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Friday, 7 April 2023

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

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

Officials need to manage all measures for subordinates under fair administration without bias and discrimination: Vice-Senior General



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets cadets and trainees from the Computer Diploma Sergeant Clerk Training Course of the Tatmadaw (Army) Warrant Officer and Non-Commissioned Officers Training School yesterday.

SUCCESSFUL serving the duties and tasks including military operations is based on good spirit whereas good spirit is based on welfare and fair administration, said Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the separate meetings with trainees from the infantry

platoon commander course from Bahtoo Station, cadets and trainees from the Computer Diploma Sergeant Clerk Training Course of the Tatmadaw (Army) Warrant Officer and Non-Commissioned Officers Training School and Tatmadaw members and families from the station yesterday morning.

At the meetings held at Aung San Hall of the Tatmadaw (Army) Combat Forces School (Bahtoo)

and the Tatmadaw (Army) Warrant Officer and Non-Commissioned Officers Training School separately, the Vice-Senior General said that some powerful countries apply multi-dimensional warfare over some small developing countries and developed countries. They attack Myanmar in political, economic, military, social and propaganda aspects. Hence, the entire people need to prevent attacks of those

wishing to commit terrorism on the political, economic, education, health and religious sectors of the nation. In order to completely serve the State defence duties, Tatmadaw members are to always take training in order to skilfully deploy warfare and handle military equipment.

Tatmadaw members join the armed forces of their own accord, and it is a Union Tatmadaw. Forced recruitment will not

be allowed, and those Tatmadaw members are also selected with the stipulation of health and education requirements. Those Tatmadaw members have been provided training for an adequate duration and equipped with modern arms and equipment. Hence, they have to skilfully handle modern arms with combat power and combat capability. They have to take training on time.

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Union Budget Law for 2023-2024 financial year issued

THE State Administration Council has approved and issued the Union Budget Law for the 2023-2024 Financial Year on 31 March 2023 as the State Administration Council Law No 19/2023.

The Law will come into effect from 1 April 2023. — MNA

National Planning Law for 2023-2024 financial year issued

THE State Administration Council has approved and issued the National Planning Law for the 2023-2024 Financial Year on 31 March 2023 as the State Administration Council Law No 20/2023.

The Law will be effective from 1 April 2023. — MNA

Myanmar categorically rejects every act of interfering in sovereign State under pretext of Human Rights

DURING the 52nd session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva, Interactive Dialogues with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar were organized on 6 and 20 March 2023 respectively. The Council further adopted the EU-sponsored draft resolution entitled "Situation of human rights in Myanmar" on 4 April 2023. Similarly, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar made a briefing at the United Nations General Assembly on 16 March 2023 in New York. Since the participation of Myanmar's legitimate representative was prevented in the meetings against the principles of international cooperation and dialogue, Myanmar registered its objection with the relevant UN bodies.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights fails to reflect the extent of terrorist acts committed by so-called CRPH, NUG and PDF though they were publicly available. It is disappointing that the High Commissioner evidently waters down the killings and violence committed by the terrorist groups which have claimed the lives of 5,475 innocent civilians including 162 children, 73 teachers, 16 health staff and 773 administrators as of 31 March 2023.

The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar is going far beyond his mandate by shifting his

focus to the matters related to refugees and migration and publishing numerous papers on that issue and interfering in interstate relations between the sovereign countries. It is unacceptable that some countries have offered asylum to the masterminds who are responsible for committing and inciting the massive killings and violence in Myanmar. The Special Rapporteur's call for imposing sanctions and isolating Myanmar means disturbing the peace and stability of the country and to harm the interest of the general population.

The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar made a one-sided presentation to the United Nations General Assembly based on distorted information from terrorist organizations and opposition groups. She should be further careful with the proposals from armed groups to misuse humanitarian assistance for their political and military gains. The Government has been providing necessary assistance to the affected population. In addition to the field presence of UN agencies in different Regions and States, Myanmar has allowed 24 UN field visits and 49 field visits of the diplomats from EU, Switzerland, Germany, Canada, Britain and Norway between 2021 and 2022. Therefore, the allegations of access constraints are not true. The consent of the Government is a prerequisite for providing assistance

including humanitarian aid while Myanmar has been extending its cooperation to the United Nations agencies. The Special Envoy is advised to note that initiatives without the consent of the country concerned will only be counterproductive and engaging with unlawful groups and people responsible for atrocities may amount to supporting terrorism.

The European Union again tabled the resolution against Myanmar contained in document No A/HRC/52/L.19 to the 52nd session of the Human Rights Council. The lengthy document shows the extent of numerous mechanisms imposed on Myanmar and the level of interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign country. Myanmar does not accept the resolution which includes dictated elements and intrusive language against the political system, the political process on democratization in line with the 2008 State Constitution and matters that fall within the domestic jurisdiction of the country. The said resolution neglects the endeavours of Myanmar on the repatriation of the displaced persons from Rakhine State following the terrorist attacks by ARSA aka Aqa Mul Mujahideen in 2017. In this connection, progress has been made between Myanmar and Bangladesh as Myanmar Technical Team for in-person verification visited Teknaf and conducted interviews with the verified persons in March 2023. The resolution further

turns a blind eye to killings including 16 persons who were killed within the first three months of 2023 for their active role in the repatriation process. The resolution ignores the undeniable fact that such killings and intimidations made forced displacement in 2017 and hinder the return of the displaced persons. The people of Myanmar and successive governments do not recognize the term "Rohingya" which is neither legally supported nor included in British colonial official records. Myanmar has been granting citizenship status to those who meet the criteria set out in the 1982 Citizenship Law without any discrimination.

The afore-said country-specific dialogues and resolutions are purely based on unfounded allegations, one-sided narratives and politically motivated agendas. Since the resolution entitled "Situation of human rights in Myanmar" goes contrary to the fundamental principles of impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity of the Human Rights Council, Myanmar categorically rejects it and dissociates itself from the adoption of the resolution. The Government highly appreciates the countries which uphold a balanced position during the dialogues and dissociate themselves from the adoption of the resolution.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
6 April 2023

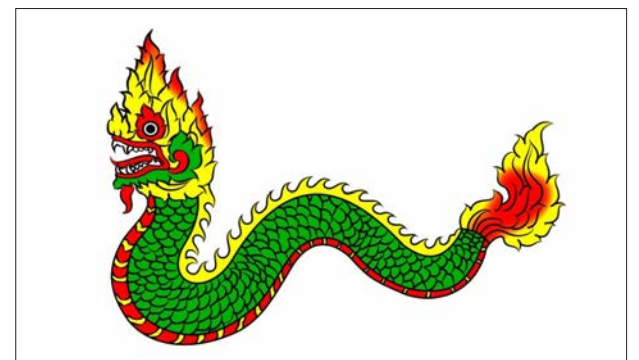
Five new cases of COVID-19 reported on 6 April, total figure registers 634,092

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases registered **634,092** after **five** new cases were reported on 6 April 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,579**, including **13** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at **19,490** on 6-4-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. — GNLM

Public Notice for Submitting Objection

1. ACCORDING to the application of the Pa-O National Organization (PNO) party with its headquarters located at No 18, West City Circular Road, Zaypaing Ward, Taunggyi, Shan State, to the Union Election Commission to allow it to continue to be established and registered as a political party, the name of the party, the flag and emblem to be used by the party and the public objection were advertised in the daily newspapers released on 1-3-2023.
2. There was an objection to the party flag being used by this organization, and the Union Election Commission found that it violated Rule 14 (b) of the registration of political parties, so it was revised.
3. Therefore, if someone wants to object to the mentioned party flag, which was revised and prepared by the Pa-O National Organization (PNO) party, they can object to the Union Election Commission



Flag design of the Pa-O National Organization (PNO) party

with valid evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement to the public under Rule 14 (d) of the Registration of Political Parties.

Union Election Commission

Advertise

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No organizations allowed to conduct activities against friendly neighbours

Our government always ensure the peace and stability and development of neighbouring countries by adopting a practical policy of “not allowing any organizations to utilize our territory to conduct activities against our friendly neighbours”.

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

Officials need to manage all measures for subordinates under fair administration without bias and discrimination: Vice-Senior General

FROM PAGE-1

Discipline is the backbone of the Tatmadaw. Tatmadaw members have been trained to follow the prescribed disciplines since their training period. Hence, they all have to take such practice throughout their lives.

Leaders need to follow 16 leadership characteristics prescribed by the Tatmadaw. Leaders need to have good commander spirit as well as parental spirit. Those leaders must be good commanders, good financial managers, good justices, good trainers and good commanders depending on the sizes of military units.

As the Tatmadaw is formed systematically meeting international standards, Tatmadaw members are to follow Geneva Convention and RoE in combatting internal insurgency as international laws. They also have to abide by 60 military codes of conduct in conformity with humanitarian ethics accepted by the international community.

All officers, other ranks and families need to love their military units. They have to be united for forging patriotic and nationalistic spirits from the unit spirit. Up to now, the Tatmadaw is standing tall as



a strong institution due to the individually healthy and fit spirit of Tatmadaw members. Successful serving the duties and tasks including military operations is based on good spirit whereas good spirit is based on welfare and fair administration.

Officials need to manage all measures for subordinates under fair administration without bias and discrimination. They have to build relevant military units strongly to politely associate with the parents so as to successfully implement the people’s militia strategy. The Vice-Senior General then coordinated with officials over reports of Tatmadaw members

and families.

After the meetings, the Vice-Senior General presented foodstuffs produced by Tatmadaw factories for Tatmadaw members and families to officials. Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of the Vice-Senior General, presented foodstuffs and cash assistance for the maternal and child welfare association to the wife of the station commander.

Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye gave sports equipment for trainees to officials.

