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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.

Ceremonies to enshrine religious objects at upper reliquary, hoist golden umbrella atop Thatta Thattaha Maha Bawdi Pagoda with consecration in precinct of Buddha Park in Kengtung of Shan State (East)

CEREMONIES to enshrine religious objects at the upper reliquary and hoist a golden umbrella atop Thatta Thattaha Maha Bawdi Pagoda took place in conjunction with the ceremony of consecration in the precinct of Buddha Park in Kengtung of Shan State (East) yesterday morning.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla offered a diamond orb and religious objects dedicated to the Lord Buddha to venerable Sayadaws. The SAC Joint Secretary, council members and Union ministers donated alms to members of the Sangha.

The Senior General offered Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title for 2023 to Wasipek Sayadaw Presiding Patron of Thiladhamma Kontha Tawya of Kengtung.

The Senior General presented cash awards to architects who built the pagoda.

The Senior General and wife, and members conveyed the diamond orb, religious objects and tiers of the umbrella by the decorated float to the temporary venue in front of the pavilion.



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla convey the diamond orb, religious objects and tiers of the umbrella by the decorated float to the temporary venue in front of the pavilion on 13 May 2023.

The Senior General enshrined the religious objects into the upper reliquary and sprinkled scented water on it.

At the auspicious time, wife of the Senior General and party together with local ethnic people conveyed the diamond orb and

tiers of the umbrella atop the pagoda by a decorated float. The Senior General and party fixed the diamond orb and tiers of the

umbrella atop the pagoda and sprayed them with the scented water.

SEE PAGE-3

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Those from organizations with various titles including PDFs in armed struggle line invited to return to legal fold

9 May 2023

1. The State Administration Council is discharging the State responsibilities under the Constitution (2008) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar while implementing the Five-Point Road Map and 12 Objectives to build a Union based on genuine, disciplined democracy and federalism. Meanwhile, as those wishing to politically indoctrinate the people and make attempts to cause the utter devastation of the State unlawfully formed the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH), the National Unity Government (NUG) and their subordinate People's Defence Forces (PDFs) and committed armed terror acts, the government declared them as the terrorist groups under the Counter-Terrorism Law.

2. These terrorist groups persuaded innocent people to join the terror organizations with indoctrination based on frightening, sending them to the areas of ethnic armed organizations for attending the explosives courses and participate in the ethnic armed organizations to commit murders in terrorist acts and attacks. A

large number of Buddhist monks, State service personnel and innocent people lost their lives in the terror attacks. These terror acts hindered the development of the nation.

3. As the strength of the nation lies within, the nation will reach its goal in a short time only when the development of the nation and construction of the Union based on genuine, disciplined democracy and federalism can be carried out with concerted efforts of the people through might and main. Hence, now is the time to make cooperative efforts to build the State by struggling free from the indoctrination of those who attempt to cause utter devastation to the country, and those involved in terrorist groups including PDF for various reasons and illegal organizations are invited to return to the legal fold for participation in the nation-building tasks. If those who returned to the legal fold committed crimes such as murder, rape and harming others, they would face trials at the court under the law and the government would ease any restrictions over them depending on

their crimes under the law.

4. If they return to the legal fold, necessary assistance will go to them, and cash awards will be given to those who bring arms and ammunition as follows:-
(a) K5 million per gun from the rifle types
(b) K2 million per gun from pistol types
(c) K3 million per shotgun
(d) K7.5 million per mortar, launcher, RPG
(e) K500,000 per homemade shotgun, homemade mortar, homemade gun
(f) K300,000 per homemade mine and grenades
(g) K200,000 per other equipment except for arms and munitions, (e.g., walkie-talkie)
(h) K5 million per drone which can be used in bombing

5. As such, those wishing to return to the legal fold are invited and urged to contact district and township administration bodies, military camps and police stations.
- Information Team
State Administration Council

Notice on licence applications for illegally owned arms and munitions

9 May 2023

1. It is learnt that people illegally carry arms and munitions for their concerns about personal security due to the lethal attacks of terrorists on innocent people today. Although the original intention is for personal security, one's mind can change at any time when in possession of arms and munitions. Moreover, it can cause firearm misuse for possessing illegally and it is not in

conformity with the law. Therefore, the State Administration Council will manage to grant licences systematically as per the policy of carrying arms and munitions.

2. In applying for the licence to carry arms and munitions, applicants will not be asked how they get the gun, but they must apply for it together with the arms that they want to carry. Upon

the applications, it will review as per the policy of carrying arms and munitions and licences will be granted to those who meet the specific requirements. Action will be taken against those who do not apply for licences together with arms and munitions during the fixed period.
- Information Team
State Administration Council



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.

Relief, rehabilitation supplies delivered to Cyclone Mocha-prone regions



Lorries laden with relief and rehabilitation supplies are seen being delivered to Cyclone Mocha-prone areas.

THE Transport and Communications Working Committee under the National Disaster Management Committee has been sending medicines, medical supplies, foodstuffs, and rescue and rehabilitation equipment to storm-prone areas by aircraft and vehicles since Cyclone Mocha brewed. The Freight Transport Division of Road Transport under the Ministry of Transport and Communications despatched two truckloads of consumer goods and rescue supplies to Sittway in Rakhine State yesterday. — MNA/KZW

The entire ethnic national people are to keep Our Three Main National Causes in their soul

IN order to ensure the perpetuity of the regained independence, the entire ethnic national people need to take great care with the national cause so as to prevent instigations and pressure committed by internal and external destructive elements. Moreover, the entire ethnic national people are to keep Our Three Main National Causes in their soul in striving for building the Union based on the genuine, disciplined-flourishing democratic system and federalism for its perpetuity as long as the world exists.

(Excerpts from the message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to ceremony of 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day which falls on 4 January 2023)

Ceremonies to enshrine religious objects at upper reliquary, hoist golden umbrella atop Thatta Thattaha Maha Bawdi Pagoda with consecration in precinct of Buddha Park in Kengtung of Shan State (East)

FROM PAGE-1

The Senior General offered a golden robe, alms, fruits, flowers and water to Maha Bawdi Buddha image dedicated to the Lord Buddha in the tunnel of the pagoda.

Members of the Sangha consecrated the Pagoda whereas the Senior General presented cash donations for the pagoda to an official.

State Ovadacariya 17th Shwegyin Sangharaja Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academies Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dr Bhaddanta Nyanissara and members of the Sangha sprinkled scented water on stone plaques and beat the golden bell nine times.

After the ceremony, the Senior General, wife and party



Ceremonies to enshrine religious objects at the upper reliquary and hoist a golden umbrella atop the Thatta Thattaha Maha Bawdi Pagoda in progress yesterday.



offered the day meal to members of the Sangha and served the guests lunch.

The Senior General and party paid homage to Animitha Pagoda and Abhaya Raza Muni Buddha Image in the Buddha Park.

Abhaya Raza Muni Buddha Image was built in the precinct of Buddha Park near Pankwe Village, 15 miles southeast of Kengtung. It aims to ensure peace and prosperity in Shan State (East), strengthen Thera-

The Senior General and wife offer a diamond orb and religious objects.

vada Buddhism and contribute to the development of the Shan State (East) through the visits of local and foreign travellers. Under the patronage of Wasioeik Sayadaw, well-wishers and local ethnic people led by leading donor Senior General Min Aung Hlaing contributed to building the Buddha Image with the aim of enabling pilgrims to pay homage to the Thatta Thattaha Maha Bawdi Pagoda, which is a replica of the same pagoda in India, in the region. Today's ceremony highlighted hoisting the diamond orb and holding a consecration of the pagoda successfully. — MNA/TTA

DPM MoPF Union Minister meets ministerial staff in Kengtung



Deputy Prime Minister MoPF Union Minister U Win Shein meets departmental personnel in Shan State (East) on 12 May.

