

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. X, No. 13, 12<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Kason 1385 ME

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Sunday, 30 April 2023

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

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

## It is necessary to restrict setting fire to the hillside farmlands and straws in the farms in Shan State (East): Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hears the report on the upgrading work of Tachilek Airport and its runway in eastern Shan State on 29 April 2023.

NECESSARY preparations must be made for upgrading the airport to enable aeroplanes to land and take off, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in inspecting the upgrading of Tachilek Airport

and its runway yesterday afternoon.

An official reported on the progress in upgrading the runway of the airport.

After hearing the reports, the Senior General said that necessary preparations must be made for upgrading the

airport to enable aircraft to land and take off. Construction tasks must be completed on schedule. Clearing the bushes must be carried out for beautifying the airport.

The Senior General underscored that Tachilek Airport was closed for more than 20

days in March and April this year due to smog from setting fire to hillside farmlands. Hence, it is necessary to restrict setting fire to the hillside farmlands and straws in the farms in Shan State (East). The Senior General stressed the need to implement the

highland farmlands in the hillside farmlands to fade out the slash-and-burn system, the Senior General noted.

The Senior General inspected the upgrading of the runway and the airport building and left the necessary instructions. — MNA/TTA

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

11<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Kason 1385 ME  
29 April 2023

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

## Yangon mayor inspects urban sanitation and water supply works

CHAIRMAN of the Yangon City Development Committee Yangon Mayor U Bo Htay and officials on Saturday inspected sanitation activities on U Wizaya Street and lanes of Dagon Myothit (North) Industrial Zone and instructed the needs.

Afterwards, the mayor arrived at the Lagonpyin water-purifying factory and emphasized the reduction of wastewater, unwanted water management and implementation of water supply projects through the Koukkowa, Toe and Panhlaing rivers for water needs.

The mayor then inspected water-supplying work and water flow to distribution



Yangon Mayor U Bo Htay views round the Yangon Region Public Rental Housing Project yesterday.

zones 7 and 8 from the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition-SCADA control room.

In addition, Yangon Mayor

U Bo Htay viewed the Yangon Region Public Rental Housing Project and fulfilled the needs. — MNA/MKKS

## UMFCCI to open Arbitrator Training Course



The office building of the UMFCCI.

THE Arbitrator Training Course 3/2023 will be conducted from 6 to 28 May at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and

Industry- UMFCCI.

The training course will help local arbitrators to know judgments, international procedures, and case studies of the Arbitration Law in order to save money and time when commercial disputes of local entrepreneurs are brought to international arbitrator venues.

The training course will be conducted for 40 arbitrators from 9 am to 12 pm between 6 and 28 May (Saturday and Sunday) for one month with a fee of K250,000. — TWA/MKKS

**130 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 29 April, total figure registers 634,806**

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to **634,806** after **130** new cases were reported on 29 April 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

Therefore, a total of **10,351,781** laboratory samples were examined and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached **634,806**. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,818** including **40** new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country rose to **19,492** on 29-4-2023 with one new death reported from the pandemic. According to the research, it is found that people who have been vaccinated do not suffer severely from the disease, need not be hospitalized and are unlikely to die. If they have received booster shots, the death rates can be reduced more.

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

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

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

**The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increasing of death rate based on the disease.**

## Daily newspapers available online

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

## United strength is the strength of the country

AMICABLE cooperation between the people and the Tatmadaw is the best for the future of the country. Both the Tatmadaw and the people will always exist. United strength is the strength of the country. The Tatmadaw is striving to ensure non-disintegration of national solidarity.

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

### SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing asks about health conditions of Bhamo Sayadaw at Mandalay General Hospital

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla paid homage and asked about the health conditions of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Mandalay's Bhamo Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Ganthavacca Pandita Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa receiving medical treatment at Mandalay General Hospital yesterday morning.

The Senior General enquired about the health conditions of the Sayadaw. He then asked the medical superintendent and officials about arrangements for providing medical treatment and meal supplies for the Sayadaw and urged them to fulfil the need.



SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla pay homage to the Bhamo Sayadaw yesterday.

The Senior General supported progress in building Maravijaya Buddha Image in the Maravijaya Buddha Park

in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, obeisance of members of the Sangha from various regions

led by member Sayadaws of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee to the Buddha Image, aims of building the

image to show flourishing of Theravada Buddhism in Myanmar to the world, to be a focal point of Theravada Buddhism in Myanmar, to be the country peaceful and prosperous and ensure peace and prosperity of the world, plans to mark the Vesak Day on the full moon of Kason on 3 May 2023, efforts for shaping Myanmar as a focal point of Theravada Buddhism and righteous standing of the Sangha organization led by venerable Sayadaws.

The Senior General and his wife offered medicines, nutritious foods and cash for nine prerequisites to the Sayadaw who administered Dhamma.

The Senior General asked the medical superintendent and specialists about the health conditions of the Sayadaw and fulfilled the need. — MNA/TTA

### SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views health conditions of Presiding Patron of Naga Hnakaung Monastery in Tachilek

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla yesterday morning viewed healthcare services being provided to Presiding Patron of Naga Hnakaung Monastery of Tachilek in Shan State (East) State Ovadacariya Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Agga Maha Pandita Dr Bhaddanta Dhamma Siri.

The Senior General and his wife viewed healthcare services for the Sayadaw after paying homage. Officials reported on the health conditions of the Sayadaw. The Senior General instructed officials to constantly check the health conditions of the Sayadaw

and fulfil their needs, serve enhancement of immune sufficiency and personal hygiene. The Senior General and his wife donated alms, medicines, nutritious meals and cash for nine prerequisites to the Sayadaw.

They also paid homage to Bhaddanta Suddhamma, assistant abbot of the monastery, and donated alms. The Sayadaw returned Dhamma gifts.

The Senior General gave instructions on special healthcare for the Sayadaw and systematic arrangements for those wishing to pay homage to the Sayadaw. — MNA/TTA

The Senior General and his wife present offerings to Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Dhamma Siri.



# Judicial support team for ongoing cases holds meeting 1/2023



Deputy Prime Minister MoHA Union Minister Lt-Gen Soe Htut presides over the judicial support team meeting 1/2023 yesterday.

THE judicial support team for ongoing cases held its 1/2023 meeting at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Home Affairs yesterday.

During the meeting, Deputy

Prime Minister Union Minister Lt-Gen Soe Htut, in his capacity as chairman of the judicial support team said the team was organized under SAC Order No 340/2021 as well as the coordina-

tion team for judiciary processes of Nay Pyi Taw/Regions/States not to occur delays in hearing processes, not to cause any losses to the prosecuted persons and to protect their rights as the courts

could not conduct hearings in full starting 2020 due to the outbreak of COVID-19.

In doing so, the team prioritized the ongoing cases out of protection since 1 February 2021 at separate courts, other terrorist cases that should be conducted at separate courts, the criminal cases that are suspended for over two years and other prominent cases.

The judicial processes were conducted at 625 courts-14 region/state courts, 114 district courts, 308 township courts and 189 separate courts for ongoing cases. The team cooperated with the ministries concerned and organizations to discuss the weak points of the Myanmar Police Force, legal offices and courts that are

prosecution units. Then, it set the deadline for the first phase vision until December 2022 and almost the ongoing cases were completed. The duration for the second phase was set until July 2023 and the judicial organizations of Nay Pyi Taw, Regions/States should coordinate the discussion.

Then, judicial support team secretary Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Toe Yi briefed the inventory of ongoing cases, monthly orders made by courts, new prosecutions at the courts and remaining cases. Then, the Deputy Prime Minister urged the attendees to work as per the procedures of laws in examining the ongoing cases at the courts during the second-phase period. — MNA/KTZH

# MoC Union Minister reviews housing development, transport sector in Yangon Region

UNION Minister for Construction U Myo Thant accompanied by Chairman of the Yangon Development Committee Mayor U Bo Htay inspected the public rental housing construction project site located between No 2 and No 7 Roads, Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Region yesterday. Departmental officials and officials from private construction associations explained in detail the implementation of the project and Yangon Mayor U Bo Htay made a supplementary presentation.

