

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Friday, 2 June 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.

Ministries and sports federations are to make preparations for securing greater success in coming 33rd SEA Games to be hosted by Thailand in 2025 with larger number of athletes: Senior General

ATHLETES are to make utmost efforts for winning greater success in international sports competitions including the coming SEA Game with perseverance, industry and sporting spirit, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony to honour the medallists of the Myanmar sports contingent in the 32nd SEA Games held in Cambodia, at Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium B in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that a total of 445 members of the Myanmar contingent comprising 341 athletes and 104 managers and coaches participated in 19 sports events in the 32nd Southeast Asian Games, securing 21 gold, 25 silver and 68 bronze medals, totalling 114. After 1981, this year's medals secured in the 32nd SEA Games were the largest.

The Senior General expressed his pleasure for the victories of the Myanmar sports contingent in the previous SEA Games and urged all to strive for securing the gold medal in the football tournament as a natural duty. Moreover, athletes and sports federations are urged to win gold medals in volleyball, track and field, weightlifting and boxing events.

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State Administration Council Chair Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents cash awards to gold medallists in the 32nd SEA Game yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

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91 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 1 June, total figure registers 638,980

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to **638,980** after **91** new cases were reported on 1 June 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

Therefore, a total of **10,657,186** laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached **638,980**.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **617,981** including **89** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered **19,494** on 1-6-2023 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

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 increase of death rate due to the disease.

Statement of Myanmar War Veterans Organization

DAW Lily Naing Kyaw, an actress as well as a singer, who lives in Yankin Township, Yangon Region, was brutally attacked in front of her house by a PDF terrorist on her return at 7 pm on 30 May 2023.

Myanmar War Veterans Organization cannot accept such an inhumane act and strongly condemns any terrorist group cruelly killing innocent people who are not military targets.
Myanmar War Veterans Organization

Statement of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization

IT grieved us deeply to learn that Lily Naing Soe (aka) Daw Lily Naing Kyaw, a vocalist, who lives in Yankin, Thingangyun District, Yangon Region, was brutally attacked by a PDF terrorist at 7 pm on 30 May 2023.

Such an inhumane act is totally unacceptable to us and we strongly condemn it.
Myanmar Motion Picture Organization

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

1. 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.
2. In this announcement, it is duly mentioned that our commitment to receiving donations extends to additional electronic payment systems and mobile payment systems.
3. It has been announced that donations can be made to the previously announced phone number and to the account that was opened, and since it can be confusing to donate with a phone number, we have already made it possible to donate with a QR code instead of the phone number.
4. Donations can be made through KBZ Pay or Wave Money. If you wish to donate, please scan the QR codes provided by both KBZ Pay and Wave Money. To contribute, enter the code included within the respective QR codes.
5. People make donations through CB Pay, AYA Pay, OK \$ and UAB pay which are widely used to enhance convenience for donors. To donate, please scan the QR code and enter the code provided within it.
6. The well-wishers can contact the following persons for further information: -



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
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	
Daw Phyu Phyu Win Director Department of Disaster Management 067-3404316 09-43054844		

Ethnic national brethren to seek solution without external interference

IN restoring the peace of our country, only when all ethnic national brethren hold meetings to seek the solution without the interference of external elements will success be achieved. In this regard, I'd like to urge you all to especially take care of the danger posed by internal and external saboteurs who commit destruction against the peace process with the unwillingness to serve the interests of our country.

(Excerpts from the message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to 67th Anniversary of Kayah State Day ceremony which falls on 7 November 2022)

Ministries and sports federations are to make preparations for securing greater success in coming 33rd SEA Games to be hosted by Thailand in 2025 with larger number of athletes: Senior General

FROM PAGE-1

Hence, the Senior General underscored that ministries and sports federations are to make preparations for securing greater success in the coming 33rd SEA Games to be hosted by Thailand in 2025 with a larger number of athletes.

The Senior General stressed that athletes are to make utmost efforts for winning greater success in international sports competitions including the coming SEA Games with perseverance, industry and sporting spirit.

Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan reported on the participation of Myanmar teams in the 32nd SEA Games.

The Senior General presented cash awards to gold medalists in the Vovinam, Chinlone (cane ball), Sepak Takraw, Hoop Takraw, Billiard/Snooker, Wushu, Traditional Boat Race, Taekwondo, Weightlifting and Petanque events respectively.

Moreover, the Senior General presented US\$50,000 as a special prize to the women's football team which could sail to the final match of the 32nd SEA Games and US\$20,000 to the men's football team which could advance to the semifinal match.



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win presents cash awards to silver medalists at the event yesterday.

The SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister presented cash awards to silver medalists in the Vovinam and Sepak Takraw events respectively.

SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, SAC members General Mya Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, Lt-Gen Soe Htut, Daw Dwe Bu, Poe Rei Aung

Thein, Mahn Nyein Maung, Dr Hmu Than, Dr Aung Kyaw Min, Dr Kyaw Tun, Khun San Lwin, U Shwe Kyein and U Yan Kyaw, Union Ministers U Win Shein, Dr Nyunt Pe and U Min Thein Zan, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General

Maung Maung Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung and officials presented cash awards to silver and bronze medallists, coaches and managers respectively.

Ma Sandi Oo, who bagged one gold and two silver medals, spoke words of thanks.

The Myanmar sports contingent won 21 gold, 25 silver and 68 bronze medals in the 32nd SEA Games. The government presented K30 million each to gold medalists, K20 million each to silver medalists, K10 million each to bronze medalists, K10 million each to members of team-wise gold medalists, K7 million each to those from the silver medalists and K3.5 million each to those from the bronze medalists, K10 million each to coaches and managers for winning gold medal, K5 million each to silver medal and K3 million each to bronze medal. Hence, K3.333 billion and US\$70,000 were awarded to the medalists. —MNA/TTA

Peace talks between NSPNC and MNDAA, TNLA and AA

THE National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) had discussion with delegations of MNDAA, TNLA and AA in Mongla, Shan State (East) yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by SAC Member Union Minister at the Union Government Office NSPNC Chair Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Secretary Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein, Working Committee Member Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo (retired), Deputy Commander of the Triangle Region Command Brig-Gen Tun Myat Shwe, departmental officials and representatives of MNTJP/MNDAA, PSLF/TNLA and ULA/AA.

They friendly and cordially discussed matters in connexion with strengthening the multiparty democratic political system in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the relevant matter of building a union based on democracy and federalism, which is the desired goal of all ethnic people, working together for the peace and development of the Union, trust-building with ethnic armed organizations, the release of detainees, the cancellation of revocation of announcement on unlawful associations, and smooth and fast provision of humanitarian aid to people affected by Mocha. The meeting was adjourned and will continue its second day on 2 June. —MNA/TS

The National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee meets delegates from MNDAA, TNLA and AA in Mongla, Shan State (East) yesterday.



DPM MoTC Union Minister inspects schools on school opening day in Rakhine State



Deputy Prime Minister Admiral Tin Aung San inspects the Basic Education High School No 1 (Sittway) yesterday.

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San, accompanied by Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin, inspected the basic education schools opening and peaceful learning session of students in Sittway Township yesterday.

First, the Deputy Prime Minister and party went to No 1 and No 4 basic education high schools in Sittway Township and oversaw the learning session of students, receiving of government's free uniform, textbooks, notebooks and pencils, ball-pens for students, the condition of whether there are enough school buildings, classroom, desks and teaching aid, teacher and student ratio and school health activities of Public Health Department.