DEPUTY Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein met staff from the State Planning and Finance (Branch Office), Central Statistical Organization, Myanma Economic Bank, Myanma Agricultural Development Bank, Myanma Insurance, Customs Department and Pension Department in Kengtung Township of Shan State (East) on 12 May.

The Deputy Prime Minister instructed them to implement the successful annual projects following targets, ensure correct statistical data, provide standardized loans, meet the target in tax collection within the specified financial year, provide collaborative support to MSME businesspeople, undertake the functions of financial institutes under the law, rules and regulations, and coordinate with relevant departments and organizations.

Then, the Deputy Prime Minister coordinated the discussions.—MNA/MKKS

Myanmar delegation attends 11th International Legal Forum

MYANMAR delegation led by Union Minister for Legal Affairs Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo attended the 11th St. Petersburg International Legal Forum held in the Russian Federation from 11 to 13 May at the invitation of Russian Minister of Justice Mr Konstantin A Chuychenko.

The Ministry of Legal Affairs of Myanmar and the Ministry of Justice of Russia made a Memorandum of Cooperation during the period of the 11th St Petersburg International Legal Forum. The Ministry of Legal Affairs has signed two proposed Memorandum of Cooperation with the Russian Prosecutor-General Office and the Ministry of Justice.

During the forum, the Union minister said the ministry is working on the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan with five objectives under the name of "Legal Services for Justice". Of these objectives, cooperating with world countries and international organizations is included. The Memorandum of Cooperation will be inked between the Ministry of Legal Affairs of Myanmar and the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation during the period of the 11th St Petersburg International Legal Forum.

Under the topic of Interaction between Ministries of Justice: New Trends and Approaches, the Union minister said the ministry conducted training sessions for legal officers and their qualifications and skills are recorded in the digital system. Only one country cannot prevent cybercrime, digital crimes and human trafficking but with cooperation with other countries. Therefore, international cooperation is crucial. Despite the different legal systems, languages, political policies and cultures, it can cooperate through domestic laws, international agreements and justice organizations.

She added that Myanmar follows the ASEAN Charter and works closely with ASEAN member countries. The Ministry of Legal Affairs also participates and discusses ASEAN legal affairs and criminal law in ASEAN Law Ministers' Meeting (ALAWMM) and ASEAN Senior Law Official Meeting (ASLOM).

The ministry also signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Russian Prosecutor-General Office and worked together with the Prosecutor-General Office of Laos in criminal law as well as with the Ministry of Law of Singapore.—MNA/KTZH



Union Minister for Legal Affairs Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo signs MoCs with the Russian Prosecutor-General Office and the Ministry of Justice.

136 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 13 May, total figure records 637,103

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to **637,103** after **136** new cases were reported on 13 May 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

Therefore, a total of **10,503,008** laboratory samples were examined and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached **637,103**. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **615,863** including **143** new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country reached **19,494** on 13-5-2023 with one death reported from the pandemic. — GNLM

Public Notice for Elimination of Violence

1. Declaring themselves to be "for the people", the so-called CRPH, NUG and PDF terrorist groups are lawlessly killing Buddhist monks, civil servants including schoolteachers, and members of the general public, as well as looting and robbing.
2. Not encouraging, supporting, or assisting "CRPH", "NUG", and "PDF" terrorists, who are intimidating and killing people and committing destructive activities, is to protect the lives and property of the general public.
3. Giving information secretly to the authorities on terrorists and on the possession and transport of weapons/ammunition is tantamount to protecting the lives and property of innocent people.

Kayin State Chief Minister assists displaced persons

KAYIN State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo provided foodstuffs and other assistance to the temporarily displaced people at Dhamma Thukha Monastery in Kyondoe Township together with relevant officials.

On the morning of 13 May, the chief minister and party paid homage to Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Senila of Dhamma Thukha Monastery and presented religious affairs and donated offertories and cash.

They then provided foodstuffs and 17 types of relief items to 124 internally displaced people of 38 households at the religious hall of the monastery. The chief minister dis-

cussed the hardships of these people and instructed officials to ensure the school enrolment for school-age children, capital amount, scholarship, paddy seeds, cement and construction materials to rebuild the houses.

Then, the chief minister and party inspected the repair works on the destroyed basic education high school of Kyondoe township in the attack of terrorists and went to Kyondoe police station and provided foodstuffs and cash to Tatmadaw members, police and border police who serve security measures.

They then went to Kyondo General Hospital and com-



Kayin State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo presents foodstuffs and relief items to Kyondo residents.

forted the patients and gave foodstuffs and a K300,000 cash prize to the medical staff.

They finally inspected the locations to construct a cyclone shelter in the No 2 ward

of Kyondo Township. – MNA/KTZH

MoI Deputy Minister inspects IPRD work process ahead of storm



Deputy Minister U Ye Tint views round the temporary cyclone shelter in Thandwe on 12 May.

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Ye Tint met the director of the Ayeyawady Region Informa-

tion and Public Relations Department, staff of region and district offices, in charge and employees

of the MRTV retransmission station and staff of the ethnic news division at the region IPRD office

on 11 May. He then went to the IPRD offices of Gwa Township and Kyaintali town.

On 12 May, he inspected the preparations not to cause losses of books, journals and office materials in squalls at the Community Centre of Thandwe District IPRD Office and met the district assistant director and staff of the district and Ngapali offices.

He also instructed the staff of the MRTV retransmission station of Thandwe Township not to occur failure of broadcasting during the period of the storm. During the meeting, he highlighted the storm preparedness activities, educating programmes, information releases, and awareness campaigns to enrol the school-age children during the school enrolment period.

He also comforted the ma-

rine workers who relocate at temporary cyclone shelters of Wartaungkwin Monastery, Aung Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery and Mingala Thukha Monastery together with Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Than of the Western Command, Thandwe District Disaster Management Working Committee Chairman U Myo Chit and other relevant officials in the same evening.

During the tour, he highlighted the preventive measures of the Union government and state government for local people. Then, officials presented rice, cooking oil and foodstuffs donated by the state government for evacuees and the deputy minister handed over a K1 million cash assistance from the ministry for storm evacuees in Thandwe District. — District IPRD/KTZH

Private operators invited to broadcast channels on MRTV DTH

MYANMA Radio and Television has invited private entrepreneurs who want to broadcast DTH Free to Air channels to Myanmar Radio and Television's MRTV DTH Platform (Direct to Home) to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI).

With the aim of further developing private media businesses, the installation and broadcasting of standard definition (SD) and high definition (HD) television channels on a wider scale through the MRTV DTH Platform (Direct to Home) system will be allowed. It is necessary for those wishing to join the broadcasting business



The building of Myanmar Radio and Television in Pyay Road, Yangon.

must mention eight points, including their previous work and experience, current investment and financial assets, in the EOI.

Those who are willing to submit the EOI should contact Myanmar Radio and Television in Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon) by 8 June, either in person or via email. The EOI applicants will be verified and allowed to apply for a Request for Proposal (RFP), according to Myanmar Radio and Television.

The MRTV DTH Platform (Direct to Home) system was started on 1 February 2022. — TWA/CT

Preparations for disaster underway in Sittway, states and regions



Natural Disaster Management Committee work coordination meeting in progress at the meeting hall of the state government office in Sittway, Rakhine State, on 13 May 2023 .

THE low-pressure area that is occurring in the southeast of the Bay of Bengal and the adjacent Andaman Sea is gradually strengthening and may become a cyclone, and according to the forecasts, it may enter the Myanmar side.

In the event of a natural disaster, emergency management: role-playing exercises for rescue and rehabilitation tasks are be-

ing conducted in various regions and states.

Role-playing exercises for rescue were continued in Pathein, and Yekyi of Ayeyawady Region, and at the state fire station in Hakha yesterday.

The chief ministers, regional command commanders and officials from respective regions and states visited the sites, encouraged such activities, provid-

ed support for natural disaster prevention materials and coordinated the necessary activities.

In addition, in the event of a natural disaster, disaster relief teams have been prepared in advance to provide timely assistance.

