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

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

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives delegation led by Mr Anatoly Bulochnikov, Senior Vice-President of Russia-Myanmar Association of Friendship and Cooperation

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Mr Anatoly Bulochnikov, Senior Vice-President of Russia-Myanmar Association of Friendship and Cooperation, at the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they frankly held discussions on further improvement in bilateral relations, cooperation and sector-wise cooperation between Myanmar and Russia, plans to cooperate in the project of generating hydropower, cooperation in the development of agriculture tasks, further undertakings for the development of tourism services between the two countries, exchange of culture between the two countries, construction of Myanmar consulates in Russian in order to enhance bilateral relations, further enhancement of relations between the two countries and plans to promote bilateral trade and improvement of cooperation in the education sector.

After the ceremony, the Senior General and the Senior Vice-President of the association exchanged gifts and had documentary photos taken. — MNA/TTA



State Administration Council Chair Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing offers a handshake with the RMAFC Senior Vice-President yesterday.

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Myanmar Gazette

Confirmation and Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations

1. The State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of U Htein Lin as Director-General of the International Affairs and Corruption Prevention Department of the Anti-Corruption Commission Office after the one-year probationary period.

2. The State Administration Council has appointed Dr Nay Thwe Kyi, Pro-Rector of Magway University, as Rector of Bhamo University on probation from the date she assumes charge of her duties.



Chinese President Mr Xi Jinping accepts the credentials of the newly-appointed ambassador of Myanmar to China on 24 April in Beijing.

U Tin Maung Swe presents Credentials to President of People's Republic of China

U Tin Maung Swe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the People's Republic of China, presented his Credentials to Mr Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China on 24 April 2023 in Beijing. — MNA

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Myanmar attends 34th meeting of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community High-Level Officials online

The 34th meeting of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community High-Level Officials in progress online.

THE 34th meeting of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community High-Level Officials for the year 2023 was convened online yesterday. The meeting was hosted by Indonesia, the current chairperson of ASEAN in rotation.

The Myanmar delegation led by Director-General U Aung Myint of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture (SOCA Leader) attended the meeting.

The attendees discussed ASEAN emergencies in Ban-

dar Seri Begawan Declaration, ASEAN SHIELD and meetings of the High-Level Task Force (HLTF) have been organized as a subsequent action to the Hanoi Declaration on the ASEAN Community's 2025 High Vision.

The ASEAN Secretariat then discussed the mid-year report submission of the ASEAN-Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025 Baseline, ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and its implementation programmes, the framework of the circular

economy of the ASEAN Economy Community, Timor-Leste's application for ASEAN membership, 2025 Strategic Plan for Rights of those with disabilities, platforms of ASEAN research and development, Secondment officer co-appointment in various offices of the ASEAN Permanent Representative in Jakarta and the ASEAN Secretariat is presently in the process of endorsing three documents that are intended for submission to the 42nd ASEAN Summit. — MNA/KZW

77 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 28 April, total figure registers 634,676

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to **634,676** after **77** new cases were reported on 28 April 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

Therefore, a total of **10,340,364** laboratory samples were examined and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached **634,676**. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,778** including **26** new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at **19,491** on 28-4-2023 with one new death reported from the pandemic. According to the research, it is found that people who have been vaccinated do not suffer severely from the disease, need not be hospitalized and are unlikely to die. If they have received booster shots, the death rates can be reduced more.

As such, people need to follow the new normal way of living with COVID. Hence, all people above five have to fully receive COVID-19 vaccination inoculated by the Ministry of Health free of charge. Six months after the vaccination, they have to take booster jabs at relevant health centres and ward/village administration offices without fail.

Moreover, they have to wear masks while in closed chambers and public places. They need to often wash their hands with soap and water or the hand gel containing alcohol (at least 60 per cent) for 20 seconds. People need to follow the social distancing rule and avoid crowds as much as possible.

While not wearing masks, if they cough and sneeze, they need to cover their mouth and noses with elbows in line with the personal hygienic ways. COVID-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health. — GNLM

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

Manufacturing is crucial for MSMEs

THE MSME industry has four sectors namely manufacturing, trade, service and others. There will be no trade without manufacturing. There will be no services without trade. Therefore, manufacturing is crucial.

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the SAC meeting 9/2022 held on 11 November 2022)

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives delegation led by Mr Anatoly Bulochnikov ...

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(Left and Right) : The Senior General receives the RMAFC Senior Vice-President and poses for the documentary group photo at the call event yesterday.

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win receives Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win received the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr Chen Hai at the Credentials Hall of the SAC Chairman Office yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they openly discussed measures on Kyaukpadaung Special Economic Zone, exchange of information on border affairs to ensure peace and stability in border regions, acceleration in eradicating narcotic drugs, gambling, online gaming and trafficking in person, and enhancement of cooperation in all sectors between the two countries. After the meeting, the Vice-Senior General and the Chinese Ambassador exchanged commemorative gifts and had documentary photos taken together with those attendees. — MNA/TTA



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win receives Mr Chen Hai, Ambassador of China to Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 April 2023.

Myanmar delegation attends ASEAN-China Forum on Digital Agriculture, World Digital Agriculture Fair

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung attended the ASEAN-China Forum on Digital Agriculture held at the Fuwah International Exhibition Centre in Shandong Province of China on 26 April.

Before the forum, the Myanmar delegation observed the world digital agriculture fair together with the representatives of ASEAN countries.

At the ASEAN-China Forum on Digital Agriculture, Director General U Kyaw Swe Linn of

the Planning Department under MoALI discussed the digital agricultural policies of the country, experiences and proper ways regarding agriculture.

The Myanmar delegation also joined the 24th China International Vegetable Sci-Tech Fair in Shouguang on 27 April. During the tour, the Union minister and party observed over 7,000 varieties of vegetables exhibited at the fair, online sales of quality vegetables and Yanjiabu Folk Cultural Village in Shandong Province. — MNA/KTZH



Union Minister U Min Naung pays observation tours at the fair in Shandong Province on 26-27 April.

MoSWRR Union Minister meets UNICEF representative to Myanmar



UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine met the delegation led by Mr Marcoluigi Corsi, regional representative to Myanmar from United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Both sides frankly and cordially discussed and exchanged views on current work processes, entry visas for foreign employees of non-governmental international organizations and

United Nations agencies, the extension of residence permits and catering for domestic travel, the issue of humanitarian work and promotion of cooperation between the ministry and UNICEF.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister U Soe Kyi, the permanent secretary, directors-general and officials from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and UNICEF. — MNA/TS

Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine holds talks with the UNICEF regional representative in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



The documentary group photo of the 30th Monsoon Forum.

30th Monsoon Forum opens in Nay Pyi Taw

THE opening ceremony of the 30th Monsoon Forum 2023 of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) was held in the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Director-General Dr Kyaw Moe Oo of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology delivered the opening remark.

The workshop is focused

on the reviewing and discussing seasonal outlook of Weather Forecast and Water Level Forecast for the 2022-2023 winter season, the condition of Agri meteorology and presenting on seasonal outlook of Weather Forecast and Water Level Forecast for the 2023 Southwest Monsoon Season and El Nino conditions, discussing sectorial preparedness using the

forecasts for the 2023 Southwest Monsoon season. The closing remark was delivered by the DMH director-general.

The monsoon forum is held twice annually on a regular basis starting from 2007 and the current forum is the 30th forum. — DMH



Myanmar delegation holds several meetings after Russia-Myanmar Forum

REPRESENTATIVES of the Myanmar delegation held several meetings aimed at expanding economic cooperation with relevant Russian organizations during their stay in Moscow,

They visited the Eurasian Economic Commission, where they met the commissioner for Integration and Macroeconomics Sergey Glazyes. Both parties discussed the intensification of interaction between the two countries, the possibility of building up contacts in the field of trade and investment, and the need to exchange information between Russia and Myanmar through the establishment of academic ties between the countries.