On arrival at No 15 Basic Education Post Primary School in Pyitawtha Ward and another BEPPS in Kyaungtetlan Ward, the Deputy Prime Minister and party checked the peaceful teaching and learning

sessions of teachers and students, maintenance of school buildings and classrooms, and provided backpacks and food to KG students.

Then, they headed to No 2 BEHS in Sittway Township and No 6 BEHS in Sittway Station and observed the school enrolment procedures, attendance and teaching aid materials and provided backpacks to young children.

During the visit to schools, the Deputy Prime Minister talked about the efforts of the government in repairing the Mocha-hit schools in Rakhine State to open the schools in time aiming for all school-age children to attend the schools peacefully and properly cooperate to clean school buildings, classrooms and school areas.

At noon, they arrived at Lawkananda pagoda and paid homage to supervisor Sayadaws of the 30th Nikaya exam launched by the Sittway Township Sangha Nayaka Committee.

First, they paid homage to supervisor Sayadaws led by Rakhine State Ovadacariya Presiding Sayadaw of Nanda

Yama Monastery Agga Maha Saddhama Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Nandathiri and offered soft drinks to 453 monks who sat for the exam.

Then, the Deputy Prime Minister and party attended the coordination meeting on rehabilitation processes held at the Rakhine State government office together with Lt-Gen Phone Myat and discussed rapid work procedures in rehabilitation activities.

The Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation also conducted vaccination programmes for the cattle, pigs and goats in 34 wards and villages and six military units of Kyauktaw, Sittway, Ponnagyun, Minbya, Pauktaw, Myebon, Buthidaung and Rathedaung townships between 21 and 30 May. The department also provided 13 types of vaccines to prevent animal diseases in Kyauktaw, MraukU, Minbya, Pauktaw and Rathedaung townships and conducted education programmes in Khanaunggyi Village of Rathedaung Townships.



BEHS No 4 (Sittway).



Post-Basic Primary School No 15 (Sittway).



University of Computer Studies (Sittway).

All the basic education schools in 17 townships of Mocha-hit Rakhine State were opened yesterday. Moreover, the first-year to fifth-year courses were also reopened at Technological University (Sittway) under the Ministry of Science and Technology while the first-year to fourth-year courses at the University

of Computer Studies (Sittway), first-year courses (technical, agriculture, breeding) and second year (ordinary) courses at Government Technical High School (Sittway), and the first year to fourth year courses at Sittway University under the Ministry of Education. -MNA/KTZH



Technological University (Sittway).



Science & Technological High School (Sittway).



Livestock veterinary measures are underway.

MoIP Union Minister receives Sri Lankan Ambassador to Myanmar

UNION Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing received Sri Lankan Ambassador to Myanmar Mr J M J P Bandara at the ministry yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister U Htay Hlaing, Permanent Secretary U Win Zaw Aung, the director-general of the Immigration Department and officials.

During the meeting, both sides frankly and cordially discussed matters related to cooperation between Myanmar and Sri Lanka on immi-

gration-related activities and reciprocal exemption status for visas, extending the validity of the mutual visa exemption agreement (MoU) between Myanmar and Sri Lanka in 2009, regarding Sri Lankan citizens arriving in Myanmar due to human trafficking, the procedures to be followed as per the immigration procedures and conditions for easily issuing passports and entry visas for Myanmar citizens who will go on pilgrimage to Sri Lanka. — MNA/TS



The Sri Lankan ambassador calls on Union Minister U Myint Kyaing yesterday.

MoE Union Minister observes opening of basic education schools for 2023-2024 academic year, with students studying peacefully



Union Education Minister Dr Nyunt Pe and officials are seen while observing the opening of basic education schools in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

ACCOMPANIED by Director-General of the Basic Education Department U Kyaw Swa Thwin, Director-General of the Department of Alternative Education and Life Long Learning U Kyaw Win and officials from the Basic Education Department, Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe yesterday morning viewed the opening status of basic education schools in Nay Pyi Taw for the 2023-2024 academic year and students studying peacefully.

First, the Union minister and party arrived at the No 11 Basic Education High School in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, and observed the students studying in their classrooms, met with teachers, and fulfilled the requirements.

In the meeting, the Union minister said that students should have good goals and objectives and study regularly from the beginning of the academic year to achieve these goals and take special care of their health. He also urged teachers to work together to train students to become good, able and educated, treat the students without any discrimination, and teach them to have a sense of patriotism and love for the country and to be good-mannered.

Finally, the Union minister and party visited Nos 9 and 10 Basic Education High Schools in Zabuthiri Township to see the students learning in peace and fulfilled the requirements of the schools. — MNA/CT

Nine electric vehicles arrive at Yangon Port

A total of nine electric vehicles (BYD Dolphin) imported by Chindwin Shan Construction Co Ltd arrived at Yangon Port yesterday and they were allowed to be claimed under Customs procedures. The import of battery electric vehicles (BEVs) is exempted from Customs duties. — MNA/MKKS



New arrival of electric vehicles (EVs) is seen at Yangon Port yesterday.

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Basic education schools open in Mandalay with happy learning of students



STUDENTS are happily pursuing education at basic education schools in Mandalay as basic education schools across the nation were opened yesterday morning for the 2023-24 academic year.

Teachers helped students follow Covid-19 protocols at the schools and taught them in relevant classrooms.

During the school enrollment period from 23 to 31 May, basic education schools admitted 711,364 students, monastic education schools, 80,349 students and private schools, 55,451 students.

These schools did not collect any charges from students but provided school textbooks, notebooks, stationeries and school uniforms to students free of charge.

Traffic police, local authorities, fire brigade members and Myanmar Police Force members took security duty inside and outside schools.

A total of 4,270 basic education schools, 320 monastic schools and 230 private schools are located in Mandalay Region. — Maung Aye Chan/TTA

Students leading to No 16 Basic Education High School in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay. PHOTO: AI (MDY)

Basic education schools in Nay Pyi Taw opened

THE basic education schools in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory opened yesterday and the students peacefully attended the school.

The basic education schools (primary, middle and high) in Nay Pyi Taw started their respective classes for the 2023-2024 academic year starting yesterday morning.

To open the basic education schools systematically, the officials of the Ministry of Education, teachers and relevant officials made seating plans following COVID-19 health rules, systematic timetables and arrangements for ferries for students. The school enrollment fee is free and the textbooks from primary

to high school levels are also provided for free.

A total of 799 schools – 757 high, middle and primary schools, 28 monastic schools and 14 private schools – reopened in Nay Pyi Taw this academic year and a total of 217,042 students attended the schools yesterday.

Similarly, the students are attending the schools peacefully in accordance with the COVID-19 health rules in respective regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw.

The Tatmadaw members, Myanmar Police Force members, school boards of trustees members, teachers, parents and traffic police conducted necessary measures for road safety during school hours. — MNA/KTZH



Students are seen ready for learning on the opening day of basic education schools in Nay Pyi Taw.



Inn Daw Township in Sagaing Region.



Mabein Township in northern Shan State.



Mawlamyine.



Namhsan Township in southern Shan State.



Myanaung Township.



Paung Township.

Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission delegation attends 2023 ASEAN-PAC Capacity-Building Workshop

THE 2023 ASEAN-PAC Capacity-Building Workshop of ASEAN-PAC member countries took place in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 30 and 31 May, and the delegation led by Anti-Corruption Commission Member U Aung Myint Lwin participated in it.

The workshop was held under the theme "Anti-Corruption Education and Corruption Prevention Strategies on a National Scale", and participants discussed sharing experiences, challenges and good practices between experts and implementers regarding anti-corruption education, development of a legal framework for corruption prevention in member countries, prevention of corruption using digital technology,



The 2023 ASEAN-PAC Capacity-Building workshop is underway in Indonesia on 30 and 31 May.

and public participation.