The Union minister responded that under the guidance of the Head of State, public rental housing projects are being implemented for people to live comfortably, that the construction has been

completed in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay, and plans are underway to provide accommodation and to earmark for the construction of more buildings.

As for the Yangon public rental housing project, 82 per cent has been completed, and it is necessary to prioritize the completion of the project within the specified time with high quality and plan for accommodations depending on the completion, he added.

Union Minister U Myo Thant and party also inspected road expansion work along the No 2 Road and the No 3 Road from four lanes to six lanes and the laying of asphalt concrete (AC). The Union minister left the necessary instructions. — MNA/KZL



Union Minister U Myo Thant inspects the public rental housing construction project site yesterday.

## Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council's Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

The following telephone numbers, fax and email address can be reached to safely report information in connection with illegal trade.

- Auto telephone number - 067 409 883
  - Mobile phone - 09 404339969
  - Fax - 067 409 886
  - Email address - antiillegaltradeinfo@gmail.com
- Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee*

## Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council's Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

Regarding the "request for money from departmental organizations in conducting trade", the following numbers can be reached to safely report such information.

- Auto telephone number - 067 409 881
  - Mobile phone - 09 699611116
  - Fax - 067 409 887
  - Email address - antiillegaltradeoffice@gmail.com
- Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee*



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

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Day temperatures persist increasing

Tamu in Sagaing Region hit the record highest temperature on 18 April reaching 43.8 degrees Celsius and surpassing the previous record held for 44 years.

According to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology on 30 April, Magway Region in central Myanmar recorded the highest temperature of 43 degrees Celsius, and the highest temperature in Nay Pyi Taw was 40 degrees Celsius, while Yangon Region (Kaba Aye) registered 41 degrees Celsius, respectively. The rising day temperatures ranged between 40 and 45 degrees Celsius.



### Man drowns after swimming in Ayeyawady River

A man drowned in the Ayeyawady River while swimming under the Yadanapon Bridge in Tagong Ward of Sagaing Township on 29 April.

Social assistance groups collaborated with relevant organizations to carry out search and rescue operations at the incident location. Thukhakari social welfare association transported the body that was found at 1 pm to the 200-bed hospital.



### Rising cases of Covid Omicron infection

According to the Ministry of Health, more than 300 individuals tested positive for Covid-19 as of 24 April with one casualty. A total of 48,084 laboratory samples were examined within the week and 327 were infected with the virus.

The increasing Omicron variant cases in Myanmar have been reported since the post-Thingyan period, totalling almost 500 from 19 to 29 April.



### Request to allow legal export of frozen meat to China

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has proposed a formal request for legal exports of frozen beef, mutton and duck to China.

The discussion was held between the Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister U Min Naung and Chinese Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Mr Ma Youxiang at the ASEAN-China Forum on Digital Agriculture.



### Coconut shells transformed into artistic products

A plan is underway to produce and export artistic products made from coconut shells, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization of the Ministry of Commerce.

The project will be implemented from 1 May 2023 to 30 April 2024 based in Ayeyawady Region where raw materials from coconuts are abundantly available.



### Indonesia to purchase rice from Myanmar in 2023-2024 FY

Indonesia will buy large numbers of tonnes of rice from Myanmar in the 2023-2024 financial year, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization with the Ministry of Commerce.

The National Food Procurement Organization of Indonesia stated that they will purchase up to three million tonnes of rice from Myanmar, Viet Nam, Thailand, Pakistan and India with two million tonnes as the first priority.



## Illegal industrial materials, consumer goods, auto parts and vehicles confiscated

AN unregistered Toyota Mark II car (approximately K3.5 million) on 27 April was captured near Pan Hlaing Bridge on Twantay road in Hlinethaya (East) township. The action was taken under relevant procedures.

Similarly, on 28 April, the combined on-duty team seized three kinds of goods including 600 kilograms of Wai Wai instant rice vermicelli worth K9,194,551 from a Dong Feng tractor head and a trailer (approximately K55 million) heading to Yangon from Myawady near Ywathagyi tollgate. The

action was taken under Customs procedures.

On the same day, the on-duty teams examined three passenger lift elevator complete sets including a Lincoln-lift passenger lift elevator worth K150 million that was different from the Import Declaration (ID) from a container at the Hteedan Port, two kinds of goods including 100 Oasis centrifugal pumps worth K27.5 million that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from a container at the MITT Port and two kinds of goods including 400 pairs

of Daraworld lady heeled sandals without official documents from a Zhong Tong bus (approximately K35 million) heading to Yangon from Myawady at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

In addition, a combined team at the Kawka-reik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint confiscated 50 Duro cycle tyres worth K2.5 million that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a vehicle heading to Yangon from Myawady. The action was taken under Customs



Confiscated illegal commodities and a tractor head and a trailer.

procedures.

Therefore, nine arrests (estimated value

of K286,344,551) were made on 27 and 28 April, according to the

Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

# CURRENT AFFAIRS



The photo shows a cottage industry listed as an MSME.

## MoPF disburses K400 bln for over 2,100 MSME entrepreneurs

THE Ministry of Planning and Finance has offered K400 billion in loans to more than 2,100 entrepreneurs of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, according to its statistics.

This loan scheme has been initiated since 2016 and offered as of end-March 2023 for SME development and financing for business expansion.

An individual entrepreneur is entitled to take out a K500 million instalment loan.

Phase I was carried out with an initial loan of K57.63 billion. A total of 553 SME entrepreneurs took out K124.78 billion in loans as of March 2023.

The phase II project was conducted in September 2018. As of March 2023, 1,595 SMEs were financed K275 billion through 11 banks.

To develop the Micro Enterprises (MEs) and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), the department concerned has been financing them. — TWA/EM

## YRG to build EV charging stations at hotels, shopping centres in Yangon

YANGON Mayor U Bo Htay said at the coordination meeting held on 28 April that EV charging stations will be built at hotels and shopping centres in Yangon.

Yangon Mayor said charging stations need to be built in high-traffic areas for wider use due to the dense population as Yangon is a business hub.

Companies' officials who are responsible to build charging stations explained the technical information, locations of charging stations that have been built and officials from hotels and shopping centres participated in the discussion about the charging stations to be built.

Two EV charging stations were installed simultaneously on 19 March in front of the Yangon Railway Station and the Thiri Mingala market. — TWA/MKKS



EV charging stations were opened at the front of Yangon Railway Station on 19 March 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA



A water truck from the Engineering Department of the Yangon City Development Committee is seen being filled with water.

## Water supply provided using generators, solar systems to prevent water shortage in Yangon

ACCORDING to the Yangon City Development Committee, officials are using generators and solar systems to distribute water in order to avoid water problems in Yangon.

Water distribution in Yangon is mainly done through Phugyi, Gyophyu, Hlawga, and Ngamoeyek water reservoirs and Lagunpyin pumping plants in Yangon Region. Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation-YESC plans to ensure that there are no power outages in these areas, but power cuts may occur due to the National Grid system breakdown.

Therefore, the water supply is carried out by driving generators and using solar systems so that the water supply does not stop due to power outages.

In case of water shortages, 55 water tankers with a capacity of 3,000 gallons to 400 gallons are set to facilitate water supplies. — TWA/KZL

## Theatrician-cum-comedian U Win Naing (Anupyinya) passes away

THEATRICALIAN, comedian and film actor U Win Naing (Anupyinya) died at Seezayeik Old Age Care Centre in Pale Myothit of Mingaladon Township at 6:30 am on 29 April.

Vice-Chairman U Aye Kyu Lay of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization offered his condolences to veteran artiste U Win Naing, who died at the age of 74, over his Facebook page.