The storage of relief and supporting materials, preparation of cyclone shelters, and the provision of five types of food

and sufficient drinking water are being prepared according to the respective areas.

Western Command Commander Maj-Gen Htin Latt Oo and party checked the proper relocation of cyclone shelters and provision of healthcare yesterday in Sittway and encouraged residents from low-lying neighbourhoods and villages along the coast, which may be affected by the storm.

In addition, the Natural Disaster Management Committee work coordination meeting was held yesterday at the meeting hall of the state government office in Sittway, Rakhine State.

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin, Commander Maj-Gen Htin Latt Oo, and officials were present at the meeting.

The chief minister delivered a speech and coordinated the necessary actions based on the presentations of those who attended the meeting. — MNA/KZL



Role-playing exercises for rescue and rehabilitation operations are being conducted.

Preparations, evacuation underway ahead of Cyclone Mocha

MYANMAR Police Force, General Administration Department and Fire Services Department accelerate the momentum in preparations like rescue work,

emergency search and rescue and evacuation processes under the supervision of the Ministry of Home Affairs. They are now making preparations, evacuat-



Precautionary measures are underway in Rakhine State, Kachin State, Mandalay Region, Bago Region, and Ayeyawady Region (above, left and below photos).

ing the people to safe places in advance, and saving the rescue items, rations and drinking water in respective regions and states.

In such doing, members of units/departments under the Ministry of Home Affairs conducted awareness programmes, educating programmes, evacuation processes, removal of debris of fallen trees in storm winds,

transport facilitation while water overflowing on creeks, rescue work, emergency search, first aid and evacuation processes in Bhamo Township of Kachin State, DaikU Township of Bago Region, Wundwin, Meiktila, NyaungU, PyinOoLwin and TadaU townships of Mandalay Region, Kyauktaw, Gwa, Sittway, Taungup, Ponnagyun, Pauktaw, Buthidaung, Minbya, Manaung,

Myebon, MraukU, Rathedaung, Yanbye, Thandwe and Ann townships of Rakhine State, Dagon Myothit (South) of Yangon Region, Kyaunggon, Kyonpyaw, Ngathaingchaung, Ngaputaw, Ngayokekaung, Pathein, Pyapon, Mawlamyinekyun, Daye, Kyaiklat, Yekyi, Labutta, Thaboung and Hainggyikyun township of Ayeyawady Region yesterday. — MNA/KTZH

Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm Warning, No 22, 2023

13 May 2023, 22:30 MST Today

Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm Condition

According to the observations at (21:30) hrs MST today, the Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm “MOCHA” over the East Central Bay of Bengal has moved Northeastwards and centred at about (225) Nautical miles Northwest of Coco Island, (205) Nautical miles West-Northwest of Hainggyigyun, (210) Nautical miles South-Southwest of Sittway, (350) Nautical miles North-Northwest of Port Blair (India) and (270) Nautical miles South-Southwest of Cox’s Bazar (Bangladesh).

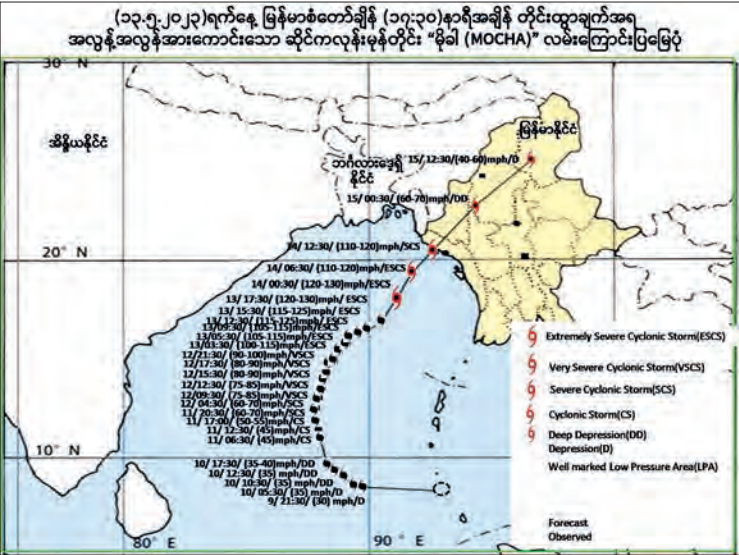
The present stage of the Storm is coded red stage.

Position of Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm “MOCHA”, centre pressure and wind

The Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm “MOCHA” is located at Latitude (17.1) degree North and Longitude (91.0) degree East, centre pressure of the Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm “MOCHA” is (944) hPa and maximum wind speed near the centre is (120-130) miles per hour at (21:30) hrs MST today.

During next (48) hours forecast

The Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm “MOCHA” is likely continue to move North-Northeastwards and may start to cross Rakhine Coasts morning of (14.5.2023) and forecast to cross between Cox’s Bazar (Bangladesh) and Kyaukpyu (Myanmar) near Sittway (Myanmar) around afternoon of (14.5.2023) as an Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm “MOCHA”. Thereafter it is likely continue to move North-Northeastwards towards Chin State and Magway and Sagaing re-



The direction map of Cyclone Mocha.

gions as a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm “MOCHA”.

General caution

1. Due to the Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm “MOCHA”, rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states with regionally heavyfalls in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Kachin, Chin and Rakhine states and isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw and Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states from tonight to (15.5.2023).
2. From tonight to (14.5.2023), frequently squalls with very rough seas will be experienced in off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (110-120) mph and Wave height will be about (16-20) feet in off and along Rakhine Coast and frequently squalls with rough to very rough seas will be experienced in off and along Deltaic Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (50-70) mph.

Wave height will be about (10-14) feet in off and along Deltaic Coasts.

3. The maximum wind speed may reach (110-120) mph in Rakhine State, (70-90) in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Ayeyawady regions and Chin State and (40-60) mph in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago and Yangon regions and Kachin, Shan and Kayah states during tonight to (15.5.2023).
4. When crossing the Cyclonic Storm, storm surge height will be (16)ft to (20)ft in Estuary and Tributaries at Sittway District, Kyaukpyu District, Maungdaw District of Rakhine State.
5. Under the influence of the Extremely 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.

Rice, edible oil provided to evacuees from storm

THE Rakhine State government aided food-stuffs through the township administration body chairman and officials to people who were evacuated from Cyclone Mocha in Khamountone and Singoung village-tracts in Thandwe Township on 12 May.

Rice bags and cooking oil were provided for 674 households and 2,145 people in Khamountone and Singoung village-tracts. A total of 725 households and 2,286 people have received 93 bags of rice and 86 visses of edible oil as of 12 May. — District IPRD/KZW

Cyclone Warning

WHILE an Extremely severe cyclonic storm "Mocha" hitting Myanmar is crossing the Rakhine coasts as a landfall, it can cause heavy rains, strong winds and landslides. Therefore, the people living especially in Ponnagyun, Kyauktaw and MraukU townships of northern Rakhine State, Mindat, Matupi, Paletwa, Thantlang, Haka townships of Chin State, Kalay Township of Sagaing Region and Kachin State should be aware of these weather conditions and take precautionary measures.