At the workshop, Commission Member U Aung Myint

Lwin clarified the commission's legal framework development activities to combat corruption,

the status of implementation of educational programmes to promote awareness and integ-

rity by drawing the anti-corruption strategic plan (2022-2025), cooperation in promoting righteousness to accelerate corruption prevention activities on a national scale, performance and achievement of the edutainment programme to promote integrity in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, future plans, experiences, and challenges.

Then, ASEAN-PAC member countries discussed the prevention and awareness campaigns and the establishment of a legal framework to raise awareness of anti-corruption through the education sector. Myanmar has been fully participating in international cooperation since becoming a member of ASEAN-PAC. — MNA/CT

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, consumer goods, industrial materials, foodstuffs and vehicles seized

THE combined teams impounded a Toyota MightyX car (approximate value of K3 million) without official documents in Myeik township and a Honda Fit vehicle (approximate value of K2.5 million) and a Nissan Vantte car (approximate value of K5 million) without official documents in Bokpyin township on 27 and 28 May. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

A combined team led by the Township Forest Department confiscated 0.468 tonne of illegal teak and 24.227 tonnes of other illegal timbers (worth K4,622,934) in Budalin township on 28 May. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

An on-duty team at the Kawkareik (Tadaky) combined checkpoint seized 25 Mawari Multifunction Emergency fans (worth K1.75 million) that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a vehicle heading from Myawady to Yangon on 28 May. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

An inspection team under the supervision of the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force on duty at the 21st-Milepost on PyinOoL-



Officials check illegal goods.

win-Mandalay road nabbed three kinds of foodstuffs (worth K3.28 million) including 4,800 bags of Spicy Gluten meat stick without official documents from a minibus (approximate value of K30 million) heading to Mandalay from Lashio and three kinds of consumer goods (worth K3.04 million) including 585 umbrellas without official documents from a microbus (approximate value of K30 million) and seven kinds of consumer goods (worth K12.66 million) including 30 commode chairs from a Fuso express bus (estimated value of K20 million) heading to Mandalay from Muse on 29 May. The action

was taken under Customs procedures.

A combined team led by the District Forest Department captured a total of 2.49 tonnes of illegal timbers (worth K373,500) in Pathein district and a combined team led by the Bago District Forest Department seized a total of 5.221 tonnes of illegal teak (worth K2,338,068) in Thayawady district on 31 May and action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 13 arrests (the estimated value of K118,564,502) were made on 27, 28, 29 and 31 May, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Drugs seized in Myeik and PyinOoLwin townships

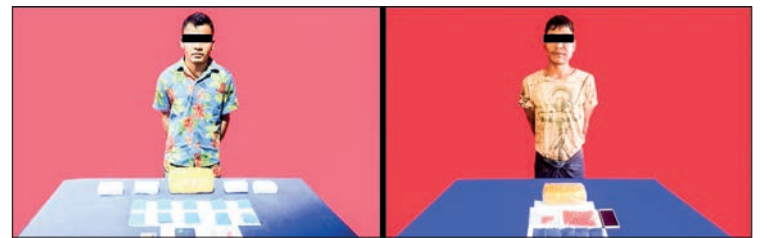
A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force examined a suspect by the name of Myo Than (aka) Naung To in Tayoketan village in Myeik township at 6 pm on 29 May and seized 20,000 stimulant tablets from him.

In addition, a combined team searched the house of Tun Lin Aung in Mayinngge village in Myeik township at 1 pm on 30 May and captured Tun Lin Aung together with 12,000 stimulant

tablets.

Similarly, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and searched a motorbike driven by Nyein Chan (aka) Maniyan near the Peik Chin Myaung Nandamu Cave in PyinOoLwin township at 5 pm on 31 May and seized 1,950 stimulant tablets from him.

The offenders have been prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/MKKS



Photos show offenders along with seized drugs.

Trafficker sentenced to jail for human trafficking

YANGON'S Mingaladon District Court sentenced a human trafficker to 10 years' imprisonment with labour under Section 24 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law.

The victim Ma ..., aged 23, from Shwepyitha Township of Yangon Region was sold to a Chinese man by Daw Mya Mya Win from Shwepyitha Township of Yangon Region. The trafficker told the victim that she would earn K4 million if she married a Chinese man and plotted to exploit the money.

The trafficker was prosecuted at Hlawga police station under Sections 24/32 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law. — MNA/MKKS

OPINION

Unite strengths to prevent disasters in various ways and means

Now is the time to end the month of May. Monsoon will enter the whole of Myanmar. All the people need to take care of heavy rains and various natural disasters in the early monsoon.

In monsoons, storms and tornados are the most terrible among other natural disasters. Various kinds of storms comprising tornados, strong winds and squalls never hit the regions but bring along with flash floods, landslides, inundations and erosion to the society. For example, meteorologists and hydrologists predicted that as heavy rains would hit Mon State and Taninthayi Region in the aftermath of cyclonic storm Mocha, they might face the danger of landslides.

Climate change affects global warming, and in consequence, glaciers collapse in the northern part of the world, raising the water level of oceans. Global warming set a record for overheating temperatures across the world in the summer as well as another record of rainfalls in monsoon. Although natural disasters cannot be avoided, everybody needs to take care of weather forecasts and impacts.

Before 1988, Myanmar faced rare events of bad climatic conditions such as flooding and inundation, landslides and loss of lives in the catastrophes because of the thick foliage of natural forests which could defy storms to some degree. It was a very rare event that people in individuals or families died of thunder strike, floods and landslides.

As a turn of fortune, the country faced the loss of natural forests, accounting for 57 per cent in the year 2000 and 43 per cent in 2015. Consequently, most of the regions in Myanmar suffered the loss of forests, and natural disasters such as flash flooding, landslides and erosions several times similar to other disaster-prone countries.

Whenever natural disasters fall, heavy rains may hit Mon State, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi regions and flash floods may cause landslides in hilly areas and damage to roads. In all events, people and animals may encounter losses of property and lives. How terrible!

But, everybody needs to keep the concept that now is the best time to rebuild society. Nobody should blame each other but all should march towards the goal. Everybody needs to take all preventive measures against natural disasters in various ways and means for the improvement of the country. Ordinarily, everybody knows how to prevent the disasters. Now, everybody should participate in relief and rehabilitation for the Mocha-hit victims and should start all measures to prevent coming possible disasters.

ARTIFICIAL Intelligence (AI) has tremendous potential for improving healthcare by providing innovative solutions to some of the challenges in the industry. AI can help medical doctors and other healthcare providers to make more accurate diagnoses, develop personalized treatment plans, and improve patient outcomes. Some examples of how AI is being used in healthcare are:

- **Medical Imaging:** AI can analyze medical images such as CT scans, MRIs, and X-rays to identify abnormalities that might be missed by human doctors. AI algorithms can help radiologists to diagnose diseases such as cancer and heart disease earlier and more accurately.
- **Medical diagnosis:** AI algorithms can be trained to analyze medical images, lab results, and other data to help doctors make more accurate and timely diagnoses. For example, AI-powered tools can help identify early signs of diseases such as cancer, heart disease, and neurological disorders.
- **Personalized treatment:** AI can help to develop personalized treatment plans based on a patient's medical history,

genetic makeup, and other factors. This can lead to more effective treatments with fewer side effects.