They also discussed issues of trade and economic cooperation within the walls of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation. The director of the Department for Asia, Africa and Latin America Mr Sergey Nosov shared with the delegates the current foreign economic agenda and experience in the context of an aggressive sanctions policy, noting the building up of Russia's potential

in the field of international trade.

The meeting raised the issue of the significance of the recent appointment of a trade representative of the Russian Federation to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and the despatch of a responsible representative of the Ministry of Commerce of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Russian Federation, who in turn took part in the reception.

Additionally, a meeting was organized for the forum participants with the Russia-ASEAN Business Council, which was also attended by a representative of the recently established Russia-Myanmar Business Council. The reception raised the issue of the need to develop contacts between representatives of small and medium-sized businesses in our countries, as well as the supply of Myanmar products to the Russian market.

The Myanmar delegation met employees of the Third Department of Asia of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia acquainted the forum participants with the activities of the Council of Young Diplomats and present-



Myanmar delegation are pictured in the meeting in Moscow.

ed materials on ongoing projects. Both parties talked about the prospects of the development of bilateral relations in the field of public diplomacy, the possibility of creating a Council of Young Diplomats in Myanmar, as well as academic cooperation between Russia and Myanmar.

The Myanmar delegation also discussed the current foreign policy situation and opportunities for cooperation in the field of public diplomacy at the round

table at the Gorchakov Fund.

They visited the Museum and Temple Complex of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, built in honour of the Resurrection of Christ and dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War. The delegates were shown the "guerrilla village" and the museum exposition dedicated to the special military operation, which is now taking place in Ukraine.

After the forum, a reception was organized for the delegation at the Myanmar Embassy in Moscow. Ambassador of Myanmar to Russia U Lwin Oo spoke on the occasion that the diversification of the areas of the Russian-Myanmar cooperation over the past two years and thanked the Russia-Myanmar Association for Friendship and Cooperation for its active support in the development of bilateral projects. — MNA

Illegal timbers, industrial materials, consumer goods, cosmetics, car parts and vehicles confiscated



Seized illegal goods.



Officials check confiscated illegal teak.

THE Customs on-duty team confiscated 200 submersible pumps worth K6.3 million that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from a container at the Asia World Port container checkpoint on 26 April. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Similarly, on 27 April, the Customs on-duty teams captured 4,700 kilogrammes (kg) of mouse traps worth K10.857 million that were not declared

in the Import Declaration (ID) from a container at the Myanmar Industrial Port Terminal container checkpoint, nine kinds of goods including 16 Chaeum Premium 3 syringe fillers worth K8.15 million without official documents from luggage at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk) and nabbed 900 kg of KNK brand new truck car spare parts worth K4,725,054 that exceeded the Import Dec-

laration (ID) from a Nissan Diesel truck (estimated value of K35 million) heading to Mandalay from Muse at the Yepu permanent checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On the same day, an on-duty team examined two vehicles heading to Yangon from Myawady at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint and captured 240 pairs of INDUS lady slippers worth

K2.4 million that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID). The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, a combined team seized two kinds of goods including 10 cartons of Trane diesel engine oil worth K3.132 million without official documents from a vehicle heading to Lashio from Tachilek through Kengtung (tollgate). The action was taken under

Customs procedures.

The combined teams at the Kyweyel combined checkpoint in Monywa township confiscated a total of 6.731 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K8,885,976 and action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 28 April, a total of 0.772 tonne of illegal hardwoods and 1.162 tonnes of illegal other timbers worth K233,670 was seized in Thayawady district and an unregistered Nissan Wingroad vehicle (approximately K4 million) was captured on Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Toungoo township. The action was taken under the Forest Law and the Export and Import Law.

Therefore, 10 arrests (estimated value of K83,683,700) were made on three consecutive days from 26 to 28 April, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Temporary power outage occurs during maintenance work on Myaungtaga main station



The Myaungtaga main station.

THE Yangon Electric Power Corporation has announced power outages will occur in some townships from 28 to 30 April for maintenance work of the 230-kV Myaungtaga main station.

They will conduct maintenance work for the 230/33/11 kV,

bushing of 3 banks of the main transformer.

During the maintenance work, some parts of Hmawby, Taikkyi, Myaungtaga, Okkan and Aphyauk townships will face temporary power outages from 8 am to 10 am. — TWA/MKKS

Kampaiti, Kawthoung borders pocket US\$26.92 mln as of 3rd week of April

MYANMAR'S border trade with Thailand through the Kampaiti checkpoint has amounted to US\$24.755 million as of the third week of April since 1 April 2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated. Between 1 and 25 April, export via Kampaiti was worth \$23.607 million and import was valued at \$1.148 million. The Kampaiti border was aimed to achieve export targets of \$15 million in exports and \$0.9 million in imports.

Tissue-cultured bananas are the main export item at the Kampaiti border, whereas empty cargo containers, capital goods, construction materials, consumer goods and clothes are imported.

The border post witnessed an outflow of 2,685 trucks of tissue-cultured bananas, three trucks of fresh chilli pepper, nine trucks of pumpkins, 94 trucks of water-



The photo shows the Kampaiti sign where the Kampaiti (Kanpaikti) border post is located.

melons and one truck of rice husk charcoal.

Exports surpass imports at the Kawthoung border. The fishery products are primarily shipped to Thailand through the Kawthoung border. Various kinds of fish, shrimp, salted fish, crab, squid, oyster, fish powder, chestnut and oil palm fruit are exported to the neighbouring country.

Moreover, fishery products and consumer goods worth \$2.167 million are exported to Thailand through the Kawthoung border

as of the third week of April, including exports worth \$1.131 million and \$1.036 million in imports.

Myanmar delivers fishery products such as squid, crab and by-products of oil palm fruit to Thailand when salt, diesel, octane, soda, sodium carbonate, charcoal powder, corn, plastic ice bucket, tapioca starch, lime powder, zinc oxide, edible bird's nest, hydrogen peroxide, fishing net, dye powder and soap raw materials are brought into the country. —TWA/EM

Sugar price persists rising during late season



The photo shows a retail shop of sugar.

THE price of sugar climbed up to K3,110-K3,130 per viss in April 2023 at the end of sugar mill operations.

On 22 February, the wholesale price of sugar was K3,050-K3,080 per viss. Then, the price dropped to K3,000-K3,030 per viss on 16 March. The price regained to K3,070-K3,100 per viss on 18 April and continued to rise to K3,100-K3,120 per viss.

When the end season of the sugar mill operation is approaching, only sugar stockpiles are supplied to the market, U Win Tun, an owner of the sugar mill, told the Global New

Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The price of sugar hit a record high of K2,650 per viss in the wholesale price in December 2022. It reached an all-time high of K3,130 per viss in April 2023, the GNLM quoted Ko Tun Lin, a trader who sends sugar to regions outside Yangon as saying.

The sugar price hit K1,750 per viss in October 2010 and it dipped to K900 per viss in 2014 and 2019. The sugarcane price was only K40,000 per tonne then. The price jumped to K90,000 per tonne in 2022.

There are around 20 sugar factories across the country

and sugarcane sowing acre is estimated at 500,000. Myanmar yearly produces 500,000 tonnes of sugar. The domestic consumption is 450,000 tonnes. The remaining is sent to foreign markets at US\$600 per tonne.

Locally produced sugar is distributed only in the domestic market this month as the season of sugar mill operation is drawing nearer. The selling prices of sugar by factories weigh on the sugar price in the market.

