.

provement. The country needs to earn trade income and non-trade income. Now, the government has earned income for the State fund.

Peace and stability

The Senior General stressed the need to pave the way for ethnic armed organizations onto the peace track. Meanwhile, it is necessary to eliminate PDF terrorists who emerged from political controversy. In the term of democratic government, the Tatmadaw cooperated with the government in its functions. As Tatmadaw took the reserved measures, the Tatmadaw improved itself.

Serving the State responsibilities in accord with the Constitution

The government serves State responsibilities under the Constitution. The road map of the State Administration Council comprises holding the election and then State power will be handed over to the winning party.

Systematic daily routine, promotion of education, health and fitness

Tatmadaw members have to make preparations to be ready to fight. They have to focus on individual healthy and fit processes on a daily process and doing the correct work process means

training themselves. Disciplined acts in all situations uplift their capacity. Commanders need to organize Tatmadaw members as well as their families to love and rely on the Tatmadaw.

The Senior General explained that Tatmadaw arranges convenience of food supply and accommodation and enhancement of educational qualification of students from Tatmadaw member families. At a time when schools reopen, all students of Tatmadaw member families have to attend school. Encouragement of education qualification aims to enable individual people to stand tall in their lives with their capacity. Parents are responsible for

the learning of offspring.

The Senior General pointed out that Tatmadaw members need to consume nutritious foods produced by the Tatmadaw. Tatmadaw members have to avoid indulgence for serving the State defence duties in full swing.

The Senior General presented foodstuffs for Tatmadaw members and families of Kengtung Station to the commander and wife of the Senior General, and cash assistance for the station maternal and child welfare association to the wife of the commander.

The Senior General, wife and party met trainees from the basic maritime youth course of the

Tatmadaw (Navy) in Kengtung Station, taking training at Nawngtung Lake in Kengtung.

In extending greetings to those trainees, the Senior General underscored that the training course aims to efficiently spend the school holidays and urged them to attend the course to have skills and knowledge.

The Senior General viewed round documentary photos on the training of trainees. The Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and officials reported on conducting the training session.

The Senior General presented foodstuffs to trainees from Kengtung Camp. — MNA/TTA

SAC Vice-Chair DPM Vice-Senior General Soe Win discusses holding Myanmar Education Conference 2023

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addressed the second coordination meeting of the Steering Committee to hold the Myanmar Education Conference 2023 and Work Committee held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his opening speech, the Vice-Senior General said it is the second coordination meeting to hold the conference and implement the objectives of the conference. The first meeting was held on 25 April and in this second meeting, it will discuss the matters to be decided and the progress of works for the success of the conference.

The Education Conference to be held is the first one at the time of the SAC and it is also a conference that will be jointly organized by 11 ministries related to education.

At the conference, a paper reading session intending to produce human resources and development of future academic fields in a timely manner and holding seminars will be conducted.



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the second coordination meeting of the Steering Committee to hold the Myanmar Education Conference 2023 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Based on the outcomes of the seminars, the education-related issues will be resolved.

The successive governments adopted plans for education promotion and human resource development. It implemented Special Four-Year Plan for Education (2000-2001 FY to 2003-2004 FY) and Thirty-Year Long-Term Education Promotion Plan (2001-2002 FY to 2030-2031 FY) under six five-year plans.

From 2003 to 2009, the conferences were held in rotation in the Yangon Diamond Jubilee Hall, Yezin Agriculture University, University of Veterinary Science, Taunggyi University and Mawlamyine University.

This conference will be organized not only by the Ministry of Education but also by State Administration Council members who attended the conference together with 11 related ministries, Union-level personnel and scholars will work together.

He also called for cooperation in all sectors for the successful holding of the conference.

Then, Working Committee Chairman Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe reported on the arrangements for the successful holding of the Education Conference.

Afterwards, officials of relevant subcommittees reported on the work progress to hold Myanmar Education Conference 2023 and coordinated the discussion.

The Vice-Senior General gave instructions and concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

All staff members urged to implement visions and missions of relevant departments



SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister MoTC Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San is pictured at the meeting with department personnel in Kengtung on 11 May.

PERSONNEL have to strive to become those capable of serving the interests of relevant departments with good morale and discipline, said State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San at the meeting with staff from departments under the ministry at the Shan State Manager's Office of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications in Kengtung on 11 May.

In his speech, he stressed the need to follow laws, bylaws, orders, directives and six-point oaths of personnel. Personnel have to strive to become those capable of serving the interests of relevant departments with good morale and discipline. All staff members have to implement the visions and missions of relevant departments. In accord with the motto which goes: only when service personnel are sharpening will the State be better, the service personnel will serve the interests of the nation.

Next, he fulfilled the needs of staff and the work process of relevant departments.

The Deputy Prime Minister inspected the duties and functions of the Additional Shan State Office of Road Transport Administration Department and gave instructions on upgrading car parks and inspection grounds. — MNA/TTA

Coord meeting on development of EVs & related businesses held

SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Defence Minister General Mya Tun Oo who is also Chairman of the National-Level Leading Committee on Development of Electric Vehicles and Related Businesses presided over its coordination meeting at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The coordination meeting

approved the implementation of the committee during the pilot project and future plans to be done.

Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, deputy ministers, and officials from relevant departments and companies attended the meeting. — MNA/TS



SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister MoD Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo presides over the coordination meeting of the National-Level Leading Committee on Development of Electric Vehicles and Related Businesses in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Thai delegation led by Air Mashal Chainat Phonkit arrives in Myanmar

ACCORDING to the agreement of the 7th Air Working Group meeting between the Tatmadaw (Air) and the Royal Thai Air Force, five delegation members led by Air Marshal Chainat Phonkit from the Royal Thai Air Force arrived in Yangon on 8 May.

The delegation met the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and exchanged gifts on 9 May and observed the Gems Museum in Nay Pyi Taw before attending the dinner.

The delegation visited Uppatasanti Pagoda and white elephants in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 May. Then, they paid homage to the Maravijaya Buddha Image. In the afternoon, they arrived at the Flying Training



Thai Air Marshal Chainat Phonkit views gems and jewellery at the Gems Museum on 9 May in Nay Pyi Taw.

Base and Air Operation Training School, an official explained the history of the base, the school and the procedures of the school.

Next, they visited the gallery at the headquarters of the Flying Training Base and visited the pilot training school, where an official explained the four types of aircraft and took a group photo with the pilot trainees. They paid homage to Nyaungpwapin Pagoda on 11 May and attended the dinner hosted by the commander of the Flying Training Base.

The delegation paid homage to Shwedagon and Botahtaung pagodas and visited Bogyoke Aung San Market on 11 May. They also attended the dinner hosted by the military attaché from Royal Thai Air Force.

The delegation headed by Air Marshal Chainat Phonkit left Yangon for Thailand yesterday morning and was seen off by the Tatmadaw (Air) officers. — MNA/KZW

Myanmar delegation attends 22nd ACCSM, SOM in Brunei



THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Civil Service Board Permanent Secretary U Aung Tin Soe attended the preparatory meeting of the 22nd ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM) and Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) held in Brunei Darussalam on 9 and 10 May. The delegation joined the events at the invitation of Permanent Secretary Ajman Bin Haji Meludin of Brunei Prime

Minister's Office and arrived back in Myanmar yesterday.