- **Electronic Health Records:** AI can help to identify patterns and insights in large sets of patient data that might be difficult for humans to see. This information can be used to identify new treatments, monitor patient health, and improve care coordination.
- **Virtual Health Assistants:** AI-powered virtual assistants can help patients to manage their health more effectively by providing personalized recommendations and reminders for medication, appointments, and lifestyle changes.
- **Precision Medicine:** AI can help to develop personalized treatment plans based on an individual's genetic makeup, medical history, and other factors. This can lead to more effective

Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare Settings: Uses, Advantages and Disadvantages

By Dr Than Lwin Tun



The AI technology involves the application of deep learning algorithms to detect and highlight abnormalities in medical imaging like X-rays, MRIs and CT scans. PHOTO: FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/ AFP

treatments with fewer side effects.

- **Drug Discovery:** AI can help to identify potential drug candidates by analyzing large datasets of chemical compounds and predicting their efficacy and safety.

- **Medical research:** AI can be used to analyze large datasets of medical records and research papers to identify new trends and patterns that might be difficult for humans to see. This can lead to new insights and

discoveries in the field of medicine.

- **Medical devices:** AI can be used to develop smarter medical devices that can monitor patients more effectively and provide more accurate and timely feedback

to healthcare providers.

- **Advantages and Disadvantages:** AI has numerous advantages and disadvantages. Some advantages of AI are: -
- **Automation and Efficiency:** AI can automate repetitive tasks, reducing human error and increasing efficiency. It can perform tasks faster and handle large volumes of data more effectively than humans.
- **Decision-making and Prediction:** AI can analyze vast amounts of data and make data-driven decisions or predictions. It can identify patterns, trends, and correlations that humans might miss, enabling better decision-making in various fields, such as finance, healthcare, and logistics.
- **Handling Complex and Dangerous Tasks:** AI can handle tasks that are complex, dangerous, or impractical for humans. For example, AI-powered robots can perform

tasks in hazardous environments like deep-sea exploration, mining, or disaster response.

- **Continuous Operation and Availability:** AI systems can operate without fatigue or breaks. They can handle repetitive tasks consistently, leading to improved productivity and service availability.
- **Personalization and User Experience:** AI algorithms can analyze user behaviour and preferences to provide personalized recommendations, tailored advertisements, and enhanced user experiences across various platforms.
- **The disadvantages of AI** are as followings: -
- **Job Displacement:** The automation capabilities of AI can lead to job displacement, as machines and algorithms replace certain tasks performed by humans. This can lead to unemployment and require workers to acquire

new skills to adapt to the changing job market.

- **Lack of Human Judgment and Empathy:** AI lacks human judgment and empathy. While it can make data-driven decisions, it may struggle to understand nuances, context, and emotions. This limitation can be significant in fields like customer service or healthcare, where human interaction is crucial.
- **Privacy and Security Concerns:** AI relies on huge amounts of data, raising concerns about privacy and security. Mishandling or unauthorized access to sensitive data can result in breaches of privacy and potential misuse of personal information.
- In addition, AI has a lot of potential in the medical field as well as the potential to revolutionize healthcare and improve patient outcomes. However, it is important to ensure that these technologies are developed and implemented responsibly, with a focus on patient privacy, transparency, and ethical considerations.

AS NEGOTIATIONS accelerate towards a new pandemic treaty, observers warn that efforts to ensure equal access to the medical products needed to battle future threats are being watered down.

Shaken by the Covid-19 pandemic, the World Health Organization's 194 member states are negotiating an international accord aimed at ensuring countries are better equipped to deal with the next health catastrophe, or prevent it altogether.

The process is still in the early stages, with the aim being to reach an agreement by May 2024.

While the issue did not figure on the agenda of the WHO's main annual assembly, which wrapped up in Geneva on Tuesday, it was on everyone's mind.

'Generational opportunity'
During the closing ceremony,

WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus urged countries to "negotiate a strong accord".

"This accord is a generational opportunity that we must seize," he told the assembly.

"We are the generation that lived through the Covid-19 pandemic, so we must be the generation that learns the lessons it taught us and makes the changes to keep future generations safer."

But critics warn that revisions being made to the preliminary negotiating text are weakening the language -- notably in a key area aimed at preventing the rampant inequity seen in access to vaccines and other medical products during the Covid pandemic.

Critics say pandemic treaty text is 'step backwards'

"I think it is a real step backwards," Suerie Moon, co-director of the Global Health Centre at the Geneva Graduate Institute, told AFP.

If poorer nations do not see solid language ensuring they will be better protected when the next pandemic hits, "there is a real risk that countries will walk away" from the talks, she warned.

Observers said a new revised draft, which was presented to countries last week and will be considered during the next round of negotiations in mid-June, was "cleaner" -- but also weaker on some major points.

'Not enough'
In particular, public interest

groups criticized the removal of a call for public funds given to private sector R&D to be conditional on more transparent pricing of their products and on technology transfer to poorer countries.

Instead, the updated draft urges countries to strive to promote knowledge sharing and transparency "in accordance with national laws and as appropriate".

Countries should also "incentivize manufacturers of pandemic-related products to transfer relevant technology and know-how" to lower-income countries, one option says.

"Voluntary measures are not good enough," said Luis Villarreal, head of the Innovate NGO, which is focused on ensuring a balanced

intellectual property system.

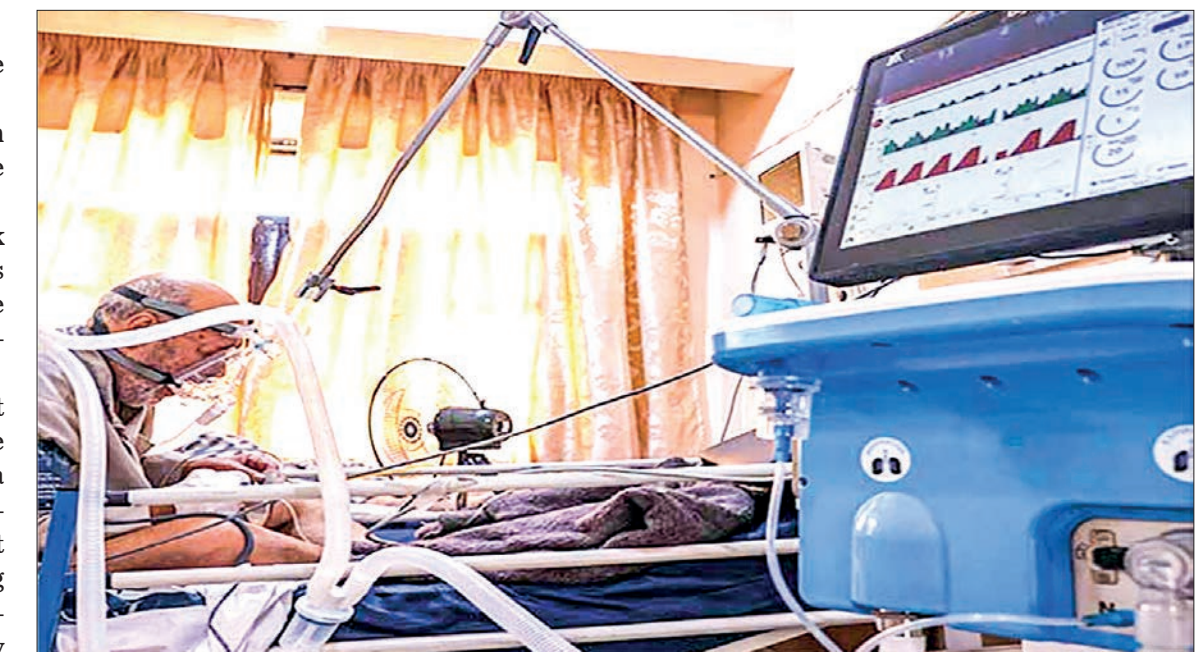
The text is "very weak", he told reporters.