The yearly domestic sugar consumption per capita is estimated at 7.5 kilogrammes. The sugarcane production in Thailand is 130.3 million tonnes while 14 million tonnes of sugar are produced per year. The neighbouring countries with Myanmar (Thailand and India) are the leading sugar-producing countries. If the sugar price remains high in Myanmar, the import of sugar is probable, a trader criticized.

— TWA/EM

ME says migrants can withdraw deposited OWICs at Mahachai TDCC branch

THE Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand, has notified Myanmar workers in Thailand to collect OWIC cards that they have deposited at the Mahachai Temporary Data Collection Centre-TDCC branch by 19 May.

The PJ renewal process (new book issuance) and overseas workers identification cards (OWICs) for Myanmar migrant workers are being processed together, and a total of 1,250 baht for new passports and 250 baht for OWICs have already been depos-

ited into the bank account of the Myanmar Embassy by workers.

Although representatives from factories, workshops, and construction companies came to take out the cards at the TDCC branch, individual applicants (appointments and walk-ins) rarely stopped by the branch. Therefore, it is declared that deposited OWICs must be taken out by 19 May, and inquiries can be made to the TDCC branch at 081 4590914 and 082 4451648 for further information. — TWA/CT



The branch of the Mahachai Temporary Data Collection Centre.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Price of Seintalone mango exported to China dips

THE price of Myanmar's popular Seintalone mango exported to China declined to 100-120 Yuan per 16-kilogramme basket, fruit traders from Muse said.

In early April, it touched the lowest of 120 Yuan and the highest of 180 Yuan.

It is time to sell mangoes. The price is on the downside for now. Quality plays a big role in determining the price, Sai Khin Maung from the Khwanyo fruit depot shared his opinion.

"Mango is solely reliant on

China's market at present. It is Seintalone mango season. Other mango varieties such as Shwehintha and Yinkwe still cannot be exported. The price was declining. Yet, we expect quality Seintalone mango to be offered at a higher price. The price is calculated on the quality," Sai Khin Maung elaborated.

The growers are battered by the high cost of cultivation input and market reputational risks every year. Last year, low use of cultivation input brought down

quality, causing postharvest diseases such as stem end rot and black spot in fruit. Some traders did not even cover the cultivation cost due to the inferior quality of Seintalone mango.

Of about 200 mango varieties that originated in Myanmar, Seintalone, Shwehintha, Padamya Ngamauk, Yinkwe, and Machitsu varieties are primarily grown. The foreign market prefers Seintalone varieties.

Ayeyawady Region possesses the largest mango plantation



Seintalone mangoes are seen at one outlet.

acres, having about 46,000 acres. Bago Region is the second largest producer with 43,000 acres and Mandalay has 29,000 acres of mango. There are over 24,000

acres in Kayin State, over 20,400 acres in Shan State and over 20,000 acres in Sagaing Region, according to the association. — NN/EM

Gold price inches higher to K3 mln per tical on spot gold price rally

PURE gold price surpassed K3 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) in the unofficial domestic market as the spot gold price stayed high at \$2,001 per ounce.

YGEA hiked the reference rate to over K2,355,000 per tical tracking increase in spot gold price. Consequently, there is a price difference of about K650,000 per tical between the YGEA's reference price and the price in the unofficial market.

YGEA calculated the price depending on the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference exchange rate of K2,100, with some addition, while the US dollar is exchanged at K2,870 in the unofficial forex market.

The US dollar exchange rate weighs on domestic gold prices. Following the bankruptcy of the US bank, the gold price soared. Despite the gold gain in the global market, Myanmar's forex market sees no movement at all. Consequently, YGEA requested its

members not to buy them competitively, tracking the upward trend in the gold spot price, as per YGEA's statement released on 20 March.

Afterwards, the YGEA called for the members to make gold transactions with only immediate payment and avoid verbal transactions over calls without having any physical stocks. The YGEA is not bound to have any responsibilities for market manipulation in the unofficial market. As a result of this, its members are asked to strictly adhere to the rules and regulations of the association while making gold transactions.

At present, the authorities concerned are attempting to deal with market abuse and inspecting and prosecuting market manipulation is being undertaken.

Moreover, the Central Bank of Myanmar will inspect those manipulators to interfere with market stability through digital platforms, according to the notification dated 20 March.



Gold bars are seen in the gold market.

The soaring dollar exchanging at over K4,500 drove the pure gold price up to a record-high of K3.7 million per tical in late August 2022.

For the gold price to decline, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has been selling gold ingots under the competitive bidding system in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw.

With an aim at reducing gold prices, the YGEA and Mandalay Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association sold gold bullion supplied by the executive members and the members as well. — NN/EM

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 28 April 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,010
Octane 95	K2,075
Diesel	K1,920
Premium Diesel	K2,000

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,336,200 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,993,000 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.

UMFCCI MSME Fair 2023 to be held at Lotte Hotel on 7-8 May

A two-day UMFCCI MSME Fair 2023 will take place at Lotte Hotel on 7 and 8 May, according to the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).

The fair is aimed at enhancing the micro, small and medium enter-

prises (MSMEs) productivity. The fair will feature over 120 booths of MSMEs showcasing local products and services. It will also bring about sustainable development for the MSMEs and market opportunities.

Additionally, business technolo-

gy, round table and talk shows will be included in the fair. There is also an MSME Outstanding Award program depending on the display of products, innovation, packaging and services. Fashion show programmes under the theme of MSME are also a part of it.

Those enthusiastic can enrol through the UMFCCI website link: <https://bit.ly/3AReR81>. For further details, please contact the phone numbers 09 400039227, 09 43089686 and mail msmeass.myanmar@gmail.com. — NN/EM

OPINION

Teach traditional culture to youths in childhood

LOSS of culture will reflect the loss of nationality. It is a true motto for all countries and all nationals. If culture does not exist throughout the world, all living beings including humans will be uncivilized. Consequently, those humans will easily commit evil acts. They will rudely live along their lifespans without rationality to analyze everything whether it is right or wrong. Consequently, society will encounter deterioration.

Myanmar's culture and traditions are invaluable. As most people are in the faith of Buddhism, they are keen to serve the interests of society. They do not dare to commit evil acts but are delighted with serving each other in a humanitarian spirit. Parents and teachers as well as the elders give advice to the citizens to follow the ethics of society, traditions and customs in politeness. In fact, Myanmar's society is full of lovely and honourable activities.

In Myanmar society, school children are under training to have cultural knowledge since their childhoods. Hence, their hearts and souls are impressed with social ethics on physical, oral and mental politeness in relations with others. It is sure that those polite youths would become the persons able to serve the heavy duties of the nation in the future.

It is necessary to relay such a good heritage to further generations. The intangibly cultural heritage of the nation is invaluable. Youths will have adequate knowledge to review the auspiciousness and evil acts whenever they face. If so, they can build themselves and their families as well as their nation based on cultural movements and heritages.

To be able to do so, it is necessary to give training on traditional culture on acts of politeness to the youths and children on their school holidays. Those youths must have knowledge about religious advice and traditional concepts. Only if their hearts and souls are filled with a concept of politeness will they have the capacity to improve their cultural capability to uplift the prestige and integrity of their society. Only when their minds are whitish will their works be qualified.

Every Myanmar citizen needs to accumulate knowledge about traditional culture and advice on religions. Good people can be famous and are keen to associate with relevant counterparts. If so, society will be growth with good and righteous persons who emphasize building the society with constructive attitudes. In consequence, society will be peaceful, tranquil and prosperous with flourishing lovely relations among the people.

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Overview of a Journey of Myanmar Culture Preservation and Promotion: The Emergence of Political Changes and the Cultural Policy

By Dr Nanda Hmun
Permanent Secretary (Retired)

(CONTINUED FROM
YESTERDAY'S ARTICLE)

The Culture Education and Schools and Universities of Fine Arts and Culture

In order to preserve Myanmar's cultural heritage and to promote a systematic way of disseminating Myanmar Fine Arts and Art Education, Myanmar has established respective state schools and National Universities.

