

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Wednesday, 31 May 2023

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

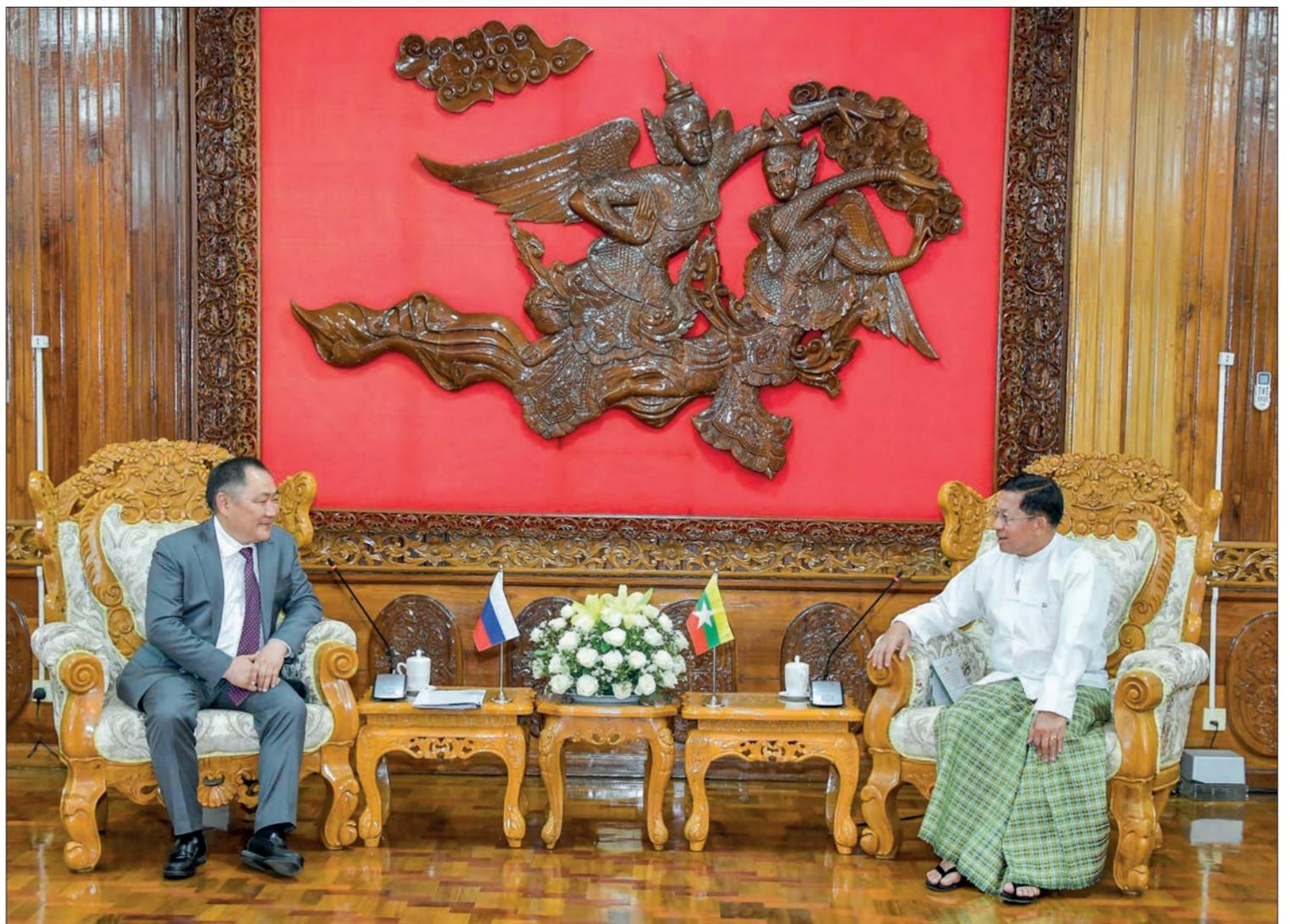
1. Priority will be given to fully realizing peace, stability and rule of law throughout the Union to safeguard the socioeconomic life of the people.
2. People-centred development work that enhances socioeconomic well-being will be undertaken to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.
3. Processes 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.

Deputy Chairman of the State Duma, Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, and party call on Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

A DELEGATION led by Mr Sholban Kara-Ool, Deputy Chairman of the State Duma, Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, called on Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the parlour of Panglong Yeiktha in Taunggyi yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed the situation to further promote existing friendly relations as this year turns 75 for Myanmar-Russia diplomatic relations, further promotion of mutual cooperation in all sectors of both countries, cooperation in transport and electric power generation sectors in Myanmar, sending scholarship students from Myanmar to Russian Federation for development of human resources in science and technological sectors, plans of Russian Federation to provide assistance to severe cyclonic storm Mocha-hit areas, enhancement of exchange of visits to increase relations between people of both countries, further promotion of cooperation in all sectors between Myanmar and

SEE PAGE-3



State Administration Council Chair Premier Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Mr Sholban Kara-Ool, Deputy Chairman of the State Duma, Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on 30 May 2023 In Taunggyi, Shan State.

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

SAC Vice-Chair DPM Vice-Senior General Soe Win receives Russian State Duma delegation

PAGE-6

NATIONAL

SAC Member DPM MoTC Union Minister inspects rehabilitation efforts in Sittway

PAGE-7

NATIONAL

Tatmadaw (Air) continues transporting foodstuffs, relief items to Rakhine State

PAGE-11

NATIONAL

Schools in Rakhine State to be opened on 1 June, 329,129 students admitted to schools

PAGE-12



Republic of the Union of Myanmar Announcement of Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

12th Waxing of Nayon 1385 ME
30 May 2023

AS it is necessary to continuously control infection of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), it is hereby announced that requests to the public, orders, notifications and directives (except for easing the restrictions) released by the Union-level organizations and Union ministries up to 31 May 2023 have been extended until 30 June 2023 for prevention, control and treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Announcement No 24/2023

12th Waxing of Nayon 1385 ME
30 May 2023

Allowing Shan State Kokang Democratic Party to register as political party

AS of 30 May 2023, Shan State Kokang Democratic Party, with its headquarters located at Kyishan Street, Ward 1, Tongchan, Laukkai, Shan State (North), has been allowed to register under Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law. The registration number of the Shan State Kokang Democratic Party is 19.

Sd/Thein Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Announcement No 25/2023

12th Waxing of Nayon 1385 ME
30 May 2023

Allowing Naga National Party (NNP) to register as political party

AS of 30 May 2023, Naga National Party (NNP), with its headquarters located at Zeephyugon Ward, Khamti, Sagaing Region, has been allowed to register under Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law. The registration number of the Naga National Party (NNP) is 20.

Sd/Thein Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

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		

National Disaster Management Committee

Deputy Chairman of the State Duma, Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, and party call on Chairman of the State ...



Exchange of gifts.



The Senior General poses for the documentary group photo at the courtesy call yesterday.

FROM PAGE-1

Russia, and meeting with officials from the Myanmar Election Commission and assistance from Russian to hold a free and fair election in My-

anmar.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein, Chief of the Gen-

eral Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye and officials. The Deputy Chairman of the State Duma, Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, was accom-

panied by Ambassador of the Russian Federation Mr Nikolai Listopadov and officials from the State Duma, Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

After the meeting, the Senior General and the Deputy Chairman of the State Duma exchanged gifts and had documentary photos taken. —MNA/TTA

UEC Chairman receives Russian State Duma delegation

UNION Election Commission Chairman U Thein Soe received a delegation led by Sholban Kara-Ool, Deputy Chairman of the State Duma, Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, at the reception hall of the UEC office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, the UEC Chairman discussed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Union Election Commission and the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation in relation to election matters.

He explained the preparations for holding free and fair elections, the conditions for applying the proportional representation system in the elections to be held, and the verification of political party establishment and registration rights.

