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

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

Supplies donated by neighbouring countries will be distributed to all storm-hit victims without leaving anyone



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing speaks on the cash-donation occasion for relief and rehabilitation measures in disaster-hit areas on 20 May 2023 in Yangon.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the ceremony to donate cash for relief and rehabilitation tasks in disaster-hit areas, at the Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha of Yangon Command Headquarters yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that the government held the emergency meeting on natural disaster management on 15 May to un-

dertake necessary emergency management, response, relief and cooperation as well as rehabilitation. Meanwhile, well-wishers donated K13.181 billion for the relief and rehabilitation of the storm victims.

Now, Tatmadaw members, Myanmar Police Force members and departmental personnel are assigned to the storm-hit areas to carry out help, relief and rehabilitation with might and main.

Some people refused to

move from their places to safer places. So, some losses of life happened. It can be seen that those who reached the safer places escaped from the loss of life. Up to 19 May, regions and states lost 183,024 houses, 1,711 religious buildings, 59 monasteries, 1,397 schools, 227 hospitals and clinics, 11 telecom towers, 199 lamp-posts, five transformers, one market, Sittway and Kyaukpyu airports and 340 departmental buildings. A total of

145 persons were dead.

Donated cash of K7 billion was handed over to the state chief minister in Sittway on 15 May. Relief supplies were sent to storm-hit areas from Pyay and Magway routes. Moreover, these relief supplies were sent by air. Now, cash donations amounted to some K20 billion except for donations from other areas.

Aid will be sent to not only Rakhine State but some parts of Chin State. As it is necessary

to firmly do rehabilitation tasks before monsoon, the government focuses on such rehabilitation tasks. Donated cash will be efficiently spent on the relevant sectors.

The Senior General presented certificates of honour to donors who initially donated cash for relief and rehabilitation in the storm-hit areas on 15 May.

SEE PAGE-3



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Myanmar Gazette
Appointment of Head of Service Organization
THE State Administration Council has appointed Deputy Permanent Secretary U Htet Aung from the Union Minister Office at Union Government Office as Director-General of the Union Minister Office on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.



99 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 20 May, total figure registers 637,954
MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to **637,954** after **99** new cases were reported on 20 May 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.
Therefore, a total of **10,564,275** laboratory samples were examined and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached **637,954**.
The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **616,806** including **141** new recoveries.
The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered **19,494** on 20-5-2023 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 increasing of death rate based on the disease.

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. Further updates and notifica-

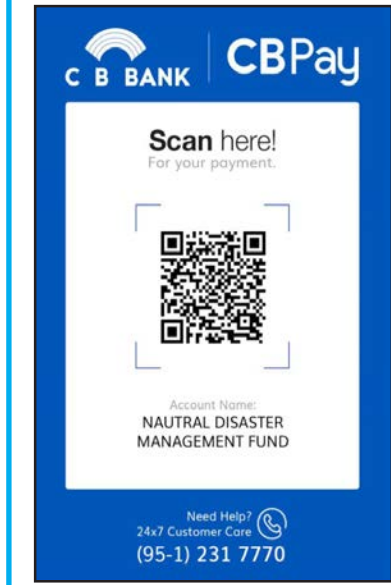
tions will be made in due course. 3. It has been announced that donations can be made to the previously announced phone number and to the ac-

count 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 and OK \$, 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
Nay Pyi Taw	Yangon	Mandalay
U Win Shwe Deputy Director-General Department of Disaster Management 067-3404048 09-254170011	Daw Than Than Win Deputy Director Department of Disaster Management Office of Yangon Region Department 09-420740160	

Nation's strength stays put within

ONLY when all State service personnel, civil society organizations and entire ethnic people are to join hands with the government and Tatmadaw in building the Union based on democracy and federalism the entire ethnic people aspire to will they all reach the target in a short time. In line with the motto: "The strength of the nation lives only within" which plays a key role in marching towards the goal, all ethnic national people are to forge unity with patriotic spirit and the Union spirit and to protect the State in all aspects.

(Excerpts from the message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadue Maha Thray Sithu Thadue Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to ceremony of 71st Anniversary Kayah State Day which falls on 15 January 2023)

Supplies donated by neighbouring countries will be distributed to all storm-hit victims without leaving anyone



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing accepts cash donations from foreign and local well-wishers yesterday in Yangon (above and below photos).



FROM PAGE-1

The Senior General also accepted cash donated by well-wishers for relief and rehabilitation tasks.

The Senior General disclosed that India provides re-

lief aid to Myanmar by ship and China sends foodstuffs through land borders. Thailand will present supplies to Myanmar on Monday. ASEAN AHA Centre schedules to present relief aid to Myanmar. Supplies donated

by neighbouring countries will be distributed to all storm-hit victims without leaving anyone.

The Senior General viewed documentary photos on losses and damage in the disaster-hit areas, donations of well-wishers,

sending of aid to disaster-hit regions and progress of relief and rehabilitation tasks.

Yesterday, well-wishers donated K8,717,539,500, one million baht, 100,000 CI sheets and roofing equipment worth

K1.5 billion, and instant noodles, biscuits and purified drinking water worth 100,000 yuan. Well-wishers donated K13.181 billion on 15 May. So, total donations amounted to more than K21,898.5 million. — MNA/TTA

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects progress of Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex (KMIC), maintenance of Pyidaungsu Hall and buildings of National Convention near Nyaughnapin Village



The Premier hears the report on the implementation of the Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex (KMIC) yesterday.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday afternoon inspected a site chosen for the implementation of the Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex (KMIC) near Nyaughnapin Village in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region.

Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant reported on the implementation of the project in phases, preparations for building the staff housings, buildings and roads, supply of electricity and water, land utilization for the project and formation of the project steering body.

After hearing the reports,



The Senior General looks into the documentary photos.



the Senior General stressed the need to choose the sites for staff housing. It is necessary to supply sufficient water under systematic measures. Infrastructures must be prepared for rapid implementation of the projects.

The Premier views the maintenance of the Pyidaungsu Hall where the National Convention was convened.

The Senior General highlighted it is necessary to prepare to undertake agriculture and livestock farms and construction of the hospitals for providing food and accommodation as well as healthcare services for workers. He called for connection with relevant companies to timely implement the project.

The Senior General inspected the documentary photos on maintenance of the Pyidaungsu Hall where the National Convention was convened and Anawrahta Yeiktha, and visited there.

The Senior General gave guidance that these buildings were used in convening the National Convention to draw the Constitution (2008), and it is necessary to maintain these buildings without damage, he added.

A total of 702 delegates from eight groups held the National Convention seven times to approve the Constitution (2008) at the Pyidaungsu Hall from 2004 to 2007. After that, the Pyidaungsu Hall was not used. Due to a lack of maintenance, the hall was damaged. In accord with the guidance of the Senior General during his visit, maintenance was undertaken at the hall. — MNA/TTA

Agricultural tasks must be undertaken through modern techniques rather than conventional methods: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Premier Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hears the report on the Nyaungnabin Agriculture and Livestock Special Zone yesterday.

