

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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

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

## All citizens need to widen their scope of business knowledge in doing business with concerted efforts based on a global perspective: Senior General

**S**TATE Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday morning met departmental officials and MSME businesspersons at the city hall in Patheingyi to discuss regional development and economic development.

### Individual reports on MSME businesses in the region

The Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister, officials and businesspersons reported on the implementation of MSME in the region as well as the Patheingyi industrial zone, manufacturing of agriculture, livestock, handiwork and foodstuffs, implementation of hotels and services, operation of fish farms, agricultural farms, manufacturing industries, needs of capital for the establishment of gasifiers, needs of improvement for the transport sector to increase travellers to the region, wider cultivation of tapioca in Myanmar as strategic crops of Mekong region, and expansion of oil mills with assistance from the government.

### Discussions of Union ministers in relevant sectors

Union ministers discussed the improvement of the transport sector in the Ayeyawady Region, systematic ground inspection needed for upgrading of Patheingyi



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing looks into one of the traditional products while meeting departmental officials and MSME business people in Patheingyi on 7 February 2023.

Airport, the development of oil mills, disbursement of loans at the soft interest rate, formation of cooperative societies, supply of inputs and quality seeds, encouragement to MSME businesses in regions and states, registration of industries in accordance with rules and regulations, eradication of illegal trade and legal export process without delay.

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## National Objectives for 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day 2023

1. To strive for the perpetual existence of national solidarity and perpetuity of the Union through the internal strength
2. To make collaborative efforts of all ethnic nationals to restore perpetual and durable peace
3. To join hands in harmony for ensuring the prosperity and food sufficiency of the nation as two national plans through the Union spirit
4. To help develop all regions and states on equal terms and increase employment opportunities with ensuring the health and fitness of the entire National people
5. To practise the genuine, discipline-flourishing multiparty democratic system through fraternity, solidarity and united endeavours of all ethnic national brethren for building the Union based on democratic and federal systems

## 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.

## Application for political party establishment rights ongoing

THE State Administration Council announced the Political Parties Registration Law 2023 for the establishment of political parties in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar by the State Administration Council Law No 15/2023 on 26 January.

The Union Election Commission announced the rules for the registration of political parties through Notice No 10/2023.

Announcements No 2/2023 and 3/2023 regarding the right to estab-

lish and continue the establishment and registration of political parties were announced on 31 January 2023.

Under Section 3 of the Political Parties Registration Law, the Federal Democratic Party, which wishes to establish a political party, applied yesterday for permission to establish a political party under the law and rules, and the Union Election Commission is processing further verification. — MNA/KZL

## Ethnic cultural troupes on second-day study tour to landmarks in Nay Pyi Taw



Ethnic cultural troupes from states and regions visit the Zoological Garden (above photo).  
The National Museum (above right).  
The Planetarium (below right) yesterday.

ETHNIC cultural troupes from regions and states, who will present traditional performances at the 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Union Day celebrations, visited prominent sites in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Cultural troupes visited Zoological Garden, Planetarium, Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Market, National Landmarks

Garden, Defence Services Museum, and National Museum.

Ethnic cultural troupes included 39 members from Kachin State, 38 from Kayah State, 40 from Kayan State and 32 from Chin State, 38 from Mandalay Region, 34 from Mon State, 28 from Rakhine State and 38 from Shan State.—MNA/MKKS

## Development of MSMEs will revitalize State economy

THE economy of our country is based on agriculture and livestock. Both developed and developing countries mainly carry out SME industries. Hence, efforts are being made for the development of MSMEs so as to resurge State economy.

*(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with entrepreneurs from UMFCCI and MSMEs in Yangon Region on 3 October 2022)*

# All citizens need to widen their scope of business knowledge in doing business with concerted efforts ...

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#### Encouragement for manufacturing based on local agricultural and livestock raw materials

In his speech, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said that the government is encouraging micro, small and medium-scale enterprises for the economic development of the State. The majority of people in the region are engaged in agriculture and livestock farms, growing paddy and oil crops as well as breeding fish. Manufacturing the raw materials of both agriculture and livestock farms are businesses of MSMEs. By-products from these businesses can be used as feedstuffs in livestock farms.

Manufacturing needs to produce quality products. It is necessary to use raw materials from agriculture and livestock farms for production. If so, these businesses will create job opportunities for local people and contribute to regional development as well as the improvement of the socioeconomic life of the people. As local raw materials



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets departmental personnel and MSME businesspersons in Patheingyi yesterday.

can be supplied to businesses continuously, it will help strong production. The amount of local circular money will increase and it will reflect the socioeconomic development of the people as well as the improvement of the State economy. Successfully implementing the MSME businesses will manage the import-substitute process and help export

products to foreign countries and boom the State economy.

#### Cooperative system

Myanmar has exercised the cooperative system and some developed countries are still exercising the cooperative system. The cooperative system will improve the work process and the cooperative system must be implemented in Ayeyawady

Region. If agricultural products have a higher per-acre yield, Ayeyawady Region will have remarkable development in the economic sector. Relevant townships and districts need to strive for the booming process to have many benefits.

#### Local beautifying and improvement of socioeconomic life

The government is carrying out the betterment of roads and bridges across the nation in order to ensure a smooth and swift flow of commodities and to develop the State economy. Although Patheingyi port admitted to docking ocean liners in the past, it cannot admit international vessels because the water course has silted up. A plan is underway to build the port in Ngaputaw to admit docking of ocean liners so as to develop the region and attract travellers.

With regard to electrification, solar power can be generated in Ayeyawady Region. The government will conduct research on using wind power soon. All must make efforts for a sufficient supply of electricity and they all need to join hands for the development of the region.

#### Encouragement of local production to develop the State economy

The Senior General stressed the need to strive for becoming an exporter country from an importer with manufacturing quality products to be exported to foreign countries. If the country sees a balance of income and spending, the nation will have economic development.

#### All citizens need to have a global perspective

Ayeyawady Region has abundant raw materials for manufacturing. In implementing the one-village-one-product scheme, efforts must be made for distributing the products to the domestic market and sending them to foreign markets. All citizens need to widen their scope of business knowledge in doing business with concerted efforts based on a global perspective.

The Senior General viewed the display of marine products, foodstuffs, personal goods, industrial products, traditional products and clothes and discussed the market potentials for these goods. — MNA/TTA



The Senior General views round the products of MSME businesses in Patheingyi.

# SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects Advanced Paper Mill (Thaboung), Newsprint Plant (Thaboung)



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hears the reports on the advanced paper mill and the newsprint plant in Thaboung yesterday.

**C**HAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday afternoon inspected the advanced paper mill (Thaboung) and the newsprint plant (Thaboung) of the Ministry

of Industry in Thaboung Township of Ayeyawady Region. Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than and the managing director of No 3 Heavy Industries Enterprise reported on the background histories of two factories, the production of

pulp, paper and newsprints before halting, types of inputs and products, serving of personnel, industrial raw plantations, payment of salaries and pensions for staff in financial years, the invitation for government-private sector to operate the factories,

and plans to be implemented under the guidance of the Prime Minister.

Union Minister for Energy U Myo Myint Oo reported on the production of natural gas from the Maubin well, the distribution of natural gas from the Maubin and Nyaungdon oilfields to relevant factories, the need for CNG for the advanced paper mill (Thaboung) and newsprint plant (Thaboung) and need for maintenance of CNG pipelines.

Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi reported on the availability of bamboo raw materials from natural forests for the advanced paper mill (Thaboung) and newsprint plant (Thaboung), the annual supply of bamboo at Thaboung paper mill, the potential for the per-acre yield of bamboo plantations and growing of rapid growth plants for the production of pulp.

Chairman of Myanmar Economic Corporation Lt-Gen Nyo Saw presented reports on the inspection of machinery at two factories, the inspection of plantations and ways to seek energy.

In his response to the re-

ports, the Senior General said that bamboo and timber as well as energy will be required for resuming the factories. After repairing the factories, it is necessary to emphasize expanding the works. The Senior General stressed the need to set up forest and bamboo plantations which will be raw materials. The pulp can be produced in Kachin State and Sagaing Region and these pulps can be sent to the paper mill. As arrangements to resume the paper mills are for the sake of the national interests, officials need to emphasize their duties and functions. Thanks to factories, they can reduce the spending of foreign exchange on the import of paper to meet the local demand and create job opportunities.

