DUTIFUL MEDIA IN TIMELY DISSEMINATING STORM NEWS TO PEOPLE

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. X, No. 30, 14th Waning of Kason 1385 ME | www.gnlm.com.mm | Wednesday, 17 May 2023

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.

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects inundation and damage in Bagan ancient cultural zone

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views round the inundation , loss and damage at the Sulamani Temple in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone on 15 May 2023.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and officials, inspected inundation, loss and damage caused by the natural disaster in Bagan ancient cultural zone in a motorcade and gave necessary guidance on the afternoon of 15 May.

Sulamani Temple

At Sulamani Temple, the Senior General inspected pumping out of water from the temple being undertaken by security forces, departmental personnel and social welfare teams. Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko and Director-General Dr Kyaw Oo Lwin of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum reported on inundation at precincts of stupas and temples in the ancient region and pumping out of water.

In his response, the Senior General stressed the need to fill soils in the precincts and systematically calculate construction of water outlets not to cause similar inundation in the future. Mural paintings must be covered with glass for long term existence, he added.

Yesterday morning, the Senior General inspected inundation, loss and damage at Ananda Temple, Htilominlo Pagoda and Shwezigon Pagoda in Bagan ancient cultural zone.

Ananda Temple

After paying homage to Ananda Temple, the Senior General viewed round inundation in precinct of the temple. Then, the Senior General underscored that it is necessary to preserve invaluable ancient works and make necessary preparations there not to cause inundation in disasters in the future.

The Senior General and party inspected preservation of Ananda brick monastery close to the northern wall of the temple and damage at the archway of the monastery. In his guidance, the Senior General highlighted that, as Ananda Brick Monastery is filled with many invaluable mural paintings on the walls of downstairs in Konbaung era, renovations must be conducted under systematic calculation. It is necessary to consult experts to build a roofed building to cover the whole brick monastery where valuable ancient cultural heritage works are located.

Htilominlo Pagoda

At Htilominlo Pagoda, the Senior General viewed round loss and damage inside and outside the pagoda and the upper terrace and stressed the need to maintain ancient cultural heritages at stupas and temples in the region. Officials must conduct research on formula of mixing of glue used in building pagodas in the past. If it succeeds, the glue can be used at renovation of ancient stupas and temples.

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Announcement No 2/2023

13th Waning of Kason 1385 ME
16 May 2023

1. Extremely severe cyclonic storm Mocha crossed Chin State of Myanmar near Paletwa on 14-5-2023.

2. Tiddim, Paletwa, Matupi and Haka townships in Chin State suffering loss and damage triggered by impacts of the extremely severe cyclonic storm Mocha were declared as natural disaster-affected regions under Section 11 of the Natural Disaster Management Law.

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Announcement No 20/2023

13th Waning of Kason 1385 ME
16 May 2023

Allowing Inn National League Party to register as political party

AS of 16 May 2023, Inn National League Party with its headquarters located at Yonegyi Street, near Theiknann Bridge, Kantha Ward, Nyaungshwe, Shan State (South), has been allowed to register under Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law. The registration number of the Inn National League Party is 15.

Sd/Thein Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Announcement No 21/2023

13th Waning of Kason 1385 ME
16 May 2023

Allowing Kokang Democracy and Unity Party (KKDUP) to register as political party

AS of 16 May 2023, Kokang Democracy and Unity Party (KKDUP) with its headquarters located at No Hta/19/764, Huemon Street, West of Mansu Shan Monastery, Field No 19, Ward 12, Lashio, Shan State, has been allowed to register under Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law. The registration number of the Kokang Democracy and Unity Party (KKDUP) Party is 16.

Sd/Thein Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Education
Department of Higher Education
Announcement

Announcing the opening of day classes

THE Department of Higher Education, the Ministry of Education, has announced that day classes of universities, degree colleges and colleges will commence on 1 June and students can enrol or report starting on 23 May.

Department of Higher Education
Ministry of Education

Notice on donation

Local and foreign donors can donate cash and kind to the victims of the extremely severe cyclonic storm Mocha that hit Myanmar on 14-5-2023.
People can donate Myanmar Kyats to OA-011834 of the National Disaster Management Fund and US dollars to 1DA-0300086 of the Natural Disaster Management Fund while materials to the governments of respective regions and states.

National Disaster Management Committee

162 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 16 May, total figure registers 637,483

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to 637,483 after 162 new cases were reported on 16 May 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

Therefore, a total of 10,530,243 laboratory samples were examined and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 637,483.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 616,329 including 207 new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered 19,494 on 16-5-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. COVID-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health. — GNLM

Region, state govts open donation channels to support Mocha-affected locals

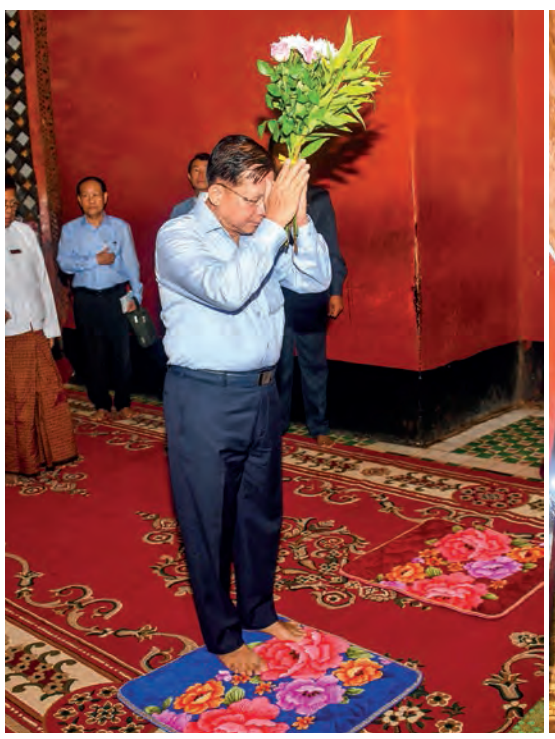
WELL-WISHERS wishing to donate in cash and kind to the people who were affected by Cyclone Mocha that occurred in Myanmar on 14-5-2023 can donate cash assistance in Myanmar currency or foreign currency to the specified fund accounts opened by the National Disaster Management Committee or cash assistance and necessary supplies to donation collection centres set up at the offices of the region and state governments. — MNA/KZW

Conservation and rehabilitation measures needed for previous environmental degradation

While striving for development, natural resources must be utilized in a prudent and sensible manner giving due consideration to the future of the State and the next generations. As such, it is necessary to conduct environmental conservation and rehabilitation measures for past environmental degradation.

(Excerpts from the speech delivered 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 on 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee)Independence Day ceremony on 4 January 2023)

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects inundation and damage in Bagan ancient cultural zone



The Senior General pays homage to the Ananda Pagoda.

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Shwezigon Pagoda

At Shwezigon Pagoda, the Senior General viewed inundation in the precinct and instructed officials to renovate the pagoda for long term existence.

