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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.

SAC Chairman PM Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing confers honorary titles and medals on former Japanese Prime Minister, Chair of Japan-Myanmar Association

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing conferred honorary titles and medals on those who sacrificed for the development of the nation and peace and prosperity with might and main in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day 2023. On 1 and 2 January, the conferring ceremonies were successfully held, and the SAC Chairman Prime Minister himself conferred honorary titles on recipients in individuals at the ceremony.

Relevant chief ministers of regions and states and military command commanders presented honorary titles to the recipients at their homes or the persons on behalf of the recipients who could not attend the conferring ceremonies for various reasons.

Yesterday, the Senior General received Japan-Myanmar Association Chairman Mr Hideo Watanabe at the parlour of Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw and presented the honorary title and insig-

nia conferred on former Prime Minister of Japan Mr Taro Aso for his utmost performance in the development and peace and prosperity of Myanmar to Mr Hideo Watanabe on behalf of the former Japanese Prime Minister. Then, the Senior General conferred the relevant title and insignia on Mr Hideo Watanabe in person.

First, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Thiri Pyanchi Sithu Soe Htut read the order of conferring the title. The Senior General himself conferred Thiri Pyanchi title and insignia on Mr Hideo Watanabe for his excellent performance in the development and peace and prosperity of Myanmar.

Then, the Senior General presented the Thray Sithu title and insignia for former Japanese Prime Minister Mr Taro Aso for his excellent performance in the development and peace and prosperity of Myanmar to Mr Hideo Watanabe on behalf of the former Japanese Prime Minister.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General expressed

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State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing presents the Thray Sithu title and insignia for former Japanese Prime Minister Mr Taro Aso to Mr Hideo Watanabe on behalf of the former Japanese Prime Minister on 20 February 2023.

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Objectives of 78th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day

- To serve primary duties of Tatmadaw for successfully safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes, and protecting the State Constitution and shielding the genuine disciplined multiparty democratic system
- To emphasize agreements in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) as much as possible for the restoration of the durable and perpetual peace across the nation as ceasing of armed conflicts is an actual requirement for realizing the multiparty democratic system
- To render assistance in protecting the national interests of the State, in safeguarding the life and property of the people and in participating in relevant sectors with utmost efforts whenever natural disasters fall
- To provide the necessary assistance by Tatmadaw for holding a free and fair multiparty democratic general election upon completion of undertakings in accord with the provisions of the state of emergency for the emergence of the Union based on democracy and federalism.

Judgements passed on 2 special civil appeal cases; 5 cases heard

A special appeal tribunal consisting of Chief Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union U Myo Tint, U Tin Hone, U Thein Ko Ko, and Daw Thin Thin Nwet, was convened yesterday morning at the Supreme Court and passed the judgements of two special civil appeal cases, Nos 28/2020 (Shan) and 18/2021 (Mandalay).

In addition, a total of five special civil appeal cases, No 30/2022 (Mandalay); 47/2020 (Sagaing); 48/2020 (Sagaing), 49/2020 (Sagaing) and 16/2022 (Mandalay) were heard following COVID-19 prevention and control guidelines. — MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Appointment of Head of Service Organization

THE State Administration Council has appointed U Htay Thwin from the Ministry of Defence on probation as Director-General of the Department of Technical, Vocational Education and Training of the Ministry of Science and Technology from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

State Administration Council Press Release

Re-invitation to Myanmar citizens who reside in various regions for many reasons

1. Some student youths, State service personnel and citizens, with worries, have evaded to areas of EAOs and foreign countries due to the incitements and intimidation of NLD members, extremist followers, unlawful associations and terrorist groups such as CRPH and NUG, stimulation of CDM, and persons and organizations at home and abroad not wishing to restore peace and stability of the State since Tatmadaw assumed the State responsibilities on 1 February 2021.
2. They are further worried about the dictatorship statement and speeches of unlawful association and terrorist group CRPH and NUG, and some relevant persons. As they face no security guarantee and difficulties in socio-economic life in those areas, they wish to return to their native lands.
3. **The State Administration Council will specifically ease restrictions for service personnel, intellectuals and intelligentsia, and persons from various arenas and citizens who, with worries, absconded from the country except for persons who committed murders, robberies, setting fires, mine explosions and intentional attacks on security troops, those who crowded to attack public service personnel and some people, those who destroyed government and private-owned buildings and those who are highly involved in the CDM activities by providing monetary assistance and other means.**
4. As those who evade their native areas are also citizens, the State Administration Council will arrange their returns from the evaded areas to various parts of Myanmar.
5. As such, the information was released that if those who evaded to various areas, except for persons who committed any kinds of crime, wish to return to their native lands in Myanmar of their own accord due to multiple worries, the citizens abroad can contact nearby ward, village, township and district administration bodies and relevant embassies, military attaché offices and consulates in accord with the easing restrictions under the law.

*Information Team
State Administration Council*

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No new case of COVID-19 reported on 20 February, total figure stands at 633,901

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases stood at **633,901** after **no** new case was reported on 20 February 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,369**, including **six** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at **19,490** on 20-2-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. — MNA

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increasing of death rate based on the disease.

Ensuring production of raw materials enhances healthy market for finished products

MANUFACTURING based on domestic raw materials will be more firm for the economic development of the region and the State. Only when the production of raw materials is firm will finished products gain progress with a firm market.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with MSME businesspersons from Kayin State on 17 October 2022.)

SAC Chairman PM Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing ...

FROM PAGE-1

his pleasure in conferring the title on the chair of the Japan-Myanmar Association for his emphasizing the development of Myanmar and bilateral friendship for many years. He has been making utmost efforts for focusing on friendly ties between the two countries and the two armed forces, the development of Myanmar and the investment of Japan in Myanmar. Thanks to his efforts, both countries and peoples as well as two armed forces could cement friendly relations and cooperation, and the Senior General expressed his belief that the chair of the association would strive for further development of both countries. History cannot be erased but can remain unchanged as long as the

world exists.

Mr Hideo Watanabe, in his speech, pledged to further promote friendly relations between the two countries. The former Prime Minister of Japan cannot come here to accept the title in person but he missed the chance due to elections in Japan at present. The former Japanese Prime Minister told the association chairman to convey his message to thank the Senior General. The association chairman pledged to strive for the development of Myanmar and the standing of Myanmar Tatmadaw throughout his life.

Later, the Senior General and the Japan-Myanmar Association Chairman had documentary photos taken together with attendees. — MNA/TTA



SAC Chair Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing receives Mr Hideo Watanabe, Chairman of the Japan-Myanmar Association in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Opening ceremony of 51st Myanmar Health Research Congress held

THE opening ceremony of the 51st Myanmar Health Research

Congress was held at the Department of Medical Research, No 5,

Ziwaka Road in Dagon Township of Yangon Region yesterday.



The opening ceremony of the 51st Myanmar Health Research Congress is in progress in Yangon yesterday.

First, SAC Chair Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech via video message. The message of the Senior General is separately reported on Page 4.

Then, Union Minister for Health Prof Dr Thet Khaing Win said the ministry is making efforts to improve the health standard of people in accord with the guidance of the State Administration Council. The Health Research Congress being held today is a great legacy and congratulates the outstanding Myanmar health researchers. The theme for this year's congress is "The Fight Against Zoonotic Diseases: A One Health Approach".

The development of research work is directly proportional to the comprehensive development of the country and the Ministry of

Health will provide assistance for the development of the research. It should conduct health-related research for the benefit of the country and its people. The researchers also work hard to express the findings in local and foreign research journals in addition to reading out the research to ensure knowledge sharing and management at the congress.

Then, Director-General Dr Zaw Than Tun of the Department of Medical Research delivered a greeting speech and took commemorative photos.

Afterwards, the Union minister, the Yangon Region chief minister and regional ministers, directors-general of the Ministry of Health, sectors and officials of the Defence Services Medical Research Unit observed the posters displayed. — MNA/KTZH

Honorary speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to opening ceremony of 51st Myanmar Health Research Congress

20 February 2023

Everybody, Mingalaba!

I extend greetings to all with my best wishes for officials, health experts, researchers and guests attending today's 51st Myanmar Health Research Congress to be auspicious and for physical and mental well-being.

I know that the Health Research Congress aims to improve prevention and treatment subjects concerning the health sector, to promote healthcare standards and to exchange knowledge among the relevant health experts to be able to apply the findings in research in the practical fields.

The Health Research Congress was initiated in 1965. In the early years, the congress covered submission of research papers. The Congress has been comprising the research poster show since 1991 and symposiums on a wider scale since 2002. Since 1993, the best paper award and best poster award have been presented to the winners to improve the research qualification of researchers and to make endeavours in submitting the paper with competitiveness. Moreover, the youth research award has been presented to the winners starting in 2010 for encouraging the new generation of youth researchers.