After inspecting the types of papers produced by the mill, the Senior General gave the necessary instructions. The Senior General then inspected Pulping Plant, a 50-tonne paper mill, 60-tonne newsprint plant.

The Senior General presented cash awards for staff from two factories to officials and cordially greeted the staff. — MNA/TTA



The Senior General is pictured during the inspection tour yesterday.

# SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pays homage to Shwemokehtaw Maha Pagoda in Pathein

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by SAC members, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win, South-West Command Commander Brig-Gen Kyi Khine and other officials, paid homage to Shwemokehtaw Maha Pagoda in Pathein Township yesterday evening.

First, the Senior General and party were welcomed by the pagoda board of trustees. Then, they paid homage to the pagoda and offered flowers, water and oil lights to the pagoda. The Senior General presented cash donations for the all-round renovation of the pagoda and members of pagoda board of trustees gave Dhamma-related gifts in return.

Afterwards, the Senior General and party went round the pagoda by anti-clockwise



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pays homage to the Buddha image at the Shwemokehtaw Maha Pagoda in Pathein yesterday.



procession. The Senior General also gave directives to responsible personnel to maintain all the other pagodas in Pathein Township in addition to Shwemokehtaw Pagoda in order that they are pleasant and beautiful. — MNA/KTZH

# SAC members, Union ministers attend 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Shan State Day celebration in Taunggyi



SAC members, Union ministers and dignitaries pose for the documentary group photo on the occasion of the 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Shan State Day.

THE 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Shan State Day ceremony was held at 7 am at Awayya hot-air balloon field in Taunggyi yesterday, attended by members of the State Administration Council. SAC member Dr Kyaw Tun read out the message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the 76<sup>th</sup> An-

niversary of Shan State Day. Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Zaw Aye then delivered a speech expressing that the government is making effort to achieve enduring peace while ceasing all internal armed conflicts in order to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election. On this special day of proving unity among national

brethren, all join hands in hands to ensure peace, stability and all-round development in Shan State and to build a Union based on democracy and federalism, he urged. Afterwards, SAC members Dr Kyaw Tun, Daw Dwe Bu, Porel Aung Thein and U Shwe Kyein presented excellent awards in religious affairs and management;

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Aung Thaw and Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Jeng Phang Naw Taung gave away excellent awards in security, rule of law and agriculture; Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Zaw Aye, Chief Justice of the State High Court U Than Oo Lwin, Eastern Command Commander Maj-Gen Hla Moe and Deputy Minister for

Border Affairs Maj-Gen Khun Thant Zaw Htoo, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Gyi, Shan State cabinet members, the state advocate-general, the chairpersons of the self-administered zones presented excellent awards in livestock breeding and social affairs, and prizes were presented to sports winners.

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Khun Thant Zaw Htoo gave 250 solar panel kits in honour of the 76th Anniversary Shan State Day to Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Zaw Aye. Shan, Wa and PaO ethnic traditional cultural troupes performed traditional dances. The documentary group photo was taken.

Then, SAC members Daw Dwe Bu, Porel Aung Thein, U Shwe Kyein, Dr Kyaw Tun, Union Ministers U Aung Thaw and Jeng Phang Naw Taung, Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Zaw Aye cut the ceremonial ribbon to unveil the 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Shan State Day exhibition booths and guests viewed round the booths. — Maung Maung Than (Taunggyi)/TS

# CURRENT AFFAIRS



The baby White Elephant "Rattha Nandaka".

## White elephant "Rattha Nandaka" lives happily and healthily with mother elephant

A 33-year-old female elephant called Zar Nan Hla kept by the Myanmar Timber Enterprise in Taungup Township of Rakhine State gave birth to one white male elephant at 6:30 am on 23 July 2022. When it was born, the baby elephant was two feet and five inches in height, three feet and one inch in girth and weighed 180 pounds.

The white elephant's name

is "Rattha Nandaka". It has pearl-coloured eyes, a plantain branch-shaped back, white hair, a distinctive tail, auspicious plot signs on the skin, reddish-brown or pinkish skin, five claws on the front legs, four claws on the back legs and big ears. Therefore, these features conform with seven out of eight characteristics.

At six and half months

old, the baby white elephant is three feet and two inches in height, four feet and ten inches in girth and weighs about 365 pounds. He stays healthy and happy under the human-friendly training system with his mother elephant, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

— MNA/KZW

## Fire at MPT telecom exchange interrupts phone lines, internet connection

A fire broke out at the MPT telecom exchange office in Mayangon Township, interrupting MPT calls, MPT data and wifi.

Fire engines from the headquarters of the Myanmar Fire Service Department and the Mayangon Station managed to extinguish the fire at 10:45 am according to the Myanmar Fire Service Department.

The MPT call centre with services from MPT, fibre in-

ternet, mobile internet and telecommunications is currently experiencing difficulties. Officials of the Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications will make repairs as soon as possible so that communication can be restored to normal. If there is any change regarding the conditions of the communication network, the public will be informed about it, said MPT. — TWA/KZW

## Prices of mung bean, black gram rise while pigeon pea price falls

ON 6 February 2023, the prices of mung bean (Kayan Shwewah) and black gram had a slight increase and that of pigeon peas (red gram) went down a little, according to the Yangon commodity market.

On the same day, the wholesale price of mung bean (Kayan Shwewah) rose to K3,200-K3,320 per viss. A tonne of black gram and pigeon peas (red gram) valued at K1,781,000 and K1,912,500 respectively.

On 4 February 2023, the price per viss of mung bean (Kayan Shwewah) jumped up by

K200 per viss and K120,000 per tonne. Meanwhile, mung bean (Pakokku) prices remained unchanged at K2,500-K2,635 per viss.

According to the Mandalay commodity market, mung bean (Kayan Shwewah) price changed from K220,000-K230,000 per 56.25 visses on 3 February to K210,000-K215,000 on 5 February and K210,000-K220,000 on 6 February.

The price of a tonne of black gram temporarily fetched over K1.8 million in the Yangon commodity depot on 2 and 3 Febru-

ary. However, it declined back to below K1.8 million on 4 February. The price was below K1.8 million on 6 February, but it was K11,000 higher per tonne than the price on 4 February.

However, on 6 February, the price of a tonne of pigeon peas (red gram) decreased by K12,500 compared to that on 4 February.

It is known that only five boxes (120 tonnes) of pigeon peas (red gram) were traded within the previous week and there was no trading on 6 February. — TWA/CT

## YSX's trading value totals K310.99 mln in Jan

THE stock trading by seven listed companies on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) in January 2023 amounted to K310.99 million with 75,810 shares, as per YSX's monthly report.

The trading value accumulated at K7.424 billion from 1,667,434 shares in 2022 which soared from 887,969 shares worth K4.63 billion in 2021, according to the annual report released by the exchange.

In 2020, K12.6 billion worth of 1.87 million shares by six listed companies were traded on the YSX, whereas over 2.4 million shares from five listed companies, valued at K13.39 billion, were traded on the exchange in 2019.

Both continuous trading and block trading charts on YSX

climbed in 2021 compared with that of 2021.

At present, shares of seven listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), TMH Telecom Public Co Ltd (TMH), the Ever Flow River Group Public Co Ltd (EFR) and Amata Holding Public Co Ltd. (AMATA) were traded in the equity market. The share prices per unit were closed at K8,600 for FMI, K3,300 for MTSH, K7,700 for MCB, K2,000 for FPB, K2,600 for TMH, K2,700 for EFR and K5,000 for AMATA respectively in January 2023.

Moreover, YSX stock investment virtual series 2022 launched in December through

the YSX YouTube channel and other social media platforms every weekend of December 2022, including three sessions; Insights talk with listed companies, investment presentations by securities companies and Panel discussion with market experts.

Furthermore, block trading of YSX can be done with the minimum order quantity (10,000 stocks) or with the stocks of trading value of K30 million starting from 1 September 2022.

Next, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECM) has allowed foreigners to invest in the local equity market since 20 March 2020.