MYANMAR Daily Weather Report

(ISSUED at 7:00 pm Saturday 13 May 2023)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm “MOCHA” over the East Central Bay of Bengal has moved Northeastwards and centered at about (230) Nautical miles West-Northwest of Coco Island, (240) Nautical miles West-Northwest of Hainggyigyun, (250) Nautical miles South-Southwest of Sittway, (330) Nautical miles North-Northwest of Port Blair (India) and (305) Nautical miles South-Southwest of Cox’s Bazar (Bangladesh). Weather is partly cloudy over the South Andaman Sea and cloudy over the North Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 14 May 2023: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region and Kayin State and widespread in the Remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Kachin, Chin and Rakhine states and isolated heavyfalls in Bago Region and Shan State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

The Condition of Cumulonimbus Cloud: Due to the Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm “MOCHA” over Central Bay of Bengal and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal, the Cumulonimbus clouds are developing over the Remaining Regions and States except from Southern Myanmar areas. The area along the Cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Frequently squall with very rough seas will be experienced in off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (11-120) mph. Frequently squall with rough to very rough seas will be experienced in off and along Deltaic Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (50-70) mph. Occasional squall with rough seas will be experienced in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (40-45) mph. Wave height will be about (16-20) feet off and along Rakhine Coasts, (10-14) feet off and along Deltaic Coasts and (9-13) feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of advancement of Southwest Monsoon into the Southern Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 May 2023: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 May 2023: Some rain or thundershowers with heavy at time. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 May 2023: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Honour the noble sacrifices of nurses in healthcare services

HEALTH personnel including medical doctors, nurses, midwives and other different positions of health staff are a reliable health force for providing healthcare services to the people. Of them, nurses are in a position of medium between patients and medical doctors and health officers.

Those nurses are upholding their duties to lessen disease impacts on patients and enhance convenience. Their efforts directly reflect the physical and mental health prosperity of the patients. Hence, nurses can be dubbed as the backbone of the healthcare sector as well as the most reliable alliance of medical doctors. If those medical doctors are defined as the strikers of the medical arena, the nurses can be said as the last defenders.

Everybody values their lives and limbs. So, they do not wish to face loss of life and limbs. But nurses dare to sacrifice life and limbs, if necessary, despite knowing the value of their lives and limbs. It spotlights their profession, noble will and excellent capacity in providing healthcare services to the people. Everybody should not forget the fact that there are many noble people including nurses.

out the world as well as in Myanmar. Those nurses did not turn to their interests despite knowing that such kinds of infection may lethally harm them in relevant workplaces.

During the period of Covid-19, some 90,000 health staff suffered from an infection of Covid-19, and more than 260 nurses of who died of infection, according to the International Council of Nurses. As such, everybody may guess the sacrifice of nurses in the health sector. So also, those nurses make the sacrifice of life and limbs on battlefields so as to save the lives of the soldiers and people.

Everybody values their lives and limbs. So, they do not wish to face loss of life and limbs. But nurses dare to sacrifice life and limbs, if necessary, despite knowing the value of their lives and limbs. It spotlights their profession, noble will and excellent capacity in providing healthcare services to the people. Everybody should not forget the fact that there are many noble people including nurses.

World sport returns to China after years of Covid cancellations

CHINA will next week host its first major international sports event since abandoning strict Covid rules, heralding the return of elite competition to the country after more than three years.

With the exception of last year's Beijing Winter Olympics, which took place in a "bubble", almost all global sport ground to a halt in China after the pandemic emerged there in late 2019.

But China abruptly lifted its "zero-Covid" policy in December and world sport organisations will be eager to relaunch lucrative tournaments in the world's second-largest economy.

The Sudirman Cup team event, one of the biggest tournaments in the badminton calendar, begins on Sunday in Suzhou, near Shanghai.

Women's WTA and men's ATP tennis makes a full-throttle return to China later this year while the Asian Games in Hangzhou — postponed from last year — will take place in the autumn.

Major athletics and snooker competitions are also scheduled, although Shanghai's Formula One Grand Prix will not take place until next year. Golf is another set to return.

"The pandemic years have not been easy for any of us," Badminton World Federation president Poul-Erik Hoyer-Larsen said, calling the return a "significant moment".

"China has such a vibrant association with badminton that it still feels odd that we've missed out on Chinese tournament hosting for so many months," Hoyer-Larsen added.

At this year's Sudirman Cup the stakes are even higher because it will count towards qualification for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Tennis is returning to China in a big way from September.

On Monday the ATP hailed the beginning of a "new era" as it launched an expanded Shanghai Masters, boosting the prize money to make it the richest sports event in Asia.

Women's tennis will also return to the country after Covid and having abandoned a boycott over concerns about the safety of Chinese player Peng Shuai.

Domestic sports competitions mostly continued through the worst of Covid in China.

China looks to 'unleash'

Defending champions China are the most successful team in Sudirman Cup history, having won the biennial tournament 12 times.

"One of the reasons that badminton has continued to grow and prosper despite the challenges of the pandemic is the widespread

acceptance it enjoys in China," said Hoyer-Larsen, noting the "ever-growing numbers of both competitive and recreational-level players". "The fanbase too has skyrocketed and the thirst for badminton content is as rich as ever, as seen by the trending popularity of Team China and their new wave of stars," he said.

Huang Yaqiong, half of China's world number one mixed pair team, said they were excited to be playing at home. "Our feelings are the same as the fans," she said in March when the group stage draw was made.

"This is the first major tourna-



People pose for a picture next to an ATP sign before the Shanghai Masters launch ceremony in Shanghai this week. PHOTO: AFP

ment to be held in China after the pandemic and we are hoping that we can play a great game." China will face off against

European champions Denmark, African champions Egypt and Singapore in Group A.

Huang's partner playing Zheng Siwei said they were confident about their strengths going into the prestigious event.

"I think we are still very competitive and confident in each individual event to beat any opponent," said Zheng.

"All we have to do is unleash ourselves." Only two other countries have ever won the Sudirman Cup — South Korea four times and Indonesia once.

But Hoyer-Larsen doesn't rule out an upset. "With the level of badminton improving in many countries, and with several new faces standing atop the podium recently, the time might be now to crown a new champion," he said.

SOURCE: AFP



Book Title	-	Lunge Hnit Gain Htaung Gyauk (Articles on Youth Affairs)
Writer	-	Hmaw Wun Thiha
Publishing House	-	Linlun Khin
Publication Date	-	March 2023 (1st Edition)
Price	-	K4,000

Lunge Hnint Gain Htaung Gyauk (Articles on Youth Affairs)

BEFORE giving my review, I would like to start with the writer of this book. Although the book is a collection of articles on youth affairs, the writer is a young man. Usually, such articles are written by experienced hands like Saya U Aung Thin, a teacher, or Ludu U Sein Win, a veteran journalist, who are senior citizens. Now, the writer of this book happens to be a young man himself, who lacks experience. And when I have a look at the book, I find that his articles are based not on his own experience but on the books he has read. In fact, he is sharing what is worth noting with his peers. This fact indicates that the youth can also write articles on youth affairs. The writer must be welcomed because peer pres-

sure and peer group discussions etc are fashionable methods of sharing knowledge and feelings these days.

As he is a young writer, the readers can have doubts about his writings. In that case, they need not be worried about imperfection because all his articles have been published in famous newspapers, journals and magazines such as The Mirror, Atway A Myin, Thuta Gaba, Education Bulletin, Eternal Light Magazine and Net-Gallery Online etc. As known to all, articles sent to them are thoroughly selected and edited before publishing.

In his foreword, the writer encouraged those who are at their wit's end, not knowing what to do in future and also those

who are lost in the wilderness. He pointed out that there is no such thing as an ending because we can always start from the end of something. In other words, the ends are the beginnings because they are convertible, he said.

There are 28 articles in this collection, and the first article of the collection is Sar Pay Yay Thant Phayay Naing Bar Zay. In this article, he uses an analogy between the literature and purified water. Without water, people cannot survive while those people who do not read the literature cannot survive in society. In this article, a teacher advised his pupils not to get associated with foolish guys, not to imitate the dirty and foolish behaviour seen on the social internet and

not to abuse narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

In the other article titled, "Kyay Let Hnit Ahphyu Yaung Andayai", the topic is concerned with systematic waste disposal and environmental conservation.

There is a rare quotation of General Aung San, who encouraged the youth to go to and work in rural areas. He said, "The young people are willing to work in town only. You go to the rural areas for a living. You only want to work in the towns because you can be famous only in the towns. In the post-war period, there are a lot of rehabilitation activities in the rural areas. You boys should go there to contribute your part to the national development. If you guys are all hungry for your own fame, your country will not prosper."