During the meeting, officials exchanged views on the planning of activities and the Roadmap during Brunei Darussalam's Chairmanship of the ACCSM (2022-2024), activities of ASEAN member states under ACCSM and ASEAN Plus Three (2021-2025) Work Plan, development of the Post-2025 ACCSM Work Plan, deci-

sions made at the 21st ACCSM and cooperation on civil service matters and continuous collaboration and communication among the public service sector of ASEAN member states.

The ASEAN delegates then visited the significant cultural sites of Bandar Seri Begawan, attended the dinner event and exchanged gifts. — MNA/KTZH

157 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 12 May, total figure registers 636,967

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to **636,967** after **157** new cases were reported on 12 May 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

Therefore, a total of **10,493,930** laboratory samples were examined and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached **636,967**. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **615,720** including **90** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at **19,493** on 12-5-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic.— GNLM

Storm surge warning of Disaster Management Centre

12.5.2023

ACCORDING to the observations at 3:30 pm MST on 12 May of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrol-ogy, the very severe cyclonic storm “Mocha” over the central Bay of Bengal and adjoining southeast Bay of Bengal has moved north-northeastwards and now lies over the central Bay of Bengal. It is centred at about 295 nautical miles west of Cocokyun, 370 nautical miles west-southwest of Hainggyikyun, 450 nautical miles south-southwest of Sittway, 300 nautical miles northwest of Port Blair (India) and 490 nautical miles south-southwest of Cox’s Bazar (Bangladesh).

The very severe cyclonic storm “Mocha” is likely to continue to move north-northeastwards and intensify into an extremely severe cyclonic storm “Mocha” over the east-central Bay of Bengal on 12 May night and is forecast to cross between Cox’s Bazar (Bangladesh) and Kyaukpyu (Myanmar) near Sittway (Myanmar) as a

very severe cyclonic storm “Mocha” around 14.5.2023.

-It is expected that the maximum wind speed will be 90-110 miles per hour in the squall.

-If the wind speed in squalls reaches 90-110 miles per hour, the wave height may reach 9-16 feet. There-fore, the people living in low-lying areas of under 16 feet should make preparations to evacuate to the nearest cyclone shelters or highlands and place the essential personal equipment in the new locations in advance to overcome the disaster with the least losses.

- The regions in Sittway and Maungtaw townships which are located on the pathway of the storm can face floods if the wave is high. According to the prediction, the storm surge will cause floods and it can affect eastern parts from the estuary to Taungpyoletwe along the Naf River; left and right parts from the Meyu estuary to Rathedaung, Buthidaung townships along

the Meyu River.

-Moreover, if the storm surge is about 16 feet, there will be floods in the vicinity areas of Maung-taw, Rathedaung, Buthidaung, Sittway, Ponnagyun, Kyauktaw, MraukU, Phayonka Island, Minbya, Myebon, Kanhtaunggyi, Kyaukpyu and Manaung townships.

- Similarly, if the storm surge is about 16 feet, Thandwe, Thabyuchaing, Maungshwelaychaing, Nga-pali and vicinity areas of Gwa – Alalchaung, Yaytwintuu, Yahinphyah and Kinsharshay can be also flooded.

- Therefore, those who live above mentioned town-ships and villages should evacuate to the nearest cyclone shelters or safe highlands in time so they can overcome the storm with the least losses.

-The path of storm and wind speed can change from time to time and the warnings will be released in a timely manner.

Announcement warns red alert areas

CYCLONE Mocha over the central Bay of Bengal and adjoining the southeast Bay of Bengal is expected to move near Sittway, which is between Cox's Bazar, Bang-ladesh, and Kyaukpyu, Myanmar, on 14 May 2023. The following areas have been declared as red alert areas with a high risk of disaster depending on the conditions of being hit and affected by the disaster.

1. Sittway Township
2. Kyaukpyu Township

3. Maungtaw Township
4. Rathedaung Township
5. Myebon Township
6. Pauktaw Township
7. Manaung Township

National Disaster Management Committee

Authorities inspect natural disaster prevention training, storage of rescue, relief and support equipment

AS the low-pressure area in the southeast Bay of Bengal and the adjacent Andaman Sea is gradu-ally strengthening and becoming Cyclone Mocha, emergency man-agement exercises on rescue and rehabilitation tasks are under-way in various regions and states.

Military personnel exercise rehearsals with members of the police, fire brigades, red cross, social rescue groups and locals in Pinlaung township of southern Shan State, at the cyclone centre in Nathmaw village in Chaung-zon township of Mon State and the Khamti Station in Sagaing

Region.

South-West Command Com-mander Brig-Gen Kyi Khine and officials met and provided relief supplies to people in Labutta and Myaungmya townships. They also inspected cyclone shelters in Ziywelay and Thingangyi vil-lages in Labutta township.

Furthermore, coordination meetings of the Natural Disas-ter Management Committee are held at the Rakhine State government office in Sittway and the Chin State government office in Haka, respectively. — MNA / KZW



Photos show precautionary measures underway in Rakhine State, Shan State, Mon State, Ayeyawady Region and Sagaing Region (top and above photos).

Preparedness measures underway in various states, regions

COMBINED teams of the Myanmar Police Force, the General Administration Department, and Fire Services Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs are accelerating their preparedness activities for relief, rescue and first-aid operations in various states and regions in the event of Cyclone Mocha.

Preparedness activities such as rehearsal exercises are being conducted in Haka township of Chin State, Launglon and Myeik townships of Taninthayi Region, Nyaunglebin, Toungoo and Bago townships in Bago

Region, Mindon township in Magway Region, Kyaukse, Paung, Bilin and Mudon townships in Mon State, Kyaukse, Gwa, Sittway, Taungup, Ponnagyun, Pauktaw, Minbya, Manaung, Myebon, Rathedaung, Yanbye, Thandwe and An townships in Rakhine State, Mawlamyinekyun, Myanaung, Yekyi, and Labutta townships in Ayeyawady Region.

People are informed and notified of well-preparedness measures against any possible incoming storm. — MNA/TS



Rakhine State NDMC coordination meeting held



RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Htein Lin together with Western Command Commander Maj-Gen Htin Latt Oo, state government ministers and state-level department officials made inspection tours in Sittway Township yesterday morning.

The Rakhine State chief minister and party also attended the Rakhine State Natural Disaster Management Committee Coordinating Meeting 2/2023 at the office of the Rakh-

ine State government yesterday afternoon.

Next, they met the evacuated people and fulfilled the necessary things. Then, they visited IDP camps in Sittway Township and discussed evacuation measures.