The YSX was launched four years ago to improve the private



A man looks at the LED board showing the stock exchange rates at YSX in Yangon.

business sector. It disseminates rules and regulations regarding the stock exchange and knowl-

edge of share trading through stock investment webinars and training courses.—KK

# LOCAL BUSINESS

## Over 770 companies registered on MyCO in Jan

THE number of companies registered on the online registry system, MyCO, reached 774, the statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) indicated.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018 under the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

The figures of registered companies stood at 11,618 in 2022, 8,011 in 2021, 15,080 in 2020, 17,380 in 2019 and 8,506 in 2018, as per statistics of the DICA

The previously registered companies had to re-register on the MyCO and a total of 46,377 companies were re-registered on the MyCO between 1 August 2018 and 31 January 2019.

In addition, all registered companies need to file annual returns (AR) on the MyCO



The office of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration in Yangon.

registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), under Section 97 of the Myanmar Companies Law

2017. Under Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously.

All overseas corporations

must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, over

400 companies are suspended every month for failing to submit AR forms by the due date.

As a result of this, newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns. The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents. If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/EM

## Peanut price regains to K7,200 per viss in domestic market

THE price of peanuts rebounded to K7,200 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes), according to the Mandalay Wholesale Commodity Centre.

During the last week of November 2022, the peanut market was stagnant due to a lack of demand by oil millers and foreign buyers. The peanut prices fell to K4,700-5,750

per viss then. The prevailing prices move up to K5,950 -7,200 per viss.

Strong demand in both domestic and external markets pushed up the price.

Peanut from various regions is entering Mandalay commodity depots at present. Both Chinese traders and local oil millers are purchasing them

in the competitive market.

Myanmar has been shipping oil seeds (sesame seeds and peanuts) to foreign countries. Last April 2022, the world's top palm oil exporter Indonesia, which is one of the main oil suppliers to Myanmar, declared an export ban on cooking oil export to reduce the domestic shortage. Consequently, Myanmar's Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce temporarily suspended exports of oil crops (peanut and sesame) from 9 May to have oil self-sufficiency.

Exports of Myanmar's edible oil crops resumed as the world's top palm oil exporters returned to normalcy, according to a notification dated 5 July 2022 released by the Trade Department.

The country has shipped more than 17,000 kilogrammes worth US\$19.998 million to foreign markets through the border trade channels as of 27 January in the current financial year 2022-2023 since April 2022.

— NN/EM



A man shows some of the white peanut in Monywa market. PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)

## Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 7 February 2023

### Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,075
Octane 95	K2,140
Diesel	K2,185
Premium Diesel	K2,265

All of the prices are based on per litre.

### Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,209,000 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,846,000 per tical

### Dollar Price

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

The above prices may change from time to time.

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# OPINION

## Join hands firmly for the sake of the nation and nationals

A SOVEREIGN country must have characteristics of sovereign power affecting internal and international affairs, the exact number of populations, the ruling government, and the capability to associate with other sovereign countries. Generally, such a country does not rely on another country as well as not accept the influence of other countries. Hence, the people from a sovereign country will stand tall among the global peoples.

A sovereign country can be shaped by geography, size, location, climatic conditions, topography, natural resources and availability of

raw materials, economic development, military preparedness, national character and national morale, political structure and leadership, ideology, population, human resources and technological development.

Generally, the word country indicates the sovereign countries as well as the geographical locations. Moreover, it represents sovereignty and geographical control. As for an independent and sovereign country, the administration of the nation depends on executive, legislative and judicial powers.

The Head of State exercises the executive power to manage the country in all aspects. Some countries are under the control of prime ministers and some are under the management of presidents depending

on their administrative systems as they choose.

Most of the countries do not entrust the legislative power to a single person but to the Hluttaw called parliaments in which representatives elected by the people perform the legislative measures. In a significant situation, provisional governments have to exercise the legislative power to do all things appropriate for the people and the nation.

The Chief Justice of the Union and Supreme Court judges have to exercise judicial power to decide criminal cases. As decisions for any criminal cases need valuable experience in the judicial sector and comprehensive knowledge about relevant laws, those chief justices cannot be appointed by the people. Hence, heads of state must appoint the chief justices and judges with the approval of the parliament.

Depending on the various situations, the head of state must appoint the appropriate persons as members of the cabinet to be able to support his management over the country with wishes for the country leading to a developed nation. In a significant situation, as the provisional government takes State responsibility for the sake of the nation and its nationals, everybody should join hands with the government for peace and stability of the nation as well as the development of the country.

The sovereign countries can be seen with prestige and integrity. If so, citizens from these countries can automatically stand tall among the peoples of global countries. Hence, images of both the sovereign country and its citizens reflect each other.

HERE has been a noticeable speech in the world of language that expresses the very importance of language exposure. This is nothing but 'Use it or lose it', which means that someone draws on the language skills he is learning, otherwise he will fail to remember those skills sooner or later for sure. So, every language learner comes into contact with the language which they are studying on a daily basis in one way or another. There is no doubt that language in all its richness and variety — spoken, written, sung or read aloud — still plays a practically essential role in learners' future route to education. It is common knowledge that even babies already respond better to the language they were exposed to in the womb. A child's early experience of language is, to my knowledge, considered fundamental to their later success. Thus, the thinking often enters my head that starting early gives children more time to learn and excel. In other words, if a language learner spends more time focusing on language earlier on, he is building a strong foundation of linguistic skills that lasts several years to develop. The following are given some of the best ways to language exposure.

### 1) Going and staying in language-speaking countries for years

Saya Zaw Gyi once stated that it would be better if anyone who is learning a language has

ever lived in the country where that language is spoken for such a long time. His tip on language learning perfectly sounds logical and reasonable with great wisdom, for language and culture go hand in hand, as so often happens. That is, any language should be learned alongside its native speakers' culture so as to get hold of the language better than usual. A country's culture can be easily seen in its market just because the market is the only place in which people from different standards of living get together. Hence, when a language learner is going abroad and living there for a year or so, he ought not to stay indoors only — he will need to go out whenever possible in order to sound himself out about his listening and speaking abilities, trying to talk to as many native speakers as he can meet.

### 2) Creating a private language learning environment as soon as possible

Unless a learner will be able to go overseas for linguistic study, he needs to create a language learning environment of his own as much as he can. There may be probably put TVs, radios, Bluetooth, bookshelves and oth-

er learning aids in the language environment where the Internet or Wi-Fi could also be accessible. Language learners should allow themselves to listen to songs, see movies without subtitles, which of these are widely broadcast on TV and radio, or through the Internet and Wi-Fi, read at their leisure, and talk to themselves in the language in their use. Besides, language learning environments would act as an external stimulus to language learning provided, they are neat and tidy or beautifully decorated with flowers and pictures. It is absolutely imperative that a language learner enjoy and develop language exposure success in his learning environment. And it should be remembered perhaps classrooms have become a really enjoyable learning environment of language.

### 3) Making everyday practical use of language

Since anyone begins studying a language, they must have had it in mind to be able to apply that language again in the future. They should have reached the stage of authentic language application at least, even though they do not arrive at those of language analysis, synthesis and evaluation. It is

language teachers, writers, translators, interpreters, tour guides, public speakers, scholars and even vocalists who mostly take advantage of language mastery. Of course, someone will never forget a language, which he has learnt, in future so long as the language is utilized in real-life situations daily. In my view, the day-to-day linguistic practice involves not only recap on well-known vocabularies, but expansion and extension of usages or expressions. No sooner does memory stop working than it tends to lessen per se; there is little more than a short-term or long-term memory in nature. Also, memory is never inactive — even worse, it is always leading to the likelihood of forgetting with age in particular. From the point of view of psychology, some words can be memorized simply by reading them more than 200 times. It goes, therefore, without saying that language learners must get used to redoing the language by means of functional language.

### 4) Running a language lecture to learners or taking an intensive language course

Language teaching is by far the most prominent way to linguistic exposure, including brain-

storming, drawing a mind map and critical or logical thinking of language expressions. Actually, language teachers have got to take more notice of pronunciation, short vowels, long vowels, double vowel sounds, voiced consonants, voiceless consonants, final consonant sounds, stress, intonation, pauses, linking words, rhythmic patterns, timing and discourse markers for classroom language in accordance with their responsibility to provide the maximum linguistic accomplishment of learners. A language completely differs from a subject in theory and practice for the main reason that languages are basic to public or personal ideas, thoughts, opinions and biases. If and when anybody does not want to deliver a series of language lectures, he can do an intensive course in the language. But sometimes, both language teachers and learners are browned off with the language. At that time, they will certainly need a break on the road to language, maybe performing any other linguistic activities like studying another foreign language.