Book Title	-	Dabawaza Tarwun Myar (Duty of Life)
Writer	-	Nay Vel
Publishing House	-	Chant Chan
Publication Date	-	May 2023 (1st Edition)
Price	-	K5,500

Dabawaza Tarwun Myar (Duty of Life)

"To live is our duty even with the injuries. Should we collapse, we've to get up. It's our duty." This is written on the back cover of the book titled, "Duty of Life". This book is written by Nay Vel. Although the writer is used to addressing himself as a male, he is himself a female. She has become a prolific writer in rather a short time.

The writer said that a person must be dutiful not only for himself but also for his family and his society. A worker must be dutiful at his workplace. In fact, failure to be dutiful can pose a disturbance to the people around him and the society at large.

This book includes four main chapters namely, "Ko Paing Bawa Ahtwet Tarwun Myar," "Luhmu Yay Hsaing Yar Kyint Wut Myar," "Thint Bawa Ahtwet Thin Tarwun Kyay Ye Lar," and "Bawa

Ahtwet Tarwun Myar." The first chapter is about the duties for one's own life whereas the remaining chapters are concerned with social ethics, the dutifulness of one's own life and the duty of life.

This book has laid a special emphasis on abidance by discipline, which is important to society be it at the school and in the family. More importantly, people need to discipline themselves. The writer also points out the importance of the word 'must'. People need to force themselves to do things, promising themselves, "I must study one hour a day; I must learn one new thing a day; I must do exercises four days a week; I must not waste my time, thinking of those people who wrong me; I must be able to find a work etc." If you do not give in to your desire, your life will be okay. If you cannot exercise self-control, how can you

achieve success in life? The writer advises the readers to make autosuggestions.

In the last chapter, the writer deals with the duty of life. He said that we have the duties to perform. People of all ages have their respective duties. But there is a question as to what will happen to you if you fail to perform your duty. One friend of mine once told me that I must never let myself be a man leading a lifeless life.

If people are leading a meaningless life, they are breathing with dead spirits. If people are behaving like human beings, life will be worth living. This being so, people must be dutiful throughout their lives at all age groups.

CURRENT

AFFAIRS

Black gram, pigeon pea prices hit new peak on 13 May



A grocery is seen displaying baskets of various pulses in the Yangon market

THE pigeon pea price surged to K2.52 million per tonne when the black gram price touched the highest of K2.215 million per tonne, reaching an eight-month high in mid-May 2023.

Although Yangon’s wholesale market is slug-

gish following the Cyclone Mocha news, the prices of black gram and pigeon peas stayed strong.

On 31 August 2022, the black gram RC price climbed to K2.1 million per tonne. Yet, the price broke the record at above K2.1 million per tonne

on 26 April.

Between 26 April and 13 May, 260 containers (6,240 tonnes) of black gram were traded, market data pointed out. The highest price of pigeon peas was K2.175 million per tonne on 19 September 2022. The price hit a fresh

new peak on 7 March 2023 and surged to K2.52 million per tonne on 13 May.

The FOB price of pulses stood at US\$900-920 per tonne of black gram RC, \$1,000-1,020 for black gram SQ/RC and \$990-1,010 for pigeon peas.

India is the main buyer of Myanmar’s black gram and pigeon peas. However, India’s pulses output this year dropped significantly so they eased import policy on pulses. India’s authorities are observing the market inventory to control the price hike.

The price of black gram (urad in India) was around Rs7,500 per quintal whereas pigeon pea (tur) fetched Rs8,200 per quintal in Chennai in April. India’s market observers forecast the price of urad is likely to spike at Rs 8,500 in the coming months. The growers in Myanmar are prepping to ramp up pigeon pea production tracking the rocketing price. — TWA/EM

Private education law enacted

THE State Administration Council promulgated the Private Education Law on 12 May, which carries criminal penalties of up to two years in prison and a maximum fine of K50 million. The goal of private education is to promote the private sector in education by producing educated people with knowledge and skills to improve the socioeconomy of the nation.

In addition to five points including the development of self-owned or private schools and the implementation of international-level education, the law embodies nine points leading to the emergence of internationally recognized and quality-guaranteed self-owned or private schools.

A supervisory board must be established to inspect and supervise self-owned or private schools. Penalties are provided for various forms of offences committed. They include a maximum of two years in prison and a maximum fine of K50 million. — TWA/GNLM/KZL

Grade-9 graduates to take entrance exams for agriculture and livestock subjects

THOSE who have passed Grade 9 will take entrance exams for agriculture and livestock subjects and they can obtain application forms on 5 May at 51 basic education high schools. The application deadline will be 18 May, announced the Agriculture Department.

Agriculture and livestock subjects will be taught along with high-school level subjects such as Myanmar, English, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Public Morals among others. After learn-

ing agriculture and livestock subjects for three years, those who passed with distinction can have further study at the Yezin Agricultural University (YAU) and at the University of Veterinary Science. Those who passed livestock subjects can also attend diploma courses at livestock and fishery institutes.

Student candidates who pass entrance exams will be granted scholarships with textbooks being provided to study the agriculture and livestock subjects. – TWA/MKKS



Above 1 mln tonnes of fertilizers, over 38,000 tonnes of pesticides required for monsoon growing season



One of the fertilizers farmers are using for high per acre yields.

MYANMAR Fertilizer, Seed and Pesticide Entrepreneurs Association have proposed the initial approval of around 1.2 million tonnes of fertilizer and 38,850 tonnes of pesticide this rainy season, according to the Urea Fertilizer Distribution and Sale Steering Committee.

A total of 2.87 million tonnes of various fertilizers and 34,489 tonnes of pesticides will be required for a 22.48 million acreage of cultivation during the 2023-2024 financial year, according to the proposal to the Department of Agriculture.

The Union minister of the

Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, who is also the chairman of the Urea Fertilizer Distribution and Sale Steering Committee, approved the importation of 11.22 million tonnes of urea fertilizer and 11.11 million tonnes of compound fertilizer as of end-April 2023. — TWA/KZW

LOCAL BUSINESS

MEODA plans to offer palm oil at bargain prices to victims of natural disasters

MYANMAR Edible Oil Dealers Association (MEODA) has arranged to offer palm oil at a fairer rate to those people who are to be affected by natural disasters.

According to the weather forecast, Cyclone Mocha is likely to pass through northern Rakhine State, Magway, Mandalay and some areas in Sagaing Region between 13 and 15 May. The MEODA has prepared to cover possible shortages of edible oil in the hands of their members engaged in Rakhine State, Magway Region, Bago Region, Mandalay Region and Sagaing Region. This move is to reduce the concerns of people who live in disaster-prone

areas, according to its recent notification.

The wholesale reference price for palm oil in Yangon was headed for a three-week decline and set at K4,500 per viss for a week ending 14 May.

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 retail-

ers 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 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 busi-



A vendor is pictured siphoning the palm oil into a plastic bottle.

ness 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 one 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/EMM

Pure gold price hovers at high level in domestic market

THE price of pure gold remains high at around K3 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) in the unofficial domestic market on 3 May as the spot gold price rallied at \$2,010 per ounce.

On 13 May, YGEA hiked the reference rate to over K2,368,000 per tical while the precious yellow metal was priced at K3,006,000 per tical. Consequently, there is a large price difference of about K600,000 per tical between the YGEA's reference price and the price in the unofficial market.

YGEA calculated the price depending on the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference exchange rate of K2,100, with some addition, while the US dollar is exchanged at K2,860 in the unofficial forex market. The US dollar exchange rate weighs on domestic gold prices. The YGEA requested sellers to make gold transactions below K2.9 million per tical on 27 April when the gap between the reference price and the market price is wide.

Following the bankruptcy of the US bank, the gold price soared. Despite the gold gain in the global market, Myanmar's forex market sees no movement at all. Consequently, YGEA requested its members not to buy them competitively, tracking the



Gold jewellery is seen at one gold outlet in Yangon.

upward trend in the gold spot price, as per YGEA's statement released on 20 March.

