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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.

Myanmar (Nay Pyi Taw)-China (Lancang) Trade Fair kicks off



Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein, Union Commerce Minister U Aung Naing Oo and dignitaries view round the booths at the Myanmar (Nay Pyi Taw)-China (Lancang) Trade Fair in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

As the wide export of Myanmar's main products to the Chinese market is of importance in promoting bilateral trade, China needs to necessarily coordinate regional agreements as well as ease restrictions for Myanmar products to have more market shares, said Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win

Shein at the Myanmar (Nay Pyi Taw)-China (Lancang) Trade Fair (Fourth Myanmar (Lashio)-China (Lancang) Border Trade Fair) at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Prime Minister noted that good potential for trade development between China and Myanmar can be seen due

to good results in cementing friendly relations between the two countries, bilateral cooperation in battling the Covid-19 pandemic and agreements in the region.

He stressed the need to enhance cooperation among businesses as well as between the governments in order to smooth the trade process. As the wide export of Myanmar's

main products to the Chinese market is of importance in promoting bilateral trade, China needs to necessarily coordinate regional agreements as well as ease restrictions for Myanmar products to have more market shares. The Deputy Prime Minister called for initiating bilateral cooperation in the development of banking systems

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Recovery efforts gain momentum in Chin, Rakhine states

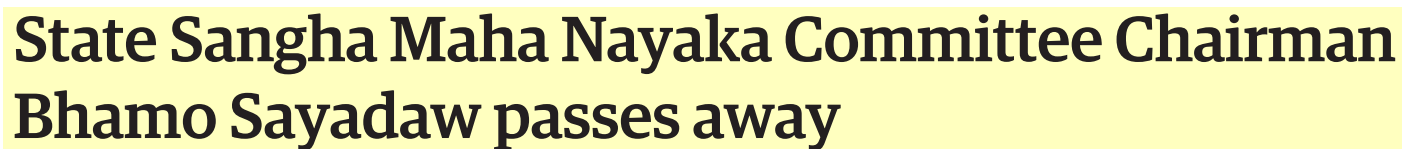
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Tatmadaw (Navy) transports supplies to people in Mocha-hit Rakhine State

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The day of final rites has not been designated, and further information will be released in detail, said a Sayadaw, a member of the Monastery Patrons. — GNLM/TTA

National Disaster Management Committee

Integration for harmonizing diversity key to building the Union based on democracy and federalism

IT is necessary to take lessons from the disunity and conflicts among the ethnics and the people due to racism, personal cult and dogmatism in the history of the country in building the Union based on democracy and federalism. Discriminating, setting aside and attacking persons as enemies for different attitudes and concepts are not in conformity with the democratic system. Likewise, localism and personal cult may cause disunity and harm the country to disintegrate, so I would like to urge all to deeply consider integration for harmonizing diversity.

(Excerpts from the message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to 76th Anniversary of Union Day ceremony which falls on 12 February 2023)

Myanmar (Nay Pyi Taw)-China (Lancang) Trade Fair kicks off

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in border regions, further promotion of logistic services and easing restrictions in trade procedures.

Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chan Hai underscored that Myanmar is the largest trade partner of Yunnan Province as well as the largest import source and export market. Economic cooperation between Yunnan Province and Myanmar is a geographically strong point and a firm foundation. At present, the promotion of economic cooperation is a common goal for them as well as the basic interests of people from both sides. China wishes to support Myanmar in deepening fraternal cooperation and assist in peace, stability and development of Myanmar.



The inaugural event of the Myanmar (Nay Pyi Taw)-China (Lancang) Trade Fair (Fourth Myanmar (Lashio)-China (Lancang) Border Trade Fair) in progress yesterday.



The Deputy Prime Minister, the Lancang Mayor and dignitaries look into the Chinese products at the event yesterday.

Union Minister for Commerce U Aung Naing Oo also called for Myanmar and Chinese businesspersons to strive for regional development by effectively applying the trade fair platform as it is an important trade fair for business cooperation and the development of both sides.

Lancang Mayor Mr Du Jianhui expressed his thanks to Myanmar and Chinese friends.

The Deputy Prime Minister, the Union Minister for Commerce, the Shan State Economic Affairs Minister, the Chinese Ambassador, the Lancang Mayor and officials cut the ribbon to open the trade fair.

The Deputy Prime Minister, the Union Minister and party

visited the booths at the trade fair.

The trade fair will last from 25 to 28 May. A total of 65 Myanmar businesspersons, organizations and companies showcase domestic foodstuffs, souvenirs, jewellery items, tea, coffee, agricultural produce, rattan and bamboo products, wooden sculptures, furniture, banking and tourism services at 79 booths and 70 Chinese businesspersons at 40 booths.

The ceremony was also attended by Union Ministers Dr Kan Zaw, U Ko Ko Hlaing, U Min Naung, U Hla Moe, U Khin Maung Yi, Jeng Phang Naw Taung, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Tin Oo Lwin and officials. — MNA/TTA

121 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 25 May, total figure registers 638,422

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to 638,422 after 121 new cases were reported on 25 May 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of 10,603,650 laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 638,422. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 617,367 including 103 new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered 19,494 on 25-5-2023 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

DPM MoTC Union Minister inspects recovery efforts in Rakhine State

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San, Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin attended a coordination meeting on rehabilitation processes held at the state government office yesterday.

During the meeting, the respective officials of committees reported on the arrivals of relief items and construction materials, distribution of these supplies, allocation of types of machinery in storm-affected regions, controlling of stable fuel prices, healthcare services of rapid response teams and cash donations for rehabilitation measures.

Then, the Deputy Prime Minister stressed the need to prepare to upload the supplies from the vessels and quick distribution of relief items to the respective regions.

The Deputy Prime Minister and party went to Sittway Port and Phaungtawgyi Jetty of the Myanma Port Authority and inspected the loading processes of relief items and materials onto the boats/vessels from Sun Shine, Fortune and Khine Yazar ships and gave words of encour-



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

agement members of Myanmar Police Force.

The Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development distributes clean drinking water with mobile water purification trucks to the locals of storm-affected regions in Rakhine State under the supervision of the state disaster management committee and it supplied 25,000 gallons of drinking water with five water purifier trucks to Sittway, Rathedaung and Minbya townships.

Moreover, 50 Lite Straw water purifiers are also allo-

cated to Sittway, Ponnagyun, Pauktaw, Kyauktaw, Minbya, MraukU and Rathedaung townships and a further 160 purifiers will be distributed soon. Moreover, the ministry arranges to supply water with solar-powered mobile water purifiers.

Due to cyclone Mocha, a 100-metre-high tower of MRTV retransmission station in Sittway township collapsed and the team led by the chief engineer of MRTV Nay Pyi Taw (head office) conducted repairing to broadcast MRTV channels, radio channels

and FM programmes in Rakhine State as usual.

Moreover, arrangements

are being made to replace the 300-metre-high tower before the erection of the new 100-metre-high tower. If it completes, the TV channels and radio programmes can be broadcast as usual using DVB T2 300W and FM 300W transmitters.