There are also elements in the text that are likely to irk the pharmaceutical industry.

They include the option to link the sharing of pathogen samples with a requirement to share the benefits from the resulting products.

While agreeing it is important for all countries to swiftly share samples of viruses and bacteria that could cause dangerous outbreaks, poorer countries want access to the benefits, including the vaccines produced, technology transfers, royalties or capacity building programmes.

SOURCE: AFP



One thing everyone seems to agree on is that new pandemic threats are looming. PHOTO: OMAR HAJ KADOUR / AFP/FILE

Tatmadaw senior officers, officials assist in rehabilitation work in Rakhine State



Senior military officers view the opening of basic education schools in Manaung yesterday.

UNDER Section 11 of the Natural Disaster Management Law, the State Administration Council declared the areas damaged by Cyclone Mocha as areas affected by natural disasters and appointed senior military officers to carry out rehabilitation activities in the areas mentioned in the announcement.

Lt-Gen Lu Aye from the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), who is currently in Kyaukpyu of Rakhine State to perform rehabilitation tasks, together with officials, checked the opening of colleges and

basic educational schools in Kyaukpyu and friendly greeted the students yesterday.

Likewise, Lt-Gen Aye Win from the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), currently in Buthidaung, oversaw the provision of health care services at the Dapyuchaung Village-tract in Buthidaung and the distribution of rice, edible oil, and salt to Mocha victims from five village-tracts.

Later, they viewed the opening of schools in Buthidaung Township and coordinated the requirements at the warehouse

of the Consumer Affairs Department in Meeyahtarseik Ward.

Brig-Gen Aung Thu Oo, who is currently in Kyauktaw, and officials attended and gave speeches at the opening ceremony of the Agricultural Institute (Kyauktaw) for the 2023-2024 academic year and examined dormitories and classrooms. Similarly, Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Oo, currently in Manaung, and responsible persons visited the opening of schools in Manaung and observed the students studying peacefully. — MNA/CT

Tatmadaw planes transport relief items to Rakhine State

TATMADAW sent rescue teams to Cyclone Mocha-hit areas and transports the foodstuffs, relief items and materials provided by Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) families, donors and National Disaster Management Committee by Tatmadaw aircraft, helicopters and vessels.

A Tatmadaw planes transported communication equipment, clothes, foodstuffs and

rescue items donated by the (Army, Navy and Air) families and well-wishers one time from Mingaladon Airport to Sittway Airport yesterday. It also carried the Tatmadaw members and departmental staff who were to participate in rehabilitation activities.

Officials received the goods and will distribute them systematically to the respective regions. — MNA/KTZH



Relief items are transported by the Tatmadaw aircraft for disaster victims yesterday.

Fourth batch of ASEAN countries' humanitarian assistance for Mocha victims received



The humanitarian assistance is seen being unloaded at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

A Malaysian Airlines plane carrying over 19 tonnes of emergency supplies worth over US\$72,000 arrived at Yangon

International Airport yesterday morning.

The relief items were sent from ASEAN countries to as-

sist those affected by Cyclone Mocha.

An official from the AHA Centre, Director U Than Soe of the Natural Disaster Management Centre of Yangon Region and officials checked the supplies, which will be handed over to the people in the Mocha-affected areas.

Included in the relief supplies that arrived yesterday were 450 shelter tool kits, 450 packs of the shelter tool kit, 20 cartons of family tents, one carton of the water filtration system, two cartons of water filtration system (pump) and 262 tarpaulin sheets. — MNA/MKKS

Basic foodstuffs sold at fair prices in Mocha-hit Sittway

MEMBERS of the local battalions under the Western Command and officials are selling essential foodstuffs at lower prices for the convenience of residents and departmental staff affected by Cyclone Mocha in Sittway, and to enable them to buy foodstuffs at fairer prices.

Foodstuffs such as rice, edible oil, salt, meat, fish, egg, dairy products, vegetables, onions, garlic, and products of Tatmadaw factories and MEC such as

instant noodles, biscuits, and canned food in addition to the foodstuffs, electronic devices and construction materials of private entrepreneurs were sold at lower prices than the market prices at U Ottama Park in Sittway yesterday.

The locals and the families of the departmental staff enjoyed buying foodstuffs and expressed thanks to officials for selling them at low prices during difficult times. — MNA/KTZH



Sittway residents are seen purchasing foodstuffs at fairer prices yesterday.

Sitagu Sayadaw donates 10,000 CI sheets for Cyclone victims in Rakhine State



Sitagu Sayadaw is seen along with a sign of CI sheet donations for disaster victims.

ABHIDHAJA Maha Rattha Guru Sitagu Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nyanissara donated a total of 10,000 corrugated iron sheets worth K78 million for Cyclone victims in Rakhine State on 30

May.

In addition, Sitagu Sayadaw also donated K100 million and 1,000 bags of rice for Cyclone victims on 15 and 23 May respectively. — TWA/MKKS

10 additional tobacco smoke-free areas designated in Bagan-NyaungU Ancient Cultural Zone



The erected smoke-free signboard "Smoke-free Bagan, our heritage, our pride" is seen along with officials.

TEN more smoke-free areas have been reportedly designated in the Bagan-NyaungU Ancient Cultural Zone in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region.

The chairman and members of the NyaungU Township Administration Body inspected the tobacco smoke-free signboards, smoking areas, and non-smoking areas in NyaungU

Township on 29 May.

Ninety-two spots had been designated as tobacco smoke-free areas in the Bagan-NyaungU Ancient Cultural Zone before, but 10 more places have been designated currently. Thus, there are 102 tobacco smoke-free areas in Bagan Ancient Culture Zone.

The campaign groups

raised smoke-free awareness for visitors and vehicles that came to the museum to study in June 2019, under the supervision of the NyaungU District General Administration Department and the Working Committee on the implementation of tobacco smoke-free zones in NyaungU Township. — TWA/CT

Import licences for iron, steel to be prioritized if dollar substituted by yuan

THE Myanmar Iron and Steel Association (MISA) announced that import licences for iron and steel will be given priority if iron and steel importers use the Chinese yuan in lieu of the US dollar.

In the past, only the US dollar was used for iron and steel exports and imports. In 2023, the Department of Trade informed the MISA to use the Chinese yuan rather than the US dollar.

About 92 per cent of Myanmar's iron and steel is im-

ported from abroad, and about three million tonnes of related materials, including iron and steel, are imported annually. Starting from 2030, the demand for steel is expected to increase by about 5.4 million tonnes per year, according to the Myanmar Steel Association (MSA).

In the past, only the US dollar was used for issuing iron and steel licences in accordance with the permission of the Ministry of Commerce. At present, the MISA has declared that companies can apply for licenc-

es by changing to the Chinese yuan equivalent of the amount of dollars in the licence.

The MSA Public Company Limited was founded by 11 executive members to establish an iron and steel industrial zone, reduce the inflow of US dollars, develop Myanmar's iron and steel industry, and contribute to the country's infrastructure construction. By the year 2030, the demand for iron and steel will rise to 5.4 million tonnes, the Myanmar Steel Association (MSA) estimated. — TWA/CT



Imported rebars are seen at the port.