In addition, the Rakhine State chief minister viewed round, fishing boats and ferries that take shelter from Cyclone Mocha and fulfilled the needs. — Tin Htun (IPRD)/MKKS

Illegal fuel oil, industrial materials, consumer goods, foodstuffs and vehicles seized

THE Myawady District Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections on Asia highway in Myawady township on 10 May and confiscated two kinds of goods, including 40 clear glasses, worth K2.3 million without official documents from a Mitsubishi light truck (approximately K15 million) and an on-duty team at the Kawkaik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint captured 37 cartons of Best quality coat rack high-quality stainless steels worth K1.85 million from a vehicle heading to Yangon from Myawady. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

In addition, the on-duty teams nabbed 5,500 kg of nylon lace fabric worth K7.15 million that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a Hino Profia truck (approximately K22 million) heading to Bago from Myawady at the Ma-

yanchaung permanent checkpoint, 1,498.2 kilogrammes of South Asian Style detergent powder worth K2,487,012 without official documents from a Toyota Hiace auto (estimated value of K20 million) heading to Mandalay from Muse at the Yebu permanent checkpoint, 1,965 kg of Superior Cocoa wafers worth K17,310,132 without Import Licence from a container at the Myanmar Industrial Port Terminal container checkpoint and four kinds of goods, including eight boxes of Furongwang cigarette, worth K2.5 million and two kinds of goods, including 10 Moonax watches, worth K1 million without official documents from luggage at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk). The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 11 May, a combined team led by the Sagaing Township General Administration De-

partment seized 18,750 gallons of illegal diesel worth K180 million at the Yadanabon combined checkpoint in Sagaing township, a combined team led by Homalin Police Station captured an AD van car (approximately K5 million) without official documents in Homalin township, a combined team led by No 116 Traffic Police Force seized a Honda fit car (approximately K5 million) without official documents in Shwebo township and a combined team led by Monywa Police Force captured a Super Anbo motorbike (estimated value of K150,000) without official documents in Monywa township. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Therefore, 16 arrests (estimated value of K281,747,144) were made on 10 and 11 May, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Military aid convoys leave for Cyclone Mocha-prone areas



UPON receiving information regarding the emergence of a low-pressure zone in the Bay of Bengal, as per the information obtained from the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, the National Disaster Management Committee promptly convened an emergency coordination meeting in line with the directives stipulated by the State Administration Council. Consequently, on 8 May, the Disaster Management Committee (DMC) was established.

Starting on 9 May, military aircraft delivered foodstuffs and

medical accessories to Sittway, Kyaukpadaung, and An. Based on the latest predictions, it has been forecasted that Cyclone Mocha, which has been intensifying in the Bay of Bengal since 11 May, will make landfall along Myanmar coasts as an extremely powerful cyclone. Moreover, it is expected that on 14 May, the cyclone will pass near Sittway.

The military convoy of 112 vehicles carrying relief and supplies was organized into 10 groups and left Yangon for Gwa, An and Kyaukse yesterday. — MNA/KZW

OPINION

Don't forget
gratitude for
healthy plants

THE planet Earth must be saved with lush and green environments. The health of plants is as important as the planet Earth as the Earth is home to all living beings and non-living things. Practically, plants are depending on the planet Earth whereas the planet Earth relies on thriving healthy plants.

As the health of plants is of importance, the United Nations declared 12 May as the International Day of Plant Health in order to raise public awareness about protecting plant health because it can end hunger as well as starvation, reduction of poverty in both

urban and rural populations, conservation of biodiversity and natural environment.

Everybody needs to know the value of healthy plants. So also, they should not forget the gratitude of the plants which have been saving the planet Earth in successive eras several times. If all living beings, especially human beings rely on healthy plants each other, the whole planet Earth will be prosperous forever. If so, human beings need to help the plants be healthy to shape the planet Earth lush and green with life safety.

Plant health is key to the sustainable development of agriculture which helps provide food to the global people by 2050. Actually, healthy plants shape the future life of all strata of the global people living on the planet Earth, as well as ecosystem functions, food security and nutrition.

Only when healthy plants can emit oxygen will all living beings breathe fresh and healthy air in the atmosphere. These healthy plants provide food and oxygen which are of importance for living beings, especially humans, accounting for 80 per cent and 98 per cent respectively. Moreover, these plants are natural fortresses for the people in preventing natural disasters.

Everybody needs to know the value of healthy plants. So also, they should not forget the gratitude of the plants which have been saving the planet Earth in successive eras several times. If all living beings, especially human beings rely on healthy plants each other, the whole planet Earth will be prosperous forever. If so, human beings need to help the plants be healthy to shape the planet Earth lush and green with life safety.

TWO years after the infamous downfall of the NLD, with an abundance of corroborative evidence emerging, it seems so surprising that the US and the West are still clinging to the fact that the coup was illegal and terrorists sponsoring NLD should be the legitimate government. Here are the areas where the West got it wrong.

1. Face the facts! Election fraud is undeniable.

Be it analyzing at the macro level or scrutinizing the micro level evidence (many of them videos), it is indisputable that there was a fraud during the 2020 elections. No doubt about that. No, it is not the type of election fraud claimed by MAGA Republicans, but genuine defrauding.

One election observer was there, but it worked so closely together with NNCP terrorists supporting 7Day/Information Matrix media group that it can hardly be independent, let alone cover fully even one out of 15 regions in the country. Just for comparison, there were hundreds of election overseers during the 2015 elections, including many international ones.

The hindsight is of course 20/20. Yet, what could have been done is for the Western community to examine the evidence together with the military government to verify the fraud. Then the terrorist activities and street killings of in-

nocents would have been avoided from the start.

What should be done if you cheat during a sports event or in an exam? Does it matter if you always do well in the pre-trials or class tests before the actual exam? So it does not really matter if more people prefer NLD or if people still think incompetent Su Kyi is the saviour to the world's problems. If you cheated in any competition, the end result has always been a disqualification.

2. Military top brass may not want to govern this mess of a country after all.

Have you ever considered the fact that the top brass may not want to govern this mess of a country after all? Would you want to go through the headaches and heartaches of governing a country with so many EAOs, a semi-educated population, indoctrinated into hero worship with an innate misguided hatred for the military? Would you want to make your family members be sworn and cursed at by half of the population and create more antagonism? And the alternative is that you are already very well off, to last for a couple of generations and can

retire peacefully into sunset. It is a tough choice, is it not?

3. Supporting the minority or the weaker of the two is not always right!

One of the positionings for supporting the NNCP terrorist group is that in this fight, the behemoth is the Myanmar military and the NNCP is the David. If that argument is to hold water, the whole world should be supporting ultra-MAGA Republicans. They are the minority in the US. They believe in Trump, they believe in whiteness, they believe in white supremacy, and they believe that Biden illegally robbed them of power. We should support the minority, should we not?

Would it not be noble if the West examine the actual terrorist attacks stats and audited if necessary, instead of just ignoring the facts and believing in fake news agencies such as Khit Thit, Miz-zima, etc?

4. Turning Myanmar to Yemen may not serve Western interests.

Regardless of how much the West wants to subdue India and especially China, turning Myan-

mar into Yemen may not serve their interests after all. The war-torn and uneducated population would end up doing anything possible to survive. Lee Kuan Yew said in 1996, 'the Burmese army is the only institution capable of keeping the country stable and preventing civil war'. Any major upheaval such as elections fraud or illegal power grab, would result in a military takeover. Then the West would protest, support the exiles and anti-government forces and possibly sanction the new administration. What a deja vu!

Just as Hitler did not learn from Napoleon's mistakes in the invasion of Russia, the West has not learned how long the previous military government lasted, after they did what they did in the early 1990s. 22 years! Why must we repeat the same wrong strategies that make military rule last longer?

5. Talking to terrorists equals emboldening them.

The West probably is not keen on calling these NNCP groups, terrorists. Careful scrutiny of the evidence of their actions might convince them otherwise. If you still do not believe they are ter-

rorists, feel free to ask one of your personnel to go and visit their entrenched areas in Sagaing, Magway, Kayin and Kayah areas. No need for a return ticket perhaps.