Next, the Deputy Chairman of the State Duma Mr Sholban Kara-Ool clarified the organization of the Duma and its operations and said that the relations between Russia and Myanmar have had good traditions for 75

years. The two countries have cooperated since ancient times and will continue to cooperate in the future, he added.

He went on to say that Russia respects and always supports Myanmar's sovereignty and asked what he wanted to know.

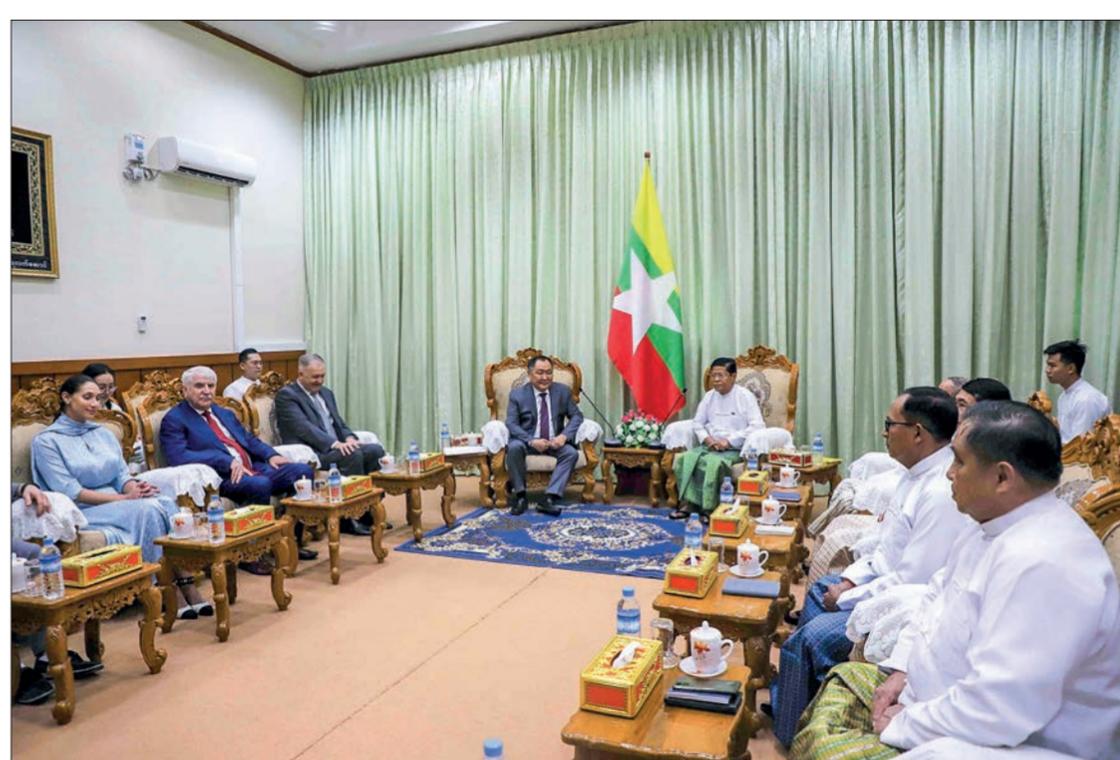
The UEC chairman said that the constitutions enacted by the states must be drafted to match the situation of the country respective.

He also said that the state will conduct free and fair elections for the political parties and parliamentary candidates who will compete in the elections.

He continued that the weaknesses of the last elections have been analyzed and laws have been implemented to prevent vote fraud in the upcoming elections.

Political parties will also have the right to observe and cooperate with the voting process.

The commission will deal with all political parties in accordance with the law and will check whether the establishment and registration of po-



UEC Chair U Thein Soe receives the Russian State Duma delegation yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

litical parties will have to be conducted in accordance with the law.

Any political party that violates the laws will be dealt with and it is important for political parties not to have foreign influences.

Political parties are respon-

sible for the legislative and administrative sectors, and Myanmar, which is still a young democracy, must work hard to turn out good political parties and good people, he stated.

He continued that the Union Election Commission will coordinate with the Central

Election Commission of Russia and cooperate in election-related matters, and they had a friendly and open discussion.

Members of the Union Election Commission and officials from the commission office attended the meeting. —MNA/KZL

Local economic growth depends on local food sufficiency and local monetary circulation

IF the region has local food sufficiency, local monetary circulation will improve, and it will contribute to local economic growth.

(Excerpts from the discussion by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at a meeting with MSME businesspersons of Myeik District held on 5 November 2022)

Senior military officers have to manage systematic moves of subordinates and control themselves with a conscience: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets senior officer instructors and senior officer trainees at the Command and General Staff College in Kalaw yesterday.

ALL senior military officers have to serve their duties with the least mistakes, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Com-

mander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in his meeting with senior officer instructors and senior officer trainees at the Command

and General Staff College in Kalaw yesterday morning. **Continuous efforts to be made not to lose the ambitions and goals of individuals**

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that everybody has ambitions and goals since childhood. They have to strive not to lose their ambitions with constant efforts. If so, they will have success and improve themselves.

Needs to try hard to set records for themselves in serving duties and endeavours

The Senior General continued to say that all senior military officers have to serve their duties with the least mistakes. They have to apply experiences in serving duties of commanding officers and the lessons learnt from this training course in improving relevant regiments and units they lead. They have to study all subjects in the training till the end of the course.

Only when they control themselves with a conscience will they have success in their duties

The Senior General stressed that senior military officers have to control their subordinates systematically

and control themselves with a conscience. If so, they will have success in their assignments. During the training course, they have to systematically learn subjects related to the Tatmadaw and field disciplines to be applied in practical fields. Only when they make keen studies will they have critical thinking and logical moves as well as contribute to the improvement of their lives.

The Senior General then visited the headquarters of local battalions in Kalaw station and inspected the sale of foodstuffs and consumer goods at fair prices. Moreover, he inspected preparations to dredge the silt from Natyaykan Lake in the local battalion and gave guidance on repairing the bunds of the lake and dredging silt in the lake before monsoon.

The Senior General then had lunch together with senior officer instructors and senior officer trainees at the Command and General Staff College. — MNA/TTA



The Senior General has lunch together with senior officer instructors and trainees.

It is necessary to systematically utilize sound foundations of the region to carry out regional development tasks: Senior General



State Administration Council Chair Premier Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets MSME business people in the Danu Self-Administered Zone yesterday.

LOCAL farmers have to strive for increasing per-acre yield rather than extending sown acreage, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with businesspersons from micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises in Danu Self-Administered Zone in the hall of Pindaya yesterday afternoon.

Individual reports on operations of MSME and requirements

The chairman of the Danu Self-Administered Zone Administration Body and the chief min-

ister of Shan State reported on the disbursement of loans from the State economic promotion fund to agriculture and livestock farms, construction of cold storage for potatoes, melting of minerals, conducting of technical courses for manufacturing, construction of the production roads in the zone, running of solar-powered river pumping stations, and future plans for the development of MSMEs.

Local businesspersons also presented reports on the distribution of quality strains of potatoes for increasing per-acre yield, needs for technology and machinery as well as capital for

the production of value-added tea products of Pindaya Township, assistance for the increase of coffee sown acreage and market for coffee, needs for building a detour in Pindaya Township, necessary assistance for the supply of drinking water for locals from Pindaya and Ywangan townships, conservation of Boktalok Lake as a symbol of Pindaya, and needs for regional development.

Responses of Union ministers to relevant sectors

After hearing the reports, Union ministers discussed the disbursement of loans from the State economic promotion fund

to MSME businesspersons, the classification of loans for development and business, the formation of cooperative societies with the provision of machinery and capital for the development of the local economy and socioeconomic lives, registration for MSME industries to have benefit, and stretching of export wings of coffee and tea to foreign markets.