The Senior General stressed the need to translate stone inscriptions of the biography of King Kyansittha from the pagoda to Myanmar and English languages and show it on tablets for observation of local and foreign travellers.

Cash donations

The Senior General donated cash on his inspection tour of pagodas and temples in Bagan ancient cultural zone and cordially greeted pilgrims.

Natural disasters caused inundation at Shwezigon, Ananda, Dhammayangyi, Sulamani, Dhamma Razaka, Hsinphyushin Complex, Khayminga, Thabeikhmauk, Htilominlo, Lemyethna, Hsinpaung Oak Kyaung, the pagoda near Dhamma Razaka, Baganhmyaw, Ywahauggyi and Shwenanyintaw pagodas in Bagan. Some parts of eight ancient pagodas and buildings were damaged, and efforts are being made to complete the renovation as soon as possible. — MNA/TTA

The Senior General presents cash donations at the Shwezigon Pagoda.

The Senior General looks into the damage at the Htilominlo Pagoda.

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Checklists must be kept in the maintenance of the walls and terrace not to cause inundation again: Senior General

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds the meeting on the loss and damage caused by natural disasters in NyaungU District yesterday.

PRESERVATION must be done in Bagan ancient cultural zone as it is an irreplaceable heritage for the country, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting on damage in natural disaster in NyaungU District at the Bagan cultural museum in Bagan ancient cultural zone of NyaungU District yesterday morning.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung reported on the inflow of water to dams, stockpiling of relief supplies to be used for relief in natural disasters, loss and damage in natural disasters, damage of some ancient pagodas and buildings, pumping out of the water from the precinct of pagodas, the fall of the tower on Mount Popa, drawing of a master plan for Bagan with the proper flow of water.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko explained the progress of pumping out water from the precinct of ancient pagodas and plans to renovate the damaged parts of the ancient pagodas.

An official clarified progress in the proper flow of water not to cause inundation in the zone again and plans to drain out the water.

In his speech, the Senior General stressed that preservation must be done in the Bagan ancient cultural region as it is an irreplaceable heritage for the country. It is necessary to build outlet channels for the proper flow of water in the ancient region. Maintenance tasks must not harm ancient pagodas. Checklists must be kept in maintenance of the walls and terrace not to cause inundation again.

The Senior General highlighted that it is necessary not to cause loss and damage in the Bagan ancient cultural zone. Dangerous old trees must be removed and new trees must be planted in the region without environmental impacts. The Senior General noted that it is necessary to manage systematic travelling for the tourism industry. —MNA/TTA

General health warnings for cyclone-affected areas

AFTER the cyclone, it can cause floods, lightning, landslides, injuries, electrocution, snake bites, cold, pneumonia, mosquito-borne diseases like dengue and malaria, diarrhoea, food poisoning and other health-related problems caused by contaminated water and food. Therefore, people should strictly act according to the following facts: —

1. Follow the notices released by regional administrative bodies in a timely manner without fail.
2. During a flood, there is a risk of drowning and injury after slipping into the ditches and potholes. Therefore, take care of the steps and warn the children.
3. Be aware of the danger of electrocution. Avoid going near the electric wires on the ground or in the water and remind the children.
4. Watch out for snakes.
5. Never enter seriously destroyed buildings.
6. Dirty water and food can cause communicable diseases including diarrhoea and so, drink the FDA-recognized drinking water or boiled water or water systematically disinfected with water purification tablets or chlorine. Don't drink river water, creek water and contaminated water.
7. To prevent food poisoning, don't eat floating food, cans, expired foodstuffs, decayed food, food with mould, overripe fruits and dirty food.
8. Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds using soap before touching and eating the food and after using the bathroom.
9. Take care of personal hygiene, and use toilets.
10. Don't poop near drinking water tanks, wells and lakes.
11. Throw the garbage systematically, bury them, burn them and sprinkle quicklime powder on them.
12. Stay under the shelters to prevent from getting cold, and wear the proper clothes that go well with the weather – for instance, wear warm clothes and take special care of the children.
13. Participate in COVID-19 vaccination processes and healthcare services like regular vaccination programmes.
14. Be aware of the risk of mosquito bites. Use mosquito net, and participate in the fight against Aedes mosquitoes, mosquito larvae and mosquitoes.
15. If you sustain injuries or suffer from certain health problems, go to the nearest health department or clinic.

Ministry of Health
May 2023

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Sufficient fuel supplies provided for areas affected by storm

A very severe cyclonic storm Mocha crossed the Rakhine coastal areas near Sittway on 14 May, causing damage and loss in the area, and 17 townships in Rakhine State were declared as natural disaster-affected areas.

Fuels needed for emergency management, response, relief, and rehabilitation activities in these areas were provided by the Fuel Import, Storage, and Distribution Supervisory Committee under the guidance of the National Disaster Management Committee, the Centre for Disaster Management, the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods, and the Ministry of Energy.

Fuels are loaded onto the tanker to transport them to Sittway.

On 16 May, 200,000 gallons of premium diesel oil were transported by the MT Zabutasaung oil tanker ship and arrived at Shwe Mingan Port in Sittway. Unloading and distribution activities have been carried out, and an oil tanker sent from Thilawa has also entered Sittway. In addition, 250,000 gallons of diesel fuel and 200,000 gallons of 92 Ron petrol were also conveyed from Yangon's Thilawa port by the MT Khine Khine Phyo-33 and MT Khine Khine Phyo-34 coastal oil tankers. As they will arrive in Sittway within a few days, there will not be any shortage of fuel oil.

Systematic supervision is being carried out by the Fuel Import, Storage, and Distribution Supervisory Committee to stabilize the fuel price and to continuously replenish the fuel needed for fuel outlets, rescue, and relocation activities in Rakhine State. — MNA/CT

Myanmar delegation attends International Conference, International Legal Forum in St Petersburg

The Myanmar delegation led by Union Constitutional Tribunal Chair U Tha Htay is seen attending the International Legal Forum held in St Petersburg from 11 to 13 May 2023.

AT the invitation of Mr Valery D Zorkin, Chairman of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, the delegation led by U Tha Htay, Chair of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union attended the Russian Federation International Conference, conducted in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Constitutional Court and held under the topic of "Constitution and Constitutional Supervision: Developing the Doctrine and Advancing Case Law" and the 11th St Petersburg International Legal Forum from 11 to 13 May.

At the conference, the Union Constitutional Tribunal Chair expressed that three constitutions were established in Myanmar namely the 1947 Constitution, the 1974 Constitution, and the 2008 Constitution. The 2008 Constitution was formulated during a national conference held with the participation of over 700 representatives from eight mass and class organizations. Under Section 46 of the 2008 Constitution, the Constitutional Tribunal, the first of its kind in Myanmar's judicial system, was established. The Tribunal holds the supreme authority in matters pertaining to constitutional issues, and the decision of the Tribunal is final and conclusive.

Constitutional Court Presidents, Chief Justices, legal experts and heads of international organizations from 16 countries attended the International Conference.