Afterwards, the YGEA called for the members to make gold transactions with only immediate payment and avoid verbal transactions over calls without having any physical stocks. The YGEA is not bound to have any responsibilities for market manipulation in the unofficial market. As a result of this, its members are asked to strictly adhere to the rules and regulations of the association while making gold transactions.

At present, the authorities concerned are attempting to deal with market abuse and inspecting and prosecuting market manipulation is being undertaken.

Moreover, the Central Bank

of Myanmar will inspect those manipulators to interfere with market stability through digital platforms, according to the notification dated 20 March.

The soaring dollar exchanging at over K4,500 drove the pure gold price up to a record-high of K3.7 million per tical in late August 2022. For the gold price to decline, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has been selling gold ingots under the competitive bidding system in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw. With an aim at reducing gold prices, the YGEA and Mandalay Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association sold gold bullion supplied by the executive members and the members as well. — NN/EM

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 13 May 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K1,910
Octane 95	K2,000
Diesel	K1,860
Premium Diesel	K1,940

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,368,000 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K3,006,000 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	K2,850 to K2,865

The above prices may change from time to time.

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ECONOMY
WORLD

Debt ceiling talks postponed until next week: W House

CRUNCH talks between US President Joe Biden and senior Republicans have been postponed until early next week to allow staff to continue working, the White House said in a statement Thursday.

A source familiar with the meetings between Democratic and Republican leaders said this was a positive development and that talks between the two sides were progressing, making Friday not the right moment for the leaders to meet.

But the Republican speaker of the House of Representatives, Kevin McCarthy, accused Democrats, including Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, of holding up the deal.

“President Biden and Senator Schumer are stuck on no, they have no plan, no proposed



People walk and ride bicycles past the US Capitol in Washington, DC, on 11 May 2023. A high-stakes meeting between President Joe Biden and key lawmakers from both parties on 9 May 2023, yielded no breakthrough on the impasse over the US debt limit, but the group agreed to keep trying to avert a devastating default. PHOTO: JIM WATSON / AFP

savings and no clue,” he told reporters shortly after the White House announced the talks had been postponed.

“The staff has met the last two days, we think it’s productive for the staff to meet again,” McCarthy said, adding he ex-

pected there would be another meeting between senior Republican and Democratic leaders next week.

Averting the ‘X-date’

The two sides remain sharply divided over the debt ceiling, with Republicans in Congress insisting that Biden agree to significant budget cuts in exchange for support to lift the limit before the country runs out of money to pay its existing bills.

Democrats have been calling for a “clean” increase of the borrowing limit, accusing Republicans of using extreme tactics to push their political agenda ahead of the so-called “X-date” — the point at which the US will be unable to meet its financial obligations. — AFP

NEWS IN
BRIEF

UK economy ekes out growth in first quarter

BRITAIN’S economy grew 0.1 per cent in the first quarter after narrowly avoiding recession last year, official data revealed Friday, as output continues to be hit by high inflation and strikes.

After gross domestic product advanced 0.5 per cent in January, output flattened in February and slid 0.3 per cent in March, the Office for National Statistics said in a statement.

“The fall in March was driven by widespread decreases across the services sector,” noted ONS director of economic statistics, Darren Morgan. — AFP

Türkiye says extension of Ukraine grain deal near completion

TÜRKIYE said on Friday that talks to extend a deal allowing grain exports from Ukraine via the Black Sea following the Russian invasion were nearing an agreement. “We are heading toward an agreement on the extension of the grain deal,” Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar said in a statement. Akar was referring to talks in Istanbul this week between officials from Türkiye, Russia, Ukraine and the United Nations. The United States and Britain on Tuesday pressed Russia to extend again the deal, accusing Moscow of exploiting global hunger for advantage in the war. — AFP

G-7 finance chiefs see financial system resilience despite challenges



Finance chiefs from the Group of Seven nations attend a photo session during the second day of their three-day meeting in the city of Niigata, northwest of Tokyo, on 12 May 2023. PHOTO: KYODO

FINANCE chiefs from the Group of Seven nations see the need to urgently tackle emerging challenges posed by the widespread use of messaging apps and online banking, despite the financial system so far maintaining resilience in the wake of several US bank failures, a Japanese government official said Friday. As the possibility of a US default looms over an ongoing three-day meeting of the G-7 finance ministers and central bank governors, the United States explained the current economic situation regarding its debt ceiling, the official added.

The gathering is partly

meant to shore up confidence and ensure financial stability while seeking to establish coordination on addressing debt woes affecting low- and middle-income nations. US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has warned of an “economic and financial catastrophe” if the US defaults.

Japan, which holds the presidency this year, is aiming to set a clear schedule for the launch of a “mutually beneficial” partnership with low- and middle-income countries to build robust supply chains for critical products needed to tackle climate change through decarbonization. — Kyodo

World Bank approves 60 mln USD credit to Cambodia for solid waste, plastics management

THE World Bank has approved a 60-million-US-dollar credit to Cambodia to support the kingdom’s improvement of solid waste and plastics management, according to its press statement on Thursday. The project will be co-financed by a grant from the PROBLUE trust fund in the amount of three million dollars, the statement said. Economic

growth, urbanization, and tourism have led to a substantial increase in solid waste and plastics use in Cambodia over the years, the statement said.

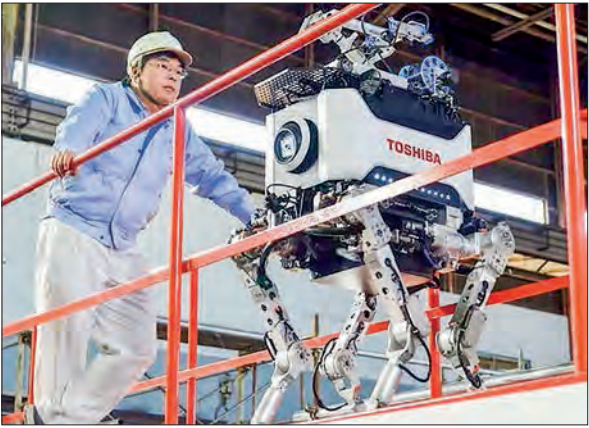
“The government has placed improvement of solid waste and plastics management increasingly high on the national agenda as stated in the Municipal Solid Waste Management Policy 2020-

2030,” Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sar Kheng said in the statement. — Xinhua

Photo taken on 16 July 2019 shows containers filled with plastic waste at the Sihanoukville Autonomous Port in Preah Sihanouk Province, Cambodia. PHOTO: COMBODIAN ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY/HAND OUT VIA XINHUA



Toshiba posts 35% decline in full-year net profit



Toshiba Machine offers robot models. Toshiba unveiled a remote-controlled robot resembling a headless dog.
PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP/FILE

JAPANESE conglomerate Toshiba on Friday said full-year net profit fell by more than a third due partly to weak sales in electronic devices and other one-off factors.

It also said a planned takeover bid process that is expected to take the company private will likely start in late July. For the year that ended March, the engi-

neering giant booked a 126.57 billion yen (\$940 million) net profit, down 35 per cent on-year, on sales of 3.36 trillion yen, up 0.7 per cent. Operating profit dropped 30.4 per cent to 110.55 billion yen, mainly because of a contraction of the hard disk drive market, and other one-off factors, Toshiba said. For the current financial year to March 2024, it forecasts a 110 billion yen operating profit, down 0.5 per cent from the previous year, on sales of 3.2 trillion yen, down 4.8 per cent. It did not provide a forecast for full-year net profit. — AFP

China sees progress in airport construction in 2022

CHINA made steady progress in its construction of new airports last year, official data showed on Wednesday. Throughout 2022, six new freight airports and 29 new general-purpose airports were built on the Chinese mainland, bringing respective totals to 254 and 399 by the end of the year, according to a report from the Civil Aviation Administration of China. A total of 4,165 freight aircraft had been registered in China by the end of 2022, up 111 from a year earlier, the report said. Air routes that were in regular use amounted to 4,670 by the end of 2022, with 336 reaching global destinations, it added.



