

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Thursday, 18 May 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.

DPM MoTC Union Minister comforts cyclone victims, provides cash assistance, supplies in Rakhine's Sittway, Ponnagyun townships

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San inspected the loading processes of two water tank trucks, rice, cooking oil and rations, shelters, construction materials, medicines and medical supplies into Tatmadaw vessels at Shwemingan Port of Sittway Township to transport to Maungtaw and Buthidaung townships of Rakhine State yesterday.

The Deputy Prime Minister and party then went to No 10 BEHS in Thetkaepyin Village to comfort the locals and provide rice, noodles and drinking water. After that, they headed to Daungdukka village and comforted the residents after providing foodstuffs and drinking water.

The Deputy Prime Minister and party left Sittway Township for Ponnagyun by Tatmadaw aircraft and inspected the damaged BEHS (Ponnagyun), Uyazmingala suspension bridge, township hospital and township administration office and gave necessary instructions and fulfilled the needs to do repair work as quickly as possible.



Deputy Prime Minister Union Transport and Communications Minister Admiral Tin Aung San presents rice bags to storm victims at the BEHS 10 Thetkaepyin Village of Sittway Township in Rakhine State on 17 May 2023.

They then went to the Myoma Monastery which was destroyed in the storm and explained the efforts of the gov-

ernment to provide the necessary assistance, the need for public participation in rebuilding processes and providing

of rations, medicines, shelters and construction materials.

Then, they gave K30 million in cash assistance, rice, cooking

oil, noodle and drinking water to cyclone victims.

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DPM MoTC Union Minister comforts cyclone victims, ...

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At noon, the Deputy Prime Minister and party attended the ceremony to hand over cash assistance and other supplies to the victims of the cyclone in the wards of Sittway Township held at the Sasana Beikman of Lawka Nanda pagoda.

The event was also joined by town elders and artistes led by Myanmar Motion Picture Organization Chairman U Kyi Soe Tun.

Speaking at the event, the Deputy Prime Minister talked about the cash assistance and relief items to the locals by comforting them in townships of Rakhine State, measures to keep providing rations, medicines, medical supplies, construction materials and commodities, plans to conduct

cleaning processes, transportation and electrification in storm-hit areas, to repair the schools, hospitals and monasteries as quickly as possible and to conduct rehabilitation processes in strong momentum in accordance with the directives of the Prime Minister.

Then, the officials gave 6,370 bags of rice, 7,645 visses of oil, 6,144 visses of salt, family kit boxes containing 17 types of materials, noodles and K20 million provided by the government to the locals.

Then, the group of artistes led by the MMPO Chairman presented the steel plates, dried fish and fish paste donated by Sayadaw Ashin Cekinda to cyclone victims on behalf of the Sayadaw. — Tin Tun (IPRD)/KTZH



The Deputy Prime Minister inspects the loading of relief items at Shwemingang port in Sittway.

Artistes meet people in Cyclone Mocha-hit Sittway



Artistes are seen providing foodstuffs and relief items to storm victims in Sittway yesterday.

A team of artistes from the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization and the Myanmar Music Association (Central) yesterday morning arrived in Sittway, Rakhine State, which was devastated by Cyclone Mocha, to encourage and support the local residents.

Rakhine State Ethnic Affairs Minister U Tin Hla and members of the Sittway District

administration body and officials welcomed the artistes at the airport.

The group expressed warm greetings to the local people who took shelter in the Alotawpyae Monastery Rescue Camp and Maniyadana Monastery Rescue Camp and Kyayawpeikseik Village Cyclone Shelter Building in Sittway.

Next, they handed over the

medical supplies and dry food donated by Sayadaw Ashin Cekinda to the local people.

In the afternoon, they attended a ceremony to provide relief materials and food to people affected by natural disasters at the Sasana Beikmantaw building in Sittway.

The team of artistes has a total of 45 members. — State IRPD/KZL

139 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 17 May, total figure registers 637,622

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to **637,622** after **139** new cases were reported on 17 May 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

Therefore, a total of **10,539,992** laboratory samples were examined and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached **637,622**.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **616,442** including **113** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered **19,494** on 17-5-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. COVID-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health. — GNLM

Public Notice for Elimination of Violence

1. Declaring themselves to be “for the people”, the so-called CRPH, NUG and PDF terrorist groups are lawlessly killing Buddhist monks, civil servants including schoolteachers, and members of the general public, as well as looting and robbing.
2. Not encouraging, supporting, or assisting “CRPH”, “NUG”, and “PDF” terrorists, who are intimidating and killing people and committing destructive activities, is to protect the lives and property of the general public.
3. Giving information secretly to the authorities on terrorists and on the possession and transport of weapons/ammunition is tantamount to protecting the lives and property of innocent people.

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 Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing on 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day ceremony on 4 January 2023)

National Disaster Management Committee Vice-Chair 1 discusses proper methods of cash donations for Cyclone Mocha victims

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut, in his capacity as Vice-Chair 1 of the National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC), attended the coordination meeting of the fundraising and regulatory work committee held at the Disaster Management Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

First, he said that the emergency response tasks, recuse work and rehabilitation processes are being conducted in Cyclone Mocha-affected areas using cash donations and items donated by local and foreign do-



Deputy Prime Minister Union Home Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Soe Htut chairs the coordination meeting yesterday.

nors. It also arranges to receive and allocate cash donations systematically. It also announces the account numbers for donations. It should arrange proper methods as per the law, financial

rules and regulations for the people to make cash donations easily regardless of the amount.

Then, the vice-chair of the work committee Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win discussed the methods for cash donation like direct payment in cash at the banks and other matters.

The attendees coordinated the discussion and the Deputy Prime Minister highlighted the electronic payment system and mobile payment system for making cash donations for Cyclone Mocha victims and concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

Announcement for local and foreign well-wishers to donate cash to cyclonic storm Mocha victims

- An announcement has been issued that well-wishers wishing to make donations for people who fell victim to the extremely severe cyclonic storm Mocha which hit Myanmar on 14-5-2023 can donate cash to Myanmar account OA-011834 and foreign account 1DA-0300086.
- Myanmar account OA-011834 is opened at the Nay Pyi Taw Branch of Myanma Economic Bank and well-wishers can donate using the following procedures: -
 - They can well-wishers can donate using the Nay Pyi Taw Branch of Myanma Economic Bank through a direct process or via other branches of MEB and all branches of private banks.
 - They can make cash donations from the kyat accounts opened at domestic State-owned and private-run banks through the account transfer.
 - If they wish to make donations by KPay, they can transfer money to telephone numbers 09-255001533 and 09-255001534 of the National Disaster Management Committee. If they wish to donate with the use of Wave Money, they can transfer money telephone numbers 09-255001542 and 09-255001543 of the committee.
- Foreign account 1DA/0300086 is opened at Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank in Yangon, and well-wishers can donate using the following ways: —
 - They can directly donate US dollars, euros and Singaporean dollars to the Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank.
 - The foreign account owners at the MFTB can donate cash through the account transfer.
 - Those at home and abroad wishing to donate foreign currencies can make cash donations to
 - SWIFT CODE /BIC - MFTBMMMY
 - Beneficiary Name - Natural Disaster Management Fund
 - Beneficiary A/C No - 1DA-0300086
- Moreover, as arrangements are underway to make cash donations with the use of other electronic payment systems and mobile payment systems, further announcements will be issued.
- The well-wishers can contact the following persons for further information: —



Natural Disaster Management Fund

www.kbipay.com

Call Center
3211

Nay Pyi Taw	Yangon	Mandalay
Daw Lei Lei Aye Director-General Department of Disaster Management 067-3404050 09-2021491	U Than Soe Director Department of Disaster Management Office of Yangon Region Department 09-250123885	U Aye Min Thu Director Department of Disaster Management Office of Mandalay Region Department 09-420708827
Nay Pyi Taw	Yangon	Mandalay
U Win Shwe Deputy Director-General Department of Disaster Management 067-3404048 09-254170011	Daw Than Than Win Deputy Director Department of Disaster Management Office of Yangon Region Department 09-420740160	

National Disaster Management Committee

MoFA Union Minister receives WFP Country Director and Resident Representative in Myanmar

U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs received Mr Stephen Anderson, Country Director and Resident Representative of the World Food Programme (WFP) in Myanmar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the WFP's Country Director and Resident Representative briefed the Union Minister on the updates of the signing of the new LoU regarding the Country Strategic Programme (2023) as well as the WFP operations in Myanmar. The Union Minister

discussed the cooperation between Myanmar and WFP and matters related to providing necessary humanitarian assistance in the context of disaster and urged them to closely cooperate with the Myanmar government in rehabilitation measures for those affected by the cyclonic Mocha. — MNA

The WFP Country Director and Resident Representative in Myanmar calls on Union Minister U Than Swe yesterday.