Since cultural education is personal development using forms of cultural expression, arts and playing musical instruments, those schools and universities are very outstanding ones on a national scale. It is a prerequisite for cultural participation. It is general education because it enables young people to relate to themselves at the national level and to the world through arts and culture. On the other hand, Myanmar students can extend their views and perspectives on their own cultural beliefs and values and how these may be different from other cultures — including being able to learn about and honour the different cultures of their own nationalities. They are also given the opportunity to showcase their space for creativity upon their completion of the course and graduation. In this way, those rare courses like Myanmar Marionette Dance, Myanmar Musical Assemblé (Saing-waing), Oboe (hnei) and Myanmar classical dances can be preserved and disseminated. Ensuring a faceted culture of Myanmar not only for entertainment at celebrations, but the impact of globalization is also to be taken into account. In the 21st century, to address questions related to cultural sustainability and the role of culture in sustainable futures, what is the role of culture play in both rural and urban societies? With the globalization and impacts, Myanmar traditions and customs in everyday practices, living togetherness, costumes, food, identity-constructions and understandings, aesthetic and ethical values, artistic representations and performances, etc. have been influenced to a certain limit and are to be judged not to be swallowed a lot.

The University of Culture (established in 1993) which was changed to the National University of Arts and Culture (in 2007) opened with the aims of keeping dynamic patriotism, strengthening national unity and preserving national culture can extend many cultural courses. Moreover, during its 25 years of founding, not only Diploma and Master Courses are opened but also One Major Course like Film and Cinematography is opened and conferred Bachelor's Degree.

Myanmar arts and culture industry
In an attempt to identify new industries with high growth potential, the arts and culture were recognised as more than an ideological state channel but also a potent tourist draw. The late 1990s and early 1990s also saw the convergence of several factors.

Myanmar arts and culture industry

Firstly, in order to revitalize the Myanmar traditional arts and to turn out the budding talented new generation artistes, the Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competition was launched in 1993 to inject the country with greater cultural and entertainment exuberance for the dual purpose of attracting skilled Myanmar artistes. Secondly, by the early 1990s, the local theatre community had matured and was led largely by young theatrical artistes with many innovations. More crucially, this burgeoning theatre industry was supported by the broadening rural audiences as they have the disposable income to consume leisure activities and the desire to reflect on homemade stories and narratives. Thirdly, the Upheaval Period of 1988 and its impacts fuelled optimistic hopes of political and cultural liberalization and were unable to sustain the old theatrical and classical performances which call for large amounts of investments and skilled artistes. In order to meet the objective

of reaching out to as many arts groups as possible and revival of traditional arts and performances, the Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions has become a State-supported competition for turning out talented youths with good respect for Myanmar traditional arts and culture. Since 1993, the government-led competitions and the rise in contestants from every corner of the country have been very supportive of cultural preservation and promotion.

Kanbawzathadi Palace located near the southern archway of the magnificent Shwemawdaw Pagoda in Bago is a landmark in the Bago Archaeological Zone, covering an area of 64 acres. PHOTO: TIN SOE (BAGO)/GNLM/FILE



The Role of Arts Associations (Asiayone)
One of the supportive arms of culture preservation in Myanmar, the following associations (non-government organizations) play an important role in their respective arts field and in safeguarding Myanmar culture:

- Thabin Asiayone (Theatrical Association)
- Gi ta Asiayone (Music Association)
- Pan Pyinyar shin Asiayone (Artist and Artisan Association)

The Role of Arts Associations (Asiayone)

Each association organizes respective artistes and artists sharing their main purpose of preserving Myanmar culture. One of the objectives of the Myanmar Theatrical Asiayone is to preserve, rehabilitate, propagate and upgrade the various theatrical art forms. The music committee is formed under the Myanmar Music Asiayone (Association) and the entertainment, information, social, and education are conducted. Myanmar traditional Artists and Asiayone display different forms of Art Exhibitions to educate the public. There are also different associations between media and literature too. Myanmar Radio and Television produce programmes that educate and entertain the public.

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Support of International Organizations

Though Myanmar possesses many cultural assets both tangible and intangible, it has been neglected for ages and put up pressure on many political issues for the nomination to be included in UNESCO's World Heritage List. It is the dream of Myanmar people to take pride in their cultural assets to be well known. Since there are criteria for the selection, the sites must be of Outstanding Universal Value, meaning that their cultural significance is so exceptional that it transcends national boundaries and are of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity.

According to its Inventory List, there are more than 3,500 surviving stupas, temples, monasteries, fortifications and other monuments. Bago is set in an extensive landscape that also

features archaeological deposits and the remains of an ancient water-management system. To be nominated, Myanmar has to prepare for six years. With the support of UNESCO, the series of capacity-building activities and fulfilling other criteria have to be done through the awareness raising of Staff and local inhabitants. Moreover, maps and the inventory of monuments have been updated and site conservation has been strengthened in line with international standards.

After the earthquake that heavily damaged the monuments of Bago in August 2016, special attention was given to the development of a strategy which addresses the assessment of damages, post-earthquake stabilization and post-disaster rehabilitation. With the efforts of local Staff and authorities concerned, a detailed management plan for Bago was also produced to enhance the legal and institutional framework for protecting the site.

Without the feedback received from the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the professional and scientific advisory body for cultural heritage nominations, the selection work can not be done. With those cooperations, Myanmar can fulfil its wish as follows: -

- Inscribing of Three Pyu Cities in the UNESCO World Heritage List
 - Inscribing of Bagan Ancient Archaeological Site in UNESCO World Heritage List
 - Mya Zedi Kyauk-sar (Stone Inscription) in the UNESCO Memory of the World List
- Myanmar has two World Heritage Sites on the list of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) as of 2022: Pyu Ancient Cities in 2014 and Bagan in 2019 respectively. Both locations are cultural and Myanmar also has 15 sites on its preliminary list.

Myanmar and its own way of cultural preservation and promotion

Myanmar's value system is fundamental for the growth of Myanmar's national character. Myanmar's value system has flourished and been handed over to one generation after another through education: formal and non-formal. Those have been taught at the heart of Monastic Education which is based on the teachings of Buddha. With its own ways and manners, Myanmar has its own literature, own culture, own tradition and customs. Under the Teachings and guidance of Buddha, Myanmar is in line with Mingala Tayar, Thingaha Tayar, Byamaso Tayar and Hiri Auttapa Tayar which are the lineage of relationship among brother and sister, mother and child, teacher and pupil, visitor and host, husband and wife, neighbour and relatives, etc. Those are also indispensable persistence of Myanmar's ways and manners which pave the way

to cultural preservation and Myanmar culture to be intact. Though the Ministry of Culture has undergone many times for merging with other Ministries/Departments like the Department of Planning, Home Affairs, Education, Social Welfare, Ministry of Information and Ministry of Religious Affairs, its main mandate never change. At present, the Twelve Objectives of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council, the Four Objectives concerning Social Affairs are prior among the religious affairs, cultural affairs and history and archaeology research efforts of Myanmar. Regardless of the state policy, those objectives of the culture policy must have objectives to strengthen national culture through joint research, and development and instil national awareness and nationalism. In this way, sociocultural needs and standards and quality of arts can be fulfilled and promoted. The legacy of reforms made in successive governments in Myanmar, it is obvious that the fundamental policy for the culture has been based on National Integration and unity of the nationalities by preserving and recognizing their cultures and traditions. Those historical antecedents: pre-independence to the successive governments with different ideologies and perspectives, many changes have been made. Whatever the changes, the main ideology of Culture Policy in Myanmar will be based on the everlasting "non-disintegration of the union; non-disintegration of the national races and consolidation of national sovereignty".