### 5) Meeting a language learning partner

In order not to lack an extrin-

sic motivation for language, all learners should have got at least one linguistic partner that may be one of their close friends with language fever or a native speaker. The learners need not be too shy or afraid to study language whether their language partners might have done a higher degree in the language. Furthermore, it is best if they keep a regular appointment online or outdoors, for instance, for thirty minutes over a day. By doing that, linguistic learners will definitely triumph over their behavioural issues, emotional impairments and mother tongue barriers with respect to language in the not-too-distant future. Most importantly, the only language in the study must be used while they are in touch with each other. They would go into a crucial head-start that gives their life-long benefits via language thanks to learning partners. They could even have additional private coaching and tutoring from language partners. Then, their linguistic experience will appreciably be improving greater and wider than before.

### 6) Reading books only in language for study by native writers if necessary

Books, needless to say, take a vital aspect of rich language exposure since written language oftentimes includes a broader, more nuanced and more detailed vocabulary than everyday spoken language. This can in turn help increase readers' range and depth of expression concerning language. It will cause a widening linguistic achievement gap between now and before for language learners as well. The priority should be to pursue an independent interest in and familiarity with the books of their favourite so that they must be able to expand their vocabularies, extend their usages and then reach the expected reading standard, too. In fact, book reading can be picked up very quickly for vocabulary and comprehension. However, there are no cheap tricks — it is hard work for discernible linguistic benefits. There may be arising individual variations in reading appetite and ability; even so, all readers like to get the joy of reading to a greater or lesser degree. Reading is more closely linked to linguistic writing competencies as well as the only effective and efficient route to reading for language exposure is picking and choosing

monolingual books by native authors. This is after all central to linguistic reading success. That is why, in general, native writers will have owned more reliability, more validity, and more relevancy as regards language than average ones. It does not matter whether language learners start to read at four or five or six as long as the reading method is appropriate.

Frankly speaking, the more exposure somebody makes to language, the more essence he can absorb of the language, just for it is probable that the denotation of a language is in more ways than one. To grasp how the language functions, it will take linguistic beginners a minimum of six months. I am strongly of the opinion that without careful preparation for language, learners should confront their top concerns over the path to their coming education. The best formula for lasting linguistic success is language exposure, language acquisition and language learning included. With the coming of modern technology and linguistic teaching-learning methods, better outcomes of foundational language skills or literary skills are frequently obtained by loads of learners. Whichever environment of language learning is, they can manage to immerse themselves in there at their pleasure. Not even polyglots could get out of language exposure.

## Key to healthier employees might be quieter or louder office space: Study

A RECENT study conducted by scientists at the Universities of Arizona and Kansas suggests that working at a busy coffee shop may be healthier than doing so in a quiet office.

The study finds — perhaps unsurprisingly — that loud noises at the office have a negative impact on employee well-being. But the study also suggests that complete silence is not conducive to a healthy workplace.

### Loud noise is stressful

"Everybody knows that loud noise is stressful, and, in fact, extremely loud noise is harmful to your ear," said study co-author Esther Sternberg, director of the UArizona Institute on Place, Wellbeing & Performance, adding, "But what was new about this is that with even low levels of sound — less than 50 decibels — the

stress response is higher."

The study — part of a larger workplace well-being research project led by Sternberg — suggests that if employers intend to build or redesign their office spaces with employee health and well-being in mind, they might want to consult acoustical engineers who can help them dial in conditions for good environmental sound, said Sternberg, who is also director of research for the UArizona Andrew Weil Centre for Integrative Medicine and a member of the university's BIO5 Institute.

The study was published earlier this month in the journal *Nature Digital Medicine*. Sudha Ram, professor of management information



A recent study conducted by scientists at the Universities of Arizona and Kansas suggests that working at a busy coffee shop may be healthier than doing so in a quiet office. PHOTO: ARIZONA.EDU

systems in the Eller College of Management, is the study's senior author. Karthik Srinivasan, an assistant professor at the University of Kansas, led the research when he was a doctoral student at Eller, and is the paper's lead author.

### Emotional or mental well-being

"When we think about well-being, typically we think about emotional or mental well-being," Srinivasan said, adding, "We hardly ever consider the physiological well-being or the actual 'what's happening in our body,' which is also important to understand when we're continuously exposed to environmental factors such

as sound." Sternberg, who also holds a joint appointment in the College of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture, is a renowned expert on the ways workspaces can influence physical and mental health. A study she led in 2018 showed employees who worked in open office seating — at desks that aren't separated by partitions — had greater daytime activity levels and lower stress levels in the evening, after work hours, compared to workers in private offices and cubicles.

But open office spaces also come with a common complaint from people who work in them: noise. With this latest study, Sternberg and her co-authors shed

more light on employees' physiological reactions to office sound.

### Sternberg's larger research project

The new study was part of Sternberg's larger research project — called Wellbuilt for Wellbeing — in partnership with the US General Services Administration, the federal agency that oversees basic operations for all nonmilitary federal government buildings, including building and buying real estate, managing buildings' operating systems, and managing government-wide reentry into the workplace amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

SOURCE: ANI



# ENVIRON WORLD



In this photo released by NASA, engineering teams at NASA's James Webb Space Telescope Mission Operations Centre at the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, Maryland, monitor progress as the observatory's second primary mirror wing rotates into position on 8 January 2022. **PHOTO: BILL INGALLS / NASA / AFP**

## Small asteroid 'serendipitously' detected using James Webb telescope

EUROPEAN astronomers using the James Webb Space Telescope have detected a previously unknown asteroid about the size of Rome's Colosseum in the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.

The asteroid measuring between 300 and 650 feet (100 to 200 metres) in length is the smallest object observed to date using the telescope, the US space agency NASA said Monday.

The European astronomers "serendipitously detected" the asteroid, NASA said in

a statement, adding that more observations would be needed to better characterize its nature and properties.

"We -- completely unexpectedly -- detected a small asteroid," said Thomas Muller, an astronomer at the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics in Germany.

It was detected during calibration of the telescope's Mid-InfraRed Instrument (MIRI), which operates in mid-infrared wavelengths.

"Webb's incredible sensitivity made it possible to see

this roughly 100-metre object at a distance of more than 100 million kilometres," Muller said.

Webb, which has been operational since July, is the most powerful space telescope ever built and has unleashed a raft of unprecedented data as well as stunning images.

One of the main goals for the \$10 billion telescope is to study the life cycle of stars. Another main research focus is on exoplanets, planets outside Earth's solar system. —AFP

## Storm brings snow, disruption to Greek capital

A winter storm brought snow to the Greek capital Athens, closing schools, nurseries and courts on Monday and disrupting both traffic and power supplies.

The government advised people to avoid non-essential travel and work from home if possible, in a bid to avoid the chaos caused by heavy snow last winter, for which the authorities came in for severe criticism.

The storm, dubbed Barbara by Greek meteorologists, reached Athens on Sunday afternoon after sweeping through the north of Greece and islands in the North Aegean Sea. Authorities reopened both the roads to Athens international airport, 30 kilometres (19 miles) from the centre, and the main artery linking the city to Lamia in central Greece after they were closed for several hours early Monday



People try to walk on ice-covered walking zone in central Athens on 26 January 2022 after heavy snowfall in the Greek capital, which caused major traffic problems. **PHOTO: AFP**

morning.

The national civil protection service warned significant snowfall was expected on Monday morning in the Attica region around Athens, which is unused

to harsh winters.

Around 3,500 people were trapped in their cars on the Athens ring road, and more than 200,000 homes and businesses were without power. — AFP

## Japan to postpone launch of new rocket due to system malfunction

JAPAN'S space agency said Monday it will postpone the launch of its new flagship rocket carrying a land observing satellite at least until 15 February after it detected a glitch in its flight system.