MoBA Union Minister provides aid to cyclone victim Bengalis in Sittway Township

UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung made an inspection tour to Thetkaepyin Village of Sittway Township together with Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin, senior military personnel and departmental officials yesterday.

While meeting with the in-charge personnel of cyclone-hit Bengali IDP camps at Thetkaepyin Station Hospital, the Union minister said the rescue work, assistance and rehabilitation processes will be conducted as quickly as possible. In doing so, these works will be also done at the storm-hit IPD camps. The currently provided rice and items are aimed at the current situation and further

assistance will be provided.

Then, the Rakhine state chief minister talked about the

heavy damage in the townships of Rakhine State, the work processes of state government

with the support of the government and donors, further assistance to the people living

in IDP camps and urged them to participate in rehabilitation processes by cooperating with the state government.

The Rakhine State government, Tatmadaw and departmental officials, in-charge persons of IDP camps and social welfare organizations gave warnings about Mocha and conducted the evacuation.

The heads of IDP camps reported on the needs and the Union Minister and the State Chief Minister made proper instructions. Then, they gave 1,200 bags of rice, 1,500 visses of oil, 2,200 visses of peas and 36 tarpaulin rolls to Bengalis residing at 12 IDP camps in Sittway Township. — Tin Tun (IPRD)/KTZH



Union Border Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung provides foodstuffs to storm-affected Bengalis in Sittway yesterday.

General health warnings for cyclone-affected areas

AFTER the cyclone, it can cause floods, lightning, landslides, injuries, electrocution, snake bites, cold, pneumonia, mosquito-borne diseases like dengue and malaria, diarrhoea, food poisoning and other health-related problems caused by contaminated water and food. Therefore, people should strictly act according to the following facts: —

1. Follow the notices released by regional administrative bodies in a timely manner without fail.
2. During a flood, there is a risk of drowning and injury after slipping into the ditches and potholes. Therefore, take care of the steps and warn the children.
3. Be aware of the danger of electrocution. Avoid going near the electric wires on the ground or in the water and remind the children.
4. Watch out for snakes.
5. Never enter seriously destroyed buildings.
6. Dirty water and food can cause communicable diseases including diarrhoea and so, drink the FDA-recognized drinking water or boiled water or water systematically disinfected with water purification tablets or chlorine. Don't drink river water, creek water and contaminated water.
7. To prevent food poisoning, don't eat floating food, cans, expired foodstuffs,

decayed food, food with mould, overripe fruits and dirty food.

8. Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds using soap before touching and eating the food and after using the bathroom.
9. Take care of personal hygiene, and use toilets.
10. Don't poop near drinking water tanks, wells and lakes.
11. Throw the garbage systematically, bury them, burn them and sprinkle quicklime powder on them.
12. Stay under the shelters to prevent from getting cold, and wear the proper clothes that go well with the weather – for instance, wear warm clothes and take special care of the children.
13. Participate in COVID-19 vaccination processes and healthcare services like regular vaccination programmes.
14. Be aware of the risk of mosquito bites. Use mosquito net, and participate in the fight against Aedes mosquitoes, mosquito larvae and mosquitoes.
15. If you sustain injuries or suffer from certain health problems, go to the nearest health department or clinic.

Ministry of Health
May 2023

Coord meeting on storm-hit agricultural sector in Rakhine State held

A coordination meeting on rehabilitation for the loss and damage in the agricultural sector in Rakhine State was held yesterday at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. Union Minister U Min Naung, Deputy Minister Dr Aung Gyi, Permanent Secretary U Kyaw Min Oo, the directors-general and departmental officials attended the meeting.

Union Minister U Min Naung highlighted that the ground statistics of the damage in the agricultural sector of Rakhine State should be collected as quickly as possible and the reconstruction of buildings

should be prioritized. To distribute the required seeds in time, the plan should be under-

way in advance and prepare for mechanized farming, if necessary, he added. He underscored

the need to provide foodstuffs, school uniforms and textbooks for employees and families from

respective departments.

Next, the deputy minister and attendees reported on the activities to be coordinated with local governments in line with national guidelines on natural disaster management, the need for the provision of seeds from the private sector, the status of opening the Agricultural Institute (Kyauktaw), plans to send skilled workers from the Mechanized Agriculture Department, the damage to irrigation facilities and the livestock breeding sector.

The Union minister coordinated the necessary things and left instructions. — MNA/TS



MoALI Union Minister U Min Naung presides over the coordination meeting yesterday.

Electricity redistribution underway in Sittway, Rathedaung and northern Rakhine State

THE Ministry of Electric Power is implementing the improved production and distribution of electricity to fulfil the basic need of the people. Electricity production and distribution were most hampered by Cyclone Mocha on 14 May in Sittway, Rathedaung and northern Rakhine State.

A coordination meeting was held yesterday to repair the 12 damaged towers along the 230-kV An-MraukU-Ponnagyun National Grid and the meeting was attended by Union Minister for Electric Power U Thaung Han, the director-general, the deputy director-general and officials.

The Union minister and party inspected the damaged towers,

clear-up measures and reconstruction materials.

A task force of 420 skilled staff was mobilized to undertake repair works in Sittway, MraukU and Ponnagyun. A total of 600 skilled staff from northern and southern Shan State, Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Magway and Ayeyawady Regions were deployed to carry out reconstruction works in Sittway. Restoration of electricity distribution for the whole of northern Rakhine State will be reportedly completed by the end of May. Tatmadaw naval vessels and vehicles continue to transport the repair and reconstruction materials to Sittway and Minbya respectively. — MNA/TS



Union Electric Power Minister U Thaung Han inspects the repair and reconstruction works in Rakhine State.

Tax receipt to be submitted in transferring US\$10,000 plus

ACCORDING to the Internal Revenue Department, a tax payment receipt must be submitted when transferring foreign currency equivalent to US\$10,000 and above.

Starting from 1 May, Authorized Dealer-AD licenced banks launched the verification of whether taxes have been paid or cleared in transferring US\$10,000 and above abroad by entrepreneurs, companies, organizations and individuals.

The interest rate, licence, trademark, commission for collection of revenues, payment for copyright, and payment of service charges will be deducted as withholding tax or the document of relevant tax offices showing whether the tax should be levied must be submitted.

— TWA/MKKS

Notice on licence applications for illegally owned arms and munitions

9 May 2023

1. It is learnt that people illegally carry arms and munitions for their concerns about personal security due to the lethal attacks of terrorists on innocent people today. Although the original intention is for personal security, one's mind can change at any time when in possession of arms and munitions. Moreover, it can cause firearm misuse for possessing illegally and it is not in conformity with the law. Therefore, the State Administration Council will manage to grant licences systematically as per the policy of carrying arms and munitions.
2. In applying for the licence to carry arms and munitions, applicants will not be asked how they get the gun, but they must apply for it together with the arms that they want to carry. Upon the applications, it will review as per the policy of carrying arms and munitions and licences will be granted to those who meet the specific requirements. Action will be taken against those who do not apply for licences together with arms and munitions during the fixed period.