Moreover, Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw U Hla Taw of Anupyinya Seezayeik Old Age Care Centre also posted on his Facebook that U Win Naing passed away at 6:30 am.

The late artiste entered the entertainment field with the name of Toe Win as a comedian for the Sein Mya Maw Anyeint owned by his uncle, and he changed his name to Win Naing. He performed for Moe Win and



Thawda Win Zat Thabin troupes. He wrote articles for magazines and journals and entered the film arena with the contact of Director Maung Ni Lwin (Thabyu).

The deceased comedian was suffering from a stroke and moved to Seezayeik Old Age Care Centre from the Yuzana Garden City at the end of 2019.

A funeral service was held at Yayway Cemetery at 5 pm on the same day. — TWA/KTZH

## Onion prices edging up at Bayintnaung wholesale market

THE prices of onions are climbing at Bayint Naung wholesale market in the last week of April 2023. Onions are abundantly supplied to the regions outside Yangon, as per the market report of those regions.

On 29 April 2023, 114,000 visses of onions entered the Yangon market. The wholesale prices moved in the range between K1,200 and K1,575 per viss depending on the size and the producing areas (Seikphyu and Monywa).

On 27 April, 250,000 visses of onions were supplied to the Pakokku area and the highest price was K1,450 per viss. With 100,000 visses of onions entering the Pakokku market, the highest price was K1,475 per viss.

On 29 April, 14,000 visses of onions flowed into the Seikphyu commodity depot and onions fetched K1,650 in max-

imum. Meanwhile, it touched a high of K1,650 per viss in the Myingyan market on the same day with an onion inflow of 60,680 visses.

Onions are sold out daily in the regions outside Yangon. The market price at Bayint Naung Wholesale market is higher than that in other regions.

The price rise is attributed to the big purchase of onion traders and foreign buyers. On 29 April 2022, the onions were priced at only K500-1,050 per viss.

There is no inflow of popular onions from the Myittha area in late April. The onion prices at the Bayintnaung Wholesale market at the end of April this year are higher than that of the corresponding period last year.

In mid-2022, the onion price hit a record high of



The photo shows the Pakokku onion market.

K5,100 per viss. Consequently, the acreage of monsoon onions increased in 2022. Similarly, the number of winter onions also grew in 2022. The yield of winter onions dropped by half in 2022, said traders. Those traders who keep the stocks in hand have to purchase the onions at a high price in 2023. Yet, there is uncertainty for the onion prices whether it will reach last year's record high.

The price declined to around K240 per viss in the leading onion-producing country India as well, as per the onion market reports. — TWA/EM

# LOCAL BUSINESS

## 56 container vessels slated for port calls in May

A total of 56 container vessels are scheduled to arrive at Yangon Port in May, according to the Myanmar Port Authority.

In May, 11 container vessels which are operated by Sealand Maersk Asia, seven by Samudera Shipping Line, six by RCL Line, four each by MSC Line, New Golden Sea (COSCO) and COSCO Shipping Line and SITC Line, three each by Ever Green Line, IAL Line, One Line, PIL Line, Ti2 Container Line, MITT Shipping Line, two by CMA CGM Line and MITT Shipping Line and one by Land & Sea will make port calls at terminals of Yangon Port.

This year, 52 container vessels each in January and February, 55 in March and 50

in April arrived at Yangon Port.

Yangon Port handled a total of 620 container vessels this year, according to Myanmar Port Authority.

The number of container vessels entering Yangon Port stands at 49 in January, 48 in February, 50 in March, 52 in April, 54 in May, 53 in June, 49 in July, 55 each in August and September, 50 in October and 51 in November respectively.

From May 2021, the arrival of ships at terminals in Yangon has increased again. To fulfil the seaborne trade requirements, three new container vessels by Maersk Line Myanmar (SeaLand Maersk) started to run in 2021.

Earlier, the larger ships had draft problems prevent-



Container vessels are seen at Yangon Port along the Yangon River.

ing their sailing on the Yangon River. The draft extension is up to 10 metres with the new

navigation channel accessing the inner Yangon River and the international ocean liners

can access the inner port for now. — NN/EM

## Fuel prices on gradual decline in domestic market

THE prices of fuel oil (diesel and Octane 92) have gradually moved down below K2,000 per litre in the domestic fuel oil market.

The fuel prices remained on the high side during the Myanmar New Year holidays. Shortly thereafter, the price decreased slightly. On 29 April, the prices stood at K1,995 per litre for Octane 92, K2,075 per litre for Octane 95, K1,900 for diesel and K1,980 for premium diesel.

The domestic fuel prices are set depending on the price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in southeast Asia, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil.

Last August 2022, the oil prices surged to K2,605 per litre for Octane 92, K2,670 for Octane 95, K3,330 for premium diesel and K3,245 for diesel.

The committee is therefore governing the fuel oil storage and distribution sector effectively not to have a shortage of oil in the domestic market and to ensure price stability for energy consumers.

The Petroleum Products Regulatory Department, under the guidance of the committee, is issuing the daily reference rate for oil to offer a reasonable price to energy consumers. The reference rate in Yangon Region is



On 29 April, the prices stood at K1,995 per litre for Octane 92, K2,075 per litre for Octane 95, K1,900 for diesel and K1,980 for premium diesel.

set on the MOPS's price assessment, shipping cost, premium insurance, tax, other general cost and health profit per cent.

The rates for regions and states other than Yangon are evaluated after adding the transportation cost and the retail reference rates daily covered on the state-run newspapers and are posted on the media and official website and Facebook page of the department daily starting from 4 May.

The committee is inspecting the fuel stations whether they are overcharging or not. The authorities are taking action against those retailers of fuel stations under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law 2017 if they are found overcharging rather than the set reference rate.

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is

imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. The domestic fuel price is highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss between the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices compared to that of Myanmar. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies and the prices are about 60 per cent cheaper than that of Myanmar. Every country lays down different patterns of policy to fix the oil prices. Myanmar also levies only a lower tax rate on fuel oil and strives for energy consumers to buy the oil at a cheaper rate. — NN/EM

## Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 29 April 2023

### Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K1,995
Octane 95	K2,075
Diesel	K1,900
Premium Diesel	K1,980

All of the prices are based on per litre.

### Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,344,400 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,993,000 per tical

### US Dollar Vs Kyat

A US dollar set by the Central Bank of Myanmar	K2,100
A US dollar in the forex market	K2,855 to K2,870

The above prices may change from time to time.

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# OPINION

# ARTICLE BOOKRACK

## Arrange regular and catch-up immunization for offspring

**T**HE World Health Organization set World Immunization Week in the last week of April every year aiming to highlight the collective action needed and to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease.

In line with this year's theme: "The Big Catch-Up" strenuous efforts must be made for the children who missed the chance to receive vaccines during the Covid-19 period and for taking doses of relevant vaccines to age-wise children in time in order to prevent infection of diseases along their lives.

Globally, measles alone prevented the loss of life of some 23 million children between 2010 and 2018. Moreover, regular immunization and catch-up vaccination could protect the children of the people against more than 20 diseases which pose danger to their lives. In fact, regular immunization also saved some 24 million global people from poverty.

The Public Health Department under the Ministry of Health rises immunization measures in townships of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area as well as regions and states during the period from 24 to 30 April designated as World Immunization Week. Thanks to immunization projects, the World Health Organization recognized Myanmar as tetanus free in 2010 and polio-free in 2014. Hence, it is necessary to sustain the existing success in the work process by enhancing the coverage of regular immunization across the nation. The government decided to implement the project for catch-up immunization for children under five throughout the nation in 2023. As such, officials at different levels have to negotiate with the local authorities for further promotion of primary healthcare services including immunization. On the other hand, people need to join hands with the health staff to receive relevant immunization and not cause an outbreak of a pandemic based on absence to receive relevant immunization. If the children receive vaccines and immunization in time, they can overcome the suffering impacts of any diseases. Practically, children who have received the necessary vaccines full-time can easily endure the infection of diseases. If middle-class income countries and low-income countries invest one US dollar in measles vaccine, the immunization process arranged by the World Health Organization will save \$76.5 as the return on investment. As such, all the entire people need to arrange immunization for their children without fail to save the lives of their children to be free from diseases and to take advantage of investment in the catch-up and regular vaccination of Measles.