The 51st research congress is scheduled to be held for five consecutive days from 20 to 24 February 2023. The research paper supervisory subcommittee has systematically selected the basic research papers, applied research papers, social and health system research papers and research posters to be submitted to congress, and it is known that arrangements have been made to show the posters in the in-person system. The congress will comprise submitting 58 research papers and 34 research posters, and four symposiums will take place with the participation of local and foreign experts. As such, I would like to express my pride in effective endeavours in uplifting the health standard of the nation.

Nowadays, the majority of emerging infectious diseases and pandemics including Cov-



id-19 originated from zoonotic diseases. So, the theme of this year's congress was set as The Fight Against Zoonotic Diseases: A One Health Approach. The symposiums related to the theme will be held with the participation of local and foreign experts whose exchange of knowledge will depend on their experiences. I firmly believe that the cooperation of both local and foreign experts will bring about fruitful results.

Currently, much evidence has emerged that modern molecular techniques contribute much to exposing new therapies and new medicines in conformity with global advancements. In this regard, researchers from Myanmar and the Republic of Korea will exchange views and knowledge about Clinical Significance of Molecular Techniques: A Focus on TB and Hepatitis B which will highlight tuberculosis and Hepatitis diseases.

Nowadays, the globe has been facing violent infection and the outbreak of the pandemic due to variant viruses and genetic changes of Covid-19 and Dengue Fever. As such, it is necessary to strive for improvement of research capability so as to keep genetic changes under surveillance on time and perform prevention and treatment measures. The government will continuously

provide necessary assistance and encourage cooperation with the international community.

At the same time, all need to effectively and widely conduct research tasks related to non-infectious diseases such as cancer, diabetes and hypertension. Priority must be given to conducting research processes related to preventing and controlling diseases based on pollution in the environment. I would like to urge all to cooperate with veteran traditional medicine practitioners and those from the Traditional Medicine Department to have further exact and firm research data to benefit the people through applied research processes related to traditional medicines and penetrate the traditional medicinal science of Myanmar and traditional medicine products into the international community.

As the government allows cash assistance for research projects annually for the implementation of research grants being conducted by the Ministry of Health and has allotted K677.3 million of the fund for operating 173 research projects initially selected by the research proposal initial verification body in 2022-23 financial year, I would like to urge those researchers to strive for achieving greater success in their projects.

In doing the health re-

search processes, it is necessary to carry out for the people to thoroughly comprehend improvement of basic health conditions and healthy lifestyle and to have knowledge about the nature on infection of diseases and preventable capacity in order to raise the life expectancy of the people for serving their interests. Moreover, it is important to gear up the research on traditional medicines and promote cooperation in research with the international community under the research ethics and timely inform the people about research findings through congresses, local and foreign research journals and publications. I would like to urge all to successfully implement a social objective among the 12 objectives of the State Administration Council: "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".

In line with the National Health Research Policy: To inculcate a good research culture through the creation of a favourable research environment and promoting research in academic institutions, it is necessary to turn out young scholars who are keen to carry out their tasks after conducting research, that is, research-mindedness in our country. To have such a result,

it is necessary to consecutively hold the current health congress so as to nurture those scholars since their studenthood to have the hobby of doing research.

At the same time, they all need to follow the national health research policy "To establish a well-functioning system of "Responsible Conduct of Research" in health research and academic institutions". It is very important for the researchers to steadfastly realize that their research projects must be correct and accurate and these must be responsible conduct of research to bring advantages only to the patients and the people.

As far as I know that duties and functions to successfully hold the congress were assigned in a systematic manner, I would like to deeply express my thanks to all members of the leading committee, work committee and subcommittees for organizing the congress, paper and poster researchers and local and foreign experts for participation in the symposiums.

In conclusion, I would like to urge all participants

- to seek good research results from the research papers, research posters and symposiums from the 51st Myanmar Health Research Congress, and
- to successfully strive for ensuring the longevity of everybody free from diseases in accord with the objective of the Ministry of Health.

I would like to express my firm belief that the evidence-based research findings can be vividly implemented for ensuring better health of Myanmar citizens in applying the medical research findings in accord with the vision of the Department of Medical Research, with my best wishes for researchers to have the capacity to conduct good researches which can be the best driving force for the development of the nation in order to keep abreast of the international community.

Thank you all.

SAC Member DPM Union Defence Minister meets staff in Sagaing Region, visits Monywa General Hospital (500-bed), military hospital

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Defence Minister General Mya Tun Oo, Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Myat Kyaw, North-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Than Htike and officials met the Sagaing Region government, regional-level heads of departments and teachers from primary schools, colleges and universities in Monywa Township at Chindwin Hall of the office of Sagaing Region government on the morning of 19 February.

Firstly, Deputy Prime Minister General Mya Tun Oo clarified the progress of the government's implementation of the SAC Five-Point Road Map and the five-point ASEAN consensus for Myanmar.

Next, the Deputy Prime Minister and officials visited the residents who are receiving treatment at the Monywa General Hospital (500-bed) and provided nutritious foodstuffs.

In the afternoon, he met the family members of Monywa Station at the Zeyathiri Hall of North-West Command and handed over the foodstuffs. After that, he friendly greeted officers, other ranks and their family members who were present at the meeting.

Then, the Deputy Prime Minister and party went to the local military hospital in Monywa Township to encourage Tatmadaw members and their families, police members and residents who are receiving medical treatment, and provide nutritious foodstuffs. — MNA/CT



Deputy Prime Minister Union Defence Minister General Mya Tun Oo comforts patients in the Monywa General Hospital yesterday.

SAC Member, Union Information Minister inspect upgrading of Pitakat Museum in Maha Muni Buddha Image, meet education staff in Mandalay



SAC Member U Maung Ko, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn and Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung meet education personnel in Mandalay yesterday.

SAC Member U Maung Ko, Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn and Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung visited Maha Muni Buddha Image in Mandalay and viewed round the upgrading work of the Pitakat Museum yesterday and met rectors, pro-rectors from universities and degree colleges, education officers, headmasters and headmistresses of high and middle schools from regions, districts and townships.

During the meeting, SAC Member U Maung Ko said that the Union Government has appointed him and Union Minister for Information as members of the Education, Health and Human Resources Development Committee.

Two years ago, the Mandalay Region government, depart-

mental personnel and people made collaborative efforts to ensure peace and stability in the region to a certain level and more enrolment to vocational schools is needed without fail, he stressed.

Next, Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn and Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung gave greeting remarks urging them to promote the level of higher education. Afterwards, representative students from universities received daily diaries and handbags presented by the SAC member, the Union minister and the Mandalay Region chief minister. After the meeting, SAC Member U Maung Ko and party cordially greeted attendees and enjoyed tea and refreshment.— MNA/TS

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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.

MoI Union Minister, Mandalay Region Chief Minister inspect construction of Fine Arts Centre (Mandalay)

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn and Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Myo Aung inspected construction of the international-standard Fine Arts Centre (Mandalay) at Chanyathazi Township, Mandalay yesterday afternoon.

At the construction site, the responsible personnel explained the building's construction status. I-Green Development &

Engineering Group started constructing that building on 5 April 2016. The size of the building is 350x250x100 feet. It is a steel structure building with two floors above ground and two floors underground. The necessary arrangements are made to complete the construction of the building as soon as possible.

—MNA/KZW



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn and Chief Minister U Myo Aung of Mandalay Region views the construction of the Fine Arts Centre (Mandalay) yesterday.

24th Myanmar-Thai joint drug control meeting held



The 24th Myanmar-Thai joint drug control meeting is in progress yesterday in Yangon.

THE 24th Myanmar-Thai joint drug control meeting was held at the Park Royal Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

At the meeting, Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control Secretary Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar Police Force Maj-Gen Zin Min Htet said that narcotic drugs are one of the biggest problems every country in the world is faced with, that drug trafficking and drug abuse are related to transnational crimes

and are growing and that the problem continues to be a challenge that can pose negative consequences to health, economic and social matters and national development of all the countries.

He added that Myanmar regards the fight against narcotic drugs as a national duty and is carrying out drug abuse control in cooperation with neighbouring countries, Mekong member countries, BIMSTEC members and ASEAN members. He also

thanked Thailand for giving all the necessary help and support to the anti-drug measures of Myanmar.

Then, Secretary-General Mr Wichai Chaimongkhon of the Narcotics Control Board of Thailand said that Myanmar-Thai cooperation has led to considerable success and that Thailand will continue providing capacity-building courses for members of Myanmar anti-drug force and modern technical equipment. — MNA/KZW

Paper reading session of 51st Myanmar Health Research Congress launched for first day

THE paper reading session of the 51st Myanmar Health Research Congress (first day) was held at the Medical Research Department in Dagon Township of Yangon Region yesterday.

During the event, Union Minister for Health Prof Dr Thet Khaing Win presided over the session together with Director-General of the Medical Research Department Prof Dr Zaw Than Tun.

