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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.

Message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of Republic of Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to ceremony to mark Peasants Day

2 March 2023

Esteemed peasants,

Today is a significant occasion that is especially honouring the peasants across the nation. On this significant occasion, I extend my greetings with the

best wishes to all peasants who are main benefactors of the food security of the people and economy and development of the State to have physical and mental well-being with auspiciousness as well as enjoy greater

development in agriculture and livestock farming processes for improvement of socioeconomic life.

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It is necessary to serve polite and sympathized activities over the people, focusing on regional and country interests with dutiful undertakings and to build themselves to have power and capability: Senior General

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspected general staff, adjutant and quartermaster measures, regional security and rule of law of the Western Command yesterday morning.

QAG functions of military command HQ, security and rule of law of the region in progress

At the meeting hall, the commander of Western Command reported on undertakings of security, control of the region and rule of law, peace and stability measures, efforts for the seizure of narcotic drugs, eradication of illegal trade, sending of internally displaced persons to their natives with necessary aid, health-care services for local people, the opening of education avenues for students to have food, clothing and shelter, and military own agriculture and livestock farms for welfare of Tatmadaw families.

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State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing cordially greets Tatmadaw members and families at the Western Command on 1 March 2023.

In Honour of Peasants Day

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 safeguard the national interest of the State, lives and property of people, and to put a strenuous effort on respective corners in times of natural disasters.
- 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.

8th State Sangha Central Working Committee holds 2nd session of 5th meeting

THE second day of the fifth meeting of the Eighth State Sangha Central Working Committee was held at the Maha Pasana Cave on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township of Yangon Region yesterday.

The meeting was attended by State Ovadacariya Sayadaws, State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee member Sayadaws, State Sangha Central Working Committee member Sayadaws, and other officials of relevant departments.

State Sangha Central Working Committee Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Agga

Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kesara Bhivamsa presided over the meeting and Joint Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sihanada acted as the master of ceremonies.

Then, the MC Sayadaw announced the name of the newly elected vice-chair of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee to approve.

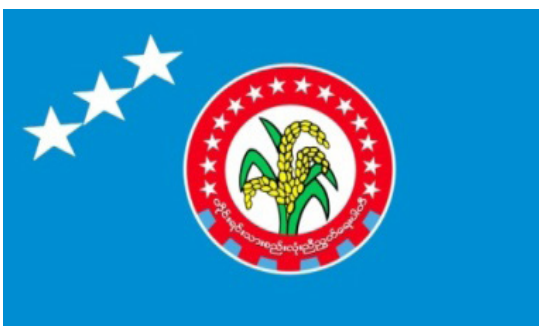
During the two sessions of the meeting, the Sayadaws discussed the Vinicchaya, religious and education-related activities conducted in one year. — MNA/KTZH



The second session of the fifth meeting of the Eighth State Sangha Central Working Committee is in progress yesterday.

Public Notice for Submitting Objection

1. National Unity Party with its headquarters located at No 24, Aung Zeyar Road, Shwetaungkya 1 Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon Region applied on 27-2-2023 to be allowed to continue to exist and register as a political party under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law. It is reported that the party name, flag and emblem will be used as described in the application.
2. Under Rule 14 (d) of the Registration of Political Parties, it is hereby announced to the public that those who wish to object to the name of the party, the flag and the emblem to be used by that organization may submit their objection to the Union Election Commission with valid evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.



Flag design of National Unity Party



Emblem of National Unity Party

Union Election Commission

Public Notice for Submitting Objection

1. Arakan Front Party (AFP) with its headquarters located at No 1/D/1, Min Saw Mon Road, Mingan Ward, Sittway, Rakhine State, applied on 27-2-2023 to be allowed to continue to exist and register as a political party under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law. It is reported that the party name, flag and emblem will be used as described in the application.
2. Under Rule 14 (d) of the Registration of Political Parties, it is hereby announced to the public that those who wish to object to the name of the party, the flag and the emblem to be used by that organization may submit their objection to the Union Election Commission with valid evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.



Flag design of Arakan Front Party (AFP)



Emblem of Arakan Front Party (AFP)

Union Election Commission

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.

Management must be systematically implemented

THE government adopted future tasks, visions, national goals and political goals. The government is mainly responsible for achieving the goals with the participation of political parties and citizens. Such tasks should not burden the nation while management must be systematically implemented. We all are to move forward and all of the officials concerned are to successfully carry out departmental tasks.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 6/2022 of the Union government on 22 August 2022)

It is necessary to serve polite and sympathized activities over the people, focusing on regional and country interests with ...



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the meeting with officers, other ranks and family members of the Western Command yesterday.

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In his response, the Senior General said that those who serve duties in the military command area are to understand the actual situations and history of the region, and they have to participate in measures of the

peace and stability of the region and development undertakings together with local people.

The Senior General continued to say that regiments and units under the military command must have combat power and combat capability and all

regiments and units are to take training. Training schools need to provide training to them. Leaders at different levels are to have morals and discipline to build their troops to possess combat power and combat capability. Leaders need to foster a good commander spirit to correctly control subordinates.

Meeting with officers, other ranks and families

The Senior General met with officers, other ranks and families of An Station of the Western Command at the hall of the command headquarters.

Striving for building a powerful and capable Tatmadaw

The Senior General said internationally, all kinds of Tatmadaw have to prevent external dangers and the police forces have to tackle internal armed insurgency and conflicts. But, Myanmar's Tatmadaw together with members of the Myanmar Police Force serves the duties of solving internal armed conflicts and security of public life and property in line with the historical situations. It is necessary to review the possibilities based on the geographical situation of

the country with farsightedness.

Tatmadaw has to continue working towards the end of the ethnic armed conflicts, rule of law and development while making preparations to build a standard army to prevent external dangers. Efforts are being made to improve the power of arms and the capacity of officers and other ranks. The Senior General urged all to double the capacity of Tatmadaw members in individuals and each military unit for the whole Tatmadaw to have greater military capability and power.

Serving polite and sympathized activities over the people, focusing on regional and country interests with dutiful undertakings

Those serving duties in the region have to understand the background history of the region and carry out regional peace and stability, welfare measures and development tasks with patience over the local ethnic people. They have to dutifully serve the assignments by focusing on the interests of the region and the nation. As Tatmadaw members obey disciplines, they have to

serve polite and sympathized activities over the people. They have to continue regional development tasks.

Only when the number of highly-qualified educated human resources is on the rise will the region and the country develop

The government is striving for the improvement of education across the nation while encouraging education promotion in Rakhine State. Only when the number of educated people increases can regional development tasks be undertaken. Knowledge and techniques depend on school education. Tatmadaw help improve the education of Tatmadaw members. Tatmadaw members are to encourage their offspring to have improvements in education.

Social life must be improved with self-control

Tatmadaw members and families are to systematically control themselves from drinking, cigarette and betel quid chewing which can harm health conditions. The Senior General urged them to operate military own and manageable-scale



The Senior General provides foodstuffs for Tatmadaw members and families.

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Message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of Republic of Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadde Maha Thray Sithu Thadde Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to ceremony to mark Peasants Day

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Currently, the State Administration Council on its part is implementing twelve objectives aimed at enhancing the socioeconomic life based on public-centred development undertakings to ensure the prosperity and food security of the nation. In so doing, an emphasis is being placed on the improvement of agriculture and livestock farms of the nation as a crucial duty in accord with the objectives among four economic objectives: “To enhance development based on agriculture and livestock using modern production techniques and to strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy” and “To assure support for the sustainability of Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSME) that prioritize import substitution, export production, and the use of domestically produced raw materials, to increase domestic production and generate employment opportunities”.

The strength of peasants and their families plays a key role in implementing food security and consumption with full nutrition and food security in the agriculture and livestock breeding sector which is a primary economic sector of the State. As such, the government also prioritizes the improvement of the socioeconomic life of those benefactors.