The Vice-Senior General and party had lunch together with trainees at the mess hall of the Tatmadaw (Army) Warrent Officer and Non-Commissioned Officer Training School. — MNA/TTA

The Vice-Senior General presents foodstuffs for Tatmadaw members and families.



The Vice-Senior General cordially greets officers, other ranks and family members from Bahtoo Station yesterday.

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise



DPM MoHA Union Minister attends Precursor Regulatory Workshop



SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister MoHA Union Minister Lt-Gen Soe Htut speaks at the Precursor Regulatory Workshop in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE Precursor Regulatory Workshop was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, State Administration Council Member Chairman of the Central Com-

mittee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut said the State Administration Council reorganized the central committee

with 19 members as per the 1993 Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law and 11 working groups, precursor regulatory group and other region/state inspection teams to supervise

the export/import of precursor, storage, trading and production under the law.

The precursor chemical control also plays a key role in reducing the drug production rate. It should work hard as per the motto "no precursor, no drug abuse, no drug users, no drug cases". It should cooperate with international organizations in addition to regional countries in combatting drug problems.

The special missions are underway to accelerate the drug abuse prevention programmes and Operation 39 was launched across the nation from 1 February to 31 May 2023 to combat the illegal drug trade in Shan State.

During the Operation 39 period, the central committee organizes such workshops to discuss the weak points in combatting drug-related cases.

Then, Central Committee Secretary Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar

Police Force Maj-Gen Zin Min Htet reported on information exchanges with neighbouring countries, regional countries, and international anti-doping agencies including UNODC, capacity building training, meeting, cooperation work with Tatmadaw, the department concerned and international organizations in combating drug cases as per the existing law and drug seizers in 2022-2023. Chairman of Precursor Regulatory Group Deputy Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Aung Naing Thu talked about the drug seizers in Yangon, Bago and Mandalay regions and other officials discussed recommendations to exchange information with international anti-doping agencies, systematic inspection of precursor and chemicals, seven types of precursor and 17 chemicals that are used in producing drugs.

The workshop will be held until 7 April. — MNA/KTZH



LAOSAT CEO calls on MoI Union Minister

CHIEF Executive Officer Mr Wu Fang Jie of LAOSAT Company Limited and a delegation called on Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. They discussed cooperation

in development of the media sector.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, MRTV Director-General U Ye Naing and responsible officials. — MNA/TS

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn receives LAOSAT CEO Mr Wu Fang Jie yesterday.

MoC Union Minister receives Chinese Ambassador

UNION Minister for Commerce U Aung Naing Oo received a delegation led by Mr Chen Hai, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Both sides cordially and frankly discussed development

of bilateral trade, businesspeople from the two countries participating in trade fairs, and continued implementation of the agreements signed by both countries to facilitate trade operations and increase trade between the two countries.

The meeting was also attended by the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Commerce, the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization director-general and responsible officials. — MNA/TS



The Chinese ambassador calls on Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo yesterday.

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Coord meeting held with broadcasting partners of MRTV for film academy award ceremony

THE Ministry of Information organized a coordination meeting with broadcasting partners of MRTV in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday to hold a film academy award ceremony.

It was attended by Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, the directors-general, responsible personnel from the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare, Forever Group Co Ltd, Shwe Than Lwin Media Co Ltd, Family Entertainment (5 Plus), YTV, Channel K, Fortune TV, Nebula X Entertainment and invitees.

First, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn talked about the arrangements to hold the film academy award ceremony at the national level in Nay Pyi Taw, the important role of the ceremony for the public and country and the cooperation work of broadcasters



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn inspects the preparations for the Walking Thingyan in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

in live streaming processes.

Then, Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, the commandant of Myawaddy TV (Nay Pyi Taw), the directors-general of MRTV and IPRD discussed entertainment programmes of broad-

casters of MRTV while holding the film academy award ceremony and other measures to hold the ceremony successfully.

Myanmar Motion Picture Organization Chairman U Kyi Soe Tun and officials of TV

channels reported on preparations for live streaming and the Union minister concluded the meeting.

In the evening, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn, Deputy Minister U Ye

Tint, Deputy Mayor U Maung Maung, Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung and departmental heads inspected the construction of Gate 2, the security counter, a foam party for youths and children in Youth Thingyan Zone, the place of the colourful party for youths, entertainment pavilion construction site for Nay Pyi Taw Walking Thingyan, preparations for government employees and families to play water happily and peacefully, pavilion of ethnic people, preparations of Ethnic Affairs Ministry, water spray walkways in the Thingyan Zone for Ethnic People, Thanaka Thingyan Zone and Gate 1.

Then, the Union minister and party also observed the academy stage construction, sound effect systems, lighting, seating plans, the red carpet and a 3D digital mapping system at the open-air theatre near the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall. — MNA/KTZH

State-owned MraukU hotel, private hotels to be opened during Thingyan festival



Pagodas and stupas are seen in the ancient city of MraukU. PHOTO: KANU

THE travel agencies provide transport services for travellers to the MraukU cultural region of Rakhine State during this Thingyan period to peacefully enjoy the new year festival and pagoda festivals. Moreover, the State-owned MraukU Hotel and private hotels will be also opened to facilitate the accommodation

of local and foreign travellers, according to the Rakhine State Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

Arrangements are being made to hold Rakhine traditional water festival and the pagoda festival suspended due to the outbreak of COVID-19 will be also held. The Koethaung pa-

goda (ninety thousand Buddha statues) festival was held actively in the last week of March and the Shitthaung pagoda festival will be held in early April. The famous pagodas in Rakhine State are Mahamuni Buddha image, Htokkanthein Stupa, Antaw Ordination Hall, Laymyathna Stupa, Laungbanpyauk pagoda, Bawdhi Shwegu pagoda, Mingala Manaung pagoda, Yadana Manaung pagoda, Thatkya Manaung pagoda, Lawka Manaung pagoda, Zina Manaung pagoda, Phayapaw pagoda, Yadanabon pagoda, Shwekyathin pagoda, Candamuni pagoda, Myatazaung pagoda, Htuparyone pagoda, Tharapabbhata pagoda, Pyisoegyig pagoda and Anawma pagoda.

The residents also prepare to host local and foreign visitors to Sittway and Kyauktaw Thingyan festivals and ancient pagodas.

"The MraukU Hotel will be

opened and it is ready to host both domestic and international travellers. There will be the Thingyan festival in addition to pagoda festivals this year. The travel agencies offer services of air, land and waterway transportation for travellers from Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw and so there will be large numbers of local travellers to MraukU, especially to Koethaung pagoda, Shitthaung pagoda and Mahamuni Buddha image and Kyauktaw festival. The Rakhine State government arranges to hold the Sittway Thingyan festival and the MraukU cultural zone of Rakhine State will become alive with travellers. MraukU is also a tourist destination like Bagan and so we invite the people to pay a visit it," said U Tin Htut Aung, director of the Rakhine State Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

The State-owned MraukU hotel will be opened on 9 April. It contains 33 rooms and the vis-

itors can study the ward at which Thai's King daughter Sirindhorn stayed.

Myanmar's cultural heritages are concentrated in Bagan and MraukU. The companies also offer online services for air tickets, and land and waterway routes for the MraukU tour. They also make Sittway-MraukU trip plans by boat or car.

The ancient city of MraukU is located in the northern part of Rakhine State, which is the western part of Myanmar, and in the east of Kaladan River and surrounded by ranges of hills boasting ancient pagodas and stupas. The officials also make efforts for MraukU to be on the list of World Heritage. The tourism sector of Rakhine State will be revived with the travels of local/foreign visitors to the MraukU region along with the Myanmar traditional Thingyan Festival in the Thingyan period this year. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

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.

CURRENT AFFAIRS



Archaeologists from India and Myanmar are seen paying field survey trips in Bagan.

Mural paintings of 90 ancient pagodas, stupas, edifices in Bagan to be renovated

MURAL paintings of 90 ancient pagodas, stupas, and edifices in Bagan will be renovated in collaboration with India, according to the Department of Archaeology and National Museums (Bagan Branch).

Since March, experts from

the Archaeological Survey of India have been visiting Myanmar to discuss the restoration and preservation of the mural paintings of pagodas and edifices in Bagan.

Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Daw

Nu Mra Zan signed the MoU and checked the renovation processes of the Nathlaung Kyaung, Thagyapon Pagoda, and Ananda Pagoda, and the maintenance of palaces belonged to King Anawrahta and King Kyansittha.

— TWA/KZW

Myanmar-China border trade via Wang Ding crossing exceeds 2 bln yuan in Q1 2023

BORDER trade between Myanmar and China through the Wang Ding border amounted to over 2 billion yuan in the first three months of 2023, according to a statement released by the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar.

Between January and March 2023, over 67,000 trucks and over 87,000 travellers were allowed to pass the Wang Ding border point. The number of trucks passing increased compared to that of the year-ago period. The border trade value totalled 2.856 billion yuan from

849,000 tonnes of exports and imports in Q1.

Myanmar has opened Muse, Lweje, Chinshwehaw, Kampaiti and Kengtung border posts to conduct cross-border trade with China.

Myanmar mainly exports rice, broken rice, fishery products, rubber, dried areca nut and food products to China, while construction materials, electrical appliances, cement and pharmaceuticals are imported into the country.

— TWA/EM



A truck is seen waiting for the entry permit at the Wang Ding border.

Myanmar-Thailand border trade values exceed \$5 bln in FY 2022-2023

THE border trade between Myanmar and Thailand in the last financial year 2022-2023 topped over US\$5.27 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The figures indicated an increase of \$462.13 million compared to that in the 2021-2022 FY.