The Shan State chief minister discussed plans of the state government to contact relevant ministries to fulfil the needs of businesspersons.

Needs for regional development by efficiently applying sound foundations of the region

In his speech, the Senior General said the Pindaya region has food sufficiency but the cultivation of crops does not meet the target. So, local farmers need to select high-yield crops. Local farmers have to strive for increasing per-acre yield rather than extending sown acreage. It is necessary to systematically utilize the sound foundations of the region to carry out regional development tasks.

Encouraging manufacturing industries based on agriculture and livestock products

The Senior General highlighted that if the Pindaya region operates farming of chicken, pig, cow and other animals successfully, it will be a region that can produce meat for the State. The for encouraging agriculture and

livestock farms is to get sufficient supply of raw materials for manufacturing industries. Agriculture and livestock farms need to use nutritious inputs for increasing production rates.

Recruitment of educated human resources in the region

The Senior General underlined that a large number of skilful agriculturists are required in the Pindaya region for promoting the manufacturing of agricultural produce by applying modern agricultural techniques, better soil preparations and proper water utilization.

Development of the tourism industry and development of the region

The Senior General stressed the need to improve the tourism industry by attracting local and foreign travellers. Proper packaging of delicious foodstuffs made of tea, coffee and soya bean can draw the attention of travellers and raise the sales of goods. The government is not engaged in politics but it is working only for the interests of the nation. The Senior General urged locals to strive for the development of the region as well as to ensure peace and stability.

The Senior General viewed round the booths which showcase domestic products, foodstuffs, personal goods, industrial products, traditional handiworks, and clothes and asked about grasping the market shares of these products. — MNA/TTA



The Premier looks round the booths exhibited at the meeting yesterday.

SAC Member DPM MoTC Union Minister inspects rehabilitation efforts in Sittway

SAC 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 new arrival and distribution of relief supplies in Sittway yesterday.

They viewed collective cleaning activities carried out by members of Tatmadaw, MPF, Fire Brigade, City Development Committee, social welfare associations and locals, the arrival of relief and rehabilitation supplies transported by Tatmadaw and private vessels at Sittway multi-purpose port and Phaungtagyi Jetty, and the fastest distribution of them to the storm-affected areas in Sittway.

Then, he paid homage to Pyilochantha Pagoda and looked round the consecration hall of the pagoda which was demolished by Mocha and donated cash to



Deputy Prime Minister Admiral Tin Aung San inspects the arrival of relief items at Sittway Port yesterday.

members of the trustee board for the comprehensive renovation of the pagoda.

In the afternoon, the Deputy Prime Minister and party attended the coordination meeting on

rehabilitation held at the Rakhine State government office. After the reports from each

committee, Deputy Prime Minister Admiral Tin Aung San called for accurate and systematic calculation of the list of rice, CI sheets, and timbers which are essential in the rehabilitation work for the region and the provision of relief supplies to the people in need and effective management of rehabilitation materials and equipment. He coordinated the necessary things before concluding the meeting.

The Ministry of Construction has mobilized four building task forces since 18 May in the reconstruction of the damaged buildings in Sittway. The restoration of nine buildings out of 24 has been completed so far at the Sittway General Hospital.

In addition, the ministry reportedly continues the repair work for the damaged buildings at the Rakhine State Public Health Office and the Nursing Training School in Sittway. — MNA/TS



Wards and buildings of the Sittway General Hospital are under repair and restoration. Some are completed (above photos).

MEB to increase interest rate for savings starting from 1 June



The headquarters office of Myanmar Economic Bank-MEB (Nay Pyi Taw).

MYANMA Economic Bank-MEB will increase the interest rates for savings accounts, certificate of deposit (CD) and fixed deposits starting from 1 June.

The interest rates will be raised to six per cent for savings accounts, seven per cent for cer-

tificate of deposit and seven per cent for fixed deposits for a one-year period, according to MEB.

The interest rates for fixed deposits will be six per cent for a one-month period, 6.25 per cent for a three-month period, 6.5 per cent for a six-month period and

6.75 per cent for a nine-month period.

The previous interest rates were 5.5 per cent for savings accounts, 6.5 per cent for certificate of deposit and 6.5 per cent for fixed deposits for a one-year period. — TWA/MKKS

Myanmar Embassy says citizens can collect their lost identity cards, passports

PASSPORTS, citizenship scrutiny cards (CSCs), work permits, and non-Thai identification cards lost for various reasons in Thailand can be collected at the Myanmar Embassy in Thailand, the embassy announced on 30 May.

Since Thailand's various departments have handed over the lost items to the Myanmar Embassy, the respective owners can personally come to the embassy to get them back. The

Myanmar Embassy has informed the owners that they can come and withdraw the lost items from Monday to Friday during office hours from 9 am to 4 pm.

It is mentioned in the statement that 14 passports, 14 CSCs, four work permits, seven non-Thai identification cards (pink cards), three OWIC cards, and three CI cards were handed over to the Myanmar embassy from various departments. — TWA/CT

OPINION

ARTICLE WEATHER REPORT

Restrict the use of tobacco for improving the world health

“WE need food, not tobacco” as this year’s main theme was set by the World Health Organization to mark the World No Tobacco Day which falls on 31 May to increase awareness regarding the harmful effects of smoking and tobacco use on an individual.

Tobacco becomes a global problem as sown acreage has been increased year by year to trigger health problems for young age people throughout the world. Hence, the World Health Organization arranged awareness for global people to have knowledge about the tobacco epidemic and the preventable death and disease triggered by Tobacco. In 1988, the World Health Organization passed

Resolution WHA42.19 to mark World No Tobacco Day on 31 May every year.

On 26 May, the World Health Organization stated that tobacco directly or indirectly killed some 8 million global people on a yearly basis as relevant governments allow the cultivation of tobacco plantations. But, growing crops instead of tobacco on cultivable lands can present dangers of terrible diseases. In fact, tobacco is a threat posed to unsafe food as well as intimidation to the health of smokers and the whole health system.

Use of tobacco as smoking leads to more than 8 million deaths of global people per year, including 1.2 million people as the result of non-smokers being exposed to second-hand smoke. Thanks to celebrating the commemorative day, the global people can notice the dangers of using tobacco, the business practices of tobacco companies, and enchanting people around the world to claim their right to health and healthy living and

to protect future generations.

Some 64,000 people in Myanmar lose their lives in suffering from diseases related to the use of tobacco-related materials. Hence, the country yearly loses some K2.6 trillion in consumption of tobacco and smoking, which amount of finance is equal to 3.3 per cent of the Gross Domestic Products of the country, according to the report on investment in cigarette and tobacco control issued in December 2018.

Global countries change tobacco plantations with more than 600 million trees on 3.5 million hectares of land plots. Tobacco industries use 22 billion litres of water and emit greenhouse gases which are equal to 84 megatonnes of carbon every year. As a result, these industries worsen global warming and climate change. That is why it is necessary to strive for benefiting the people through agriculture and livestock farms instead of tobacco plantations for shaping a brighter future for the State.

WHEN we get there, the area is crowded with teens and youths. As soon as I set my foot on the ground and glance around, I know we are among the strangers who will never take notice of our presence. We set forth toward the entrance. All are looking forward to viewing the stage.

The sun is setting, the lights are getting brighter, smoke fills the stage, and thousands of teenage girls are screaming as they have waited months for this moment. It feels like I’ve been standing here, waiting forever. My anticipation reaches its peak, only to be interrupted by the speakers blasting as my favourite band walks on stage. The screaming is only getting louder; I can barely hear what song is playing. My sister and I turn to look at each other, smiling and crying, knowing it was worth waiting years to experience this exact moment together. We can’t believe four of our favourite people are real and standing right before us. I start to open my eyes, holding my concert ticket, as I snap back into reality. Every time I look back at my concert ticket, it brings me

back to the happiest day of my life.