The 11th St Petersburg International Legal Forum witnessed the participation of Chief Justices from 54 countries, Ministers for Legal Affairs, Judges and legal experts.

At the forum, led by Mr Dmitry Medvedev, Deputy-Chairman of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, Ministers of Justice from Egypt, Iran, the Republic of Indonesia, representatives from the Supreme Court of India, the Legislative Council of Uzbekistan and the Chairman of the International Law Commission of Serbia discussed the topic of "Sovereignty in Law". — MNA/KZW

UNHCR Representative to Myanmar presents her Credentials to MoFA Union Minister

MS Noriko Takagi, Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to Myanmar, paid a courtesy call and presented her Credentials to U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Also present at the meeting were senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

Union Minister U Than Swe accepts the Credentials from the UNHCR Representative to Myanmar yesterday.

MoIC Union Minister receives UNHCR Representative to Myanmar

UNION Minister for International Cooperation U Ko Ko Hlaing received Ms Noriko Takagi, UNHCR Representative to Myanmar at the Ministry of International Cooperation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, UNHCR Representative to Myanmar discussed matters relating to the willingness of UN agencies to support and assist the population affected by Cyclone Mocha in Myanmar as well as the repatriation and resettlement of displaced persons from Rakhine. Subsequently, the Union minister deliberated the importance of collaboration between UN agencies and the Government of Myanmar for the provision of humanitarian assistance to the affected population and the government's efforts on repatriation and resettlement of displaced persons from Rakhine. — MNA

The UNHCR Representative to Myanmar calls on Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing yesterday.

MoI Union Minister inspects damage in MRTV Yangon, supplies for Sittway re-transmission station

UNION Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn inspected the damage to the roof of the MRTV main building in Yangon in the event of Cyclone Mocha, the maintenance status of broadcasting processes and the packaging of broadcasting equipment to be sent to Sittway yesterday.

The Union minister viewed round the loss and damage of the MRTV on Pyay Road on 14 May and called for immediate and systematic repair and clear-up as Live Studio A is located underneath the damaged roof. He gave the necessary instructions after further inspection at the MRTV Yangon.

Next, the Union minister met the staff from the Music Division of the MRTV. He congratulated Myanma Traditional Orchestra and the modern band on their performance at the Myanmar Film Academy Awards Ceremony and presented cash awards to them.

The Union minister proceeded to the Yegu Broadcasting Station in Mayangon Township, inspected the packing of broadcasting materials including the 300-watt transmission set for the Sittway re-transmission station, which was hit by Cyclone Mocha, and left the necessary instructions.

The broadcasting materials were reportedly sent to Sittway from Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon yesterday. — MNA/TS

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn views the broadcasting equipment for the Sittway retransmission station yesterday.

Magway Region Chief Minister provides grants, relief materials to flood-affected households in Sagu

MAGWAY Region Chief Minister U Tint Lwin and officials provided grants and relief materials to flood-affected households in Sagu, Minbu District, Magway Region, yesterday afternoon.

Due to Cyclone Mocha on 13 and 14 May, it rained heavily, and the water flowed down the mountain and caused flooding in Mann Creek and Yoe Creek.

A total of 1,603 people were affected by the flood.

People had to temporarily move to the houses of their relatives, religious buildings and schools that were free from the flood.

The chief minister and officials provided foodstuffs, cash, and relief items worth K4.7 million in total to four flood-affected households. — Maung Maung (Minbu)/KZL

Disaster-affected households receive relief items from the Magway Region chief minister yesterday.

Naval vessels deliver donated supplies to Rakhine State

THE military aircraft, helicopters and navy ships transport the relief items and foodstuffs donated by families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air), donors and the National Disaster Management Committee to the victims of Cyclone Mocha in Rakhine State.

On the morning of 16 May, the navy ship Maha Bandoola left No 4 Navy Port Terminal, carrying a pair of satellite phones, 113 packs of noodles, 50 packs of flour noodles, 8,800 sachets of electrolyte drinks, 14,300 eggs, 30 visses of chicken, 10 packs of water bottles, 100 visses of fish paste, 200 visses of fish, 800 visses of dried fish, five bags of rice, vegetables, one generator, 12 airbags (weighing 15 tonnes) donated by the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Navy), 10,000 eggs, 2 landscaping rolls, one carton and two packs of medicine(1ton) by Yangon Region Command, 500 bags of rice, 200 tarpaulin rolls, (32.4 tonnes) by the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement. The ship will arrive in Sittway Township on the evening of 17 May.

A navy vessel is seen transporting relief items to Sittway, Rakhine State.

Similarly, the naval vessel Mottama also left Bo Aung Kyaw jetty for Sittway at 11am in the same morning carrying 10,000 bags of rice (125 tonnes) donated by the Office of State Administration Council, 8,325 packs of ration containing seven different food by the Directorate of Supply and Transport, 26,737 CI sheets, 91 cartons of roofing nails, 16 cartons of screw, 20 chainsaws (151 tonnes) by No 981 Works Battalion (Engineers), 300 boxes containing different types of relief items, 164 packs of noodle, 200 packs of drinking water, 750 longyi (three tonnes) by the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Navy), 47,890 CI sheets, 87 cartons of roofing nails, 1,656 packs and 94 bags of nails, 20,280 bottles of palm oil (242 tonnes) by MEC, 749 cartons and one bag (20 tonnes) of canned food by Border Police Force, 5,557 bags of rice, 300 tarpaulin rolls (289 tonnes) by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, two MPT mobile vans, one telecom tower, two cable wires (35 tonnes) by the Ministry of Transport and Communications, two water purification trucks (44 tonnes) by the Department of Cooperative and Rural Development, two generator trucks and 20 bottles of diesel (19 tonnes) by the Ministry of Electric Power.

The ship will arrive in Sittway township on the night of 17 May.

Moreover, Tatmadaw (Navy) participated in the transport of relief items for the victims in storm-hit areas. — MNA/KTZH

Cyclone Mocha causes 14 deaths in Rathedaung township, Rakhine State

A woman who was sheltering in the monastery in Thazi village of Rathedaung township was killed in the collapse of the building in the event of Cyclone Mocha.

In addition, four men and nine women who were sheltering in temples of the monastery in Donpipe village of Rathedaung township died in the collapse of temples.

A total of 14 casualties are registered in Rathedaung township after Cyclone Mocha. – MNA/MKKS

Over K1.1 bln worth of Happy Water captured in Tachilek

OVER K1.1 billion worth of 10.126 kilogrammes of Happy Water was captured in Tachilek township of Shan State (East), Myanmar Police Force stated.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped the three motorbikes driven by Aikeyi, Aikeyi Phaung, Aike Sai, Zin Moe Khant and Naing Lin Aung on Bogyoke Street in Tachilek township at 7:30 pm on 11 May and captured 4.5 kilogrammes of Happy Water.