Then, the resource persons read out their papers respectively and the attendees discussed papers.

Next, the Union minister gave a speech of conclusion and the morning session of paper reading was concluded.

The congress will take

place from 20 to 24 February. During the congress, 18 basic research papers, 32 Applied Research papers, 8 Health Systems Research papers and 34 research posters will be presented. The paper award selecting subcommittee will present the best paper awards including Basic Research, Applied Research, Health Systems Research, best poster and young researchers.

The experts from the Pusan National University of ROK, and the Miyazaki University of Japan will attend the congress in person and the ones from the University of California Davis of the US will attend online. —MNA/KTZH



The paper reading session of the 51st Myanmar Health Research Congress is underway yesterday.

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.

Interview with a representative from the ASEAN Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on Myanmar's stance and cooperation with ASEAN in the implementation of the ASEAN five-point consensus

Q - Could you please explain how the ASEAN five-point consensus evolved?

A - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Chairman of ASEAN for 2021, extended an invitation to the Chairman of the State Administration Council, Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing for attending the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting on 24-4-2021 at the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia, which was convened in-person after more than a year of the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, that informal meeting was called under the name of the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting to discuss the internal political developments of Myanmar.

The meeting was held with three agendas; (1) ASEAN Community Building, (2) ASEAN's External Relations, and (3) Exchange of views on Regional and International Issues. At the meeting, the Chairman of the State Administration Council reiterated Myanmar's commitment to work closely with the chair, including all ASEAN Member States, to successfully achieve the chair's deliverables aiming for a resilient and sustainable recovery from COVID-19 and for further progress towards the ASEAN Community building efforts. The Chairman of the State Administration Council also comprehensively apprised the meeting of the recent developments in Myanmar, especially on the reason why the Tatmadaw had constitutionally assumed the State's responsibilities on 1 February 2021, handling of protests in maximum restraints, and the structure, future programmes and works of the State Administration Council.

ASEAN Leaders also exchanged views on the current situation and some suggestions were highlighted in the Chairman's Statement at the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting. In response to the suggestions made by ASEAN Leaders, the Chairman of the State Administration Council informed the meeting on three points; (1) Myanmar will consider carefully some constructive suggestions made by ASEAN Leaders based on evolving domestic situation of the country, (2) As Myanmar prioritizes to maintain law and order and to restore community peace and tranquillity, Myanmar will consider some suggestions based on the national interests of the country (3) the suggestions will be positively considered if it would facilitate the implementation of the Five-Step Road Map laid down by the State Administration Council and are based on the purposes and principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, ASEAN



Chairman of the State Administration Council, Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting on 24-4-2021 held at the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Way and ASEAN Spirit. Those points were issued in the press statement on 26 April 2021.

The Chair of the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting released the Chairman's Statement where the ASEAN five-point consensus was annexed mentioning the immediate cessation of violence, commencement of a constructive dialogue among all parties concerned, the appointment of a special envoy of the ASEAN Chair, provisions of humanitarian assistance through the AHA Centre and the visit of the special envoy to Myanmar.

In fact, the then ASEAN Chair did not officially inform or negotiate with other ASEAN Member States on the issuance of the five-point consensus. Therefore, we can hardly call it a consensus reached among the ASEAN Member States through negotiation and formal adoption. Nevertheless, Myanmar is fully committed to cooperating with other ASEAN Member States in implementing the five-point consensus based on ASEAN's fundamental principles.

Q - What is Myanmar's official position on the ASEAN five-point consensus?

A - The ASEAN Leaders' Meeting was held on 24-4-2021 in Jakarta not as a regular ASEAN Summit but as an informal ASEAN Leaders' Meeting. The issuance of the five-point consensus was not informed in advance and it was released as an annexe of the Chairman's Statement of the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting. In this regard, Myanmar views the ASEAN five-point consensus as not a legally binding

document but a proposal based on constructive suggestions of ASEAN family members to implement and cooperate as much as possible in accordance with the national interests of the concerned member state. The Information Team of the State Administration Council publicly declared Myanmar's official positions at the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting through a Press Release on 26-4-2021.

The precis of the Press Release on the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting is; Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services attended the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting which was held at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 24 April 2021 at the invitation of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; at the Meeting, the Chairman of the State Administration Council reiterated Myanmar's commitment to work closely with the chair, including all ASEAN Member States, to successfully achieve chair's deliverables aiming for a resilient and sustainable recovery from COVID-19 and for further progress toward the ASEAN Community building efforts; the Chairman of the State Administration Council also apprised the Meeting of the recent developments in Myanmar especially on the reason why the Tatmadaw had constitutionally assumed the State's responsibilities on 1 February 2021, handling of protests with maximum restraints, and the structure, future programmes and activities of the State Administration Council comprehensively; ASEAN Leaders also exchanged views on the

current situation which some suggestions were highlighted in the Chairman's Statement on the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting; in response to some of the suggestions made by ASEAN Leaders, Myanmar informed the Meeting that it will give careful consideration to constructive suggestions made by ASEAN Leaders when the situation returns to stability in the country since priorities at the moment were to maintain law and order and to restore community peace and tranquillity; in this regard, Myanmar also informed the Meeting that the suggestions would be positively considered if it would facilitate the implementation of the five-step road map laid down by the State Administration Council, serves the interests of the country and was based on the purposes and principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, ASEAN Way and ASEAN Spirit; Myanmar also suggested ASEAN Leaders to thoroughly review the information booklet circulated at the Meeting before comments are made relating to the current political situation in Myanmar.

As mentioned above, Myanmar is fully and closely cooperating with ASEAN not only in implementing the five-point consensus but also in the ASEAN Community Building efforts despite imposing targeted pressures on Myanmar based on groundless accusations and allegations of ASEAN's division on the Myanmar issue. Those one-sided allegations are totally groundless, and biased and would not lead to a constructive approach and solution but only worsen the already-existed misperceptions against Myanmar.

TO BE CONTINUED

OPINION

Try to improve both the mother language and learning access

EVERY country preserves its mother language which may be one or more than one languages even though it uses any international language as the official language. Most of the countries are formed with one more ethnic-using relevant languages as well as indigenous languages and dialects.

Whatever it may be, every country or every ethnic or national race uses its own language in communicating with others. Even if they learn school education or accumulate general knowledge on relevant subjects, they use not only any international languages but mother language.

Currently, some 40 per cent of the global population does not have access to learn education in a language they speak, write or understand. Hence, they have to make progress in learning mul-

tilingual education, especially in pursuing school education at different levels and more commitment to its development in public life.

International Mother Language Day recognizes that languages and multilingualism can advance inclusion. The United Nations set the Sustainable Development Goals which focus on leaving no one behind. UNESCO encourages and promotes multilingual education based on the mother tongue or first language.

Actually, language is the communication device between two sides or two persons. The emergence of mother languages is based on national characters, cultural heritage, and national histories. On the other hand, the mother languages reflect the prestige of relevant nationals and countries. If the survey is conducted in the mother language, it will expose the background history of relevant nations.

It is a type of education that begins in the language that the learner masters most and then gradually introduces other languages. This approach enables learners whose mother tongue is different from the language of instruction to bridge the gap between home and school, to discover the school environment in a familiar language, and thus, learn better.

The theme of the 2023 International Mother Language Day, "Multilingual education - a necessity to transform education" aligns with recommendations made during the Transforming Education Summit, where an emphasis was also placed on indigenous people's education and languages. As such, multilingualism contributes to the development of inclusive societies that allow multiple cultures, worldviews, and knowledge systems to coexist and cross-fertilize.

That is why efforts to improve the mother language can be defined as promoting the learning systems and teaching technologies not only for the global people especially school-age children but for relevant ethnics of mother countries. If so, all have to strive for the improvement of communication technologies based on relevant mother languages of the global countries.

The one who reawakened and revitalized the nation

By Myint Myat



Russian President Vladimir Putin attends the opening of new health facilities via a video link at the Novo-Ogaryovo state residence, outside Moscow, on 15 February 2023. PHOTO: MIKHAIL METZEL / SPUTNIK / AFP

THERE are many world leaders who can reawaken and revitalize elevate their countries.

I regard Russia as one of the world's top superpowers, so I felt compelled to take stock of a leader like Vladimir Putin of Russia today, a country reborn out of the fallen Soviet Union. The Soviet Union, once an outstanding superpower, disintegrated into smaller countries due to its general deterioration as well as external instigation. Republics of the Union broke away and some of them leant towards the US and some joined NATO. It was a fact that Russia, once a world power, became an economically poor and militarily inferior country.