Information Team
State Administration Council

Tatmadaw (Navy) transports donated supplies to Rakhine State

TATMADAW (Navy)'s 29-metre landing craft left Kathhapyay of Kyaukpyu Township to transport one MPT mobile van (eight tonnes) to Sittway Township on 16 May at noon and it arrived at its destination yesterday morning.

Similarly, another 29-metre landing craft transported 400 bags of rice and 40 bags of peas from Sittway to Rathedaung on 16 May morning and it arrived at its destination yesterday morning.

Moreover, one tank-carrier landing craft also left Sittway for Angumaw carrying 48 bags of supplies, two miltrucks (2,000

gallons), two water purification trucks, two Seino trucks and 150 bags of rice yesterday morning.

Similarly, the navy ship (Pyi Taw Aye 2) left Bo Aung Kyaw jetty of Yangon for Sittway Township at noon yesterday carrying a total of 660 tonnes of relief items including rice bags, CI sheets, roofing nails, palm oil, application forms for ID cards, generators, ration and so on.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Yangon Commander Maj-Gen Zaw Hein and officials gave a send-off.

Similarly, two 29-metre



Relief items and donated supplies are seen being loaded onto the Tatmadaw Navy ship (above and left below photos.)



landing craft will transport 32.5 tonnes of relief items including water purification truck and Canopy tents and related materials donated by the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army) along the Sittway-Yaychanyin-Rathedaung route.

Moreover, the Bandula ves-

sel that left Yangon carrying members of rescue teams and relief items on the morning of 16 May arrived in Sittway Township yesterday evening.

The Mottama vessel that left Bo Aung Kyaw jetty of Yangon carrying relief items, rescue team members and 104 staff

from the Ministry of Electric Power on the morning of 16 May arrived in the Sittway estuary of Rakhine State yesterday night. It will dock at Sittway jetty and transport the aids, rescue team members and staff who will carry out rescue work on 18 May morning. — MNA/KTZH

Tatmadaw (Air) continues to deliver supplies to people in Mocha-hit Rakhine State

THE Tatmadaw has sent a group of relief teams to areas affected by Cyclone Mocha and is carrying out the necessary relief work.

Food and relief items donated by Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, and Air) families and voluntary donors as well as items provided by the National Disaster Management Committee, are being transported by the Tatmadaw planes, helicopters and ships.

The Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, and Air) families yesterday transported 695 large packages of biscuits from Nay Pyi Taw Airport to Sittway Airport for the first time.

They also transported 400 bags of necessary items from Nay Pyi Taw Airport to Sittway Airport for the second time, 250 bags of relief items for the third time, 150 sacks of rice, 19 packages of water purifier tablets, and 169 packages of various medicines for the fourth time.



Relief goods are loaded onboard the Tatmadaw aircraft to transport them to Rakhine State.

Similarly, relief and rescue operations in areas affected by natural disasters were carried out by 418 relief forces including special search and rescue forces

under the command of the Myanmar Fire Brigade Headquarters and fire brigades from Bago Region, Yangon Region and Ayeyawady Region.

They transported edible oils, tarpaulin sheets, small and big generators, packages of purified drinking water, sacks of rice, building materials, chain

saws, purified drinking water bottles, carpets, medicines, and relief items nine times by Tatmadaw planes from Yangon's Mingaladon Airport to Sittway Airport.

The Tatmadaw airlifted relief teams and supplies from Nay Pyi Taw to Sittway four times, and from Yangon to Sittway nine times yesterday.

They are working to continue delivering what people need.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Zaw Hein and officials visited and encouraged the rescue teams who were transporting the aid and relief teams from Yangon's Mingaladon Airport to Sittway Airport, and also provided cash, aid and relief supplies.

Officials have received the items that arrived by the Tatmadaw planes and will continue to distribute them to the relevant departments. — MNA/KZL

Update on casualties, loss and damage across nation after Cyclone Mocha

THE death and destruction in Myanmar caused by the severe cyclonic storm Mocha in the Bay of Bengal on 14 May is being released in a timely manner.

According to the investigation until 17 May noon, 12 houses, three religious buildings, one monastery, three schools, one airport building, eight lamp posts, one transformer, one departmental building, one wall were damaged and destroyed in 44 wards and villages of Nay Pyi Taw while 129 houses, one religious building, two monasteries, one school, two hospital/clinic, four lamp posts, 30 departmental buildings and one football field in 24 wards and villages of Chin State, three houses, six telecom towers, two lamp posts, one transformer, 26 walls and three bridges in 23 wards and villages of Sagaing Region, 113 houses, two telecom towers and one lamp post in 72 wards and villages of Bago Region, four houses, 14 lamp posts, 67 walls, 156 seasonal crop cultivation fields and one bridge in 34 wards and villages of Magway Region, four religious building in one village of Mandalay Region, one house, one monastery, one school and 14 lamp posts in four wards and villages of Mon State, 44,502 houses, 366 religious buildings, 48 monasteries, 394 schools,



An aerial view of the damaged Township People's Hospital in Ponnagyun Township.

52 hospital/clinic, one market, one airport building, one telecom tower, seven lamp posts, one transformer, 118 departmental buildings and 932 losses in 686 wards and villages of Rakhine State, 31 houses, one religious

building, one monastery, seven schools, two telecom towers, 60 lamp posts, two transformers, six departmental buildings, two football fields and 34 walls in 65 wards and villages of Yangon Region, two houses, one monastery

and one school in one village of Shan State, 131 houses, one religious building, five monasteries, 32 schools, five hospital/clinic, nine lamp posts, three departmental buildings and four losses in 114 wards and villages of Ay-

eyawady Region. 47 people including security force members who are serving rescue works in Rakhine State and one from Ayeyawady Region have been reported dead.

Therefore, according to the data on 17 May noon, a total of 44,928 houses, 376 religious' buildings, 59 monasteries, 439 schools, 59 hospitals and clinics, 11 telecom towers, 119 lamp posts, five transformers, one market, two airport buildings and 158 departmental buildings were destroyed in 1,068 wards and villages in 11 regions and states, and 48 locals were killed.

In the cyclone-affected areas, the rescue teams in respective regions and states are undertaking rescue measures together with volunteer organizations, and officials concerned went to the sites and provided necessary assistance. — MNA/KTZH



The loss and damage in Maungtaw Township of Rakhine State.



Roads eroded by Chitthaung in Seikpyu Township.



The re-erection of the fallen lamp post in Buthidaung Township.



Clear-up work in Minbya.

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.

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

OPINION

Build a new and young country with changes and progress

MYANMAR is home to ethnic-national brethren through thick and thin. The government places an emphasis on national unity and the development of more than 100 ethnicities. As a Myanmar saying goes: Command your man and do it yourself, all ethnic nationalities need to uplift themselves on a self-reliant basis for their improvement.

The University for the Development of the National Races of the Union is a basic factor to improve all ethnic national brethren. Such an academic institution established for many decades has been turning out qualified academicians and technicians in relevant arenas so as to benefit the national brethren residing in all parts of the nation.

The university aims to come to the youths to forge unity among them and cement their Union spirit while learning at the university, to turn out good education staff who are free from party politics with high morality and morale, to raise leadership skills which need in the development of border region and uplift of living standard, to encourage keenness to conduct research for the improvement of ethnic people of the Union and to become the youths who believe in and safeguard the Our Three Main National Causes.