After interrogating them, the Police Force searched a Toyota Crown car driven by Sai Lon Tit in Samsai ward of Tachilek township at 7 pm on 12 May and found 5.49 kilogrammes of Happy Water in the vehicle.

The Police Force also captured 136 kilogrammes of Happy Water at the house of Sai Lon Tit in Samsai ward of Tachilek township at 9 pm.

The police have taken legal action against the offenders and an investigation is underway to identify the perpetrators of the crime chain. — MNA/MKKS

Tatmadaw (Air) transports foodstuffs, relief items to Rakhine State

THE relief materials and food items contributed by families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and well-wishers and relief supplies provided by the National Disaster Management Committee for local communities affected by the natural disaster in Rakhine State resulting from Cyclone Mocha are being transported by Tatmadaw aircraft, helicopters and vessels.

Foodstuffs and relief items are loaded onboard Tatmadaw planes to transport them to Rakhine State (above and left photos).

A total of 1,010 bags of medical supplies, 334 cartons of clean water, 218 cartons of biscuits, and 700 bags of instant noodles, along with other relief aid generously contributed by the families of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air), were transported for the first time from Nay Pyi Taw Airport to Sittway Airport. And 100 bags of rice, water bottles, canned goods, and food items produced by Tatmadaw factories, along with personal goods and medical supplies, were delivered for the second time. The third shipment included a variety of canned goods produced by Tatmadaw factories, the fourth shipment, 180 bags of rice, canned goods produced by Tatmadaw factories and communication equipment and the fifth shipment, 100 bags of rice and 498 clean water cartons.

Tatmadaw conducted a total of eight airlift operations, transporting relief supplies from Nay Pyi Taw to Sittway five times, from Yangon to Sittway twice, and from Yangon to Cocokyun once yesterday.

Officials in the respective areas received relief supplies and will continue to distribute them to storm victims. – MNA/KZW

OPINION

Dutiful media in timely disseminating storm news to people

MEDIA is the eyes and ears of the people. Media has an authentic duty to show off the reality of everything to the people. In turn, people have to analyze the presentation of media depending on every event whether it is useful for society, whether it is a great lesson for all, whether it may be historical evidence and so on.

Now is an important time for all Myanmar citizens. Everybody wishes to know updated news on Storm Mocha. As such, not only the State-owned media but also the private-run ones have to dutifully inform the people about follow-up news about the storm on time. Only then, they can be identified as dutiful media. Moreover, their endeavours will be their milestones as well as historical remarks of the reader people.

The nature of media personnel does not be similar to those of any profession. Media personnel are moving from one place to another as well as touching one event to another without breaking time. They use their critical thinking, rationality, analysis, attitude, and physical and mental power to create an item of news for the people. But, they love their jobs. So, they always pour out energetic efforts for the sake of the people.

Every kind of media needs to continuously express the proceedings of the cyclone one after another. The sequences of news must comprise preparations against the disasters, moves of the storm along its expected route, loss and damage in the storm-hit areas, and endeavours of officials, service personnel and volunteers in search, rescue and relief measures as much as possible.

Any media organizations need to show off disaster news from various townships across the nation and various sources including Tatmadaw regiments and units, the Information and Public Relations Department, the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology and own correspondents as well as new agencies.

Television and radio channels need to release breaking news on storm-hit events. If necessary, they have to present such information items once every two hours. If so, the people will have updated information to lessen their worries.

It is no reason to leave the storm-hit information. If not, the media will never win the trust of readers. Only when all media have to present disaster news in time with documentary photos to the readers can they ease tension about currently happened disasters. Hence, storm-hit information must be followed by searching, rescue and relief works. Afterwards, rehabilitation, resettlement and reconstruction measures for the disaster-affected people must be follow-up news.

The nature of media personnel does not be similar to those of any profession. Media personnel are moving from one place to another as well as touching one event to another without breaking time. They use their critical thinking, rationality, analysis, attitude, and physical and mental power to create an item of news for the people. But, they love their jobs. So, they always pour out energetic efforts for the sake of the people. ■

World Hypertension Day (17 May 2023)

"Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer"

Author: Prof Ye Myint, General Secretary, Myanmar Society of Hypertension

WORLD Hypertension Day is an annual event that takes place on 17 May. It is dedicated to raising awareness about hypertension or high blood pressure, a common medical condition that affects millions of people around the world. An estimated 1.28 billion adults aged 30-79 years worldwide have hypertension, among these, two-thirds are in low- and middle-income countries. An estimated 46 per cent of adults with hypertension are unaware that they have the condition. Less than half of adults (42 per cent) with hypertension are diagnosed and treated. Approximately 1 in 5 adults (21 per cent) with hypertension have it under control. In Myanmar, the prevalence of hypertension was 30.1 per cent in males and 29.8 per cent in females (1). Despite its prevalence, many people are unaware of its dangers, as it often has no obvious symptoms. That is why it is often called the "Silent Killer".

The establishment of a dedicated day

The origins of World Hypertension Day can be traced back to the World Hypertension League (WHL), an organization established in 1984 with the goal of combatting the global health burden of hypertension. Hypertension is responsible for an estimated 7.5 million deaths worldwide, which amounts to approximately 12.8 per cent of all deaths (2). In 2005, the WHL launched World Hypertension Day as part of its efforts to raise awareness about high blood pressure. The inaugural celebration took place on 14 May 2005. Since then, the day has been observed annually on 17 May. Each year, World Hypertension Day focuses on a specific theme related to hypertension. The themes often highlight different aspects of hypertension prevention, control, and management. For example, some past themes have included "Measure Your Blood Pressure, Control It, Live Longer" and "Know Your Numbers". These themes aim to encourage individuals to monitor their blood pressure, seek appropriate medical advice, and adopt a healthier lifestyle.

Understanding the blood pressure

The measurement of blood pressure is expressed as two numbers – systolic and diastolic pressure. The systolic pressure is the force when the heart beats, and the diastolic pressure is the force when the heart rests between beats. Hypertension is defined as systolic blood pressure (SBP) of 140 mm Hg and higher or diastolic blood pressure (DBP) of 90 mm Hg and higher (3). Hypertension is diagnosed when the blood pressure consistently measures above 140/90 mm Hg. The exact cause of hypertension is unknown, but several factors can contribute to the development of high blood pressure. Lifestyle factors such as obesity, physical inactivity, excessive alcohol consumption, and a diet high in salt can all contribute to hypertension. These are the modifiable risk factors. Medical conditions such as diabetes mellitus, kidney diseases and sleep apnea can also increase the risk of hypertension. Genetics also play a role in developing high blood pressure, and the risk increases with age. Non-modifiable risk factors include a family history of hypertension, age over 65 years and co-existing diseases.

People with very high blood pressure (usually 180/120 or higher) can experience symptoms including severe headaches, chest pain, dizziness, difficult breathing, nausea, vomiting, blurred vision or other vision changes, anxiety, confusion, buzzing in the ears, nosebleeds, and abnormal heart rhythm.