ONLY when agriculture and production rise will locals have increased incomes, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in inspecting the progress of agricultural and livestock farms in the Nyaungnabin agriculture and livestock special zone yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting hall of the special zone, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and officials reported on a brief history of the special zone, agriculture and livestock farming tasks in sections of the zone, production



The Premier views round the agricultural and livestock farms (above and below photos).



and sale of vegetables, meat, milk and eggs, the accomplishment of the guidance of the Senior General on his tour in June 2022, the average consumption of Yangon Region for meat and fish per month and year, repairing of roads in the zone, further implementation of the zone, and plans to reclaim livestock zones in Taikkyi and Twantay townships.

In his speech, the Senior General stressed the need to systematically supervise full farming tasks for agriculture and livestock breeding and prevention of abuse of agricultural and livestock farmlands. Private entrepreneurs are regulated to actually operate agriculture and livestock farms on the allotted lands. Agricultural tasks must be undertaken through

modern techniques, rather than conventional methods. Only when agriculture and production rise will the locals have increased incomes. Manufacturing roads must be built systematically in the zone. The Senior General also discussed future tasks for the development of the agricultural and livestock sectors.

At Green Light Agriculture

and Livestock Farm, an official briefed on raising the layers in the farms, fish farming tasks and cultivation of perennial crops, breeding of fingerlings and nurturing the saplings.

After hearing the reports, the Senior General pointed out that feedstuffs must be produced in Yangon Region with the use of domestic agricultural production.

The Senior General inspected raising layers at the farm, fish farming tasks, and cultivation of perennial plants and gave necessary guidance. The Senior General also inspected the private layer farm and the goat farm and agricultural patches of the Yangon Region government and visited the vegetable wholesale complex 2. — MNA/TTA

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

SAC Chair PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds coord meeting on relief and rehabilitation for storm-hit areas



State Administration Council Chairman Premier Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends the coordination meeting for relief and rehabilitation measures for areas battered by Cyclone Mocha, yesterday.

STATE Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing held a work coordination meeting for relief and rehabilitation activities for areas stricken by the severe cyclonic storm Mocha at the Office of Commander-in-Chief yesterday.

The meeting was attended by SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Union Ministers U Win Shein, U Khin Maung Yee, U Min Naung and U Myo Thant, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung, high-rank-

ing Tatmadaw officers from the Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and the responsible personnel.

First of all, General Maung Maung Aye explained matters relating to the relief and rehabilitation measures being carried out in the storm-stricken areas. Afterwards, the Union ministers, the Yangon Region chief minister, the high-ranking officers from the Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and the Yangon Command commander submitted matters relating to the possibility of monsoon entering Yangon Region and middle Myanmar in May, providing food and relief assistance donated by Tatmadaw family members

and the well-wishing working people, the relief supplies provided by the National Disaster Management Committee and the relief teams, the situation on transporting relief aid and supplies by Tatmadaw aircraft, helicopters and naval vessels, the medical cover, measures being taken for recultivation in the storm-hit areas, sending of the veterinary doctors, the repair and restoration works for the damaged schools and hospitals and providing construction materials.

After hearing their explanations, the Senior General replied that Sittway and Rathedaung are the worst hit in Rakhine State, that there were also some casualties,

that meetings are to be held on a daily basis to focus on the worst hit areas, that providing the relief items is to be carried out systematically with the transactions entered into the register, that priority is to be given to providing of sufficient food supplies as well as to ensuring no communication breakdown, that the trees blocking the roads are to be cleared off, that the trees hindering the electric lamp posts and the wire cables are also needed to be cleared off and that more relief supplies are to arrive soon. He went on to say that the conveyors are to be made ready to be able to transport the relief aids swiftly, that the mobile healthcare teams

and the special healthcare teams are to provide healthcare services to the full, and those relief and rehabilitation tasks are to be undertaken effectively and efficiently with the use of necessary human resources and machinery, that more shelters are required to be built and that the military engineering corps is needed to provide assistance as and where necessary.

Next, he concluded, among other things, that it is necessary to make arrangements for transporting meat and fish cans and that the responsible personnel are required to see to the needs of the monasteries and nunneries. — MNA

MoBA Union Minister meets MPF, MFS, departmental personnel & volunteers for relief, rehabilitation in Sittway

UNION Minister for the Ministry of Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin met members of the Myanmar Police Force and fire brigades and Parahita organizations from states and regions who came to render helping hands in relief and rehabilitation measures in Sittway.

The Union minister called for the clear up of the roads including the main thoroughfares, the re-erection and re-installation of electricity poles and power cables, and swift clear-up operations in hospitals, schools and important

infrastructures.

The Union minister and the chief minister inspected the clear-up of fallen trees and branches on Mayyu Road, main roads and lanes in Sittway, collective cleaning activities in schools, monasteries, hospitals, clinics and office buildings, and the distribution of electricity. — Tin Tun (IPRD)/KZW

Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung provides instructions to volunteers yesterday.



Team led by DPM MoTC Union Minister makes inspection tours in Sittway

STATE Administration Council member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San and Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung inspected the cleanup measures conducted by the members of Myanmar Police Force and Myanmar Fire Services Department at the Rakhine State government's guesthouse together with Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin yesterday.

Then, they went to Lawkananda Pagoda, Shakyamuni Theintaw Pagoda and Sasana Beikman and instructed the pagoda boards of trustees regarding the repairing works.

They also inspected the cleanup activities in the pagoda compound, ration and supplies kept at Sasana Beikman and ordered to distribute to the storm-affected areas.

Then, they oversaw the distribution processes of supplies from the navy ship Mottama.

On arrival at Sittway Gen-

eral Hospital (500-bed), the deputy minister for Construction and the director-general of the Health Department reported on the repairs of the hospital and ongoing work plans and the Deputy Prime Minister and party instructed to renovate the hospital, nursing institute and to reopen the suspended courses.

They also inspected the storage of rice, cooking oil, ration, tarpaulin, distribution of supplies and re-roofing of warehouses at the warehouse of Myanma Port Authority.

They met with the state and township education officers at No 1 BEHS and instructed the need to conduct cleanup and maintenance at the high schools in Sittway Township, school enrollment processes as per the fixed period and other matters.

At noon, they observed the Life Straw mobile water purification machines of the Rural Development Department under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development at the state government office.



Deputy Prime Minister Admiral Tin Aung San and party inspect the Life Straw water purifying unit in Sittway yesterday.

These machines will purify the water of Satyoekya Creek between 15 litres to 20 litres per hour and produce water for 100 people a day.

A total of 50 water purifiers will be distributed to the storm-hit areas and another 160 water purifiers that will arrive soon will be also allotted.

They attended the coordi-

nation meeting on rehabilitation activities held at the state government office on the same evening.

During the meeting, Deputy Ministers and officials of 12 disaster taskforces reported on the completed and ongoing work plans regarding rehabilitation processes.

Then, the Deputy Prime

Minister highlighted the arrangements of the government to supervise the rehabilitation processes in storm-affected Rakhine State, systematic distribution of relief items and supplies, disease prevention, health awareness programmes and cooperation work between the department and locals. — Tin Tun (IPRD)/KTZH

Tatmadaw senior officers commence rehabilitation tasks in Kyaukpyu Township



LT-GEN Lu Aye, Brig-Gen Zaw Min Aye and relevant officials arrived in Kyaukpyu Township yesterday to conduct rehabilitation processes, meet the members of the Disaster Management Committee, and inspected the losses and damages.