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- (3) Culture Magazines, (issued by the Ministry of Culture)

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

Australia closes oldest coal plant, pivots to renewables

AUSTRALIA'S oldest coal-fired power plant was shuttered Friday, as the country — a once-notorious climate straggler — prepares for a seismic shift towards renewable energy.

The Liddell power station, a three-hour drive north of Sydney, was one in a series of ageing coal-fired plants slated to close in the coming years.

Built in 1971, Liddell provided about 10 per cent of the electricity used in New South Wales, Australia's most populous state.

Liddell's owner AGL said it would take about two years to demolish the hulking facility, which would free up the site for new clean energy projects such as a hydrogen power plant.

"More than 90 per cent of

the materials in the power station will be recycled, including 70,000 tonnes of steel — which is more steel than there is in the Sydney Harbour Bridge," the company said.

Australia's electricity

For decades, coal has provided the bulk of Australia's electricity, but University of New South Wales renewable energy expert Mark Diesendorf told AFP that stations such as Liddell were fast becoming unreliable "clunkers". Besides being inefficient, highly polluting and expensive to repair, the continued widespread use of coal-fired power plants would make Australia's climate targets almost impossible to meet. — AFP



Steam rises from the cooling towers of the Liddell power station in the town of Singleton, New South Wales. PHOTO: IPA.ORG/AFP/FILE

Spain hit by summer-strength heat in April

AN unusually early heatwave in drought-hit Spain is set to peak on Thursday and Friday with temperatures expected to break April records in the south of the country.

Experts have warned of the high risk of wildfires and farmers have warned of the catastrophic effect it is having on their crops.

Since Monday, Spain has been enveloped by a mass of warm, dry air from North Africa that has driven up temperatures to "levels normally seen in summer and exceptionally high for this time of year", said Spain's state weather agency AEMET.

"It's highly likely (the heatwave) will peak on Thursday and Friday," it added, acknowledging many temperature records had already been beaten on Wednesday.

On Thursday, the mercury rose above 34 degrees Celsius (93 degrees Fahrenheit) in most of the southern Andalusia region, hitting 38.7C in Cordoba, it said. Scorching temperatures have prompted warnings about the high risk of wildfires. Spain has already seen fire ravage 54,000 hectares (133,400 acres) of land so far this year, compared with 17,000 hectares in the same period last year. —AFP



The number of days with summer temperatures in Spain has increased from 90 to 145 between 1971 and 2022, according to a study by the Polytechnic University of Catalonia. PHOTO: AFP

Libya green group battles to save remaining forests

WAR-RAVAGED Libya is better known for its oil wealth than its forests, but environmentalists hope to save its remaining green spaces from logging, development and the impacts of climate change.

The "Friends of the Tree" group works to raise awareness about green areas around the capital Tripoli that are quickly disappearing because of drought, human activity and desertification. "Man has destroyed forests" and much of the vegetation, said the group's leader Khalifa Ramadan, who has been working in agriculture and gardening for 40 years. At his farm in Tajura, an eastern suburb of Tripoli, Ramadan has planted eucalyptus, palm and laurel trees, which the



Khalifa Ramadan, the leader of the "Friends of the Tree" group who work to raise awareness about green areas around Tripoli, plants a tree at his farm in Tajura. PHOTO: AFP

group plans to replant around the capital.

The group meets weekly to launch media campaigns and

carry out activities to confront "the dangers facing Tripoli and other coastal cities", said Ramadan. —AFP

DNA study of famed US sled dog shows what made him so tough

NEW York's Central Park has a statue dedicated to him, and there's even been a movie about him: a sled dog named Balto. Now he is the focus of a DNA study, 90 years after he died, to see what made the pooch so famously tough.

In 1925, this Siberian husky

was part of an expedition in Alaska called the serum run, the goal of which was to bring life-saving medicine to young people in the remote town of Nome that were threatened by diphtheria.

The mission in horrendous blizzards conditions involved a series of sled dog teams trans-

porting the anti-toxin relay-style from the city of Anchorage. Balto led the dog team that covered the last stretch of the gruelling journey. The dog died in 1933, and its mounted body has been on display at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History ever since. —AFP

HEALTH/WELLNESS: WORLD

Ailing Erdogan tries to project health by video link

TÜRKIYE'S ailing President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Thursday will try to offset his absence from the campaign trail weeks before crucial elections by unveiling a Russian-built nuclear plant by video link.

Erdogan is also expected to speak with Russian President Vladimir Putin as he attempts to project health and vigour at one of the more vulnerable moments of his two-decade rule.

The dominant 69-year-old leader has laid low since getting sick while conducting a live television interview on Tuesday evening. Erdogan had been campaigning tirelessly to pull out one



Turkish flags next to a portrait of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan as he gives a speech during a pre-election rally in Istanbul on 17 June 2018. PHOTO: ARIS MESSINIS/AFP/FILE

of his trademark come-from-behind wins in 14 May parliamentary and presidential polls.

But he looked wan during the interview and then cut it off in the middle of a question 10

minutes into the show.

The camera shook and the screen turned blank before going to a commercial break. A voice could be heard saying "oh wow" in the background while someone repeatedly coughed.

Erdogan returned about 15 minutes later and apologized for getting sick.

He said he developed "stomach flu" while hopping between five cities for campaign rallies and public project launches on Monday and Tuesday.

Health Minister Derya Yanik told Turkish television on Thursday that Erdogan was on the mend.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Thai woman charged with cyanide murder as list of victims grows

THAI police have widened their investigation into a woman accused of a spate of cyanide poisoning murders, with officers on Thursday raising the number of victims to 13 and charging her with premeditated murder.

Sarat Rangsiwuthaporn, who is married to a senior police officer, was arrested on Tuesday over nine alleged murders which took place over several years.

Police believe money was the motive in the killings but said that Sararat — who is four months pregnant — has previously been diagnosed with psychiatric issues.

Officers were now investigating at least 13 suspicious deaths dating back to 2020, deputy national police chief Surachate Hakpam said Thursday.

"She has been charged with premeditated murder," he told reporters in Bangkok. Television showed Sararat, wearing pale pink and flanked by officers who pushed through a scrum of reporters, being taken from a Bangkok police station into custody on Wednesday.—AFP

Covid deaths down 95 per cent this year: WHO

THE WHO said Wednesday that Covid-19 deaths had dropped by 95 per cent since the start of the year — but warned the virus was still on the move.

The World Health Organization said Covid-19 was here to stay and countries would have to learn how to manage its ongoing non-emergency effects, including post-Covid-19 condition, or Long Covid.

"We're very encouraged by the sustained decline in reported deaths from Covid-19, which have dropped 95 percent since the beginning of this year," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

told a press conference.

"However, some countries are seeing increases, and over the past four weeks, 14,000 people lost their lives to this disease.

"And, as the emergence of the new XBB.1.16 variant illustrates, the virus is still changing, and is still capable of causing new waves of disease and death."

Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO's technical lead on Covid-19, said XBB sub-lineages were now dominant worldwide.

They have an increase in growth advantage and are also showing immune escape, meaning people can be reinfected de-



While COVID has not totally subsided across the world, there are less restrictions to air travel. Air travelers at Daxing International Airport in Beijing, China, in January. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/WANG ZHAO/AFP

spite having been vaccinated or previously infected.—AFP

Diet rich in fat, sugar connected to skin inflammation: Study



Western diet is characterized by high fat and refined sugar, low fibre content and containing a large proportion of processed food. PHOTO: AFP

ACCORDING to a study by UC Davis Health researchers, inflammatory skin conditions like

psoriasis may be brought on by a Western diet high in fat and sugar. According to the study, which

was written up in the Journal of Investigative Dermatology, dietary factors rather than obesity itself may be responsible for skin inflammation and the onset of psoriasis.