Accurate measurement of blood pressure is essential

Diagnosing hypertension is typically done through blood pressure measurement. Accurate measurement of blood pressure is essential to the diagnosis and management of hypertension. Ambulatory and home blood pressure measurements can be useful in diagnosis and monitoring. Blood pressure can be measured in a doctor's office, at home using a blood pressure monitor, or through ambulatory blood pressure monitoring, which involves wearing a device that measures blood pressure at regular intervals throughout the day. Diagnosis requires two or more blood pressure readings on two or more occasions that meet the criteria for hypertension. If hypertension is diagnosed, further testing may be done to determine the underlying cause.

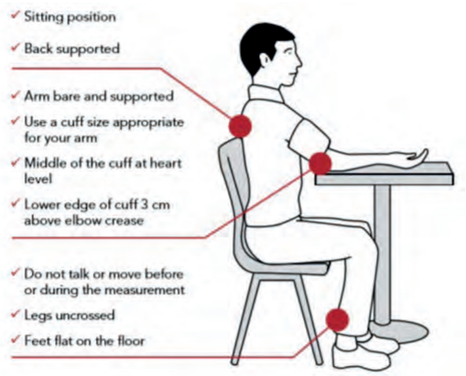

Figure: How to measure blood pressure (3)

The ultimate objective of treating hypertension

The goal of treatment is to reduce morbidity and mortality while minimizing the risk of harm from medical intervention. There are several treatment options available for hypertension, including lifestyle changes and medications. These lifestyle changes can help prevent and control hypertension.

Do

- Eat more vegetables and fruits
- Sit less
- Be more physically active, which includes walking, running, swimming, dancing or activities that build strength, like lifting weights
- Get at least 150 minutes per week of moderate-intensity aerobic activity or 75 minutes per week of vigorous aerobic activity
- Do strength-building exercises two or more days each week
- Lost weight if you are overweight or obese
- Take medicines as prescribed by your healthcare professional
- Keep appointments with your healthcare professional

Don't

Eat too much salty food (try to stay under two grammes per day)

- Eat foods high in saturated or trans fats
- Smoke or use tobacco
- Drink too much alcohol (one drink daily max for women, two for men)
- Miss or share medication

If lifestyle changes are not sufficient, medications may be prescribed.

The perils of ignoring hypertension

If hypertension is left untreated, it can cause serious damage to the heart in the following conditions, chest pain, heart attack, heart failure, irregular heartbeat which can lead to sudden death, cerebral haemorrhages and infarction which can also lead to sudden death. In addition, hypertension can cause kidney damage, leading to kidney failure.

World Hypertension Day aims to raise awareness about the importance of blood pressure checks, encourage people to make lifestyle changes to manage high blood pressure, and promote access to affordable, effective treatment options. It also aims to reduce the number of deaths and disabilities caused by hypertension and related conditions. One of the global targets for non-communicable diseases is to reduce the prevalence of hypertension by 33 per cent between 2010 and 2030 (International Society of Hypertension World Hypertension Day, 2023). The theme of this year, "Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control it, Live Longer" highlights the importance of measuring blood pressure in the correct way, and taking proactive measures to control it to promote longevity and good health. It is aimed to increase awareness of the hazards of hypertension and encourage people to have their blood pressure measured regularly.

The Ministry of Health taking proactive steps to control hypertension

In Myanmar, community health clinics (Wednesday Clinics), encompassing a total of 7,476 rural health centres (RHC) and Sub-rural health centres have been implemented under the guidance of the Ministry of Health since 2018 (4)the World Health Organization (WHO. The clinics aim to provide accessible quality healthcare to the people and to reduce the mortality rate from non-communicable diseases, especially hypertension.

In order to fulfil the third social objective of the State Administration Council which is "to further strengthen basic healthcare services of the nation and to emerge the health system for enhancement of longevity and health of the entire national people", the Ministry of Health is implementing abovementioned non-communicable clinics (community health clinics) which are providing affordable (free-of-charge) quality healthcare, especially focusing on prevention, effective management and referral services on hypertension. The Myanmar Society of Hypertension is actively engaging with the Ministry of Health in a collaborative effort to combat hypertension and improve the health of the population.

In conclusion, World Hypertension Day is an important initiative to raise awareness about hypertension and its associated risks as well as its impact on public health. With continued efforts to raise awareness and promote effective management of high blood pressure, we can reduce the burden of hypertension and related diseases. With increasing awareness about hypertension, blood pressure should be checked regularly in systematic situations and taking further prompt actions will prevent complications so that people may live longer and healthier. A bountiful array of information pertaining to hypertension can be readily accessed at online domains such as the Ministry of Health website, www.moh.gov.mm, as well as Myanmar Society of Hypertension (MMSH), www.myanmarsh.org, replete with a plethora of resources and insights for those seeking to deepen their understanding of hypertension.

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ARTICLE

Post-Disaster Management

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

POST-DISASTER management mentions that coordinated efforts are taken after a disaster has occurred, to help affected communities recover and rebuild. The goal of post-disaster management is to reduce the adverse impact of disasters on people, property, and the environment, and to restore the normal functioning of affected communities as quickly as possible. The followings are some of the key steps involved in post-disaster management.

- **Assessing the damage:** The first step in post-disaster management is to assess the extent of the damage caused by the disaster. This involves identifying the affected areas, the severity of the damage, and the needs of the affected population.
- **Search and rescue:** In the immediate aftermath of a disaster, search and rescue efforts are undertaken to locate and rescue survivors who may be trapped in collapsed buildings or other hazardous situations.
- **Providing immediate relief:** The next step is to provide immediate relief to the affected population, including food, water, medical assistance, and shelter.
- **Restoring basic services:** After providing immediate relief, efforts should be made to restore basic services such as electricity, water supply, and communication.
- **Clean-up and debris removal:** Clean-up and debris removal is carried out to clear the affected area and make it safe for people to return.
- **Reconstruction and recovery:** Reconstruction and recovery efforts begin, which may involve repairing or rebuilding damaged infrastructure such as homes, schools, hospitals, and roads, and restoring basic services such as water and electricity as well as conducting damage assessment and recovery planning. A comprehensive damage assessment should be conducted to determine the long-term impact of the disaster and develop a recovery plan.
- **Psychological support** should be an integral part of disaster management efforts to ensure the well-being of affected individuals and communities. It is essential to provide immediate and ongoing support to those affected by the disaster to promote recovery and resilience.
- **Implementing recovery plan:** The recovery plan should be implemented with the help of various stakeholders such as government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and community organizations.
- **Building resilience:** Efforts should be made to build resilience and prepare for future disasters by implementing measures such as early warning systems, disaster-resistant infrastructure, and community preparedness programmes.

Therefore, effective post-disaster management requires close coordination and collaboration among multiple stakeholders, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations, community groups, and affected individuals. Post-disaster management is a complex process that needs careful planning, coordination, and collaboration between various stakeholders. It is essential to ensure that the needs of the affected population are met and that recovery efforts are sustainable and inclusive. ■

Photos show the loss and damage in the event of Cyclone Mocha

Debris is seen at Sittway Airport (above photos from left to far right).