First, they went to Kyaukpyu Education Degree College and inspected the Thazain building that was destroyed in

the storm and instructed to conduct repair works.

During the meeting held at Kyaukpyu District General Administration Department Office, Administrator U Ye Lin Maung reported on the preparations and competition of rehabilitation activities. Then, Lt-Gen Lu Aye said it will accelerate the rebuilding processes in Kyaukpyu township and in some townships of Rakhine

State. As the preventive measures were made, it reduced the potential damages and the people were not affected. The local people and departments concerned should work together in rehabilitation processes.

Then, the officials went to the Kyauktalone IDP camp and met with the officials of the camp supervisory committee and made proper instructions. — Tin Tun Oo (IPRD)/KTZH

Tatmadaw senior officers inspect damage in MraukU township

MAJ-GEN Thaug Htike Shwe and relevant officials made inspection tours to the destroyed roofs and ceilings of Basic Education Schools in Mrauk U Township damaged by the Cyclone yesterday morning.

The Maj-Gen and party arrived at the damaged sites of No 1 Basic Education High

School, No 1 Basic Education Middle School and Taungyat Post-Primary School and instructed concerned officials to speedy launch the repairing works before back to school period. In addition, the Maj-Gen and party fulfilled the needs. — Myint Soe (IPRD)/MKKS



OPINION

ARTICLE BOOKRACK

Seek ways and means to turn out well-versed human resources

THE Myanmar National Education Conference 2023 is in progress at Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw till 20 May, up from 18 May. Such a conference is held in the time of the State Administration Council for the first time through collaborative efforts of all ministries, aimed at improving the education standard of Myanmar.

Myanmar is implementing the 30-year national education promotion plan from the 2001-02 financial year to the 2030-31 financial year comprising six five-year short-term plans. The Myanmar National Education Conference was held at Yangon's Diamond Jubilee Hall, Yezin University of Agriculture, University of Veterinary Science, Taunggyi University and Mawlamyine University from 2003 to 2019.

As the government increases the education budget year by year in order to enhance the education sector, education staff are to strive for serving the assigned duty with the utmost effort in turning out well-versed human resources for benefiting the country.

Currently, the government is striving for improvement in the education sector. As part of turning out the qualified human resources, 50 districts will launch 51 technical, agriculture and livestock high schools where the students who have passed the KG+9 education can attend from the 2023-24 academic year. It needs to open 75 similar schools in further districts in the 2024-25 academic year. Upon completion of opening these schools, schools will each have 18,500 students at the basic education school level per year.

As the government increases the education budget year by year in order to enhance the education sector, education staff are to strive for serving the assigned duty with the utmost effort in turning out well-versed human resources for benefiting the country.

It is scheduled to focus on finding ways to remedy the lowering numbers of education level transition, conducting the KG+9 education as the national task in all regions and states, and teaching agricultural, livestock and technical subjects in KG+10, 11, 12 to ensure the basic vocational skills, turning out human resources to learn agricultural, livestock breeding and technical subjects that can be applied in workplaces, teaching higher education in a supportive atmosphere for the community in addition to the subjects related skills, producing professionals in arts, science and technology sectors to uplift the nationalism and patriotism of young people.

The experts related to the education sector took part in the penal discussions. Penal Discussion 1 was organized under the topic "Finding ways to raise the numbers of students and complete KG+9 education at least", while Penal Discussion 2 discussed "Finding ways to produce intellectuals, technicians and experts to support the development of a social community in addition to subject-specific skills in the higher education sector", and Penal Discussion 3 on "Exploring ways to ensure basic vocational skills with agriculture, livestock breeding and technology after KG+9 education".

NEARLY 337 million life years were lost in the two first years of the Covid-19 pandemic, as millions of people died prematurely, the World Health Organization said on Friday.

The UN health agency's annual world statistics report also showed a swelling threat from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as heart disease, cancer and diabetes.

The most dramatic finding, based on data up to 2022, was the estimate of how many years of life Covid had taken, WHO said.

The pandemic has wreaked global devastation and officially killed nearly seven million people, with the true figure believed to be closer to 20 million.

The WHO report lays bare how the virus itself and the broad-

Hundreds of millions of life years lost to pandemic: WHO

er impact of the crisis abruptly cut short the lives of millions of people.

While the WHO officially registered 5.4 million Covid deaths in 2020 and 2021, its excess mortality data shows around 14.9 million people actually likely died due to the crisis over that period.

Even more striking, perhaps, it said the statistics show that during those two years alone, Covid resulted in the loss globally of 336.8 million years that otherwise would have been lived.

"It's like losing 22 years of life for every excess death," Samira Asma, WHO's assistant chief for data and analytics, told reporters



Ahead of the launch.

Off-track

"Significant inequities underpin the distribution of Covid-19 cases and deaths, as well as access to vaccinations," the report said.

The WHO warned that the pandemic had helped throw off-track many health-related indicators that had been improving for years.

A family wearing masks walks in downtown Los Angeles. PHOTO: APU GOMES/AFP/FILE

During the first two decades of the century, the world saw significant improvements in maternal and child health, with deaths falling by one-third and one-half respectively. The incidence of infectious diseases like HIV, tuberculosis and malaria also declined significantly, as did the risk of premature death from NCDs.

Global life expectancy rose from 67 years in 2000 to 73 in 2019.

But after the pandemic hit, existing inequalities in access to high-quality health care, routine immunisations and financial protection deepened, among other things sending the long improving trends on malaria and TB in the

opposite direction.

'Stark message'

And while the world still enjoys health progress overall, the share of deaths caused each year by NCDs has grown, the study showed.

In 2000, around 61 per cent of global deaths annually were linked to NCDs. By 2019, almost 74 per cent were.

"If this trend continues, NCDs are projected to account for about 86 per cent of the 90 million annual deaths by mid-century," WHO said in a statement.

"The report sends a stark message on the threat of non-communicable diseases, which take an immense and increasing toll," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

SOURCE: AFP



Book Title	-	Nay Wun Bayin Myar (Lords of the Sunset by Maurice Collis)
Translator	-	Kyaw Aung
Publishing House	-	Yapyae
Publication Date	-	February 2023 (2nd Edition)
Price	-	K7,000

Nay Wun Bayin Myar (Lords of the Sunset by Maurice Collis)