The products of the university, mostly B.Ed. graduates are teaching their pupils residing in remote areas of the nation. It aims to improve the school education of ethnic youths from border regions and far-flung areas and raise critical thinking on the improvement of the socioeconomic life of ethnic people.

Today's elders were young in the past. Today's youths will be elders in the future. Everything is changing. But the country will persistently exist as new generations are building the country year after year. So, the country is new and young with changes and progress.

Only when teachers teach the nature of a genuine, disciplined democratic system and good democratic practices to ethnic-national youths will they be reliable persons with democratic knowledge in building the Union based on democracy and federalism. In this regard, those youths must have the knowledge to preserve the national character and culture of the country.

Youths are a reserved force for the future nation. Hence, the University has been nurturing the ethnic youths to become reliable ones for their native areas as well as the State. Those graduates from the university who are loyal to the country have to serve their duties to forge the national spirit and patriotic spirit of youths from the border region and to train those youths to follow prescribed laws, rules and regulations.

Today's elders were young in the past. Today's youths will be elders in the future. Everything is changing. But the country will persistently exist as new generations are building the country year after year. So, the country is new and young with changes and progress.

Harmonization exists between political stability and development

By Maythu Lwin

POLITICAL stability is truly the bottom line for national development which is the truth for every nation. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has struggled with armed conflicts for over 70 years which is the main culprit for a lag in development. Losses to the nation are still countless due to political

instability. Under State Administration Council's supervision, actions are being taken to revive the NCA peace process which was initiated on 15 October 2015. State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing highlighted the importance of prompt implementation of NCA "As NCA was drawn

by stakeholders in accord with the proposals of ethnic armed organizations, only when all walk on that way will the peaceful and tranquil State, we all aspire to. Hence, it is necessary to leave a peaceful legacy for prosperity and quickly implement the peace process" as an honour of the 67th Anniversary of the Kayin State Day Ceremony. When observing Singapore's history, one of the four Asian Tigers, it has proved a stable political

environment since its independence in 1965. This advantage has boosted its leaders' attention to development initiatives. In addition, a well-rounded education system of Singapore, nurturing skilled human resources has allowed the country to stand out as one of the most developed countries in ASEAN. This is vivid evidence of how political stability can grant the country and its citizens to create a strong nation and per-

form their best.

Undeniably, political instability has brought about declining foreign direct investment inflows, the dominance of the black market, the increasing rate of inflation, the problem of brain drains, and the spread of fake news and misinformation, among them, the worst fact is the fear of the public. When reflecting upon this, the victory of every civil war is bittersweet, especially when the victims are

the citizens. If it is accepted that every civil war happens for a reason and different perceptions, it is to be accepted that its long-term consequence is disastrous. Every civil war is indeed bloody politics. Nowadays, a global value chain which is international production sharing has taken place among countries. As a matter of fact, when a country lacks political stability, developing a robust economy is difficult to achieve.

Investors require political, legal, economic, taxation and financial conditions to remain stable as a guarantee of their investment in any home country. Therefore, it is to be aware that every action and plan taken by different armed organizations convey favourable conditions for the motherland in meeting global demand. It is a duty to prevent the motherland from going backwards in an international setting.

As of the beginning, the implementation of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement didn't initiate based upon 100 per cent trust between parties. Depending upon existing trust, the agreement was made on the basis of adhering to national interests. As the strength of the nation lies within, only when all different organizations cooperate, will the nation be on the development route.

Tattoo-like graphene implant can treat irregular heartbeats: Research

RESEARCHERS led by Northwestern University and the University of Texas at Austin (UT) have developed the first cardiac implant made from graphene, a two-dimensional supermaterial with ultra-strong, lightweight and conductive properties. Similar in appearance to a child's temporary tattoo, the new graphene "tattoo" implant is thinner than a single strand of hair yet still functions like a classical pacemaker.

But unlike current pacemakers and implanted defibrillators, which require hard, rigid materials that are mechanically incompatible with the body, the new device softly melds to the heart to simultaneously sense and treat irregular heartbeats.

The implant is thin and flexible enough to conform to the heart's delicate contours as well as stretchy and strong enough to withstand the dynamic motions of a beating heart.

After implanting the device into a rat model, the researchers demonstrated that the graphene tattoo could successfully sense irregular heart rhythms and then deliver electrical stimulation through a series of pulses without constraining or altering the heart's natural motions.

Even better: The technology also is optically transparent, allowing the researchers to use an external source of optical light

to record and stimulate the heart through the device.

The study will be published on (20April) in the journal 'Advanced Materials'. It marks the thinnest known cardiac implant to date.

"One of the challenges for current pacemakers and defibrillators is that they are difficult to affix onto the surface of the heart," said Northwestern's Igor Efimov, the study's senior author.

"Defibrillator electrodes, for example, are essentially coils made of very thick wires. These wires are not flexible, and they break. Rigid interfaces with soft tissues, like the heart, can cause various complications. By contrast, our soft, flexible device is not only unobtrusive but also intimately and seamlessly conforms directly onto the heart to deliver more precise measurements."

An experimental cardiologist, Efimov is a professor of biomedical engineering at Northwestern's McCormick School of Engineering and professor of medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. He co-lead the study with Dmitry Kireev, a research associate at UT Zexu Lin, a PhD candidate in Efimov's laboratory, is the paper's first author.

Miracle material

Known as cardiac arrhythmias, heart rhythm disorders occur when the heart beats either too



The implant is thin and flexible enough to conform to the heart's delicate contours as well as stretchy and strong enough to withstand the dynamic motions of a beating heart. Graphene tattoo patch. IMAGE CREDIT: NING LIU/UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN.

quickly or too slowly.

While some cases of arrhythmia are not serious, many cases can lead to heart failure, stroke and even sudden death. In fact, complications related to arrhythmia claim about 300,000 lives annually in the United States.

Physicians commonly treat arrhythmia with implantable pacemakers and defibrillators that detect abnormal heartbeats and then correct rhythm with electrical stimulation.

While these devices are lifesaving, their rigid nature may constrain the heart's natural mo-

in high-performance electronics, high-strength materials and energy devices.

"For bio-compatibility reasons, graphene is particularly attractive," Efimov said. "Carbon is the basis of life, so it's a safe material that is already used in different clinical applications. It also is flexible and soft, which works well as an interface between electronics and a soft, mechanically active organ."

Hitting a beating target

At UT, study co-authors Dmitry Kireev and Deji Akinwande were already developing graphene electronic tattoos (GETs) with sensing capabilities.

Flexible and weightless, their team's e-tattoos adhere to the skin to continuously monitor the body's vital signs, including blood pressure and the electrical activity of the brain, heart and muscles.

But, while the e-tattoos work well on the skin's surface, Efimov's team needed to investigate new methods to use these devices inside the body - directly onto the surface of the heart.

"It's a completely different application scheme," Efimov said. "Skin is relatively dry and easily accessible. Obviously, the heart is inside the chest, so it's difficult to access and in a wet environment."

The researchers developed an entirely new technique to encase the graphene tattoo and

adhere it to the surface of a beating heart.

First, they encapsulated the graphene inside a flexible, elastic silicone membrane - with a hole punched in it to give access to the interior graphene electrode.

Then, they gently placed gold tape (with a thickness of 10 microns) onto the encapsulating layer to serve as an electrical interconnect between the graphene and the external electronics used to measure and stimulate the heart. Finally, they placed it onto the heart.

The entire thickness of all layers together measures about 100 microns in total.

The resulting device was stable for 60 days on an actively beating heart at body temperature, which is comparable to the duration of temporary pacemakers used as bridges to permanent pacemakers or rhythm management after surgery or other therapies.