On the other hand, people need to join hands with the health staff to receive relevant immunization and not cause an outbreak of a pandemic based on absence to receive relevant immunization. If the children receive vaccines and immunization in time, they can overcome the suffering impacts of any diseases. Practically, children who have received the necessary vaccines full-time can easily endure the infection of diseases.

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**T**HE clock ticks. Time moves. Yes, it is forward, onward and promising. But on the flip side of the time, the facts are otherwise so long as workplace accidents are concerned.

Whenever the sun sets down for a day, it completely claims the lives of about 6,000 workers in workplace accidents worldwide according to statistics released by the International Labour Organization (ILO). The loved ones of the deceased and the injured bear the brunt of the misery. Their usual life-styles suddenly cease. Their forward aspirations fade. Unpleasant circumstances surround. Uncertain times loom. Traumatic workplace deaths

cause bereaved families to suffer depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and prolonged grief disorder.

The ILO further points out that some 2.3 million workers around the world are yearly estimated to succumb to workplace accidents or diseases that occur to the tune of 685,000 times daily or 250 million times yearly.

A closer review of workplace accidents reveals that it basically boils down to an unsafe and unhealthy environment at work. The safety of workers is compromised by a lack of workplace safety and health culture. The menace of hazard starts to rear its ugly head inciting accidents to occur. Once an accident occurs, there is casualty and/or proper-

ty damage. Then, the economic costs follow with compensation, injury/sickness treatment, disability and survivor benefits, legal fees, fines, administrative fees and so on. It amounts to about four per cent of the world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) that is lost yearly to work-related inju-

ries and diseases.

To avoid such ill effects, it is essentially important to promote and create a safety and health culture that can help reduce the number of work-related deaths and injuries. It starts with a planning to set the fundamental principles and rights for workers

to be respected and adopted at work.

To raise awareness of the rights of the workers, this year's events for the World Day for Safety and Health at Work, are globally organized on 28 April 2023 at the backdrop of the theme: "A safe and healthy working environment is a fundamental principle and right at work". It is

also additionally included in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work which was revised at the International Labour Conference in June 2022.

The rights to be bestowed on the workers at work are categorically grouped into three -right to know, right to participate and right to refuse.

Right to know  
It includes -

- lay-out plan of the workplace or plant
- pre-information on daily work activities
- safe work procedures
- hazards and control measures
- risk assessment

- systematic use of personal protective equipment
- operation of machinery/equipment
- safety data sheet (SDS) for chemical substances
- emergency preparedness
- first aid kit and usage
- workplace safety rules and regulations
- workplace traffic control measures
- safety signage and posters
- welfare facilities and their access
- accident statistics and report
- management's decision on safety and health matters

SEE PAGE-10

# Rightful Rights at Work

In commemoration of World Day for Safety and Health at Work, 28 April 2023

By Chit Ko Pe



Book Title	-	Chit Mi Thi Wun
Writer	-	Tint Dai
Publishing House	-	Seikku Cho Cho
Publication Date	-	October 2020 (Reprinting)
Price	-	K2,200

## Chit Mi Thi Wun

**WRITER** Tin Dai is noted for his good writing in the field of Myanmar literature. He is famous, especially for his production of the novels. He has even written a book on the art of writing the novels. I would like to urge the new generation to taste his writings. Only after reading his novels will the new generation of readers be able to understand why he has been famous in the field of Myanmar literature.

The writing of a novel has three parts — the content, the style of writing and the art of writing. Some writers or novelists to be exact, are good at the creation of the content or the theme whereas some are clever in the art of writing with the last category of the novelist skilful in the style

of writing. It is widely known that the majority of novelists are clever in only one of two of the said skills. Nevertheless, Sayagyi U Tin Dai is skilful in all three categories, striking a proper balance between them all.

Chit Mi Thi Wun belongs to the genre of a love story when it is reviewed superficially. Matter-of-factly, this novel is beyond the love story if it is to be reviewed in a broader sense. The writer said that this novel is not a mere love story; this book is concerned with the philosophy of Lord Buddha. The plot was created on the kindness a teacher had shown to his students. The message the writer would like to give is that harbouring loving-kindness towards a person should be done

in a rightful way. There are three main characters in the novel — a teacher called Saya Hnya, who is not only good at teaching but also has great love and goodwill towards his students; a clever boy student in name of Maung Cho who is a rich kid but good at lessons; and a woman known as Sein Mya Kyin, a beautiful theatrical artiste of great fame who is rather proud of her dramatic popularity. Although Saya Hnya is a kind-hearted teacher, his students jokingly called him Saya Nya, a teacher who is telling lies. This is a pun, twisting the two words Hnya and Nya, which bear two different meanings. Although this was only a joke made by the students just to tease their teacher, Saya Hnya

could not rid this joke of his mind for decades. In fact, Saya Hnya never tells a lie. Far from being a wicked guy, he is possessed by the sacrificing spirit. Sein Mya Kyin, the theatrical artiste, is a beautiful woman with a very fair complexion. She looks like an Arab woman from the middle east. She owns the cherry red lips, which attract the men especially when she is speaking. The ending of the novel is a mystery. Saya Hnya has disappeared strangely. No one knows his whereabouts. People close to him have tried their utmost to find him, going to the places he used to be. No one knows what happened to Saya Hnya and why and how he disappeared.



Book Title	-	La Htwet Kalay Yatha Baw Tin (Short Stories from Magazines)
Writer	-	Shwe Moe Tar Win Kyi Shwe (Psycho)
Publishing House	-	Minn Ne May
Publication Date	-	December 2020 (1st Edition)
Price	-	K3,500

## La Htwet Kalay Ya Hta Baw Tin

Short Stories from Magazines

**THIS** is a collection of 18 short stories. The foreword is written by Ma Sandar. The pen name may look strange to the readers. Actually, she is not a new pen. She started to write as early as 1968 under different pen names. She contributed articles and short stories to many magazines. Nevertheless, she could not write much as she was a government servant. Only upon retirement, she could focus on writing. What is strange about her is that she has attended training courses on the art of writing, creative writing and even editing. As she has been assigned to many different places some of them being

not easily accessible because of difficult transportation and communication. And the tough experiences she has gained in those far-flung areas during her career as a nurse have become the topics for her stories when she rewrote as a professional writer after retirement. There are stories about delivering babies with deformities. There is a miserable story about transporting a pregnant woman whose date of delivery is due to the hospital for delivery. When arriving at a railway crossing, she had to take off her red nether garment to wave as a flag to stop the train so that she could transport the patient to the hospital in time. As most of the places where she was assigned

duties were located in far-flung areas, it was extremely difficult to take care of and provide treatment to the patients. She played multiple roles: sometimes she acted as a nurse; sometimes she performed as a midwife; and sometimes she acted as if she were the medical assistant. Her long service in remote areas has provided a wide range of experiences on which her stories are based. As she writes the true stories, the contents are highly valuable for the readers. Reading her stories will reveal the miserable lives of the needy, the underprivileged, and the ignorant and innocent people from rural areas. Lives were lost because of difficult transport

and communication, lack of medical knowledge and medicines and the doctors. His book starts with the short story titled, "Than Thaya Hswe Hsant Yway." This story is about her first assignment in a village called Bhut, which is located at the convergence of River Shweli and River Ayeyarwaddy. She was called for helping a woman to deliver a baby. She recalled her first experience by saying that the baby was born with a body deformity. The baby was born without the upper limbs and the lower limbs. The book also mentions the biography of the nurse-turned-writer. ■



# ENVIRON/ARTICLE WORLD

FROM PAGE-9

## Rightful Rights at Work

In commemoration of World Day for Safety and Health at Work, 28 April 2023

### Right to participate

It includes –

- job orientation meetings
- toolbox meetings (TBM)
- job safety instructions (JSI)
- safety committee and its meetings
- hazard identification process
- risk assessment preparation
- internal and external training (trade and safety)
- accident investigation
- safety promotional activities
- safety time-out events
- safety talks and seminars
- safety inspection and audit
- emergency drills

### Right to refuse

It includes –

- refusal to work with the

condition of the workstation or the machinery/equipment or environment posing a danger or treachery

- refusal to work in good own-faith or other reasonable person certifies that an imminent danger exists
- refusal to work under the circumstance whereby the employer fails to eliminate the danger despite being requested for its elimination

In adhering to the right to refuse, the workers shall remain at the worksite until ordered to leave by the employer who shall not retaliate against



World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2023: The day aims to educate people about preventing occupational accidents and other diseases caused due to work or work-related injuries. ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY

the workers on this matter.