The first flight arrives at the Taxkorgan airport in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, 23 December 2022. **PHOTO: DING LEI/XINHUA**

China's civil aviation industry is expected to rebound to approximately 75 per cent of its pre-pandemic level in 2023, the administration said earlier this year. The country's civil aviation transport saw a steady rebound in the first quarter of this year, with the sector's total transport turnover at 23.99 billion tonne-kilometers, up 39.7 per cent year on year, data from the administration showed. — Xinhua

Montenegro paves way for bail of crypto fugitive Do Kwon

A Montenegro court on Friday paved the way for the release on bail of fugitive cryptocurrency entrepreneur Do Kwon, as he awaits trial for document forgery. The Terraform founder has been in custody in Montenegro since late March after being arrest-

ed at the capital's airport carrying alleged fake travel documents. Both Seoul and Washington are seeking Kwon's extradition for his suspected role in fraud linked to his company's dramatic collapse last year, which wiped out about \$40 billion of investors' money

and shook global crypto markets. The court "accepted bail of 400,000 euros" (\$435,000) each for Kwon and a companion he was arrested with in March. The court also "ordered that they be released upon payment" according to a statement.

Prosecutors are appealing the decision and the defendants will remain in custody pending the outcome of that appeal. If released, the two suspects would be confined to house arrest and banned from leaving the apartment. — AFP

Swiss tech giant inaugurates carbon neutrality project in China's Xiamen

SWISS tech giant ABB inaugurated a carbon neutrality project Thursday in the eastern Chinese city of Xiamen, Fujian Province. Through the "Mission to Zero" at the ABB Xiamen Hub project, ABB demonstrates the journey to carbon neutrality with the company's own smart energy management, smart integrated energy storage system, building automation system, i-bus lighting control system, and electric vehi-



Visitors talk with each other at the exhibition stand of ABB during the 4th China International Import Expo in Shanghai on 9 November 2021. **PHOTO: VCG/XINHUA**

Load accuracy regulations. With the installation of 100,000-square-metre rooftop solar panels, the project's rooftop photovoltaic system will achieve energy decarbonization by 50 per cent, reducing the annual carbon emissions by an estimated 13,400 tonnes, which establishes the site as a flagship demonstration zone, featuring low-carbon renewable energy, and demand-side microgrids. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TI2 APPLE VOY.NO. (020E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TI2 APPLE VOY.NO. (020E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-5-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** 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**

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South Africans fret over US arms-to-Russia charge

SOUTH Africans were left angry and baffled on Friday after the United States accused their country of secretly shipping arms to Russia, a charge that triggered both a government rebuke but also the announcement of an inquiry.

US ambassador Reuben Brigety on Thursday said Washington was confident weapons and ammunition had been laden onto a Russian freighter that docked at a Cape Town naval base.

The explosive remarks drew an angry response from President Cyril Ramaphosa, who did not deny the charge but said a retired judge would lead an investigation into the matter.

They were also seized on by the Kremlin, which on Friday said Russian President Vladimir Putin has agreed to deepen ties with Ramaphosa. South Africa has been walking a diplomatic tightrope over Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which it has refused to condemn, saying it prefers di-

alogue to end the war.

The country has strong economic and trade relations with the United States and Europe. Trade with Russia is much smaller, but Pretoria has ties with Moscow dating back decades, to when the Kremlin supported the ruling African National Congress (ANC) party in its struggle against apartheid. The announcement of a probe was welcomed by the United States but met with ridicule and bewilderment at home. — AFP



The Russian fleet sent to South Africa for naval exercises was led by the Admiral Gorshkov warship, seen here in Cape Town in February. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Peru prosecutors seek 35-year jail term for ex-president



Former Peruvian President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski (2016-2018) is detained by police in Lima on 10 April 2019. PHOTO: AFP

PROSECUTORS in Peru on Friday requested that former president Pedro Pablo Kuczynski be sentenced to 35 years in prison on charges of corruption related to the massive Odebrecht scandal.

Kuczynski, 84, is accused

of money laundering and forming a criminal organization that allegedly received \$12 million from Brazil construction giant Odebrecht for secret consultancies.

Odebrecht, which has since changed its name to Novonor,

admitted to paying hundreds of millions of dollars in bribes throughout Latin America to secure huge public works contracts.

Kuczynski allegedly used his financial advisory companies to collude with Odebrecht.

"He is totally calm, he is confident the situation will be resolved and that no one can link him to any acts of corruption," the former president's lawyer Julio Mindolo told RPP radio station.

Authorities have been investigating the case against Kuczynski for five years. After spending three years under house arrest he was granted conditional release in April 2022.

Mindolo denied that former president Alejandro Toledo incriminated his client in testimony he gave to a court earlier in the week. — AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Brazil judge orders probe of Google, Telegram

A Supreme Court judge in Brazil ordered an investigation Friday of Google and Telegram over what he called the tech companies' "abusive campaign" against a controversial bill seeking to stem disinformation online.

Justice Alexandre de Moraes ordered federal police to open a probe of the two companies and their executives in Brazil, which has been embroiled in a divisive debate over what critics call the "censorship bill".

The legislation, introduced in 2020 to deal with a flood of disinformation online, is currently awaiting a vote in the lower house of Congress. — AFP

Russia says 2 dead in Crimea army helicopter crash

A Russian military helicopter crashed in Moscow-annexed Crimea during a training exercise Friday killing both pilots, the defence ministry announced.

The preliminary finding was it was due to mechanical failure, the statement said. "Today, during a scheduled training flight in the Djankoi district in Crimea, an Mi-28 helicopter crashed," it said, adding that the helicopter had not been carrying ammunition and there had been no damage on the ground. — AFP

Protesters block motorway in Serbian capital after mass shootings

TENS of thousands of demonstrators blocked a major motorway in the Serbian capital Belgrade on 12 May to demand the resignation of top officials and curtailing violence in the media after two shootings that killed 17 people last week.

It was the second 'Serbia Against Violence' rally this week drawing thousands to the streets.

Several opposition parties had called the protest after back-to-back shootings whose victims included eight students and a se-

curity guard in a Belgrade elementary school.

"I felt the need to come here because of my children and because I want to live in Serbia without violence," Zdravko Jankovic, a 48-year-old activist, told AFP.

The demonstrators want the government to revoke the broadcasting licences of television channels that promote violent content and ban pro-government newspapers which stir tensions by targeting political dissidents.

They have also demanded

the resignation of the interior minister and the head of the intelligence service and called for a special parliamentary session to discuss the government's response to the shootings.

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic has dismissed the protests as a "political" stunt.

"They scheduled their political rallies during national mourning days, with a sole purpose of violence and violent seizure of power," Vucic said in a televised interview. — AFP



Thousands march during an anti-violent protest after mass shootings killed at least 17 people in Novi Sad, Serbia, 8 May 2023. PHOTO: AFP

Final countdown: Thai parties make last-day pitch to voters

THAI opposition leaders toured Bangkok in open-top jeeps Saturday in a final-day bid to woo voters, urging them to turn out in force to oust the military-backed government.

The kingdom goes to the polls on Sunday with voters tipped to issue a damning verdict on former coup leader Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha after nearly a decade in power.

But in a country where coups and court rulings have often overturned election results, there are fears the military could seek to cling on -- despite the army chief insisting there would be no intervention this time.



The Pheu Thai party's prime ministerial candidates Paetongtarn Shinawatra (2nd R) and Srettha Thavisin (R) ride an open-top jeep during campaigning in Bangkok. **PHOTO: AFP**

ministerial candidate Paetongtarn Shinawatra waved and made the traditional Thai "wai" greeting to supporters as she toured the streets in an open-top jeep.

Dozens of trucks decked out in the party's scarlet banners paraded from the Democracy Monument towards Bangkok's main shopping district.