Starting 25 May, the lamp posts will be illuminated between 7 pm and 10 pm at the Sittway bus terminal-Meesetgyi roundabout, Meesetgyi roundabout-clock-tower, clock-tower-Biluma bridge and Biluma bridge-Setyokya bridge. Moreover, the charging points will be designated at the bus terminal, Meesetgyi roundabout, in front of the state government office, cultural museum and Biluma bridge for the people to charge phones, electric bulbs and batteries.— MNA/KTZH



Lampposts resume streetlights in Sittway.



The Deputy Prime Minister views the arrivals of relief goods in Sittway (top and above photos).

SAC Member meets students, teachers in Yaksawk Township

STATE Administration Council Member Dr Kyaw Tun accompanied by Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Zaw Aye, State Ministers, Shan State Advocate-General, and officials met students, and teachers from Basic Education High School of Pinphyit Village, Yaksawk Township, Taunggyi District yesterday morning.

At the meeting, SAC Member Dr Kyaw Tun said that according to the guidance of the chairman of the State Administration Council, parents, teachers and students should cooperate to make the Grade-9 class educated.

He said that every school-age child must be enrolled in school for the children to be educated because the tribes will progress from being educated.

Students who will attend the 51 basic education high schools that will be opened in the 2023 - 2024 academic year will have opportunities to learn vocational education such as technical, agricultural and animal husbandry subjects during their high school education and will also have employment opportunities.



SAC Member Dr Kyaw Tun and dignitaries cordially greet students and teachers in Nyaungshwe Township yesterday.

He said everyone should work together to ensure that school-age children can go to school education.

Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Zaw Aye said that all officials should cooperate to ensure that every school-aged child can enrol this academic year.

Afterwards, Daw Myo Myo Thant, headmistress of Basic Education High School of Pinphyit Village, Yaksawk Town-

ship, and officials presented the needs of the school and the village, and the SAC member coordinated the necessary matters.

SAC Member Dr Kyaw Tun presented K500,000 and Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Zaw Aye handed over K500,000 to the headmistress and officials for the basic needs of the school.

Next, the SAC member delivered the closing speech and warmly greeted the teachers

and students.

In the afternoon, the SAC member and officials met students and teachers at No2 Basic Education High School in Nyaungshwe, Kalaw District.

During the meeting, the SAC member explained the teaching of Grade-9 courses for higher education and the government's efforts to provide employment opportunities.

Afterwards, the Shan State

chief minister said that if there are any students left to enrol in the school in the village, officials should take care of it and if there are any difficulties, they should report it to the state government.

Headmistress of the school Daw Hla Hla Tun presented the needs of the school and the village, and the SAC member coordinated the necessary matters.

SAC Member Dr Kyaw Tun gave K500,000 and Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Zaw Aye handed over K500,000 to the headmistress and officials for the basic needs of the school.

Next, the SAC member delivered the closing speech and warmly greeted the teachers and students.

Likewise, the SAC member and officials met students and teachers at Shweyanpyay Basic Education Middle School in Nyaungshwe Township.

During the meeting, the SAC member and the Shan State chief minister talked about the enrolment of the school and handed over K1 million to the headmistress of the school and officials for the development of the school. —MNA/KZL

SAC Member meets district, township departmental officials, locals

STATE Administration Council Member U Yan Kyaw met district and township-level departmental officials and residents at the

Wunna Kyaw Htin Sao Khunsam Hall in Hopan, Wa Self-Administered Division, yesterday morning.

Chairman U Nyi Nap and members of the Wa Self-Administered Division Administration Body, senior military officers

from the local station, the Chairmen and members of District and Township Administration Bodies, regional-, district-, and township-level departmental officials, educational staff, town elders, ethnic cultural groups, social organizations, residents, and other officials were present at the meeting.

At the meeting, SAC Member U Yan Kyaw said that a free education system for all students is being implemented by distributing notebooks, ball-pens, pencils, school uniforms, and textbooks free of charge. He also urged responsible personnel to present the needs for water, restrooms, and school supplies in the schools of Hopan Township through the Wa Self-administered Division Administration Body and cooperate in line with the slogan "Let's enroll all school-age children to school".

Afterwards, SAC Member U Yan Kyaw gave his concluding remarks and greeted the participants after handing over K1,000,000 for the education sector to the Hopan Township Education Officer.

Next, the SAC member visited two basic education high schools and viewed the enrolment process. He also met officials from the Department of Education and coordinated the requirements.

Finally, the SAC member arrived at the Hopan Public Hospital and inspected the construction sites of the oxygen plant and the isolation ward. He provided supplies to the patients being treated at the hospital, met the staff of the Department of Public Health at the meeting hall of the public hospital, and coordinated the presentations of the staff. —MNA/CT



SAC Member U Yan Kyaw warmly greets locals in Hopan Township yesterday.

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.

Dinner held in honour of China-Myanmar economic and development cooperation

CHINESE Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai hosted a dinner in honour of the China-Myanmar economic and development cooperation at Horizon Lake View Resort in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

Union Ministers U Than Swe, Dr Kan Zaw, U Ko Ko Hlaing and U Aung Naing Oo

and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai, permanent secretaries and officials attended the dinner. – MNA/MKKS

The documentary group photo of the reception held yesterday.



Panel discussion held to mark 10th Nevsky International Ecological Congress

THE 10th Nevsky International Ecological Congress is being hosted by the Russian Federation on 25 and 26 May in the hybrid format.

Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi, together with ministers, deputy ministers, mayors and representatives from 21 countries and organizations attended the round table discussion on “Water is the main source of the future” at the congress held yesterday evening.

In the discussion, the Union minister said that Myanmar is a country rich in water resources, owning 12 per cent of Asia’s



Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi joins the 10th Nevsky International Ecological Congress virtually.

freshwater resources and 16 per cent of ASEAN’s freshwater re-

sources.

Today, due to climate

change, various countries are facing environmental damage and water problems, he stated.

To deal with these challenges, Myanmar is establishing a national water policy, national environmental policy, and climate change policy.

For environmental protection and comprehensive water resource management, the National Water Resources Committee and the National Environmental Protection Committee are formed.

To preserve water resources, the conservation of natural springs, water sources and wetlands is promoted.

Plastic pollution affects bi-

odiversity in rivers and oceans, and a national plastic action plan is drawn up to reduce marine plastic waste, he commented.

He said that international cooperation will be promoted in the implementation of Myanmar’s comprehensive water resource management processes.

Next, delegates discussed issues related to water and water resources management and water quality and treatment improvement as a basis of economy and logistics, and financing and awareness of water ecosystems related to coastal tourism and water resource utilization.

— MNA/KZL

UNICEF Deputy Resident Representative to Myanmar calls on Union Health Minister



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win receives the UNICEF Deputy Resident Representative for Myanmar.

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win received UNICEF Deputy Resident Representative to Myanmar Ms Alessandra Dentice and a delegation of regional health and nutrition experts at the Ministry of Health yesterday.

They discussed matters relating to UNICEF’s cooperation in Mocha-hit areas, speedy expansion of regular vaccination measures, including catch-up vaccination activities to increase immunization coverage

nationwide, the implementation of nutrition development promotion activities, including school feeding programmes for children’s nutritional development and strengthening healthcare cooperation between the Ministry of Health and UNICEF.