BEFORE dealing with the book, I would like to introduce Maurice Collis, the writer of this book, first. Maurice Steward Collis was an administrator in Burma when it was part of the British Empire, and afterwards a writer on Southeast Asia, China and other historical subjects. He was a peculiar British Colonist-Administrator. He was a district commissioner for Rakhine State, then a district magistrate in Rangoon. He was different from other British, never having regarded Myanmar people as the oppressed. He was never seen to be biased against the British in the cases between the British and the Burmese. His judgments were based only on the facts and evidence of the

dislike of the British people. The British community in Yangon shunned him. He retired early and returned to England where he devoted his life to writing the novels. He wrote books about Myanmar. His feelings, notions and experiences can be found in his books, particularly the one titled "Myanmarpyi Ahtway Ahkyon" - i.e., experiences gained in Burma. Most famous among his writings were - Trials in Burma, Sanda Marlar, Siamese White and She Was a Queen. The book under review is Nay Wun Bayin Myar. He returned to Burma after retirement. During his stay here, he visited the Shan State. And so, his visit to Shan State had been the food for thought, which he turned into

this novel. He has highlighted the cultural customs and the administration systems of the Bamars and the Shans. But he has not ignored the geographical situations of the mainland of Burma and the Shan Plateau. The period of the novel was the colonial era. At a time when the Bamars had their own monarchs, the Shans ruled their state under monarchism. After occupying the City of Mandalay, the British colonialists drove a wedge between the Bamars and the Shans, giving incentives to the Shan Sawbwas. They attempted to annex Keng Tung, but the Keng Tung Sawbwa did not want to be subdued, so, he made an attempt to assassinate Sir J Scott. In the meantime, the

French colonialist was also trying to occupy Keng Tung. The daughter of the Sawbwa, who was only 20 at that time, was of the opinion that it was better to be under the British than the French. Thinking so, she tried to save Sir J Scott. It was an adventure during which she rode a horse that galloped dangerously.

In those days, the British cultivated the sons and daughters of the Sawbwas, giving them education in such great universities as Oxford and Cambridge. In this novel, the readers will see the descendants of the Sawbwas speaking English, being possessed with the proper table manners, and enjoying wine and champagne. They were all leading a British lifestyle.

Concerning the historical events, Maurice Collis mentioned how the Shan leaders had been actively involved in having the Pang Long Pact signed by other nationals such as Kayins, Kachins, Chins, Kayahs, Mons and Rakhines in addition to the Shans and the Bamars. The organization and mobilization were done under the leadership and guidance of the Shan State People's Liberation Federation.

The 270-page book has 48 chapters of interest. The objective of the writer is to enable the British to understand the Shans. He has written the book as he sees things in Myanmar.



Book Title	-	Sayagyi Dr Than Tun Sar Gadaw Pan
Writer	-	Multiple pens
Publishing House	-	Hnitkalamyar
Publication Date	-	April 2023 (1st Edition)
Price	-	K8,000

Sayagyi Dr Than Tun Sar Gadaw Pan (A Celebration of a Centenarian)

A teacher is said to be giving shade to his disciples. It is always good for the pupils to be able to live in the cool shade of a teacher. For, it is a teacher who can make his pupils able to see the world outlook correctly. He shows the right way to have a correct outlook on the world. He can make his students able to be possessed with the correct thinking.

Sayagyi Dr Than Tun is a great teacher, said Dr Toe Hla, the chairman of the committee to publish the book to commemorate the centenary of Dr Than Tun in his foreword to this book under review. In dedication to the great centenarian, this book was published by his students. Although Dr Than Tun was dead and gone, he is not forgotten by his students. The book was published before his birthday which falls on 6 April. Although the term, 'His students and comrades' is used, they are not ordinary people. They are holding high social status in terms of academic careers,

service careers and business careers. His students and comrades include people like Dr Toe Hla, Professor U Kyaw, Maung Yan Aye (Kyaukse), Thamaing Dagon U Tun Nwe, Dr Khin Maung Nyunt, Maung Than Swe (Dawei), Mya Han, U Kyaw, Tekkatho Wint Mar, Dr Sein Myint, Thein Htay (Magway), Maung Tin Chon, Than Tun (Sagu), Maung Swan Yee, Maung Nwe Htet, Tun Aung Chein, Zaw Lin Aung, Mo Mo Thant and Zaw Soe Min. The last four persons wrote articles in English. Regarding the last moment of Sayagyi, Saya Maung Than Swe (Dawei) said that Sayagyi died when he was back in his native city of Mandalay. His funeral was held in Taung Thaman Inn where he was entombed. If he passed away in other towns and the funeral was held in Yangon, his students and comrades will build memorial gravestones like people did for Ludu U Hla, Nyo Mya, Mya Than Tint and Khin Hnin Yu etc.

Bogyoke Aung San as saying that he has ordered Tatmadaw members to pay due respect to their teachers. Saya Mya Han wrote how Bogyoke was humble enough to pay respect to his teachers. He said that when Bogyoke was a colonel in the Japanese Period, he saw Sayagyi U Pe Maung Tin riding a bicycle and that he picked up his teacher and took him in his car to send him to the university.

Saya Maung Swan Yee said that Dr Than Tun was previously a history teacher from the University of Yangon, that when the history professor of the University of Mandalay retired, he was transferred there, that he was a friend of writer Linn Yon Ni and that he was the chairman of the university students' union and the all-Burma students' union.

Saya Maung Nwe Htet mentioned the quotations of Sayagyi Dr Than Tun in his article.

In his article, Saya Mya Han quoted

Myanmar Education Conference 2023 successfully concludes



The Plenary Session of the third-day Myanmar Education Conference 2023 in progress for the final day.

THE Plenary Session of the third-day Myanmar Education Conference 2023 took place at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. The session was attended by Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe, the deputy ministers, permanent secretaries, directors-general, rectors, professors, paper presenters, pan-

ellists and other invitees. During the Plenary Session, discussion group chairpersons and panellists presented the conference processes and outcomes related to the seven topics discussed on the second day. These suggestions and negotiations were collectively reviewed and discussed by the participants. One of the topics dis-

cussed was "The importance of increasing the number of students attending school", presented by Deputy Director-General U Toe Win of the Sagaing Education Commissioner's Office and the panellists. They highlighted various aspects such as creating a healthy learning environment, evaluating the effectiveness of continuous assessment sys-

tems, facilitating the readmission of students who have been separated, recommending joint participation of monastic and private schools, and equalizing student-teacher ratios.

In parallel sessions, different topics were addressed. These included completing KG+9 as a national issue, recommending higher enrolment rates, providing qualified teachers and producing good and literate citizens with patriotism and love for country, identifying methods for vocational skill acquisition for youths who have completed KG+9, effectively teaching technical and vocational skills for the workplace, improving higher education and producing knowledgeable professionals, higher research and innovation beneficial and applicable for MSMEs, cultivation of quality teachers, and enhancing the qualifications of teachers through the linkage between the Teacher Knowledge Criteria Framework (TCSF) and Inter-School Quality Assur-

ance (IQA). The conference participants actively discussed and suggested recommendations based on the summary of the pre-recommendation processes. The discussion summary report of the conference was presented by Director-General U Ko Lay Win of the Myanmar National Language and Culture Department. Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe expressed his gratitude and pride for the active participation of all the teachers during the three-day event, emphasizing the successful collaboration among the Ministry of Education and 11 related ministries.

In his closing speech, the Union minister highlighted that this conference marked the first successful joint effort of all education-related departments to improve future education. Despite the short duration, the Myanmar Education Conference 2023 was deemed a successful event by the Ministry of Education and its partners. — MNA/KZL

Students from Nay Pyi Taw schools pay observation tours to Myanmar National Education Conference 2023

THET students from primary and secondary schools and private schools in Zabuthiri Township Nay Pyi Taw visited the galleries that were displayed at the Myanmar National Education Conference 2023.