It is a Thursday afternoon in the middle of July. The sun is painting the sky pink and orange. There is a breeze heavy enough to blow my hair over my shoulder. The bass from the speakers is so loud that it feels like it is pumping through my body. My sister stands in the middle between me and her boyfriend. We are surrounded by thousands of complete strangers. Everyone in the arena is separated from each other by many rows with specified seats for each person. Behind me, there is a wide concrete path dividing my seated section from the lawn section. Even though I am surrounded by strangers, I feel the most comfortable I have ever felt, due to the vibes shared amongst all of us. Each person is standing up as tall as they can, trying to get the best view possible. This makes it hard to see, causing constant movement left and right in the crowd.

As the last note of the final song is played, everyone starts screaming as loud as they can. Each member of the band makes their way to the centre of the

What Built from Love

By Yin Nwe Ko



stage, placing their arms behind each other’s backs. Their unsynchronized bow only encourages the screams to get louder. Disbe-

lief runs through my body as I try to comprehend the past two hours of my life. Each band member takes their own path to head off

the stage, waving goodbye to all of the fans. Tears start to run down my face once again. A handful of people quickly make their way to

the aisles, trying to beat the traffic. I am not a part of that group. My feet feel like they are cemented into the ground. I don’t want to leave just yet — I am staying in this moment for as long as I can.

Memories are flooding my brain on the two-hour drive home. My eyes are getting heavier every second, due to the built-up exhaustion from a long day. Light raindrops hit the front windshield, making peaceful noises. I fight to stay awake, but I am too weak to hold my eyelids open. For what has felt like five minutes is actually two hours. My sister parks her car in the driveway for me to get out. I sluggishly grab my bags from the back seat and make my way inside the front door, still half-asleep. My energy decreases with every step I take up the stairs. I turn the light on as I walk into my room, but it is too bright for my eyes. My imme-

diated reaction is to blink quickly to try to readjust. All I want to do is toss myself into bed and fall back asleep. I slowly crawl into bed and lay my head on my pillow. Even though I feel like I could sleep for 12 hours, I can’t help but grab my phone from my pocket to look back at videos from the night. I find myself smiling and softly singing along to every word of every song. As I swipe to the last picture, I look at the clock and it reads 4:15 am. I set my phone down because I can’t believe I let myself stay up this late. Before I even had time to wrap myself in a blanket, I was out for a good night’s sleep.

If I was told at 10 years old that my sister and I went to a concert and had arguably the best night of our lives together, I wouldn’t have believed it. My sister is someone I wasn’t very fond of when I was younger. As we grew up, we matured, and we developed a stronger connection with each other that I don’t have with anyone else. Everyone calls us twins, though we were born four years apart. Not only do we look alike, we act as similar as twins do. She may make jokes in almost

every situation, but deep down she really does care for what I have to say. Throughout my middle school years, she was the person I could always depend on, my rock. No matter what I ask her to do, she will try to find a way to satisfy my wants. I don’t see her just as my sister but as my best friend, too.

I owe the best night of my life to my sister — she was and still is my role model. If I didn’t want to be like her when I was in middle school, I never would have been a fan of the band we saw in concert together. I would secretly listen to a select few songs from the band just so I could sing along with her if she played them when I was around. The night of the concert isn’t only a good memory because it was my first concert, but because it reminds me of the connection and love I share with my sister. I am forever grateful that we overcame our hatred for each other as kids. We matured into young adults and realized that we have each other as built-in, lifelong best friends.

Reference: Teen Ink Feb 2023

For 25th anniv, Asia short film fest highlights post-pandemic life

ONE of Asia’s largest short film festivals will celebrate its 25th anniversary next month in Tokyo, with this year’s theme exploring diverse stories within the context of a world emerging from the coronavirus pandemic.

Short Shorts Film Festival and Asia will showcase 270 works

by seasoned international filmmakers and newcomers across 20 programmes, with some productions already available for online viewing and others to be screened in theaters around the capital from next month.

The international program will feature films such as veteran British director Sally Potter’s

drama “Look at Me”, starring Spanish actor Javier Bardem and American comedian Chris Rock.

Meanwhile, this year’s festival theme, “Unlock”, will showcase a series of films depicting life after COVID-19 in its “Unlock — Jumping into a New World Programme”, as seen in a documentary created by four young female

filmmakers from Japan and South Korea addressing gender inequality and social pressures in their respective countries.

Also featured is a work by Ukrainian director Natalka Vorozhbit called “Are You Ok?” that tells the story of a young mother and her daughter who flee Ukraine following Russia’s invasion. The films were selected from 5,122 submissions in 120 different countries and regions. Accredited by the Academy Awards, the festival has often acted as a springboard for directors to achieve international recognition.

Technology is another theme of the festival, which takes place in hybrid form with both online and in-person screenings, while audiences can vote for films to win awards using NFTs, or non-fungible tokens.

Tech is also seen in the featured film “Hysteresis”, an animated short by German director Robert Seidel included in the “Unlock” programme, that explores the impact of artificial intelligence

on art.

This year will additionally mark the first time in three years that overseas filmmakers will visit Japan for the event following the pandemic outbreak.

“I hope this festival can be a reunion for everyone who has supported us from our opening year,” said Japanese actor Tetsuya Bessho, who founded the festival in 1999.

Among the filmmaking heavyweights and star-studded casts, “Teleporting” is a documentary featured in the programme by four young directors. Nana Noka and Chifumi Tanzawa are both 24 and from Japan, while Nam Arum and Kwon Ohyeon, both 27, hail from South Korea.

Having met online during the pandemic, the four could not meet in person due to travel restrictions, but they discovered they had similar experiences as women growing up and now identify as feminists.

For the film, they used augmented reality-generated avatars

to “teleport” themselves into each other’s cell phone cameras and appear as though they were in each other’s countries.

In an interview with Kyodo News, the four explained that they decided to use the avatars to cover their faces and assumed pseudonyms to protect their identities.

One point the filmmakers wanted to drive home was the phenomenon of non-consensual photography of women in both their countries. Noka, who goes by Mia in the film, relates how she became fearful of uploading photos of her face to social media after she discovered in high school that one of her male classmates was saving all her pictures to his iPad to share with other boys.

Nam, who has assumed the name, Kitty, similarly tells of how a man used a spy camera to take photos of women at her university and that many women in South Korea have learned to plug holes in public bathrooms with toilet paper for fear of hidden cameras.

SOURCE: Kyodo



A still from “Teleporting”, by directors Kwon Ohyeon, Nam Arum, Nana Noka and Chifumi Tanzawa. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SHORT SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & ASIA / KYODO



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 30 May 2023)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay of Bengal. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

SPECIAL FEACTURES: According to the observations at (17:30)hrs MST today, the Typhoon “Mawar” over Philippines Sea has almost stationary and still persists. It is forecast to move Northwards slowly.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 31 May 2023: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon States, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago Region and Southern Shan, Chin, Rakhine States, scattered in Mandalay, Magway Regions and Eastern Shan, Kayah States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Yangon, Ayeyawady regions and Chin, Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The Cumulonimbus clouds are developing over the Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States. 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.

MoPF Union Minister meets departmental staff in Taunggyi, Shan State

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein visited the State Budget Department in Taunggyi, Shan State, on the morning of 29 May, to meet with the staff from the Planning Department, Central Equipment Statistic and Inspection Department, Myanmar Economic Bank, Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank, Myanmar Insurance,

Budget Department, Internal Revenue Department, Customs Department, Financial Regulatory Department, and Pension Department under the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

At the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister U Win Shein instructed the staff under the MoPF to monitor and implement project objectives successfully, provide qualified loans, act in

accordance with the financial procedures, laws, rules, and regulations in dealing with finances, work in unity, and coordinate with the state government and other departmental organizations.