Richard Nixon's off-the-cuff comment, 'there could be no negotiation with terrorists', would hold true here. If the SAC government invite these NNCP terror groups for talks, what would be the consequences? That would embolden them. They would rally their supporters to do further arbitrary killings and assassinations. As supporters cheer them on, these terrorists will ask for donations from the Myanmar community across the world, part of these collections going into buying further assault weapons, to kill more. They would brag about how their immediate past terror actions caused the government to cower onto the negotiating table.

6. We can clearly see your bias.

Whenever NNCP terrorists were captured and sentenced, there will be an expression of sympathy and objection and condemnation of the actions of the SAC, by the West. Whenever terrorist camps were attacked, there will be an outcry, citing human rights

By UAC

abuses.

How about human rights for a primary school teacher who has been executed on a main street? How about the expression of sympathy for an ex-ambassador who was assassinated just outside of his home while watering the plants? How about an objection to the murder of a medical student, son of a government security staff? How about condemnation for the drone bombing of an electrical relay station in Bago region, that caused the whole of lower Myanmar to go without power for hours? Their lives are worth a lot less than those of actual terrorists, in the eyes of the West.

This article is not intended to accentuate that the West does not have Myanmar's interests at heart. At the same time, would it not be better if Myanmar is returned to civilian rule in a peaceful manner; through fair elections as quickly as possible? Current actions of the West are just augmenting the extension of military administration, possibly through their support of these terrorists.

Very Severe Cyclonic Storm
Warning, No.15, 2023

12th May, 2023 22:30 MST Today

Very Severe Cyclonic Storm Condition

According to the observations at (21:30) hrs MST today, the Very Severe Cyclonic Storm "MOCHA" over Central Bay of Bengal has moved North-Northeastwards and centered at about (280) Nautical miles West-Northwest of Coco Island, (340) Nautical miles West-Southwest of Hainggyigyun, (410) Nautical miles South-Southwest of Sittway, (300) Nautical miles Northwest of Port Blair (India) and (450) Nautical miles South-Southwest of Cox's Bazar (Bangladesh).

It is moving towards Bangladesh-Rakhine Coasts, the present stage of the Very Severe Cyclonic Storm "MOCHA" is coded orange stage.

Position of Very Severe Cyclonic Storm "MOCHA", center pressure and wind

The Very Severe Cyclonic Storm "MOCHA" is located at Latitude (14.6) degree North and Longitude (88.6) degree East, centre pressure of the Very Severe Cyclonic Storm "MOCHA" is (972) hPa and maximum wind speed near the center is (95-100) miles per hour at (21:30) hrs MST today.

During next (72) hours forecast

The Very Severe Cyclonic Storm "MOCHA" is likely continue to move North-Northeastwards and intensify into a Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm "MOCHA" over East Central Bay of Bengal during next (9) hours and forecast to cross between Cox's Bazar (Bangladesh) and Kyaukpyu (Myanmar) near Sittway (Myanmar) around afternoon of (14.5.2023) as a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm "MOCHA".

General caution

- Due to the Very Severe Cyclonic Storm "MOCHA", rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin, Mon States with regionally heavyfalls in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Chin, Rakhine States and isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Shan, Kayah, Kayin, Mon States from tonight to (15.5.2023).
- From tonight to (14.5.2023), frequently squalls with rough to very rough seas will be experienced in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (90-110) m.p.h and Wave height will be about (14-18) feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast and occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40-45) m.p.h. Wave height will be about (9-12) feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.
- Due to the Very Severe Cyclonic Storm "MOCHA", maximum wind speed may reach (100-110) mph in Rakhine State and (40-60) mph in Naypyitaw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Chin State during tonight to (15.5.2023).
- When crossing the Very Severe Cyclonic Storm, storm surge height will be (12)ft to (16)ft in Estuary and Tributaries at Sittwe District, Maungdaw District Rakhine State and (9)ft to (12)ft in Estuary and Tributaries at Kyaukpyu District, Rakhine State.
- Under the influence of the Very Severe Cyclonic Storm "MOCHA", people should be aware of storm surge high, strong wind, heavy rain, flash flood and landslide in the hilly areas, near small rivers and also domestic flight. The trawlers, vessels and ships do not go out off and along Myanmar Coasts. Therefore, people should watch the forecasts of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology and make the necessary preparations.

WHO declares mpox no longer a global health emergency

More than 87,000 cases and 140 deaths have been reported from 111 countries during the global outbreak, according to a WHO count.

THE World Health Organization declared that mpox no longer constitutes a global health emergency on Thursday, almost exactly a year after the disease formerly known as monkeypox started spreading globally.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the decision was prompted by sharply falling case numbers worldwide, but emphasised that the disease remains a threat, particularly in areas of Africa where it has long been endemic.

The announcement comes a week after the UN agency also declared that Covid-19 no longer



Man getting monkeypox vaccine. PHOTO: ALAIN JOCARD/POOL/AFP

constitutes a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC), its highest level of alarm.

"However, as with Covid-19, that does not mean that the work is over," Tedros told an online press conference.

"While the emergencies of mpox and Covid-19 are both over, the threat of resurgent waves remains for both. Both viruses continue to circulate and both continue to kill," he added.

Though some countries in Central and West Africa have suffered local outbreaks for decades, in May last year mpox cases started emerging in Europe,

North America then elsewhere, mostly among men who have sex with men.

The WHO declared mpox was a PHEIC in July. The number of people infected with the disease — which causes fever, muscular aches and large boil-like skin lesions — has consistently fallen since.

More than 87,000 cases and 140 deaths have been reported from 111 countries during the global outbreak, according to a WHO count.

The countries with the most cases during the global outbreak have been the United States, Brazil, Spain, France, Colombia, Mex-

ico, Peru and the UK, according to the count.

'Steady progress'

Almost 90 per cent fewer cases were recorded over the last three months compared to the previous three-month period, Tedros said.

"We now see steady progress in controlling the outbreak based on the lessons of HIV and working closely with the most affected communities," Tedros said.

Because the global cases were overwhelmingly among men who have sex with men, there were fears that discrimination would mar the response to the outbreak.

"While stigma has been a driving concern in managing this epidemic and continues to hamper access to care for mpox, the feared backlash against the most affected communities has largely not materialised," Tedros said.

SOURCE: AFP

Preparation for disaster in Rakhine State



Foodstuffs and essential items are provided to evacuees in Taungup.

Residents of coastal villages in Taungup evacuated to temporary shelters

PEOPLE from coastal villages in Taungup Township in Rakhine State arrived at temporary shelters yesterday morning.

People from Pantin Island, Phaungkha, Khaunglaungtu, Kularyaung, Gyipyin, Nyaungpinsait, Natkan and

Pyingyi villages were accommodated at schools and monasteries in Taungup Township.

Authorities are providing foodstuffs, water and medicines with emergency healthcare to locals. — Township IPRD/KZW

Precautionary measures underway in Kyaukpyu Township

PREVENTIVE activities and rescue operations for residents in Kyaukpyu township and Kyauktalone IDP camp are prepared by relevant officials yesterday.

The Kyaukpyu Station tactical operation commander together with the District Natural Disaster Management Committee chairman and officials met the evacuated residents and fulfilled their needs. — Tin Htun Oo, Pho Wai Lin (IPRD)/MKKS



Evacuees are seen in Kyaukpyu Township.

Precautionary measures inspected in Myebon Township



Evacuees are seen in Myebon Township.