The Myanmar National Education Conference 2023 was held at the Myanmar International Convention Center-2 in Nay Pyi Taw from 18 to 20 May with paper-reading sessions, parallel discussions and educational galleries.

There are 30 exhibits of information, industry, agriculture, livestock, vocational sector,

Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Border Affairs, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health.

"Students from the National Culture and Arts Universities in Yangon and Mandalay are participating in the Hand Painting activity for children to love painting. In addition, children are



The students from primary and secondary schools and private schools in Zabuthiri Township Nay Pyi Taw are seen paying observation tours round the exhibition booths at the conference (above and below photos).



keen on singing performances of Myanmar traditional puppetry, harp and xylophone," said a gallery in charge from the National University of Culture and Arts (Yangon).

In addition, large numbers of students reportedly visited and observed the educational galleries and games to relax and have fun. — Win Thant/MKKS



MoCRD Deputy Minister inspects rehabilitation processes



Arrangement of drinking water supply in progress in Sittway.

DEPUTY Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Myint Soe and officials inspected the rehabilitation works of office buildings and staff housing damaged by Cyclone Mocha on 19 May.

The deputy minister arrived at the office of the Cooperative Department in Sittway township and instructed responsible persons to carry out

speedy cleaning works and fulfilled the necessary things in rehabilitation processes.

In addition, the deputy minister coordinated the arrangement of drinking water supply conducted by the Rural Development Department.

The Department of Rural Development has reportedly sent the mobile purified water truck

from Ayeyawady Region to Sittway to ensure no drinking water shortage in Sittway township.

Afterwards, the deputy minister met the staff from the Weaving School in Sittway township and inspected the damage of the Rural Development Department, the Small-Scale Industries Department and the Rural Road Development Department. — MNA/MKKS

MoEP Deputy Minister inspects reinstallation of electricity cables

DEPUTY Minister for Electric Power U Aye Kyaw and officials inspected the repair of power substations and maintenance of power cables damaged by Mocha in Sittway township on 19 May.

Firstly, the deputy minister inspected the reinstallation of township power distribution cables along the Mayyu main road and near Gen-

eral Hospital on strand road, the switch yard and control room of the 66/11 kV substation 1, staff housing and the arrival of power cables and related items from Nay Pyi Taw and Magway region to Sittway.

In addition, the deputy minister inspected the damage of related things in the 66/11 kV Satyokya substation and the reinstallation

of damaged towers at the 66 kV power cables that are distributed to Sittway.

Electricians and skilled staff from the Ministry of Electric Power are making efforts to reinstall 14 collapsed towers of the 230 kV An-MraukU-Ponnagyun National Grid in order to restore electricity in Rakhine State. — MNA/MKKS



The re-erection and reinstallation of electricity poles and power cables underway in Sittway.

Rapid Response Team, special medical team offer healthcare services in timely manner in Mocha-hit areas

THE Ministry of Health has made preparations regarding healthcare services by organizing coordination meetings daily with health officials since it received news of a storm to occur in the Bay of Bengal. It also provided healthcare services and rehabilitation activities in addition to the safety of health workers and patients across the nation as quickly as possible

after the storm.

It also sent the RRT, special medical teams and medics to the Mocha-hit areas starting 15 May.

Currently, 10 medical teams that included specialists from the University of Medicine 1 and 2 Yangon arrived in Sittway and they provided healthcare services at the monasteries, nunneries and wards of Sittway.



Water chlorination in Ponnagyun Township.



Healthcare services are provided locals in storm-hit areas in Rakhine State (top and above photos).



Healthcare for residents in Ponnagyun Township

Moreover, eight RRTs arrived in Minbya township of Rakhine State while two teams in Rathedaung, seven teams in Ponnagyun, two teams in Pauktaw and three teams in Yanbye township to conduct healthcare services together with township health staff. They also added chlorine into the water tanks, lakes and wells to prevent diarrhoea for the public. Moreover, they conducted education programmes about the instal-

lation of water purification systems, health awareness programmes and treated injured persons, made medical checks and sent the patients to public hospitals if necessary.

The special medical team comprising special-

ists of Maungtau Township also provided health services in Donepike village of Rathedaung Township on 17 May. The special medical teams will keep providing health services in the townships of Rakhine State. — MNA/KTZH

ECONOMY WORLD



The leaders of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are in Xian for a two-day meeting. This photo taken on 15 May 2023 shows a view of the Bell Tower in Xi'an, northwest China's Shaanxi Province. **PHOTO: ZHANG BOWEN/XINHUA**

Xi says China, Central Asia must 'fully unleash' potential

XI Jinping called on China and Central Asia to "fully unleash" their potential in trade, economic and infrastructure cooperation Friday, as he wrapped up a landmark summit with heads of state from the strategically vital region. The Chinese leader is hosting the leaders of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan at a summit in Xi'an in northern China this week -- a meeting Beijing has said is of "milestone" significance. Beijing says trade

with Central Asia reached \$70 billion in 2022 and expanded 22 per cent year-on-year in the first quarter of 2023.

The region is also a crucial link in China's trillion-dollar global infrastructure project, the Belt and Road Initiative. Speaking to regional leaders, Xi said the countries must "fully unleash the potential of traditional cooperation in economy, trade, industrial capacity, energy and transport," according to a state media readout. He also stressed the need to

develop "new growth drivers... such as finance, agriculture, poverty reduction, low carbon, health, and digital innovation".

"China and Central Asian countries should deepen strategic mutual trust, and always offer clear and strong support for each other on issues of core interests." Belt and Road is a defining geopolitical project for Xi, with Beijing keen to restart cooperation and fill the vacuum left in former Soviet states by Russia's war in Ukraine.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Most Asian, European markets rally on US debt deal hope

MOST markets built on a global rally Friday as traders grow increasingly hopeful that US lawmakers will hammer out a deal to lift the debt ceiling and avert a calamitous default. But the regional mood was tempered by losses in Hong Kong and Shanghai fuelled by worries over China's economy. After weeks of lumbering talks on Capitol Hill, congressional leaders appeared ready to put a proposal to lawmakers before the government runs out of cash, said to be around 1 June. In his most upbeat remarks yet on the high-stakes standoff, Republican House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said: "We're not there -- we haven't agreed to anything yet -- but I see the path (where) we could come to an agreement."—AFP

Lebanon gets Interpol red notice for central bank chief

LEBANON has received an Interpol red notice requesting the arrest of central bank governor Riad Salameh after a French magistrate issued a warrant this week, a judicial official said Friday. Salameh, 72, has been the target of a series of judicial investigations both at home and abroad on allegations including fraud, money laundering and illicit enrichment. French investigators suspect that during some three decades as central bank boss, Salameh misused public funds to accumulate real estate and banking assets concealed through a complex and fraudulent financial network.—AFP

Modi seeks to boost New Delhi's Indo-Pacific role

INDIAN Prime Minister Narendra Modi heads to Papua New Guinea and Australia on Sunday as New Delhi seeks to counter mounting Chinese influence in both the Indian and Pacific oceans.