The majority of global countries are facing challenges related to food security based on climate change and political instability across the world. Hence, every country is implementing various kinds of policies to ensure local food security. So also, Myanmar is striving for extended cultivation of paddy which must have high quality and per-acre yield and increased exportation. The sector of rice and rice products is very important in prioritizing export items in the national export strategic vision being implemented for boosting the export volume. Such a strategic vision aims to cultivate the paddy strains which must be of high quality and sustainable development in conformity with the natural environment and export such kinds of paddy and rice to foreign markets to develop the rural areas and increase the incomes.

Moreover, it is necessary to prevent the use of farmlands in other ways as well as to expand sown acreage of crops to emphasize the rise of the per-acre yield of crops not only to ensure local food security but to increase export volume and develop the State economy. In an effort to increase the per-acre yield of crops, the government, private businesspersons, organizations and farmers are to join hands in seeking quality strains of crops and purchasing inputs at reduced prices. As climate change causes a lesser number of water sources, the government is supplying water to farmers in various ways and means. Hence, all need to efficiently use water and avoid loss and wastage.

That is why the Myanmar sustainable and harmonious development plan (2018-2030) is under implementation to increase crop production to ensure food security and export a larger volume of products to foreign markets. In line with the economic policies of the State, plans for each crop are adopted yearly to ensure food security and boost the export sector. In the 2021-2022 financial year, regions and states cultivated 17,294,457 acres of paddy, 9,769,819 acres of pulses and beans, 7,543,217 acres of oil crops, 1,501,514 acres of maize and 393,781 acres of cotton. Likewise, 15,223,332

acres of farmlands were placed under paddy, 9,582,015 acres under pulses and beans, 7,834,376 acres under oil crops, 1,474,951 acres under maize and 458,388 acres under cotton in the 2022-2023 financial year.

To have a higher per-acre yield of paddy, the 100-acre monsoon model pilot project is being implemented in the 2022-2023 financial year through a systematic cultivation system. A total of 1,600 acres of monsoon paddy on model plots were cultivated in 15 townships of 12 regions and states — Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states, Sagaing, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions — against the target of 1,500 acres. If farmers can boost the per-acre yield of paddy, it will be sufficient for local consumption as well as it will help export surplus rice to foreign countries. Hence, farmers will be able to enjoy a better socioeconomy and benefit the country.

A plan is being implemented to expand the cultivation of 1.5 million acres of sunflower in all parts of regions and states to increase the oil crop sector for ensuring local oil sufficiency. To contribute to agricultural charges of sunflower growers in the sunflower cultivation season, the government will arrange the provision of sunflower seeds and inputs in time with the use of K100.248 billion approved by the government. Currently, as some people consume cooking oil more than they need, they face loss in health conditions whereas the import volume of cooking oil is high. Just an adequate volume of cooking oil contributes to good health conditions. Striving to consumption of cooking oil manufactured at home can reduce spending on foreign exchange. Hence, I would like to urge all to increase the cultivation of oil crops.

Likewise, it is necessary to meet the target of growing 700,000 acres of long-staple cotton within four years and increasing the per-acre yield of long-staple cotton to develop the cotton crop sector, aimed at meeting the local demand and exporting cotton while making efforts to reduce import volume of threads. The long-staple cotton increased production project is being implemented from 2022-2023 to 2025-2026 financial years for meeting the target of more than 700 visses per acre of cotton and producing quality strains of cotton and wool.

Esteemed peasants,

“Only when it creates good economic opportunities for the nation can the development of the country be undertaken.” Hence, the green gram and summer paddy project is being drawn to implement with the State economic promotion fund from the national natural disaster management fund to increase agricultural production and individual incomes of farmers in the agricultural sector and improve the socioeconomic life of the people and revitalize the State economy. Arrangements are being made to spend K230 billion from the State economic promotion fund on the cultivation of 850,000 acres of summer paddy and 500,000 acres of green gram in the 2022-2023 financial year.

To ensure food and nutrition security and increase the per-acre yield of crops, public awareness is being raised for good agriculture practices-GAP and organic cultivation techniques for the cultivation of primary crops and mixed and double cropping and producing safe and standardized crops. Moreover, farmers are educated for having knowledge about the efficient use

of fertilizers to reduce agricultural costs, and the use of natural fertilizers, silage and bio-fertilizers as well as make soil preparations.

Knowledge sharing for boosting the per-acre yield of crops is being undertaken to increase the incomes of peasants, and agricultural techniques on correct cultivation, enhancement of seed quality, prevention of pests, improvement of fertile soil and systematic management of agricultural water are being disseminated to peasants to conserve bio species and sustainability of environments. Connections are being created among the Seed Grower Association-SGA, the Seed Grower Cooperation-SGC, the Farmer Group Association, and private sector and non-governmental organizations for enabling peasants to have investments in the agricultural sector.

Esteemed peasants,

As part of efforts to develop the rural region, the government is implementing 1,204 water supply projects and 111 solar-powered water pumping projects for 4,431 acres of oil crops in 29,294 villages, water supply projects in 14 towns, 43,707 solar home system-SHS projects and eight mini-grids in 15,063 villages, manufacturing road and bridge construction projects for 5,203 acres of oil crops and regular rural manufacturing road and bridge projects for 1.86 million acres of crops, construction of 72 rural houses, conducting of vocational courses for 676 times in the 2022-2023 financial year. The rural development projects – the emerald green village project, the rural development project, the establishment of smart village project, the public-centred project and the rural economic improvement fund establishment—are under implementation.

To develop the livestock sector, the State fund was allotted for the establishment of emerald green (livestock sector) villages, distribution of pedigree farming animals, artificial insemination for genetic improvement of animal species, reproduction and control of species, the establishment of farms for control and reproduction of animal species to distribute pedigree animals to peasants, sharing of livestock breeding techniques and raising awareness with peasants to operate livestock farms in accord with the good animal husbandry practices-GAHP, vaccinating farming animals, control and treatment for animal diseases, conducting disease surveys, and providing animal feed and medicines to the natural disaster-hit areas. The directive has been issued for those engaging in the production of corn silage to be exported as a new item in the trading process, and such a feed is being exported to foreign markets via land borders after conducting the research.

With regard to the export of animal products to the foreign market, the country earned US\$42.982 million in total from April to December 2022 of the 2022-2023 financial year. As per the production of meat/milk/egg, the country produced 555.975 million visses of meat, 977.834 million visses of milk and 2,849.531 million eggs from April to December 2022 of the 2022-2023 financial year.

In the fishery sector, there are more than two million fishermen who are involved in the capturing, farming and processing industries and production chains. In the previous year, Myanmar produced 6,074.82 thousand metric tons of fish and shrimp, some 10 per cent of which was

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agriculture and livestock farming tasks. If so, they will have the chance to consume meat, fish and vegetables at reduced prices. Opportunities have been created for Tatmadaw members to invest their shares in the Myanmar Economic Holdings Public Co Ltd to have annual benefits with farsightedness for the interests of Tatmadaw members.

Presenting foodstuffs and cash awards

The Senior General presented foodstuffs for Tatmadaw members and families to the commander; and the wife of the Senior General, cash awards for the station maternal and child welfare association to the wife of the commander. The Senior General fulfilled the requirements of Tatmadaw members

and families.

Comforting officers, other ranks, families and local people receiving medical treatments at the hospital

At the local military hospital in An, the Senior General, wife and party comforted Tatmadaw members and families receiving medical treatments and presented foodstuffs.

The Senior General and his wife cordially conversed with local people receiving medical treatment at the hospital and gave foodstuffs. The local military hospital in An gives health-care services to Tatmadaw members and families as well as local people, winning the trust and reliance of local people and contributing to the improvement of health conditions of the local people in the region. — MNA/TTA



The wife of the Senior General comforts the patients at the local military hospital in An yesterday.