The meeting was attended by the deputy minister, the director-general of the Public Health Department, the deputy permanent secretary and officials. — MNA/TS

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission attends AICHR-SEANF meeting

THE meeting between the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights -AICHR and the Southeast Asia National Human Rights Forum-SEANF was held in a hybrid format on Bali Island in Indonesia on 24 May.

Representatives from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines and Chairman U Hla Myint of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and members U Paw Lwin Sein and Dr Tin Maung Maung Than, Deputy Director-General Dr Khine Khine Win and Director U Zeya Lin attended the meeting virtually and the representatives from Timor-Leste and AICHR in person.

The AICHR Indonesia and the Thai National Human Rights Commission, the alternate chair of SEANF, gave opening speeches at the meet-

ing. The AICHR Indonesia discussed the activities and priorities of AICHR in 2023 and the Thai National Human Rights Commission chairperson discussed the undertakings and progress of SEANF.

Afterwards, representatives from Malaysia, Timor-Leste, the Philippines and Indonesia discussed matters on the implementation of torture

prevention, economy and human rights and the convention on the rights of the elderly.

In the discussion, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission chairperson said that they would participate much more than before in the future cooperation between AICHR and SEANF presented by the Malaysian Human Rights Commission. — MNA/MKKS



The MNHRC delegation join the online AICHR-SEANF meeting on 23 May.

Union Information Minister visits Penglipuran, Kintamani villages in Bali

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn who is in Bali, Indonesia, for the 18th Asia Media Summit together with ministers from the information sector of AIBD member countries and delegates visited Penglipuran village, Bamboo Forest and Kintamani village in Kubu of Bangli Regency on Bali Island of Indonesia yesterday.

On arrival at the Penglipuran village, the Union minister and tour members were welcomed by the village administrative officials. Then, he cordially greeted locals and presented commemorative gifts to the village administrator and villagers.

There are 1,280 people and 78 houses in Penglipuran vil-

lage. It is a popular tourist destination for its preservation of the traditional customs of the Balinese.

The houses and buildings in the village are built with a Bali Island traditional style and villagers are living in line with the traditional culture. The Balinese still uphold the concept of Tri Hita Karana. The Penglipuran village is one of the world's three cleanest villages. The village won many prestigious awards including the Indonesia Sustainable Tourism Award in 2017 for its cleanliness.

Then, the Union minister and tour group visited the Hutan Bambu Forest near Penglipuran village.

The Indonesian govern-



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn is pictured on his observation tours in Penglipuran and Kintamani villages on Bali Island yesterday (above and left below photos).



ment set up plans and funds to preserve the Hutan Bambu Forest naturally in 1995 and Penglipuran villagers carry out bamboo forest conservation processes with the support of the government.

On arrival at the Bas de Atayana (I Love Bas Agrotourism) coffee farm in Kintamani Village, the tour group observed Kopi Luwak (luwak coffee) pro-

duction processes with civet cats.

That private Luwak coffee farm covers about 10 acres of land and is running with 20 civet cats.

This Luwak coffee is produced from the coffee beans which have been digested by civet cats. There are about 900 acres of similar coffee cultivation on Bali Island. The coffee is

one of the world's best coffee. Indonesia earned US\$126 million from coffee export in 2021-2022.

Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous nation, is striving to become a developed country in 2045. Bali, home to more than 4.5 million people, tries to revive the tourism industry like the situation before the outbreak of COVID-19. — MNA/KTZH

MoSWRR Union Minister joins 11th AMMSWD Meeting, 7th AMMSWD+3



Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine virtually participates in the 11th AMMSWD Meeting and the 7th AMMSWD plus 3 yesterday.

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine attended the 11th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development and the 7th ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Develop-

ment (11th AMMSWD Meeting and 7th AMMSWD+3) hosted by Malaysia via videoconferencing yesterday.

During the opening ceremony, Malaysian Minister for Women, Family and Community Development Ministry Dato Sri

HaJah Nancy Shukri made an opening speech. The meeting was held under the Theme "Accelerating the Implementation of ASEAN Commitments for Gender Equality through Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion".

At the event, Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine said Myanmar is implementing measures for goals including Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG Goals) to ensure gender equality and promote women empowerment.

She also talked about the formation of the Myanmar National Committee for Women Affairs, drafts of law, policies and directives, implementation of NSPAW (National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women) (2013-2022), NSPAW Phase II (2023-2032), cash assistance for pregnant women, kids under 2 and the people with disabilities, social pension, cooperation with ASEAN regarding rehabilitation processes in Mocha-hit areas in Rakhine State, sending of Psy-

chosocial Support Team to these regions and the important role of social workers.

She then reaffirmed that Myanmar will host the 12th AMMSWD Meeting and the 8th AMMSWD+3 in 2025.

Moreover, the representatives of China, Japan and Korea and attendees discussed the co-operation work in social welfare development programmes of ASEAN countries.

Then, the Union minister highlighted the donations of China for Cyclone-hit regions, projects for women, children and youths in Mekong-Lancang development programmes and benefits of programmes to the socioeconomic development of Mekong-Lancang regions. — MNA/KTZH

Encourage insured workers to raise productivity

A MASSIVE force of labour is reliable for the whole nation in raising productivity and manufacturing value-added products for earning foreign exchange for the State. Only when workers are healthy and fit will they be capable of manufacturing products with high productivity. Hence, the government arranges healthcare services and welfare measures for the workers who have insured by the Social Security Board.

SSB under the Ministry of Labour manages 116 townships, 34,878 workplaces registered at the Social Security Board and 1,211,371 insured workers. Of them, the Social Security Board provides healthcare services and entitlements to 13,988 registered workplaces and 863,533 insured workers in Yangon Region.

Only when insured workers have a chance to enjoy healthcare facilities and other contributions will they have the activeness and keenness to accelerate their working momentum. On the other hand, the Social Security Board is seeking various ways and means for giving better services to an increasing number of insured workers in cooperation with the private sector. That is why insured workers have to raise their productivity at relevant workplaces with the assistance of the Social Security Board.

Moreover, nine hospitals and delivery rooms are being managed by the Social Security Board to give maternity services to insured workers. In addition, two mobile clinic vehicles are under the control of the Social Security Board for healthcare services to insured workers.

As the board is striving for giving better healthcare services to insured workers by signing agreements with private hospitals and clinics, arrangements are being made to sign agreements with 26 private hospitals and clinics through the capitation payment system. In this regard, the board commissioned two general practitioner clinics into service on 30 April 2023. These two clinics are being operated with Thukha Susan and Kaung Zay GP clinics in Shwepyitha Township of Yangon Region. Such two clinics are also operated through the capitation payment system.

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Which Is Stronger, Man’s or Nature’s?

By Min Zan

ON 6 February, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake occurred in southern Türkiye near the northern border of Syria. This quake was followed approximately nine hours later by a magnitude 7.5 earthquake located around 59 miles (95 kilometres) to the southwest. As of 9 February, at least 1,206 aftershocks have been recorded.

The earthquake was the most devastating to hit earthquake-prone Türkiye in more than 20 years and was as strong as one in 1939, the most powerful recorded there.