Western nations regularly refer to the wider region as the Indo-Pacific, but New Delhi has been left far behind by Beijing's efforts in recent years to woo the small island states that dot the vast expanses of water with trade and aid.

Several Pacific island states have switched their diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing in recent decades, and before the coronavirus pandemic enjoyed economic boosts from Chinese tourists.

At the same time, as part of its Belt and Road Initiative, Beijing has negotiated infrastructure deals with countries around the Indian Ocean including Sri



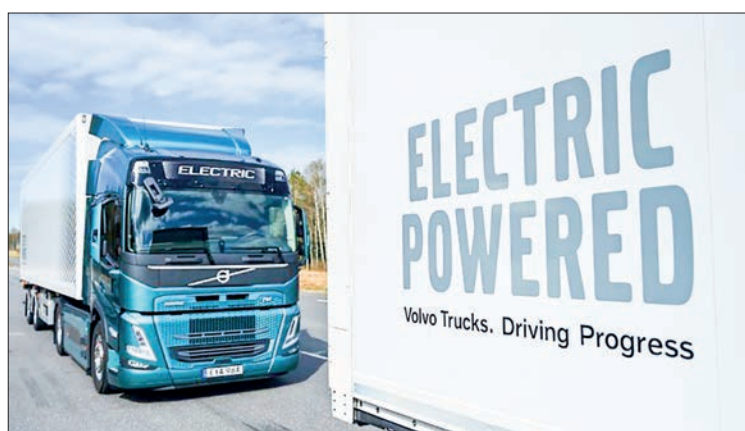
The energy sector in Papua New Guinea is dominated by the oil and gas industry, which accounts for around 80 per cent of the country's total energy production. Although production is modest and relatively reduced overtime, Papua New Guinea has been exporting crude oil since the early 1990's. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ PWC/AFP**

Lanka, the Maldives, Bangladesh, and Djibouti, sometimes accompanied by military agreements.

New Delhi sees the area as its backyard, and Beijing's activities have alarmed Indian officials.

In Port Moresby, Modi will

co-host the Summit of the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation with PNG Prime Minister James Marape, before going on to Australia, a fellow member of the Quad -- an alliance set up as a bulwark against China's growing assertiveness under President Xi Jinping.—AFP



Manufacturers are beginning to mass produce electric heavy trucks, but there is plenty of road to travel before they supplant diesels. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Electric trucks pick up speed despite bumpy road

USING a motorized arm, a worker at Volvo's factory near Gothenburg slowly guides massive black blocks alongside a chassis, the three tonnes of batteries soon to power an electric truck.

"This is where the difference lies," explains Sandra Finer, vice-president of operations at the Swedish site. On the assembly

line, "we use the same people, the same equipment and the same process, (but)... when we build the electric truck we dock the electric module instead of an engine for the diesel trucks."

Electric heavy trucks are now mass produced in Europe, North America and China and have been rolled out faster than

expected -- though it will still be a while before they overtake polluting diesel trucks in number.

"It is a really exciting moment we're living in regarding electric trucks," Felipe Rodriguez, an independent expert at analysis group International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT), told AFP.—AFP

Losing sparkle: Russia sanctions loom over India's diamond hub



The prospect of fresh G7 sanctions on Russia's diamond trade weighs heavy on India's diamond hub of Surat, already reeling from supply cuts and falling demand. Employees examine diamonds at a factory in Surat, India. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

THE prospect of fresh G7 sanctions on Russia's diamond trade weighs heavy on India's diamond hub of Surat, already reeling from supply cuts and fall-

ing demand. Some 90 per cent of the world's diamonds are cut and polished in the bustling port. A world away from

the glamorous boutiques of New York or Tokyo, hundreds of thousands of craftsmen sweat over gemstones in around 4,000 workshops in the city, cutting and setting them into sparkling jewellery.

In total around a million people, including dealers and suppliers, are involved in the industry in Gujarat, India's western-most state.

Russian mining giants such as Alrosa traditionally accounted for over a third of India's rough diamonds.

But supplies have shrunk in the months since Western sanctions cut Russia off from the

SWIFT international payments network in March last year over its invasion of Ukraine.

At the same time, Indian exports of cut and polished diamonds have slumped with US and European firms refusing to buy diamonds sourced from Russia.

Leaders of the G7 countries meeting in Hiroshima in Japan on Friday pledged to restrict trade in Russian diamonds — worth \$4-5 billion a year — including using high-tech methods of tracing. Britain went further and announced it would introduce an outright ban on Russian diamonds. — AFP

Hyundai and Kia settle suit over TikTok theft challenge

HYUNDAI and Kia on Friday announced a deal to settle a lawsuit filed by car theft victims after a TikTok "challenge" showed how easy it was to steal some models.

The settlement could cost the South Korean car makers as much as \$200 million, most of the money going to compensate people for theft-related losses, according to the companies.

It is up to a judge whether to approve the deal.

"This agreement is the latest step in a series of important actions that Kia has taken to help customers whose vehicles have been targeted by criminals using methods of theft popularized on social media," Kia America chief legal officer John Yoon said in a joint release. — AFP



Hyundai Tucson is one of the most reliable SUVs on the market. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP/FILE



A giant spindly sculpture of a spider done by French-American artist Louise Bourgeois fetched \$32.8 million on Thursday, setting a record for a work by a woman sculptor at auction, Sotheby's said. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Louise Bourgeois spider sculpture fetches record \$32.8 mln at auction

A giant spindly sculpture of a spider done by French-American artist Louise Bourgeois fetched \$32.8 million on Thursday, setting a record for a work by a woman sculptor at auction, Sotheby's said.

The work — which soars over 10 feet tall and spans 18 feet across — was finished by Bourgeois in 1996 and is one of just four monumental spi-

ders to appear at auction. Sotheby's did not identify the buyer.

The seller, it said, was the Fundacao Itau of Brazil, which acquired the work more than 25 years ago. Bourgeois, who died in 2010 at age 98, was born in Paris but spent much of her adult life in New York City, where she became known for her iconic installation art. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

"Fast X" tops China's box office chart

"Fast X" topped the Chinese mainland box office on its second day of screening on Thursday, data from the China Movie Data Information Network showed.

The latest installment in the Fast and Furious action franchise pocketed about 57 million yuan (about 8.1 million US dollars) on Thursday.

The domestic road comedy "Godspeed" came in second, generating about 6.47 million yuan.

It was followed by "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 3," which earned more than 5.78 million yuan on Thursday. — Xinhua

US home construction ticks up in April, but remains sluggish

US housing starts ticked up in April, according to data released Wednesday by the Commerce Department, but the housing market remains sluggish.

New home construction in April increased 2.2 per cent from the revised March estimate to an annual rate of 1.40 million units. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC TOKYO VOY.NO. (317W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC TOKYO VOY.NO. (317W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-5-2023 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS



Erdogan said that Türkiye will not do what the West wants and will keep trading with Russia. Russia accounted for about a quarter of Türkiye's oil imports and 45 per cent of its natural gas purchases in 2021.

PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP/FILE

Erdogan: Türkiye does not intend to indulge all Western demands

TÜRKIYE does not plan to fulfil all the demands made by the West, particularly in what concerns imposing sanctions against Russia, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said.