Manaung Township.

Aunglan Township.

The photo shows erosion of creekbank wall in Shwechaung, Pakokku.

Debris in the aftermath of Cyclone Mocha.

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

Relief and rehabilitations tasks are underway in states and regions in the aftermath of Cyclone Mocha.

Collective cleaning in the platform of lower Settawya in Sagu, Minbu Township (above left of and right photos).

Pyapon Township.

Bogale Township.

Tiddim.

Collective clear-up in Manaung Township (above centre and far right photos).

Monyo Township.

Nyaungdon Township, Maubin District of Ayeyawady Region.

Cyclone Mocha causes death, heavy damage across nation

THE death and destruction in Myanmar caused by the severely cyclonic storm Mocha in the Bay of Bengal on 14 May is being released in a timely manner.

According to the investigation until 15 May evening, 12 houses, three religious buildings, one monastery, three schools, one airport building, eight lamp posts, one transformer, one departmental building, one wall were damaged and destroyed in 44 wards and villages of Nay Pyi Taw while 129 houses, one religious building, two monasteries, one school, two hospitals/clinics, four lamp posts, 30 departmental buildings and one football field in 24 wards and villages of Chin State, three houses, six telecom towers, two lamp posts, one transformer, 26 walls and three bridges in 23 wards and villages of Sagaing Region, 113houses, two telecom towers and one lamp post in 72 wards and villages of Bago Region, four houses, 14 lamp posts, 67 walls, 156 seasonal crop cultivation fields and one bridge in 34 wards and villages of Magway Region, four religious building in one village of Mandalay Region, one house, one monastery, one school and 14 lamp posts in four wards and villages of Mon State, 11,106 houses, 63 religious buildings, 36 monasteries, 118 schools, 22 hospital/clinic, one market, one airport building, one telecom tower, seven lamp posts, one transformer, 72 departmental buildings and 392 losses in 387 wards and villages of Rakhine State, 31 houses, one religious building, one monastery, seven schools, two telecom towers, 60 lamp posts, two transformers, six departmental buildings, two football fields and 34walls in 65 wards and villages of Yangon Region, two houses, one monastery and one school in one village of Shan State, 131 houses, one religious building, five monasteries, 32 schools, five hospital/clinic, nine lamp posts, three departmental buildings and four losses in 114 wards and villages of Ayeyawady Region. 20 people including security force members from Rakhine State and one from Ayeyawady Region have been reported dead.

Therefore, a total of 11,532 houses, 73 religious buildings, 47 monasteries, 163 schools, 29 hospitals and clinics, 11 telecom towers, 119 lamp posts, five transformers, one market, two airport buildings and 112 departmental buildings were destroyed in total and 21 people including security force members who are doing recuse work died.

In the cyclone-affected areas, the rescue teams in respective regions and states are undertaking rescue measures together with volunteer organizations, and officials concerned went to the sites and provided necessary assistance. — MNA/KTZH

Collective clear-up of the fallen trees and debris in disaster-affected areas of states and regions (top and above photos).

MEODA, affiliates donate K1.26 bln for disaster victims

MYANMAR Edible Oil Dealers' Association and related entities contributed K1.26 billion to the people affected by the Cyclone Mocha.

MEODA and affiliates donated K1.26 billion to the State at Zeyarthiri Beikman Hall in Yangon on 15 May to support the disaster victims residing along the Cyclone stricken areas.

Additionally, member companies and entrepreneurs led by the MEODA are making efforts to make further contributions to the people in the storm-hit areas across the regions and states.

On 13 May, MEODA arranged to offer palm oil at a fairer rate to people who were affected by the natural disaster.

The MEODA has prepared itself to prevent possible shortages of edible oil in the hands of their members in Rakhine State, Magway Region, Bago Region, Mandalay Region and Sagaing Region. This move is to ease the concerns of people who live in the disaster-stricken areas, according to its notification.

The wholesale reference price for palm oil in Yangon for a week ending 21 May was set at K4,420 per viss. The market price is too high at K6,000-K7,000per viss despite the reference price.

At present, mobile market trucks operated by oil importing companies, in coordination with Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, were back to business in some townships on 17 July in order to offer the palm oil at the 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.—NN/EMM

Toyota, Subaru to jointly develop electric SUV as early as 2025

TOYOTA Motor Corp and Subaru Corp are set to ramp up cooperation in the development of electric cars, with a plan to launch an all-electric sport utility vehicle in the Japanese market as early as 2025, sources familiar with the matter said Tuesday.

The two companies will also consider collaborating on another EV targeted for North America and other regions, the sources said.

The move is part of Toyota's efforts to strengthen its EV operations under new President Koji Sato. The Japanese auto giant has decided to tap the development and production capabilities of Subaru, in which Toyota has a stake of about 20 per cent, to catch up with its rivals in the United States and Europe, the sources said.

The new vehicle for the domestic market will be based on the two EVs they had jointly developed earlier — Toyota's bZ4X and Subaru's Solterra. It is expected to run longer than bZ4X, which can travel 559 kilometres on a single charge, and have larger luggage space.

File photo taken in Guangdong, China in November 2021 shows Subaru Corp's all-electric Solterra sport utility vehicle. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The new model will be produced in Subaru's factory in Gunma Prefecture, northwest of Tokyo, the sources said.

Sato vowed in April to bolster its fledging EV business, aiming to launch 10 models and sell 1.5 million units annually by 2026, while adding it will continue with its strategy to offer a wide selection of green vehicles such as hybrid cars and fuel cell vehicles.

Subaru, known for its boxer engine that allows vehicles to lower the centre of gravity and curb vibration, has a strong following both at home and abroad. The carmaker had difficulty developing EVs on its own due to limited resources, industry experts say. The deepened collaboration will allow the two companies to widen their product lineups while curbing investment, the sources said.—Kyodo

Markets wobble as US struggles to reach debt deal

(FILES) In this file photo taken on 17 March 2023, US President Joe Biden and US Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy, Republican of California, depart after the annual Friends of Ireland luncheon at the US Capitol in Washington, DC. **PHOTO: AFP**

EQUITIES were mixed Tuesday as traders grew increasingly concerned that US lawmakers remain far apart in talks to raise the country's borrowing limit to avert a default.

Trader sentiment was also weighed by data showing China's economic recovery remained sticky, with key indicators missing expectations owing to weak domestic demand.

While there is a general feeling that an agreement will be reached, Republican House Speaker Kevin McCarthy warned Monday that staff-level meetings were "not productive at all" and they were "nowhere near reaching a conclusion".

For their part, Republicans are demanding spending cuts as a condition for passing the bill while Democrats want a "clean" increase of the borrowing limit with no strings attached.

US President Joe Biden, who has expressed confidence the two sides can bridge the gap, is scheduled to meet with McCarthy and other congressional leaders at the White House later Tuesday.