As a KGB agent, prime minister and president

There was a man who was stricken with inconsolable grief when he saw his motherland deteriorating in every way and the brother states of the former Union became followers of the US. That man is no one but President Vladimir Putin, the Head of State of the Russian Federation. He served as a colonel of the former KGB in East Germany. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, he was called and assigned duties in politics. He is now 70 and he is very religious. He served as prime minister from 1999 to 2000, as president from 2000 to 2008 and

again as prime minister from 2008 to 2012. He has been president for the second time since 2012. It can be easily guessed that such an incumbent president must have a wealth of experience in the military, political and administrative fields.

International relations expanding with military operations

All those who have to take the responsibilities as the leader of Russia tend to have their ups and downs throughout their political life and be faced with all types of internal and external pressures. President Putin is no exception. It can be seen that the popularity of presidents and prime ministers is always likely to wax and wane in public opinion polls. It depends on their competent handling of internal and external pressures, political stability, and ability to unite the country and boost economic growth.

As the leader of Russia and the world's most popular political leader, Vladimir Putin has almost always had to experience and tackle the demonstrations of political opposition at home and economic sanctions from abroad. Amidst such challenges, he was able to make the country's economy grow sevenfold by introducing appropriate economic reforms in his first tenure as president. He succeeded in thwarting Chech-

en's attempt to break away from the federal Union. He won the war with Georgia. He managed to win Crimea in Ukraine over. At the request of the Syrian government, he saved Syria by eliminating insurgent rebels and jihad militants in the Syrian civil war.

On account of the special operations in some parts of eastern Ukraine, President Putin is currently faced with the worst tension of economic and political blockade between Russia and the US and between Russia and NATO. However, as a result of this limited war, it can be said that four regions in eastern Ukraine, home to Russian-speaking peoples of Russian stock, have been liberated from Ukraine and reunited with Russia.

Optimistic about their leader for their future

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia was described as a country restored to democracy, but it has been said for a long time that dictatorship has reared its head under President Putin. However, the Russians think well of their leader. Since 2010, they have regarded him as the leader who has raised their standard of living and brought prosperity to the country.

The Russians strongly believe that it is Vladimir Putin who has made their country pleasant and beautiful and their future

healthy and brilliant. According to Russian public opinion polls, 71 per cent of the people are in favour of the special operations staged by Russia. This is proof that the Russian people are optimistic about the act of their president.

Most of the critics are liberals of the Western Bloc who do erroneous research on the history of Russia and underestimate the Russian leaders. Suppression and imprisonment of the opposition, oppression of the media, human rights abuses and bribery are the usual pat expressions they use against their opposition. The calculation of their opposition is based on false information and, as a result, they cannot see the truth. Their miscalculation of the Russian leaders has made Ukraine pay a heavy price and spelt undesirable consequences for the whole world, including the Western Bloc and Russia.

The one who can shape the actual view without being out of touch with reality

I think that Vladimir Putin is a person who highlights the real situation of the Russian Federation. In the age of the Soviet Union, the Russians were poor and left behind in every way. The collapse of the Union made things worse. The Russians felt that their lives were insecure. The youth seemed to have lost their future. It is the duty of those who can be called leaders to solve all these problems. At that moment, Vladimir Putin rose to the occasion. A good leader must be able to think strategically for his country and shape his vision for his country clearly in the practical field. And he has been able to capitalize on his charisma to make his people contribute to his vision for his country. A remark points out that the Russian leader's strong mentality and personal power enable him to take responsibility bravely and make the right decisions even in dangerous circumstances. In addition, the Ukraine war has shown that President Putin has perceptive power. It seems that such a remark has been made by looking at the way he makes military decisions by

avoiding his opponents' malicious attacks against him and without losing sight of his original goal.

A leader who respects cultural values and public opinion

The Russian leader seems to suppose that whatever he thinks is always right as it is always for the sake of his people. Considering that he was born of Russian people and he is of Russian blood, he always directs his attention to Russian people. He seems to believe that a definite goal based on what people want and what is required has to be set and the leader and the people have to work in harmony towards the goal.

Vladimir Putin always tends to base national policies and strategies on Russian culture, Russian values and Russian public opinion. Moreover, it is thought that Russia is inseparable from Putin and vice versa. It is because of his constant influence on Russian society and his ability and willingness to lead the nation. According to the concept of leadership, the ability to lead is the result of self-driving. Great wisdom is also essential to self-driving. In addition, physical and mental fitness and self-confidence contribute to self-driving.

A physically and mentally strong patriot

What is another attribute that should be learnt from the Russian leader? What is the spirit the leader of a nation, especially one surrounded by enemies, must have? It is the love for his country and people and loyalty to his country and people. If one has that kind of spirit, one will have bravery to confront anything that would spell trouble for one's people and spill the blood of one's people. A leader like Vladimir Putin is convinced that he represents the entire mass of the Russian people. We should bear in mind that having such a conviction is due to having love for and loyalty to his country and people.

As a Russian leader, his appearance and bearing are a famous brand not only at home but also abroad. He has been often mentioned as the most powerful and influential person in mag-

azines across the world. His favourite sports are judo, hockey, yachting, mountaineering, and playing with animals such as tigers and bears. His physical and mental fitness, fearlessness, self-confidence and tremendous charisma make him a role model for the Russian youth.

It is worth noting that there are well-known words that are derived from his name such as 'Putinism'. In addition, the titles and medals conferred on him by the international community polish his image. In addition to military titles and honours, he received 14 civilian awards, 8 honorary titles and three peace and religious awards. All these reveal his outstanding ability and high performance in the civil and military fields.

Russia, a country most worth living though described as a dictatorship

Whatever the goal Russia is marching towards is and whether its political system is a dictatorship or a flawed democracy, I suppose that the current situation of Russia is in the best form thanks to the nature and characteristics of the Russian people and their leader and the country's extraordinary geopolitical and economic conditions. Most people look on him as an autocrat and the one and only decision-maker in the affairs of the country. But, in my opinion, he is far-sighted, wise, well-versed and thorough in every way. Not only that, but he is also a person who is good at making decisions by controlling and organizing the people around him as well.

He has a dream of making Russia great and he sometimes controls and influences his colleagues by intimidating them. Therefore, his colleagues are unhappy and fear him. On the other hand, however, they have complete trust in their leader. Anyway, he is an admirable leader who has placed Russia in a position to determine (the future) of the world.

Now is the time when stability, unity, progress and prosperity are the best for Russia, the Russian leader and the Russian

people. These are the sine qua non for a country. Nobody wants instability, chaos and disarray. Stability is vital to progress and development and so there must be tight control and management, to some extent, as and where necessary.

No one will be able to forget that Russia had bitter experiences after President Boris Yeltsin's resignation and that Vladimir Putin saved the country that had fallen. In times of hardship, a good leader must be able to analyze and solve problems by learning from his experiences. At that time, Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov said in praise of Vladimir Putin that the Russian leader saved not only Russia but also the Chechen Republic and Chechen people. Considering what the Chechen leader said, I strongly believe that Vladimir Putin is a leader who can solve both internal and external problems successfully.

I think Vladimir Putin is a leader indispensable to Russia and the Russians and pivotal to world peace. He is a leader who can do a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, oppor-

tunities and threats analysis) and put it into practice. That's one of his qualifications as well as his key to success. By studying the structure of Russia as an example, we can see how important far-sightedness, wisdom, influence and experiences of a leader are.

A leader may have succeeded in enhancing the image of his country, but the level of trust between him and his people can rise and fall. It is the law of nature. Owing to the developments taking place in the present-day world, no country is free from hardships and conflicts. Russia and its people are having to experience negative consequences, more or less. However, the Russian leader and his people have a good personality and strong spirit. Moreover, Russia can constantly turn out good leaders and have qualified human resources and sound infrastructure. Therefore, I believe that Russia and its people will be able to weather the hardships and challenges they are faced with today, looking for opportunities amidst threats and creating strengths.

Translated.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 20 February 2023)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is generally fair over the North Bay and Central Bay of Bengal and a few cloud to partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 21 February 2023: Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be generally fair in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Rakhine State and partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3 - 6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 February 2023: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 February 2023: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 February 2023: Partly cloudy.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Chair presents honorary titles to recipients' family members

THE State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister conferred honorary titles on recipients individually on 1 and 2 January in marking the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day.

Accompanied by Nay Pyi Taw Council members and the vice mayor of Nay Pyi Taw, Chair of Nay Pyi Taw Council Thiri Pyanchi U Tin Oo Lwin, Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Maj-Gen Zeya Kyawhtin Zaw Hein presented honorary titles to recipient's family members on 19 February morning.

Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Thiri Pyanchi U Tin Oo

Lwin and Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Maj-Gen Zeya Kyawhtin Zaw Hein presented the Sithu titles to former President U Htin Kyaw, son of U Wun (Min Thu Wun/ writer) and son-in-law of Council of State member U Lwin (Mon State), on their behalf. — MNA/KZW

Former President U Htin Kyaw received the Sithu titles on behalf of U Wun (Min Thu Wun) and former Council of State member U Lwin.