The initial earthquake was centred near Gaziantep in south-central Türkiye, home to thousands of Syrian refugees and the many humanitarian aid organizations also based there. Governments around the world were quick to respond to requests for international assistance, deploying rescue teams and offering aid. The country of former Turkey is recognized in English as Türkiye by the United Nations.

Syria’s current complex humanitarian emergency is among the largest humanitarian crises in the world and the earthquake will only exacerbate the situation and vulnerabilities. One obstacle in assessing the death toll and response efforts in Syria is that the government does not control all of the northwest, the area hardest hit by the earthquake.

In northwest Syria, 4.1 million people already depend on humanitarian assistance, the majority of whom are women and children. While countries have offered to support Türkiye, getting aid to affected Syrians is likely to be more difficult, considering the country is not controlled by one authority. However, support to the most affected areas of Syria will be critical since the existing humanitarian response is largely overstretched with a funding gap of 48 per cent identified for the last quarter of 2022. Limited capacities in northwest Syria, including the lack of equipment and fuel, continue to hamper search and rescue and recovery efforts.

In their 9 February Flash Update, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) listed the following primary needs for northwest Syria: “1) heavy machines for debris removal, 2) cash distribution, 3) tents, isolation sheets and NFIs [non-food items], 4) heating materials, 5) emergency food and bread assistance, 6) water trucking and garbage removals, 7) ambulances and medicines, 8) fuel for hospitals and health centres, 9) rental trucks and vans to transport people, 10) reception centres for IDPs [internally displaced persons] and 11) safe spaces for women and girls.”

Earthquakes are among the most devastating natural hazards. Türkiye’s two main fault zones



(Photo: Members of the Turkish Armed Forces conduct search and rescue efforts after the earthquake, 7 February 2023. (SOURCE: REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE VIA TWITTER))

make the region one of the most seismically active in the world. Natural hazards only become disasters when they interact with a human society or community, referred to as vulnerability in disaster studies.

In this disaster, vulnerability looks like poorly constructed buildings that do not meet modern earthquake building standards, thousands of Syrian refugees in Türkiye or displaced people in northwest Syria that live in informal settlements, destruction of

infrastructure within Syria after years of war and aerial bombings, an ongoing complex humanitarian emergency in Syria due to conflict, and a cholera outbreak.

For these reasons, the earthquake that has devastated Türkiye and Syria cannot be called a “natural disaster”. While natural hazards, such as earthquakes, are inevitable, the impact they have on society is not. Funders can help minimize the impact of this unfolding disaster and additional disasters in Türkiye and Syria by

advocating for safe building construction, supporting risk communication campaigns, investing over the long term to ensure a full recovery that incorporates risk reduction, and strengthening preparedness and resilience.

The above paragraphs mentioned are the brief information copied from the internet page below. After reading it, I suddenly remembered the cyclone “Nargis” that devastated the coastal areas of the Ayeyrwyady Region and Yangon Region in May 2008. “Nargis”

left Myanmar with over a lakh of lost lives and countless numbers of properties there. I happened to think the conflict between man and nature began long, long ago. In the history of our society, there have been many incidents of conflict. Here, there is a query. How many times has man conquered nature?

In reality, man is a weak creature in the animal kingdom. However, man possesses a bigger brain and more qualified intellect than other animals, so they become the most powerful creature in the world. They can create the best benefit for society as well as can create the worst weapon that destroys the whole world. In one of the paragraphs, the information said that trouble cannot be called a “natural disaster”. Nevertheless, whenever man meets nature in a battle, it is a rule that they lose it. However hard they try to protect the disasters in various ways costing much money and using advanced technologies, they lost the battle.

Man versus nature is an excellent external conflict for a story for many reasons. First of all, there are endless ways that nature can provide a problem for your characters. If your characters are facing natural disasters, there are plenty to choose from. tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, tsunamis, blizzards, avalanches,

volcanic eruptions, dust storms, earthquakes, and wildfires can be excellent catalysts for your characters to do something. Droughts and famines, whether as natural disasters or effects of a natural or man-made disaster, are also great story fodder.

The effects of mankind trying to control nature is another conflict that comes up in real life and in stories — over-farming, deforestation, draining of resources, and pollution can provide ample story ideas. When a character faces resistance or struggles in parts of nature, like surviving in new or hostile environments, the story can be a great way to explore other conflicts and themes that are more internal.

The natural force becomes a metaphor for inner conflict. While some fantasy stories may use a supernatural force as the catalyst for the conflict, the overall conflict should lie in a natural force. Otherwise, the main conflict of the story would be person vs. supernatural. Why are there so many types of conflict in nature? Because humans are inextricably linked to nature. We all deal with the effects of natural forces, whether it’s climate change, the weather, disasters, or just our environment. It’s something familiar that has been part of our entire history.

We can apply that same famil-

ilarity to any story involving nature. The characters don’t have to be human, and the world doesn’t have to be planet Earth. I’ve never been trapped in a desert on an alien planet, but I’ve felt extreme heat sickness. I’ve never crossed a tundra, but I have lost heat during an ice storm in a place that is woefully underprepared for freezing weather. Man vs. nature needs strong sensory details to pull readers in. ProWritingAid’s Sensory Report, a powerful online proofreading and editing software, can help you hit all the senses to make your nature conflict engaging and real.

You’ll see how many of each type of sense word you’ve used so you can create a balanced, rounded description. Because of that familiar sense of conflict with our environment, we can invest ourselves emotionally into conflicts involving the natural world. This is what keeps writers writing about man versus nature conflicts and what keeps readers reading them.

In sum, although how hard man tries to defy the following natural disasters, such as Earthquake, tsunami, hurricane, tornado, flood, droughts, volcanic eruptions, avalanche, wildfire, cyclone, blizzard, landslide, heatwave, hailstorm, thunderstorm, etc., in various ways, it is not sure they overcome the attacks of nature. Why? It will be the best answer to my question in the title of this article.

Reference: <https://disasterphilanthropy.org/disasters/2023-turkey-syria-earthquake/>



After weight loss, Alzheimer’s may be next frontier for drugs

DIABETES drugs that also promote weight loss such as Novo Nordisk’s Ozempic, becoming a darling of celebrities and investors, are being studied to tackle some of the most difficult-to-treat brain disorders, including Alzheimer’s disease.

Diabetes regimens, from Ozempic to old mainstays like insulin and metformin, appear to address several different aspects of the metabolic system implicated in Alzheimer’s disease, including a protein called amyloid and inflammation, researchers

say. The hope is that improving glucose utilization and tamping down inflammation in the entire body - including the brain - could slow the progression of debilitating diseases like Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s.

Several scientists interviewed by Reuters pointed to mounting research supporting testing diabetes drugs against neurodegenerative diseases. Results are years away and success is uncertain. But interest has been buoyed by recent positive data on Alzheimer’s drugs developed by Eisai Co

Ltd with partner Biogen and by Eli Lilly and Co demonstrating that removing sticky amyloid plaques accumulated in the brain can slow cognition decline caused by the fatal mind-wasting disease.