To get those rights to be

rightfully deserved and adopted by the workers, the employers play a crucial role by complying with national occupational safety and health legislations, standards, guidelines and directives promulgated from time to time by the authorities concerned. The workers are the most valuable assets in any business set-up and contribute to the growth and success of the business with their abilities, knowledge, and experience.

Let the workers rightfully enjoy the rights in this era of human capital in the business so as to have a win-and-win situation with the business thriving onward and the workers propelling ahead.

Reference: <https://www.ilo.org>

## ‘A new history’: Brazil’s Lula decrees six Indigenous reserves



The last declaration of a new Indigenous reserve in Brazil dates to five years ago. PHOTO: AFP

BRAZIL'S President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Friday decreed six new Indigenous reserves, including a vast Amazon territory, after a freeze in such expansion

under his far-right predecessor Jair Bolsonaro.

Under the decrees, Indigenous people are guaranteed exclusive use of natural resources

on these lands, viewed by scientists as a bulwark against Amazon deforestation – a major challenge in the fight against climate change.

They also commit the Brazilian state to protecting reserve land from intrusions of timber traffickers or illegal miners — the main contributors to forest destruction.

Lula signed the official decrees covering 620,000 hectares of land on the final day of a gathering of Indigenous people from around the country in the capital Brasilia.

“It is a time-consuming process, but we are going to make sure that as many Indigenous reserves as possible are legalized,” the president said.—AFP

## Meltdown: 2023 looking grim for Swiss glaciers

THIS year is already shaping up to be another bad one for glaciers in the Swiss Alps, with the snowpack covering them around 30 per cent below the 10-year average, according to the scientist tracking their decline.

Every year in April, when the snowpack reaches its peak, the Glacier Monitoring in Switzerland (GLAMOS) organization surveys around 15 glaciers.

“This year, the conditions are quite similar to 2022 which had record ice losses. Once again, we have very little snow”, GLAMOS chief Matthias Huss told AFP.

“It’s not as dramatic in every region as it was in 2022, but we’re still well below average,” the glaciologist said, referring to snowpack cover.

“There are even regions with a deficit of up to 50 per cent” below the 10-year average for the depth of snowpack covering the surface of the glaciers.

“The preconditions for the coming summer are therefore bad, as it stands. But we cannot say if we will once again have a record melt during the summer,” as that will depend on the temperatures over the coming months. The snowpack is doubly important for glaciers because the fresh snowfall not only feeds them but also provides them with a protective layer in the summer sunshine.

For the first time this year, snowpack measurements were made on a glacier located at around 4,100 metres (13,450 feet) above sea level.—AFP

## New Zealand fights to save its flightless national bird

NEW Zealand’s treasured kiwi birds are shuffling around Wellington’s verdant hills for the first time in a century, after a drive to eliminate invasive predators from the capital’s surrounds.

Visitors to New Zealand a millennium ago would have

encountered a bona fide “bird-topia” — islands teeming with feathered creatures fluttering through life unaware that mammalian predators existed.

The arrival of Polynesian voyagers in the 1200s and Europeans a few hundred years later changed all that. Rats picked

off snipe-rails and petrels, mice chewed through all the seeds and berries they could find, leaving little for native birds to peck on. Possums — introduced for fur — stripped trees bare. Rabbits bred like, well, rabbits, devouring meadows and paddocks alike. — AFP



People take part in a ceremony to mark the ‘death’ of the Pizol glacier, situated at an altitude of around 2,700m (8,850ft) in the Swiss Alps, on 22 September 2019. PHOTO: FABRICE COFFRINI / AFP / FILE

# HEALTH/WELLNESS: WORLD

## International Dance Day: From boosting confidence to improving flexibility

SOME call it artistic expression while others view it as a stress-buster. 'Dance' can be defined as movements of the body in sync and it's a celebration of physicality.

Every year, 29 April is celebrated as International Dance Day. The birthday of Jean-Georges Noverre (1727-1810), creator of modern ballet, has been observed as International Dance Day since 1982. The intention of the International Dance Day is to celebrate dance, revel in the universality of this art form across all political, cultural and ethnic barriers, and bring people together with a common language — dance.

Every year a message from an outstanding choreographer or dancer is circulated throughout the world.

The author of the message is selected by the International Dance Committee of ITI and the Executive Council of ITI. The message is translated into numerous languages and circulated globally. Dance has many health benefits too. Ahead of this International dance day, let's check them one by one...



Japanese breakdancer Ami Yuasa shows off her moves at a photo shoot in India in November 2019. PHOTO: LIONEL BONAVENTURE /AFP/FILE

### Better Brain Health

Studies have found that aerobic dance exercises can lessen volume loss in the part of the brain that controls memory (the hippocampus), which tends to shrink during late adulthood. Taking the time to remember steps and the changing movements of a dance is a great way to challenge your brain, no matter your age. Scientists have found cognitive skills such as planning and organizing also improve with an exercise like dance.

### Improved Flexibility

The movements associated with dance can increase flexibility and reduce stiffness. Even the simple stretches associated with dancing can help ease joint pain and any soreness from other strenuous exercises.

### Minimized Stress

Studies have shown dance can increase levels of the hormone serotonin, which can improve your mood.

### Reduced Depression

A Study looking at the effects of dance on patients experiencing depression found that those who participated in an upbeat group dance showed the least number of symptoms associated with depression and were more energetic.

### Weight Loss

Increased movement also usually means increased weight loss. Aerobic dance training can help you lose just as much weight as biking or jogging.

### Increased Energy

Studies claim that dance can improve adults' physical performance and increase their energy levels.

### Improved Cardiovascular Health

Of course, the faster you dance, the faster your heart will beat, which can lead to a stronger and healthier heart.

### Better Coordination Strength & Balance

Dancing requires lots of

fast movement and good posture, which can help you gain better control of your body. Moreover, there are three primary planes of motion; unlike simple movements such as walking and cycling, which only involve the sagittal plane of your body, dancing works your body from all planes, which means all your muscles are involved, not just some.

### Improved Social and Emotional Health

A dance class is a great way to make new friends and branch out socially! Having positive relationships is a major contributing factor to better mental health – it can increase feelings of happiness, reduce stress, and even lead to a stronger immune system.

### Higher Self-Esteem & Confidence

Studies show that dancers tend to report higher levels of self-esteem and more confidence.

Feel free, energetic and upbeat as you practise dance. Dance makes you feel confident and release stress. — ANI

## Pakistan-China traditional medicine cooperation can bring fruitful results: experts



Medical workers prepare traditional Chinese medicine at a hospital in Zigui County of Yichang, central China's Hubei Province, 27 March 2020. PHOTO: WANG JIAMAN/XINHUA/FILE

COOPERATION between Pakistan and China in the field of traditional medicine can bring fruitful results and serve humanity across the globe, Pakistani experts have said.