Public notice on cash fraud transactions from bank accounts

THE cases were opened against some unscrupulous persons at Thingangyun and Mayangon township police stations as they made a cash withdrawal of K102 million from a KBZ Bank Account of a woman from Thingangyun Township of Yangon Region on 6 February, another K37 million from KBZ Bank Account of another woman from Kamayut Township on 9 February using online.

A special investigation team was organized to arrest these swindlers and investigated bank accounts that received money transfers based on technology. On 12 February, six suspects – four males and two females – opened bank accounts that are used for

transferring money and resold the accounts.

They confessed that they sold the accounts at K10,000 per account to the swindlers. According to their words, the other two suspects – one male Nigerian and his wife – transferred and withdrew the money from a bank account using a communication network on 16 February at Building No C-4 of Star City Housing No 1802 in Thanlyin Township together with evidence including cash.

According to their confession, the officials arrested another three Nigerians at Star City Housing in Thanlyin Township and continued their investigation.

They confessed that those who will make swindles on KBZ Pay Account searched their targets by posting documents online regarding the upgrading processes of KBZ Pay Level via their Facebook account and Facebook page. They can know whether a person opens a KBZ Pay account using their phone numbers on KBZ Pay applications. They contacted the account owners pretending as KBZ bank staff from the KBZ Pay level upgrading department.

They then said to their human targets that they will upgrade the KBZ Pay level and resend the OTP to them. Then, they insert the OTP into the ap-

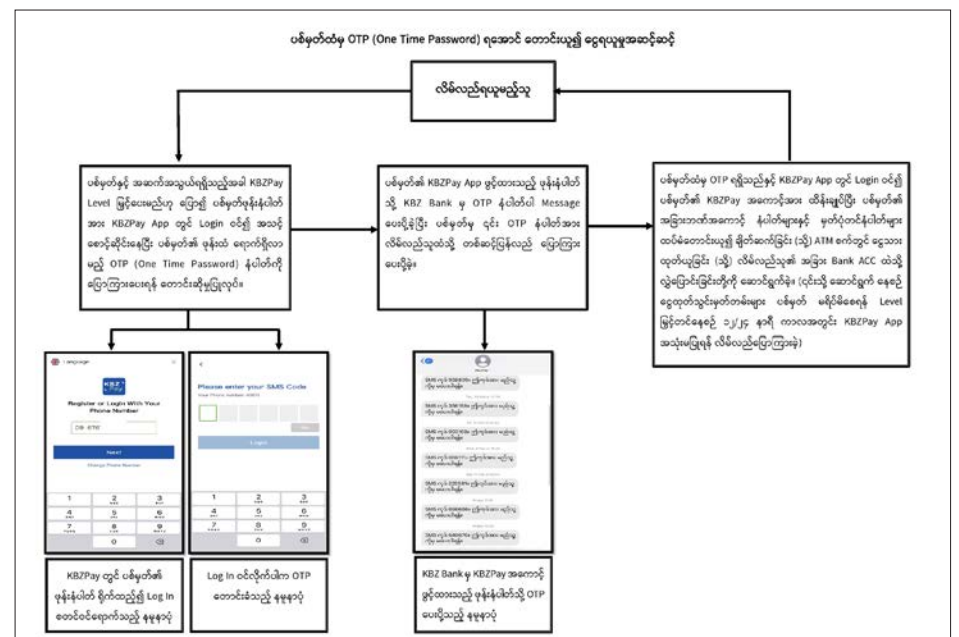
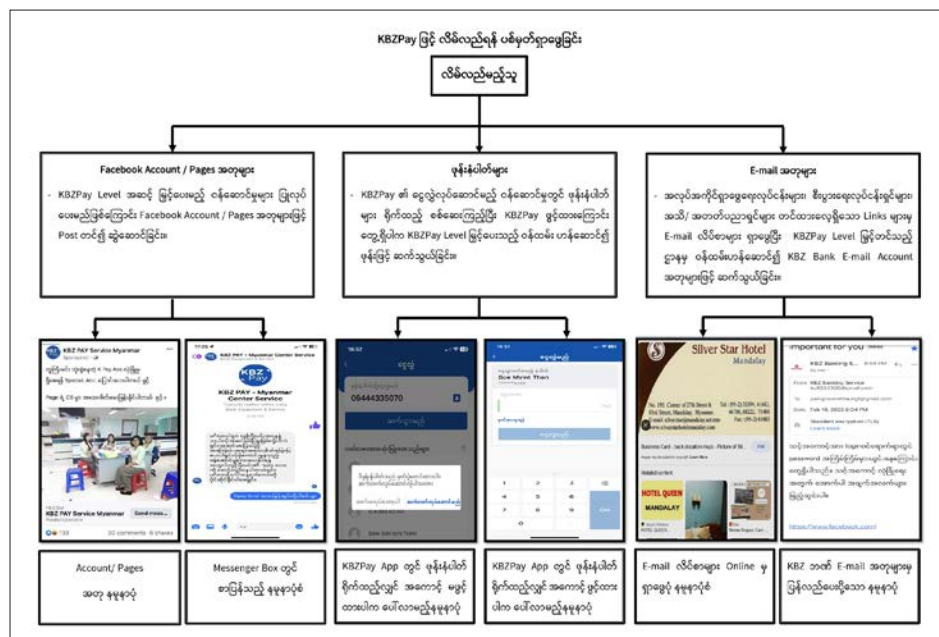
plication and completely control the KBZ Pay Account.

They also persuaded the victims that they will link the KBZ Pay with the Bank Account and ask for the Bank Account number and ID number. They then told the victims to suspend the use of KBZ Pay while upgrading the KBZ Pay Account Level and the KBZ Pay Account can be frozen while using two persons at the same time. Then, they transfer the cash to other KBZ pay accounts that they purchased. The victims can know only when they log into their KBZ Pay Account.

According to these methods, the crime breakers can know the data as some people highlight

their Email account, phone number, personal data and address of workplaces on social media and Facebook and so they can get the chance to make cash withdrawals by transferring the money. Therefore, people should emphasize their email, phone number and personal data and should not sell anything by opening a bank account except for personal needs.

Action will be taken against the offenders under the law. Those who are involved in the cases living outside Myanmar will be uncovered by cooperating with international police forces. The news has been announced for people to be aware of such cases.—MNA/KTZH



Diagrams of phone screenshots and explanations for the fraudulent transactions.

Yangon property market booms, apartment rent climbing

YANGON real estate market sees a sharp increase in buying plots of land rather than apartments. The apartment rent is also climbing, the realtors told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

“The buyers prefer the land to the apartments. As the plot of land does not decrease in value, they eye the plot of land without unresolved issues. The Grant land attracts more buyers than those with permits, a realtor Ma Wah from Dagon Myothit (South) Township told the GNLM.

The prices of some plots of land in four Dagon Myothit townships (East, North, South and Seikkan) are not that different from those of the apartments in the city.

“The land drew more attention from the buyers. The investors also prioritize the land although it is located on the outskirts of the city. The development projects will improve transportation and the population is growing in the metropolis city,” U Wunna, a realtor from Dagon Myothit (East) Township, shared his opinion.

The 20 feet by 60 feet plot of land is priced approximately at K50 million in expanding suburban areas. The price of the 12 feet by 60 feet apartment in a three-storey building in some old existing wards is also the same. The buyers depend on the realtors of the respective wards through social media to buy the land.

The property market has revived in the open season.

“High demand hikes up the market price as well. The prices of those houses with nice environments are fluctuating, making both the realtors and buyers confused by the volatile prices. If buyers like them, they agree to the deal, U Aung Myo from Dagon Myothit (East) Township elaborated.

“The market went into chaos in early 2023. The prices of apartments and rents jumped. Those investors who do not want to hold cash or save in banks turn to the apartment sector. They purchased the apartments, changed the interior design and added value to them. Then, they raise the price and resell them. The Yangon property market booms this month. The price of the 12.5 feet by 50 feet apartment on the first and second floors is exorbitantly high at K80 and 90 million. The 15 feet wide apartment on the fourth and fifth floors was priced at over K100 million, the GNLM quoted a buyer U Tun Tun Oo from Sangyoung Township as saying.

“The rent is also up by K50,000 to K100,000. The realtors and investors are reaping high profits. Nonetheless, this weighed on the residents,” U Tun Tun Oo added.

With apartment prices climbing, house prices and apartment rent in suburban areas rise accordingly.

“The rent for a 10x60 feet house increased to K150,000 from K60,000-70,000. The rents are rocketing in the city,” Ko Zaw Lin, a realtor from Thingangyun Township, told the GNLM. — TWA/EM

No 1 Friendship Bridge of Tachilek-Mae Sai reopened

THE No 1 Friendship Bridge of Tachilek-Mae Sai was reopened on 20 February after being closed for three years due to Covid-19 control restrictions.