Those successes followed decades of futility that had left many questioning the validity of the amyloid theory behind most experimental Alzheimer’s drugs. Dr Suzanne Craft, professor of gerontology and geriatric medicine at Wake Forest University School of Medicine, gave a keynote speech at an influential Alzheimer’s

scientific meeting late last year about the need to test treatments such as diabetes drugs to further reduce the advance of Alzheimer’s.

She said she has since been approached by pharmaceutical companies at an increasing pace, and is currently running an Alzheimer’s trial evaluating intranasal insulin in combination with another diabetes drug. Diabetes treatments may amplify the clinical benefit of anti-amyloid drugs, and potentially lead to complete stabilization or even some

recovery in Alzheimer’s patients, Craft said.

“This is what these agents do, and what insulin does. It plays a role in regeneration. And that’s what needs to happen. Given its role in modulating immune function, it may prevent the amyloid from continuing to accumulate,” Craft surmised. Unlike older off-patent medicines like metformin, there is commercial incentive to test newer treatments such as GLP-1 agonists, a rapidly expanding class now dominated by Ozempic, known chemically as

semaglutide, and Lilly’s Mounjaro, with other players working on a dozen potential new treatments.

Four companies with GLP-1 drugs, including two larger drugmakers, say they are watching for results of trials testing Novo’s drug in Alzheimer’s. Ivan Koychev, consultant neuropsychiatrist for Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, is running a trial testing semaglutide with the aim of halting the earliest changes in the brains of people at risk of developing Alzheimer’s.

SOURCE: AFP



Novo Nordisk’s Ozempic is a once-weekly injectable medication used to treat type 2 diabetes. ILLUSTRATION FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ MIMS/AFP

Recovery efforts gain momentum in Chin, Rakhine states

CHIN State Chief Minister Dr Vungh Suan Thang and Lt-Gen Min Naing of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) attended the Chin State disaster management committee meeting at the State General Administration Department on 24 May.



Lt-Gen Min Naing provides relief items to storm-hit locals in Haka Township.

Lt-Gen Min Naing spoke of the need to take rehabilitation measures. Officials from relevant sectors reported on the progress of rehabilitation tasks. Lt-Gen Min Naing and officials coordinated necessary measures and presented foodstuffs for storm-hit people to an official.

Yesterday, Maj-Gen Aung Myo Tun of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) in Rathedaung viewed round removal of fallen trees and repairing of power cables in Rathedaung and gave instructions.

In Minbya Township, Brig-Gen Khin Zaw looked into collective cleaning and rehabilitation tasks carried out by relief teams at the women's vocational training school, the border youth development training school and No 2 Basic Education High School damaged by the storm and coordinated necessary measures.

Brig-Gen Aung Thu Oo currently in Kyauktaw inspected losses and damage at schools, hospitals, dispensaries, religious buildings and departmental buildings affected by the storm and viewed the removal of fallen trees.

Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Oo also inspected the repairing of schools in Khaohnmaw village-tract destroyed by the storm. He attended the meeting with members of the township disaster management committee at the office of the Township General Administration Department and presented the fund allotted in advance by the state government and CI sheets donated by well-wishers for schools through officials. — MNA/TTA

Streetlights to be powered by diesel generators while repairing power cables in Rakhine State

AS the power cables and substations were damaged by Cyclone Mocha, there are power outages in Sittway, Maungtaw and MraukU districts and several other townships in Rakhine State.

The Ministry of Electric Power will distribute electricity to streetlights from the highway bus terminal to the Meesetkyi roundabout, from the Meesetkyi roundabout to the clock tower, from the clock tower to the Biluma Creek Bridge and from the Biluma Creek Bridge to the Saty-ockya Bridge along the Mayu Road by using 500 kVA diesel generator from 7 pm to 10 pm starting on 25 May.

In addition, telephones and lighting materials can be recharged at five charging points — the highway bus terminal, the Meesetkyi roundabout, the front of the state government office, the Cultural Museum and the head of the Biluma Creek Bridge. — MNA/MKKS

MoEP staff are seen repairing power cables in Sittway.



Essential foodstuffs sold at fair prices in Mocha-hit Sittway



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

Residents are seen buying foodstuffs at reasonable prices in Sittway yesterday.

Foodstuffs including rice, edible oil, salt, meat, fish, egg, dairy products, vegetables, onions, garlic, and products of Tatmadaw including instant noodles, biscuits, and canned food were sold at lower prices than the ordinary market at U Ottama Park, Sittway Township.

The local people and the families of the departmental staff enjoyed buying foodstuffs and are very grateful to officials for selling them at low prices during difficult times. — MNA /KZL

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, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Tatmadaw (Navy) transports supplies to people in Mocha-hit Rakhine State

A 56-metre landing craft from Tatmadaw (Navy) carrying five security personnel from the local based heavy machinery workshop, and two CAT 320 excavators weighing 40 tonnes docked at the Angumaw Port and transported to people in Cyclone-hit Sittway yesterday afternoon.

Similarly, MV MCL 5 watercraft owned by MCL Company Limited docked at Bo Aung Kyaw, Yangon Region carrying various hardwoods, foodstuffs and relief items totalling 2,400

metric tons left for Sittway on the same day.

At the departure of the ship, Central Naval Command Commander Rear-Admiral Htein Win, General Manager U Zaw Tun Lwin of Myanma Port Authority and officials saw off the ship.

Construction vehicles and relief materials transported by the warship and the MV-MCL 5 owned by MCL Company will be handed over to officials in an orderly manner. —MNA/KZL



A truck for the use in relief efforts is seen being loaded onto the vessel yesterday.

Tatmadaw planes transport relief goods to Rakhine State



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

In such doing, Tatmadaw planes transported foodstuffs, medical supplies, construction

materials, relief items, tents, clothes, personal items and other materials donated by Tatmadaw members, natural disaster rescue and relief teams, departmental staff and ASEAN countries four times from Mingaladon airport to Sittway airport yesterday.

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

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

Relief aid to be used in recovery efforts in Rakhine State delivered

UNDER the guidance of the National Disaster Management Committee and the supervision of the Transport Committee, relief supplies have been transported to Rakhine State by air, water and land. The MCL-5 vessel loaded with 209 tonnes of timber, 106,290 corrugated iron sheets, 19,730 bags of rice, 372 makeshift tents, 68 rolls of

tarpaulin sheets, 11.7 tonnes of nails, 21 tonnes of rivets, 61 cartons of instant noodles, three cranes, 20 cable rolls, and 1,560 related materials left the TMT jetty for Sittway yesterday evening.

Under the close supervision of the Myanmar Port Authority, military vessels (Mottama, Maha Bandoola, Py-

itawaye 2, and Chindwin), supply vessels (603 and 604), MV Aquarius, MV Fortune, MV Sun Shine, and the MCL-5 vessel have shipped a total of 11,294.8 tonnes of relief supplies and, Khine Khine Phyto 33 and 34 vessels 249,762 gallons of diesel and 199,886 gallons of Octane 92 from the TMT jetty to Sittway since 16 May. — MNA/CT



Photos show the arrivals of relief goods in Sittway.