Message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of Republic of Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to ceremony to mark Peasants Day

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exported abroad and the remaining was supplied for domestic consumption. Till January 2023 of the 2022-2023 financial year, fish and prawn farms and capturing produced 4,528.51 thousand metric tons, and some 300 items of marine products weighing 407,469.804 metric tons were exported abroad to earn US\$631.242 million. Up to January 2023 of the 2022-2023 financial year, 976,066 tonnes of farming shrimps were produced, and some 30 items of marine products weighing 47,812.845 metric tons were exported to the international market earning US\$60.285 million. As marine products are exported to more than 40 customer countries, these marine products are placed under the test for food safety to export these items to meet international standards. As the production of marine products in all sectors contributes much to the economic development of the State, I would like to express my recognition of the perseverance, industry and endeavours of those involved in the fishery sector.

Esteemed peasants,

The peasants playing a pivotal role in the economic development of the State need to actively cooperate with those involved in the production chains of value-added products and relevant organizations. If the agriculture and livestock sector has investments, inputs including necessary machinery and agricultural techniques, productivity will improve and the State economy will have more development.

It is necessary to consider the manufacturing of value-added products with the use of raw materials from agriculture and livestock farms. Moreover, I would like to urge all to successfully operate one region one product based on agriculture and livestock farms and the micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSME) related to agriculture and livestock products. Development of the agriculture and livestock sector will be fruitful results for peasants, farming workers, businesspersons and those involved in the crop value chains, contributing to the State economy.

Our country is blessed with the abundance of

natural land and water resources. Depending on the climatic conditions for agriculture and livestock tasks, the whole country has to strive for the acceleration of cultivation with the use of appropriate agricultural techniques and united strength of peasants to develop the national interests of the State in all aspects including the agriculture sector. I would like to express the honour of benefactor peasants who make utmost efforts for the production of foods at full capacity to export agricultural produce and animal products with momentum amid some difficulties and internal and international trade restrictions, and I send this message with deeply urging all to march towards the goals in joining hands for overcoming all challenges, hindrances and difficulties we all will face for the long term interests of all citizens including peasants across the Union.

**Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing
Prime Minister
Chairman, State Administration Council**



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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.

DPM MoPF Union Minister meets staff of affiliated departments in Rakhine State

DEPUTY Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein, accompanied by Rakhine State Economic Affairs Minister U San Shwe Maung, met the staff of the Planning Department, Central Statistical Organization, Myanmar Economic Bank, Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank, Myanmar Insurance, Budget Department, Internal Revenue Department, Customs Department, Financial Regulatory Department and Pension Department in Sittway Township of Rakhine State on 26 February.

Moreover, he also inspected the district branches and

township branches of Myanmar Economic Bank and Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank, Customs Department, Internal Revenue department and Planning Offices in Kyaukpyu and An townships on 28 February and on 1 March together with Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin.

During the meetings, he highlighted the implementation of estimated projects, granting of a quality loan and drafting of plans to reduce Non-Performing Loans (NPL), tax collection, tax awareness programmes and cooperation of departmental staff in supporting the MSMEs. — MNA/KTZH



Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister U Win Shein meets relevant departmental personnel in Sittway on 26 February 2023.

Launching ceremony of Mekong-Lancang cooperation special-fund projects 2022, seminar on Solar Photovoltaic held



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Kyaw delivers the speech at the event yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE seminar on the use of solar photovoltaic technology – one of the processes of the project “Establishment of Myanmar National-level Solar PV Application Promotion and Training Centre to accelerate the capacity building of development of solar energy in Myanmar” – was held at the Mingala Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The project will be implemented by the Department of Research and Innovation under the Ministry of Science and Technology with Mekong-Lancang

cooperation special-fund projects (2022).

Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw gave an opening speech on the occasion. Minister Counselor Dr Zheng Zhigong of the Chinese embassy to Myanmar and Deputy Director-General U Win Zaya Tun also gave speeches.

The Union Minister said that the Department of Research and Innovation had the chance to implement three Mekong-Lancang cooperation special fund projects and that the establishment of

Myanmar National-Level Solar PV Application Promotion and Training Centre to Accelerate the capacity building of Development of Solar Energy in Myanmar was one of the three projects.

Afterwards, the director-general of the Department of Research and Innovation, professors of Inner Mongolia University of Technology in China and experts from related departments discussed solar photovoltaic technology at the seminar. — MNA/KZL

Union Sports and Youth Affairs Minister meets Director-General of Olympic Council of Asia and World Aquatic President

MYANMAR Olympic Committee Chair Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan met Director-General Mr Husain AHZ Al Musallam of the Olympic Council of Asia and World Aquatic President and members at National Indoor Stadium 1 in Thuwunna in Thingangyun Township, Yangon yesterday.

After welcoming and honouring the OCA director-general and WA president, the Union minister underscored appreciation for his visit to Myanmar for more detailed discussions in the development of Myanmar’s

swimming sports. It would also raise the hope for assistance in the construction of a high-quality swimming pool, he added.

Director-General of the Olympic Council of Asia and World Aquatic President Mr Husain AHZ Al Musallam said that in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, swimming training will be conducted for children aged 6 and above, training for physical education teachers and training for Myanmar swimming athletes will also be provided.

He added that it is necessary to send the drawing for the con-

struction of an international-level swimming pool in Myanmar in the 2023-2024 financial year. He underlined the importance for Asian countries to work together in the development of sports regardless of any discrimination.

The Union minister and the OCA D-G exchanged souvenirs. The honorary dinner was hosted for the director-general of the Olympic Council of Asia at Novotel Yangon Max Hotel in Yangon and attended by Union Minister U Min Thein Zan, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and cabinet members. — MNA/KZL



Union Minister U Min Thein Zan receives Mr Husain AHZ Al Musallam, OCA D-G and World Aquatic President, yesterday in Yangon.

MoA signed for wind power projects in Rakhine State

THE Department of Electric Power Planning under the Ministry of Electric Power signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) on wind power projects to be launched in An, Gwa and Thandwe townships of Rakhine State with the Primus Advanced Technologies Limited, Asia Ecoenergy Development Limited and Yunnan Machinery and Equipment Import and Export Co Ltd in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The signing ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Electric Power U Thuang Han, Deputy Minister U Aye Kyaw, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai, Directors-General, Managing Directors and Departmental Heads of Union Minister's Offices, departments and enterprises and other officials of the Primus Advanced Technologies Limited, Asia Ecoenergy Development Limited and Yunnan Machinery



The signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Agreement on wind power projects in Rakhine State is underway in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

and Equipment Import and Export Co Ltd.

First, Union Minister U Thuang Han said that energy security is an essential aspect for all people and there are limitations to energy resources. The agreement is made by Myanmar

citizen-owned PRIMUS, Hong Kong-based AED and China's YMEC for the An wind power project (150 MW), Gwa wind power project (100 MW) and Thandwe wind power project (110 MW). It also should follow the law, bylaws and procedures

set by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation not to affect the environment and society. Efforts should be made to generate power from three projects by 2025 and to start the construction for the first phase of the 50

MW Gwa project in December 2023.

Then, the Chinese ambassador talked about the benefits of projects between Myanmar which is rich in natural resources and China which is the largest electricity-generating country in the world, participation of China in the nationwide electrification project of Myanmar, a new step of China in establishing the very first wind power projects of Myanmar and possession of the world's largest installed base of wind power capacity with 400 million kilowatt-hours.

Then, Vice-President Mr Dong Fan of Yunnan Machinery and Equipment Import and Export Co Ltd (YMEC) reported on the project procedures.

Afterwards, officials signed the MoA and exchanged them. The wind power projects in Rakhine will generate 360 MW and bring benefits to the region. — MNA/KTZH

MoH Union Minister leaves for India to attend traditional medicine conf and expo

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win left for India yesterday to attend the traditional medicine conference and exhibition organized by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to be held on 2 to 3 March in Guwahati, India.