TACTICAL Operation Commander Colonel Htut Khaung accompanied by officials of Township Natural Disaster Management Committee, township-level departments, social rescue organizations and wards/village-tracts administrators inspected the implementation of preventive measures in Myebon Township, Rakhine State, yesterday.

Residents from villages in Myebon Township were moved to safe places. The Rakhine State government stored basic foodstuffs including rice, and cooking oil for evacuees and the Township Natural Disaster Management Committee stockpiled four basic kinds of foodstuffs for 200 households. — Tin Win (IPRD)/MKKS

Precautionary measures underway in villages of Rathedaung



Evacuees are pictured in the village of Rathedaung.

SUPERVISED by the Rathedaung Township National Disaster Management Committee, pre-evacuation activities and relief and rescue operations for villages that may be affected by Cyclone Mocha are being carried out in a timely manner in Rathedaung Township of Sittway District, Rakhine State.

A total of 48,925

residents from 10,106 households, 58 villages, and 28 village-tracts in lower regions moved to the schools and monasteries in higher-land villages by ferries and motorcars.

Village administrators, residents, and the township social associations assisted in the precautionary activities. — Rathedaung IPRD/CT

Preparations underway in Maungtaw

TO carry out precautionary measures and relief operations in a timely manner in the event of a natural disaster, the district- and township-level departmental staff and social organizations are cooperating, led by Chairman U Kan Tun Aung of the Township Natural Disaster Management Committee under the supervision of Chairman U Nay Oo of the District Natural Disaster Management Committee.

In Maungtaw Township, 12 committees have been formed by the district- and township-level departmental staff at the newly opened Disaster Management Office in Maungtaw District General Administration Department. Preparations are made for emergency search and rescue operations, and awareness of Cyclone Mocha is raised.

The Rakhine State government has stockpiled 500 rice bags, 150 jerry cans of edible oil, 500 visses of salt, and 50 visses of fish paste. The District Natural Disaster Management Committee also stored 16 items for 500 households.

The Public Health Department has distributed medicines to rural health divisions, rural health centres, and station hospitals in the township. Zones have been set up in the courtyard of the public hospital so that medical treatment will be provided depending on injuries.

The District Information and Public Relations Department and Myanmar Radio and Television are informing people to know the weather conditions in real-time and publishing news about Cyclone Mocha promptly. — Thet Lwin Soe, Aung Kyaw Sein (District IPRD)/CT



Relief goods are seen being stockpiled in Maungtaw.

Pauktaw Township conducts pre-evacuation measures

A total of 3,713 locals from 862 households in 14 village-tracts of Pauktaw Township in Rakhine State were transported to designated shelters yesterday.

A command post was set up in the Pauktaw Township General Administration Department Office to carry out relief operations in a timely manner. — Win Min Soe (IPRD)/KZW



Pauktaw locals are seen being systematically evacuated to cyclone shelters.



A fishing boat seen along Taninthayi coastline.

MoTC releases notice banning fishing vessels from departing off and along Myanmar coasts

THE Ministry of Transport and Communications released a statement that the people must not go fishing off and along Myanmar coasts and if they do not follow the instruction, they will face legal action.

Starting noon on 12 May, fishing vessels, boats, and ships must not go off and along Myanmar coasts and they will be taken action if they fail to

follow the directives.

A very severe Cyclone Mocha over the Bay of Bengal has become a very powerful cyclonic storm on the morning of 12 May and it is likely to cross Myanmar coasts near Sittway Township during the next 48 hours, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

The Ministry of Transport

and Communications also warns that the wind speed in squall may reach 130 miles per hour and the wave height may reach 13 ft to 16 ft, and it is a dangerous condition for fishing vessels/boats/ships. The authorities also urged the vessels off and along Myanmar coasts to make necessary preparations in advance.

— TWA/KTZH

Sittway plus 6 townships designated as red alert areas

THE National Disaster Management Committee issued a warning on seven townships, including Sittway, Rakhine State, as red alert areas with a high risk of disaster on 12 May.

It is estimated that a very severe cyclonic storm, “Mocha,” may cross near Sittway, which is between Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, and Kyaukpyu, Myanmar, on 14 May 2023.

Cyclone Mocha will move inland with a wind speed of over 100 miles per hour in the next 48 hours, and there is a possibility that millions of people in some areas along the

storm’s path will be affected by the storm.

According to the statement on the evening of 12 May, the areas with the highest risk of disaster due to the highest wind speed are Sittway, Kyaukpyu, Maungtaw, Rathedaung, Myebon, Pauktaw, and Manaung townships.

Departmental organizations, private organizations, entrepreneurs, and social organizations are cooperating to carry out the response measures for the people affected by the storm in a timely manner. — TWA/CT



A tempestuous situation is seen near the point of Sittway, Rakhine State, in the afternoon of 12 May.

DMH urges people from low-lying areas to evacuate to cyclone shelters or highlands

THE Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) urged the people living in low-lying areas of under 15 feet to evacuate to the nearest cyclone shelters or highlands as the wave height can reach nine feet to 15 feet in Cyclone Mocha.

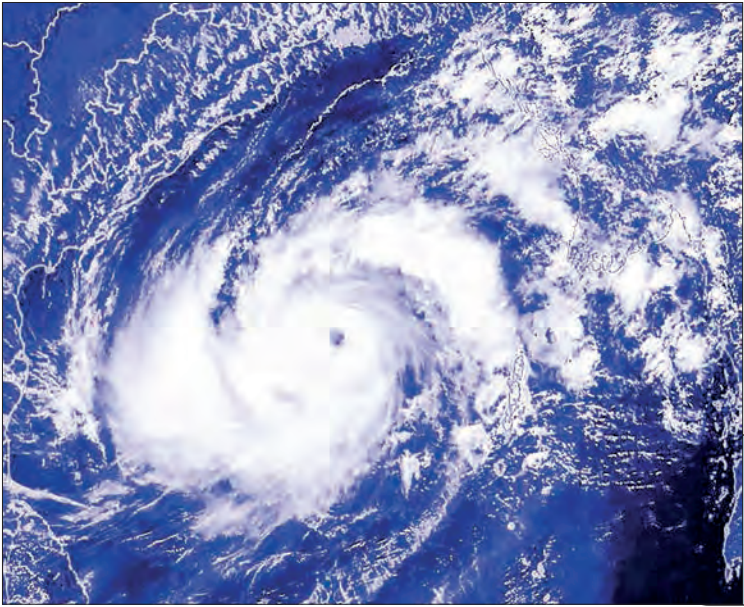
Cyclone Mocha is likely to cross between Cox’s Bazar (Bangladesh) and Kyaukpyu (Myanmar) at a minimum wind speed of 75 miles per hour to 90 miles per hour and 110 miles per hour to 132 miles per hour at maximum.

Then, the wave height may

reach six feet to 15 feet and so the people living in low-lying areas of under 15 feet should evacuate to safe places.

There can be floods near the vicinity areas of Sittway and Maungtaw townships and the wave can occur from Myitwa and Taungpyoletwe along the Naf River, mouth of Mayu River to Rathedaung, Buthidaung townships along Mayu River, the eastern coastal region.

Moreover, floods can also occur in the eastern part of Phayonka island, Minbya, Myebon, Kyaukpyu and Manaung townships when the wave



reaches about 15 ft in height.