10th meeting on Anti-human trafficking cooperation held between MPF and RTP

THE 10th Meeting on Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Persons between the Myanmar Police Force and Royal Thai Police was held at Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was attended by MPF Deputy Chief of Police Police Maj-Gen Aung Aung and representatives and RTP Deputy Police Chief Police General Surachate Hakparn and representatives.

Both sides discussed and exchanged views on the implementation of the resolutions of the 9th meeting between the Myanmar Police Force and the Royal Thai Police on anti-human trafficking cooperation in the 2019 meeting held in Thailand, situations of trans-border human trafficking problems, human trafficking preventive measures and changing patterns of human trafficking, processes of foreigners illegally coming to work in Myanmar's border towns, suspects of human trafficking in Thailand, arrest and hand over the absconding defendants who have been prosecuted under the Foreign Employment Law and joint prevention and protection of illegal entry and exit along the Myanmar-Thailand border.

— MNA/TS



The Tenth Meeting on Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Persons between the Myanmar Police Force and Royal Thai Police in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Myanmar earns US\$40 mln from fishery product exports



The photo shows the processing line of fishery products.

MORE than US\$40.98 million was earned from the export of fishery products between 1 April and 12 May of the 2023–2024 financial year, according to statistics of the Ministry of Commerce.

Fishery products from Myanmar are exported to foreign countries through normal trade and border trade channels.

Although the export of fishery products is being carried out as normal, the export has not returned to the status of the pre-Covid period. Over \$64.07 million was collected from the export of fishery products in the same period of the last financial year.

Fishery products such as fish, shrimp, and crab are regularly exported to China, Thailand, and other neighbouring countries through border trade posts in Muse, Myawady, Kawthoung, Sittway, Myeik, and Maungdaw.

In addition to 480,000 fish and shrimp farms, there are more than 120 cold storage facilities across Myanmar, and over 20 kinds of fish such as Illish, Barramundi, Rohu, Swamp Barb, and Gagata gagata are being exported. — TWA/CT

Illegal teak, jades, consumer goods, industrial materials and vehicles seized

THE on-duty teams captured 23 kinds of goods (worth K8,907,940) including 555.5 kilogrammes of Tonyco Rocker machinery parts, 12,944 pairs of women's autumn footwear (worth K51,776,000), four kinds of goods (worth K33,404,742) including 25,248 pairs of synthetic gents footwear, 16,488 pairs of lady slipper (worth K17,312,400), two kinds of goods (worth K25,502,400) including 28,920 pairs of VKC Pride synthetic footwear and 23,040 pairs of Lady's SYN synthetic footwear (worth K19,353,600) without Import Licence from six containers at the Asia World

Port Terminal container checkpoint on 18 May and 2,200 kilogrammes of cloth ribbon that exceeded the ID and 3,000 pairs of scissors (worth K10.62 million) that were not declared in the ID from two containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port Terminal container checkpoint and 215 Ashcorft steel water jugs (worth K788,970), five kinds of goods including 700 metal baking trays worth K11,047,820 and eight kinds of goods (worth K604,695) including 313 Ashcorft melamine paper photo frames that exceeded the 61 days of VPA from luggage at the Yangon International Airport (Import

Desk) on 23 May. A total of 21 pieces of jade bracelets worth K2.1 million was seized.

A combined team seized three kinds of goods (worth K9,362,488) including 13,920 pairs of Lotus shower sandals that exceeded the ID from a Hino Profia lorry (estimated value of K30 million) heading from Myawady to Yangon near the Phayagyi tollgate on 23 May.

On the same day, a combined team composed of members of the Myoma Police Station in Sagaing Township captured a Hijet car (estimated value of K7.5 million) without official documents at the Yadanabon combined checkpoint. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

Afterwards, a total of 1.684 tonnes of illegal teak (worth K846,384) was captured in the Thayawady district on the same day. Therefore, 15 arrests (estimated value of K229,127,439) were made on 18 and 23 May, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS



Confiscated illegal commodities at Yangon International Airport.

Over K1 bln worth of heroin blocks captured in Yaksawk township

MORE than 68.25 kilogrammes of heroin blocks worth over K1 billion were captured in Yaksawk township in Shan State (south), the Myanmar Police Force stated.

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Narcotics Task Force stopped and searched a Prado auto driven by Yi Wai Maung accompanied by San Tin and a Toyota Hilux auto driven by Tin Hlaing heading to Yaksawk from Intaw at the combined checkpoint at 11:30 am on 22 May and captured a total of 68.25 kilogrammes of 195 blocks of heroin worth over K1

billion that was to be carried from Mongyai township in Shan State (North) to Pekhon township in Shan State (South).

The police have taken legal action against the offenders and an investigation is underway to identify the perpetrators of the crime chain. — MNA/MKKS



Three offenders are pictured along with seized drugs and vehicles.

Louis Vuitton braves rain on its Italian island paradise

LOUIS Vuitton valiantly battled pounding rain on an Italian island paradise while presenting its cruise collection Wednesday night, the weather sending celebrity guests underneath umbrellas and dampening a hairdo or two. But when you're the flagship brand within the powerhouse LVMH portfolio, with a guest list that includes Catherine Deneuve, Cate Blanchett and Emma

Stone, what's a little rain? Bad weather was likely not top of mind when the storied luxury label led by Nicolas Ghesquiere chose the tiny Isola Bella, a jewel of an island in the azure waters of Lake Maggiore, as an appropriately jaw-dropping venue for its Cruise 2024 collection. But the rain arrived nonetheless, forcing the show originally planned for the island's formal terraced

gardens to take place within the baroque Palazzo Borromeo, still owned by the family of the same name whose noble ancestry dates to the 13th century. "It's the one thing Nicolas can't control, is the weather," the editor-in-chief of Vogue Thailand, Ford Laosuksri, told AFP after the show, as guests lingered to sip bubbly while hoping (in vain) for the rain to stop.—AFP



Louis Vuitton is a French fashion house and luxury retail company. It is known for its leather goods, ready-to-wear clothing, shoes, watches, jewellery, and other accessories. Bad weather was likely not top of mind when the storied luxury label chose Isola Bella as the venue for its Cruise 2024 collection. PHOTO: GABRIEL BOUYS / AFP

Jaguar to pick UK over Spain for battery plant: BBC



The Jaguar E-Pace is a compact luxury SUV that was introduced in 2017. It features a 2.0-litre turbocharged four-cylinder engine and is available in both all-wheel and rear-wheel drive configurations. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

THE Indian owner of car-maker Jaguar Land Rover is set to select Britain over Spain to for a giant battery plant employing up to 9,000 people, the BBC reported Wednesday.

The broadcaster, citing sources familiar with the matter, added that the boss of JLR owner Tata Motors was expected to fly into Britain next week to finalize the deal and meet

with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. The factory will be built in Somerset, south-west England, after the site beat off competition from Spain, according to the report. The deal has not yet been signed but preparations are underway over how to present the agreement, the sources told the BBC. The UK government did not respond to a request for comment. The Financial Times newspaper had reported earlier this year that Tata had requested £500 million (\$603 million) from London to help it build the plant in Somerset.—AFP

Fitch places US on AAA rating downgrade watch

RATINGS agency Fitch on Wednesday put the United States on watch for a possible downgrade over a risk of default amid a government impasse on raising the national borrowing limit. Fitch said the AAA rating "reflects increased political partisanship that is hindering reaching a resolution to raise or suspend the debt limit" ahead of a looming deadline. The US Treasury Department has said 1 June is the "X-date" when the government will run out of money, triggering a default with likely devastating economic consequences. "Fitch still expects a resolution to the debt limit before the X-date," Fitch

said in a statement. "However, we believe risks have risen that the debt limit will not be raised or suspended before the X-date and consequently that the government could begin to miss payments on some of its obligations."