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency said it expects it will take a few days to rectify the problem on its H3 rocket,

delaying the maiden launch of the successor to its H2A rocket for a second time. JAXA had initially planned to send the H3 rocket into space on 12 February but postponed it in January by one day due to a delayed launch on 26 January of its No 46 H2A rocket, which carried a government intelligence-gathering radar satellite into orbit.

The H3 rocket will be launched from the Tanegashima Space Centre on Tanegashima Island in the southwestern prefecture of Kagoshima.

The latest delay was announced after a system inspection found the rocket likely would not fly properly if the launch went ahead as scheduled.—Kyodo

## UK mega-lab generates weather to test homes of future

THE thermometer sinks below zero as a blizzard of fine snow descends on two houses freshly built inside a massive laboratory in northern England.

Despite the icy conditions, the two energy-efficient homes remain cosy and warm due to their use of cutting-edge heating and insulation technology.

Welcome to Energy House 2.0 — a science experiment designed to help the world's housebuilders slash carbon emissions, save energy and tackle climate change.

The project, based in a laboratory resembling a giant warehouse on Salford University campus near the centre of Manchester, opened last month.

Rain, wind, sunshine and

snow can be recreated in temperatures ranging from 40 degrees Celsius to -20C, operated from a control centre.

### Replicating weather

"What we've tried to achieve here is to be able to replicate the weather conditions that would be experienced around 95 per cent of the populated Earth," Professor Will Swan, head of energy house laboratories at the university, told AFP. The facility, comprising two chambers that can experience different weather at the same time, will test types of housing from all over the world "to understand how we deliver their net-zero and energy-efficient homes", he added. — AFP



An engineer walks through a simulated snow storm between two houses built to develop future heating solutions at Energy House 2.0 at Salford University in Salford, north west England on 24 January 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

# HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

## Japan poised to make noise as COVID crowd restrictions loosen

WITH the government effectively abolishing event attendance restrictions meant to curb the coronavirus spread, sports fans and concertgoers may soon be screaming at the top of their lungs, provided they are masked, under a policy shift that is not universally welcomed.

Nippon Professional Baseball is moving to modify its current infection-prevention guidelines in line with the regu-

lar season's start in late March. "We have time," NPB Secretary General Atsushi Ihara said. "I expect a situation where fans will be able to cheer while wearing masks."

Since the pandemic was declared in the spring of 2020, Japan's ballparks, boisterous like those in Taiwan and South Korea, have been eerily muted, with fans not permitted to chant, sing or shout. That restriction re-

mained last season, when teams were permitted to fill their stadiums. "Everyone being able to raise their voices and cheer is a good thing," Hanshin Tigers manager Akinobu Okada said.

As of Saturday, two teams, the Yomiuri Giants and Lotte Marines, have announced that fans will be able to cheer to their hearts' content at their main parks, provided they remain masked. Japan's pro football establishment, the J-League, last year gradually reintroduced vocal cheering at its games, and has been carefully planning in advance of its season's kickoff this month.

"There will probably be some fans at the ground who will feel anxious, and we want to continue to take measures," an official of one first-division team said. Restrictions on crowd behaviour have also affected concert and theatre patrons. The government will downgrade the coronavirus's classification on 8 May, opening doors for some promoters and causing concern for others.—Kyodo



A long line forms outside a concert venue in Tokyo in October 2022.  
PHOTO: KYODO

## Chinese patient diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease at age 19

A 19-year-old patient has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease at a hospital in Beijing, a rare case of this disease mostly found in old people.

Jia Longfei, a physician in the neurology department at the Xuanwu Hospital under the Capital Medical University, said the patient began to develop symptoms associated with memory

disorders at age 17, when he experienced difficulties remembering things that happened the day before.

The hospital carried out a variety of examinations on the patient, including a cerebrospinal fluid index test and a PET scan, which are among the world's most authoritative means for diagnosing Alzheim-

er's disease.

Images produced by the scans showed that the patient had mild hippocampal atrophy and abnormal cerebrospinal fluid indexes. A related paper on the clinical diagnosis of the patient has been published in the academic publication *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*. —Xinhua

## Cholera cases in eastern Zambia district reach 36

THE number of cholera cases in eastern Zambia's Vubwi district has reached 36, health authorities said on Sunday. This follows five new cases recorded in the previous 24 hours, data released by the Ministry of Health has shown.

According to the figures, the death toll still stands at one, while

two people were discharged in the last 24 hours, leaving eight people still in admission.

The health ministry said it has administered 15,567 cholera vaccines as part of efforts to contain the water-borne disease.

Cholera broke out in Vubwi district, which borders Malawi

where a cholera outbreak is wreaking havoc, last month.

Last week, authorities in the district suspended operations of a popular mobile market used by both locals and traders from neighbouring Malawi for fear that it could be a super spreader of the disease. —Xinhua

## Blacks, Hispanics on dialysis get more staph infections than whites: CDC



A general view of the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention Edward R Roybal campus in Atlanta, Georgia on 23 April 2020.  
PHOTO: AFP

BLACK and Hispanic adults on dialysis experience more staph bloodstream infections than white patients receiving the treatment for kidney failure, US health officials said Monday.

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), citing 2017-2020 data, said adults on dialysis for end-stage kidney disease (ESKD) were 100 times more likely to have a *Staphylococcus aureus* bloodstream infection than adults not receiving the treatment.

According to the CDC, more than 800,000 people in the United States live with ESKD. Seventy per cent are being treated with dialysis and 30 per cent have a functioning kidney transplant.

African-Americans consti-

tute some 33 per cent of all US dialysis patients although they make up only 12 per cent of the population.

About one in every five dialysis patients is Hispanic.

Members of both groups have significantly higher rates of staph bloodstream infections than white patients on dialysis, the CDC said, with Hispanic patients experiencing a 40 per cent higher risk. The CDC said the higher prevalence of ESKD among Blacks and Hispanics is due in part to underlying conditions such as hypertension and diabetes. Needles and catheters are used to connect patients to dialysis machines that clean their blood, and bacterial infections such as staph can enter a patient's bloodstream.—AFP

## Attracting foreign doctors key to fixing Australian health system: minister

AUSTRALIAN Health Minister Mark Butler has identified attracting more foreign doctors as key to fixing the country's health system.

The minister said on Sunday that a review into general practice (GP) should investigate ways to attract more foreign health workers to Australia and have their existing qualification recognized.

Federal, state and territory leaders agreed on Friday to the review of GP before they

address widespread problems in the health system later this year.

A separate report on Medicare, Australia's universal healthcare system, made recommendations to improve the accessibility and affordability of health care.

Butler, who has said Medicare is in the worst condition in its 40-year history, believed attracting more GPs would relieve pressure on the whole system.—Xinhua

# ECONOMY WORLD/AD

## Economic Watch: Full rollout of IPO reform underway in China to better serve real economy

CHINA unveiled draft rules last week for the rollout of the registration-based initial public offering (IPO) system across the domestic stock market, representing a major leap forward in the reform of one of the world's biggest capital markets. The registration-based IPO system was first adopted

by the tech-focused STAR Market in 2019, and was broadened to start-up board ChiNext in 2020 and the Beijing Stock Exchange in 2021. Now it will also apply to the main boards in Shanghai and Shenzhen, the homes of China's blue-chip stocks, the China Securities Regulatory Com-

mission said in a statement.

The essence of this IPO reform is to "give the right of choice to the market," and make IPOs "more standardized, transparent and predictable", the commission said.

Unlike the approval-based system, where the listing of a company requires the approval of the commission, the new system empowers bourses to review IPO applications.

The commission is mainly responsible for making sure new listings are in line with national industrial policies. Compared with the approval-based system, the new mechanism not only changes the body of reviews, but also places emphasis on infor-

mation disclosure.

"This is a major leap forward in China's capital market reform," said Dong Dengxin, a researcher with Wuhan University of Science and Technology.

Rolling out the registration-based system to all corners of China's stock market is conducive to establishing a unified market nationwide, Dong added.

The registration-based system will speed up listings. For example, it shortened the waiting time of an IPO on the ChiNext board from 520 days to about 380 days, raising efficiency by about 27 per cent, according to a report from the China International Capital Corporation.

"China's economic

development cannot be achieved without the support of the capital market. The full rollout of the registration-based system will increase the proportion of direct financing and strengthen the role of the capital market in serving the real economy," said Li Huiyong, general manager of the research department of Changjiang Pension Insurance Co Ltd.