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

ECONOMY WORLD

No easy fix for Viet Nam as economy slows on weaker exports, property woes

VIETNAMESE weak economic data in the first five months of the year has built up the pressure on policymakers to deliver stimulus measures, including monetary easing.

Signs of weakness are widespread across the economy as exports dropped sharply on sagging global demand, weakening imports indicated a contraction in factory output and new bank lending tumbled.

For Viet Nam, the sharp decline in demand for its goods abroad has removed a key prop for growth, at a time when the export-driven economy has yet to fully recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and one of the Southeast Asian country's top industries, the real estate sector, plunged into turmoil.

As consumers and businesses around the world cut back spending in response to central



Workers make shoes for export at a workshop of the footwear company in Hanoi, Viet Nam, 1 April 2022. PHOTO: VNA/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA

banks' aggressive moves to tame inflation, Vietnamese exports

have been hit hard.

Exports in May fell at an

annual rate of 5.3 per cent, down from the double-digit growth

pace of 22.1 per cent that Viet Nam posted last August, according to the General Statistics Office (GSO).

Vietnamese total exports in the January-May period dwindled 11.6 per cent from a year ago to 136.17 billion US dollars, extending the downward trend seen over the past nine months, statistics data showed.

As sluggish global demand has crimped exports, the GSO said Vietnamese exports to the US, its largest market, narrowed 19.5 per cent to 37.2 billion dollars in the first five months compared with a year earlier, while sales to the European Union fell 6.5 per cent.

The data revealed steep falls in exports of products including furniture, clothing, footwear and smartphones, which all are the biggest foreign currency earners for the country.—Xinhua

AI poses 'extinction' risk, say experts

GLOBAL leaders should be working to reduce "the risk of extinction" from artificial intelligence technology, a group of industry

chiefs and experts warned on Tuesday. A one-line statement signed by dozens of specialists, including Sam Altman whose firm

OpenAI created the ChatGPT bot, said tackling the risks from AI should be "a global priority alongside other societal-scale risks such as pandemics and nuclear war". ChatGPT burst into the spotlight late last year, demonstrating an ability to generate essays, poems and conversations from the briefest of prompts — and sparking billions of dollars of investment into the field.

But critics and insiders have raised the alarm over everything from biased algorithms to the possibility of massive job losses as AI-powered automation seeps into daily life. — AFP



Workplace automation, including the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics, is on the rise. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP

Hong Kong launches retail-friendly rules for crypto exchanges

HONG Kong opened its arms to the virtual asset world on Thursday, launching new retail-friendly rules for the city's crypto exchanges. The Chinese finance hub is pivoting to embrace crypto despite high-profile failures in recent months, including the meltdown of trading platform FTX, which wiped out more than \$1.5

trillion in the market. China has had a strict crypto ban since 2021, but in Hong Kong — which operates on a separate legal framework — trading has been allowed though unregulated, meaning individual investors use unlicensed platforms. The regulatory regime launched Thursday means that after a one-year transition peri-

od, all crypto exchanges in Hong Kong must be licenced, and will be able to take on retail clients.

"(The sector) fundamentally is going to stay despite all the risks... These activities have to be allowed in a regulated way," the city's financial services and treasury chief Christopher Hui told AFP.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Musk, China industry minister hold talks on 'new energy vehicles': ministry

TESLA CEO Elon Musk and Chinese industry minister Jin Zhuanglong held talks on "new energy vehicles" Wednesday, Beijing said.

The two "exchanged views on the development of new energy vehicles and intelligent connected vehicles", China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said in a readout on its website.

It did not share further details. Tesla representatives did not respond to AFP requests for further information on Musk's itinerary.

Musk arrived in Beijing Tuesday on his first trip to China in more than three years. China is the world's biggest electric vehicle market and Tesla announced in April it would build a second massive factory in Shanghai. That factory will be Tesla's second plant in Shanghai after Gigafactory, which broke ground in 2019. In a meeting with Chinese foreign minister Qin Gang on Tuesday, Musk said he was "willing to continue to expand its business in China", according to a foreign ministry readout. — AFP



Hong Kong launches a new crypto regulatory framework on Thursday in a bid to set itself up as a digital asset hub. PHOTO: AFP

Nvidia, the world's newest, AI-amped tech giant

NVIDIA, a chip technology company, became a trillion dollar enterprise this week and the world's newest tech giant. Here are a few key facts about the little-known firm.

Nvidia is not an out-of-the-blue startup.

Founded in 1993, Nvidia designs chips that are used in the fastest developing sectors of the tech business: gaming, video-editing, self-driving cars and, now, artificial intelligence. Its technology

was also in the mix for the crypto boom.

"We had this idea that computer graphics was going to be the driving force of technology and [its] fuel would be video games," co-founder and CEO Jensen Huang said in 2018.

Based in California, Nvidia doesn't actually make its own chips, but rather designs them and then outsources the manufacturing to other companies, most notably Taiwan



Nvidia, a chip technology company, became a trillion dollar enterprise this week and the world's newest tech giant. Here are a few key facts about the little-known firm. **PHOTO: AFP**

Semiconductor Manufacturing Company.

Its chips, known as graphics processing units

(GPU's), were used to create the effects in "Avatar" and other blockbuster films. But Nvidia turned into a behemoth when its wares proved to be adaptable to other industries that need huge computing power.

It also builds the systems and software that run its products, modelling its business plan on Apple, which uses must-have hardware to rope in consumers to other services.—AFP

Credit Suisse shares no longer fit for New York listing

BATTERED shares in crisis-hit Credit Suisse no longer meet criteria for listing on the New York Stock Exchange, the bank said Wednesday, adding that its upcoming sale to UBS would resolve the issue. "The New York Stock Exchange notified Credit Suisse on 1 May... that it is no longer in compliance with the NYSE's continued listing minimum price criteria," Credit Suisse said in a statement.—AFP

Australian casino group to pay US\$290 mln over money laundering failings



Crown admitted failing to take appropriate measures to spot and prevent money laundering and terrorism financing at its Melbourne and Perth casinos, in an agreement announced Tuesday by the casino group and the government's financial crime body. **PHOTO: AFP**

AUSTRALIA'S Crown Resorts is set to pay a civil penalty of Aus\$450 million (US\$290 million) for lax

money laundering controls that saw cash being carried into a casino in paper bags, shoe boxes

and suitcases.

Crown admitted failing to take appropriate measures to spot and prevent money laundering and terrorism financing at its Melbourne and Perth casinos, in an agreement announced Tuesday by the casino group and the government's financial crime body.

In a sign of the gravity of its behaviour, Crown agreed to pay Aus\$450 million — a penalty subject to approval by the Federal Court at a hearing scheduled for July 10-11.—AFP

Myanma Port Authority

Open Tender Invitation for Dredging Work in Yangon River for the Purpose of Channel Improvement

- For the purpose of Channel Improvement, especially dredging work in the Yangon River, the Myanma Port Authority is planning to contract with a preferred bidder (local or international company), which has strong experience and technology in channel dredging (intensive and maintenance) and adequate equipment for dredging. The tender process will be conducted according to paragraphs 26/27/28/29/30 of Directive No. (1/2017) for Government Procurement. The term for the Dredging Work is for six (6) months, from 1st October 2023 to 31st March 2024 (2023-2024 Fiscal Year).
- The companies interested therefore are invited to enter the tender. The tender applications and forms can be purchased and submitted in accordance with the following date, time, and place: (International companies may need to form a JV with local company or must have a branch office in Myanmar);
 - Address (to purchase): Store Department, Botataung township
 - Date & Time (to purchase): 2-6-2023 to 28-6-2023 (formal day & time)
 - Address (to submit): Myanma Port Authority
 - Date & time (to submit): 4-7-2023 (13:00)
 - Date & Time (Tender opening): 4-7-2023 (14:00)
- For detailed information, please contact the following contact points:
 - Marine Department - 018246380, 018387117 (ex) 211
 - Store Department - 018610230

Myanma Port Authority
Tender Acceptance and Evaluation Committee

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V T12 APPLE VOY.NO. (022E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V T12 APPLE VOY.NO. (022E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-6-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S T12 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC DHANTIA VOY.NO. (SB319B)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC DHANTIA VOY.NO. (SB319B)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-6-2023** 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

N Korea vows to launch spy satellite soon following failure



Photo taken on 31 May 2023, by the Korean Central News Agency shows a "military reconnaissance satellite" being launched at the Sohae Satellite Launching Ground in Tongchang-ri, North Korea. **PHOTO: KNS/KYODO**

THE younger sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has vowed to launch a military reconnaissance satellite soon, the country's state media reported Thursday, a day after its first attempt at doing so failed.