President Joe Biden has been involved in months of tense talks with the Republican opposition in Congress, who have said they will agree to raise the borrowing limit only in exchange for significant spending cuts.—AFP



Ratings agency Fitch is a global credit rating agency that provides credit ratings and research for debt securities, including corporate debt, government debt, and structured finance securities. It also provides research and analysis on national economies and their respective creditworthiness. PHOTO: AFP

Australian police probe PwC tax leak scandal

AUSTRALIAN police have opened a criminal investigation into the leaking of secret government tax plans by accounting giant PwC to help clients "act early" ahead of a tax crackdown on multinationals. PwC Australia has been embroiled in scandal since one of its partners was found to have made "unauthorized disclosures" about the planned

tax reforms, which he learned about in confidential government briefings. More than 140 pages of internal PwC Australia emails released by a Senate committee this month showed the international tax partner, Peter Collins, had divulged the sensitive information to other staff. Australian Federal Police confirmed in a statement late Wednesday

that they had launched a criminal investigation, after the affair was referred to them by the Treasury Department. "We note the statement from the Treasury Secretary and will continue to cooperate fully with any investigations into this matter," a PwC spokesman said Thursday. The Treasury's confidential tax plans included new rules, which

came into effect in 2015, to stop multinationals avoiding tax by shifting profits from Australia to tax and secrecy havens, the Tax Practitioners Board said. Finance Secretary Jenny Wilkinson told parliament that PwC had been asked to stop all staff linked to the leaks from working on current government contracts.—AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB320A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB320A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-5-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

Much at stake in Türkiye vote for divided Cyprus

IF it were up to voters in the Turkish-occupied north of the island of Cyprus, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan would already be out of office, but they may not get their way.

Türkiye's veteran leader is tipped as the frontrunner in Sunday's runoff election, seen as crucial for his country but also important for the island that has been divided for almost half a century.

Conservative Erdogan is heading into the second-round vote after beating his secular and leftist challenger Kemal Kilicdaroglu two weeks earlier but failing to win an outright majority.

In the first round, the self-proclaimed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) bucked the mainland trend,

strongly favouring Kilicdaroglu with 53.5 per cent of the vote against 39.4 per cent for Erdogan.

To many, the result reflected discontent with both Erdogan and with life in the statelet that is home to Turkish Cypriots as well as a large number of settlers and soldiers from the Turkish mainland.

"There will be changes here only if Kemal Kilicdaroglu wins," said Necmi Belge, a 70-year-old Turkish Cypriot retiree with Turkish citizenship, who said he voted against Erdogan.

Cyprus has been divided since 1974 when the Turkish army invaded the northern third of the island in response to a coup that had sought to unite the entire island with Greece.

A UN-patrolled "Green



A general view of Nicosia - the world's last divided capital - with the stark contrast between the high-rise buildings which litter the Greek side and the low buildings across the green line on the Turkish side of the city. **PHOTO: YVES SIEUR/AFP/FILE**

Line", secured with razor wire and sandbags, has since cut

across the Mediterranean island that is located about 100

kilometres (60 miles) south of Türkiye's coast.—AFP

Wagner says handing Bakhmut to Russian military control



Wagner, a private military group from Russia, is moving away from a city in Ukraine and giving the area to the Russian military. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/WAGNER SCREENCAP/AFP**

THE head of Russia's Wagner mercenary group said on Thursday his troops had started transferring their positions in the flashpoint eastern

Ukraine city of Bakhmut to the Russian military.

His announcement comes days after Moscow's military said it had deployed jets and ar-

tillery on Russian soil against a "sabotage" group that crossed from Ukraine.

The Kremlin said meanwhile that China's special envoy for Ukraine would be visiting Russia on Friday as part of a tour of European capitals including Kyiv.

The battle for Bakhmut has raged for nearly one year, levelling the city and decimating waves of Wagner recruits who have led Russia's assault on the industrial hub.

"We are withdrawing units from Bakhmut today. We are handing over positions to the military, ammunition and everything," Wagner boss Yevgeny Prigozhin said in a video released on social media.—AFP

Japan ruling parties divided on cooperation in next general election

THE Komeito party, the junior coalition partner of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, has conveyed its decision not to recommend LDP candidates in single-seat districts in Tokyo in the next lower house election, lawmakers said Thursday.

The move by Komeito, which has been part of the coalition government for decades, reflects its frustration with the LDP's unfavourable response to the junior ruling party's eagerness to field its own candidate in the newly established 28th district of Tokyo.

Moreover, Komeito has also decided not to cooperate with the LDP in the next Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly election in 2025, party sources said, with some pundits saying the conflict could dissolve their coalition partnership in the worst-case scenario.—Kyodo

4.5 years in prison for Capitol rioter who put feet on Pelosi office desk

AN Arkansas man photographed with his feet on a desk in House speaker Nancy Pelosi's office after joining the mob that stormed the US Capitol in 2021 was sentenced on Wednesday to four and a half years in prison.

Richard Barnett, 63, was leaning back in a chair with his boots propped up on a desk in the office of the Democratic politician when he had his picture taken by an AFP photographer.

The photo became one of the iconic images of the 6 January, 2021 insurrection.

Barnett had joined supporters of then-president Donald Trump who stormed Congress to shut down the legislature as it convened to certify Democrat Joe Biden as the next US pres-

ident.

A Washington jury convicted Barnett in January on eight counts including obstructing Congress's certification of the election, illegally entering the Capitol and disorderly conduct with a dangerous weapon -- an electric stun device disguised as a walking stick.

Prosecutors had asked Judge Christopher Cooper for a sentence of seven years in prison.