Optical opportunities

Leveraging the device's transparent nature, Efimov and his team performed optocardiography -- using light to track and modulate heart rhythm -- in the animal study.

Not only does this offer a new way to diagnose and treat heart ailments, the approach also opens new possibilities for optogenetics, a method to control and monitor single cells with light.—ANI

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 17 May 2023)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 18 May 2023: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Chin State, fairly widespread in Kachin State, scattered in Bago, Taninthayi Regions and (Northern and Southern)Shan, Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States and isolated in the Remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

The Condition of Cumulonimbus Cloud: The Cumulonimbus clouds are developing over the Upper Sagaing, Magway, Bago Regions and Chin State. The area along the Cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Chin States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 May 2023: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 May 2023: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 May 2023: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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Nyaungdon/Maubin oilfield produces about 50 barrels of jet fuel, over 22 mln cubic feet of natural gas daily



ACCORDING to the Ministry of Energy, about 50 barrels of jet fuel and more than 22 million cubic feet of natural gas are produced from the Nyaungdon/Maubin oilfield on a daily basis.

Oil for aircraft that is produced daily from 17 production wells in the gas field is transported to the Petrochemical Factory (Mann Thanbayakan Refinery),

Union Minister for Energy U Myo Myint Oo and Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win are seen inspecting the Maubin oilfield in Maubin Township, Ayeyawady Region on 11 March 2023.

where fuel needed by the country is produced.

In addition, natural gas from the area is distributed to the fertilizer plants (Myaungtaga and Kangyidaunt), the liquefied natural gas plant (Nyaungdon), factories and workshops in Yangon Region, CNG vehicles in the public transport sector, and the reoperation of the Newsprint Paper Mill (Thaboung).

Drilling and testing operations for the No 20 well and oil and natural gas exploration activities will be carried out in the Phayagon area, according to the MoE. — TWA/CT

MoH Union Minister inspects reconstruction of Sittway General Hospital damaged by Cyclone Mocha

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win and Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant arrived at the Sittway General Hospital damaged by Cyclone Mocha and inspected the progress of repairing the damaged buildings yesterday.

According to the directive of the Chairman of the State Administration Council to “prioritize the reconstruction of public buildings”, the Union Minister for Construction and officials viewed the repairing work of damaged roofs of the hospital and fulfilled the needs. Then, the Union minister and his party inspected the hospital’s water supply provided by the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development.

The Sittway General Hospital, under the guidance of the National Disaster Management Committee, had made prepa-

rations before the storm and so it has been able to provide medical services round the clock at the time of the storm and after it.

In addition, the Ministry of Health carried out the work of chlorinating drinking water in wells and ponds in wards and

villages in Sittway township yesterday and gave instructions to do the same in the other townships in Rakhine State to prevent the outbreak of diarrhoeal disease.

In addition, the Ministry of Health is coordinating with the Ministry of Construction to re-

construct the damaged hospital buildings in Rathedaung township. A medical team from the Myanmar Army Medical Corps (MAMC) left for Rathedaung township yesterday to reinforce health care activities there.

The Ministry of Health reportedly provided purified wa-

ter, medications and chlorine to the villages in Maungtaw township, opened the clinics in Thetkaepyin village in Sittway township and coordinated with the Ministry of Construction to reconstruct the storm-hit station hospital as soon as possible. — MNA/MKKS



Union Health Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win inspects the status of repairing the damaged Sittway General Hospital.



Illegal teak furniture, jewellery, industrial materials, auto parts and vehicles confiscated

A combined team on duty at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint confiscated 2,500 kilogrammes of stainless-steel pipes (worth K5 million) that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a Nissan Diesel tractor head and a trailer (approximate value of K42 million) heading to Yangon from Myawady on 15 May. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

A combined team under the supervision of the Mandalay

Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force captured 0.872 tonnes of teak parquet (worth K960,080) without official documents from a light truck (estimated value of K15 million) heading to PyinOoLwin from Mandalay at the Kyaukchaw village bypass road checkpoint on the same day. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Similarly, the Muse District Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force captured 13 kinds

of goods (worth K4,895,310), including ten solar panels (50 W), and nine kinds of goods (worth K1,387,550), including three computer keyboards, without Import Licence by the road over the Shinpyu checkpoint in Muse township on 15 May. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

In addition, the on-duty teams confiscated 272,000 kilogrammes of porcelain tiles (worth K427,019,040) that were different from the Import Dec-

laration from a container at the Hteedan Port container checkpoint, two kinds of goods (worth K66,487,176), including 31955 ceramic tiles, without Import Licence from a container at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint, two kinds of goods (worth K49,282,38), including 23,040 kilogrammes of Warrior motorcycle chains and sprocket sets, that exceeded the 61 days of VPA from two containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port Terminal container check-

point and two kinds of jewellery (worth K176,532,000), including 376 necklaces that were supposed to be gold that exceeded the 61 days of VPA from luggage at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk). The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Therefore, 12 arrests (estimated value of K778,229,394) were made on 15 May, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS



Premium diesel 200,000 gallons initially reach Rakhine State

MT Zabu Tansaung Oil Tanker carrying a total of 200,000 gallons of premium diesel arrived at the Shwe Min Gun Jetty in Sittway township of Rakhine State on 16 May and loading and distribution work was being carried out, according to the Fuel Import, Storage and Distribution Supervisory Committee.

The fuel needed for the rescue, relief and resettlement work in Rakhine state affected by the storm is being imported, stored and distributed in accordance with the guidance of the National

Disaster Management Committee, the Disaster Management Centre and the Ministry of Energy.

A fuel bowser from Thilawa Port also entered into Sittway township and loading and distribution work is being done at the Shwe Min Gun Jetty in Sittway township.

MT Khine Khine Phyo-33, MT Khine Khine Phyo-34 carrying 250,000 gallons of diesel and 200,000 gallons of 92 Ron fuel will reportedly reach Sittway in a matter of days. — TWA/MKKS



Fuels are loaded onto the tanker at Thilawa Port.

418 firemen, philanthropists from 3 regions head for relief works in townships of Rakhine State



FIRE brigades and charity organizations from three major cities left for the Cyclone Mocha-hit townships in Rakhine State on 17 May.

A total of 418 firefighters and charity association members from Yangon Region, Bago Region, and Ayeyawady Region left the Mingaladon Air Force Base headquarters in Tatmadaw transport planes.

The teams sent to carry out rescue work were led by the Myanmar Fire Brigade Headquarters and included a total of 418 personnel, including 20 special search and rescue personnel.

Three rescue and relief battalions consisting of 116 auxiliary fire brigades from

Firefighters and volunteers are seen boarding the Tatmadaw aircraft (above) and the clear-up work in progress (right).



Yangon Region, Bago Region and Ayeyawady Region, and 50 members from charitable social organizations who have passed the district-level search and rescue training organized by the Fire Services Department, in addition to participating in firefighting operations in Yangon Region, also joined the rescue team.

They have been prepared before the storm with search and rescue equipment, emergency medicines and foodstuffs for a month so that they can carry out relief operations at

any time and place.

The aid and rescue teams have been properly organized and led by U Thein Tun Oo, director of the Myanmar Fire Brigade Headquarters.

They will cooperate with government departments and charitable organizations in the relevant region to provide relief

and rehabilitation work.

The Yangon Region chief minister has given grants to 20 special search and rescue forces from the Myanmar Fire Brigade Headquarters, 116 search and rescue units from the Yangon Region, and 50 charity members (a total of 186 members) at the rate of K150,000 per person.

Similarly, search and rescue units from Bago and Ayeyawady Regions were also given grants by the respective regional governments by the regional chief ministers. — TWA/KZL

UMFCCI holds talks with EuroCham Myanmar on country's electricity, bank policy issues

THE European Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar discussed with the officials from the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) that the main difficulties faced by Myanmar are banking issues, regulatory challenges and power outages.