It was reopened after officials of the two countries negotiated several times. Temporary border crossing passes are also issued at the bridge. As passers-by can use the bridge

from 6 am to 6 pm and they need to show full vaccination for Covid-19. Last January, the official of Chiang Rai district sent a notice to the Tachilek district administrator to reopen the bridge.

No 1 bridge will be used for pedestrians and No 2 bridge will be used for trade and transport of goods.— TWA/KZW

Interconnection of power system between Myanmar-China

THE Myanmar-China power system interconnection project will be implemented, according to the committee on the implementation of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor.

The project as part of CMEC led by the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Energy will be developed and the implementation committee is assigned to cooperate with relevant departments in generating and delivering electricity, and oil and gas.

Currently, the implementation committee organizes the energy cooperation working group for the project. The group will be responsible to cooperate in CMEC-related electricity and energy sectors.

The committee is assigned by the State Administration Council to launch projects bringing benefits to the economic development of the two countries, exchange experiences and propose the major affairs for the development of the economic corridor.



Chinese officials are seen during the opening ceremony of the gas-fired combined cycle power station in Kyaukpyu Township of Rakhine State.

China made the largest investments in Myanmar, especially in the electricity sector.

The 1,700-kilometre-long CMEC is a crucial part of China's BRI. In the first phase of the economic corridor, it will connect the Kunming of Yunnan Province to Mandalay, the economic centre of Myanmar and then to Yangon to Kyaukpyu's special economic zone.

Kyaukpyu plays a key role

for CMEC and the economics of the Rakhine State will develop more. In the new era, China is willing to build a community with a shared future and work together in all sectors of Myanmar ensuring deep cooperation between China and Myanmar, said the Chinese ambassador to Myanmar during the opening ceremony of the recycle power station on 10 October 2022. —TWA/KTZH

Rakhine Waithali Period Coin Searching and Rakhine Studies Symposium held

AN annual meeting and research symposium of the Rakhine Literature and Culture Association (Yangon) was held at the Rakhine State Dhamma Hall near Shwedagon Pagoda on the morning of 19 February.

A symposium on Rakhine history research was included in the ceremony. The thesis writer Maung Phyu (Kywi Te Kyun) read the thesis on finding the coins of the western kings of the Rakhine Waithali period by the hunter's footprint method, and the thesis writer Htay Wai (Kyaukphyu) read the thesis on Kamaranga/

Kama Lanka/Kangyan/Rakhine study. The thing that cannot be completely left out of the coins of the Western kings of the Rakhine Waithali era is the Buddhist Synod Mawgun Stone inscribed by King Ananda Candra.

This stone is a complete record of the kings who ruled from the Rakhine Waithali period (from the 1st century AD to the 7th century AD). In addition, the name of the Kanyan people in the ancient history of Rakhine and Myanmar is a name that changed from the name of Kamaranga city of Oh Htein Sanskrit stone inscription.

Thesis writer Htay Wai (Kyaukphyu) recorded that the name of Rakhine Kamaranga state was called Kamaranga city in the AD 6th century.

The Rakhine History Research Symposium was chaired by Lifetime Literary Award-winning author Phoe Kyawt and National Literary Award-winning writer Kyun Sin Myay Saw Khet, and Chairman of Rakhine Literature and Culture Association (Yangon) U Than Maung (Sittway), and Rakhine History Researcher Prof Dr Saw Tun Aung and Prof Dr Saw Mra Aung participated.

Images of Rakhine coins related to the theme of the symposium, pictures of Rakhine stone inscription, pictures of Rakhine culture and historical documents were displayed and history books were also sold during the event.—TWA/KTZH



Annual Meeting 2023 and Research Paper Reading are being held.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Trade Dept to review Advanced Telegraphic Transfer system for exports

THE Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce will evaluate the Advanced Telegraphic Transfer (TT) system to be eased in export procedures.

Truck drivers need to seek QR code-based Vehicle Pass permits beforehand on digital platforms starting from 11 February 2023 in order to export goods in border trade, the Trade Department notified.

The Trade Department (head office) notified Muse-Namhkam Border Trade Chamber of Commerce to disseminate this information stating that once the QR code-based Vehicle Pass system achieves success, easing the TT system will be considered. On 1 February 2023, the department launched an online system to issue vehicle passes intending to facilitate the exports of various pulses, corn, sesame and peanut in the border channel.

Consequently, those truck drivers who have received vehicle passes digitally in advance are allowed to pass the border point.

The drivers of those afore-

mentioned goods are required to seek it ahead.

This vehicle pass can be done on Myanmar Tradenet 2.0 portal. The applicants holding

export licenses have to fill in the classification of the vehicle in the Vehicle Monitoring System (<https://vehicle.myanmar-tradenet.com>). After screening

the application, QR code-based Vehicle Pass will be issued. For those goods which do not need export licences, they can directly seek vehicle passes.

The trucks can pass the checkpoints with that QR code. Those drivers which fail to show the QR code are not entitled to leave.

That system kicked off on a trial run between 1 and 10 February along Muse, Myawady and Chinshwehaw borders. There were no charges on it during the trial period.

That system will be fully operational from 11 February. Each truck will be charged K5,000. For further information, people can dial the contact number of the Trade Department (067-408671, 408485, 408670, 408509, 408511) and email dotictygn@commerce.gov.mm, dot.ict.tradenet@gmail.com within office hours. — NN/EM



Lorries laden with export cargoes are seen on the Sino-Myanmar border.

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 20 February 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,100
Octane 95	K2,175
Diesel	K2,160
Premium Diesel	K2,240

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,174,800 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,858,000 per tical

US Dollar Vs Kyat

A US dollar set by the Central Bank of Myanmar	K2,100
A US dollar in the forex market	K2,855 to K2,870

The above prices may change from time to time.

Palm oil reference price for Yangon Region declines this week ending 26 Feb

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market moved slightly down this week ending 26 February compared to that of the previous week, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The reference price stood at K4,490 per viss in the week from 13 to 19 February. For the week ending 26 February, the price was set higher at K4,470 per viss. The figures showed a small decrease of K20 per viss.

The Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution under the Ministry of Com-

merce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia including transport costs, tariffs and banking services, and issuing the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil every week.

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

If those edible oil retailers and wholesalers are found overcharging, storing inventory intentionally and attempting unscrupulous action to manipulate the market, they will face legal action under the Special Goods Tax Law, MoC released a statement.

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

At present, mobile market trucks operated by oil importing companies, in coordination with Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, were back to business in some townships on 17 July to offer palm oil at a subsidized rate. They sell palm oil at K4,650 per viss to consumers directly. However, there are limited sources of supply although they directly sell palm oil at a reference rate depending on the volume quota.

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at 1 million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the oil sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/EM



To meet the oil sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia.

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Asian markets rise but rate concerns cast shadow



A man looks at an electronic sign showing the closing numbers on the Tokyo Stock Exchange, along a street in downtown Tokyo on 18 January 2023. PHOTO: AFP

ASIAN markets mostly rose Monday but traders remained on edge as they considered the prospect of more US interest rate hikes aimed at bringing down stubbornly high inflation.

Equities have struggled to build on January's rally, with recent data showing that the Federal Reserve still had plenty of work to do to get prices under control.

Investors are now awaiting the release of minutes from the central bank's most recent policy meeting, hoping to gauge officials' views on their next steps.

Sentiment was given a jolt last week by comments from some members who said they were open to a 50 basis-point hike at the next gathering.

Several others have already warned that borrowing costs would likely have to go higher and stay there for longer to tame inflation, which has eased but remains elevated.

That has renewed concerns that the world's top economy could tip into recession, with commentators warning earnings will also take a hit.

Asian markets fluctuated following a mixed day on Wall Street on Friday.

Shanghai led gains, jumping more than two per cent as banking giant Goldman Sachs said it saw mainland Chinese

stocks surging this year as the country reopens after zero-Covid and economic activity kicks on.

"The growth impulse should be heavily tilted towards the consumer economy, where (the) services sector is still operating significantly below the 2019 pre-pandemic levels," strategists at the bank said.

Hong Kong, Tokyo, Seoul, Sydney, Bangkok and Taipei rose though Mumbai, Singapore, Manila, Jakarta and Wellington fell.

London, Paris and Frankfurt opened higher.

Analysts warned that while traders expect further rate hikes, there could be more bad news down the line.

National Australia Bank's Tapas Strickland said: "The equity market so far seems sanguine about the rates outlook, seemingly taking more signal from the better than expected macro data, than from what that then means for rates and getting inflation down." And Michael Wilson at Morgan Stanley said companies faced an earnings recession.