"In Pakistan, 70 per cent population relies on traditional medicine for various diseases, so through cooperation with China,

we are not only looking to launch traditional Chinese medicine in Pakistan, but also promote our own traditional 'Greek medicine' and streamline it to establish its proper market," Professor Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator-General of the Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation

of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-COMSTech) said in an interview with Xinhua on the sidelines of an event themed on strengthening cooperation between China and the OIC in traditional medicine. Choudhary said the OIC member states, including Iran and Indonesia, were exploring traditional medicines, and "in this regard, COMSTech seeks to facilitate liaison between OIC member states and Chinese institutions for strengthening cooperation in the field of healthcare".

A delegation of 16 Chinese comprising researchers and industrialists from central China's Hunan Province is currently visiting Pakistan to participate in the dialogue for collaboration in the fields of traditional medicine and biomedical sciences in the sphere of research, education, and industrial linkages, Xinhua reported. — Xinhua

## Man who fathered hundreds barred from sperm donation

A 41-year-old man, who fathered between 550 and 600 children, has been stopped from donating sperm to prospective parents, a court in the Netherlands ruled on Friday, reported The New York Times. According to The Hague District Court, the man told lies about the number of children he has already fathered, the

times he donated sperm, and even about his intention to donate more sperm.

"All these parents are now confronted with the fact that the children in their family are part of a huge kinship network, with hundreds of half-siblings, which they did not choose," the court said as The New York Times reported. — ANI



A Dutch court on Friday ordered a man who judges said had fathered between 500 and 600 children around the world to stop donating sperm. PHOTO: FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/AFP/FILE

# ECONOMY WORLD

## Japan to relist S Korea as preferred trade country amid thaw in

JAPAN will relist South Korea as a preferred trade partner after a similar move by Seoul on Tokyo's trade status, the Japanese government said Friday in the latest sign of a thaw in bilateral relations.

South Korea's preferential status, bar a few exempted items, was revoked in 2019 for the purchase of a wide variety of products and technologies that could be diverted for military use, according to Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

The status will be restored once Japan completes the procedures of collecting public opinion on the revision of the export control ordinance and gets Cabinet approval, according to the ministry. The exact date of the relisting remains unknown.

South Korea's Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy

welcomed Japan's move, saying it plans to further strengthen cooperation with the Japanese side on various export control issues.

The two countries exchanged opinions on the status of export control systems and confirmed their effectiveness through a policy dialogue earlier this month.

Japan had earlier expressed concern over Seoul's system and said it needs to confirm whether it is effective in preventing exported goods from flowing into North Korea and other countries of concern.

The 2019 removal of South Korea from a "white list" of countries that are entitled to receive minimum restrictions in trade came as the two countries' relations had worsened to their lowest point in decades over wartime history. — Kyodo



Last month, Japan eased export controls on three key semiconductor manufacturing materials heading to South Korea in response to Seoul retracting its complaint with the World Trade Organization over the export controls. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE / AFP**

## Italian GDP increases 0.5% in first quarter

ITALY'S gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 0.5 per cent in the first quarter of 2023 compared to the previous three months, the national statistics agency said Friday in a preliminary estimate.

The eurozone's third-largest economy had contracted by 0.1 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2022, but the growth this year means it escapes a recession.

National statistics agency Istat said the first quarter figures reflected growth in the industrial and service sectors, while agriculture, forestry and fishing have stagnated.

For 2023 as a whole, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's government revised its growth forecast upwards in mid-April to 1.0 per cent, compared to the 0.6 per cent estimated in November. — AFP

## China's digital economy a new growth engine to drive modernization



China's digital economy has ranked second in the world for many years. The scale of China's digital economy reached 50.2 trillion yuan (about 7.25 trillion US dollars) in 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CHINA'S digital economy, ranking second in the world for many years, has seen robust growth and become a major growth engine for the country marching toward modernization.

The scale of China's digital economy reached 50.2 trillion yuan (about 7.25 trillion US dollars) in 2022, accounting for 41.5 per cent of the GDP, said a report on digital China development released Thursday.

The report was issued by the Cyberspace Administration of China at the 6<sup>th</sup> Digital China Summit, which opened on Thursday in the city of Fuzhou in east China's Fujian Province.

With the theme of "Accelerating the construction of digital China to promote Chinese modernization," the two-day summit focuses on showcasing the latest achievements of the Digital China initiative, and on

sharing experiences in digital development.

Participants have the opportunity to witness remarkable progress in areas such as digital infrastructure, the digital economy, and digital society at an exhibition dedicated to digital development. A digital product expo, a digital innovation competition, and a series of forums are also set to be held during the event. — Xinhua

## Eurozone GDP grows 0.1% in first three months of 2023

THE eurozone economy lumbered forward in the first quarter, official data showed Friday, expanding just 0.1 per cent over the previous quarter as high in-

flation and interest rates weigh on activity.

Germany, the EU's biggest economy, saw growth stagnate at zero per cent over the previous

quarter. Year-on-year, Germany was the only country in the single-currency zone to record a contraction, of 0.1 per cent.

For the European Union overall, GDP expanded 0.3 per cent over the previous quarter, according to the figures from Eurostat, the EU's statistics office.

The weak-but-positive figure for the eurozone mirrored the reading for the last quarter of 2022, which was also 0.1 per cent growth, confirming it had escaped recession but that high inflation was still a dampener.

Although eurozone inflation has eased somewhat, it is still 6.9 per cent on an annualized basis, more than three times the European Central Bank's target of 2.0 per cent. — AFP



Germany, the EU's biggest economy, saw growth stagnate at zero per cent over the previous quarter. A woman walks past shop windows of a closed hairdresser in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, southern Germany, amid the ongoing novel coronavirus pandemic. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## China set for railway-trips record on May Day holiday

THE number of passenger trips handled by China's railways is expected to hit 19.5 million on Saturday, the first day of the five-day-long May Day holiday, data from the China State Railway Group Co Ltd shows.

The number is expected to make a new high in terms of single-day passenger traffic,

according to the group.

The country reports strong demand for travel during the May Day holiday, the first long holiday after the seven-day-long Spring Festival holiday, which was in late January.

About 120 million domestic trips are expected to be made by Chinese railway passengers from

27 April to 4 May around the May Day holiday, earlier data shows.

China's railways are maximizing their transportation potential and increasing capacity to satisfy people's travel needs, while improving service quality to ensure that passengers have better experiences. — Xinhua



Passengers are pictured at the platform of the Xuzhou East Railway Station in Xuzhou, East China's Jiangsu province, 29 April 2023. A travel rush is on as the country ushers in the five-day Labour Day holiday on Saturday. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## Qatar's Sheikh Jassim makes final bid to buy Man Utd: sources

QATARI banker Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al Thani has made a third and final offer to buy Manchester United, sources told AFP on Friday.

Sheikh Jassim is in a bidding war with British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe after the pair emerged as the main contenders to buy the Premier League club from the Glazer family. Ratcliffe is also reported to have made another offer for United ahead of Friday's dead-

line for the third round of bidding. While Sheikh Jassim's latest offer is reported to be over £5 billion

(\$6.2 billion), the size of Ratcliffe's improved bid is yet to be made public. — AFP



Manchester United's Old Trafford stadium. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Apple and Amazon 'committed' to big screen, says theatres boss

MOVIE theatre owners are confident that previously streaming-focused tech giants Apple and Amazon are now "committed" to putting their films on the big screen — even if Netflix still declines to — their trade body's new president told AFP.

This week's CinemaCon event in Las Vegas, where owners of multiplex chains and arthouse screens gather annually, took place in an optimistic mood, af-

ter three nervous years blighted by the pandemic and the rapid rise of streaming.

Back in those dark days, some 2,000 US theatres were forced to close forever, while even traditional Hollywood studios like Warner and Disney were skipping theatres and putting major films on HBO Max and Disney+ streaming first.