Chairman of the Myanmar-based European Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar, Mr Adrian Short, CEO Ms Karina Ufert, and members, added during the meeting with the president and officials of the UMFCCI that EuroCham Myanmar conducted a research

paper regarding the economic conditions of Myanmar.

UMFCCI chairman and officials stated that they will continue to report the difficulties encountered in various business sectors to the relevant ministries and committees to increase foreign investment and create job opportunities in Myanmar.

They discussed getting the right information and increasing cooperation between EuroCham and the Federation.

EuroCham Myanmar has more than 140 member companies that are investing and operating in Myanmar. — TWA/KZL



EuroCham Myanmar and UMFCCI officials discuss the issues encountered in various business sectors.

YBS 78 vehicle catches fire

THE Myanmar Fire Services Department reported that a YBS 78 bus caught fire in front of the People's Square at around 10 am on 16 May.

The fire had to be extinguished by three fire engines. The passengers were not harmed, and the cause of the fire is still under investigation, according to the department. — TWA/CT



Firefighters are seen putting out the burning YBS 78 vehicle.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Sagiang Region Agriculture Department hands over GAP certificates for mango, dragon fruit growers

AGRICULTURE Department in Kantbalu and Kyunhla townships held a handover ceremony of the Good Agricultural Practice certificates for 20 mango and dragon fruit growers on 17 May 2023, covering over 1,348 acres.

Seintalone mango produced from those townships is sent to the domestic market as well as foreign countries.

U Soe Aung, head of the District Agriculture Department gave a remark regarding the objectives of the GAP certificate. This practice is to promote food products and reduce the risks of contamination along the supply chain from farmers to consumers, the growers said.

The GAP adoption and certificate are required to pene-



The handover ceremony of GAP certificates to 20 fruit growers was held on 17 May 2023 in Kanbalu and Kyunhla Townships.

trate more external markets and the international markets prefer the fruits produced under the GAP system.

The GAP ensures food safety, and the GAP growers can get more market access, locally and internationally, according to the Agriculture Department.

In addition to food safety, GAP also ensures worker safety, health and welfare, and conservation of the environment.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has encouraged farmers to use its GAP protocol in a bid to boost productivity, profitability, mar-



ket access, and competitiveness in the agricultural sector. The Agriculture Department raised awareness of GAP among growers by providing courses. The GAP protocol and guidelines include the most consumed and major export items — mango, pomelo, honeydew, watermelon,

avocado, chilli, tomato, onion, cabbage, corn, sesame, various beans, rice, and coffee.

The number of acreages cultivated under good agricultural practices (GAP) increased year over year, on account of the benefits of GAP. — Aung Win Nyein/EM

Low output of betel farms drives leaf price up

THE decrease in the yield of betel leaf caused by the consequences of Cyclone Mocha and other negative reasons pushed up the price, the brokers pointed out.

The price of betel leaf at the farm is estimated at K16,000 per viss. Yet, it surged to K35,000-40,000 per viss in the retail market following the low production.



The price of betel leaf at the farm is estimated at K16,000 per viss. Yet, it surged to K35,000-40,000 per viss in the retail market following the low production. The picture shows a betel farm.

“The betel leaf price usually declines this time every year. The price is rocketing this year”, said a farm owner.

The erratic weather wreaked havoc on the betel farms. Also, pests destroyed farms, resulting in yellowing, curling and crinkling in leaves. The yield dropped due to the pest invasion, strong wind, flooding and decreasing number of farmers, the agriculturalists emphasized.

The price went up when the demand surpassed the supply.

The betel leaf fetched a high of K9,500-10,000 per viss in mid-June 2022. The low supply is a fundamental cause of the price increase. The betel farmers were bitterly battered by the torrential rain, said U Win Naing, a farmer. — Lu Lay/KK

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 17 May 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K1,920
Octane 95	K2,005
Diesel	K1,895
Premium Diesel	K1,975

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,342,100 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K3,015,000 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.

Peanut prices head for three-week high on strong demand

THE upward trend of peanut prices persists following a strong foreign and domestic demand, according to the Mandalay Commodity Wholesale Centre.

On 1 May 2023, the prices stood at K6,000-7,700 per viss then. The prices moved up to K6,450 -8,400 per viss on 17

May, showing a sharp increase of K100-900 per viss over two weeks.

Both Chinese traders and local oil millers have been increasingly purchasing them in the market.

The lack of foreign demand and weak demand by local millers pushed down the prices to

K4,700-5,750 per viss in the last week of November 2022.

Myanmar has been shipping oil seeds (sesame seeds and peanuts) to foreign countries. Last April 2022, the world's top palm oil exporter Indonesia, which is one of the main oil suppliers to Myanmar, declared an export ban on cooking oil export

to reduce the domestic shortage. Consequently, Myanmar's Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce temporarily suspended exports of oil crops (peanut and sesame) from 9 May to have oil self-sufficiency.

Exports of Myanmar's edible oil crops resumed as the world's top palm oil exporters

returned to normalcy, according to a notification dated 5 July 2022 released by the Trade Department.

The country shipped more than 32,000 kilogrammes worth US\$40.16 million to foreign markets through the border trade channels so far in the last financial year 2022-2023. — NN/EM

Coronation tiara crowns Geneva jewels auction



The Bessborough Diamond Tiara was crafted in 1931 for Roberte Ponsonby, the Countess of Bessborough. **PHOTO: ROBIN MILLARD / AFP**

A dazzling tiara worn at two British coronations and the Star of Egypt diamond purportedly once belonging to King Farouk are among the historic jewellery items being auctioned Wednesday

by Christie's in Geneva. The glittering pieces are going under the hammer in the auction house's Magnificent Jewels sale in the Swiss city. The sale also features the largest

private collection of JAR jewellery ever to come to auction, spanning 40 years of the work of Paris-based creator Joel Arthur Rosenthal. Less than a fortnight after the coronation of

Britain's King Charles III comes the sale of the Bessborough Diamond Tiara, which was worn at the coronations of his grandfather King George VI in 1937 and mother Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. Vere Ponsonby, the ninth earl of Bessborough, commissioned the Parisian jeweller Chaumet to craft a tiara for his wife to mark his appointment as Canada's governor-general in 1931.

The Art Deco tiara, made with platinum and weighing 136.5 grammes, has an intricate floral design. "This is as iconic as it gets in terms of the style. The workmanship is unbelievable," said Max Fawcett, head of the jewellery department at Christie's in Geneva. — AFP

China to cut gasoline, diesel retail prices

CHINA will cut the retail prices of gasoline and diesel from Wednesday, based on the recent changes in international oil prices, the country's top economic planner said on Tuesday.

Gasoline and diesel prices will be reduced by 380 yuan (about 54.67 US dollars) per tonne and 365 yuan per tonne, respectively, according to the National Development and Reform Commission.

Under the current pricing mechanism, the

prices of refined oil products are adjusted following changes in international crude oil prices.

China's three biggest oil companies — the China National Petroleum Corporation, the China Petrochemical Corporation and the China National Offshore Oil Corporation — and oil refineries have been directed to maintain oil production and facilitate transportation to ensure stable supplies, the commission said. — Xinhua



A staff member refuels a car at a gas station in Haizhou District of Lianyungang, east China's Jiangsu Province, 17 January 2023. **PHOTO: GENG YUHE/XINHUA**

Siemens profit triples on orders boost

GERMAN industrial conglomerate Siemens raised its outlook for 2023 on Wednesday after second-quarter profits nearly tripled on higher orders.

Between January and March, the group booked a net profit of 3.5 billion euros (\$3.8 billion), up from 1.2 billion euros year-on-year.