The delegation led by the Union minister was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Indian Ambassador Mr Vinay

Kuma and officials from the Ministry of Health. The director-general of the Traditional Medicine Department, the rector of the Mandalay University of Traditional Medicine and Myanmar's traditional medicine entrepreneurs accompanied the Union Minister.

The traditional medicine conference and exhibition are hosted by India, the alternate

chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Discussions will include the development and cooperation of the traditional medicine sector between partner countries and observer countries. —MNA/TS

Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win is seen before leaving for India yesterday.



Staff urged to serve duties in unity for having achievement



DEPUTY Minister for Information U Ye Tint inspected the printing of school textbooks at the printing factory of the Printing and Publishing Department in Mandalay yesterday morning.

In the meeting with the factory manager and staff, the deputy minister stressed the need to have high print quality, prevent

Deputy Minister U Ye Tint views the printing of school textbooks in Mandalay yesterday.

wastage of raw materials, fire safety and worksite security as well as serve the duties in unity.

At Mandalay Region Information and Public Relations Department in the afternoon, the deputy minister met with officials from IPRD at different levels, Sagaing District IPRD, Sagaing Zone re-transmission station, the printing factory, the sub-printing house and the Sarpay Beikman library and instructed them to serve their duties in unison to have success,

raise knowledge awareness for students during the summer holidays, urge local people to enrol all school-age children in opening the schools, disseminate information to local people for options to choose the learning opportunities at agriculture, livestock breeding and technical vocational courses at 50 districts after the students have completed KG+9 scheme, emphasize quality of newspapers and publish it in time, and dutifully serve assignments. — MNA/TTA

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OPINION

Seek better ways to improve the socioeconomic life of peasants

MYANMAR celebrates Peasants Day in honour of peasants in the country engaging in the cultivation of crops to supply food to the people in all ways. Various kinds of crops including paddy, pulses and beans, teak and rubber earn foreign exchange as income for the nation.

Most of the rural area is placed under various kinds of crops. So also, some 70 per cent of the people are residing in the rural area to cultivate crops and engage livestock farms for ensuring local sufficiency. Hence, the government encourages them to develop their agricultural businesses with the assistance of modern agricultural techniques and expertise from agriculturists. It is because Myanmar

can enjoy lesser fruitful results from the agricultural sector, including the cultivation of paddy.

Up to now, the status of Myanmar remains unchanged in the cultivation of various crops as the largest exporter of rice across the world. Hence, the governments in successive eras have been marking Peasant's Day year after year to honour the efforts of Myanmar farmers in producing various items of crops.

Practically, the socioeconomic life of rural people, especially peasants is still at the lower level. Only when the government and private sectors provide modern agricultural techniques to them will those farmers have the chance to taste a higher living standard. It is because modern agricultural techniques will boost the per-acre yield of crops which can earn larger incomes for families of farmers.

Currently, the government initiates agricultural, livestock and technical high schools affiliated with the existing basic education high schools in 50 districts across the nation to turn out skilled labour with middle school education to revitalize Myanmar's agricultural and livestock sector.

On the other hand, the government established the Institute of Fishery in Twantay Township to turn out skilfully educated fishery personnel to apply modern fishery techniques to contribute much to the food security of the nation in one hand. As part of efforts in all aspects to improve agricultural and livestock sectors through the collaborative endeavours of the rural people, the government is striving for the improvement of the living standard of rural people and the food security of the nation.

Currently, all citizens from both urban and rural areas are pouring out their strenuous efforts to transform manual farming into mechanized farming to increase the per-acre yield of crops while manufacturing quality livestock products. To do so, it is necessary to raise awareness of farmers in agricultural and livestock businesses. If so, they will have high socio-economic life in the near future.



IN ACCORDANCE with one of the objectives of the Social Affairs of State Administration Council (SAC); "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", the Ministry of Health, Myanmar, laid down the two objectives, to enable every citizen to attain full life expectan-



Community-Based Eye Examination

cy and enjoy the longevity of life, and to ensure that every citizen is free from diseases.

In the opening ceremony of the 51st Myanmar Health Research Congress, the SAC Chairman Prime Minister mentioned that "Nowadays, the globe has been facing violent infections and the outbreak of 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 capabilities so as to keep genetic changes under surveillance on time and perform prevention and treatment measures". He also highlighted that "At the same time, all need to effectively and widely conduct research tasks related to non-infectious diseases such as cancer,



Cleft Lip and Palate Surgery

diabetes and hypertension. Priority must be given to conducting research processes related to preventing and controlling diseases based on pollution in the environment".

"The government allows cash assistance for research projects annually for the implementation of research grants and urges those researchers to strive for achieving greater success in their projects. In doing

the health-related research process, it is necessary to carry out for people to thoroughly comprehend the improvement of basic health conditions and healthy lifestyle and to have knowledge about the nature of infection of diseases and preventable capacity in order to raise the life expectancy of the people for serving their interests", he also revealed.

For to do that, the Ministry of Health is organizing to con-

duct Myanmar Health Sciences Conference-MHSC 2023 on Medical and Health Sciences which is one of the leading community-based events of its kind bringing together professionals in the various health field around the nation and internationally.

MHSC 2023 is delighted to welcome all health professionals to the illustrious conference dated 11th to 12th March 2023 at Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory under the main theme; "Quality Care in Medical Practice" for the health of the entire nation.

MHSC 2023 will be held with the following objectives: To achieve warm friendship between health personnel in various States and Regions, To participate to learn updated information on clinical and public health domains by enabling health personnel from various health fields, To develop coordinated quality care platform by the interaction of health professionals from various health fields in long run, and To assist in providing quality care to the public.

Before conducting the MHSC 2023, the following pre-conference activities and workshops are conducted, basic life support training, USG training, basic laparoscopic technique training, Pathology: Pitfalls in Laboratory Diagnosis, school health-based vision test, community-based cataract surgery, cleft lip and palate surgery etc. During the conference, booth exhibitions according to different medical societies and hospital activities, symposiums and special talks will be conducted. The next day after the conference, social welfare, sightseeing tours and sports activities such as golf and scrabbles will be provided.

Additionally, by conducting this MHSC 2023, all health per-



Cleft Lip and Palate Surgery



School-Based Eye Examination

sonnel from various health fields will provide better quality care in medical practice and efforts will

be taken to build a historic milestone for the Ministry of Health.

Most babies born to mothers with COVID-19 separated after birth resulting in low breastfeeding rates: Study

ACCORDING to a global study, most babies born to mothers with COVID-19 were separated after birth resulting in low breastfeeding and skin-to-skin contact rates during the height of the pandemic.

The international research, led by Murdoch Children's Research Institute in collaboration with the European Society of Paediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care (ESPNIC), found that transmission of COVID-19 from mother to baby was

rare and generally mild when it occurred.

But despite this, almost half of all babies did not receive any breast milk, with only a quarter being breastfed and the majority of mothers and babies having no skin-to-skin contact immediately after birth.

Murdoch Children's Professor David Tingay said the study, the largest on global family-centred care during COVID-19, highlighted how ensuring good infection control measures had significantly

impacted neonatal practice over the past few years.

Newborns in the trial

"Almost half of all newborns in the trial were denied early and close contact with their mother, demonstrating how hard it was to balance infection control measures with mother-baby bonding recommendations, especially in the first year of the pandemic," he said. Encouragingly, clinicians did gradually adapt to allow more family-centred care as the pan-

demically progressed, particularly the use of breastmilk." The study, published in *The Lancet's* e clinical medicine, involved 692 babies born to mothers with SARS-CoV-2 in 13 neonatal intensive care units across 10 countries, including Brazil, France, Italy and the US, who participated in the EPICENTRE trial.