Kim Yo Jong, a senior official of the Workers' Party of Korea, said in a statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency, "It is certain" that the satellite "will be correctly put on space orbit in the near future and start its mission." The statement came as the United States and regional allies Japan and South Korea remained on alert for another attempt by North Korea to launch its first spy satellite.

KCNA also released two photos of what it said was a rocket carrying the satellite lifting off from a launch pad.

South Korea's Yonhap News Agency said the rare photos of the North's failed launch were published in an apparent bid to stress it was not a test of a weapons system.

The launch site in the images was presumed to be a new coastal site located around three kilometres from the launch pad at the Sohae Satellite Launching Ground on the west coast, the Yonhap report said.

US-based website 38 North, which monitors North Korea, ran a similar assessment. — Kyodo

EU, US ready common code of conduct on artificial intelligence

THE European Union and the United States said Wednesday that they would soon release a voluntary code of conduct on artificial intelligence, hoping to develop common standards

among democracies as China makes rapid gains.

Both political and technology industry leaders have been warning of the growing risks as AI takes off, with potentially

wide-ranging effects on privacy and other civil liberties.

After talks with EU officials in Sweden, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told reporters that Western partners felt the "fierce urgency" to act and would ask "like-minded countries" to join the voluntary code of conduct.

"There's almost always a gap when new technologies emerge," Blinken said, with "the time it takes for governments and institutions to figure out how to legislate or regulate".

European Commission Vice-President Margrethe Vestager added that a draft would be put forward "within weeks". "We think it's really important that citizens can see that democracies can deliver," she said.—AFP



Manufacturers see potential for artificial intelligence in the sector. **PHOTO: AXEL HEIMKEN/AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Germany orders four Russian consulates on its soil closed

GERMANY will drastically reduce Moscow's diplomatic presence on its soil after Russia slashed the number of people Berlin can employ in its embassies and institutions in Russia, a foreign ministry spokesman said on Wednesday.

"We have decided to withdraw consent for the operation of four of the five Russian consulates operating in Germany," the spokesman told a regular government press conference.

"This was communicated to the Russian foreign ministry today," he added.

The German foreign ministry said at the weekend that hundreds of civil servants and local employees working for German institutions in Russia had been asked to leave the country.

Moscow had put a 350 limit on the number of German personnel in Russia, said the foreign ministry spokesman.

"In order to be able to meet the Russian requirements for limiting our staff, the government has decided to close the German consulates in Kaliningrad, Yekaterinburg and Novosibirsk," the spokesman said on Wednesday.

Operations will be considerably reduced and will be discontinued by November, he said.—AFP

Russia to sign maritime transport agreement with Iraq

THE Russian government instructed the Transport Ministry to sign an agreement with Iraq on cooperation in maritime transport, in line with a document published on the official internet portal of legal information.

"To approve the draft agreement between the government of the Russian Federation and the government of the Republic

of Iraq on cooperation in the field of maritime transport submitted by the Russian Transport Ministry and agreed with the Russian Foreign Ministry and other interested Federal executive authorities and previously worked out with the Iraqi side.

"Instruct the Russian Transport Ministry to hold talks with the Iraqi side and, after reaching an agreement, to sign

the said agreement on behalf of the government of the Russian Federation," the document says.

The agreement envisions assistance in facilitating maritime transport, including streamlining customs and border formalities in ports, and does not apply to warships, as well as a number of non-commercial, research, fishing and pleasure vessels.—SPUTNIK



The Russian government instructed the Transport Ministry to sign an agreement with Iraq on cooperation in maritime transport, in accordance with a document published on the official internet portal of legal information. **PHOTO: IGOR ZAREMBO/SPUTNIK**

Iran further escalates breaches of 2015 deal limits: IAEA

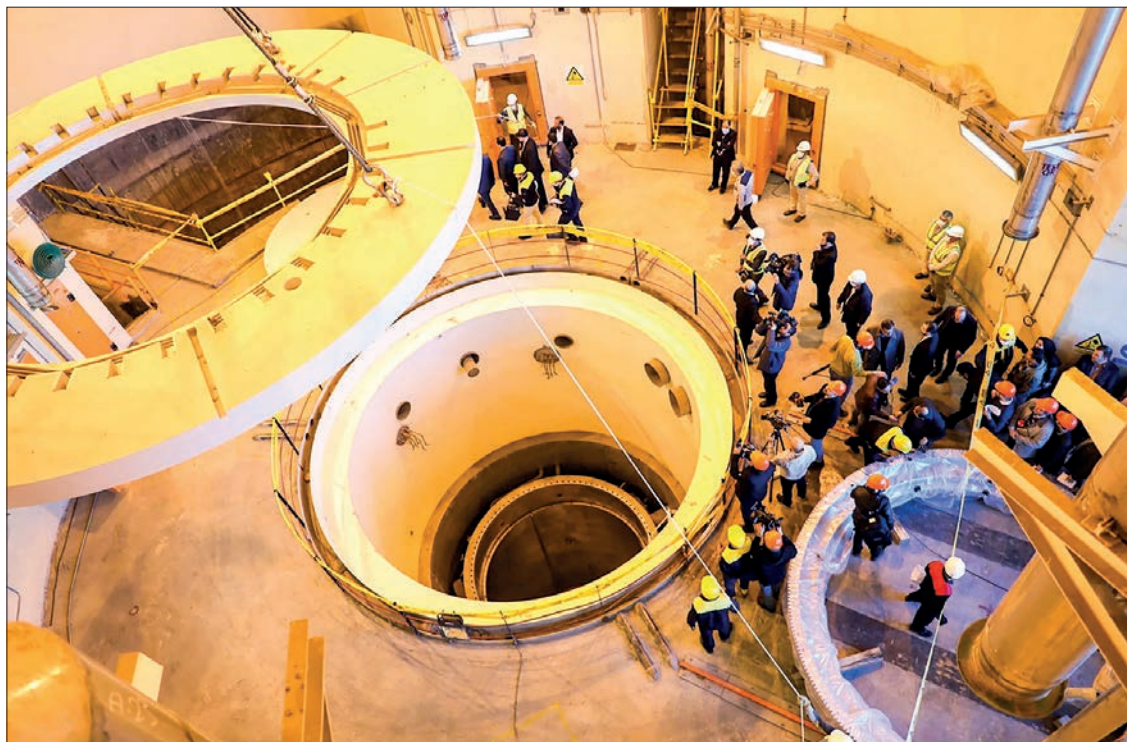
IRAN has significantly increased its stockpile of enriched uranium in recent months, continuing its nuclear escalation, a confidential report by the UN nuclear watchdog on Wednesday seen by AFP said.