Similarly, the vicinity areas of Thandwe, Thabyuchaing, Maungshwelaychaing, Ngapali and Gwa such as Alechaung, Yaytwintuu, Yahinphyu and Kinsharshay can be flooded and those living in storm-hit areas should move to the nearest cyclone shelter or highlands in time, the department announced. — TWA/KTZH

A weather satellite image shows the development of Cyclone Mocha.

ECONOMY WORLD

Philippines GDP growth slows as inflation hits spending

THE Philippines' economy grew more than expected in the first three months of the year, official data showed Thursday, though the pace was the slowest in two years as soaring inflation and interest rate hikes crimped consumer spending.

The 6.4 per cent expansion in the first three months was well down from the revised 7.1 per cent enjoyed in the last quarter of 2022, which analysts said could give the country's central bank some room to step back from its monetary tightening drive.

Expectations were for 6.2 per cent growth.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said

the lower print was partly due to high inflation and last year's rate hikes, which reined in consumer spending.

"Higher interest rates last year could have impacted on the consumption and investment already this year," Balisacan said in a briefing.

Consumer spending slowed to 6.3 per cent in the first quarter, down from 10 per cent during the same period last year.

The Philippine central bank raised interest rates several times last year to rein in inflation, which hit its highest level in more than a decade.

"Perhaps we are starting to feel that because there are usu-



Consumer spending slowed to 6.3 per cent in the first quarter, down from 10 per cent during the same period last year. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ally some lag effects," Balisacan said. Balisacan said the govern-

ment remained "confident" it will hit its six-seven per cent econom-

ic growth target this year despite headwinds. The government expects that to pick up pace through 2028, to hit 6.5-8.0 per cent.

"High inflation remains a challenge... but the improvement in (the) business climate can counter this unintended effect," he said. The Philippines had previously trimmed its growth target as geopolitical and trade tensions, a possible global economic slowdown and typhoons could dampen economic activity.

Balisacan said the ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia as well as tensions in the South China Sea and the Taiwan Strait were among the risks to the growth outlook. — AFP

US debt 'brinkmanship' risks serious costs: Yellen



US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen arrived under the cloud of Washington's debt limit impasse. **PHOTO: SHUJI KAJIYAMA / POOL/AFP**

POLITICAL brinkmanship over raising the US debt ceiling risks "serious economic costs" even without the "catastrophe" of a default, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen warned Thursday at G7 finance talks in Japan.

Hours earlier, former president Donald Trump urged Republican legislators to trigger

the first-ever US debt default by refusing to lift the limit if Democrats do not agree to spending cuts.

President Joe Biden has also threatened to call off his trip to Asia, including in-person attendance at next weekend's Group of Seven summit, if the deepening standoff is not re-

solved soon.

"In my assessment — and that of economists across the board — a default on US obligations would produce an economic and financial catastrophe," Yellen said in a speech.

"Short of a default, brinkmanship over the debt limit can also impose serious economic costs," she added as a three-day meeting of finance ministers and central bank chiefs began in the city of Niigata.

The lifting of the so-called debt ceiling — a limit on government borrowing to pay for bills already incurred — is often routine.

But budget-minded Republicans, who won control of the House of Representatives in 2022, have vowed to only raise the limit from its current \$31.4 trillion maximum if spending curbs are enacted.—AFP

German union calls new two-day rail strike

GERMAN transport union EVG on Thursday called a new round of strikes on the country's rail network as workers demand higher wages to cope with high rates of inflation.

The latest industrial action to hit Europe's largest economy will begin at 10:00 pm local time (2000 GMT) on Sunday and end on the night of Tuesday to Wednesday at midnight.

EVG represents 230,000 workers across some 50 transport companies, including national rail operator Deutsche Bahn.

The walkout is the latest in a series of strikes on Germany's rail system in an escalating dispute between the union and management.

"Workers' patience is now really exhausted," said EVG's deputy chairwoman Cosima Ingenschay.

"We are forced to go on strike for 50 hours to show how serious the situation is," Ingenschay said at a press conference.

EVG is demanding a 12-per cent pay rise over one year for the workers it represents, with a minimum increase of 650 euros (\$712) a month.

The union rejected Deutsche Bahn's first offer of a five-per-cent increase in two steps, covering 27 months, plus an "inflation bonus" of 2,500 euros. Inflation has cooled slightly in Germany in recent months but remained very elevated in April at 7.2 per cent.—AFP



File photo shows an empty platform at the main railway station in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany, during a strike of train drivers. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

UBS merger with Credit Suisse raises job fears at home

AMONG the many concerns over the new megabank created by the merger of UBS and the beleaguered Credit Suisse is how it will affect jobs and competition in Switzerland's banking sector.

The Swiss government strongarmed UBS into buying

its rival for \$3.25 billion after the collapse of three US lenders in March raised concerns about Credit Suisse's own financial health, following a series of scandals in recent years.

But little has been said about the most robust part of the

sprawling bank — its domestic retail banking division, responsible for mortgage loans and financing for Swiss companies.

Credit Suisse's heavy losses were mostly due to the international wealth management and banking divisions.—AFP

Apple to launch first online store in Viet Nam

APPLE will launch its first online store in Viet Nam next week, the company said Friday, hoping to cash in on the country’s young and tech-savvy population. The iPhone maker is among a host of global tech giants including Intel, Samsung and LG, that have chosen Viet Nam for assembly of their products.

But up to now, the Silicon Valley giant has sold its products in Vietnamese market of 100 million people via authorized resellers. “We’re honoured to be expanding in Viet Nam,” said Deirdre O’Brien, Apple’s senior vice-president of retail in an online statement in Vietnamese. The country’s com-

munist government says it wants 85 per cent of its adult population to have access to a smartphone by 2025, up from the current 73 per cent. Less than a third of the country’s mobile users have an iPhone, according to market research platform Statista. Through online stores,

“clients in Viet Nam can discover products and connect with our experienced experts,” O’Brien said in the statement. The production of accessories and assembly of mobile phones account for up to 70 per cent of electronics manufacturing in Viet Nam. Products are mainly for export.— AFP



A woman walks past a shop selling latest Apple's iPhone 5C and iPhone 5S in downtown Hanoi on 26 September 2013. PHOTO: HOANG DINH NAM/AFP

Royal Mail CEO steps down after delivery failures



Royal Mail has been blighted by recent industrial action with thousands of workers protesting over wages. PHOTO: AFP

THE boss of Royal Mail is to step down, its parent group confirmed Friday, after lawmakers criticized the former state-monopoly’s performance, which has been hit by mass strikes. Chief executive Simon Thompson “informed

the board of his intention to step down” after concluding it was “the right time to move forward under new leadership”, parent group International Distributions Services (IDS) said in a statement. The news follows a

flurry of media speculation over his impending departure from the long-troubled postal operator. Thompson, who has been Royal Mail CEO since the start of 2021, will remain at the business until the end of October. IDS added that it was in “advanced stages” of appointing a replacement. Friday’s news comes after UK lawmakers in March concluded that Royal Mail has “systemically failed” to meet its postal-delivery requirement. The company is obliged to deliver letters six days a week across Britain in a one-price-goes-anywhere postal service.— AFP