It found 54 per cent of newborns were separated from their mothers and only seven per cent had physical contact before separation. Maternal breastmilk feed-



ing rates were low at 53 per cent, with just 24 per cent exclusively fed with their mother's breastmilk. But contact and breastfeeding increased over time from 23 per cent in Spring 2020 to 70 per cent in Winter 2020/21 (northern hemisphere seasons).

Additionally, 73 per cent of those separated from their mother were admitted into a neonatal intensive care unit or special care nursery without any symptomatic

or underlying condition to account for admission. Only five per cent of babies born to infected mothers tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 and most cases were mild.

Family-centred care

Murdoch Children's Dr George Dowse said the benefits of family-centred care in the perinatal period for both mothers and babies were well-established.

SOURCE: ANI

Almost half of all newborns in the trial were denied early and close contact with their mother, demonstrating how hard it was to balance infection control measures with mother-baby bonding recommendations, especially in the first year of the pandemic.

PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ANI

LOCAL BUSINESS

55 container ships scheduled to arrive at Yangon Port in March

A total of 55 container ships have been planned to enter Yangon Port in March 2023, according to

Myanma Port Authority. This month, 10 ships run by Sealand Maersk Asia, seven by

Samudera Shipping Line, four each by Gold Star Line, SITC and MSC Line, three each by

New Golden Sea (COSCO), PIL Line, RCL Line and X-Press Feeder, two each by BLPL Shipping Line, CMA CGM Line, Ever Green Line, IAL Line, MTT Shipping Line and TI2 Container Line, and one by Land & Sea and VASI Shipping will enter Yangon Port.

in December respectively.

From May 2021, the arrival of ships at terminals in Yangon has increased again. To fulfil the seaborne trade requirements, three new container ships by Maersk Line Myanmar (Sealand Maersk) started to run in 2021.

Myanma Port Authority and Yangon inner terminals are providing services to ensure the fast and reliable cargo handling and withdrawal of the containers. Earlier, the larger ships had draft problems preventing their sailing on the Yangon River. The draft extension is up to 10 metres with the new navigation channel accessing the inner Yangon River and the international ocean liners can access the inner port for now. — NN/EM



Container vessels are seen at Yangon Port along the Yangon River.

Yangon Port saw the entry of 51 container ships in February and 52 in January 2023.

Yangon Port handled a total of 620 container ships last year, according to Myanma Port Authority.

The number of vessels entering Yangon Port stands at 49 in January 2022, 48 in February, 50 in March, 52 in April, 54 in May, 53 in June, 49 in July, 55 each in August and September, 50 in October, 51 in November and 54

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 1 March 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,100
Octane 95	K2,175
Diesel	K2,185
Premium Diesel	K2,265

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,159,500 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,845,000 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	K2,870 to K2,880

The above prices may change from time to time.

MRPP to sell fertilizers at fairer prices for summer paddy

MYANMAR Paddy Producers Association will sell fertilizers at fairer prices for summer paddy cultivation.

The fertilizer is priced at K71,000-K75,000 per bag depending on the different brands (Kinzo urea and Susan brands).

The farmers who will cultivate summer paddy can purchase the fertilizer at fairer prices through the contact number of the association (09 775002589, 09 784238594 and 09 799293818).

The association introduced this scheme in late June 2022. Last monsoon season, the association connected the farmers with the seed producing companies and fertilizer-importing

companies so that they can purchase fertilizers of good quality and high-yielding seeds at much fairer prices than the prevailing prices.

The urea fertilizer distribution leading committee distributed about 75,000 tonnes of urea fertilizer that were imported with the foreign currency sold by the Central Bank of Myanmar to 291 retail shops in 136 townships in 11 regions and states.

The prices vary depending on transport cost, with K86,000 per 50-kilogramme bag at Yangon's warehouse, K87,800 in Bago Region, K88,600 in Pyay, K88,600 in Mandalay Region, K89,000 in Magway Region, K89,100 in Salin and Pwintbyu

areas, K88,800 in Mawlamyine and Thaton areas, K89,500 in Monywa city, Sagaing Region, K89,800 in YeU and Shwebo areas, K88,000 in Thongwa, Yangon Region, K86,500 in Htantabin area, K92,600 in Sittway area and K99,400 in Maungtaw in Rakhine State, K88,800 in Hpa-an and K89,300 in Hlaingbwe in Kayin State, K88,200 in Patheingyi and K88,100 in Hinthada, Ayeyawady Region, K96,000 in Kengtung and K100,800 in Mongtong in eastern Shan State, K92,000 in Lashio and K90,100 in Kyaukse in northern Shan State, K89,500 in Taunggyi, K88,800 in Kalaw and K92,000 in Mongpan in southern Shan State.

The urea fertilizer distribution leading committee is a consortium with Myanmar Fertilizer, Seed and Pesticide Entrepreneurs Association and member companies affiliated with the association. That consortium, in cooperation with Myanmar Rice Federation, is planning to sell urea fertilizer that meets standards and norms to the farmers. — NN/EM



The fertilizer is priced at K71,000-75,000 per bag depending on the different brands (Kinzo urea and Susan brands).

The Global New Light of Myanmar
www.gnlm.com.mm

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Bawgyo Pagoda Buddha Pujaniya festival to be held up to 6 March

THE ancient Bawgyo Pagoda Buddha Pujaniya festival in Hsipaw Township, Shan State (North), will be held up to 6 March according to the Board of Trustees of Pagoda.

In this year's festival, the board of trustees will donate gold foils to the four ancient Buddha images and offer alms

to the Buddha image in the early morning on the full-moon day of Tabaung. The festival started on the morning of 28 February. Shan traditional glaze wares, Shan bamboo hats and household utensils are on sale at the festival and shops are selling domestic products and traditional foods. — TWA/KZW



The Bawgyo Pagoda, an ancient religious edifice in Hsipaw of northern Shan State.

Some rice prices dip when harvest season of summer paddy starts

THE prices of some summer rice moved slightly down as the harvest season of summer paddy commenced. On 27 February, low-grade rice grown under the intercropping system fetched only K51,000 per bag in the domestic market.

The prices stood at K57,000 for 90-day short matured rice, K60,000 for Pawkywe variety, K66,000 for new Pawsan rice from the Bogale area, K67,000 for Pyapon area, K73,000 for new Pawsan rice from Myaungmya area and K87,000 for new Pawsan rice from Shwebo area. Monsoon rice prices do not fall, unlike summer rice.

The prices rose to K45,000 per bag of broken rice, K55,000 for low-grade rice and K70,000 for new Pawsan rice in mid-February 2023 in Yangon markets.

Monsoon low-grade paddy is valued at K1.5 million per 100

baskets, while Pawsan paddy price jumped to K2 million. The price rises faster in early 2023 than the previous years. High price woes consumers. The growers receive extra income yet those traders in possession of paddy reap great profit.

For the rules to affect all export items equally in border trade, 65 per cent of earnings must be exchanged to local currency at the CBM's reference foreign exchange rate of K2,100, while exporters can use 35 per cent of export earnings or transfer or sell them on to Authorized Dealers or others with an over-the-counter rate, the CBM announced.

On 25 February, some low-grade rice prices fell by K4,000 per bag, said a trader involved in the Bayintnaung Wholesale Market. Some investors store the monsoon rice for good prof-

its during the 2022 monsoon paddy harvest season. Some intend to raise the price of their hands. The prices of some commodities such as rice, edible oil and sugar inflated on the back of strong demand. The consumers are, therefore, carrying the burden of high food prices.

For rice exporting country India and leading palm oil exporting country Indonesia, the authorities governed the market to control the price hikes to reduce the inflation burden for the consumer. Myanmar Rice Federation has notified to offer rice at a much fairer price for the blue-collar worker engaged in factories and low-income staff. Thus, Emahta low-grade rice variety (10 per cent broken) will be offered at K10,000 per 10-kilogramme bags in Yangon markets for low-income workers. — TWA/EM

Appointment tokens for passport renewals, OWIC cards that expire in August to be withdrawn: ME

MYANMAR migrant workers in Thailand whose passports and OWIC cards will expire on 31 August can take out appointment tokens issued every Saturday at the Embassy, stated the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand.