The registration-based system will help new-economy companies obtain financing from the capital market, and enhance the role of the capital market in promoting high-quality development and economic structural transformation, said a research note from China Galaxy Securities

Co Ltd.

Under draft rules published last week for public consideration, no daily trading limit is set for IPO shares during their first five trading days. However, stocks listed on the main boards are still subject to the 10 per cent daily trading limit after the first five days.

The commission dismissed concerns that the new system will lower the quality of listed firms, pledging stringent quality control and supervision.

The commission will crack down on illegal stock market activities, and will investigate and punish acts such as the fraudulent issuance of securities and financial fraud, it said. —Xinhua



Photo taken on 22 July 2019 shows the debut ceremony of China's sci-tech innovation board (STAR market) at the Shanghai Stock Exchange in Shanghai. PHOTO: XINHUA

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
M.V OLIVIA VOY.NO. (1)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OLIVIA VOY. NO. (1)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-2-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
Phone No: **2301928**

**Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:  
**M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD**

## SoftBank Group logs 912 bln yen loss in April-December on share losses

SOFTBANK Group Corp said Tuesday it posted a net loss of 912.5 billion yen (\$6.9 billion) in the April-December period, in a reversal from a net profit of 392.6 billion yen a year earlier, as losses mounted from a fall in the value of its shareholdings.

The net loss expanded from the 129.1 billion yen reported for the first half through September, the Japanese technology and investment group said. Its sales for the nine months totalled 4.88 trillion yen, up 6.4 per cent.

The company racked up about 1.4 trillion yen of investment losses in the reporting period amid a market slump due to global inflation and subsequent monetary tightening in major economies. Masayoshi Son, chairman and CEO of the conglomerate, has said that given the unfavourable market conditions, he will curb new investments to reduce risks. The company did not provide its earnings outlook for the current business year through March. —Kyodo



SoftBank Group Corp Chief Financial Officer Yoshimitsu Goto speaks at a press conference in Tokyo on 7 February 2023. PHOTO: KYODO

## S Korea to extend trading hours in foreign exchange market

SOUTH Korea's finance ministry said Tuesday that it will extend trading hours in the foreign exchange market and allow registered foreign institutions to participate in the local inter-bank

market. The foreign exchange market, which is currently operated for six and a half hours from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm local time, will be extended to 17 hours through

2:00 am the following day, according to the Ministry of Economy and Finance. The ministry said it will seek to run the market around the clock going forward according to market conditions

and preparations by the banking industry. Registered foreign institutions will be allowed to trade in the local inter-bank foreign exchange market. —Xinhua

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## ADB predicts tourism in Asia-Pacific to rebound to pre-pandemic level by 2024

TOURISM recovery in Asia and Pacific region has picked up speed and might rebound to the pre-pandemic level by 2024, according to a report released by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Tuesday. The Asian Economic Integration Report 2023 said international tourist arrivals in the Asia-Pacific region rose by 399 per cent year-on-year for the first eight months of 2022, but only to 10.3 per cent of the 2019 numbers.—Xinhua

### TRADE MARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

We, **MGM Resorts International**, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Delaware, United States of America, having its principle office at **3600 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109, United States of America** is the owner and sole proprietor of the following trademarks:

Trademark	Class (es)	Registration No.
<b>MGM</b>	25, 35, 41, 43, 44	23495/2019

#### Specification of Goods

**Class 25:** Clothing, footwear, headgear.

**Class 35:** Retail store services in relation to the sale of cosmetics and perfumes, cleaning products, hand implements and cutlery, printed matter and stationery, bags, wallets, luggage tags, luggage and carrying cases, textile goods and household equipment, namely household utensils and containers, kitchen utensils and containers, kitchen hand tools and implements, cutlery, knives, bags, domestic electrical and electronic equipment, washing machines, tumble dryers, washer dryers, fridges, freezers, dishwashers, cookers, ovens, hobs, microwaves, furniture, textiles, clothing, processed and unprocessed and raw foods, beverages; office functions; typing and faxing services; Advertising, organisation, operation and supervision of sales and promotional incentive schemes; promotional services; management of computer databases; compilation of information into computer databases; Business management and administration services; Managing hotels and resorts for others; commercial information services; business advisory and business consultancy services relating to franchising; advertising, marketing, publicity and promotion services and line from a computer data base or from the Internet; business administration services for the processing of sales made on the Internet; recruitment, employment and personnel management services; public relations; operation and supervision of loyalty schemes and incentive schemes; information consultancy and advisory services relating to all the aforesaid services.

**Class 41:** Casino services; sporting events; entertainment services; operation of casinos; photography services; conducting and providing facilities for special events featuring casino and gaming contests and tournaments, botanical gardens; health club services; booking of theatre tickets; special event planning; cabarets; night clubs; amusement arcades; beach and pool clubs, namely, providing fitness and exercise facilities featuring pools and bathing and showering facilities; providing information in the field of gaming and entertainment via the internet; arena services.

**Class 43:** Hotel and resort services; restaurant and bar services; cafes; cafeterias; lounge services; snack bars; catering; providing banquet and social function facilities for special occasions; providing convention facilities; providing facilities for exhibitions; providing information in the fields of lodging, restaurants and special events via the internet; travel agency services, namely, making lodging, restaurant and meals reservations.

**Class 44:** Health spa services.

Trademark	Class (es)	Registration No.
<b>MGM GRAND</b>	25, 35, 41, 43, 44	23496/2019

#### Specification of Goods


**Class 25:** Clothing namely, polo-shirts, t-shirts, tank tops, shirts, jackets, jogging suits, sweat shirts, sweat pants, jeans, pants, robes, sleepwear, scarves, socks, slippers, hats and caps.

**Class 35:** Retail store services in the field of clothing, accessories, belts, handbags, footwear, swimwear, underwear, leather goods, wallets, umbrellas, perfumes, cosmetics, beauty and skin care products, hair products, bath products, jewelry, watches, sunglasses, cigarette lighters, home and garden decor and accessories, glassware, mugs, plates, key chains, coasters, candles, flowers, cigars, candies, wines, snacks, wine accessories, magazines, newspapers, glass sculptures, gifts and souvenirs, artwork, books, video recordings and convenience store items; issuing gift certificates which may then be redeemed for goods or services; Providing facilities for business meetings and conventions; Providing information in the field of shopping via the internet.

**Class 41:** Casino services, Operation of casino; cabaret; night clubs; providing facilities for and organizing sporting events; providing fitness and exercise facilities; special event planning for social entertainment purposes; amusement arcades, booking theater tickets; health club services, namely, providing instruction and equipment in the field of physical exercise; photography services; providing information in the field of gaming and entertainment, namely, shows, concerts, sporting events and hosting social events via the internet; conducting and providing facilities for special events featuring casino and gaming contests and tournaments.

**Class 43:** Arena services, namely, providing facilities for sports, concerts, conventions and exhibitions; Bar services; Cafes; Cafeterias; Catering; [ Child care;] Cocktail lounge buffets; Cocktail lounges; Hotel services for preferred customers; Hotels; Providing banquet and social function facilities for special occasions; Providing convention facilities; Providing facilities for exhibitions; Resort hotels; Restaurant services; Restaurants; and Snack bars.

**Class 44:** Health spa services, namely, cosmetic body care services; massage.

Trademark	Class (es)	Registration No.
	25, 35, 41, 43	23497/2019

#### Specification of Goods

**Class 25:** Wearing apparel, namely, polo-shirts, t-shirts, tank tops, shirts, jackets, jogging suits, sweat shirts, sweat pants, jeans, pants, robes, sleepwear, rompers, scarves, socks, slippers, hats and caps.

**Class 35:** Retail store services in the field of clothing, accessories, belts, handbags, footwear, swimwear, underwear, leather goods, wallets, umbrellas, perfumes, cosmetics, beauty and skin care products, hair products, bath products, jewelry, watches, sunglasses, cigarette lighters, home and garden decor and accessories, glassware, mugs, plates, key chains, coasters, candles, flowers, cigars, candies, wines, snacks, wine accessories, magazines, newspapers, glass sculptures, gifts and souvenirs, artwork, books, video recordings and convenience store items; issuing gift certificates which may then be redeemed for goods or services; Providing facilities for business meetings and conventions; Providing information in the field of shopping via the Internet.