Psoriasis is a common chronic skin condition that generates scales and red patches of skin that are irritating and occasionally painful.

Obesity is a risk factor for the onset or progression of psoriasis, according to earlier research.

The rising incidence of obesity around the world has been attributed to the Western diet, which is characterised by

a high dietary consumption of saturated fats and sugar and a low intake of fibre.

"In our study, we found that short-term exposure to Western diet is able to induce psoriasis before significant body weight gain," said Sam T Hwang, professor and chair of dermatology at UC Davis and senior author on the study.

For the UC Davis Health study, which used a mouse model, Hwang and his colleagues found that a diet containing both high fat and high sugar (mimicking the Western diet in human) was required to induce observable skin inflammation.—ANI

Moroccan medic arrested during abortion for teenager

A Moroccan doctor and his assistant were arrested Thursday while carrying out an illegal abortion for a 15-year-old, sparking protests in support of the medic.

The doctor, 71, and his assistant, 64, were arrested in a private clinic in the northern city of Meknes, police said.

The teenager and her mother, as well as a woman who accompanied them, were also questioned.

Abortion in Morocco is legal only if the pregnancy poses a danger to the health of the mother.

A woman who otherwise has an abortion can face a jail term of between six months to two years, while those carrying out the termination can face between one and five years behind bars.—AFP

ECONOMY

WORLD/AD

China issues over 200,000 certificates of origin under RCEP

CHINESE authorities had issued 201,700 certificates of origin under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement by March 2023, China's trade council said on Wednesday.

The certificates are related to exports valued at a total of 8.41 billion US dollars, and are expected to reduce tariffs by 126 million US dollars for Chinese products in RCEP importing countries, Wang Linjie, spokesperson for the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, told



RCEP certificates of origin have been welcomed by more and more enterprises, and have brought tangible benefits to China's foreign trade companies in securing orders on the global market. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

a press conference.

Since the RCEP agreement entered into force on 1 January 2022, the council

has supported local authorities, industries and enterprises to seize opportunities and expand trade and in-

vestment cooperation with RCEP members, Wang said. RCEP certificates of origin have been welcomed by more and more enterprises, and have brought tangible benefits to China's foreign trade companies in securing orders on the global market, Wang said.

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Argentina to pay for Chinese imports in yuan instead of dollars

ARGENTINA will pay for Chinese imports in yuan instead of US dollars in order to preserve its dwindling foreign reserves, Economy Minister Sergio Massa said on Wednesday.

The South American country will be able to "programme a volume of imports in yuan worth (the equivalent of) more than \$1 billion from next month," Massa said at a meeting in Buenos Aires with China's ambassador

Zou Xiaoli.

This would "replace" the use of Argentina's US dollar reserves.

Argentina's government on Tuesday accused the country's rightwing opposition of fuelling a dramatic erosion of the peso against the dollar, and ordered an investigation. The peso stood at 227 to the dollar at the official exchange rate Tuesday, but reaching more than double that on the parallel "blue" market. — AFP

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (4/2023-2024)

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

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(1)	DMP/L-086(23-24)	Electrical Materials for Yenangyaung Oil Field (3) Groups	Ks
(2)	DMP/L-087(23-24)	Electrical Materials for Mann Oil Field (3) Groups	Ks
(3)	DMP/L-088(23-24)	Industrial Raw Materials (2) Groups	Ks
(4)	DMP/L-089(23-24)	Class 'G' Cement (500) Tons	Ks
(5)	DMP/L-090(23-24)	Assorted Sizes of Hose Pipe (2) Groups	Ks
(6)	DMP/L-091(23-24)	Assorted Kinds of Valves, Pressure Gauge and Union (9) Groups	Ks
(7)	DMP/L-092(23-24)	Spares for Pup Joint, Bit Substitute, X- Over Substitute, Kelly & Swivel Substitute and Inside BOP (5) Groups	Ks
(8)	DMP/L-093(23-24)	Drawwork Rotary Table and Drive Group Replacement Parts (6) Groups	Ks
(9)	DMP/L-094(23-24)	Flexible Steel Wire Rope, Mast Raising Lines and Floor Board Raising Line (2) Groups	Ks
(10)	DMP/L-095(23-24)	Sucker Rod, Sucker Rod Coupling & Change Over Coupling (5) Items	Ks
(11)	DMP/L-096(23-24)	Pipe Fitting and Accessories (43) Items	Ks
(12)	DMP/L-097(23-24)	Printer Cartridge, Colour Printer Cartridge, Copier Toner, Colour Copier Toner & Fax Cartridge (46) Items	Ks
(13)	DMP/L-098(23-24)	Empty Poly Bag (New) (500,000)Bags	Ks
(14)	DMP/L-099(23-24)	Assorted Sizes of Tyre (1) Lot	Ks
(15)	DMP/L-100 (23-24)	Assorted Sizes of Battery (1) Lot	Ks
(16)	DMP/L-101(23-24)	Cement Additives (6) Items	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 **28 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 12, May 2023**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – **12-5-2023, 13:00 pm**

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

Brazil, Spain want EU-South America deal by year end



Brazil is the world's largest soy producer and exporter. In 2021, it produced almost 135 million tonnes of soy of which 105.5 million tonnes was exported as 82% raw soybeans, 16% soybean cake and 2% soybean oil. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP**

BRAZIL and Spain said Wednesday they hope a long-delayed trade deal between the European Union and four Latin American nations can be finalized by the end of the year.

The EU in 2019 reached a trade deal with the Mercosur bloc, comprising Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, after 20 years of negotiations.

But the deal has yet to be ratified, with some EU member states expressing concerns over Brazil's en-

vironmental record under former far-right president Jair Bolsonaro.

The deal has also sparked concern in Europe's agricultural sector.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said there was a good chance to dispel doubts and approve the deal during the second half of 2023 when Spain holds the rotating presidency of the EU.

Brazil will at the same time hold the presidency of Mercosur, he added during a joint news conference with visiting Brazilian

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. "The coincidence is an extraordinary opportunity to try to bring our positions closer," the Socialist premier said.

"There are countries within the EU that have doubts about the culmination of this important agreement... but we will work to dispel these doubts." Lula, as the Brazilian president if popularly known, agreed, saying the Spanish presidency of the EU "can be the opportunity to conclude this agreement". — AFP

Electrolux shares jump on better-than-expected results

SHARES in Swedish home appliances maker Electrolux jumped Friday after it reported a smaller-than-expected net loss in the first quarter as a savings plan launched late last year began to show results.

Electrolux's share price rose by almost seven per cent on the news at the opening of the Stockholm stock exchange, in a buoyant market.

The company posted a loss of 588 million kronor (\$57 million) in the first three months of the year, compared to a profit of around one billion kronor a year earlier.

Electrolux saw a boon during the pandemic as house-bound consumers turned their attention to refreshing their homes.

But the company was then hit with supply-chain disruptions and is now struggling to adapt to weaker demand.

In October last year, it announced it would cut 4,000 jobs worldwide but mainly in North America, representing eight per cent of its workforce.

A specific savings plan was drawn up especially for North America, due to high costs and poor performance. — AFP

Top-end models drive Mercedes profit growth

MERCEDES-BENZ said Friday its net profits rose by 12 per cent in the first quarter to 4.0 billion euros, buoyed by demand for its vans and priciest premium cars. The German automaker said its revenues were up eight per cent compared to the same period last year, reaching 37.5 billion euros, despite supply chain disruptions.

Sales in its top-end car range which includes the Mercedes-Maybach shot up by 18 per cent to 91,772 units, pulling up the carmaker's bottom line.