It is notified that those who have received a Myanmar Passport (PJ) in Bangkok before September 2021 can apply for an OWIC card at the branch office

of TDCC (Mahachai) after filling out the prescribed form along with the work permit.

The embassy also informed that those who have applied for new passports at the Consulate-General in Chiang Mai can register for OWIC cards at the branch office of TDCC (Mahachai) along with the work permit and specified form. — TWA/CT



Myanmar nationals in Thailand are seen waiting at the Myanmar Embassy to get appointment tokens for OWIC cards.



People are seen lining up for passing through Ruili on the Sino-Myanmar border.

Over 3,500 passengers cross Ruili border daily

THE Chinese Embassy to Myanmar announced that over 3,500 passengers are daily crossing the Ruili border between Myanmar and China.

A total of 3,503 people crossed the Ruili Myanmar-China border on 25 January when it was opened and a total of over 60,000 people have passed through the Ruili border since the re-opening of the crossing. Travellers must have a

Covid-19 negative result tested within 48 hours and valid entry/exit certificates when entering and going out of the border. Red books (border pass) to enter and exit the Muse-Ruili crossing are issued through the booking system to only about 300 residents in Muse District starting on 25 January.

China and Myanmar officials are still discussing the issuance of single-use crossing

cards to travellers from other parts of Myanmar, according to the Chinese Embassy.

Trucks and truck drivers are allowed from 8 am to 11:30 pm and government employees from 8 am to 9:30 pm to cross the Muse-Ruili border since 8 January and other travellers, private cars, motorbikes and battery-bikes are allowed to cross the Sinphyu border post from 8 am to 11:30 pm. — TWA/MKKS

ECONOMY WORLD

UK's PM vows economic win for N Ireland from Brexit breakthrough

BRITISH Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Tuesday urged pro-UK politicians in Northern Ireland to grab the economic “prize” on offer after he secured a breakthrough reform deal with the European Union.

On a visit to the tense province, Sunak said he was “over the moon” at clinching the pact with European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen on Monday.

Following their meeting in the royal town of Windsor, near London, both leaders proclaimed a “new chapter” in relations after years of Brexit tensions.

The deal follows more than a year of talks over the “Northern Ireland Protocol”, which has unsettled the province 25 years on from a historic peace agreement that ended three decades of armed conflict.

Agreed in 2020 as part of Britain's EU divorce, the protocol kept Northern Ireland in



British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak called hailed a “new chapter” after the talks with European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen.

PHOTO: DAN KITWOOD/AFP

the European single market for physical goods and subject to different customs rules than the rest of the United Kingdom, angering pro-UK unionists there and eurosceptics in London.

The new “Windsor Framework” has been generally well received, but it has yet to secure the backing of the Democratic

Unionist Party (DUP), Northern Ireland's largest pro-UK political force.

The DUP has been refusing to rejoin a power-sharing government in Belfast for a year, mainly in protest at the protocol, which it said cut Northern Ireland adrift from the rest of the UK.—AFP

Nigeria gas fuels Morocco, Algeria pipeline power struggle

ADVERSARIES Morocco and Algeria are each racing to build a conduit pumping Nigerian gas to European markets, even as the continent aims to wean itself off fossil fuels.

Both countries have moved to revive long-stalled projects in light of a gas supply crunch following Russia's invasion of Ukraine a year ago. Prices

surged and Europe — which was heavily reliant on Russian gas — had to look elsewhere for energy.

Rabat is hoping the Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline, which would skirt the coastlines of 13 West African countries, could pump billions of cubic metres of natural gas to the kingdom.

From there, the gas would

flow through the Maghreb-Europe gas pipeline (GME) into Spain and Portugal.

Nigeria's Oil Minister Timipre Sylva told AFP that a feasibility study was underway and some countries had already signed up to the project, but a start date has yet to be set.

To the east, Morocco's neighbour and arch-rival Algeria is pushing to relaunch plans for a Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline linking Nigeria to Algeria's Mediterranean coast via Niger.

Last July, Algiers signed a memorandum of understanding with Abuja and Niamey to bring the 4,128-kilometre (2,565-mile) pipeline to fruition, at a cost of up to 18 billion euros (\$19 billion).

From Algeria the gas could be pumped via the Mediterranean undersea Transmed pipeline to Italy through Tunisian territory, or loaded onto liquefied natural gas tankers for export.—AFP



A gas pipeline at a power plant in Nigeria. PHOTO: FLORIAN PLAUCHEUR /AFP

Denmark scraps public holiday to boost defence spending

DENMARK'S parliament on Tuesday adopted a controversial bill to abolish a public holiday to put more money towards its military, a priority following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

After weeks of protests against the government plan, 95 MPs voted in favour and 68 against.

Denmark's left-right government coalition, in power since December and led by Social Democratic Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, announced plans in January to scrap the religious holiday known as Great Prayer Day and observed since the 17th century.

The cancellation would provide an additional three billion kroner (\$427 million)

to state coffers, thanks to an additional 7.4 hours of labour per worker, according to the government.

In early February, some 50,000 protesters gathered outside the parliament in Copenhagen, a rare sight in country that usually seeks consensus.

The government wants to use the money generated to raise the defence budget to NATO's target of two per cent of GDP by 2030, instead of 2033 as previously planned.

It insists the accelerated calendar is necessary due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

“I don't think it's a problem to have to work an extra day”, Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said in January.—AFP



A Danish combat battalion soldier training in Jutland, Denmark.

PHOTO: BO AMSTRUP/AFP

Wars, poverty fuel spike in Iraqi child labour

HAYDAR Karar spends eight hours a day tidying a carpentry shop and lugging wooden beams, forced like many other Iraqi children into work by poverty and conflict.

Now 13, Karar has been working with his carpenter uncle in the capital Baghdad since the age of eight, his childhood marred by the troubles that have ravaged his country.

“I was expelled from school because of a fight,” he said. “The school didn't want to take me back.”

His family had decided to find work for him “to build my future and marry me”, added

the petite boy, who works from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm every day with a one-hour lunch break.

He leans over a wooden armchair to sand it, and then moves around metal trestles before carrying large planks of wood about twice his size.

Karar's weekly pay, the equivalent of less than \$20, covers his own needs as well as those of his sister. They both live with another uncle.

Children in Iraq work as apprentice mechanics and rubbish collectors, in shisha cafes or hair salons, and washing car windows and selling paper tissues by the roadside.—AFP

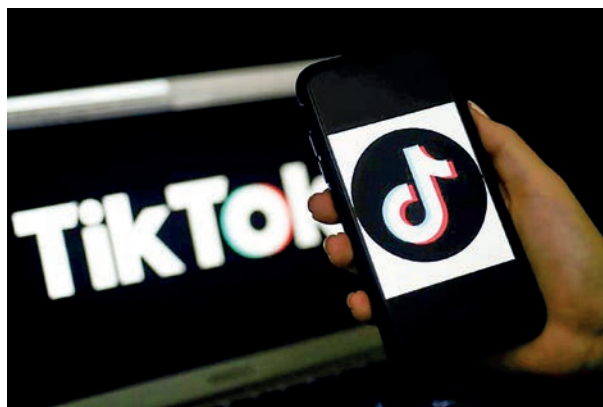
EU parliament bans TikTok on work devices

THE European Parliament has told staff to purge TikTok from devices used for work because of data protection concerns, after similar moves

by the EU's main governing bodies last week. The parliament's president, Roberta Metsola, and the secretary-general, Alessandro

Chiocchetti, decided TikTok must not be used or installed on staff devices such as mobile phones, tablets or laptops from 20 March, according to a note issued Tuesday.