The majority of the trade was carried out via the Myawady and Hteekhee border, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

The trade values stood at over \$148 million at Tachilek, \$2.03 billion at Myawady, \$224 million at Kawthoung, \$132 million at Myeik, \$2.72 billion at Hteekhee and over \$15 million at Mawtaung

border. Myanmar conveys onion, green gram, fresh and dried chilli pepper, rice powder, broken rice, corn, peanut, tamarind, cassava, cabbage, Mollusca, eel, crab, fish paste, shrimp, clam, anchovy, other fish, clothes manufactured on the Cutting-Making and Packaging basis to Thailand through Myawady.

The main export items are garments from the CMP businesses, rice powder, corn, peanut, fish paste, chilli pepper, broken rice, onion, fishery products, cassava, tamarind, cabbage, transformer main and green gram.

— TWA/EM

30 CNG filling stations to be opened across Myanmar during Thingyan period



One of the natural gas fuel stations in Yangon.

A total of 30 CNG shops across Myanmar will be opened daily during the Thingyan Festival period, according to Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) (CNG Department).

The CNG fuel stations in Yangon Region – 001 (Thamine 1), 002 (Insein), 003 (Ahlon 1), 004 (Kyaikkalo), 005 (Thakayta), 007 (Bayintnaung), 008

(Pale), 009 (Hlinethaya 1), 012 (Danyingon), 015 (Dagon Myothit-East), 016 (Kyimyindine), 017 (South Okkalapa), 019 (Sawbwagyigon), 020 (Mingala Taungnyunt), 021 (Dagon Myothit-Seikkan), 022 (Thakayta), 024 (Parami) and 025 (Hlawga) – will be opened daily during Thingyan Festival period.

In addition, the CNG filling

stations such as 026 (Hline-thaya 2), 027 (Shwepyitha 2), 028 (Thuwunna), 029 (Ahlon 3), 031 (Thanlyin 2), 037 (South Okkalapa 2), 038 (Dagon Myothit-South – Maungmakan), 039 (Hlinethaya 3), 042 (Htaukkyant), Paleik, Yenangyoung and Chauk will also be opened from 6 am to 7 pm from 8 to 17 April.

Similarly, a total of 16 CNG fuel stations – 006 (Dagon Myothit), 011 (North Okkalapa 1), 013 (Ahlon 2), 014 (Shwepyitha 1), 018 (Thanlyin 1), 023 (Dagon Myothit-East 2), 030 (Shwenyaungpin), 032 (Ywama), 033 (Danyingon 2), 034 (Kyaikkasan), 035 (Botahtaung), 036 (North Okkalapa 2), 040 (Mindhamma), 041 (Thamine 2), Yenangyoung 1 and Mandalay – will be opened from 8 to 12 April and closed during Thingyan period. — TWA/MKKS



An undated photo shows trucks queuing in line to pass the Myawady border.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Corn price moves slightly up in domestic market

THE corn price rose above to K1,220 per viss on 6 April, according to the Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung commodity centre).

From mid-March, the corn price stayed below K1,200 per viss.

The strong demand and the price increase in the Thailand market which is the main buyer of Myanmar corn pushed up the price, said corn traders.

At present, Myanmar delivered corn to China and Thailand through border posts and also shipped corn to China, India, Viet Nam and the Philippines by sea, according to Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

China is purchasing Myanmar's corn through cross-border trade under the opium substitution programme. Legitimate corn trade between Myanmar and China commenced at the end of 2022. A total of 112 companies have been given the go-

ahead for corn exports.

Thailand gives green light to corn imports under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand imposed a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn imports to protect the rights of their growers if the corn is imported during the corn season of Thailand.

The directive released on 30 June said that transactions for the exports of agricultural products including corn, rice, bean and oil crops are to be made in dollars instead of Yuan-Kyat/Baht-Kyat. Therefore, 65 per cent of export earnings (US dollars) of the corn have to be exchanged according to the reference rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar (K2,100). Nonetheless, there is a large gap between the regulated rate and the unauthorized rate of the US dollar (over K2,870).

Myanmar exported more than two million tonnes of corn



Farmers are seen unloading the corn from the truck. PHOTO: KO HTEIN

to foreign trade in the 2022 corn season. The majority of them were sent to Thailand and the remaining went to the Philippines, China, India and Viet Nam.

More than two million tonnes of corn are expected to

be shipped to foreign trade partners in the 2023 corn season, said U Min Khaing, Patron of the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah

and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons – winter, summer and monsoon. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year. — NN/EM

400 companies fail to submit AR in March

A total of 400 companies failed to submit annual returns (AR) on the online registry system in March, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The DICA notified any registered company which fails to file its AR on MyCO will be struck off the register from the date of the directive under Section 430 (F) of the Myanmar Companies Law.

Five hundred companies in January and 400 in February did not file the AR on MyCO. Additionally, 5,000 companies failed to submit AR in 2022, the DICA stated.

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

All registered companies need to submit AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation) under Section 97 of the law.

Under Section 266 (A) of the



The photo shows an office building of Directorate of Investment and Company Administration-DICA.

Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements G-5 simultaneously. All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending, under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, thousands of companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms before the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has notified that

any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totalling K250,000.

If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/EM

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 6 April 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

| | |
|----------------|--------|
| Octane 92 | K2,255 |
| Octane 95 | K2,305 |
| Diesel | K2,130 |
| Premium Diesel | K2,210 |

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA | K2,375,100 per tical |
| High-purity gold in the gold market | K2,955,000 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.

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

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09 454 237 515

OPINION

Deploy personnel to fight illegal trade in modern techniques

LEGAL trade and those traders are doing their business with integrity for the benefit of the State economy but illegal trade and illegal traders do not consider the interests of the State and citizens except for their selfishness as well as the tarnished image of the nation.

Illegal traders commit to taking advantage of weaknesses in trade policies, orders, directives and procedures as well as impossible situations to conduct cent per cent checking the commodities from all trucks and security restrictions for illegally exporting and importing goods in various ways and means.

Officials and departmental personnel from relevant checkpoints under the leadership of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee seized various kinds of illegal commodities within more than one year from January 2022 to date. In this regard, illegal traders who trafficked extra loaded commodities rather than the import declaration mixed the high-priced goods with low-priced ones which have not been paid customs duties. If so, the duty-assigned personnel need to perform inspection and seizure of illegal goods applying their experiences and rationality.

Currently, the Customs Department applies the Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System-MACCS system as well as the Trade Department uses Myanmar TradeNet 2.0 and QR Code system in checking and managing the import and export of commodities to ensure the smooth and swift flow of commodities and to effectively hamper illegal trade measures.

It is necessary to manage the deployment of staff members and system in checking commodities whether is based on illegal or illegal trade processes. Only if so, will it be effectively eradicating the illegal trade. Authorities and officials should apply the techniques and systems appropriate for the current era in addition to conventional means.

It is necessary to manage the deployment of staff members and system in checking commodities whether is based on illegal or illegal trade processes. Only if so, will it be effectively eradicating the illegal trade. Authorities and officials should apply the techniques and systems appropriate for the current era in addition to conventional means.

The seized commodities must be managed under systematic procurement procedures for the State to get deserved amount of income as revenue. Duty-assigned personnel make sacrifices and take risk of seizing illegally imported commodities. If the seized materials are damaged before the auction, the efforts of those personnel will be wasted as well as the State will lose income. As such, relevant departments need to take responsibility for supervising the seized materials.

Eradication of illegal trade is playing an important role in implementing the five-point roadmap and 12 objectives of the State Administration Council. Authorities and relevant bodies need to seek the best ways for hampering, inspecting and taking action against illegal traders and illegally imported goods more than now through comprehensive long-term plans for the sake of the State and legal traders such as businesspersons engaging in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises to have the capacity of market competitiveness.

Genuine Will of the People or Open Letter to Noeleen Heyzer

By Min Khant

SOMEONE might wonder who would be the writer of the open letter to Noeleen Heyzer, special envoy of the UN secretary-general on Myanmar.

I'm just a common man loving my country and my people. To be exact, a common citizen who cannot tolerate and accept the one-sided allegations and pressures of International Organizations and individuals causing devastating impacts to the country and the people. As an ordinary citizen, writing an open letter to the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar is an act done as per democratic rights, letting on my opinions and feelings so that the individuals and organizations concerned can be aware of it. The letter has already been sent to the one concerned through various channels, and I further write this article for the public and the international community.

The facts highlighted in this article are to respond to the one-sided allegations concerning Myanmar made by Noeleen Heyzer at a meeting of the General Assembly on 16 March. What Noeleen Heyzer said at the meeting were merely the reflections of the fake news, disinformation, propaganda and reports on social media made by the individuals and organizations opposing the government in office. That is the reason why I sent the open letter though I have no idea how the relevant Ministry of Foreign Affairs responded to this.

Noeleen Heyzer said that "the impact of the military takeover on the country and its people, has been devastating." At that point, I'd like to remind Noeleen Heyzer what she had better know that the incidents of violence and terrorism occurring in Myanmar are not because of the military takeover but the consequences of terrorist attacks of PDFs, subordinates of NUG which comprises NLD party members under their course of the utter devastation of the State.

In fact, the NUG/PDFs just want to achieve their political goal through violent means. The conflict in Myanmar is just a political matter triggered by electoral fraud. Therefore, that is just a case that can be solved by political means. At present, the voices de-

nouncing the violent means can be heard within the NLD party which originated the NUG. We can easily find the evidence and interviews showing that terrorist groups of expatriates are trying to purge the NLD party members in Myanmar who no longer support their violent means and terrorism.