Its vans division also reported a jump of 25 per cent in revenues. "Our focus on top-end cars and



The German automaker said its revenues were up eight per cent compared to the same period last year, reaching 37.5 billion euros, despite supply chain disruptions. PHOTO: AFP

premium vans has made Mercedes-Benz more weatherproof, allowing us to accelerate our digital and electric transformation — even in a period

of economic uncertainty," said Harald Wilhelm, chief financial officer of the group.

The group said recent turbulence in the banking

sector in the US and Europe were new uncertainties weighing on its outlook but energy prices are expected to be less volatile. — AFP

Sony logs record full-year sales as net profit beats forecast

SONY reported record full-year sales of 11.5 trillion yen on Friday, attributing the "significant" increase to growth in the gaming, music, film and image-sensor sectors.

The revenue figure was the largest ever for the Japanese conglomerate, beating the last financial year's record of 9.9 trillion yen (\$73 billion).

A weaker yen and strong gaming hardware sales helped boost sales, along with "higher revenues for anime streaming

services", including from the acquisition of Japanese cartoon streaming giant Crunchyroll, Sony said.

The company's net profit for the year to March was 937.1 billion yen, up 6.2 per cent year on year and beating a forecast of 870 billion.

For the current financial year, which began in April, Sony predicts a lower net profit of 840 billion yen, partly for technical reasons related to tax expenses. — AFP



The revenue figure was the largest ever for the Japanese conglomerate, beating the last financial year's record of 9.9 trillion yen (\$73 billion). PHOTO: KYODO

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB316A)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB316A) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-4-2023 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (038N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (038N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-4-2023 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 OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SHENG YUN LAI VOY.NO. (103804)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SHENG YUN LAI VOY.NO. (103804) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 01-5-2023 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301928

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TRANG AN 08 VOY.NO. (03.23)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TRANG AN 08 VOY.NO. (03.23) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 01-5-2023 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of WILMAR where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301928

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S UNI SPRING LOGISTICS HOLDINGS PTE LTD

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Pope to meet Hungary's Orban on visit overshadowed by Ukraine



Pope Francis landed in the Hungarian capital of Budapest on Friday morning, where he is due to meet nationalist Prime Minister Viktor Orban during his three-day visit. **PHOTO: AFP**

POPE Francis arrived in Hungary Friday for a three-day visit likely to be dominated by the war in Ukraine and his meeting with nationalist Prime Minister Viktor Orban, whose views often clash with his own.

The 86-year-old Argentine pontiff will only stay in the capital Budapest during his trip, due to his fragile health a month after being hospitalized for bronchitis.

The pope arrived just before 10:00 am (0800 GMT) in the Hungarian capital, where key roads

have been blocked for days as part of a major security operation surrounding the visit. "I am happy... the world's attention is on Hungary. This country has a slightly negative image... perhaps it will be a little positive now," said Laszlo Temesi, a retired journalist who was among those lining the streets to try to catch a glimpse of the pontiff. Annamaria Szentesi, a 32-year-old, told AFP that it was "wonderful" that the pontiff was coming back to Hungary after a brief stop-over

in 2021. "I hope his main message will be one of peace in the world. His words have a lot of power," Szentesi said. After being received at the presidential palace by President Katalin Novak — who told local media she was brushing up on her Spanish ahead of the visit — Francis will meet with Orban. "In troubled times like ours, it is essential to remember what keeps us together, and faith is the foundation upon which we can build a stable future," Orban wrote on Twitter. — AFP

Russian strikes hit several Ukrainian cities overnight

RUSSIAN missile strikes targeted several Ukrainian cities overnight including the capital Kyiv, officials said Friday.

At least five people were killed in strikes that hit the central cities of Dnipro and Uman.

While Russia regularly bombed Ukrainian cities and infrastructure last winter, the massive strikes had tailed off in recent months. Kyiv had not been targeted by missiles in more than 50 days.

Most fighting is now taking place in the east for control of the industrial Donbas region, particularly the city of Bakhmut, which has been almost completely destroyed.

Missiles "killed civilians again in the city of Dnipro", city mayor Borys Filatov said

Friday on Telegram, adding: "A young woman and a three-year-old child died."

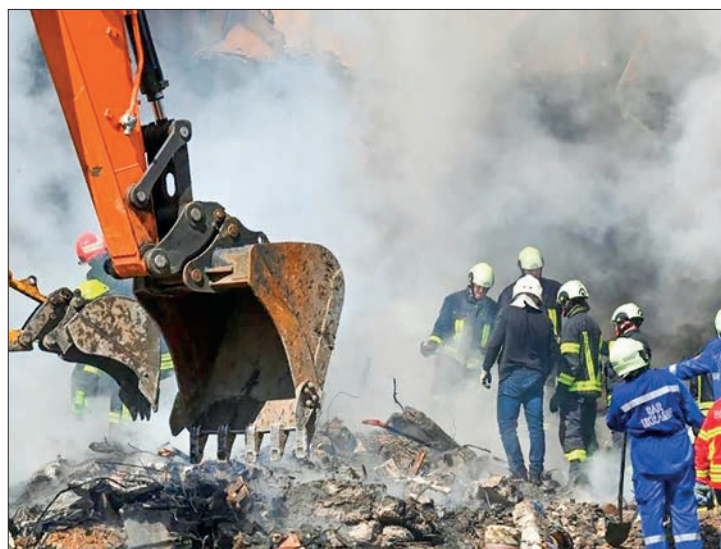
Air defence systems were also activated in Kyiv, according to local officials.

"After a pause of 51 days, the enemy launched another missile attack on Kyiv," said local air defence forces head Sergey Popko, according to the city administration.

"According to preliminary data, 11 cruise missiles were destroyed in Kyiv airspace. In addition to the missiles, two drones were shot down."

No casualties or damage to buildings were reported.

Ukraine's air defence system has been bolstered in recent months by the delivery of Western equipment crucial to the country's war effort. —AFP



Rescuers work in the rubble of a damaged residential building in Uman, southern Kyiv after Russian missile strikes targeted several Ukrainian cities overnight. **PHOTO: AFP**

BBC chairman resigns over loan to Boris Johnson

BBC chairman Richard Sharp on Friday announced his resignation after an inquiry found he had breached rules for failing to declare his involvement in arranging a loan for then prime minister Boris Johnson.

Controversy surrounding the appointment of Sharp to one of Britain's most high-profile roles had heaped pressure on Johnson's successor Rishi Sunak.

A week ago, Sunak lost his deputy prime minister, Dominic Raab, who was forced out after another inquiry found him guilty of bullying civil servants.

Sharp was formerly Sunak's boss at investment bank Goldman Sachs and is a wealthy past donor to the ruling Conservatives.

The chairman of the British Broadcasting Corporation is appointed by the UK monarch on the advice of the government.



Richard Sharp was found to have failed to declare a potential conflict of interest when he was appointed BBC chairman. **PHOTO: PRU/AFP/FILE**

Sharp's appointment by Johnson was criticized at the time for cronyism by a government that was said to be keen to rein in perceived critical reporting by the BBC.

Sharp "failed to disclose potential perceived conflicts of interest" to a committee of MPs who were vetting his appointment by Johnson in early 2021, the inquiry by a senior lawyer

found.

"There is a risk of a perception that Mr Sharp was recommended for appointment because he assisted... the former prime minister in a private financial matter," lawyer Adam Hepinstall found. In February, the same committee of MPs accused Sharp of "significant errors of judgement" for not disclosing his involvement in the loan. —AFP

Thousands of Israelis rally to back controversial reforms

ISRAEL'S ruling right-wing coalition of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu mobilized thousands of people to march in Jerusalem on Thursday in support of controversial judicial reforms that critics condemn as un-democratic.