McCarthy's comments came after Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen again said the government would likely run out of cash on 1 June, meaning it would not be able to meet its debt repayment obligations, sparking a potentially devastating default.—AFP

S Korea's automotive export logs double-digit growth in April

SOUTH Korea's automotive export logged a double-digit growth last month due to robust demand for eco-friendly vehicles, government data showed Tuesday. Car shipment soared 40.3 per cent from a year earlier to 6.16 billion US dollars in April, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy. The number of exported vehicles was 247,399 in April, up 25.3 per cent from the same month of last year.

Export for eco-friendly cars jumped 55.8 per cent to 2.05 billion dollars, while the number of exported such vehicles surged 33.7 per cent to 63,824. The number of vehicles manufactured in local factories gained 24.7 per cent from a year earlier to 382,265 in April.

The number of cars sold in South Korea, including locally-made and imported vehicles, was 149,374 in April, up 4.3 per cent from a year earlier. —Xinhua

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UK unemployment edges higher as inflation bites

UK unemployment rose further in the three months to the end of March, official data showed Tuesday, as elevated inflation weighs on the jobs market.

The rate increased to 3.9 per cent from 3.8 per cent in the three months to the end of February, the Office for National Statistics said in a statement.

"It's encouraging that the unemployment rate remains historically low but difficulty in finding staff and rising prices are a worry for many families and businesses," finance minister Jeremy Hunt said in reaction.

"That's why we must stick to our plan to halve inflation and help families with the cost of living, while delivering our childcare reforms and supporting older people and disabled people who want to work." UK annual inflation remains stubbornly high above 10 per cent as soaring food prices offset falling energy costs. — AFP

China's civil aviation transport sees strong recovery in April

CHINA'S civil aviation transport saw strong recovery momentum in April, the Civil Aviation Administration of China said on Tuesday.

The total transport turnover of the sector was 9.31 billion tonne-kilometres, soaring 214.5 per cent year on year and recovering to 88.6 per cent of the level recorded in the same period of 2019, before the COVID-19 outbreak, administration official Li Yong told a press conference.

Nearly 50.28 million air passenger trips were handled last month, surging 537.9 per cent year on year. Of the total air passenger trips last month, passenger transport on domestic routes represented an increase of 3.4 per cent from April 2019. In April this year, the cargo and mail volume of China's civil aviation sector totalled 545,000 tonnes, recovering to 90.6 per cent of the figure recorded in the same period of 2019, Li said. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (783N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (783N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-5-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

This handout photograph taken and released by the Ukrainian Presidential Press Service on 14 May 2023, shows German Chancellor Olaf Scholz (L) and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky (C) visiting a military base in Aachen, western Germany, where Ukrainian servicemen are being trained. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / UKRAINIAN PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SERVICE / AFP**

Ukraine to get fresh defence aid from European countries

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky has reached agreements with the leaders of Italy, Germany, France and Britain on providing fresh defence aid for Kyiv, Zelensky's press service reported Monday.

Recently, the Ukrainian leader visited the four European countries as a part of the preparations for the "active actions" of the Ukrainian army at the frontline, said a statement on the presidential website.

During his visits, Zelensky met with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

"I am extremely pleased with our achievements and agreements ... Really important, powerful defence packages," Zelensky said, without giving further details. He noted that the negotiations with the leaders of the European countries also concerned the creation of a "coalition of fighter jets" for Ukraine and preparations for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) summit slated for 11-12 July in Vilnius, Lithuania.—Xinhua

US-led sanctions destroy economies, impoverish people, cause needless deaths: report

US-LED sanctions have destroyed economies, impoverished people and caused needless deaths, reported the South China Morning Post, a Hong Kong-based English-language daily.

The Group of Seven (G7) nations are reportedly ready to announce joint measures to counter the "economic coercion" of an unnamed country. "Well, we all know which country that is. The hypocrisy is just too glaringly obvious to let pass. It's like a mafia don and his lieutenants calling out a petty thief for being a criminal," wrote Alex Lo, a columnist of the daily.

The Washington-based Centre for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) released a new report called "The Human Consequences of Economic Sanctions", a comprehensive study on the horrendous effects of United States or US-led sanctions on targeted populations, with a special focus on Iran, Afghanistan and Venezuela.

"If you want to know how real economic coercion has destroyed whole economies, reduced entire populations to dire poverty and caused countless unnecessary deaths, read (the report)," Lo observed.

Today, a staggering 27 per cent of countries are subjected to sanctions of varying intensity. Since collectively they account for 29 per cent of world GDP, the sanctions not only impoverish populations but cause a significant drag on the global economy, according to Lo.—Xinhua

US debt fight raising government borrowing costs: Yellen

THE US government is facing increased borrowing costs due to the political crisis surrounding the nation's borrowing limit, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Tuesday.

"We are already seeing the impacts of brinksmanship: Investors have become more reluctant to hold government debt that matures in early June," Yellen said in prepared remarks ahead of a speech before the Independent Community Bankers of America, a trade group.

"The impasse has already increased the debt burden to American taxpayers," she warned.

The rate on one-month US Treasury bonds rose to 5.74 per cent on Monday, the highest in at least 20 years, and significantly higher than the Federal Reserve's benchmark rate of between 5.0 and 5.25 per cent.

In mid-April, one-month Treasury bonds rates were 3.29 per cent.

The rate's rise comes with a corresponding drop in the price of the bonds, meaning the US government must borrow more than under ordinary conditions.

Yellen on Monday reaffirmed her agency's view that the United States could default on its debts as early as June 1 if Congress and the White House don't reach an agreement on raising the federal borrowing limit.—AFP

Kremlin says 'unanswered questions' remain over Ukraine grain deal extension

RUSSIA said Tuesday it was still undecided on the extension of a landmark grain export deal with Ukraine, brokered by the UN and Türkiyeand due to expire 18 May.

"There are a lot of unanswered questions regarding our part of the deal ... now we have to make a decision," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine — both major grain exporters — triggered fears of a global food crisis when major Ukrainian ports were blocked by Moscow's warships.

In July 2022, the agreement allowing Ukrainian grain exports to restart was signed, as well as a parallel memorandum on unhindered Russian food and fertilizer exports.

Russia has however repeatedly threatened to withdraw from the deal, claiming that obstacles remain to its own food exports.

Moscow says the problems stem from secondary effects of Western penalties on shipping and insurance companies as well as banks. During recent talks in Istanbul, Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar said: "we are heading towards an agreement on the extension of the grain deal".—AFP

N Ireland votes in local elections amid deepening crisis

VOTERS in Northern Ireland head to the polls in local elections on Thursday, with the British province politically paralysed due to a boycott by the biggest pro-UK party.

The vote in 11 municipal councils comes 15 months after a walkout by the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) from Northern Ireland's power-sharing executive in Belfast.