Hence, we all can clearly see the root cause of the ongoing conflict in Myanmar - the military takeover or the terrorism of extremist NUG/PDFs. Moreover, it is worth asking Noeleen Heyzer whether she has not read the letter of a peace activist, who was deeply involved in the Myanmar peace process, asking for the help of international diplomats as his name was in the 'hit list' to be executed by NUG. The "hit list" for assassination includes businessmen, politicians, actors/ artists/ performers, who they think, supporting or working with the military regime; U Ko Ko Gyi (Chairman of the People's Party), Dr Aung Naing Oo, a member of the Mon Unity Party and the former Deputy Speaker of Mon State Parliament, and their party members have been threatened multiple occasions by the NUG/PDF. In the letter; the peace activist asked for help from international diplomats by attaching a picture of NUG's online meeting with over 60 PDF groups. It is obvious that NUG/

whole country is not placed under Martial Law but only 47 townships where PDFs and ethnic armed groups are revolting. It is clear that the Government is taking measures with restraints.

The world knows the NUG had urged the people to intensify the violent acts starting from 7 September 2021 as D-Day. During the period from 1 February 2021 to 28 February 2023, the attacks and

AS an ordinary citizen, writing an open letter to the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar is an act done as per democratic rights, letting on my opinions and feelings so that the individuals and organizations concerned can be aware of it. The letter has already been sent to the one concerned through various channels, and I further write this article for the public and the international community.

PDFs regard every people who do not support them as their enemy and kill them without any reason. The bereaved family members are the solid evidence.

As the next point, she also claimed that the military committed grave human rights violations to maintain its grip on power. In Myanmar, the security force members including the Tatmadaw personnel are literally taking legal actions as per prescribed laws against human rights violations committed by the PDF terrorists and some members of ethnic armed organizations. There are 330 townships in Myanmar. The



Demonstrations against KNDF/KNPP and KDF terrorists' brutal killings of Pa-O Buddhist monks and ethnic people in Pa'O Self-Administered Zone.

ALL of the incidents are not fabrications made by the military but they were actual crimes committed by the CRPH/NUG/PDFs, and it can be proved by the people. There is also plenty of evidence showing that NUG/PDFs themselves are proud of such acts of terrorism, brutalities and crimes as their great victories of revolution. It is very palpable to everyone that there undeniably exists political and diplomatic partiality for turning blind eyes to such acts of terrorism and putting one-sided pressures on the Government's actions taken by laws. I also want her to know peaceable common people cannot accept such behaviour at all because it indirectly supports the terrorism of NUG/PDF.

news about what is actually happening in Myanmar. It is notable that everyone can access the information on the website in four languages: Myanmar, English, Russian and Chinese. I also want to urge Noeleen Heyzer not to get trapped only in the news of propaganda made by the media outlets depending on the Western bloc and the terrorist group. The ability to impartially listen to the news from both sides is a fundamental necessity for an expert who is shouldering heavy responsibilities.

Particularly, her reckless claim is, 'We just received reports that 28 civilians were killed by the military at a monastery (Nanneng village, Pinlaung township) in Southern Shan state'. The misinformation fabricated by media outlets of the Western bloc was merely to smear the reputation of the Tatmadaw and it has already

been disgraced and proved untrue by the demonstration of entire Pa 'O ethnic people saying the KNDFs and PDFs are responsible for the massacre. It is obvious how Noeleen Heyzer is far from reality as she referenced the misinformation in her report at the UNGA. It is a shame that Noeleen Heyzer, special envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar is just a stooge of NUG/PDFs' propaganda mechanism.

In Myanmar, PDFs are the perpetrators of massacres killing including children. During a period from February 2021 to January 2023, there were 76 incidents of mass killings (over three deaths of family members/people) claiming the lives of 345 unarmed civilians and injuring 73 others. Underage children were also found in the deaths. Moreover, 143 children have been killed while 392 others were injured due to the terrorist

attacks of CRPH and NUG. Statistics say the Sagaing region holds the highest number of child deaths in terrorist attacks followed by the Magway region. The majority of the child victims were killed in the incidents of: murdering a whole family of alleged informers for having different political colour; explosions of IEDs planted by terrorists; reckless test firing weapons into villages by PDFs; arson attacks on villages and dropping bombs wantonly using drones. These included other certain incidents in which children were killed for getting used as pawns in terrorist attacks on PDFs.

All of the incidents are not fabrications made by the military but they were actual crimes committed by the CRPH/NUG/PDFs, and it can be proved by the people. There is also plenty of evidence showing that NUG/PDFs themselves are proud of such acts of terrorism, brutal-

ities and crimes as their great victories of revolution. It is very palpable to everyone that there undeniably exists political and diplomatic partiality for turning blind eyes to such acts of terrorism and putting one-sided pressures on the Government's actions taken by laws. I also want her to know peaceable common people cannot accept such behaviour at all because it indirectly supports the terrorism of NUG/PDF.

Noeleen Heyzer further claimed that 'a generation that benefited from Myanmar's previous opening up, especially the youth, is now disillusioned, facing chronic hardship and many feeling they have no choice but to take up arms'. There are not even a handful of youths becoming terrorists in Myanmar due to the instigations of NLD extremists and NUG terrorist groups. The mass of youths who are peacefully learning their education after realizing the truth is now laughing at what Noeleen Heyzer said. I believe the international community would have known the complete absence of responsibility and accountability of NUG according to the accounts of the youths who ruined themselves after their immature adventurous mind was clouded with political ideologies and taken the wrong way.

The "four cuts" strategy of the military is not the actual reason why civilians in some areas where armed conflicts break out are in plight but because the PDF terrorists are torching villages, killing and abducting people. Everyone can see there will be no other way out except for the measures taken by security personnel using the necessary force to defend civilians. Noeleen Heyzer also made a political and diplomatic defence for the terrorist group by saying that 'the NUG has also condemned killings by the PDFs warning resistance groups not to perform inhumane acts'. In reality, NUG is leading the acts of terrorism. Therefore, such comments apparently support terrorism. That is totally hideous to make such a defence comment vividly knowing the PDFs are terrorizing and killing

the people according to the instructions of NUG.

As a special envoy of the UN secretary-general on Myanmar, Noeleen Heyzer must objectively review the ongoing conflicts in Myanmar. Nevertheless, the biased remarks and groundless references are far from the genuine will of the Myanmar people. Therefore, with mounting intolerance, I respond so on behalf of Myanmar people who desire peace and stability.

In the course of the utter devastation of the State, the sayings and activities of those, who absconded from their native country and damaged the interests of the people literally do not represent the Myanmar people and are not the genuine desire of the people as well. In a country practising any political system, providing that the country is stable and peaceful, the socio-economic factors of the people accordingly will develop.

According to the recent political development in Myanmar, the majority of the people are being disgusted by the violent acts and brutal killings of unarmed civilians by the CRPH/NUG/PDF. To ensure stable and peaceful lives of the happy family, and have the acts of terrorism reduced and disappear are the genuine will of the people. If you really desire to reflect and fulfil the will of Myanmar people, I here want to urge the international community including Noeleen Heyzer to cooperate constructively in the efforts to hold the general elections as early as possible and also to ensure Myanmar returns to its path to democracy. One-sided allegations and pressures will never lead and guide the country to its right path.

To sum up, through this open letter; I send a message to the international community and Noeleen Heyzer that the facts mentioned above are the genuine will of the people in Myanmar who do not accept the sayings and remarks intending to devastate the interests of the people and who only desire peace and stability of the State.

(This article reflects the only opinion of the writer)

ENVIRON WORLD

Video probe shows internal damage to Fukushima reactor



Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter in February 2022 shows tanks used to store treated water on the premises of the crippled-Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in northeastern Japan. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

FRESH images from inside a crippled reactor at Japan's Fukushima nuclear plant revealed heavy damage to its foundation and significant debris, its operator said.

Tokyo Electric Power (TEPCO) on Tuesday released a series of video clips from a robotic survey inside Fukushima Daiichi plant's Reactor 1, one of three that suffered core meltdowns in 2011.

"There were areas that we could not see. But we believe (damage) is spread across large areas," a TEPCO official told a briefing. The video showed damaged concrete walls exposing steel rods embedded inside, with debris piled roughly 50 centimetres (20 inches) high.

The video illustrated the daunting task ahead to decommission the plant after it was hit by a huge tsunami triggered by a 9.0-magnitude earthquake. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

UK govt unveils new water plan after sewage discharges outcry

THE UK government on Tuesday announced its latest plan to better protect England's water supplies, amid a long-running scandal over privatized water firms pumping raw sewage into rivers and onto seashores.

The "Plan for Water" follows months of criticism over the release of untreated wastewater into Britain's waterways, which last summer sparked the closure of some beaches at the height of a heatwave. — AFP

Amsterdam's Schiphol airport to ban overnight flights by 2025

TO meet the Paris climate agreement, the Dutch airport is introducing a few new regulations for overnight flights and private jets.

In order to reduce noise pollution, the Dutch airport Schiphol will no longer allow commercial or cargo flights to depart between midnight and 6 am or land between midnight and 5 am.

Presently around 10,000 flights run during overnight hours, per year. Starting in November these flights will gradually be faded out. — AFP

Massive sperm whale beaches itself, dies in Bali

INDONESIAN animal experts were preparing Thursday to conduct an autopsy on an 18-metre (59-foot) whale that died after washing up on a beach in Bali, conservation officials said.

The sperm whale, believed to weigh many tonnes, beached itself in the east of the holiday island on Wednesday before locals and officials pushed it back out to sea.

But after swimming away it became stranded again just hours later on a different beach and died on the shore with no visible wounds, local marine and fisheries official Permana Yudi-

arso told AFP.

"We are still investigating the cause of death. We want to get a scientific explanation of whether it was because of pollution or plastic," he said.

Sperm whales, the world's largest predators, are listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature as being "vulnerable" to extinction.

Vets and forensic experts have arrived at the scene to investigate the cause of the whale's death, and its carcass will be buried in the coming days.