Tea giants lose certification after Kenya sex abuse probe

AN international body said it had suspended its certification for two major global tea companies after an investigation into a sexual abuse scandal in Kenya. The Rainforest Alliance announced the move on Thursday against James Finlay (Kenya) Ltd and ekaterra Tea Kenya Plc, meaning that tea sold by them can no longer carry the NGO’s certification. The alliance — one of the major certification bodies for sustainable development products — said it had launched an investigation after a BBC documentary in February highlighted claims of

widespread sexual abuse on tea estates in Kenya, one of the world’s biggest tea exporters. More than 70 women had told the BBC that they had been sexually abused by their supervisors for years. “For both tea estates, the audits confirmed the presence of non-conformities of the social and management criteria of the Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard,” the alliance said in a statement announcing the suspension of its certification for the two companies.—AFP



Kenya exported more than 550,000 tonnes of tea last year according to government figures. PHOTO: AFP

2.15 mln Toyota customers’ data publicly accessible since 2013
TOYOTA Motor Corp said Friday that the vehicle information of about 2.15 million customers may have been leaked after it was discovered its subsidiary’s cloud computing system accidentally made the data accessible. Potentially exposed information includes identification numbers and the location data of vehicles that have used Toyota’s telematics services between November 2013 and April this year, though there has not been any indication that the data has been misused by a third party, the automaker said.—Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SUBARU 7 VOY.NO. (2304)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SUBARU 7 VOY.NO. (2304)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-5-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

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Public Announcement

In the matter of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017
Capital Reduction of SLCM Limited
(Notice of passing of the Special Resolution pursuant to Section 116(i))

At the Special General Meeting (“SGM”) of the Members of SLCM Limited held at Room No. 406/412 - Level 4 La Pyay Wun Plaza, Alan Pya Pagoda Road, Dagon Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar, and electronically attended by members and directors on Microsoft Teams, on 2nd May 2023 at 10:00 am, pursuant to the Section 116(b) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017 (“MCL”), the following “Special Resolutions” were passed:

The members and board of Directors hereby agreed to reduce the issued, subscribed, and paid-up capital of the Company from USD 2,989,700 of 29,897 ordinary shares worth USD 100 each to USD 1,489,700 of 14,897 ordinary shares. This reduction will be achieved by canceling, extinguishing, and reducing each of the 15,000 ordinary shares of the Company and in the aggregate, 50.17% of the total issued, subscribed, and paid-up equity share capital of the Company, as agreed by the members of the Company.

The reason for the capital reduction is the business downturn in the Company. This reduction aims to simplify the capital structure for increased efficiency, reduce the paid-up share capital that exceeds the Company’s requirements and decrease the liability associated with its shares. The Company shall file a copy of the resolutions with the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration within 21 days from the passing of these special resolutions.

For SLCM Limited

DFDL Myanmar Limited
Chan Myae Khine
Corporate Secretary
No. 134(A), Than Lwin Road, Golden Valley Ward 1, Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Philippine drug trafficking charge against Duterte critic dismissed

JAILED Philippine human rights campaigner Leila de Lima was acquitted Friday on one of two remaining drug trafficking charges filed against her under the Rodrigo Duterte administration, putting her a step closer to freedom.

De Lima, a former senator and justice minister, has been detained since February 2017 on charges she and human rights

groups say were fabricated as payback for going after Duterte and his war on drugs that left thousands dead.

De Lima, 63, and another defendant were acquitted “on the ground of reasonable doubt”, according to the ruling released by Manila trial court judge Abraham Alcantara.

“It’s a glorious day. This is the beginning of my vindication,”

a relieved de Lima told reporters as police escorted her to a waiting bus after the verdict.

“May I say this to my oppressors: you can never crucify the truth.”

Despite the acquittal, she will remain in jail as her trial in the other criminal case continues. She has applied for bail and is awaiting a judge’s decision. — AFP



Philippine human rights campaigner Leila de Lima was acquitted on one of two remaining drug trafficking charges against her. **PHOTO: AFP**

France busts illegal immigration ring using real passports



A French police officer checks a passport at a border post. **PHOTO: IROZ GAIZKA / AFP**

FRANCE’S border police this week busted an illegal immigration ring leasing out real French passports to migrants from sub-Saharan Africa so they could enter the country, a police source has said.

The scam first came to light in November, when border

agents at the main Paris airport stopped a man who had travelled from Mali on a passport that did not belong to him, the source said on Thursday.

“He told us he had paid 7,000 euros (\$7,600) to fly from Bamako to Paris with an authentic French ID document,” the

source said.

Police uncovered the existence of a network in the Paris region that recruited French nationals with an immigration background to “lend” out their identity papers in exchange for several hundred euros.

They then either sent their passports to somewhere in Africa by post or asked for a new passport from the French authorities with the photograph of someone else.

Investigators believe at least 250 people signed up for travel papers from the schemers, who offered their services to clients in Mali, Ivory Coast and Cameroon, often via social media.

Border police on Tuesday arrested three men and four women aged 24 to 55, all of Malian origin and suspected of running the operation, in and around Paris, the source said.—AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

China envoy to visit Ukraine, 4 other nations from Mon for talks

A Chinese special envoy will visit Ukraine, Russia and three other countries from Monday to promote peace talks over the war being waged against the Eastern European country by Moscow, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said Friday.

Li Hui, China’s representative in charge of Eurasian affairs, will also travel to Poland, France and Germany to help facilitate a political settlement of the Ukraine crisis, Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said at a press conference in Beijing.

In late April, Chinese President Xi Jinping told his Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, that Beijing will send a special envoy to his country in their first telephone talks since the war started.—Kyodo

Council of Europe under scrutiny over remaining Russian staffers

DOZENS of Russian nationals continue to work at the Council of Europe more than a year after Russia was expelled, posing a diplomatic headache for the human rights organisation, according to diplomats at the Strasbourg-based body.

Ukrainians at the Council are especially unhappy that Russians still work there, and several other members have also expressed their misgivings, including Estonia, and Latvia which called the situation “intolerable”.—AFP

Fierce Gaza fighting renews as truce hopes fade

ISRAEL and Gaza militants traded heavy fire Friday as hopes faded of securing a truce to end days of fighting that have killed dozens, all but one of them Palestinian.

The violence has been met with international calls for de-escalation, with the European Union pushing Thursday for an “immediate comprehensive ceasefire”.

Israel announced it was “striking Islamic Jihad tar-

gets” in the densely populated Palestinian territory, while AFP journalists saw air strikes hit Gaza City.

Sirens warning of incoming fire meanwhile rang out in Israeli communities close to the border with the Gaza Strip, as well as blaring in an Israeli settlement near Jerusalem in the occupied West Bank.

Violence broke out Tuesday when Israel killed three top members of the Islamic Jihad

militant group, while subsequent strikes have killed two other senior figures.

Islamic Jihad said the latest rocket fire, seen by AFP journalists, was a “response to the assassinations and the continued aggression against the Palestinian people”.

It came hours after a rocket killed one civilian in the central Israeli city of Rehovot on Thursday evening. —AFP



Smoke rises above buildings in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip following an Israeli strike on 12 May 2023. **PHOTO: SAID KHATIB / AFP**

Xi urges submarine crew to become elite force

CHINESE President Xi Jinping recently wrote a letter to a submarine crew, urging them to continuously improve their ability to fulfil missions and tasks, and strive to become an elite force with overall competency.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, noted that the submarine force, which operates in the deep sea, is tasked with glorious missions and bears great responsibility.

He called on them to make greater contributions to achieve the goals set for the centenary

of the People's Liberation Army in 2027. In 2013, Xi visited the submarine crew. They together had lunch and in-depth conversations.