Siemens said the boost came from the partial reversal of an impairment charge linked to its stake in Siemens Energy, as well as a 15-per-cent jump in new orders. Group revenues also climbed by 15 per cent to hit 19.4 billion euros.

Demand was especially strong at the group's smart infrastructure and mobility units, helped by easing global supply chain



German industrial conglomerate Siemens raised its outlook for 2023 on Wednesday after second-quarter profits nearly tripled on higher orders. **PHOTO: AFP**

bottlenecks. Siemens, which runs its financial year from October to September, said it had won a record 2.9-billion-euro contract in the second quarter to deliver 1,200 electric locomotives for Indian Railways.

CEO Roland Busch praised the group's "outstanding performance" over the quarter, which saw "all-time highs in profit for digital industries and smart infrastructure, as well as another record in order backlog".

The company lifted its full-year outlook for 2023, saying it now expected revenues to grow by nine to 11 per cent, up from a previous target of seven to 10 per cent. — AFP

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Ubisoft reports loss after games delayed

UBISOFT said Tuesday it plunged into a net loss in the 2022-2023 fiscal year as a number of highly anticipated video game titles were delayed.

But the French firm said it expected to turn its net loss of 494 million euros (\$537 million) into

an operating profit on the order of 400 million euros in the current financial year, which ends next March.

The loss was due in large part to delays in the release of titles like Mirage, the latest in the blockbuster Assassin's

Creed franchise, as well as Avatar: Frontiers of Pandora.

The company confirmed the cost-cutting plan it announced in January, which consists of reducing staff levels and shedding some assets. — AFP

CHANGING DISTRIBUTOR OF REGISTERED PESTICIDE

This is a notification of the change of distributor of below herbicide, registered by Bayer AG, under the Myanma Pesticide Registration Board, from Myanma Golden Farm Co., Ltd. to Marga Min Co., Ltd. Any objection to this change can notify to Joint Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein, within 14 days.

Trade Name	A.I	Reg. Type	Reg. No.
Antracol 70 WP	Propineb 70% WP	Full	FF2020-488
Invento 66.8 WP	Iprovalicarb 5.5%+ Propineb 61.3% WP	Full	FF2021-562
Folicur 430 SC	Tebuconazole 430 g/L SC	Full	F2022-3429
Movento 240 SC	Spirotetramat 240 g/L SC	Prov.	P2019-2349

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Japan ramps up G7 security after PM attacks

SECURITY is tight at every G7 summit, but this year's host Japan has more to prove than most, after an attack last month on the prime minister and the 2022 assassination of ex-premier Shinzo Abe.

Some 24,000 security personnel are reportedly being deployed to Hiroshima during the summit, most dispatched from other parts of the country.

Well ahead of the 19-21 May talks, patrolling police have been weaving between tour groups in the western city's famed Peace Park.

Security personnel were

also motoring up and down the river that runs alongside sites like the Atomic Bomb Dome, with helicopters regularly buzzing overhead.

The measures have extended far beyond the city, including to the capital Tokyo, where messages on the train system warn of heightened security for the summit.

Major cities in Japan do not generally have rubbish bins in public places, but security personnel have been sealing off other places considered to pose a potential threat.

Coin lockers, which are com-

mon in many stations, have been put out of operation at major stations as far afield as Tokyo.

Vending machines on subway platforms have also been unplugged and sealed with tape, along with apologetic signs warning they will be unavailable during the summit for security reasons.

In Hiroshima, signs across the city and in hotels remind locals and tourists alike that the summit will cause disruption, including the closure of streets and access to the island of Miyajima, which leaders are expected to visit.—AFP



Police officers patrol at Tokyo's Haneda airport on Friday, ahead of the Group of Seven summit in Hiroshima from 19 to 21 May. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Türkiye's opposition plots fightback against Erdogan



Opposition leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu intends to run a more hard-edged campaign ahead of the second round. **PHOTO: AFP**

TÜRKIYE'S opposition tried on Wednesday to recover from a crushingly disappointing election performance and launch a new attack aimed at beating President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in a 28 May runoff.

Secular leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu huddled with the other five heads of his alliance on Wednesday to plot a hard-edged strategy for ending Erdogan's two-decade domination of Türkiye.

Media reports said he had fired his PR team and planned to tap Istanbul mayor Ekrem Imamoglu — a feisty figure with a history of bad blood with Erdogan — to spearhead his campaign.

The reported promotion of Imamoglu and the mayor's lauded strategist Canan Kaftancioglu marks a reversal for Türkiye's grandfatherly opposition leader.

The 74-year-old former civil servant tried to run an inclusive campaign that addressed voters in chatty clips recorded from his kitchen and ignored Erdogan's personal barbs.

That approach worked — up to a point.

The opposition deprived Erdogan of a first-round victory for the first time and collected more votes than in any point of his rule.—AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

European leaders sign war register for Ukraine

EUROPEAN leaders on Wednesday hailed a new "register of damage" for Ukraine they signed on to as "historic" and a first step to making Russia pay for its war.

The instrument, created by the 46-nation Council of Europe, sets up an evidentiary record ahead of a possible future prosecution of Russian leaders, thus laying the groundwork for compensation.

It was a "first, necessary, urgent step" ensuring "justice that is centred on the victims" of the war, said council head Marija Pejcinovic Buric on arrival at the second day of the summit in Iceland.

She said that by early Wednesday 40 countries had signed onto the creation of the register, including the United States and all other G7 nations.—AFP

Chinese fishing boat capsizes in Indian Ocean, 39 missing

A Chinese fishing boat has capsized in the Indian Ocean, with 39 crew members from China, Indonesia and the Philippines missing, state-run media said Wednesday. Chinese President Xi Jinping has instructed relevant authorities to make all-out rescue efforts. The crew members missing after the accident that occurred at around 3 am Tuesday are 17 Chinese, 17 Indonesian and five Philippine nationals, according to China's official Xinhua News Agency.—Kyodo

New Zealand police say arson suspected in deadly hostel fire

AN arsonist may have ignited the hostel blaze that killed at least six people in New Zealand's capital, police said on Wednesday, as they opened a homicide investigation.

Smoke and flames engulfed the 92-room, four-storey Loafers Lodge in Wellington in the early hours of Tuesday, sending resi-

dents fleeing for their lives. Some survivors crawled through smoke to safety, while others were rescued from the rooftop by firefighters using ladder trucks. Those who died still lie in the charred building. "I can confirm that we are treating the fire as arson," police inspector and acting dis-

trict commander Dion Bennett told reporters, declining to give the full reasons.—AFP

Firefighters inspect the Loafers Lodge hostel where a fire broke out a day earlier in the suburb of Newtown in Wellington. **PHOTO: AFP**



Canada's Trudeau wants to be 'best of friends' with South Korea



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (C) takes a selfie with South Korean lawmakers in Seoul. PHOTO: POOL/AFP

CANADA must become the "best of friends" with South Korea, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told lawmakers in Seoul on Wednesday, as the two countries seek to counter China's growing regional influence.

Trudeau is on his first official visit to South Korea, where he will meet President Yoon Suk Yeol.

"I'm here to tell you that it's no longer enough to be friends. We need to be the best of friends," Trudeau said during a speech to Seoul's National

Assembly.

He told lawmakers that unity was needed as the world was facing a moment of unprecedented uncertainty, with lingering consequences from the Covid-19 pandemic, rising living costs, and the "real and terrifying" effects of climate change and war.

Trudeau and Yoon are expected to discuss ways to deepen cooperation on supply chains, especially for critical minerals used in electric vehicle batteries, which Canada

has reserves of and which are needed by South Korea's car manufacturers.

Canadian media outlets also reported on possible meetings between Trudeau and top executives from South Korean battery maker LG Energy Solution.