"Today we will conduct a necropsy test, and after that we

will get an excavator to try to bury the carcass nearby," Yudiarso said.

Police cordoned off the beach in Bali's Klungkung regency to stop the theft of the whale's meat or body parts.

Yudiarso said whales usually come closer to the shore when they are sick or dying.

In 2018, a sperm whale was found dead in Indonesia with more than 100 plastic cups and 25 plastic bags in its stomach, raising concerns about the Southeast Asian archipelago's massive marine rubbish problem. — AFP



Indonesian animal experts were to conduct an autopsy on the massive whale after its death. **PHOTO: AFP**

'Infecting minds': US book sent to teachers seeks to sow climate doubt

FROM crops to corals, a book circulated by a controversial US think tank is riddled with misleading claims about established climate science, in what campaigners slam as a bid to "infect" young minds.

The free-market Heartland Institute drew outrage from campaigners and educators, but applause from climate skeptics, when it sent the book to more than 8,000 American school teachers this year "to present facts" it said were ignored or distorted by pundits and the media.

"Climate at a Glance for



US think tank is riddled with misleading claims about established climate science, in what campaigners slam as a bid to "infect" young minds. **PHOTO: KHALED DESOUKI / AFP/FILE**

Teachers and Students," fact-checked by AFP, follows another mass book-mailing in 2017, and reflects a push to sow skepticism about scientific evidence for the human-driven crisis threatening the planet.

"It is outrageous that such propaganda was sent out... with the goal of infecting the minds of children," Susan Joy Hassol, director of the nonprofit group Climate Communication, told AFP.

The glossy, 80-page book appears like a legitimate reference, complete with datasets, graphs

and footnotes citing mainstream sources including government and international agencies.

But scientists told AFP it is packed with misleading claims, including sections that imply higher carbon dioxide levels and warming are positive for crops and coral reefs, decrease in snow has been negligible, sea-level rise is not accelerating and heatwaves have become less severe.

"We stand by the data presented" in the book, its editor and the institute's climate chief H. Sterling Burnett told AFP. — AFP

HEALTH/WELLNESS: WORLD

Congratulations on the 75th Anniversary of World Health Day 2023

The 75th anniversary year of WHO is an opportunity to look back at public health successes that have improved the quality of life during the last seven decades. It is also an opportunity to motivate action to tackle the health challenges of today and tomorrow. Let's join WHO on a journey to achieve Health for All.

By Dr Than Lwin Tun



The right to health is a basic human right. Yet nearly a third of the global population is not able to access essential health services. The COVID-19 pandemic and other health emergencies, along with humanitarian and climate crises, economic challenges and war have made every nation's journey to achieve health for everyone all the more urgent. Now is the time for leaders to take action and for society to hold leaders accountable. **PHOTO: UNITED NATIONS**

IN 1945, an organization is born at the United Nations Conference in San Francisco, i.e., a motion to create a new and independent organization dedicated to discussing health topics was passed. After that, in 1948, 7 April is designated as

World Health Day in the First Health Assembly to celebrate the creation of the World Health Organization (WHO) with the goal of promoting health, keeping the world safe and serving the vulnerable – so everyone, everywhere can attain the high-

est level of health and well-being.

The first World Health Day is officially celebrated on 7 April 1950 to mark the anniversary of the founding of the World Health Organization (WHO). Since then, the organization

has been working tirelessly to improve global health by providing leadership, research, and technical assistance to countries. The WHO's efforts have led to significant improvements in global health outcomes, such as the eradication of smallpox and the reduction of polio cases by more than 99 per cent.

World Health Day is celebrated annually on 7 April globally. The day is dedicated to raising awareness about global health issues and promoting healthy living. The theme for World Health Day changes every year, and it is an opportunity to highlight a particular health issue that requires attention.

Each year, World Health Day focuses on different health issues. This year 2023, the theme is "Health for All" and World Health Day provides an opportunity for governments, organi-

zations, and individuals around the world to come together to raise awareness about health issues and promote healthy living. We must all do our part to support the WHO's efforts to build a healthier, more equitable world. By working together, we can make a difference and improve global health outcomes.

The 75th anniversary year of WHO is an opportunity to look back at public health successes that have improved the quality of life during the last seven decades. It is also an opportunity to motivate action to tackle the health challenges of today and tomorrow. Let's join WHO on a journey to achieve Health for All.

References

- 75 years of improving public health (who.int)
- World Health Day (national-today.com)

Bosnian leader convicted over Covid ventilators deal

THE prime minister of one of Bosnia's two regions was sentenced to four years in prison on Wednesday in a case involving the purchase of Chinese ventilators in the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Fadil Novalic, who leads the Bosnia and Herzegovina federation, was taken in for questioning in May 2020 as prosecutors

investigated the 5.4 million euro (\$5.9 million) deal.

The government had bought 100 ventilators through a company that usually specializes in fruit and vegetable preservation — and the devices turned out to be unsuitable for use with serious ill patients.

The court ruled that Novalic, 63, "abused his position"

by creating conditions for the company to buy the ventilators despite not being registered for importing medical equipment, state court judge Branko Peric said.

"The equipment did not even have the minimum required parameters" and "could not be used for the care of patients in serious condition", Peric said.

Novalic, who can appeal the sentence, was not in court for the verdict. He has previously denounced the trial as a "political case" aimed at discrediting him. The owner of the company, Fikret Hodzic, was sentenced to five years in prison, and the region's civil protection director Fahrudin Solak, who acted as middleman between the firm and the government, got a six-year term on charges including forgery. — AFP



A ventilator at a hospital. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ AXEL HEIMKEN / POOL VIA AFP**

Drought pushes Kenya's refugee mega-camp to 'breaking point'

UGASH Adan Abdulahi shook a jerry can. Inside rattled a few grains of sorghum — the only food to last his family another 10 days in Kenya's overwhelmed Dadaab refugee camp.

Every day hundreds of desperate people arrive at Dadaab seeking food and shelter, most from across the border in Somalia, where violent instability

and a record-bad drought has made life impossible for many.

Abdulahi, his two wives, and nine children walked some 500 kilometres (310 miles) from their dust-bowl village in southern Somalia to Dadaab, one of Africa's largest refugee camps, just over the border on Kenya's far-eastern frontier. — AFP



Most are from Somalia, and have fled violent instability and a record-bad drought that has made life impossible for many. **PHOTO: BOBB MURIITHI / AFP**

ECONOMY

WORLD/AD

G7 trade ministers back tech export controls

THE G7 trade ministers pledged on Tuesday to work with other countries to strengthen export controls for technologies that

could be used to threaten global security.

In a statement issued after their first talks of the year, held online, the min-

isters hit out at a range of unfair play in global trade, from non-transparency to economic coercion.

They did not mention

any country by name, but the meeting took place just days after Group of Seven president Japan unveiled planned export

controls on items used to make semiconductors.

Japan's move followed similar restrictions implemented last month

by the Netherlands, as the United States presses its allies to restrict China's access to the technology. — AFP

Global trade growth to slow to 1.7% in 2023 amid Ukraine war: WTO



World merchandise trade is expected to expand 1.7 per cent in volume in 2023, slowing from a 2.7 per cent gain last year. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

WORLD merchandise trade is expected to expand 1.7 per cent in volume in 2023, slowing from a 2.7 per cent gain last year, affect-

ed by the war in Ukraine, high inflation and tighter monetary policy, the World Trade Organization said Wednesday.

The 2023 growth projection is above the 1.0 per cent increase estimated in October by the Geneva-based body, but far below the past 12-year average growth figure of 2.6 per cent, according to its "Global Trade Outlook and Statistics" report.

"The lingering effects of COVID-19 and rising geopolitical tensions were the main factors impacting trade and output in 2022 and this is likely to be the case in 2023 as well," WTO chief economist Ralph Ossa said in a press release. — Kyodo

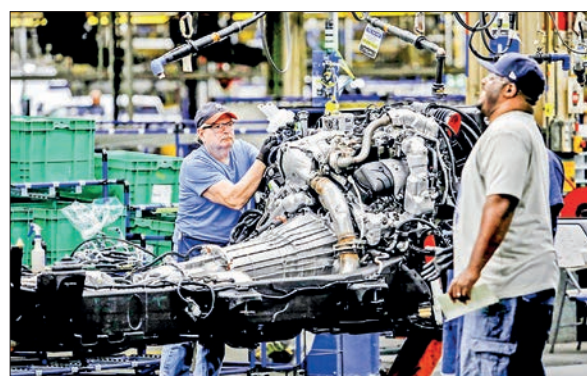
Geopolitical fragmentation could cut global growth by 2%: IMF

GROWING geopolitical fragmentation around the world, including the US-China trade war and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, could cut global growth by two per cent, the International Monetary Fund said Wednesday.

Research by the IMF found that growing geopolitical tensions were causing a reallocation of foreign direct investment (FDI) away from countries that were geographically close and towards those that were geopolitically close, like the US and Europe.

This reallocation of FDI has the potential to cause serious damage to emerging market economies, the IMF said, since they are more reliant on inflows of investment from more geopolitically distant countries.

"In general, a frag-



Workers assemble the chassis of a full-size General Motors pickup truck at the Flint Assembly plant on Wednesday in Flint, Michigan, the United States. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ JEFF KOWALSKY/AFP**

mented world is likely to be a poorer one," IMF officials wrote in a blog post published Wednesday to accompany the research.