But with the DUP showing no sign of budging on their opposition to a new post-Brexit trading pact, the campaign has been described as "lacklustre", with the malaise spreading to voters.— AFP

SPORTS/GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Men's football bronze slips away as Myanmar loses 1-3 to Viet Nam

MYANMAR missed the bronze medal of the SEA Games Men's Football Event with a 1-3 defeat to Viet Nam in the third-place match played at Olympic Stadium in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, yesterday.

Although Team Viet Nam is better than Myanmar in terms of individual performance and technique, the Myanmar squad played in the best style.

Viet Nam broke the deadlock at the eight-minute mark as Ho Van Cuong touched the ball into the net by overcoming the Myanmar keeper from close range.

Again, Ho Van Cuong made his double goal via his teammate Le Van Do's pass in 35 minutes to take their 2-0 lead.

The first half ended with Viet Nam leading 2-0.

Team Myanmar tried more in the second half with dribble passes.

However, Viet Nam got the third goal thanks to the attempt of Van Khang in the 57 minutes.

Myanmar equalized in the 85-minute mark with a score of Aung Myo Khant but there was no time to reach a draw result.

With this victory, Viet Nam sealed the third place to collect the bronze medal and Myanmar finished the fourth place.

In the late final match of the SEA Games men's football event, Indonesia trounced Thailand 5-2 to win the gold medal while Thailand was satisfied with the silver. — KZL

Myanmar's Captain Zaw Win Thein (white) poises to deliver the ball during the third-place match of the SEA Games Men's Football Event at the Olympic Stadium in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 16 May 2023. **PHOTO: MFF**

IMF commends Sri Lanka for progress on economic reforms

Director of Asia and Pacific Department of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Krishna Srinivasan (L) attends a press conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 15 May 2023. The IMF on Monday commended Sri Lanka's progress on the economic reforms. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Monday commended Sri Lanka's progress on the economic reforms.

Addressing a press conference, Krishna Srinivasan, director of the Asia and Pacific Department of IMF, said the reform programme supported under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) arrangement is built on strong policy measures and prioritizes five key pillars and Sri Lanka has already started implementing many of the challenging policy actions in these five areas.

"It is now essential to continue the reform momentum under strong ownership by the authorities and the Sri Lankan people, more broadly," he said.

He added that anti-corruption and governance reforms are imperative to ensure the hard-won gains from the reforms benefit the Sri Lankan people.

Sri Lanka is the first country in Asia that has undergone the IMF governance diagnostic exercise, according to the IMF.

The IMF governance diagnostic report is expected to be published by September this year, and the mission visited Colombo in March and engaged closely with stakeholders and civil society organizations on this critical reform area, Srinivasan said. —Xinhua

UN official regrets stalemate in Israeli-Palestinian political process

UN Undersecretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs Rosemary DiCarlo on Monday regretted the stalemate between Israelis and Palestinians.Efforts to find a peaceful and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict have been central to the work of the United Nations since its earliest days, DiCarlo told a high-level special meeting on the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Nakba, also known as the Palestinian Catastrophe.

Monday's commemorative event, organized by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, was in line with a UN General Assembly resolution adopted on 30 November 2022.

"On this day of commemoration, I address you with deep concern, as we see the prospects for restarting a political process towards a two-state solution based on UN resolutions, international law, and previous agreements continue to diminish," said DiCarlo.

Across the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the rapid expansion of settlements — illegal under international law — is dramatically altering the land envisioned for a future Palestinian state, she noted. Violence, including settler-related violence, remains pervasive while evictions, demolitions and seizures of Palestinian-owned property continue unabated. Such actions undermine the prospects for the establishment of a viable, contiguous Palestinian state, she said.

According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, last year saw the highest number of Palestinians killed in the occupied West Bank since the office started recording data on casualties in 2005. Last year also saw the highest number of Israeli civilians killed since 2015, she said.—Xinhua

UN Undersecretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs Rosemary DiCarlo (C) speaks at a high-level special meeting on the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Nakba at the UN headquarters in New York on 15 May 2023. DiCarlo on Monday regretted the stalemate between Israelis and Palestinians. **PHOTO: MARK GARTEN/UN PHOTO/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

SPORT

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Ukraine to get fresh defence aid from European countries

PAGE-14

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

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

(a) To enhance development based on agriculture and livestock using modern production techniques and to strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
(b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
(c) To assure support for the sustainability of Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) that prioritize import substitution, export production, and the use of domestically produced raw materials, in order to increase domestic production and generate employment opportunities.
(d) To advance the socioeconomic life of the people, in order to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.

3. Social affairs

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

CAMBODIA 2023 — 32nd SEA GAMES — 12th ASEAN PARA GAMES

Myanmar wins more silvers, bronzes in XXXII SEA Games

MYANMAR sports teams garnered more silver and bronze medals at the XXXII SEA Games held at various stadiums and sports halls in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Team Myanmar garnered one silver and three bronzes in Vovinam, one silver each in Sepak Takraw and Women's Football, and one bronze each in Judo and Weightlifting on 15 May.

The Vovinam competitions were held at Chroy Changvar Convention Centre, Hall A, and Myanmar's Moe Moe Aye won one silver medal in the Women's 55 kg event.

Likewise, Myanmar's Win Thet Paing secured one bronze medal in the Men's 55-60 kg event, while Thanda Khaing picked one more bronze in the Women's 50-55 kg event.

Lumin Oo also brought one more bronze for Myanmar during the Men's 60-65 kg event of Vovinam.

Next, Sepak Takraw competitions were continued at Basketball Hall NSTC, and Yamone Zin, Phyu Phyu Thant and Khin Nhin Wai won silver medals in the Women's Team Event.

Meanwhile, Judo events were held at Chroy Changvar Convention Centre, Hall C, and Myanmar's Khin Khin Su grabbed one bronze in the Women's 52 kg event.

Next, Thiha Aung also secured one more bronze for Myanmar in the Men's 81 kg Weightlifting event.

At 7 pm Myanmar Standard Time on the same day, Myanmar women's national football team got the silver medal with a 0-2 loss to Viet Nam in the final match, thus Viet Nam won the gold medal and Thailand grabbed the bronze.

On 15 May, Myanmar participated in Sepak Takraw, Esports, Weightlifting, Judo, Taekwondo, Vovinam, and Women's Football and won three silvers and five bronzes.

On 16 May, Myanmar teams competed in Rowing, Judo, Weightlifting, Vovinam, and Men's Football.

In the XXXII SEA Games, Myanmar has collected 106 medals so far (20 golds, 22 silvers, and 64 bronzes) to date. — MNA/KZL

YRWSA to select Bodybuilders, Women's Model Physiques

THE Yangon Region Women's Sports Association will select Bodybuilders and Women's Model Physique at Yangon Waterboom, Shukhintha Myopat Road on 28 May (from 12 pm to 6 pm).

The categories will feature Under-21 Bodybuilders for 60 kg, 65 kg, 70 kg, 75 kg and above, and Women's Model Physiques.

Interviews will be held on 26 May, and those who want to compete must register by 25 May. — TWA/KZL

The invitation advertisement is seen for the selection of Bodybuilders and Women's Model Physiques.