Erdogan received 49.24 per cent of the votes in the first round of the presidential election held earlier this month, while his main competitor, Kemal Kilicdaroglu, got 45.07 per cent, according to data from the Supreme Election Council. Kilicdaroglu has accused Russia of alleged meddling in the elections in Türkiye. "The opposition says it will rebuild Türkiye's relations with other countries. On

the one hand, you attack the Russian Federation, on the other, you say that you will build relations anew," Erdogan said on Friday.

The Turkish president pointed out that Ankara currently maintains relations with all Western countries, including the US, as well as Russia and China.

"As for the sanctions against Türkiye's largest trading partner, Russia, they (the opposition) said that they would do everything demanded by the West. Bye-bye Kemal, Türkiye will do what we want, not what the West demands. This will never happen in our politics," Erdogan said. — SPUTNIK

Iran warns US of ultimate revenge for Soleimani's assassination



Protesters hold pictures of Iranian commander Qasem Soleimani, during a demonstration outside the US consulate in Istanbul, on 5 January 2020, two days after top Iranian commander Qasem Soleimani was killed by a US drone strike. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

A top Iranian military commander said on Friday that Iran's ultimate revenge on the United States for the assassination of

the country's top commander Qasem Soleimani is yet to come. Hossein Salami, the chief commander of the Islamic Rev-

olution Guards Corps (IRGC), made the remarks when addressing a commemoration ceremony in the central province of Isfahan, the semi-official Tasnim news agency reported.

Elaborating on Tehran's revenge for the US assassination of Soleimani in January 2020, Salami said Iran threw the first "slap" by launching missiles at US Ain al-Asad base in the Iraqi province of Anbar just a few days after Soleimani's death.

"The second slap is nothing but the US gradual pullout from the region," the commander said, noting the "third slap" has not been delivered yet. On 3 January 2020, the US military assassinated Soleimani in a drone strike near the Baghdad International Airport. The assassination was condemned by Iran as "state terrorism". — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Colombia president retracts claim children found after plane crash

COLOMBIAN President Gustavo Petro on Thursday retracted his claim that four Indigenous children missing for more than two weeks after an airplane crash in the Amazon had been found alive.

Writing on Twitter, Petro said he had deleted his tweet from Wednesday night in which he had announced the rescue of the four children, including an 11-month-old baby.

"I am sorry for what happened. The military forces and Indigenous communities will continue in their tireless search to give the country the news it is waiting for," he said. More than 100 soldiers have been deployed with sniffer dogs to search for the minors who were traveling in an airplane that crashed on May 1, leaving three adults including the pilot and the children's mother dead. — AFP

Russia bans entry to 500 US nationals including Obama

RUSSIA on Friday said it banned entry to 500 Americans, including former president Barack Obama, in response to sanctions imposed by Washington. "In response to the anti-Russian sanctions regularly imposed by the Biden administration... entry into the Russian Federation is closed for 500 Americans," the foreign ministry said, adding that Obama was among those on the list. — AFP

Sudan's Burhan sacks rival general as war drags on

SUDAN'S de facto leader Abdel Fattah al-Burhan sacked his deputy-turned-rival Mohamed Hamdan Daglo Friday, as forces loyal to the feuding generals pressed on with fighting in both Khartoum and Darfur. The United Nations meanwhile warned that humanitarian needs are increasing in Sudan, with aid chief Martin Griffith allocating \$22 million in

emergency funds to help Sudanese fleeing the violence.

The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) says more than one million people have been displaced by the power struggle between Burhan and Daglo, who leads the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces. Hundreds have been killed in the fighting, which has now raged for more than a month. On Friday,

witnesses reported exchanges of fire both in the capital Khartoum and in the troubled Darfur region, where armed civilians have also entered the fray, stoking ethnic and tribal rivalries. — AFP

Sudanese Armed Forces chief Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan (left) and his deputy, Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, commander of the Rapid Support Forces. **PHOTO: AFP**



US debt ceiling crisis dogs Biden at G7

THE sight of a tired-looking top White House domestic policy adviser in a Hiroshima hotel said it all: President Joe Biden may be on the other side of the world but his political fight back home over the debt ceiling has followed him.

Bruce Reed, spotted in a tracksuit having a late breakfast at the luxury hotel where Biden was staying during the G7 summit, is the White House deputy chief of staff with a focus on issues inside the United States.

Instead, for the last two days he has trailed the 80-year-old Democratic president around this southern Japanese city, “updating POTUS on the status of the talks”, as a senior official put it.

Those “talks” — the



(L-R) President of the European Council Charles Michel, Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, French President Emmanuel Macron, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, US President Joe Biden, Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen pose for a commemorative photo during the G-7 summit in Hiroshima, western Japan, on 20 May 2023. PHOTO: KYODO

White House demanding that the annual extension of the government's borrowing authority proceed in order to avoid a US default and Republicans de-

manding Democrats first agree to slash spending — were something everyone at the G7 wanted updates on.

“It is definitely a sub-

ject of interest here at the G7,” National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan told reporters on Saturday, exuding his customary intense calm. — AFP

Tens of thousands protest growing wave of violence in Serbia

TENS of thousands of people gathered in the Serbian capital Belgrade on Friday, amid growing concern at rising levels of violence following two mass shootings that killed 18 people this month.

The rally marked the third major “Serbia against violence” protest in recent weeks, which has brought thousands to the streets calling for the resignation of top officials.

“We are in shock,

disbelief and we are angry,” protester Jelena Mihajlovic told the crowd gathered in front of the parliament on Friday.

“And a question echoes with all of us -- what kind of country are we leaving for our children?”

The protests are some of the largest rallies to rock Serbia since mass demonstrations triggered the fall of former strongman Slobodan Milosevic more than two decades ago. — AFP



The demonstrators have called on the government to revoke the broadcasting licences of television channels that promote violent content along with a ban on pro-government newspapers that stir tensions by targeting political dissidents. PHOTO: AFP

‘Regret’ as toxic arms watchdog fails to agree roadmap

THE world's chemical weapons watchdog on Friday failed to agree a roadmap for the next five years because of deep divisions between Western powers, and Russia and Syria.

Member states of the Organization for the

Prohibition for Chemical Weapons (OPCW) meet every five years to assess progress on a 1997 agreement to rid the globe of toxic arms.

But the 193 countries could not nail down a deal after this week's meet-

ing in The Hague, during which Moscow and its allies traded barbs with Western states. “You have done your best to reach a consensus but this was not possible,” said OPCW chief Fernando Arias. “The consequence is that we will not have this

much desired final outcome document.”