"As of this date, web access to TikTok through our corporate network... will also be blocked," the parliament's directorate-general for innovation and technological support said in the note to around 8,000 of the institution's employees. It also "strongly recommended" MEPs and their staff remove TikTok from their personal devices.—AFP



The European Parliament is the latest body to take action against staff using popular video-sharing platform TikTok on work devices. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Stocks win boost as China data spurs recovery hopes

STOCK markets rose Wednesday as data showed decade-high Chinese factory activity last month after leaders began reopening the economy from years of painful zero-Covid measures. Oil prices fell despite the China figures pointing to a pick-up in

demand from the world's biggest importer of the commodity. The euro rallied on expectations that the European Central Bank would keep hiking interest rates as inflation in the eurozone remains elevated.—AFP

Carmaker Aston Martin's losses almost triple

BRITISH luxury carmaker Aston Martin Lagonda on Wednesday said annual losses almost tripled on soaring costs and supply strains, but shares surged on rebounding sales and a bright outlook. Losses after tax ballooned to £528.6 million (\$637.9 million) from £191.6 million a year earlier, it said in a results

statement. But sales of the brand — loved by fictional British spy James Bond — zoomed 26 percent higher to £1.38 billion as its top-end customers shrugged off a cost-of-living crisis. That was helped by an 18-per-cent jump in the average car selling price to £177,000.—AFP



Sales of Aston Martin cars surged as its top-end customers shrugged off a cost-of-living crisis. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Tesla to invest about \$5 billion in Mexico plant: government

AMERICAN electric car maker Tesla will invest about \$5 billion in a massive new factory in the northern Mexican city of Monterrey, a senior government official said Tuesday.

The move, which has yet to be confirmed by Tesla, would be a major boost to Mexico's hopes of benefiting from US companies choosing nearby countries over Asia for their manufacturing operations.

"We brought to Mexico an investment of more or less \$5 billion for the construction of the largest electric vehicle plant in the world," Martha Delgado, undersecretary for multilateral affairs and human rights, said in a video posted on Twitter.

"I'm going to Austin, Texas, to witness the announcement Tesla CEO Elon Musk will make about their investments



Tesla faces increasing competition in the electric vehicle sector, with a growing number of Chinese makers as well as traditional auto firms such as General Motors and Volkswagen. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

in 2023," she added in a text accompanying a video from the Mexico City airport.

Earlier Tuesday, Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador announced that Tesla was going to open a plant in Monterrey, northern Mexico, about 200 kilometres (120 miles) from the US border.

The factory was expected to be "very big" and would bring "a considerable investment and many jobs," he said. Lopez Obrador said Tesla would give more details on Wednesday, including addressing the problem of water scarcity in Monterrey, an industrial powerhouse home to transnational firms. — AFP

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC DANANG VOY.NO. (2306S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC DANANG VOY.NO. (2306S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-3-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V VTB 36 VOY.NO. (0323)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V VTB 36 VOY. NO. (0323)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-3-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

S Korea's Yoon says Japan changed from aggressor to partner



South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol (centre L) and his wife Kim Kun Hee (centre R) attend a ceremony commemorating the 1919 independence movement against Japanese colonial rule in Seoul on 1 March 2023. **PHOTO: YONHAP/KYODO**

SOUTH Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said Wednesday that Japan has transformed into a partner from a “militaristic aggressor in the past”, highlighting his readiness to improve bilateral ties.

In a speech at a government ceremony to commemorate the launch in 1919 of the popular independence movement against Japan’s 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula, Yoon said Japan has become a “partner that shares the same universal values” as South Korea, especially with regard to security and the economy.

He also said that trilateral cooperation involving South Korea, the United States and Japan “has become more important than ever” in overcom-

ing security crises, including North Korea’s growing nuclear threat.

Wednesday’s speech did not include specific remarks on thorny issues related to Japan, such as compensation for wartime Korean workers.

Ties between the two countries deteriorated after South Korea’s top court in 2018 ordered Japanese companies Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd and Nippon Steel Corp to pay compensation over forced labour during the colonial era.

The firms have refused to comply with the rulings as Japan’s government has said all issues stemming from the colonization were settled “completely and finally” under a 1965 bilateral agreement.—Kyodo

Nigeria ruling party candidate Tinubu wins presidency in disputed election

RULING party candidate Bola Tinubu won Nigeria’s highly disputed weekend election on Wednesday, securing the former Lagos governor his life-

long ambition of the presidency of Africa’s most populous democracy.

With President Muhammadu Buhari stepping down af-

ter two terms, many Nigerians hoped Saturday’s vote would usher in a leader capable of tackling the country’s widening insecurity, economic malaise

and growing poverty.

Tinubu, candidate for All Progressives Congress (APC) party, won 8.8 million votes against 6.9 million for oppo-

sition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) candidate Atiku Abubakar and 6.1 million for Labour Party’s Peter Obi, according to final results.—AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Ukraine army says situation ‘extremely tense’ round Bakhmut

UKRAINE said Tuesday its troops were under pressure in the near-destroyed frontline city of Bakhmut, where Russian forces were launching heavy assaults after months of fighting.

The former eastern industrial hub has become largely a political objective since the longest battle in Russia’s year-

long invasion has already reduced it to rubble, causing high casualties on both sides.

As combat raged, NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said the priority for Ukraine was to fight off Russia’s invasion with allies’ backing and that in the “long-term” the nation would join the alliance.—AFP



The Russian army’s 120 mm mortars fire at Ukrainian troops at an undisclosed location. **PHOTO: RUSSIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY PRESS SERVICE**

Ukraine war set to divide as India hosts G20 foreign ministers

TOP US diplomat Antony Blinken was due in New Delhi on Wednesday alongside Russia’s Sergei Lavrov for a G20 meeting, with Ukraine and tensions with China set to overshadow attempts by host India to forge unity among the world’s top economies.

A meeting was seen as unlikely between the two men, who have not been in the same room since a G20 meeting in Bali in July when, according to Western officials, the Russian foreign minister walked out.

They last met individually in January 2022, weeks before Russia invaded Ukraine. The two men have spoken by phone since but about other issues and not the war.

Lavrov arrived late Tuesday in India — which has not condemned the war — and will



Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov arrives in India. **PHOTO: TWITTER/@MEAINDIA/ANI**

use his G20 attendance to lay into the West, according to the Russian foreign ministry.

Western countries want to “take revenge for the in-

evitable disappearance of the levers of dominance from its hands,” the ministry’s English-language statement said.—AFP

Sri Lanka workers defy strike ban to protest rescue plan

SRI Lankan workers went on strike Wednesday in defiance of a government ban to protest a rescue plan for the bankrupt island nation, forcing the closure of hospitals, banks and ports.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe is facing a public backlash over steep tax hikes and spending cuts imposed to secure a sorely needed International Monetary Fund bailout.

Around 40 trade unions, including government hospital staff and bank employees, called work stoppages.

Doctors at the National

Hospital of Sri Lanka in Colombo said only emergency cases were being treated, while appointments were cancelled at private clinics and hospitals.

Electricity workers and bank tellers were also on strike while dock workers staged lunchtime protests at the capital's port.

Wickremesinghe used his executive powers on Tuesday to effectively outlaw strikes by compelling "essential services" to remain at work, and government workers defying the order risk losing their jobs.—AFP



Sri Lankan workers went on strike in defiance of a government ban to protest a rescue plan for the bankrupt island nation. PHOTO: AFP

France's Macron set for four-nation tour of Africa

PRESIDENT Emmanuel Macron kicks off a tour of Central Africa on Wednesday in a diplomatic drive to test out a new "responsible relationship" with the continent as anti-French sentiment runs high in some former colonies.

He will first stop in Gabon for an environmental summit, before heading to Angola then the Republic of Congo — also known as Congo-Brazzaville — and finally neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.

Macron's trip comes as alarm grows in Paris over Russia's rising influence in French-speaking African countries, alongside Chinese jockeying for position, which has been visible for some years.