The agency, however, noted progress in its cooperation with Iran and has decided to close the file on the presence of nuclear material at one of three undeclared sites, an issue which has poisoned relations between the two parties. The reports came days before the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is due to meet to review progress in addressing the watchdog's remaining concerns. UN nuclear chief says Iran visit could produce 'important agreements'.

The nuclear watchdog said in its report that Iran's estimated

stockpile of enriched uranium had reached more than 23 times the limit set out in the landmark 2015 accord between Tehran and world powers. As of 13 May, Iran's total enriched uranium stockpile was estimated at 4,744.5 kilogrammes (10,459 pounds). The limit in the 2015 deal was 202.8 kilogrammes. The report also said that Iran is continuing its enrichment of uranium to levels higher than the 3.67 per cent limit in the deal.

Efforts to revive the Iran nuclear deal – which was left in tatters by the unilateral withdrawal of the United States in 2018 – have currently stalled. The stockpile of uranium enriched up to 20 per cent is now believed to be 470.9 kilogrammes – up 36.2 kg since the last report in February – while the amount enriched up to 60 per cent stands at 114.1 kilogrammes, an increase of 26.6 kg. — AFP



In a photo released by the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, nuclear technicians work at the Arak heavy water reactor's secondary circuit as officials and media visit the site in 2019. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ ATOMIC ENERGY ORGANIZATION OF IRAN / FILE

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lula invites Pope Francis to Brazil

BRAZILIAN President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said Wednesday he had invited Pope Francis to visit Brazil, during a phone call in which they also discussed seeking peace in Ukraine and fighting poverty.

The veteran leftist did not give a date for a possible trip by the Argentine pontiff, who last visited Brazil, the world's largest Catholic country, in 2013 – the first overseas trip of his papacy.

"I just spoke with Pope Francis. I congratulated him for his efforts in defence of peace in Ukraine and the fight against poverty," Lula wrote on Twitter.

Lula, 77, who previously led Brazil from 2003 to 2010 and returned for a new term in January, has sought to position himself as a mediator on the Ukraine war – though he has faced accusations in the West of being overly cozy with Russia.

Lula also thanked the pope for the Church's work to protect the Amazon rainforest.

Lula will meet Francis at the Vatican in "June or July", his office said in a statement, while the pope "agreed to evaluate the invitation and the possibility of a visit to Brazil."

Lula and Francis last met in Rome in 2020. — AFP

More than 1.2 mln people displaced by fighting in Sudan: UN

IN the six weeks since the Sudan conflict broke out, more than 1.2 million people were displaced from their homes, UN humanitarian aid workers said on Wednesday.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said the International Organization for Migration (IOM) based its tally on preliminary reports from field teams, while additional displaced are likely to emerge as humanitarian access improves. "Meanwhile, we and our partners continue to deliver aid wherever and whenever we can," OCHA said. "The World Food Programme (WFP) has started distributions in Khartoum State, reaching some 15,000 people trapped in Omdur-

man with emergency food."

Across Sudan, WFP reached more than 782,000 people with

food and nutrition support over the past four weeks, the humanitarian office said. — AFP



Personnel from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and from the NGO Premiere Urgence prepare aid kits for Sudanese refugees from the Tandelti area who crossed into Chad, in Koufroun, near Echbara, on 30 April 2023. PHOTO: AFP



Saudi producer Mohammed Al Turki heads the increasingly influential Red Sea Film Foundation. PHOTO: VALERY HACHE/AFP

Saudi Arabia's growing cinema soft power

ACCOMPANYING Naomi Campbell on the red carpet at the Cannes Film Festival last week was one of cinema's most powerful men — and he represents a country where cinemas were banned until five years ago.

Mohammed Al Turki, 36, heads Saudi Arabia's Red Sea Film Foundation, his name splashed all over posters and

movie credits at the world's biggest cinema gathering on the French Riviera.

The foundation, formed two years ago, holds its own annual festival and has already financed 168 movies, including eight in the official selection at Cannes this year. Among them was festival opener "Jeanne du Barry" about a French prostitute falling in love

with King Louis XV, played by Johnny Depp.

Others seemed equally at odds with traditional Saudi values — female-focused films such as "Four Daughters" about the religious radicalisation of Tunisian girls, or "Goodbye Julia" about a Sudanese woman and her overbearing conservative husband. — AFP

N Korea vows to launch spy satellite soon following failure

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SPORT

United aim to rewrite history with FA Cup glory at City's expense



Manchester City and Manchester United meet in the FA Cup final on Saturday. PHOTO: AFP

TWELVE years ago, Manchester City triggered a seismic shift in English football by beating treble-chasing Manchester United at Wembley. Now City's own treble bid will come under threat from resurgent United in Saturday's FA Cup final.

With the Premier League wrapped up for a third successive season, City are two victories away from becoming only the sec-

ond English club – after United in 1999 – to win the English title, the Champions League and the FA Cup in the same campaign. City's current success and United's status as hopeful challengers would have been unimaginable when they last met in the FA Cup at Wembley in the 2011 semi-finals.

Just a few weeks after that showdown at the national stadium, United would clinch the

Premier League title for the fourth time in five years, while also reaching the Champions League final.

In stark contrast to United's golden era under boss Alex Ferguson, City were still scarred by decades of disfunction and they headed to Wembley in the midst of a trophy drought that had become a source of embarrassment.—AFP

No swag, but Ronaldo puts swagger in Saudi football

CRISTIANO Ronaldo's first season in Saudi Arabia ended with a whimper, but with hundreds of millions in wages and unprecedented attention on Saudi football he may not be the last megastar to grace the oil-rich kingdom.

The fireworks and euphoria that greeted Ronaldo's gala unveiling in January were in sharp contrast to the close of Al Nassr's season, when the Portuguese sat out a 3-0 win against Al Fateh late on Wednesday.

Despite signing the five-time Ballon d'Or-winner in a two-and-a-half-year deal said to total 400 million euros (\$428 million), Al Nassr finished second in the Saudi Pro League without any silverware, al-



Ronaldo's arrival cause great excitement amongst Al Nassr fans. PHOTO: AFP

though they qualified for the Asian Champions League as a consolation.

Ronaldo scored 14 goals including five penalties but it

was a "disappointing season" for the Riyadh club, said Moqbel Al-Zabni, editor-in-chief of the Saudi capital's Al Riyadh newspaper.—AFP

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.

Sevilla in seventh heaven after Europa League win

SEVILLA found their Europa League magic formula on Wednesday, beating Roma 4-1 on penalties in Budapest to make it a perfect seven out of seven in finals in the competition.

The game finished 1-1 following extra-time after Paulo Dybala's opener was earlier cancelled out by an own goal from Roma defender Gianluca Mancini.

A bad-tempered but gripping match went to a shootout at a raucous Puskas Arena, with Sevilla goalkeeper Yassine Bounou proving the hero with two saves. Gonzalo Montiel, who scored the winning penalty in the 2022 World Cup final, net-

ted the decisive spot-kick after Mancini and Roger Ibanez had failed to convert for Roma.

The win is a remarkable achievement for 62-year-old Jose Luis Mendilibar, who only took over at Sevilla in March and is now celebrating his first major trophy.

"We are going to enjoy this because it has cost a lot and right now I don't know if I will renew or not and I don't care," said the Spaniard, who is not certain to be at the club next season. The veteran coach was brought in to save the club from relegation and has led them to safety as well as European glory.—AFP