Supporters waved flags and chanted: "Pheu Thai landslide."

"I hope Thai people will vote for us to solve your problems," Paetongtarn told reporters.

Despite giving birth to her second child less than two weeks ago, the 36-year-old showed no

sign of flagging in the scorching tropical heat.

"It's only been 12 days, I'm a little bit tired but that's OK," she told AFP.

"I'm so excited."

Pheu Thai has been leading opinion polls, but the party's route to power could face roadblocks from a Senate hand-picked by the military under the 2017 junta-scripted constitution.

Paetongtarn's billionaire tycoon father Thaksin Shinawatra was ousted as prime minister by a military coup in 2006, while her aunt suffered the same fate at Prayut's hands in 2014. — AFP

Guatemalan newspaper closes over 'criminal persecution'

AN investigative newspaper in Guatemala that published reports on government corruption announced on Friday it was closing due to "criminal persecution and economic pressure".

In March, a judge opened an investigation into journalists and columnists working for El Periodico.

The newspaper's founder, Jose Ruben Zamora, who has won several international press awards for his paper's investigative journalism, was arrested last year and accused of money laundering and blackmail.

In March, a judge also opened a criminal proceeding



A screenshot showing Guatemalan El Periodico newspaper's online edition of 12 May 2023. **PHOTO: TWITTER/@EL_PERIODICO**

against Zamora for conspiracy to obstruct justice.

"With great sadness, we are forced to end the daily edition of El Periodico," the newspaper said in a statement.

It had been in circulation for 27 years.

"El Periodico will cease publishing any news on May 15," the founder's son Ramon Zamora told AFP.

It was already forced to end its printed version last November. "It has been 10 hard months of resistance. We thought we could adapt, transform and survive with an online version," added Ramon Zamora. — AFP

Biggest-ever Colombian narco sub intercepted

THE largest Colombian "narco sub" ever recorded — some 30 metres (100 feet) long and three meters wide — has been decommissioned in the Pacific, with three tonnes of cocaine found on board, the country's navy reported Friday.

The semi-submersible vessel was intercepted Tuesday on its way to Central America, one of the most common routes for drug smuggling to the United States, the world's largest consumer of Colombian cocaine.

The detained crew — aged 45, 54 and 63 — are all Colombians and claimed to have been "forced by a drug trafficking organization" to take the sub to Central America, the navy said in a statement. In three decades, the Colombian navy has seized 228 such drug-laden semi-submersibles, which are never fully underwater but used by traffickers to elude detection by coast guard and other authorities.

Some were bound for the United States, while others were intercepted in the Atlantic, headed for Europe.

This was the largest Colombian narco sub decommissioned since records began in 1993.

The seizure represented a blow of some \$103 million to the drug trade, the navy said.

The law in Colombia, the world's largest cocaine producer, punishes the use, construction, marketing, possession or transportation of a semi-submersible by up to 14 years in prison.

In 2021, cultivation of the coca plant — from which cocaine is extracted — stretched over 204,000 hectares (505,000 acres), according to the United Nations.

This was the highest figure since monitoring began 21 years earlier, and went hand-in-hand with a rise in cocaine production from 1,010 tonnes in 2020 to 1,400 tonnes. — AFP



The semi-submersible vessel was intercepted Tuesday on its way to Central America. **PHOTO: AFP**

Japan PM Kishida inspects G-7 summit venue, Hiroshima A-bomb cenotaph

PRIME Minister Fumio Kishida on Saturday inspected the main venue for the Group of Seven summit beginning next week in Hiroshima and other locations he is set to visit with fellow leaders, including the cenotaph for atomic-bomb victims. In the run-up to the summit in western Japan, which will be the first to be held at a site hit by an atomic bomb, Kishida, a lawmaker representing Hiroshima, encouraged the security personnel to prioritize measures against terrorism.

Later in the day, Kishida told reporters that he is planning to welcome the G-7 leaders at the Peace Memorial Park on the opening day of the three-day summit from Friday.

Kishida on Saturday visited the Grand Prince Hotel Hiroshima, where the G-7 summit will take place, as well as Itsukushima Shrine on Miyajima Island, renowned for its torii gate that appears to float in the Seto Inland Sea during high tide.

His itinerary also included

key locations scheduled to be visited by US President Joe Biden and the other G-7 leaders, such as the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, according to a Japanese government official.

Kishida has voiced hope that visiting the museum on the first day of the summit will generate momentum to achieve his cherished goal of realizing a "world without nuclear weapons" by fostering a deeper understanding of the devastating impact of atomic bombs. — Kyodo



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

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

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

3. Social affairs

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



Cambodia introduces local products at 32nd SEA Games

CAMBODIA is showcasing agricultural and industrial products under its “One Village, One Product” programme at Morodok Techo Stadium during the 32nd Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games) to advertise local products and find new markets.

More than 200 local products are being displayed at stalls inside the stadium complex, said Suong Noy, Secretary-General of the national committee for promoting the “One Village, One Product” programme. The exhibition during the 10-day SEA Games showcases the products at more than 20 booths of 45 enterprises. The event aims to introduce Cambodian products to all tourists while boosting export promotion and job creation.

The Cambodian Government launched the “One Village, One Product” programme in 2006 to promote rural economic development. This campaign targets at raising people’s living standards through improving local products, curbing the labour migration to urban areas, and stepping up export. —VNA



More than 200 local products are being displayed at stalls inside the stadium complex, said Suong Noy, Secretary-General of the national committee for promoting the “One Village, One Product” programme. PHOTO: VNA

Men’s Football: Myanmar fails to reach final with 0-3 loss to Thailand



Myanmar’s Hein Htet Aung (No 10) tries to kick the ball over the opposing goalkeeper during the SEA Games men’s football semifinal match against Thailand at Olympic National Stadium, Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 13 May 2023. PHOTO: MFF

MYANMAR men’s football team slipped the final game with a shocking 0-3 defeat to the Thai team in the semifinal match of

the XXXII SEA Games Men’s Football Event, played at the Olympic National Stadium, Phnom Penh, Cambodia yester-

day. Team Myanmar was able to put the best pressure on the Thai team from the kick-off, but they lost due to their weak finish.

Thailand found their opening goal at 37 minutes and the icebreaker was produced by a header from Teerasak.

At the end of the first half, Thailand led Myanmar with a result of 1-0. The second half saw better play from Team Myanmar but Thai players used all their opportunities as goals. James scored the second goal for team Thailand at 85 minutes and Anan made the third at 90+7 minutes. With the victory, the Thai team was able to advance to the Final match.

In the other semifinal match played yesterday, Indonesia beat Viet Nam 3-2 and qualified for the Final game. On 16 May, Indonesia will take on Thailand in the Final match while team Myanmar will play for the bronze medal against Viet Nam. — KZL

SEA Games 2023 men’s basketball: Gilas Pilipinas dominate Singapore 105-45 to advance to semifinals

THE Philippines men’s basketball team bounced back from their shock 79-68 loss to Cambodia with a convincing 105-45 win over Singapore, securing their spot in the semifinals of the 2023 SEA Games on Saturday (13 May).

At the Morodok Techno National Stadium in Phnom Penh, Gilas Pilipinas were determined to end the group phase on a winning note and Chot Reyes’ team dominated the court from the start as they jumped ahead 21-0.

Philippines’ sharpshooter Marcio Lassiter had an impressive performance, scoring 16 points, including four three-pointers on seven attempts. CJ Perez also put on a strong display, with 13 points and 11 rebounds, while Justin Brownlee added 12 points, six rebounds, and eight assists.

Although Singapore tried to put up a fight, their efforts were no match for the dominant play of Gilas

Pilipinas. Ng led the way for the Singaporeans with 10 points, but it was not enough to keep them in touch.

“It was a good game, Singapore obviously tried to give us a fight but we did what we needed to do and now we’re looking ahead to the next game,” said Brownlee, who was among the players struggling with heat and hydration during their defeat to Cambodia. — OLYMPICS