In Gabon, he will attend the One Forest Summit on preserving forests worldwide, including along the vast Congo River basin.

Covering 1.62 million square kilometres (more than 625,000 million square miles),



Anti-French sentiment has grown in Burkina Faso, a former French colony, since junta leader Ibrahim Traore seized power in September. Public anger over the presence of French troops has grown in Western African countries like Burkina Faso and neighbouring Mali. PHOTO: AFP

the forests of Central Africa represent the planet's second-largest carbon sink after the Amazon.

They are also home to huge biodiversity including forest elephants and gorillas, and bear

traces of the settlement of early humanity.

But they face threats such as poaching, deforestation for the oil palm and rubber industries, and illegal logging and mineral exploitation.—AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Trump, Haley to lock horns at US conservative forum

FORMER US president Donald Trump and his one-time ally Nikki Haley are to give duelling addresses this week as thousands of conservatives gather outside Washington to vet Republican hopefuls weighing bids for the White House.

A national showcase for established big hitters and rising stars alike, the four-day Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) starting Wednesday bills itself as the "largest and most influential gathering of conservatives in the world." An array of right-wing A-listers — including Brazil's recently defeated leader Jair Bolsonaro — are expected to address the convention, although many potential 2024 candidates are staying away.—AFP

Liechtenstein's oldest newspaper closing after 145 years

AFTER 145 years chronicling the life and times of Liechtenstein, the tiny principality's oldest daily newspaper announced Tuesday that it would close down next month.

The Liechtensteiner Volksblatt, founded in 1878, is to call time in March because of a drop in subscriptions and advertising revenue in the Alpine microstate of 39,000 inhabitants, between Switzerland and Austria.—AFP

At least 32 dead, dozens injured after two trains collide in Greece

AT least 32 people were killed and another 85 injured after two trains collided near the Greek city of Larissa, authorities said, as emergency services raced Wednesday to find survivors among the charred wreckage.

Several carriages were almost completely destroyed in the collision between a passenger train and a freight train just before midnight on Tuesday, with at least one car appearing to catch fire and trap passengers inside.

"I've never seen anything like this in my entire life," said one rescue worker, emerging from the wreckage. "It's tragic. Five hours later, we are finding bodies."

Smoke and flames emerged from several cars, some of which had overturned when they came off the tracks in the impact, leaving a tangled mess of metal and shattered glass.



More than 30 people have died after a train collision near the Greek city of Larissa, authorities said. PHOTO: AFP

The passenger train, carrying 350 passengers, had been travelling from the capital Athens to the northern city of Thessaloniki.

Greek media said it had been carrying many students returning to Thessaloniki after a long holiday weekend.

"It was a nightmare... I'm still shaking," 22-year-old passenger Angelos told AFP.

"Fortunately we were in the penultimate car and we got out alive. There was a fire in the first cars and complete panic."

"The collision was like a huge earthquake."— AFP

S Korea's Yoon says Japan changed from aggressor to partner

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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.

Players selected for Asian Cup U-20 Women's Qualifiers



Myanmar U-20 women players under training hard ahead of the 2024 Asian Cup U-20 Women's Qualifiers. PHOTO: MFF

THE Myanmar U-20 Women's National Team has selected 23 finalists to compete in the first round of the 2024 Asian Cup U-20 Women's Qualifiers.

Head Coach Daw San San

Thein will handle team Myanmar while Assistant Coaches Daw Nwe Nwe Toe and Daw San Yu Naing, and Goal Coach Daw May Khin Yamin will assist the team.

Goal Keepers May Oo Khin,

Phee Bay, and Thu Zar Aung, Defenders Phyu Phway, Yu Yu Naing, Khin Htay Kyaing, December Hnin, Kyel Sin, Phyu Phyu Win, Wai Phoo Eain, Midfielders Daisy Aung, Nang Cho Hmwe, Hnin Pwint Aye, Hay Marn Soe, Zakar Rosy, Kay Thwe Phyo Oo, Wai Hin Phyo, Sandar Lin, May Thet Mon Myint, Strikers Zin Moe Pyae, Yu Ya Naing, Yin Loon Eain, and Yoon Wadi Hlaing will participate in the Myanmar squad.

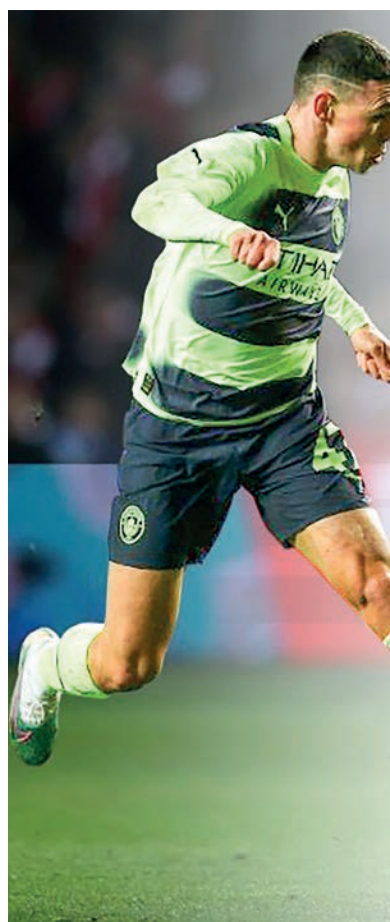
The Myanmar U-20 women's team reduced seven players from the initial 30 players and selected 23 finalists.

The Asian Cup U-20 Women's Qualifiers will be held in eight groups, and team Myanmar will be in Group G with Cambodian and Malaysian teams.

The Myanmar team will play against the Cambodian team on 8 March, and the Malaysian team on 12 March as group matches.

— Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Man City stroll into FA Cup quarters, Leicester crash out



PHIL Foden struck twice as Manchester City eased into the FA Cup quarter-finals with a 3-0 win against Bristol City, while 2021 winners Leicester suffered a shock 2-1 defeat against second tier Blackburn on Tuesday.

Pep Guardiola's side were never in danger of a giant-killing in the fifth round tie at Ashton Gate thanks to Foden's brace and a late strike from Kevin De Bruyne.

Guardiola saluted the impact of England forward Foden, who is starting to recapture his peak form after an inconsistent season.

"His career was always up, up, up. This season he struggled a bit and was a bit down. But now he's back for the best bit of the season," Guardiola said.

"His impact has been amazing. Football pays off when you work like he does."

City will hope for another boost on Wednesday when Premier League leaders Arsenal, two points ahead of the champions, face Everton in their game in hand.

"We're still alive in three competitions. We'll see what happens in the future," Guardiola said.

City took a seventh minute lead when Riyad Mahrez crossed to the far post, where Foden fired into the roof of the net.

Foden minutes as wards Foden, clinical finish past Max



doubled City's lead after 74 Julian Alvarez flicked to-who produced another O'Leary. — AFP

Manchester City's Phil Foden, who scored twice, runs at the Bristol City defence. PHOTO: AFP

Injured Nadal out of Indian Wells and Miami Masters

RAFAEL Nadal will miss the ATP 1000 events at Indian Wells and Miami, the 22-time Grand Slam champion confirmed on social media on Tuesday.

"I am sad that I won't be able to compete at Indian Wells nor Miami," Nadal said in a tweet which came after Indian Wells officials announced he had withdrawn from the tournament in the California desert that starts next week.

"Very sad not to be there. I'll miss all my US fans but I hope to see them later this year during the summer swing."

The news comes after the Spaniard said in late January he expected to miss six to eight weeks with the hip flexor injury he sustained at the Australian Open.

"We wish Rafa continued healing, and hope to see him back at the BNP Paribas Open next year," Indian Wells tournament director Tommy Haas said in a statement. Nadal, who said on 26 January that tests had confirmed a moderate muscle tear in his left hip, posted video on Twitter showing him training in the gym.—AFP