The company and its partner, auto manufacturer Stellantis, halted construction work this week on a massive EV battery plant in Canada, saying Trudeau's government "has not delivered on what was agreed to".—AFP

Ecuador president insists 'total' innocence as impeachment trial opens

ECUADOR'S President Guillermo Lasso declared his "total, evident and unquestionable innocence" as his impeachment trial over corruption allegations began in parliament on Tuesday.

The majority left-wing opposition has accused the right-wing president of knowing about alleged corruption in public companies in which his brother-in-law Danilo Carrera and a drug trafficking-accused businessman have been implicated.

"There is no evidence, nor relevant testimonies. Rather, all there is is information that proves my total, evident and unquestionable innocence," Lasso told the unicameral legislature.

His impeachment trial is



The trial comes at a tumultuous time, with some protesters demanding the president be ousted. PHOTO: AFP

taking place amid a spike in violence related to drug trafficking in the South American country and widespread anger over the rising cost of living.

The chamber would need a two-thirds majority — 92 out of 137 members — to impeach

Lasso, who argues that the allegations date to before he became president in May 2021.

Last week, 88 legislators voted in favor of pursuing the impeachment trial, when a simple majority was needed to open proceedings. — AFP

WORLD: TOP HEADLINE

Australia PM says Quad leaders hope to meet in Hiroshima

AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on 17 May a planned Quad summit will not go ahead in Sydney next week and that he instead hopes to meet the leaders from Japan, the United States and India in Hiroshima while there for a Group of Seven summit later this week.

The change came after US President Joe Biden cancelled his stop in Australia, citing the need to return to Washington to negotiate with Congress over a looming debt ceiling deadline.

After speaking to Biden over the phone earlier in the day, Albanese said he will cancel the Quad summit, slated for 24 May, and that he, Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will instead seek to hold talks on the sidelines of the G-7 meeting.

As the Biden administration has decided to shorten the Asia-Pacific itinerary, including canceling a stop in Papua New Guinea, the president will only visit the western Japan city for the G-7 summit from Friday, the White House said Tuesday.

"All four leaders -- President Biden, Prime Minister Kishida, Prime Minister Modi and myself -- will be at the G-7 held in Hiroshima," Albanese told reporters in Tweed Heads, New South Wales, according to the prime minister's office. "We are attempting to get together over that period of time." — Kyodo

French court upholds Sarkozy's jail term in wiretap graft case

A French appeals court on Wednesday upheld a prison sentence of three years, including two suspended, against former president Nicolas Sarkozy for corruption and influence peddling.

The court ruled he should serve a one-year detention sentence at home with an electronic bracelet and banned him from public office for three years over his attempts to secure favours from a judge in a case uncovered by wiretapping.

Sarkozy is France's first postwar president to have been

sentenced to jail.

The 68-year-old left the courtroom without making any comment, but his lawyer said they would appeal before the Court of Cassation, France's highest appeals court.

"Sarkozy is innocent... We will not give up this fight," said lawyer Jacqueline Laffont.

Sarkozy, who served one term from 2007 to 2012, has been embroiled in legal troubles ever since leaving office.

In March 2021, a court found he and his former lawyer, Thierry Herzog, had formed a "corrup-

tion pact" with judge Gilbert Azi- bert to obtain and share information about a legal investigation.

The trial came after investigators wiretapped Sarkozy's two official phone lines, and discovered that he also had a third unofficial one taken out in 2014 under the name "Paul Bismuth", through which he communicated with Herzog.

The contents of these phone calls led to the 2021 corruption verdict.

The former leader contested the accusations and immediately appealed. — AFP



Former French president Nicolas Sarkozy is to appeal the verdict. PHOTO: AFP

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SPORT

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

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance development based on agriculture and livestock using modern production techniques and to strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.

- (c) To assure support for the sustainability of Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) that prioritize import substitution, export production, and the use of domestically produced raw materials, in order to increase domestic production and generate employment opportunities.
- (d) To advance the socioeconomic life of the people, in order to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.

3. Social affairs

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



XXXII SEA Games ends with fascinating closing

THE XXXII South East Asian Games hosted by Cambodia was concluded with a closing ceremony at the Morodok Techo National Stadium in Phnom Penh, Cambodia yesterday.

Prime Minister of Cambodia, Hun Sen attended the event, which was closed by various entertainments.

Athletes from ASEAN countries took their places in the field and the volunteers who helped in the competition were also present. In addition, the flag was handed over to Thailand, which will host the next SEA Games.

The XXXII SEA Games were held from 29 April to 17 May, and more than 6,000 athletes from all 11 Southeast Asian countries competed.

The tourney included 36 kinds of sports and a total of 586 gold medals were awarded.

Viet Nam took the first place by

collecting 136 golds, 105 silvers, and 114 bronzes and Thailand is standing in the second with 108 golds, 96 silvers, and 108 bronzes.

Indonesia is in third with 87 golds, 80 silvers, and 109 bronzes and host Cambodia in the fourth with 80 golds, 74 silvers, and 127 bronzes.

The Philippines occupied the fifth place with 58 golds, 86 silvers, and 116 bronzes while Singapore took the sixth with 51 golds, 42 silvers, and 64 bronzes.

Malaysia took seventh with 34 golds, 45 silvers, and 97 bronzes, and Myanmar in eighth with 21 golds, 25 silvers, and 68 bronzes.

Laos is in the ninth with six golds, 22 silvers, and 60 bronzes, and Brunei is in the tenth with two golds, one silver and eight bronzes.

Timor Leste is in the eleventh with eight bronzes. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL



Team Myanmar in action for the vovinam performance event.

Myanmar gains one more gold medal in XXXII SEA Games

MYANMAR sports teams claimed one more gold medal plus silver and bronze medals as the XXXII SEA Games was held at various stadiums and sports halls in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 16 May.

Myanmar teams grabbed one gold and three bronzes in Vovinam Event, three silvers in Traditional Boat Race, and one bronze in Weightlifting.

Men's and women's Vovinam events were held at Chroy Changvar Convention Centre Hall A at 2:30 pm Cambodian Standard Time.

In the Men's Team Performance Event, Myanmar's Aung Zaw Thet, Ye Zaw Moe, Ye Tun Ank won the gold medal for Myanmar while host Cambodia secured silver and the

Philippines and Viet Nam jointly grabbed the bronze.

In the Men's Single Performance Event, Myanmar's Htet Wai Hlaing picked the bronze.

Khin Khin Khant also garnered the bronze medal for Myanmar in the Women's Single Performance Event, and Khaing Kyawt Kyawt Wai, Kay Khaing Kyawt, and Hlaing Phoo Wai bagged another bronze for Myanmar in the Women's Team Performance Event of Vovinam.

Next, Traditional Boat Race Event was continued at Perk Kampot, Kampot City, Kampot Province, and Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, Cambodia, and the Philippines teams competed in the tourney.

Myanmar won one

silver medal each in the Men's 12 crews (U-24) 800-metre Event, Men's 12 crews (open) 800 m Event, and Men's 5 crews (U-24) 800 m Event.

Next Myanmar competed against Cambodia, Viet Nam, and Thailand in the Men's 89 kg Weightlifting Event, at the Table Tennis Hall, Olympic Complex, and Myanmar's Yan Myo Kyaw claimed the bronze medal.

Myanmar participated in the Traditional Boat Race, Judo, Weightlifting, Vovinam, and Men's Football events on 16 May and secured one gold, three silvers and four bronzes.

In the XXXII SEA Games, Myanmar secured 114 medals so far (21 golds, 25 silvers, and 68 bronzes) to date. — MNA/KZL



The view of XXXII SEA Games closing ceremony at the Morodok Techo National Stadium in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 17 May 2023. PHOTO: SEA GAMES 2023