But since big screens reopened, even Apple and Amazon have pivoted to

giving movies like "Air", "Napoleon" and "Killers of the Flower Moon" extended runs in theatres.

The two tech giants reportedly each plan to spend \$1 billion per year on movies headed first for the big screen.

"I think their commitment to the theatrical experience is amazing," said Michael O'Leary, who takes over the National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO) this week. — AFP

## First Republic bank in limbo as shares fall further

SHARES of First Republic fell further into an abyss Friday amid mounting speculation over the US regional bank's way forward after it reported a big fall in deposits.

After dropping more than 50 per cent earlier on Friday, shares of First Republic finished the day at \$3.51, down 43 per cent following numerous trading halts due to volatility.

Now worth only

about \$654 million, the bank has had a stunning loss of value since its peak days in November 2021 when it had market capitalization of more than \$40 billion.

The latest free fall follows First Republic's disclosure on Monday that it lost more than \$100 billion in deposits in the first quarter.

The bank also said Monday that its deposit situation had stabilized following a \$30 billion infusion of funds announced in mid-March from a consortium of 11 US private banks and that it was "pursuing strategic options". — AFP



Shares of First Republic fell further into an abyss Friday amid mounting speculation over the US regional bank's way forward. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

### Public Notice

Notice is given on behalf of SHWE BYAIN PHYU Co., Ltd. Head Office in Yangon.

I would like to bring to your attention a matter that has caused concern for our client, regarding the dissemination of false news on various social media platforms. It has come to our client's attention that certain individuals have published news articles that are untrue and damaging to their reputation and operations.

I would like to clarify that our client has consistently imported only the highest quality fuel for the market, and has always been committed to providing excellent service to their customers. Furthermore, our client has contributed significantly to society through their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities, with a particular focus on public health, education, and social affairs.

I believe it is important to set the record straight and to emphasize that our client operates with the highest level of integrity and ethics. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring that any information shared about our client is accurate and based on facts. Should I become aware of any further false information being spread, I will take appropriate legal action to protect our client's reputation and interests.

U Than Zaw Aung  
Supreme Court Advocate (Sr/11065)  
M - 09795586316  
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# GLOBAL AFFAIRS

## Huge fire at Crimea fuel depot after drone strike: authorities

A huge fire broke out on Saturday at a fuel depot in Sevastopol, the main port in Moscow-annexed Crimea, with authorities saying it was the result of a drone attack.

Sevastopol is home to Russia's Black Sea Fleet and has been hit by a series of drone attacks since the Kremlin's Ukraine offensive launched last year.

"A fuel reserve is on fire in

the Kazachya Bay district" of the city, the Moscow-installed governor of Sevastopol Mikhail Razvozhayev said on Telegram in the early hours of Saturday.

"According to preliminary information, it was caused by a drone strike."

He said the fire's size was "around 1,000 square metres" and published images of huge clouds of smoke rising into the air.

Razvozhayev called on Crimeans to "remain calm" and in a later post said "nobody was hurt".

He said authorities had "the situation under control" and said there was no threat to civilian infrastructure.

Earlier this week, Russia said it had "repelled" a drone attack on the port.

Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014. — AFP



Sevastopol's governor said authorities had 'the situation under control' and said there was no threat to civilian infrastructure. **PHOTO: GOVERNMENT OF SEVASTOPOL/AFP**

## One family, five candidates: dynasties rule rural Thailand

POLITICS is a family affair for the Thienthong clan, one of Thailand's most enduring political dynasties, with five members running in next month's general election, for two different parties.

They are one of a number of families woven into the fabric of Thai politics — the most famous of which is the Shinawatras, whose patriarch Thaksin was prime minister from 2001 to 2006 and continues to loom large from exile abroad.

The financial rewards of

elect office — an MP earns around \$3,500 a month — may be little more than loose change to these ultra-wealthy clans, but the influence it brings can be highly profitable to their business interests. The Thienthong family built their wealth on a successful logistics business in their eastern heartland — which includes a major border crossing to Cambodia — and have dominated the region's politics since the 1970s.

In the run-up to the 14 May vote, theirs is the name plastered

on campaign posters along the rough country roads of poor, rural Sa Kaeo province.

Kwanruen Thienthong, her daughter Treenuch and nephew Sorawong are all contesting the three constituency seats up for grabs in Sa Kaeo.

Sorawong is running for Pheu Thai, the main opposition party riding high in the polls, while the two women are with the army-backed Palang Pracharath Party (PPRP) which led the outgoing ruling coalition.

Sorawong's brothers are also running for Pheu Thai: Surachart in a Bangkok constituency, and Surakiat, on the party list.

"Politics is politics. Family is family. We have different standpoints in politics but we're still family," Sorawong tells AFP.

Treenuch began her career as an MP with a forerunner party of Pheu Thai more than 20 years ago but switched to PPRP, was re-elected in 2019 and serves as education minister. For voters in Sa Kaeo the family's track record on the ground matters more than party names or political ideology. — AFP



Rural Thailand is threaded with the influence of the powerful clans and part of their local support rests on personal as well as political interventions. **PHOTO: AFP**

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### N Korea raps US-S Korea accord bolstering extended deterrence

NORTH Korea has criticized a recent US-South Korea agreement to bolster Washington's extended deterrence, with the sister of the country's leader Kim Jong Un saying it will expose the region and world to "more serious danger", state-run media said Saturday.

In a statement dated Friday, Kim Yo Jong, a senior official of the country's ruling party, also lambasted US President Joe Biden for his warning that a nuclear attack against the United States or its allies will result in the end of Pyongyang's regime, calling it "a nonsensical remark from the person in his dotage".

Earlier this week, Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol agreed on plans for Washington to send nuclear submarines to South Korea in response to North Korea's growing nuclear threat. Yoon was visiting the US capital at the time. — Kyodo

#### Israeli soldiers storm West Bank refugee camp, injuring 2 Palestinians

AT least two Palestinians, including a teenager, were injured on Friday during an Israeli army's operation at the refugee camp of Jenin in northern West Bank, Palestinian and Israeli sources said.

The Palestinian Ministry of Health said that two Palestinians, including a 14-year-old boy, were moderately injured by Israeli soldiers who stormed the Palestinian refugee camp.

Palestinian security sources said that an Israeli army force, backed by armoured vehicles, stormed the outskirts of the refugee camp, and intensive gunfire was heard in several areas.

The armed wing of several Palestinian factions said in separate statements that its militants exchanged fire with Israeli soldiers who stormed the area of Jenin and detonated roadside bombs against the Israeli army vehicles. — AFP

## Sudan fighting enters third week as UN says country collapsing

WARPLANES on bombing raids drew heavy anti-aircraft fire over Khartoum on Saturday as fierce fighting between Sudan's army and paramilitaries entered a third week, violating a renewed truce. More than 500 people have been killed since battles

erupted on 15 April between the forces of army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his number two Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who commands the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

"There is no right to go on fighting for power when the

country is falling apart," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told Al Arabiya television.

Burhan and Daglo have agreed to multiple truces since the war began, but none has effectively taken hold as the number of dead civilians continues to

rise, thousands flee the country and those without the means to escape face an increasing struggle to survive.

The latest three-day cease-fire is due to expire at midnight Sunday (2200 GMT). It was agreed Thursday after mediation

led by the United States, Saudi Arabia, the African Union and the United Nations.

Dozens more have died over the past week since the United States announced that the warring sides had agreed to an initial truce, on 24 April. — AFP

## Poland announces \$2.4 bln air defence deal with Europe's MBDA

POLAND on Friday announced it had signed a £1.9-billion (\$2.4-billion) air defence deal with the UK arm of Europe's MBDA, which will provide missiles and missile launchers.

The government of the EU member — one of the staunchest supporters of war-torn Ukraine since Russia's invasion more than a year ago — said the deal would boost Poland's aerial defence. It concerns "the supply of 44 iLaunchers and several hundred CAMM missiles as well as accompanying equipment", Poland's armament agency said.