The IMF also published research on Wednesday outlining the impact to the banking sector of geopolitical fragmentation, highlighting the cost to Russia and its allies of the 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

"Cross-border banking and portfolio debt flows to Russia and its allies (countries that rejected the motion in the United Nations in March 2022 to condemn Russia's war on Ukraine) have reversed sharply, with allocations falling by about 20 and 60 per cent relative to prewar levels, respectively," IMF officials wrote in a blog post. — AFP

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (1/2023-2024)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

| Sr No. | Tender No. | Description | Remarks |
|--------|------------------|--|---------|
| (1) | DMP/L-001(23-24) | 2 7/8" and 2 3/8" EUE Tubing (2) Items | Ks |
| (2) | DMP/L-002(23-24) | Insert Pump and Accessories (7) Items | Ks |
| (3) | DMP/L-003(23-24) | Accessories for Gas Control and Metering System (41) Items | Ks |
| (4) | DMP/L-004(23-24) | Electrical Materials for Chauk Oil Field (28) Items | Ks |
| (5) | DMP/L-005(23-24) | Electrical Materials for ZJ 70L Sr II Drilling Rig (13) Items | Ks |
| (6) | DMP/L-006(23-24) | Electrical Materials for ZJ 50D Sr II Drilling Rig Ex Pyolo (62) Items | Ks |
| (7) | DMP/L-007(23-24) | Assorted Sizes of API 5L Steel Line Pipe (2) Items | Ks |
| (8) | DMP/L-008(23-24) | Assorted Kinds of Shaker Screen for Drilling Rig (4) Groups | Ks |
| (9) | DMP/L-009(23-24) | Spares for 3NB 1300C Mud Pump Ex ZJ 50D Drilling Rig (10) Items | Ks |
| (10) | DMP/L-010(23-24) | 4", 6" and 8" ERW Steel Line Pipe (3) Items | Ks |
| (11) | DMP/L-011(23-24) | Assorted Sizes of Seamless Steel Casing (3) Items | Ks |
| (12) | DMP/L-012(23-24) | Assorted Sizes of Rock Bits and PDC Bits (9) Items | Ks |
| (13) | DMP/L-013(23-24) | 5" Drill Pipe (4000) Meter | Ks |
| (14) | DMP/L-014(23-24) | Spares for Caterpillar 3412 Generating Set Gas Engine (31) Items | Ks |
| (15) | DMP/L-015(23-24) | Spares for KB-150 Well Servicing Truck (34) Items | Ks |
| (16) | DMP/L-016(23-24) | Spares for Caterpillar 3512 Engine Ex ZJ 70L Drilling Rig (7) Items | Ks |
| (17) | DMP/L-017(23-24) | Mud Chemical (7) Items | Ks |
| (18) | DMP/L-018(23-24) | 1500 Series Well Head Equipment & Christmas Tree Equipment (2) Sets | Ks |
| (19) | DMP/L-019(23-24) | Annual Inspection and Spare Requirement for Pipe Line Center Daw Nyein (1) Lot | Ks |
| (20) | DMP/L-020(23-24) | Annual Inspection and Spare Requirement for Ywama (GDS) (1) Lot | Ks |
| (21) | DMP/L-021(23-24) | Rotary Table (1) No | Ks |
| (22) | DMP/L-022(23-24) | Powerful In-Situ Machine with Mirage Portable Machine Complete Set (1) Set | Ks |
| (23) | DMP/L-023(23-24) | Spare Parts for Intermech Compressor (1) Lot | Ks |
| (24) | DMP/L-024(23-24) | 510 KW Gas Engine Generator Complete Set (1) No | Ks |
| (25) | DMP/L-025(23-24) | Spare Parts for Caterpillar Gas Engine (G 3508) And Perkins Gas Engine (TESI 4012) (1) Set | Ks |
| (26) | DMP/L-026(23-24) | Gear Box Assy for Marine Engine (410-420)KW (2) Units | Ks |
| (27) | DMP/L-027(23-24) | 500 KVA, 1000 KVA & 2000 KVA Transformer (4) Items | Ks |
| (28) | DMP/L-028(23-24) | 315 KVA Transformer (4) Items | Ks |
| (29) | DMP/L-029(23-24) | 12 KV 630 A Vacuum Circuit Breaker (VCB) Switch Gear Panel Complete Set with Control & Power Bank (4 Panel Unit) (1) Set | Ks |
| (30) | DMP/L-030(23-24) | SJS Serva Single Pump Cementing Unit (1) Set | Ks |
| (31) | DMP/L-031(23-24) | Steam Boiler Capacity (1-1.5 Ton) (1) Set | Ks |
| (32) | DMP/L-032(23-24) | Welding Machine with Accessories Mobile Type (Engine Driven) 400 AMP (1) Set | Ks |
| (33) | DMP/L-033(23-24) | 20" L SAW API 5L, Grade X46, 3LPE Coated Steel Line Pipe (9,354.1) Meter | Ks |
| (34) | DMP/L-034(23-24) | 14", 6" & 4" ERW API 5L, Grade X-46, 3LPE Coated Steel Line Pipe (3) Items | Ks |
| (35) | DMP/L-035(23-24) | National Oil and Gas Information Center Phase-3 at NPT Office-44 (Device & Installation) (1) Lot | Ks |

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from **6 April, 2023** at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications and Commercial Quotation with Original Bid Bond in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **13:00 pm on 28, April 2023**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – **28-4-2023, 13:00 pm**.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. + 95 67 – 411206

Imported EV sales in Japan jump 65% to record high in FY 2022

THE number of imported electric vehicles sold in Japan during fiscal 2022 rose 65.0 per cent from a year earlier to a record 16,464 units, an industry organization said Thursday, underscoring the increasing popularity of the genre in a country still dominated by gasoline-powered cars.

The number of EVs represents 6.7 per cent

of the 246,196 imported cars sold in the year ended last month, the Japan Automobile Importers Association said.

Government subsidies prompted more drivers to turn to environment-friendly, all-electric vehicles, the association said. Models from Tesla Inc of the United States sold particularly well. — Kyodo



Government subsidies prompted more drivers to turn to environment-friendly, all-electric vehicles, the association said. **PHOTO: KYODO**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB313A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB313A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-4-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** 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 MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

M.TECH PRODUCTS MYANMAR LIMITED Notice for Members' Voluntary Winding Up Under Section 147 of Insolvency Law and Insolvency Rules-9 and 15-B (Company Registration No. 110515367)

Notice is hereby given that

- (1) the members of M.Tech Products Myanmar Limited (the "Company") had passed a special resolution on 01 April 2023 that the Company be wound up by way of members' voluntary winding up under the Insolvency Law 2020 with effect from 01 April 2023.
- (2) Daw Myat Myat Chit (holder of Myanmar NRC No. 1/MaNyaNa (N) 081592), has been appointed as liquidator to conduct the members' voluntary winding up of the Company by a resolution of the members passed on 01 April 2023. A copy of the notice of appointment is set out below.

Notice of Appointment of Liquidator

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| <p>1. Identification of company/body corporate to which this appointment relates</p> <p>Name of company/body corporate:</p> <p>Name of company/body corporate in Myanmar language (if any):</p> <p>Company registration number:</p> <p>2. Identification of insolvency practitioner/Official Receiver appointed as liquidator</p> <p>Full name in English:</p> <p>Full name in Myanmar language:</p> <p>Myanmar registration number (if applicable):</p> <p>Myanmar NRC number (if applicable):</p> <p>Myanmar NRC number (if applicable):</p> <p>Myanmar NRC number (if applicable):</p> <p>Myanmar NRC number (if applicable):</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>Postal number and street name:</p> | <p>3. Date of appointment</p> <p>DD / MM / YYYY</p> <p>This notice must be filed within 2 business days of an appointment under sections 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159 or 160 of the Insolvency Law 2020 and 15-B of the Insolvency Rules. The liquidator must file this notice with the Registrar within 2 business days of the appointment.</p> <p>4. Details of appointment</p> <p>A. Please indicate below the circumstances leading to the appointment of the liquidator:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The liquidator was appointed by the creditors of the company under section 152(a) of the Insolvency Law.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The liquidator was appointed by the company under section 152(b) of the Insolvency Law.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The liquidator was appointed by a Court under section 152(c) and 157 of the Insolvency Law.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The liquidator was appointed by a Court as a provisional liquidator under section 156 of the Insolvency Law.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The liquidator was appointed by the creditors of the company in place of the Official Receiver under section 158(a) of the Insolvency Law.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The liquidator was appointed by the creditors of the company in place of the Official Receiver under section 158(b) of the Insolvency Law.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The liquidator was appointed by the company under section 159 of the Insolvency Law.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The liquidator was appointed by the company under section 160 of the Insolvency Law.</p> <p>B. If the liquidator was appointed by the company under Section 152(a) of the Insolvency Law, please indicate below the circumstances leading to the members' voluntary winding up:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The company contributed to a general meeting of the company and that meeting approved or provided that the company is to be dissolved upon the occurrence of an event.</p> | <p>and the event occurs and the company in general meeting has passed a resolution (including the company is to be wound up voluntarily (section 147(a) Insolvency Law).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The company resolved by special resolution that the company be wound up voluntarily (section 147(a) Insolvency Law).</p> <p>C. In the company a public company or a wholly owned subsidiary of a public company:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>D. If the Court entered the winding up of the company/body corporate, state of Court order:</p> <p>DD / MM / YYYY</p> <p>A copy of the Court order under section 147(a) & 158 of the Insolvency Law must be attached to this notice.</p> <p>E. Attach a copy of the section 152(a) Insolvency Law voluntary declaration of insolvency and report of company's auditors (if applicable)</p> <p>Where a member/liquidator acting on a proposal for the dissolution of a company is appointed as liquidator within 2 business days of the appointment, the liquidator must file the company and every other officer in default of meeting 152(b) of the Insolvency Law.</p> <p>The declaration of insolvency must be supported by a report of the company's auditors (section 152(a) Insolvency Law).</p> <p>If the declaration of insolvency is not delivered to the Registrar together with the notice of appointment of the liquidator within 2 business days of the appointment, the liquidator must file the company and every other officer in default of meeting 152(b) of the Insolvency Law.</p> <p>F. Details of any other insolvency practitioners appointed to the role of liquidator in respect of the company/body corporate:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>G. If two or more insolvency practitioners are appointed to the role of liquidator in respect of the company/body corporate, has the insolvency practitioner to whom the notice of appointment relates been authorized to act on behalf of the liquidator and powers of liquidator (152(a) or 152(b) Insolvency Law)?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Appointed to act jointly and severally.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Appointed to act jointly and severally.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> These persons include all other insolvency practitioners currently appointed to the role of liquidator in respect of the company/body corporate.</p> <p>Full name in English of other insolvency practitioner currently appointed to the role of liquidator in respect of the company/body corporate:</p> | <p>Full name in Myanmar language:</p> <p>Insolvency practitioner registration number:</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>Postal number and street name:</p> <p>City/Town/Village:</p> <p>Country:</p> <p>Telephone:</p> <p>H.C. (Myanmar citizens / Passport for foreign citizens only):</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>Postal number and street name:</p> <p>City/Town/Village:</p> <p>Country:</p> <p>Telephone:</p> | <p>I. Request for liquidator identified in section (2) above*</p> <p>I certify that the information in this form and any document attached to this form is true and correct.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Daw Myat Myat Chit</p> <p>Please print name in full</p> <p>J. Checklist</p> <p>The following must accompany this form:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A copy of the completed Form 2 (insolvency practitioner's consent to appointment) (to be filed not only in the Second Schedule of the Insolvency Law).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> If the liquidator was appointed by the company under Section 152(a) in the circumstances specified in section 147(a) of the Insolvency Law, a copy of the declaration of insolvency and report of auditors under section 152(a) of the Insolvency Law.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> If the liquidator was appointed as a provisional liquidator under section 156 of the Insolvency Law, and the company is a public company or a wholly owned subsidiary of a public company, a copy of the report of the company's auditors.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> If the liquidator or provisional liquidator was appointed by the Court, a copy of the Court order.</p> |
|--|---|--|--|---|