Recently, the crew wrote a letter to Xi, expressing their resolve to intensify training, enhance combat preparedness and improve war-winning capabilities. In his reply letter, Xi said he remembers the pleasant time he spent with the crew a decade ago and is delighted to learn that they have taken the initiative to shoulder responsibilities, achieved a series of breakthroughs and fulfilled various tasks excellently.—Xinhua



Crew members of Submarine 372, of the PLA navy's South Sea Fleet, salute in an undated photo. **PHOTO: GAO YI/CHINA DAILY**

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Two more handed suspended jail terms in Tokyo Olympics scandal

TWO Japanese businessmen were handed suspended prison sentences on Thursday in the latest convictions in a bribery scandal surrounding the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

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

Shigeharu Hisamatsu, a 64-year-old former executive at advertising firm ADK Holdings, received a sentence of 18 months, suspended for three years, a Tokyo District Court spokesman told AFP.—AFP

CNN defends Trump broadcast after criticism

AMERICAN news channel CNN Thursday defended its live appearance of Donald Trump following a deluge of criticism after the ex-president used the "town hall" interview to repeat falsehoods and hurl insults.

During the one-hour broadcast late Wednesday, Trump answered questions from registered Republicans and undeclared voters, with anchor Kaitlan Collins moderating the event and asking the 2024 candidate questions of her own.—AFP

Disinformation adds dark note to pivotal Turkish election

THE clip lasted 14 seconds, presented by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan as proof that his rival in Sunday's election was running "hand in hand" with outlawed Kurdish militants.

Aired at a huge rally and beamed live on TV, the video showed opposition leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu trying to rally his supporters to the tune of his campaign song. In the next sequence, members of Türkiye's banned PKK group echoed that call while clapping their hands to the beat of Kilicdaroglu's election jingle.

The message Erdogan was trying to project was clear: the secular opposition leader had formed a union with "terrorists".

Only it was a montage, one of the latest pieces of disinformation to pollute the campaign of

one of Türkiye's closest and most important elections in generations. "How can a person sitting in the president's chair stoop this low," Kilicdaroglu, whose campaign has been endorsed by Türkiye's main pro-Kurdish party, fumed on Tuesday.

Running neck-and-neck with Erdogan, Kilicdaroglu claims that "foreign hackers" recruited by Erdogan's team are preparing deepfakes — manipulated videos and soundbites — aimed at discrediting rivals days before the election.—AFP



Recep Tayyip Erdogan's rallies feature videos that often spread false charges against his rivals. **PHOTO: AFP**



Bangladesh audiences see first Indian movie in 50 years

THOUSANDS flocked to cinemas in Dhaka on Friday as Shah Rukh Khan's blockbuster "Pathaan" hit the big screens, the first Bollywood movie to get a full release in Bangladesh in more than half a century. **PHOTO: AFP**

Shah Rukh Khan's blockbuster "Pathaan" hit the big screens, the first Bollywood movie to get a full release in Bangladesh in more than half a century.

The action-packed spy thriller smashed box office records when it opened in India in January and the star has a huge

fan following around the world.

But Dhaka banned films from its neighbour soon after its independence in 1971, in the face of lobbying from local movie-makers, despite India backing it in its independence war with Pakistan.—AFP



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

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

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

3. Social affairs

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



Myanmar's Wushu team wins one gold, one silver, two bronzes while Pool 9 Ball team reach semifinals

THE XXXII SEA Games events continued in Phnom Penh, Cambodia yesterday and Myanmar's Wushu team grabbed one gold, one silver, and two bronzes, and the Pool 9 Ball team sealed the semi-final spot.

Myanmar's Sandi Oo won one gold medal with 9.6800 points during the Changquan competition of the Women's Tao-Wushu Event while Indonesian athlete Eugenia Diva Widodo grabbed the silver medal with 9.6500 points, and Malaysian athlete Pang Pui Yee secured the bronze with 9.6430 points. Sandi Oo brought one gold and two silvers for the country in the Wushu events. She picked one silver medal for the Women's Jianshu and Qiangshu Event and another silver for the Duilian Event along with Aye Thitsa Myint. Aye Thitsa Myint also garnered one more silver for Myanmar at the Nandao + Nangun Event with 18.3030 points while Malaysian athlete Tan Cheong Min secured the gold medal with 19.1600 points and Viet Nam's Phan Thi Thu Binh got the silver with 18.4130 points.

In 48-kg Women's Sanda Event, Myanmar's Cherry Than finished second and grabbed the silver as she lost to Viet Nam's athlete in the final. Myanmar's Nay Win Htut also grabbed the bronze medal in the Men's 70-kg event of Wushu. Myanmar's Wushu Team has already garnered one gold, three silvers, and three bronzes in the XXXII SEA Games. Next, Myanmar's Pool 9 Ball team Bhone Myint Kyaw (alias) Ar Ti and Thaw Zin Htet also advanced to the semifinal stage by beating team Brunei 9-7. Although the Myanmar team won, they played from behind and were losing 3-6 until the end of nine small games.

However, from the 10th game to the 14th game, they won five games in a row and were able to lead 8-6, and won the 16th game. In other quarterfinal matches of Pool 9 Ball, Thailand beat Laos 9-1 and the Philippines beat Viet Nam 9-2. The semifinals of the Pool 9 Ball will continue today, and the Myanmar team will play against the Philippines. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Myanmar's Wushu athlete Sandi Oo is seen with the XXXII SEA Games gold medal. PHOTO: MWF

Women's Football: Myanmar advances to final match after big win over Thailand

MYANMAR Women's Team has already qualified for the Final of the XXXII SEA Games Women's Football Event by trouncing Thailand 4-2 in the semifinal match played at RSN Stadium, Phnom Penh, Cambodia yesterday.

With a wonderful performance, the Myanmar team made come-from-behind action, scored four goals from a two-goal loss, defeated the famous Thai team, and advanced to the final. The Myanmar women's squad made a return appearance in the SEA Games women's football tournament only this year, after last reaching the finals in 2005.

Team Myanmar also qualified for the SEA Games finals for the fourth time.

The starting line-up of the Myanmar women's squad was made up of core players.

At the beginning of the match, the Thai team took advantage of the Myanmar team's defensive mistakes and scored a series of leading goals.

Saowalak Pengngam scored the first goal for Thailand in 11 minutes and Orapin Waengngoen made the leading or second goal at 18 minutes.

The Myanmar team did not lose its strategy and attacked with understanding, and at the 43-minute mark, Yupar Khaing produced the first equalizer for

Team Myanmar.

In the second half, the Myanmar team was eager for more equalizers, and at the 48-minute mark, Win Theingi Tun scored the second goal from Yupar Khaing's pass.

With the score tied at 2-2, the Myanmar squad became more motivated and in 53 minutes, San Thaw Thaw used Khin Marlar Tun's assist to score the winning goal.

After that, the Thai team

tried to score an equalizer, but Myanmar had the best defensive control and Myat Noe Khin scored the fourth goal to ensure the victory in the 90+2 minutes.

Myanmar will face Viet Nam in the final game on 15 May as team Viet Nam beat Cambodia 4-0 in the other semifinal match.

On the same day, Thailand will take on Cambodia for the bronze medal. —Shine Htet Zaw/KZL



Myanmar's Naw Htet Htet Wai (red) vies for the ball with a rival during the Semifinal of the XXXII SEA Games Women's Football Event played at RSN Stadium, Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 12 May 2023. PHOTO: MFF