Waving Israeli flags, large crowds gathered in front of parliament, chanting that "the people demand judicial reform".

The government's propos-

als would curtail the authority of the Supreme Court and give politicians greater powers over the selection of judges.

Netanyahu's administration, a coalition between his Likud party and extreme-right and ultra-Orthodox Jewish allies, argues that the changes are needed to rebalance powers between lawmakers and the judiciary.

The controversy over the reforms has split the nation and

divided the government.

Netanyahu on 27 March announced a "pause" to allow for talks on the reforms after an intensification of protests against them, the start of a general strike and tensions within his coalition.

On Thursday, dozens of right-wing and far-right coalition politicians gathered in front of a giant sign on which was written: "We will not be robbed of the elections". — AFP

Gymnasts lay flowers for A-bomb victims ahead of G-7 Hiroshima summit

TWO-TIME Olympic men's gymnastics all-around champion Kohei Uchimura and other current and former gymnasts from the Group of Seven nations visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum on Friday to lay flowers at the cenotaph for atomic-bomb victims ahead of the G-7 summit in the city. The "G-7 Gymnastics Hiroshima" participants hope to encourage dialogue for peace among leaders at the 19-21 May summit, which is likely to focus on Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The event was conceived by International Gymnastics Federation President Morinari Watanabe, who is the child of an

atomic bomb survivor.

"Russia's invasion of Ukraine is impacting the sports world and I hope peace will come as soon as possible," he said.

Uchimura, who grew up in Isahaya, Nagasaki Prefecture, recalls his grandmother telling him about the "flash of light" from the American atomic bomb that hit the city of Nagasaki in the final days of World War II.

"I hope this will be an opportunity for people to also turn their attention to Nagasaki, which was also hit by an atomic bomb," said Uchimura, who won all-around gold at the 2012 and 2016 Olympics.—Kyodo



Current and former gymnasts from the Group of Seven nations, led by Japan's two-time Olympic men's gymnastics all-around champion Kohei Uchimura (C), visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park on 28 April 2023. PHOTO: KYODO

Ecuador labels criminal gangs as terrorists

ECUADOR on Thursday declared members of organized crime groups to be terrorists, a distinction that allows the military to pursue them with greater freedom.

The measure was taken by the Public and State Security Council in a meeting presided over by President Guillermo Lasso. "We are currently experiencing an indiscriminate attack by organized crime, which has seen us as a weak country," Security Secretary Wagner Bravo said.

He said the new measure would allow security forces to confront organized crime bands without having to wait for the periodic declaration of states of emergency that offer them extra powers and limit

some citizen rights.

Ecuador's burgeoning crime groups are believed to have links to the Sinaloa Cartel and the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, both in Mexico.

Drug gangs are waging a bloody war for power in the prisons and on the streets of Ecuador.

Clashes between inmates have left more than 420 prisoners dead since 2021, while outside penitentiaries, the murder rate has doubled, official figures show. Bravo, a retired army general who assumed his security post on Wednesday, said after the council meeting that the state is ready "to declare that the terrorist threat is going to be confronted in a firm way". —AFP



Ecuadoran soldiers patrol the streets of the port city of Esmeraldas, on the border with Colombia, on 21 April 2023. PHOTO: ENRIQUE ORTIZ / AFP

Canada to compel web titans to boost domestic content

THE Canadian Senate passed a long-debated law Thursday that will require streaming platforms like Netflix, YouTube and Spotify to do more to support Canadian content, or face financial penalties.

The Online Streaming Act creates a legal framework to regulate digital platforms and oblige them to contribute financially to the "creation, production and distribution" of Canadian content such as music and TV shows as well as its promotion.

More specifically, the platforms will have to highlight and recommend Canadian programming, in both English and French as well as in Aboriginal languages, the law states.

"Canadian artists, produc-

ers, creators, and our cultural industry can now count on a fair shot at success in the digital age," Canada's Heritage Minis-

try said in a statement. The new measure received Royal Assent in the evening, the last step required to be enacted.—AFP



Netflix is a subscription-based streaming service that allows the members to watch TV shows and movies on an internet-connected device. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ NETFLIX

Taliban leader says UN Security Council 'pressure' won't work

A senior Taliban leader warned the United Nations Security Council Friday to give up its "failed policy of pressure" after members adopted a resolution condemning Kabul's growing restrictions on women.

The resolution, passed unanimously by all 15 Council

members on Thursday, said a ban on women working for the world body and NGOs in Afghanistan "undermines human rights and humanitarian principles".

The Council urged "all States and organizations to use their influence" to "promote an urgent reversal of these policies

and practices".

Since ousting the foreign-backed government and returning to power in August 2021, Taliban authorities have imposed an austere version of sharia that the United Nations has labelled "gender-based apartheid".—AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Gymnasts lay flowers for A-bomb victims ahead of G-7 Hiroshima summit

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

SPORT



The Myanmar U-22 men's football team pose for the group photo with the coaching staff at Phnom Penh International Airport on 27 April 2023. PHOTO: MFF

Team Myanmar arrives in Cambodia for SEA Games Men's Football Tourney

MYANMAR U-22 men's football team left Yangon on 27 April and arrived at Phnom Penh International Airport, Cambodia on the same day to compete in the Thirty-second South-East Asian (SEA) Games Men's Football event which will be hosted by Cambodia.

Team Myanmar will stay and take training at Phnom Penh Hotel with other contend-

ing teams as arranged by the host country.

The Myanmar squad is falling against host Cambodia, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, and the Philippines in Group A. All group matches will be played at the Cambodian National Stadium from 29 April to 11 May, according to the statement from the Myanmar Football Federation.

Myanmar team will play four

matches in nine days.

Team Myanmar will face Timor on 2 May (3:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time), Indonesia on 4 May (3:30 pm MST), the host Cambodia on 7 May (6:30 pm MST), and the Philippines on 10 May (3:30 pm MST) respectively.

The host country, Cambodia will broadcast the matches live free through social media, the MFF stated. — KZL

Kane glad of 'honest conversation' with Spurs chairman Levy

TOTTENHAM Hotspur star Harry Kane said an "honest conversation" with chairman Daniel Levy had paved the way for an encouraging 2-2 draw with Manchester United that helped stem a rising tide of discontent among the club's supporters.

An open revolt by Spurs fans intensified following last weekend's humiliating 6-1 loss away to Newcastle, with the hosts scoring five times the open minutes of feat that inter-head coach Cristian Stellini his job. —AFP



Tottenham Hotspur's poor run of results has raised fresh questions over the future of Harry Kane. PHOTO: AFP

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

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

- To enhance development based on agriculture and livestock using modern production techniques and to strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- 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.
- To advance the socioeconomic life of the people, in order to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.

3. Social affairs

- To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Title destiny in Man City's hands as Villa make European push

REIGNING champions Manchester City will go top of the Premier League table this weekend with victory over Fulham, building on their midweek demolition of title rivals Arsenal.

Manchester United are six points clear of Tottenham in the quest for a place in next season's Champions League, following the clubs' midweek draw, but Aston Villa could yet force their way into a place among Europe's elite.

At the bottom of the table, Southampton look increasingly doomed.

Man City eye top spot

After seizing control of the

title race with their crucial 4-1 rout of leaders Arsenal, red-hot Manchester City can move into top spot if they win at Fulham on Sunday.

Pep Guardiola's side made it seven successive league victories as they crushed the Gunners at the Etihad Stadium on Wednesday, with Erling Haaland rounding off an emphatic win with his 33rd Premier League goal of the season, a rate of 1.14 per match.

Second-placed City are now only two points behind Arsenal, with their two games in hand making them favourites to be crowned champions for a fifth time in six seasons.—AFP