- (3) The creditors of the Company are requested to submit their proof of debts or claims together with the detailed particulars and evidence of the debts or claims to the undersigned liquidator, within one month from the date of this advertisement, at No-13, Fourth Floor, Baho Road, Sanchaung Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar and electronically to any of the email addresses of the undersigned as indicated below, using the prescribed form, set out below.

**Form-11
(Proof of debt or claim)**
Insolvency Law 2020, section 201
Insolvency Rule 87

To: Liquidator

f. This is to state that Company with company registration number date date and still is justly and truly on date indebted to me an amount of

[* To fill in (as appropriate) the date when the Order to windup was passed or in the case of voluntary winding up the date when the resolution to wind up was passed.]

| Date | Consideration (how the debt arose) | Amount | Remarks (include details of voucher substantiating payment and attach copies) |
|------|------------------------------------|--------|---|
| | | | |

2. To my knowledge or belief the creditor has not, nor has any person by the creditor's order, had or received any satisfaction or security for the sum or any part of the debt or claim, other than as disclosed in the First Schedule to this document.

If any bills or other negotiable securities are held, show them in a schedule in the following form:

| Date | Drawer | Acceptor | Amount | Due Date |
|------|--------|----------|--------|----------|
| | | | | |

3. The creditor holds no security for the debt or claim, other than as disclosed in the Second Schedule to this document.

4. I am authorised in writing by the creditor to make this statement, I know that the debt described above was incurred for the consideration stated and that the debt remains unpaid and unsatisfied.

* Strike out irrelevant.

Signed:.....
Name:.....
Date:.....

The creditors of the company who fail to submit the claims within one month from the date of this advertisement will be excluded from:

- (i) the benefit of a distribution made before your claim is submitted; and
- (ii) objecting to that distribution.

Daw Myat Myat Chit
NRC No. 1/MaNyaNa (N) 081592
Liquidator
Contact Number: +95 9450022074
Email Address: myat@myatandassociates.com/ myatandassociates@gmail.com
M.TECH PRODUCTS MYANMAR LIMITED (In Liquidation)

Ms. Han Juat Hoon
Passport No. K1106426P
Managing Director
Contact Number: + 65 65160052
Email Address: finance@mtechpro.com
M.TECH PRODUCTS MYANMAR LIMITED (In Liquidation)

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Putin accuses Western spies of role in 'terror attacks' in Russia

PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin on Wednesday accused Western security services of having helped Kyiv stage "terror attacks" in Russia, after giving an icy welcome to the new US and EU ambassadors.

His Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky meanwhile made a rare foreign visit to Warsaw in a show of thanks for Poland's support since the start of Russia's offensive.

Putin spoke at a meeting of the Kremlin's security council dedicated to ensuring law and order in four Ukrainian territories he claimed to have annexed

last year.

"There are grounds to assert" that other countries and Western intelligence services were involved "in staging sabotage and terrorist attacks", Putin said in televised remarks.

In what appeared to be a reference to the Ukrainian authorities, Putin said "neo-Nazis and their accomplices were acting" in Russia as well as the annexed territories including the regions of Zaporizhzhia and Kherson.

Putin's remarks come days after an explosion at a cafe in Russia's second city, Saint Pe-



President Vladimir Putin claimed Western security services helped Kyiv stage 'terror attacks' in Russia. PHOTO: SPUTNIK/AFP

tersburg, killed a high-profile military blogger and staunch supporter of Moscow's assault on Ukraine, Vladlen Tatarsky.

Moscow said the attack had been orchestrated by Ukraine with help from supporters of jailed critic Alexei Navalny. Kyiv has blamed it on Russia's domestic infighting.

But Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said Wednesday the blogger's death would be "one of the topics of discussion" at the UN Security Council, where Moscow has taken over the rotating presidency. — AFP

Iran-Saudi vow to bring Mideast 'security, stability'



Top diplomats from Middle East rivals Iran and Saudi Arabia met in Beijing on Thursday, pledging to work together to bring "security and stability" to their turbulent region following a surprise China-brokered deal. PHOTO: IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY/AFP

TOP diplomats from Middle East rivals Iran and Saudi Arabia met in Beijing on Thursday, pledging

to work together to bring "security and stability" to their turbulent region following a surprise

China-brokered deal.

In a joint statement released after talks between Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan, the two sides vowed to continue to work together to improve ties.

"The two sides emphasized the importance of following up on the implementation of the Beijing Agreement and its activation in a way that expands mutual trust and the fields of cooperation and helps create security, stability and prosperity in the region," said the statement. Tehran and Riyadh announced a Beijing-brokered agreement in March to restore relations that had been severed seven years ago when protesters in Iran attacked Saudi diplomatic missions. — AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINE

Four children killed in attack on Brazil preschool

A 25-year-old attacker burst into a preschool in southern Brazil and killed four children Wednesday with a bladed weapon before turning himself in to police, authorities said.

Police and government officials in the state of Santa Catarina said the man had also wounded four victims at the private preschool, known as the Good Shepherd Centre, in the morning attack in the city of Blumenau. — AFP

Thousands of migrants stranded in north Niger's scorching desert

A long line of people appears in silhouette, walking along the flat desert in northern Niger.

The strong walkers are at the front. The weakest at the rear.

Every week hundreds more migrants thrown out of Algeria end up here in Assamaka, the first village on the Niger border.

More than 4,500 of them so far have washed up in this tiny wind-swept corner of the Sahara -- Malians, Guineans and Ivorians mainly, but also Syrians and even Bangladeshis.

They have marched across 15 kilometres (nine miles) of wasteland only to enter a new purgatory. — AFP

French minister defends Playboy shoot as criticism mounts

A feminist French minister who posed for Playboy told the magazine she backed the right of women to pose nude if they wanted to amid fresh criticism from her cabinet colleagues about her stunt on Wednesday.

Marlene Schiappa, currently minister for the social economy and associations, appears in the French edition of Playboy this month which is set to hit shelves on Thursday, although the photos have already leaked to French media.

In the shots to accompany the 12-page interview, Schiappa strikes a series of poses — all fully clothed — featuring extravagant dresses and outfits in the red, white and blue of the French tricolour.

"If some (women) want to pose in a men's magazine and enjoy it, I think that we shouldn't blame them," Schiappa told the magazine.

She cited Pamela Anderson as an inspiration after the US glamour model spoke of how

posing for Playboy had been "an act of emancipation".

"Like the Miss France. If they enjoy winning a beauty contest, I find that great too and we should support them," Schiappa continued.