**Class 41:** Casino services; sporting events; entertainment services; operation of casinos; photography services; conducting and providing facilities for special events featuring casino and gaming contests and tournaments, botanical gardens; health club services; booking of theatre tickets; special event planning; cabarets; night clubs; amusement arcades; beach and pool clubs, namely, providing fitness and exercise facilities featuring pools and bathing and showering facilities; providing information in the field of gaming and entertainment via the internet; arena services.

**Class 43:** Services for providing food and drink; temporary accommodation; Arranging, booking and reservation of accommodation; Provision of hotel and motel services; provision of facilities for meetings, conferences and for exhibitions; reservation services for hotel accommodation and other accommodation; electronic information services relating to hotels; hotel check-in, check-out services; hotel, restaurant, catering banquet and cocktail lounge services; providing facilities for conferences, congresses, seminars, symposiums and workshops; Renting of temporary accommodation on behalf of others; hotel reservations for others; hotel, resort; computer services, providing on-line information in the field of hotel and restaurant services, rendered by means of a global computer network; travel services, namely, making reservations and bookings for temporary lodging.

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Our client has instructed us and wishes to bring to the notice of the trade and public that by virtue of extensive use as well as registrations/ applications, our client's aforementioned trademarks have acquired international fame, reputation, goodwill and are exclusively associated with our client. By virtue thereof **our client has exclusive rights to use the said trademarks and reserve its rights to initiate appropriate legal action against any party found using any of the said trademarks or any other deceptively or confusingly similar trademarks or name which is in violation of the rights of our client.**

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# GLOBAL AFFAIRS

## France hit by new strikes, protests over pension reform

FRESH strikes hit trains, schools and refineries in France on Tuesday over an unpopular pension reform pushed by President Emmanuel Macron, with nationwide protests planned for later in the day. A third day of union-backed demonstrations since 19 January is set to test momentum for the protest movement which has vowed to block Macron's bid to raise the retirement age.

"We are dealing with a president — because he is at the heart of all this — who, with his oversized ego, wants to prove that he is capable of passing this reform," the head of the hardline CGT union, Philippe Martinez, told RTL radio.

Macron put raising the retirement age and encouraging the French to work more at the heart of his re-election campaign last year, but polls estimate that two-thirds of people are against the changes.

Lawmakers began debating



Protesters participate in a demonstration on the third day of nationwide rallies organized since the start of the year, against a deeply unpopular pensions overhaul in Montpellier, southern France on 7 February 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

the reform, which would see the age for a full pension raised from 62 to 64 and the mandatory num-

ber of years of work extended for a full pension, during a stormy session in parliament on Monday.

Last week's demonstrations brought out 1.3 million people across the country while a first

round on 19 January saw 1.1 million, according to the police.

A security source told AFP that between 900,000 and 1.1 million people were expected on Tuesday. The crowds so far have been the largest anti-government protests since 2010 during pension reform by right-wing former president Nicolas Sarkozy.

Trains and the Paris metro again faced "severe disruptions", while around one in five flights at Orly airport south of the capital were expected to be cancelled.

But the overall level of disruption, including in schools, was expected to be lower than on the previous two days.

Around half of long-distance trains were running, the state railway company said. "It's ok, it's manageable," Sylvain Magnan, a 23-year-old told AFP at the main station in the city of Marseille on the Mediterranean. "I just took a later train." —AFP

## Russia advancing 'with success' in east Ukraine: minister

RUSSIAN Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said Tuesday that Moscow's forces were "progressing with success" near the eastern Ukrainian towns of Bakhmut and Vugledar, warning the West against ramping up arms supplies to Kyiv.

The two towns in the eastern region of Donetsk are the epicentre of hostilities and the scene of some of the heaviest fighting since Russia sent troops to Ukraine on 24 February last year.

"Military operations are at

the moment progressing with success in the areas around Vugledar and Artemovsk," Shoigu told a defence meeting using the previous name for Bakhmut.

He listed seven settlements that Russia has recently "liberated", including the salt-mining town of Soledar that came under Russian control in January.

Shoigu also warned that Western military aid could lead to the conflict escalating "unpredictably".

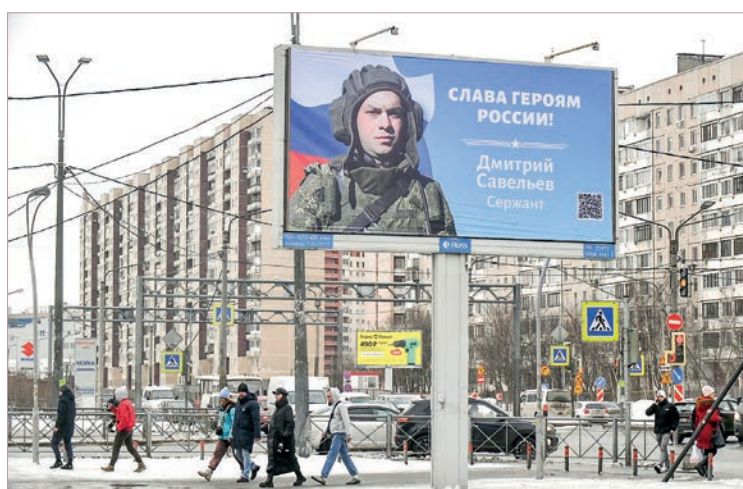
Western countries have re-

cently agreed to supply Kyiv with heavy tanks.

Ukraine has also urged its allies to send fighter jets and long-range missiles to be able to strike targets deeper inside Russian-controlled territory.

"The US and its allies are trying to drag out the conflict as long as possible. To do this, they have begun supplying heavy offensive weapons and are openly calling on Ukraine to seize our territory," Shoigu was quoted as saying in a statement.

"Such steps are drawing NATO countries into the conflict and could see it escalate unpredictably," he added. —AFP



A billboard with an image of a Russian service member and the slogan reading "Glory to the Heroes of Russia!" decorates a street in Saint Petersburg on 6 February 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Chinese envoy calls for early end to Ukraine crisis

A Chinese envoy on Monday called on all parties to the Ukraine crisis to work towards an early end to the conflict.

"China once again calls on relevant parties to bear in mind the interest of the people, strive to promote peace, and try every possible way to push parties to the conflict to resume peace talks and end the war at an early date," Dai Bing, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, told the Security Council briefing on the humanitarian issue of Ukraine.

The envoy said that over the past year since the Ukraine crisis broke out, the humanitarian situation there "has always tugged at our heartstrings," adding that conflicts on the ground show no signs of easing up, the logic of military solution still prevails, and a large number of heavy weapons keep pouring into the battlefields.

"The international community deplores the humanitarian cost of the conflict. But the parties concerned lack the sincerity to promote peace talks and the determination to resolve the

issue politically," he said.

"At a time when armed conflicts still persist, priority should be given to humanitarian issues," he said.

The ambassador underscored that China has always stressed that parties to the conflict must abide by international humanitarian law, adhere to the humanitarian bottom line of respecting life, refrain from attacking civilians and civilian facilities, and ensure the safe evacuation of personnel and the delivery of humanitarian relief.

"We appreciate the enormous work by international humanitarian agencies and neighbouring countries to ease the humanitarian situation in Ukraine, especially the help given to vulnerable groups such as refugees and displaced persons," he said.

"We encourage the international community to continue to uphold the humanitarian spirit, scale up the relief to all affected people, and speed up the repair of civilian infrastructure, in order to mitigate the impact of the conflict on people's lives," added Dai.—Xinhua

## India opens its largest helicopter factory in new defence push



Indian Air Force (IAF) advanced light helicopters display team 'Sarang' perform during the full dress rehearsal for the upcoming Republic Day parade in New Delhi on 23 January 2023. PHOTO: AFP

INDIA unveiled on Monday its largest helicopter factory, which can turn out at least 1,000 aircraft a year, as part of a defence self-reliance push to counter China's growing assertiveness.

New Delhi also announced a double-digit increase in its annual defence budget last week with an eye on its geopolitical rival, with which it shares a disputed northern border.