It is the second time running that the five-yearly meeting has failed to agree on a final document setting out priorities for the Nobel Peace Prize-winning body. — AFP

OBITUARY

Asleep in Jesus
U Gilkey Moh
A.C.E (Retired)
(93) Years

U Gilkey Moh, Son of (Rev. Aung Moh + Naw Sarah) beloved younger brother of (Naw Dorothy Moh) and elder brother of (Saw Herkie Moh). beloved husband of (Naw Molly Moh), beloved father of (Naw Gillion Thida Moh), Saw Rommel Moh + Naw Mu Eh Htoo, Saw Gilson Mon + Naw Barbara, Saw Gilman Moh + Naw Alice, Saw Zarni Moh + (Naw Lay Lay Thein), Saw Gilkey Moh, Jr. + Naw Lin Lin Jue, grandfather of fifteen grandchildren was called to his heavenly home on 19.5.2023 at 8:35 pm. Funeral service will be held on 20.5.2023 at Phoo Tha Byu Memorial Hall, KBTS, East Gyogen, Insein at 1:30 p.m. Thence to Yayway Ecumenical Garden For entombment.

(Memorial service will be held on 27.5.2023 at 9:00 am at 13 (C), Zion Hill St., Insein)

NEWS IN BRIEF

S Korea's Yoon meets Korean atomic bomb victims in Hiroshima

SOUTH Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol met with Korean atomic bomb victims in Japan on 19 May as part of his three-day visit to Hiroshima to attend the Group of Seven summit.

Yoon's meeting with some 20 atomic bomb victims was the first of its kind by a sitting South Korean president. “I'd like to apologize on behalf of the government and the country as a South Korean president for your home country not having been here with you while you were going through such sadness and pain,” Yoon said at the event. — Kyodo

More than 100 dead in Nigeria clashes, thousands displaced

MORE than 100 people in central Nigeria have died in several days of intercommunal violence that have destroyed hundreds of homes and caused thousands to flee, local officials said on Friday. The clashes between cattle herders and farming communities in Plateau State are the worst in years in a region that has long struggled with ethnic and religious tensions and reprisal attacks. The death toll from attacks by gunmen on farming villages in and around the district of Mangu since the start of the week has passed 100, after earlier reports said 85 people were killed, a local official said. — AFP



The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) building in The Hague. PHOTO: AFP



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

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

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

3. Social affairs

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

Scheffler, Hovland and Connors share lead at PGA Championship



Second-ranked Scottie Scheffler of the United States grabbed a share of the lead at the PGA Championship. **PHOTO: AFP**

SCOTTIE Scheffler, Viktor Hovland and Corey Connors delivered clutch birdies and grinded out par saves to share the lead after Friday's second round of the PGA Championship as rivals stumbled at rainy Oak Hill.

Second-ranked American Scheffler, last year's Masters champion, and Canada's Connors, chasing his first major title, each fired two-under par 68 to finish 36 holes level at the top on five-under 135.

"Felt like I grinded it out pretty well," Scheffler said.

"Didn't hit as many fairways as I would hope to but to shoot two-under was good, solid golf."

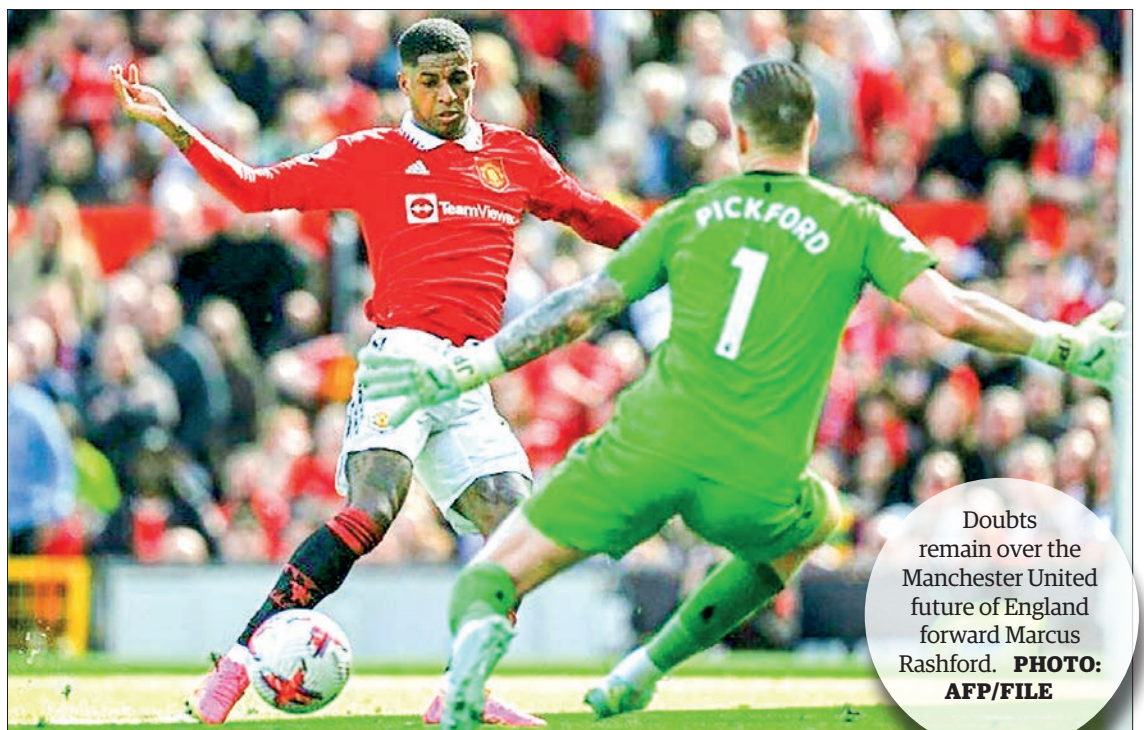
Connors, who won his second PGA Tour title at last month's Texas Open, worked magic with his putter when needed.

"Very pleased," Connors said. "The conditions were tricky out there, faced some wind, some rain. I made a bunch of key putts to keep momentum going, and that was really the key to the day."

Norway's 11th-ranked Hovland, also seeking a first major crown, sank a five-foot birdie putt at the 18th hole to shoot 67 and make it three at the top.

"The score has been great but the way I've plodded my way around here, very pleased with that," he said. "I was trying to give myself the most stress-free pars and a couple birdie looks as well." — AFP

Ten Hag upbeat over new United deal for Rashford



Doubts remain over the Manchester United future of England forward Marcus Rashford. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ERIK ten Hag believes Manchester United and Marcus Rashford will "find each other" in the quest to secure a new Manchester United contract for the England forward.

Rashford has only one year left on his deal at the club he

has represented since the age of seven.

The 25-year-old dismissed reports earlier this year he was demanding £500,000 (\$622,000, 576,000 euros) per week to remain at Old Trafford but a resolution does not appear to be on

the horizon.

Ten Hag, however, is keeping his cool, with the United manager telling a pre-match press conference ahead of this weekend's game at Bournemouth: "I know (it is taking time), but I don't talk about the process." — AFP



Simona Halep was provisionally suspended for doping eight months ago. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Suspended Halep charged with second doping breach

FORMER world number one Simona Halep has been charged with a second breach of anti-doping rules, the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) confirmed on Friday.

Romanian Halep has been provisionally suspended since

October 2022 for testing positive for the banned substance roxadustat, which stimulates the production of red blood cells, at the US Open in August last year.

On Friday, the ITIA said the two-time Grand Slam win-

ner has been further charged "relating to irregularities in her athlete biological passport".

The athlete biological passport programme monitors biological data over time to identify potential doping violations. — AFP