"The bear market rally that began in October from reasonable prices and low expectations has morphed into a speculative frenzy based on a Fed pause/pivot that isn't coming," he wrote in a note. — AFP

Malaysia's exports rise 1.6% in January

MALAYSIA'S exports rose by 1.6 per cent year on year to 112.84 billion ringgit (25.46 billion US dollars) in January, official data showed on Monday.

The export expansion was bolstered by the strong export of petroleum products, liquefied natural gas as well as electrical and electronic (E&E) products, the Ministry of International

Trade and Industry said in a statement.

It also said that exports to major trading partners, notably the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries and Japan, also recorded double-digit growth.

Meanwhile, Malaysia's trade expanded by 1.9 per cent year-on-year to 207.51 billion ringgit in

January.

Import was higher by 2.3 per cent to 94.67 billion ringgit.

The country's surplus amounted to 18.16 billion ringgit, a decrease of 2.1 per cent.

In January, exports of manufactured goods, which accounted for 84.2 per cent of the total export, decreased marginally by 0.1 per cent year

on year to 94.97 billion ringgit.

This was due to lower exports of manufactures of metal, rubber products as well as iron and steel products.

However, expansion in exports was seen for petroleum products, E&E products, optical and scientific equipment as well as beverages and tobacco. — Xinhua

Toyota to recall 22,965 imported Lexus cars in China

JAPANESE automaker Toyota started to recall Lexus imported cars from the Chinese market over safety concerns, China's top quality watchdog said Monday.

Filed by Toyota Motor (China) Investment Co Ltd, the recall involves 22,965 imported Lexus GS, IS, RC, and RC F models, the State Administration for Market Regulation said in a statement on its official website.

A total of 9,498 imported Lexus GS 250, GS 300, GS 350, GS 300h, and GS 450h models produced between 28 September 2011 and 22 August 2018; 12,527 imported Lexus IS 250 and IS 300 models produced



A visitor looks at a car at the booth of Toyota at the fifth China International Import Expo (CIIE) in east China's Shanghai, 6 November 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA

between 25 October 2012 and 10 August 2018; 884 imported Lexus RC 300 model cars produced

between 2 October 2015 and 2 August 2018; 56 imported Lexus RC F model cars produced between

29 September 2014 and 6 September 2017 will be recalled, according to the statement. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (774N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (774N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-2-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANGKA VOY.NO. (452S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANGKA VOY.NO. (452S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-2-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AYIT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Iran denies enriching uranium above 60%

IRAN on Monday denied reports that it has enriched uranium up to 84 per cent, just below the 90 per cent needed to produce an atomic bomb, state media reported.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said on Sunday evening that it was in discussions with Tehran after Bloomberg News reported that the watchdog's inspectors in Iran last week found uranium enriched to 84-per cent purity.

The spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, Behruz Kamalvandi, on Monday described the report as

“slander” and a “distortion of the facts”, according to state news agency IRNA.

“The presence of a particle or particles of uranium above 60 per cent in the enrichment process does not mean enrichment above 60 per cent,” he added.

A diplomat outside Iran meanwhile confirmed to AFP the figures reported in the Bloomberg report, saying: “The percentage is correct.”

The IAEA is “giving Iran the opportunity to explain because it's apparently possible that there can be so-called ‘spikes’ of higher

levels of enrichment”, the diplomat said.

Iran was last known to have enriched uranium up to 60 per cent. Uranium enriched up to 90 per cent purity is considered nuclear weapons-grade.

Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanani said on Monday that his country is “committed” to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and its safeguards agreement with the IAEA. He warned against the politicization of the role of the UN nuclear watchdog, saying it “distorts its position”. — AFP



This handout satellite image provided by Maxar Technologies and taken on 21 October 2020 shows an overview of Iran's Natanz nuclear facility, south of the capital Tehran. **PHOTO: SATELLITE IMAGE ©2021 MAXAR TECHNOLOGIES / AFP**

Search and rescue work to end as quake-hit Türkiye moves to shelter homeless

TURKISH authorities have almost completed search and rescue work nearly two weeks after massive earthquakes that claimed more than 40,000 lives in the country, a Turkish disaster agency said Sunday.

Search and rescue are still underway in 40 buildings of two heavily-damaged southern provinces, Hatay and Kahramanmaraş, head of Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) Yunus Sezer,

said at a press conference.

Works in the other quake-hit regions now focused on debris removal, sheltering the homeless, and infrastructure preparations, the AFAD chief said.

The death toll from two major earthquakes that struck southern Türkiye on 6 February has risen to 40,689, Sezer noted.

The figure is likely to increase further as search teams pull out more bodies. Rescue teams have not found any survivors in the past 24 hours.

The quake zone is estimated to have a population of 13.5 million, and many of them are now homeless, as their houses have either collapsed or are too dangerous to get in.

The Turkish government, along with local and international aid organizations, has launched a massive relief effort. — Xinhua



Rescue workers continue to clear rubble in the search for the missing from destroyed buildings in the quake-hit city of Kahramanmaraş, Türkiye, 19 February 2023. **PHOTO: MUSTAFA KAYA/XINHUA**

AU official urges turning difficulties into opportunities to transform Africa's energy sector

AFRICAN Union (AU) Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy Amani Abou-Zeid on Sunday urged African countries to turn difficulties into opportunities to transform Africa's energy sector.

“The last three years have been difficult years in the whole world with a series of crises that have brought several industries, several sectors and the lives of people around the world to disruptions in so many ways - the economies and the livelihoods,” Abou-Zeid told the press on the sidelines of the 36th Ordinary Session of the African Union (AU) Assembly.

She said the AU, in collaboration with partners, has been working in order to put the African continent on a path

of recovery from the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The AU commissioner, however, said since 2022, due to geo-political tensions and the Ukraine crisis, “the situation is getting more complex,” putting the energy sector into the spotlight across the world.

“These are not like any other times. The continent had problems before and these problems have been compounded by the crisis over the last three years,” Abou-Zeid said.

Noting Africa's long-existing energy deficit that was further exacerbated following recent global and continental phenomenon, the AU commissioner emphasized the need to exert concerted efforts to address the challenge. — Xinhua

US reaffirms pledge to deliver jets to Türkiye

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Monday reaffirmed Washington's commitment to delivering F-16 jets to Türkiye despite Turkish insistence that their approval should not depend on Ankara lifting objections to Sweden joining NATO.

Türkiye wants modernized versions of F-16 fighter jets for its ageing air force, but US Congress must approve any sale.

“The Biden administration strongly supports the package to both upgrade the existing F-16s

and to provide new ones,” Blinken told a press conference in Ankara.

But Blinken added he could not provide a “formal timeline” for approval and delivery.

It was Blinken's first visit to Türkiye as secretary of state in a trip that was planned before a 7.8-magnitude earthquake on 6 February, which has now killed nearly 45,000 people in Türkiye and Syria.

The top US diplomat is due to hold talks with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan later on

Monday in Ankara.

The United States, whose relations with Türkiye have been strained in recent years, has been looking for ways to persuade Erdogan to ratify NATO membership applications by Finland and Sweden.

Finland and Sweden dropped decades of military non-alignment and applied to join the US-led defence alliance last year in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

But Türkiye has yet to ratify

their applications and Ankara has opposed Sweden's refusal to extradite dozens of suspects that Türkiye links to outlawed Kurdish militants and a failed 2016 coup.

On Monday, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu dismissed any attempt to apply conditions to the F-16 jets approval.

“It would not be right to make Sweden and Finland's NATO membership a condition for the F-16s. They are two different issues,” he said. “Our hands should not be tied.”

Blinken said the United States “strongly” supported Finland and Sweden's admission into NATO “as quickly as possible”.

“Finland and Sweden have already taken concrete steps” to address Türkiye's concerns, he said.

Türkiye has signalled it is ready to accept Finland into NATO, but Cavusoglu said Kurdish militants continued “all kinds of activities including recruitment, terrorist propaganda” in Sweden. — AFP

N Korea fires ballistic missiles in warning over US, S Korea drills

NORTH Korea fired two ballistic missiles Monday, its second weapons test in 48 hours, which Pyongyang said was a drill for a rocket launcher capable of a “tactical nuclear attack” that could take out entire enemy air bases.

Pyongyang had already tested one of its most powerful intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) on Saturday and

warned more was to come, with leader Kim Jong Un’s powerful sister calling the Pacific the North’s “firing range”.

Seoul and Washington, who are moving to bolster security cooperation in the region to address Pyongyang’s growing threats, staged joint air drills after the ICBM launch – further enraging the North, which views such exercises as rehearsals for

invasion.