Then, the personnel affairs, welfare issues, and operational conditions presented by the respective departments were coordinated. — MNA/CT



Deputy Prime Minister U Win Shein is pictured (C) at the meeting with MoPF departmental personnel in Taunggyi, Shan State.

37th ASEAN Heads of Specialist Anti-Trafficking Units – HSU Meeting held



The 37th ASEAN Heads of Specialist Anti-Trafficking Units-HSU Meeting in progress online.

THE 37th ASEAN Heads of Specialist Anti-Trafficking Units – HSU Meeting was held virtually at the meeting hall of Anti-Human Trafficking Police Force Office No.38 yesterday.

Representatives from ASEAN member countries and representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, including four representatives led by Police Brig-Gen Myint Htoo, commander of the anti-human trafficking police force, attended the event.

The meeting was held with ten agendas, and the leader of the Indonesian delegation, who acted as the chairman, gave an opening speech.

Police Brig-Gen Myint Htoo explained Myanmar's anti-trafficking efforts, considering the changing forms of human trafficking and the ways to respond in case of emergency situations and technological innovations.

Myanmar carries the fight against human trafficking as a national policy, and the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar clearly states that "the State prohibits slavery and human trafficking (Article 358)".

Myanmar's anti-trafficking

law was enacted in 2005 and was amended in 2022.

The new law highlighted clear definitions of forced prostitution and other forms of sexual abuse, forced labour or forced service, slavery or servitude, forced marriage, forced begging, fraudulent adoption and surrogacy of children, etc.

In addition, in order to improve international cooperation, the law was able to establish a new working committee on international relations and cooperation.

They discussed that the Law on Children's Rights was passed on 23 July 2019 and that the National Mechanism for the Referral of Human Trafficking Victims was approved and implemented on 14 December 2021.

Anti-Trafficking efforts, and HSU Business Plan 2022 - 2023 implementation conditions were focused during the meeting.

They also discussed the finalization of the HSU Action Plan 2023-2024 (Draft) and Laos' hosting of the 38th Anti-Trafficking Task Force Leaders' Meeting before the chairman's closing speech. — MNA/KZL

92 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 30 May, total figure registers 638,818

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to **638,818** after **92** new cases were reported on 30 May 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of **10,639,844** laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached **638,818**. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **617,774** including **82** new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered **19,494** on 30-5-2023 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

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.

Illegal consumer goods, industrial materials, animals and vehicles confiscated

THE Kawthoung Township Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized 300,000 kilograms of yellow corn (worth K195.3 million) that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) at the Tawwin Bridge in Kawthoung township on 26 May. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The unregistered vehicle seizure team of the No 2 Traffic

Police branch captured a Toyota Mark II car (approximately K3.5 million) near the Hledan bridge in Kamayut township on 27 May. The action was taken under relevant procedures.

Similarly, the Muse District Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force nabbed two kinds of goods (worth K693,000) including five Tasto chain saw W/O blades that were piled up by the side of the

road over the Sinphyu border on 28 May. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

In addition, a combined team confiscated 21 oxen (worth K21 million) without official documents near the BEHS 1 in Zigon township on 28 May. The action was taken under the Animal Health and Development Law.

An on-duty team at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint captured 30 JFresh infrared cookers (worth K1.95 million) and 60 Nest generation lady bags (worth K2.1 million) that were not declared in the ID from two vehicles (approximately K4.05 million) heading from Myawady to Yangon. The action was taken under Customs Procedures. Therefore, six arrests (estimated value of K244,543,000) were made on three consecutive days from 26 to 28 May, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS



Confiscated illegal goods in Shan State.

Tatmadaw (Air) continues transporting foodstuffs, relief items to Rakhine State

THE relief supplies and foodstuffs contributed by the families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and well-wishers and those provided by the National Disaster Management Committee for local communities affected by the natural disaster in Rakhine State are being transported by Tatmadaw aircraft, helicopters and vessels.

Electrical goods, water purifiers, clothes and consumer goods donated by the families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) were transported from Nay Pyi

Taw Airport to Sittway Airport one time by the Tatmadaw plane.

Members of the Tatmadaw and the Myanmar Police Force, rescue teams, departmental officials, medical supplies, communication equipment, generators, rehabilitation items and foodstuffs were also transported from Mingaladon Airport to Sittway Airport two times by Tatmadaw plane.

Officials in the respective areas received relief supplies and will distribute them to storm victims. — MNA/KZW



Relief items are loaded aboard the Tatmadaw aircraft to transport them to Rakhine State.

Naval, private vessels transport supplies to people in Mocha-hit Rakhine State



Relief supplies are loaded onto MV Charities to transport them to Rakhine State yesterday.

A 29-metre landing craft from the Tatmadaw (Navy) carrying 1,000 sacks of rice weighing 50 tonnes and a 56-metre landing craft from the Tatmadaw (Navy) carrying 1,003 planks weighing 10.07 tonnes left for Sittway via Taungup Port yesterday.

Similarly, the vessel MV Charities (245 feet in length, 64 feet wide) with a total ca-

capacity of 3,500 metric tonnes, owned by Thuriya Sanda Win Company, docked at Bo Aung Kyaw Jetty, Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region, transported relief items, foodstuffs, clothes, utensils and equipment weighing 2,511 tonnes donated by Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, and Air) family members, ministries, departmental officials,

and well-wishers for Rakhine State's storm-victims to Sittway via Yangon yesterday.

The military vessels and MV Charities owned by Thuriya Sanda Win Company will hand over the support and relief materials to officials and systematically distribute them to the people affected by the storm as soon as possible. — MNA/KZL

Tatmadaw senior officers, officials assist in rehabilitation work in Chin, Rakhine States

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 oversee rehabilitation activities in the areas mentioned in the announcement.

Lt-Gen Lu Aye, currently in Kyaukpyu, to perform rehabilitation tasks, and officials provided healthcare and supplies to the local population in the ex-

tended wards, had a coordination meeting with the township and district-level departmental personnel and the teams of the Central Statistics Organization and fulfilled the requirements presented by them.

Similarly, Lt-Gen Aye Win, currently in Buthidaung Township along with officials, inspected the healthcare services being provided to local people in elementary schools in Ahlechaung village-tract, renovation work on schools

and monasteries, warehouses and ports to store the relief supplies.

Brig-Gen Win Ko Ko, who is in Tiddim in Chin State, handed over supplies to the people affected by the storm.

Brig-Gen Aung Thu Oo, who is in Kyauktaw, along with the officials, provided supply goods to employees of the electricity department who were clearing fallen lamp-posts, cables, trees and damaged generators. — MNA/KZW



Lt-Gen Lu Aye chairs the coordination meeting on rehabilitation measures in Kyaukpyu yesterday.



Foodstuffs, vegetables sold at low prices to Mocha victims in Sittway

FOR the convenience of the residents and departmental staff in Sittway hit by Cyclone Mocha, rice, edible oil, salt, meat, fish,

Sittway resident are seen buying foodstuffs at low prices yesterday.

eggs, dairy products, onions, garlic, instant noodles, and biscuits produced by the military factories, canned beef, canned peas and bamboo shoots, canned chicken and potatoes, various canned fish curry, and various canned vegetable curry were sold at prices lower than the market prices by the

military personnel and officials from Western Command at the U Ottama Park in Sittway yesterday.

Residents and families of the departmental staff reportedly enjoyed buying and they are very grateful to officials for selling them at low prices in times of difficulty. — MNA/CT

Schools in Rakhine State to be opened on 1 June, 329,129 students admitted to schools

THE basic education schools across the nation will be opened on 1 June and the plans are underway to open the schools in Rakhine State, according to Rakhine State Education Officer's Office.