The lengthy interview features several innuendo-laden questions, including "is politics an aphrodisiac?", and delves into the 40-year-old's past as an erotic novelist and author on issues such as the female orgasm. — AFP



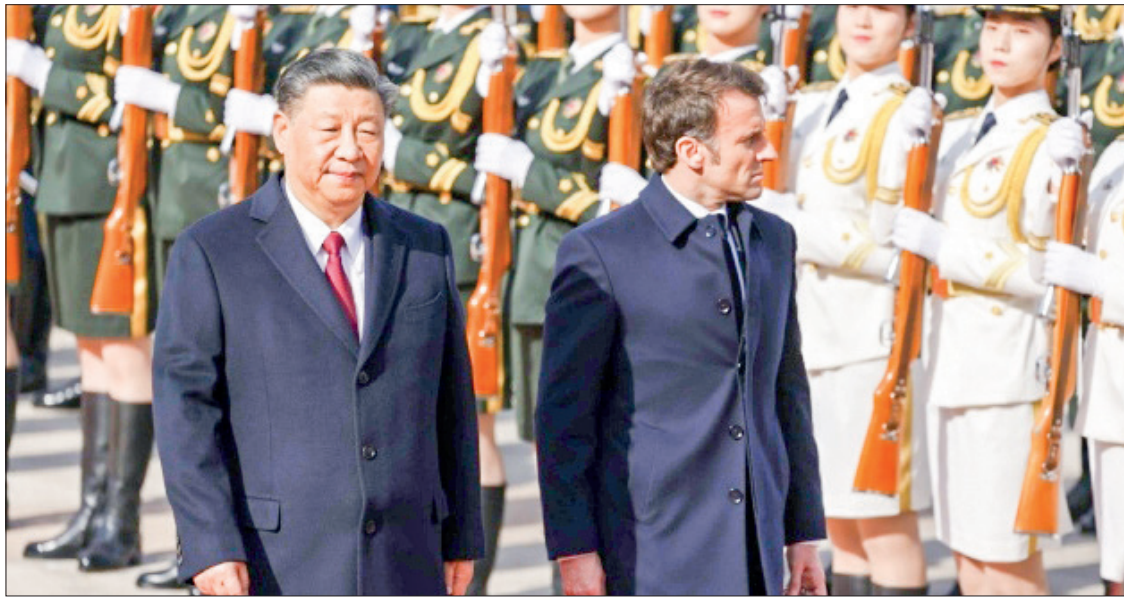
Schiappa was unrepentant about attracting the limelight during her six-year political career. PHOTO: AFP

Xi holds talks with French president

CHINESE President Xi Jinping held talks with French President Emmanuel Macron in Beijing on Thursday.

Xi welcomed President Macron's state visit to China after a lapse of over three years, saying that over the past three years and more, despite a changing and unstable international landscape, China and France have worked together to maintain a positive and sound growth momentum in their bilateral ties.

He said the two sides have maintained high-frequency and high-quality strategic communication in a hybrid format, supported each other in the fight against COVID-19, and seen robust growth in bilateral trade and important outcomes from cooperation in aerospace, aviation, agriculture, food and other areas.



China's President Xi Jinping (L) and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron review a honour guard during the official welcoming ceremony in Beijing on 6 April 2023. PHOTO: LUDOVIC MARIN / AFP

The two countries have also carried out close communication and coordination on such issues as climate change, biodiversity,

and Africa's development, Xi added.

Noting that the world today is undergoing profound historic

transformation, Xi said China and France are permanent members of the UN Security Council and major countries with a tradition

of independence.

"China and France are firm advocates for a multi-polar world and for greater democracy in international relations. They have the ability and responsibility to rise above differences and obstacles, keep to the overall direction of a comprehensive strategic partnership that is stable, mutually beneficial, enterprising and dynamic, and practice true multilateralism for global peace, stability and prosperity," he said.

Noting that President Macron's visit to China is the first by a European head of state after the full resumption of China's exchanges with the world and the successful conclusion of China's "two sessions", Xi said the visit will inject new momentum and bring new vitality to China-Europe relations. — Xinhua

UK leases barge to house 500 asylum seekers



The barge that will be berthed in Portland Port is the first of its kind in the UK. PHOTO: UK HOME OFFICE/AFP

BRITAIN on Wednesday announced plans to house around 500 asylum seekers on a barge, as the government seeks cost-cutting measures and deterrents

for arrivals crossing the Channel.

Following his pledge to stop the small boats used by tens of thousands of migrants each year to make the treacherous

trip, Conservative Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said the barge would save money and reduce pressure on hotels.

The Conservative government has already put forth a plan to outlaw asylum claims by all illegal arrivals and transfer them to "safe" third countries, such as Rwanda.

"We have to use alternative accommodation options, as our European neighbours are doing — including the use of barges and ferries to save the British taxpayer money and to prevent the UK becoming a magnet for asylum shoppers in Europe," said Immigration Minister Robert Jenrick. —AFP

Justice Dept agrees to pay \$144.5 mln to Texas shooting victims

THE Justice Department announced a \$144.5 million settlement on Wednesday with victims of a 2017 mass shooting at a church in Texas that left 26 people dead and 22 injured.

The agreement in principle, which still needs court approval, is aimed at resolving civil lawsuits stemming from the attack carried out by a former member of the US Air

Force, the department said in a statement.

A federal district court judge ruled in July 2021 that the government was partly liable because the air force failed to enter information into the FBI's background check system that would have prevented the assailant from buying a gun.

Devin Kelley, who killed

himself after carrying out the attack at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, had a conviction for domestic violence on his record and had been court-martialed.

The Texas judge who heard the case ordered the government to pay more than \$230 million to victims of the attack but the Justice Department appealed the ruling. — AFP

UN demands Taliban revoke ban on women staff

TOP UN officials warned Wednesday that a Taliban government ban on Afghan women working for its mission in the country would violate the world body's charter, and demanded it be revoked.

The United Nations also announced it had instructed all its Afghan staff, men and women, not to report to the office after the ban was confirmed.

Under their austere interpretation of Islam, Taliban authorities have imposed a slew of restrictions on Afghan women since seizing power in 2021, including banning them from higher education and many

government jobs.

The increasing curbs are reminiscent of the Taliban's first government between 1996 and 2001, when the UN said they were responsible for repeated human rights violations — particularly against girls and women.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres demanded the ban be "immediately revoked".

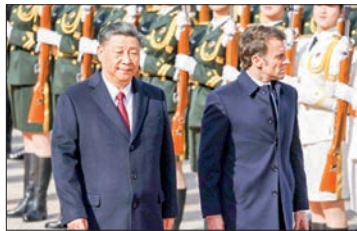
"This is a violation of the inalienable fundamental human rights of women," spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a statement on behalf of Guterres on Wednesday. — AFP



The Taliban government has ordered a ban on Afghan women from working at the UN's mission in the country. Taliban security personnel at a checkpoint in Fayzabad district of Badakhshan province on 4 April 2023. PHOTO: OMER ABRAR /AFP

Xi holds talks with French president

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SPORT

ONE Fight Night-10 showcases 11 bouts featuring Aung La N Sang vs Fan Rong fight



Former ONE Championship two-division Champion Aung La N Sang. PHOTO: ONE

THE ONE Fight Night-10 tournament, featuring the fight of Myanmar MMA fighter Aung La N Sang and China's Fan Rong, will hold 11 bouts. The ONE Championship organization announced the lineup for the tournament last few days, which will include one main event, two co-main events, and eight challenge fights.

The flyweight world championship will be held as the main event, and the current champion Demetrious Johnson (USA) will take on challenger Adriano Moraes (Brazil). Defending Champion Rodtang Jitmuangnon (Thailand) will fight against challenger Edgar Tabares (Mexico) in the co-main event of the Muay Thai

Flyweight World Championship.

The current champion of the Flyweight Submission Grappling World Championship Mikey Musumeci (USA) will take on challenger Osamah Almarwa (Egypt) in the other co-main bout.

The challenging fights feature Stamp Fairtex (Thailand) vs Alyse Anderson (USA), Roberto Soldic (Croatia) vs Zebastian Kadestam (Sweden), Aung La N Sang (Myanmar) vs Fan Rong (China), Sage Northcutt (USA) vs Ahmed Mujtaba (Pakistan), Jackie Buntan (USA) vs Diandra Martin (Australia), Reinier de Ridder (the Netherlands) and Tye Ruotolo (USA), Kairat Akhmetov (Kazakhstan) vs Reece McLaren (Australia), and Lowen Tynanes (USA) vs Ok Rae Yoon (South Korea).

The challenge will feature two women's grappling games, with Reinier de Ridder and Tye Ruotolo taking place as a middleweight submission grappling fight.

Aung La N Sang is fighting for the second time this year.

If he wins this match again, he is likely to get a chance to fight for the world championship challenge. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

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.

Six World Cup stadiums to be used for Asian Cup

SIX of Qatar's eight World Cup stadiums will be used for the Asian Cup to be staged in the Gulf state next January, the AFC has announced.

But the Lusail stadium used for the World Cup final and the iconic 974 stadium made from containers will not be part of the 24-nation tournament to run from 12 January to 10 February.

The Asian Cup was originally meant to be held this year in China but was switched and delayed because of the country's coronavirus restrictions.

Asian Football Confederation president Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa said that based on Qatar's hosting of the World Cup last year the Asian Cup will be "a true spectacle never before experienced in Asian football history".

"We have every faith that they will showcase their unrivalled hosting capabilities, state-of-the-art infrastructure and warm hospitality," he added



The Al Bayt stadium is constructed in the form of a Bedouin tent. PHOTO: QATAR'S SUPREME COMMITTEE FOR DELIVERY AND LEGACY/AFP/FILE

in comments made when the Kuala Lumpur-based AFC released the dates late Wednesday.

Qatar will use the Al Janoub stadium, Al Bayt stadium, Ahmed Bin Ali stadium, Al Thumama stadium, Education City stadium and Khalifa International stadium which were all part of the multi-billion dollar infrastructure laid on for the

World Cup. The smaller Jassim bin Hamad stadium and Abdullah bin Khalifa stadium will also be used, the AFC said.

The 974 stadium near the Doha seafront is scheduled to be dismantled and donated to a developing country. Some containers have already been taken away but authorities have not yet said where the stadium will go.—AFP

French army fears overstretch at 2024 Paris Olympics

LIKE past Olympic host nations France plans to deploy soldiers for securing the 2024 summer games in Paris, but army and government sources have told AFP that they fear the forces being overloaded.

"It's completely logical for the armed forces to contribute" to Olympic security, Chief of Defence Staff Thierry Burkhard told defence committee MPs Thursday. He trailed a deployment of up to 10,000 soldiers — matching the "Operation Sentinelle" forces created to patrol following 2015's terrorist attacks in Paris.—AFP



French soldiers already patrol in Paris after 2015's spate of terrorist attacks. PHOTO: AFP/FILE