State media outlet KCNA said Monday’s missile drill involving “super-large multiple rocket launchers, the tactical nuclear attack means”, showed the North’s army could deter and counter any US-South Korean exercises, adding the weapons could “reduce to ashes the enemy’s operational airfield”. — AFP



People sit near a television showing a news broadcast with file footage of a North Korean missile test, at a railway station in Seoul on 20 February 2023. PHOTO: ANTHONY WALLACE / AFP

Cyclone recovery expected to cost New Zealand billions



This undated handout photo received on 16 February 2023 from the New Zealand Defence Force shows flooding in the Hawkes Bay region in the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle. New Zealand is under a national state of emergency after Cyclone Gabrielle bore down on its northern coast on 12 February. PHOTO: PLTOFF CALLUM POST / NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE / AFP

NEW Zealand said Monday it was likely to cost billions of dollars to recover from Cyclone Gabrielle as the national state of emergency was extended by another week.

Prime Minister Chris Hipkins confirmed 11 people have so far died in the wake of the dev-

astating flash flooding and high winds which lashed the North Island last week.

“Our thoughts remain with families and communities grieving loved ones during such a difficult time,” he added.

Hipkins has warned the final

death toll could rise, but the number of people who police were still looking to contact had fallen to about 2,300.

The full extent of the cyclone’s destruction is becoming clearer, as highways, power and telecommunications are re-established. The raging torrent of floodwater the cyclone unleashed swept away or badly damaged homes, businesses, bridges and roads across New Zealand.

Finance Minister Grant Robertson on Monday pledged NZ\$300 million (\$187 million) of relief.

Robertson warned the money pledged so far will only “scratch the surface” of the final figure needed, which he predicts will cost taxpayers “billions of dollars”.

“We have a long job ahead of us to rebuild after this disaster,” warned Robertson who Hipkins has also made cyclone recovery minister, “but we have the resources and the will to do it.” — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Red Cross Societies across Pacific meet to tackle climate change

DELEGATES of 14 Red Cross Societies across the Pacific region and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) gathered here on Monday to discuss ways to tackle challenges including climate change and disaster risk reduction.

Fiji Red Cross President Sala Toganivalu said the primary focus of this meeting will be dialogue to find ways to tackle issues that Red Cross national societies face in the region including the climate crisis, poor health outcomes, and pervasive social issues such as inequality and gender-based violence, local media reported.

The meeting will also reflect ways in which national societies have begun to implement the IFRC Strategy 2030 and Agenda for Renewal in the region and lessons learned from responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. Toganivalu said more discussions are expected in this meeting, which will conclude on Friday. — Xinhua

Death toll from floods, landslides rises to 36 in Brazil

FLOODS and landslides caused by heavy rains along the coast of southeast Brazil’s Sao Paulo state have claimed 36 lives, authorities said Sunday.

Earlier figure from the state government had put the victim number at 19. Among the victims were a seven-year-old girl who died when a rock fell on top of her family’s house and a woman who was killed by a falling tree, local television channel GloboNews reported. — Xinhua

S Korea’s live-alone elderly rate rises to 20.8% among population aged 65 or higher in 2022

SOUTH Korea’s live-alone elderly rate rose last year on the rapidly growing elderly people, statistical office data showed Monday.

The live-alone elderly rate, or the ratio of single elderly households to the total population aged 65 or higher, stood at 20.8 per cent in 2022, up 0.2

percentage points from the previous year, according to Statistics Korea.

It continued to increase from 16.0 per cent in 2000 to 18.5 per cent in 2010 and 19.8 per cent in 2020.

The statistical agency said the single elderly households were especially a vulnerable

age group in South Korea that failed to advance a social security system for the elderly, noting that attention should be paid in various aspects to the elderly living alone who felt lonelier or more depressed without a family to live with.

The single elderly households had expanded faster than

the elderly population for the past two decades.

The number of single elderly households gained about 3.5 times from 543,000 in 2000 to 1,875,000 in 2022, while the reading for those aged 65 or higher added some 2.7 times from 3,394,000 to 9,018,000 in the cited period.

The country’s life expectancy was 83.6 years in 2021, up 0.1 year from the previous year.

It kept rising from 76.0 years in 2000 to 80.2 years in 2010 and 83.5 years in 2020. South Korean women were expected to live 86.6 years on average in 2021, six years longer than the life expectancy for men. — Xinhua

N Korea fires ballistic missiles in warning over US, S Korea drills

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SPORT

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

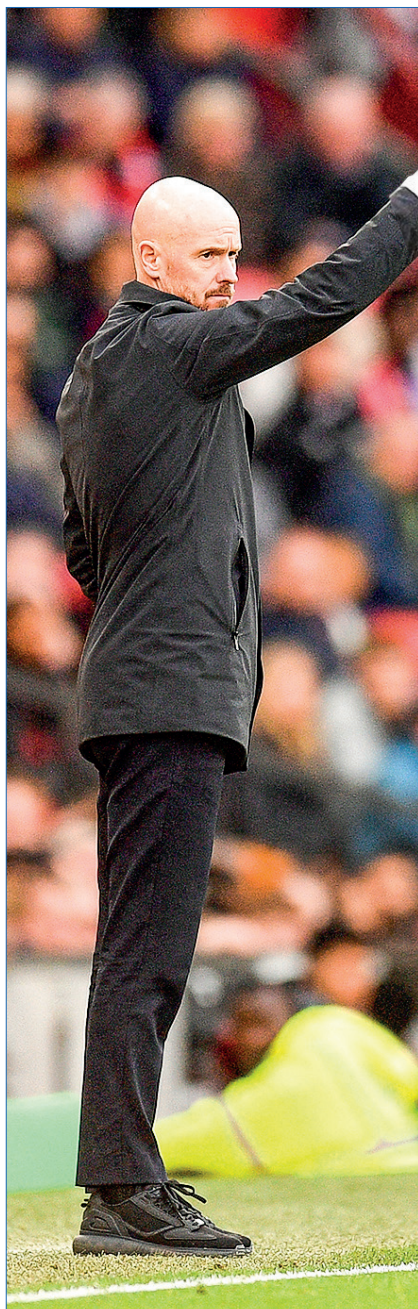
Enterprises (MSMEs) that prioritize import substitution, export production, and the use of domestically produced raw materials, in order to increase domestic production and generate employment opportunities.

- (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.

Man Utd fans urge prospective new owners to back Ten Hag



MANCHESTER United fans have urged any prospective new owner to back manager Erik ten Hag as the club prepare for a pivotal week against the unsettling background of takeover talk. United have a chance to end their six-year trophy drought in Sunday's League Cup final against Newcastle, three days after they go head to head with Barcelona in a Europa League play-off.

Dutch manager Ten Hag has transformed United's fortunes in his first few months at Old Trafford after a rocky start, even lifting them to the fringes of the Premier League title race.

Off the pitch, the race to become the new owners of the 20-time English champions is hotting up.

Qatari banker Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al Thani and British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe's INEOS company showed their hands before Friday's "soft deadline".

The Times reported at the weekend that American hedge fund giant Elliott had entered the battle, ruling itself out of a full takeover but offering to provide financing, and rumours also persist of a possible Saudi Arabia bid.

The Manchester United Supporters' Trust (MUST) on Sunday said whoever buys the club must "explicitly commit to backing Erik and his plans to restore United to glory" after 18 years under unpopular American owners the Glazers.

United have not won the Premier League for a decade and have failed even to qualify for the Champions League on a number of occasions.

"Everyone can see the progress the team is making under Erik ten Hag," MUST said in a statement. "After the frustrations of the last decade, it is clear that enormous strides are being taken."

Those sentiments were backed by former United captain Gary Neville, who said the former Ajax manager was "over-performing and out-achieving anything that I could imagine at this moment". —AFP

MFF to open summer youth football training course for football development

THE 2023 Summer Youth Football Course No. 1 and 2 will be conducted at the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) football academies in Yangon and Mandalay and at Bahan Field, which will teach basic football skills to young students across the country.

The summer youth football course No. 1 will be conducted from 1 March to 10 April 2023, and course No 2 will be opened from 19 April to 29 May 2023.

The courses will be supervised and taught by trainers licensed by the Asian Football Confederation in the Myanmar Football Federation.

Anyone between the ages of 9 and 15 (male and female) can attend the basic football course, and the course will be open every

week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7:30 am to 9:30 am.

The training fee is set at K50,000 per participant, and each pair of uniforms and MFF-accredited training certificates will be provided.

Those who wish to attend the course can copy and fill out the application forms from the attached link https://www.mediafire.com/.../Summer_Football_classes.../file and contact the National Football Academy (Yangon) and Myanmar Football Academy (Mandalay) where the course will be opened in person during office hours by 28 February.

Those interested in taking the course can inquire by phone (Yangon 09-403725425, and Mandalay 09-426550066). — KZL



The file photo shows youths learning football skills in the previous Summer Youth Football Course in 2020. PHOTO: MFF

Manchester United's Dutch manager Erik ten Hag gestures during the English Premier League football match between Manchester United and Leicester City at Old Trafford in Manchester, north west England, on 19 February 2023. PHOTO: OLI SCARFF / AFP