The School Enrolment Week is from 23 to 31 May and a total of 329,129 students were enrolled at the basic education schools, private schools and monastic schools for the 2023-2024 academic year in Rakhine State until 30 May.

Regarding the school enrolment, U Win Maung, headmaster of No 4 BEHS in Sittway Township said, "Our school started accepting students on 23 May under the plan of school enrolment week and there are 609



Students are seen after enrolment at the BEHS No 4 Sittway yesterday.

the headmaster meets with the parents of students and provides textbooks, blank books and pencils. The school will be more active if the teachers, parents and school welfare committees work together".

Similarly, Grade-8 student Maung Than Htoo Zaw said, "I live in Pyitawtha Ward of Sittway Township. We evacuated to MraukU due to the cyclone. I was disappointed when I saw the damage to schools and houses after the storm. Now, the schools have been reroofed and we can use the roads, too. I am happy to go to school as I will meet with my friends who haven't seen me for about three months."

The religious buildings, schools, office buildings and houses in Rakhine State were destroyed by Cyclone Mocha and now, the government, Tatmadaw, state government, Myanmar Police Force, volunteers and departmental staff are making efforts to open the schools in time. — Tin Tun (IPRD)/KTZH



Headmaster U Win Maung



Daw Shwe Lae Lae Thit



Maung Than Htoo Zaw

enrolments today – 51 male students and 63 female students for Grade 6, 31 male students and 46 female students for Grade 8, 54 male students and 67 female students for Grade 9, 41 male students and 49 female students for Grade 10, 47 male students and 50 female students for Grade 11 and 44 male students and 66 female students for Grade 12. There are many difficulties for

school enrolment programmes as the school buildings were destroyed due to Cyclone Mocha this year. Currently, the reroofing of school buildings is completed and it completes nearly 99 per cent. The students can study safely and warmly in a safe shelter. Some parents and people might think that it is impossible to open the schools on 1 June. But we are ready to open the

school on the set day. The old and new school buildings were destroyed due to Cyclone Mocha. Now, it completes over 99 per cent of maintenance. I, as a headmaster, try hard to open the school. The situation before and after the cyclone is not much different. We are ready to open all the schools".

In Rakhine State, the school enrolments for the 2023-2024 academic year until 30 May were 32,004 for KG, 36,245 for G 1, 42,469 for G 2, 41,423 for G 3, 31,203 for G 4, 32,717 for G 5, 30,098 for G 6, 245 for G 7, 24,467 for G 8, 20,307 for G 9, 14,014 for G 10, 12,621 for G 11 and 11,315 for G 12.

Daw Shwe Lae Lae Thit, the mother of a Grade-8 student from Kyaypingyi Ward of

Sittway Township said, "I am worried as the children have to go to school in the post-cyclone era. Now, I am glad that I see the maintenance of school buildings is completed. The arrangements are being made to open the schools on 1 June and it is ready for the students. Currently,



School supplies are provided for school children in Sittway yesterday.

Relief materials despatched for Rakhine State disaster relief operations

FOLLOWING the guidance of the National Disaster Management Committee, the Transport and Communication Work Committee has planned and supervised the transport of aid and relief materials to Rakhine State. The materials are being transported by boats, planes and vehicles, including MV Charites. MV Charites carried zinc sheets, cement bags, trucks, teak, hollow pipes, purified water, instant noodles, ready-made foods, clothes and household utensils, medicine and rehabilitation items from the Myanmar Terminal (TMT) to Sittway yesterday morning.



Relief supplies are loaded onboard the private vessel to transport them to Rakhine State.

A total of 18,511 tonnes of aid and relief materials, 249,762 gallons of diesel and 199,886 gallons of Octane 92 have been delivered to Sittway in Rakhine State from 16 May until today by a total of 14 vessels, including military vessels. — MNA/KZW

ကမ္ဘာ့ဆေးလိပ်မသောက်ရေးနေ့ (၂၀၂၃)
 (မေလ ၃၁ ရက် ၂၀၂၃)
 World No Tobacco Day (2023)
 ဆေးလိပ်ဆေးရွက်ကြီး တို့မလို၊ စားရေရိက္ခာကိုသာလို
 We need food, not tobacco

၂၀၂၃ ခုနှစ် ကမ္ဘာ့ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေးနေ့

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY #BEATPLASTICPOLLUTION

“ပလတ်စတစ်ညစ်ညမ်းမှုတိုက်ဖျက်ဖို့ ပူးပေါင်းဖြေရှင်းဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့”
 “Solutions to Plastic Pollution”

Japan's Hino Motors, M'bishi Fuso to merge to boost tech development

MAJOR Japanese truck makers Hino Motors Ltd and Mitsubishi Fuso Truck and Bus Corp said Tuesday they will merge under a holding company by the end of 2024 to speed up and cut costs of developing advanced safety and environmental technology.

The parents of Hino Motors and Mitsubishi Fuso — Toyota Motor Corp and Germany's Daimler Truck, respectively — signed a basic agreement on integrating their subsidiaries, the two truck makers said. Global automakers are ramping up investment in connected, autonomous, shared and electric vehicles, known as CASE, to meet stricter emission rules and offer new vehicle services.

It is becoming increas-



The presidents of Hino Motors Ltd and Mitsubishi Fuso Truck and Bus Corp are pictured at a press conference in Tokyo on 30 May 2023. PHOTO: KYODO

ingly difficult for a commercial vehicle maker, which sells fewer vehicles than traditional automakers, to keep up with such a trend on their own, Hino said.

The trucking-making unit of Toyota suffered a record net loss in the fiscal year ended March 2023,

stricken by an engine data falsification scandal. Hino booked a massive one-time loss to cover compensation to its customers and suppliers and recall costs. Toyota and Daimler Truck will establish a holding company and aim to list the new entity. — Kyodo

Sweden's economy grows more than expected

THE Swedish economy grew more than expected in the first quarter despite high inflation and rising interest rates, official statistics showed Tuesday.

The top Nordic economy expanded by 0.6 per cent in the first three months of the year, avoiding a technical recession following a 0.2 per cent contraction in the fourth quarter of 2022.

"The upturn is mainly explained by an increase in inventories and by a strong growth in the export of goods," Statistics Sweden said in a statement.

Analysts were on average expecting 0.1 per cent growth, according to Bloomberg.

A preliminary estimate published by Statistics Sweden at the end of April had put growth at 0.2 per cent. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AS SOPHIA VOY.NO. (319W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V AS SOPHIA VOY.NO. (319W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31-5-2023 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP 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 SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (041N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (041N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31-5-2023 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP 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 (ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE



MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FINANCE

INTERNAL REVENUE DEPARTMENT

NOTICE TO FILE INCOME TAX RETURN, ANNUAL SALARY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL COMMERCIAL TAX RETURN