In their sentencing memo, prosecutors said Barnett did not show any remorse and had "sought to profit from his notoriety and criminal conduct" by selling "autographed photos of himself in the Speaker's office suite."—AFP



Richard Barnett sits inside the office of US Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi during the 6 January 2021 attack on the US Capitol by supporters of president Donald Trump. **PHOTO: AFP**

Russia vows ‘extremely’ harsh response to incursions from Ukraine



The alleged perpetrators of the incursion gave interviews to Ukrainian media on Wednesday.
PHOTO: SERGEY BOBOK/AFP

RUSSIA threatened Kyiv on Wednesday it would respond “extremely” harshly to all future incursions, after Moscow deployed jets and artillery to fight off an armed group that crossed over from Ukraine. As Russia took stock following the most serious attack on its soil since Moscow’s offensive in

Ukraine began in February 2022, the chief of the Wagner mercenary group said 10,000 prisoners he recruited died in Ukraine. “We will continue to respond promptly and extremely harshly to such actions by Ukrainian militants,” Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu told military officials after two days of

fighting in the southern region of Belgorod. On Wednesday, Belgorod governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said the territory was targeted overnight by numerous drones. Regional authorities said 13 people had been injured as the area came under sustained artillery and mortar fire.—AFP

1st S Korean wartime labour survivor to accept damages from fund

ONE of the three surviving Korean plaintiffs who won lawsuits over wartime forced labour during Japan’s colonial rule agreed to accept compensation by a South Korean government-backed foundation, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday. Survivors have been seeking an apology and com-

pensation from the Japanese government but until now, none had accepted payment from the foundation. Announced in March by Seoul to settle the wartime labor dispute and help improve ties with Japan, the foundation has seen backlash from the South Korean public.—Kyodo



File photo taken in Seoul, South Korea, in November 2018 shows a group which includes Korean plaintiffs of a 2018 South Korean Supreme Court ruling that ordered compensation from a Japanese company over forced labour during Japan’s 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula. **PHOTO: KYODO**

WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

Iran unveils new ballistic missile

IRAN’S defence ministry on Thursday unveiled a new ballistic missile with a range of 2,000 kilometres (1,242 miles) and a capacity to carry warheads weighing over a tonne. The Kheibar missile — the latest version of the Khorramshahr which is Iran’s longest-range missile to date — was unveiled alongside a replica of the Al-Aqsa mosque in east Jerusalem, in a live broadcast on state television. Iran’s Defence Minister Mohammad-Reza Ashtiani said the missile was unveiled as part of moves to “provide comprehensive support to our friends and countries that are on the path of fighting against the domination system”. State news agency IRNA said the Kheibar is “a liquid fuel missile with a range of 2,000 kilometres and a 1,500 kilogrammes warhead”. Its name references the ancient town of Khaybar — located in modern-day Saudi Arabia —

known for a decisive seventh-century battle in which the army of Prophet Mohammed defeated its thousands of Jewish residents. According to state media, the speed of the high-mobility tactical missile “can reach 16 Mach outside the atmosphere and 8 Mach inside the atmosphere”.

The unveiling comes amid heightened tensions in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and just over 10 days into a fragile Gaza ceasefire that ended five days of cross border conflict between Israel and the Iran-backed Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad.—AFP



A new surface-to-surface 4th generation Khorramshahr ballistic missile called Khaibar with a range of 2,000 km is launched at an undisclosed location in Iran, in this picture obtained on 25 May 2023. **PHOTO: IRAN’S MINISTRY OF DEFENCE/WANA (WEST ASIA NEWS AGENCY)/AFP**

World’s biggest warship visits Oslo, angering Russia

THE world’s biggest warship, the USS Gerald R Ford aircraft carrier, arrived in Oslo on Wednesday for a stopover criticized by neighbouring Russia as an “illogical and harmful” show of force. The 337-metre (1,106-foot) nuclear-powered ship sailed into the Oslo Fjord under escort, where it will stay for several days before heading to the Arctic for military exercises, according to Norwegian media. “Norway is a strategic partner in the continued efforts to maintain a secure and stable Arctic and North Atlantic region that benefits global order,” Erik J. Eslich, commander of US Carrier Strike Group 12, said in a statement.—AFP

Homeless to be moved out of Paris ahead of 2024 Olympics

THE French government plans to move homeless people out of Paris ahead of the 2024 Olympic Games in the capital, sparking criticism from some mayors of regional towns and villages which are expected to house them. From mid-March, the government began asking officials around France to create “temporary regional accommodation facilities” that can handle an outflux of homeless people from the capital, many of them migrants. Housing Minister Olivier Klein explained to parliament earlier this month that the changes were necessary because of an expected accommodation crunch in the City of Light during the rugby World Cup from September and the Olympics next July and August.—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.

French Olympic Committee in turmoil year ahead of Games



The 2024 Summer Olympics will be held in Paris, France from 26 July to 11 August 2024. The Paralympic Games will follow from 28 August to 8 September 2024. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

SPORTS Minister Amelie Oudea Castera on Thursday called on the French National Olympic Committee (CNOSF) to rally together after their president Brigitte Henriques quit her post only 14 months before Paris hosts the Olympic Games.

Henriques' dramatic resignation at the committee's general assembly comes after a year-and-a-

half of internal squabbling and a very public disagreement with her predecessor Denis Masseglia.

Her resignation will not affect the organising of the Games which is handled by the Paris Olympics organising committee headed by France's three-time canoeing gold medalist Tony Estanguet.

Henriques had insisted prior to the assembly

she had no intention of resigning but to the astonishment of the attendees she said she would step down on June 29.

She had taken a few weeks off at the end of 2022 to recover after her right hand man Dider Seminet had been cast aside in September but the atmosphere had not improved when she returned to her post.

The CNOSF general secretary Astrid Guyart will act in a caretaker role till a new president is elected "in the next three months", the body said in a statement.

"There have been no winners today," Oudea-Castera told AFP.

She added, however, there could be "a victory, that of ethics and democracy". — AFP

Two injured in burglary on Kluivert home in Spain

TWO people were lightly injured by three hooded men during a burglary at the home of Valencia's Dutch winger Justin Kluivert, Spanish police said Thursday.

The men broke into the house in Betera, a suburb of the eastern city of Valencia, on Wednesday night and attacked the two people who were inside, a spokesman for Spain's Guardia Civil police force said.

According to Spanish media reports, his partner and a female friend of hers were the ones beaten by the assailants.

The two were "lightly injured" before the intruders made off with "several" valuables whose worth has

yet to be determined, the police spokesman added without providing further details. At the time Kluivert, the son of former Dutch international Patrick Kluivert, was in Palma

preparing for Valencia's match on Thursday night against Mallorca.

The burglars stole watches, jewellery and money worth around 150,000 euros (\$160,000), the reports said.

Several footballers' homes have been targeted in Spain in recent years, often while players were taking part in games.

— AFP



Valencia winger Justin Kluivert was in Palma for a match when the robbery took place. **PHOTO: AFP**

Wu, Zhang end China's 86-year French Open wait

TWELVE months ago, a despondent Wu Yibing was retiring with injury from a low-level clay court tournament in Italy, earning a meagre 530 euros (\$570) for his troubles.

Fast-forward a year and 23-year-old Wu is his country's highest-ranked male player at 59 in the world and about to spearhead a landmark assault at the French Open where it has been 86 years since a Chinese man



Trailblazer: Wu Yibing hits a return to Daniil Medvedev at the 2022 US Open. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

last played in the main draw.

Wu will not be alone when the season's second major gets underway on Sunday as Zhang Zhizhen is also guaranteed a spot.

Shang Juncheng can make it three Chinese men in the tournament if he gets through the final qualifying round on Thursday. "The excitement in China around the top Chinese male players is palpable now and

there is strong media interest linked to the breakthrough of these players on tour," ATP executive vice-president Alison Lee told AFP. Kho Sin-Khie and Choy Wai-Chuen were the last men to represent China in the French capital back in 1937.

Long overshadowed by their female counterparts, Wu and Zhang have been racking up an impressive series of 'firsts'. — AFP