"The value of the order is around £1.9 billion... Deliveries of the military equipment will take place in 2025-2029," it added.

Missile maker MBDA called the deal "the largest European

short-range air defence acquisition programme in NATO".

The missiles and missile launchers will go "to support Poland's modernization and manufacture of a total of 22 PILICA+ air defence batteries."

A Downing Street press release said British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak hailed the "landmark deal... as a major boost for Euro-Atlantic security". It added that Poland already uses MBDA's CAMM.

"It is already deployed to Poland with the British Army to protect its airspace following (Russian President Vladimir) Putin's barbaric invasion of Ukraine," Sunak's office said. Polish Defence Minister Mariusz Blaszczak tweeted that the deal would "reinforce Poland's aerial defence



The Narew SHORAD SAM programme is one of the prioritized undertakings in the Polish Armed Forces Technical Modernization Programme. Design for part of the Narew SHORAD system from Poland. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PGZ/FILE**

capacity". Downing Street added on Twitter that "the deal will

support 500 jobs, helping to grow the economy and provide crit-

ical defence infrastructure for Poland". — AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Cyberattacks increasing in Japan ahead of G-7 summit

THE number of cyberattacks against companies and government offices has been increasing in Japan since March, ahead of a Group of Seven summit the country is set to host in May, sources familiar with the matter said Saturday.

Troubles caused by DDoS attacks, which attempt to disrupt the online traffic of a server or network by overwhelming it with data, were mostly fixed quickly, the sources said.

"There is a possibility that (Japan) is being targeted as the host of the G-7 summit, and we have warned relevant organizations to stay alert," an official at the National Centre of Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity said.

Tsunehiko Suzuki, a professor of information engineering at Chukyo University, said the attacks may have come as part of preparations for launching a full-scale attack.

The series of attacks began around March 14 and are still ongoing, he said. The summit will be held in Hiroshima between 19 and 21 May, bringing together the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States, plus the European Union. — Kyodo

## Greenland unveils draft constitution for future independence

GREENLAND'S lawmakers on Friday got their first look at a draft constitution which the autonomous territory could rely on if it comes to negotiating independence from Denmark.

Developed in secrecy over four years, the 49-paragraph document written in Greenlandic was presented by a constitutional commission to the territory's parliament, the Inatsisartut, where it will now be discussed.

The text, still in the draft stage, did not come down firmly on several key issues, local media reported — including Greenlandic passport access and the administration of justice, areas still managed by mainland Denmark.

It also made no reference to the monarchy, leaving unresolved



Icebergs at Kulusuk: Greenland is very sparsely populated. **PHOTO: JONATHAN NACKSTRAND/AFP**

the question of whether the queen or king of Denmark would remain head of state.

"For the time being (the draft constitution) is primarily a Greenlandic issue. It will only concern Denmark when Greenland has

discussed it and depending on what the politicians decide," Ulrik Pram Gad, a researcher at the Danish Institute for International Studies and an expert on Danish-Greenlandic relations told AFP. — AFP



This photo illustration shows the ChatGPT logo at an office in Washington, DC, on 15 March 2023. **ILLUSTRATION: STEFANI REYNOLDS/AFP**

## Italy lifts block on ChatGPT, AI chatbot owner says

ITALY has lifted its block on ChatGPT after temporarily banning it over data privacy concerns last month, the artificial intelligence chatbot's owner said Friday.

"ChatGPT is available again for our users in Italy. We are delighted to welcome them back and remain committed to protecting their personal data," an

OpenAI spokesperson said.

ChatGPT caused a global sensation when it was released last year for generating essays, songs, exams and even news articles from brief prompts.

But critics have fretted over how ChatGPT and its competitors collect and process their data.

In March, Italy became the

first Western country to take action against the popular AI chatbot. The country's data protection watchdog had said that US firm OpenAI, which developed ChatGPT, had no legal basis to justify the mass collection and storage of personal data for training the algorithms underlying the operation of the platform. — AFP

Huge fire at  
Crimea fuel depot  
after drone strike:  
authorities

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# SPORT



Myanmar U-17 women team's striker Za Kha Rozi (No 9) overtakes the Indian defender with speed during the group F match of Asian Cup Qualifiers played at Dolen Omurzakov Stadium, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on 28 April. PHOTO: MFF

## Myanmar girls squad face shocking loss to India in Asian Cup Qualifiers

MYANMAR U-17 women's football team suffered a 1-2 defeat to India U-17 women's team in the group F match of the Asian Cup Qualifiers played at Dolen Omurzakov Stadium, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on 28 April.

Starting line-up of team Myanmar include Goalkeeper Thuzar Aung, Defenders: Yamin Phyu, Yu Yu Naing, Min Min Nu, and Thel Ei Hlaing, Midfielders: Honey Moe, Kay Thwe Phyo Oo, Nyein Nyein Phyo, and Khin Bhone, and strikers Za Kha Rozi, and Yu Ya Naing.

Indian team played in a good manner and repeatedly pressured team Myanmar from the kick-off.

Myanmar midfielder Khin Bhone's kick in the penalty area hit the post and lost the icebreaker in the early minutes.

In the 27 and 33 minutes of the game, Raul and Pooja scored the first and winning goals for the Indian team, so Myanmar lost by 0-2 at the end of the first half.

In the second half, team Myanmar made player chang-

es and put more pressure on the Indian team to score an equalizer.

In the 76<sup>th</sup> minute of the game, Yamin Phyu scored an equalizer for the Myanmar team through a free kick.

However, in the overtime, two Myanmar players were sent off due to an altercation with the Indian players.

At the final whistle, team India celebrated the (2-1) victory over Myanmar and qualified for the second round qualifiers. — KZL

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

#### 1. Political affairs

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

#### 2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance development based on agriculture and livestock using modern production techniques and to strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To assure support for the sustainability of Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) that prioritize import substitution, export production, and the use of domestically produced raw materials, in order to increase domestic production and generate employment opportunities.
- (d) To advance the socioeconomic life of the people, in order to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.

#### 3. Social affairs

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

## Modric injury makes him a cup final and Champions League doubt

LUKA Modric has "an injury to the back of his left thigh" Real Madrid said on Friday, casting doubt on whether he will be fit to face Manchester City in their Champions League semi-final first leg match. The Real statement gave no further details but Spanish media reported the 37-year-old Croatian star will be out for about ten days. The Spanish cup final is on 6 May and the first leg of the Champions League semi-final against the English champions is in Madrid on 9 May. Modric was replaced by French international midfielder Aurelien Tchouameni

in the 63rd minute as Real lost 4-2 to Girona in La Liga on Tuesday.

"He had a minor injury in Girona and is unavailable," coach Carlo Ancelotti told a press conference on Friday.

"We're waiting to see how he progresses and I don't know if he will make the cup final.

"Let's hope we have him back for the remaining games, which are important."

In La Liga, Real face Almeria on Saturday and visit Real Sociedad on Tuesday before playing Osasuna in the Spanish cup final in Seville. — AFP

## Football great Pele enters Portuguese dictionary as an adjective

"PELE," arguably the best footballer in history, is now also an adjective.

On Wednesday, the word "pele" was added to the more than 167,000 words in the Michaelis Portuguese dictionary printed in Brazil.

For the world's 265 million-odd Portuguese speakers, "pele" can now be used to denote something or someone extraordinary — the sense in which it is already employed informally in Brazil.

"The expression already used to refer to someone who is the best at what they do has been eternalized on the pages of the dictionary!" the Pele Foundation said on Instagram.

Under the new entry, the word is defined as "exceptional, incomparable, unique" — qualities associated with "The King" of football who died in December at the age of 82. — AFP



Brazilian football star Pele displays the FIFA World Cup during its presentation in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 6 February 2010. Pele died on 29 December 2022. PHOTO: GABRIEL LOPES/AFP/FILE