- 1. Income Year or the Year in which Sale proceed or Receipt is accrued:**
The period to file a tax return for the income year or the year in which sale proceed or receipt is accrued (reporting period) is from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023.
- 2. Return Receiving Offices:** Existing taxpayers have to file their returns at the respective revenue offices where their taxation matters are assessed. If the company which is not being a taxpayer yet, has to enter the IRD website to register electronically by clicking "e-Registration Service Login Here" pattern to get Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN). After receiving TIN, e-Filing Management System and e-Payments System can be used. For an individual who is not being a taxpayer yet, has to file the returns to the respective township revenue offices.
- 3. Ways to file the Return:** Returns can be filed by either of the following three ways -
 - (a) Filing in person:** In the case of filing a return in person, the return is considered filed on the date it is stamped as received by the department.
 - (b) Filing by mail:** In the case of filing a return by mail, the return is considered filed on the date of the postmark.
 - (c) Filing by electronic system:** In the case of filing a return by electronic system, the return is considered filed on the date it is received electronically by the Department. If that date falls on public holidays, it will be deemed to have been received on the following business day. Electronic Filing means the process of filing a tax return electronically, using the online software (E-Filing Management System). The user guide video files on how to register an account for using e-Filing Management System and how to submit an electronic tax return by using the system can be found on the Internal Revenue Department's Website at www.ird.gov.mm.
(Note: The taxpayers from Large Taxpayers' Offices and Medium Taxpayers' Offices are required to file their tax returns electronically.)
- 4. The process of completing a tax return:** The following are required-
 - (a) The tax return forms specified by the Internal Revenue Department shall be used; respective forms are available at www.ird.gov.mm and the respective revenue offices.
 - (b) Since taxpayers are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of their tax returns, it is necessary to be filled out completely and correctly.
 - (c) The return form must be signed and submitted by the taxpayer himself. If the tax return or part of it, is prepared for a fee, the person who prepared it must also sign the return.
- 5. Due Date of Submission:** June 30, 2023 (Friday)
- 6. Penalties:** If a taxpayer fails to submit tax returns on time is liable to higher of the following two fines;
 - (a) Five percent of the amount of tax payable, plus one percent of the amount of tax payable for each month or part of a month during which the failure continues to be submitted from the date fixed for submission until the time of assessment by the Director General.
 - (b) K 100,000
- 7. Taxpayer Rights:** Taxpayers can apply to the respective revenue office in advance to extend the time limit prescribed for filing a tax return if it is difficult to do so on time due to various reasons.
- 8. Enquiries:** If there are any unclear points, enquiries can be made at the respective revenue offices and please contact the following Taxpayer Service Offices for further questions;
 - (a) Centralised Taxpayer Service Unit
No. 128/132, 2nd floor & 3rd floor, Pansodan Street (Middle Block), Kyauktada Township, Yangon
Ph: 01-8389311, 01-8389322
 - (b) Taxpayer Service Unit (Naypyitaw)
Building No. 46, Internal Revenue Department, Naypyitaw.
Ph: 067-3430522, 067-3430544
 - (c) Taxpayer Service Unit (Mandalay)
65th Street, between 22nd and 23rd Streets, Aung Myae Tharzan Township, Mandalay.
Ph: 02-4030192, 02-4030637, 02-4030638, 02-4030639

Internal Revenue Department

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Lula hosts South American leaders' summit in Brazil

BRAZILIAN President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is hosting his fellow South American leaders Tuesday for a "retreat" aimed at strengthening ties in a region where left-wing governments are newly back in style.

Eleven of the continent's 12 heads of state are due to attend the summit in Brasilia — the first of its kind in nearly a decade — with only Peruvian President Dina Boluarte expected to miss it.

Veteran leftist Lula kicked things off Monday by meeting with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, hailing the "historic" restoration of a relationship that was severed under his predecessor, far-right ex-president Jair Bolsonaro.



Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (2-R) and First Lady Rosangela "Janja" da Silva (R) welcome Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro (2-L) and First Lady Cilia Flores during a ceremony at Planalto Palace in Brasilia on 29 May 2023. PHOTO: AFP

Brazil had cut diplomatic ties with Maduro's government under Bolsonaro (2019-2022), who labelled the socialist leader

a "dictator". "This is the start of Maduro's return, and (Tuesday's) meeting will be the return of South American integration," Lula told a news conference, after greeting his Venezuelan counterpart at the presidential palace with a hug and a back-slap.

'New pink tide'

Lula, who previously led Brazil from 2003 to 2010, is a self-declared fan of international cooperation and "regional integration," which featured prominently in his first presidency, and is keen to reboot stalled South American ties.

This is the first summit of regional leaders since 2014 in Quito, Ecuador, at a gathering of UNASUR, a continental bloc

launched in 2008 by Lula and late Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez.

That was the moment of Latin America's so-called "pink tide", when a wave of left-wing governments led the region.

Now, some political analysts are talking of a "new pink tide" in South America, with the recent election of Lula in Brazil, Gabriel Boric in Chile and Gustavo Petro in Colombia. Lula wants to get the region cooperating again.

His government has touted projects such as a "Bi-Oceanic Corridor," a transportation artery to enable countries to ship goods from one side of the continent to the other overland instead of by sea. — AFP

Attack drones hit Moscow as Kyiv struck for third day



A specialist inspects the damaged facade of a multi-storey apartment building after a reported drone attack in Moscow on 30 May 2023. PHOTO: AFP

A swarm of drones hit Moscow on Tuesday in an unprecedented attack and Russian drones struck Kyiv for a third straight day as Ukraine gears up for a major of-

fensive against Russian forces.

The Russian defence ministry blamed Kyiv for the attacks on Moscow and the surrounding region, which left two people

lightly injured and what it said was "minor" damage to buildings.

Two residential buildings that were hit are located in the affluent south-western part of the Russian capital and near the city centre. One of them is close to a popular park.

Two drones were intercepted over the Kremlin earlier this month but this was the first time that unmanned aerial vehicles hit residential areas of Moscow, which is located hundreds of kilometres from the front lines in Ukraine.

The raids will be seen as a psychological blow and a major embarrassment for the Kremlin which has gone to great lengths to say the protracted conflict does not pose a threat to Russians. —AFP

China urges US to destroy chemical weapons stockpile as promised

A Chinese defence spokesperson on Monday urged the United States to fulfill its commitments and adhere to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) by taking concrete actions.

Tan Kefei, spokesperson for China's Ministry of National Defence, made the remarks during a press conference while addressing the US claim of destroying its chemical weapons stockpile by autumn this year.

Tan said that since the CWC came into effect 26 years ago, over 99 per cent of the world's chemical weapons stockpiles have been eliminated. Seven out of the eight countries that declared chem-

ical weapons stockpiles have completed the destruction of their chemical weapons.

As stipulated by the Convention, the destruction of stockpiled chemical weapons should be completed within 10 years of its enactment in 1997.

Tan also said the destruction process of Japan's abandoned chemical weapons in China is severely lagging behind, and the destruction plan has been overdue many times.

China urges Japan to enhance its sense of urgency and step up actions to ensure these abandoned chemical weapons' early destruction in a clean and thorough manner, Tan said. — Xinhua

NATO soldiers clash with local Serbs in northern Kosovo, over 50 civilians injured

OVER 50 civilians and more than 40 NATO soldiers were injured in a clash between NATO's Kosovo Force (KFOR) and Serb protesters in front of the Zvecan municipality building in northern Kosovo on Monday, said Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic.

KFOR units were trying to disperse a group of Serbs who protested after Kosovo police

took control of the administrative buildings in Zvecan and two other municipalities in majority-Serb north of Kosovo. "A member of ROSU (Regional Operations Support Unit of Kosovo Police), not a member of KFOR, fired several bullets in the direction of the retreating Serbs and hit (local Serb) Dragisa Galjak with two bullets. Serbs responded with stones and

in other ways," Vucic said at an extraordinary press conference on Monday evening. —Xinhua

The NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR) soldiers, wearing full riot gear, place metal fences around the municipal building in Zvecan, northern Kosovo on 30 May 2023, a day following clashes with Serb protesters demanding the removal of recently elected Albanian mayors. PHOTO: AFP



Chinese mission with first civilian reaches space station

CHINA sent three astronauts to its 30 May space station on Tuesday, putting a civilian into orbit for the first time as it pursues plans to send a crewed mission to the Moon by 2030.

The world's second-largest economy has invested billions of dollars in its military-run space programme in a push to catch up with the United States and Russia.

The Shenzhou-16 crew took off atop a Long March 2F rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China at 9:31 am (0131 GMT), AFP journalists saw.

They docked at the space station's Tianhe core module on Tuesday afternoon, more than six hours after taking off, state broadcaster CCTV said.