India is one of the largest arms importers in the world

and, even with its recent push towards local defence production, still relies heavily on hardware from Moscow, its largest and oldest military supplier.

The new helicopter facility fulfils "our government's pledge to gradually reduce India's dependence on foreign countries for its defence needs", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said after the inauguration.

"I am happy that hundreds of different weapons and defence

systems — from modern assault rifles to tanks, aircraft carriers, helicopters and transport aircraft — are now being made in India," he said.

What was trumpeted as Asia's largest helicopter factory would initially produce Indian-designed and developed Light Utility Helicopters and then expand to build other multirole helicopters. The factory in southern Karnataka state was inaugurated only months after New Delhi unveiled its locally made attack helicopters, designed for use in high-altitude areas such as the Himalayas. India also introduced its first locally made aircraft carrier in September 2022, a significant step in its efforts to counter Beijing's growing presence in the Indian Ocean region.

Asia's third-largest economy also became only one of six countries with nuclear strike capabilities on land, sea and air after it tested a ballistic missile from its first indigenous nuclear-powered submarine. —AFP

## Many Türkiye quake victims hungry as winter hampers aid efforts

IN the Turkish city of Sanliurfa, survivors of the massive quake that has wreaked death, destruction and havoc on the region face an invisible but powerful threat — hunger. As the morning sun illuminates the sky, Sanliurfa's cracked streets look empty. The mercury is only just above freezing, but it feels much colder.

Like their neighbours in the other nine provinces hit by Monday's 7.8-magnitude quake and its frightening aftershocks, the people of Sanliurfa are focused on basic survival.

Türkiye's most powerful quake in almost 100 years had struck this remote border region with Syria in the early hours on Monday, killing more than 5,000 people in Türkiye and neighbouring Syria.

Dozens of Sanliurfa families found refuge in the imposing Hilton hotel's ground floor.

Early on Tuesday, most of the parents huddling with their

children have not slept a wink.

"We arrived here at 3:00 pm yesterday, the hotel gave us soup in the evening, but the night has passed. We're hungry, and the children too," said Imam Caglar, 42. "The bakeries will be closed today, I don't know how we will find bread," the father of three said.



A Syrian child sits on a collapsed building in the town of Azaz on the border with Türkiye on 7 February 2023, following a deadly earthquake. The Syrian Red Crescent appealed to Western countries to lift sanctions and provide aid after a powerful earthquake has killed more than 1,600 people across the war-torn country. PHOTO: AFP

It's out of the question to go fetch food from his flat, located a few streets away, because of the danger that the building might suddenly crumble.

"We live on the first floor out of three, we're too scared to return," he says, shaking his head. "Our building is not safe at all." — AFP

## Thailand welcomes 1<sup>st</sup> Chinese tour groups in 3 years

THREE years after the pandemic, the first tour groups from China arrived Monday in the Thai capital of Bangkok, greeted by flowers and a warm welcome from the Southeast Asian country betting on tourists' return to boost the recovery of its vital tourism sector.

On Monday morning, officials from the Thai tourism authority and the Chinese Embassy in Thailand welcomed the first two groups of about 20 tourists each from Guangzhou at the Don Mueang International Airport. The tourists, on a six-day travel programme, will visit Bangkok and then head south to a seaside resort.

The arrival of the tour groups comes as China, one

of the world's largest outbound tourism markets before the pandemic, resumed outbound group tours on Monday.

Starting Monday, China resumed outbound group travel to 20 countries, including Thailand, the Maldives, the United Arab Emirates, Russia, and New Zealand.

"Thailand is honoured to be among the 20 countries chosen to once again welcome tour groups from China. We are extremely pleased to receive these first groups today, and look forward to seeing many more to come," Yuthasak Supasorn, governor of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), said at the welcoming ceremony at the airport. — Xinhua



Chinese tourists arrive at Don Mueang International Airport in Bangkok, Thailand, 6 February 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

## North Korea pledges 'expanded, intensified' military drills

NORTH Korea's top army officials have said they will expand and intensify military drills to ensure their readiness for war, state media reported Tuesday, ahead of a massive parade.

The pledge came at a Monday meeting overseen by leader Kim Jong Un and follows last week's staging of joint air drills by South Korea and the United States.

The agenda was topped by "the issue of constantly expanding and intensifying the operation and combat drills of the (Korean People's Army) ... strictly perfecting the pre-

paredness for war", the official Korean Central News Agency said. The meeting of North Korea's central military commission comes as commercial satellite imagery suggests "extensive parade preparations" are underway in Pyongyang ahead of key state holidays this month. North Korea celebrates the founding anniversary of its armed forces on Wednesday and the "Day of the Shining Star" on February 16. The latter is the birthday of Kim Jong Il, son of North Korea's founder Kim Il Sung and father of Kim Jong Un.—AFP

France hit by new strikes, protests over pension reform

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# SPORT

## Myanmar national football team to play intl friendly matches in March



made for the remaining match.

As the head coach of the Myanmar national team, Antoine Hey, mutually parted company with the football federation at the end of January, a new coach or an interim coach must be appointed to play these friendly matches.

The Myanmar team played five international friendly matches in 2022, drawing two and losing three including a goalless draw match against the Hong Kong team in May 2022, and one defeat match against Bahrain 0-2.

In September, they played two friendly matches against the Hong Kong team, losing the first match 0-2 and the second match with a goalless draw. They lost by six goals in a friendly match against Thailand in December. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Myanmar team youth striker Win Naing Tun (red jersey) tries for the header during their AFF Cup 2022 match against Malaysia team. PHOTO: THAW GYI

THE Myanmar national football team will compete in international friendly matches during the international week in March.

The Myanmar Football Federation is planning for Team Myanmar to play friendly matches, and two matches will be played.

The Myanmar national team has stopped training

since the end of the 2022 AFF Cup and will be able to train and prepare for international friendly matches only in the third week of March.

The Myanmar team will play against the national teams from the Asian region, and they have reached an agreement with the Indian national team, and comparisons are being

## Messi and PSG face potentially season-defining week

A French Cup trip to bitter rivals Marseille on Wednesday is the start of seven days that could define this season for Paris Saint-Germain, with a Champions League showdown against Bayern Munich approaching. The Bundesliga giants visit the French capital for the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie next Tuesday, but there will be no easy build-up to that game for PSG.

Marseille await them in the bear pit of the Velodrome for a French Cup last-16 tie as the Parisians aim to reclaim a trophy they missed out on last season after winning it six times in the previous seven

years.

Then they go to inform Monaco on Saturday. A match that could be one of the biggest obstacles remaining to their title bid in Ligue 1. They are eight points clear of nearest rivals Marseille and Lens at the top of the table.

PSG have an excellent Cup record against Marseille, winning 10 of the 11 past encounters between the clubs, including two finals in the last two decades.

Yet while Marseille will have a hostile crowd in their favour with 65,000 fans behind them on Wednesday, PSG's domestic superiority has been questioned in recent weeks. —AFP



Paris Saint-Germain's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi (L) and Paris Saint-Germain's Italian midfielder Marco Verratti arrive for a training session at Saint-Germain-en-Laye, west of Paris on 7 February 2023, on the eve of French Cup football match against Olympique de Marseille. PHOTO: AFP

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

#### 1. Political affairs

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

#### 2. Economic affairs

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

#### 3. Social affairs

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

## Britain's Joshua sets date for Franklin bout

FORMER world heavyweight champion Anthony Joshua will face American Jermaine Franklin at London's O2 Arena on 1 April. Joshua is returning to the ring after two successive defeats to Oleksandr Usyk, with the British fighter's most recent loss against the Ukrainian coming last August in Saudi Arabia. The 33-year-old takes on Franklin in search of his first victory since beating Kubrat Pulev in 2020. Reigning WBC champion Tyson Fury held talks with Joshua's camp over an all-British bout but no deal was reached, leaving

Franklin as the first opponent on Joshua's comeback trail. Joshua, a two-time world champion, confirmed the contest in a tweet which contained a poster for the fight and read: "A new dawn."

Joshua was ringside in November when Franklin lost to Dillian Whyte at Wembley Arena, the first defeat of the American's 22-fight career.

There had been speculation prior to Joshua's split-decision defeat against Usyk last year that the former Olympic champion might be set to quit boxing. —AFP