The launch was a "complete success" and the "astronauts are in good condition",



The Shenzhou-16 manned spaceship, atop a Long March-2F carrier rocket, blasts off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China 30 May 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

said Zou Lipeng, director of the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre.

Dozens of employees from the space programme, many of whom live year-round on the

huge site, attended the launch, snapping selfies with the rocket in the background.

Children played as they waited for the launch, some waving Chinese flags as they sat on their parents' shoulders.

Spectators let out a loud "wow", shouting "good luck" and waving as the rocket took off in a cloud of ochre smoke.

Leading its crew is commander Jing Haipeng on his fourth mission, as well as engineer Zhu Yangzhu and Beihang University professor Gui Haichao, the first Chinese civilian in space.

China was the third country to put humans in orbit and Tiangong is the crown jewel of its space programme, which has also landed robotic rovers on Mars and the Moon.

Shenzhou-16 is the first mission to Tiangong since it entered its "application and development" stage, authorities said. — AFP

North Korea confirms June launch of military spy satellite

NORTH Korea said Tuesday that it would launch a spy satellite in June, claiming it was necessary to monitor the "dangerous" military movements of the United States and its allies.

Criticising US-South Korea joint military exercises, including the ongoing large-scale live-fire drills, a top North Korean military official confirmed that "military reconnaissance satellite No 1" would be launched next month. The announcement came a day after Japan said it was informed by North Korea that a satellite launch could happen imminently, with Tokyo warning it would likely violate United Nations sanctions.

Satellite launch technolo-

gy overlaps significantly with that used in ballistic missiles, which Pyongyang is explicitly prohibited from using under UN sanctions. The official Korean Central News Agency cited Ri Pyong Chol, vice-chairman of the ruling party's central military commission, saying the satellite was "indispensable to tracking, monitoring... and coping with in advance in real time the dangerous military acts of the US and its vassal forces".

Citing "reckless" acts by Washington and Seoul, Ri said North Korea felt "the need to expand reconnaissance and information means and improve various defensive and offensive weapons". — AFP

Japan ruling parties vow to maintain solid coalition despite discord

THE leader of the Komeito party pledged Tuesday to remain in coalition with the Liberal Democratic Party despite recent disagreements during negotiations to coordinate their candidates for the next lower house election.

Natsuo Yamaguchi's remarks came amid speculation that Komeito, backed by Japan's biggest lay Buddhist group Soka Gakkai, may dissolve its decades-long alliance with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's LDP if the discussions on fielding candidates break down.

After meeting with Kishida at the prime minister's office, Yamaguchi said, "We have confirmed we will sustain our collaboration by cherishing the significance and broad perspective of the coalition," adding that



Natsuo Yamaguchi (2nd from L), leader of the Komeito party, speaks to reporters at the prime minister's office on 30 May 2023. PHOTO: KYODO

talks between the two parties will continue. Yamaguchi met Kishida after Komeito decided last week that the centrist party will not recommend LDP candidates

in single-seat constituencies in Tokyo, while giving up its plan to field its own candidate in the newly established 28th district of the capital. — Kyodo

Cambodian parliament adopts long-awaited code of environment, natural resources

THE National Assembly of Cambodia on Tuesday approved the long-awaited draft code of environment and natural resources.

Some 98 lawmakers in attendance unanimously adopted the code, which is composed of 12 chapters and 865 articles.

Environment Minister Say Samal said the code, which had been drafted since 2015, aimed at strengthening the management, protection, conservation and restoration of environment, natural resources, biodiversity and ecological functions.

"It will set a common strategic direction for environmental protection and natural resources conservation," he told the assembly.

He added that it will also expand the possibility of ministries, institutions and social

milieus to further take part in environmental protection and natural resources and biodiversity management and preservation, Loy Sophat, chairman of the National Assembly's commission on planning, investment, agriculture, rural

development, environment, and water resources, said the draft code will increase the effectiveness of the management and conservation of environment, natural resources, biodiversity, and natural and cultural heritages. — Xinhua

Chinese mission with first civilian reaches space station
PAGE-15



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.



The Women's Football Programme in Myanmar is running with the assistance of the AFC and UEFA. PHOTO: MFF

UEFA Assist Football for Women Programme to be launched in Yangon

THE "UEFA Assist Football for Women Programme" will be held at the Novotel Hotel (Yangon Max) from 2 to 5 June, which will be held as a programme for the development of women's football by the European Football Federation (UEFA) in partnership with the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

The programme was launched with the aim of improving the quality and management skills of female employees working in various sectors within the Myanmar football com-

munity, the Myanmar Football Federation stated.

Female employees from various departments within the football community between the ages of 18 and 40, football clubs' players, referees, and coaches will attend the event.

There will be a panel discussion by three experts on women's football management from UEFA, aiming to bring the role of women's football on par with that of men's football.

They will focus on the development of salary benefits and

basic infrastructure for women's football, the improvement of the technique of women's coaches, the organization of women's football tournaments in addition to the Myanmar Women's League, and the development of economic issues related to football, and strategic plans.

Special emphasis will be made on selecting young female players from the same level as men, and organizing and training age-specific teams like the academy, the MFF stated. — KZL

Alcaraz says he felt 'invincible' in French Open win



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz Garfia plays a backhand return to Italy's Flavio Cobolli during their men's singles match on day two of the Roland-Garros Open tennis tournament at the Court Suzanne-Lenglen in Paris on 29 May 2023. PHOTO: AFP

WORLD number one Carlos Alcaraz admitted he felt "invincible" at times during his straight-sets win over Italian qualifier Flavio Cobolli in the French Open first round on Monday.

The 20-year-old, the youngest top seed at Roland Garros since Bjorn Borg in 1976, swept to a 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 win over his 159th-ranked opponent.

US Open champion Alcaraz won the first eight games of Monday's match and was comfortably two sets up in just 52 minutes.

In the first set alone, he allowed his overwhelmed opponent a meagre 10 points.

"I felt I couldn't lose a game. I thought that I was able to win easier than I did, but a match can turn around in each game. But at

the start of the match, I felt invincible," he said. Cobolli, making his Grand Slam debut, rallied briefly in the third set but was unable to take advantage of two break points in the sixth game.

Alcaraz then saw four match points slip away as the Italian hung on to level at 5-5.

However, the Spaniard wrapped up the tie on a fifth match point in the 12th game.

Next up for Alcaraz is a clash with Japan's Taro Daniel for a place in the last 32.

New York-born Daniel, ranked 112, enjoyed his best Slam at the Australian Open in 2022 where he went to the third round from qualifying and defeated former world number one Andy Murray in the round of 64.

His best run in Paris was a second round appearance in 2017. Daniel has flourished on hard courts this year — reaching the quarter-finals in Acapulco and second round from qualifying at Indian Wells and Miami. — AFP

Van der Sar to quit as Ajax chief after 'tough period'

FORMER Netherlands goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar announced Tuesday he was quitting as Ajax chief executive, after "an incredibly tough period" of more than a decade at the helm of the Amsterdam powerhouse.

Van der Sar's resignation comes on the back of the worst season in 14 years for the top Dutch club which finished third in the Eredivisie after a 3-1 drubbing by FC Twente on Sunday.

"After almost 11 years on the board, I am done," Van der Sar, 52, said in a statement.

"We have experienced wonderful things together, but it has also been an incredibly tough period," the former Manchester United 'keeper said, who re-

tired from professional football in 2011.

Ajax have failed to qualify for the Champions League after finishing third in the Eredivisie behind Feyenoord and PSV Eindhoven.

Media reports including the NOS public broadcaster and daily tabloid De Telegraaf said supporters held Van der Sar responsible for the club's drop in success, following the departure of sporting director Marc Overmars and trainer Erik ten Hag.

Former Dutch international Overmars quit after admitting sending inappropriate messages to female staff at Ajax, while the successful Ten Hag left for Manchester United in April last year.—AFP