

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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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.

SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla offer day meals to religious title recipient Sayadaws for 2023

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla offered day meals to members of the Sangha who will accept religious titles for 2023 at Sasana Maha Beikman in the precinct of Nay Pyi Taw Uppatasanti Pagoda yesterday morning.

Before the ceremony, the Senior General offered alms in the emerald alms bowl, fruits, flowers, water and oil light to the Buddha image in the Beikman.

Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Myingyan Koehsaungtaik Presiding Patron Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Jotikapala administered the Five Precepts

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State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and the congregation take the Five Precepts from venerable Sayadaws at the ceremony to offer day meals to religious title recipient Sayadaws 2023 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



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Objectives of 78th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day

- To serve primary duties of Tatmadaw for successfully safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes, and protecting the State Constitution and shielding the genuine disciplined multiparty democratic system
- To emphasize agreements in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) as much as possible for the restoration of the durable and perpetual peace across the nation as ceasing of armed conflicts is an actual requirement for realizing the multiparty democratic system
- To safeguard the national interest of the State, lives and property of people, and to put a strenuous effort on respective corners in times of natural disasters.
- To provide the necessary assistance by Tatmadaw for holding a free and fair multiparty democratic general election upon completion of undertakings in accord with the provisions of the state of emergency for the emergence of the Union based on democracy and federalism.

Application for registration, political party establishment rights ongoing

UNDER Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law, the People's Power Party which is desirous of organizing a political party yesterday applied to the Union Election Commission for permission to establish a political party

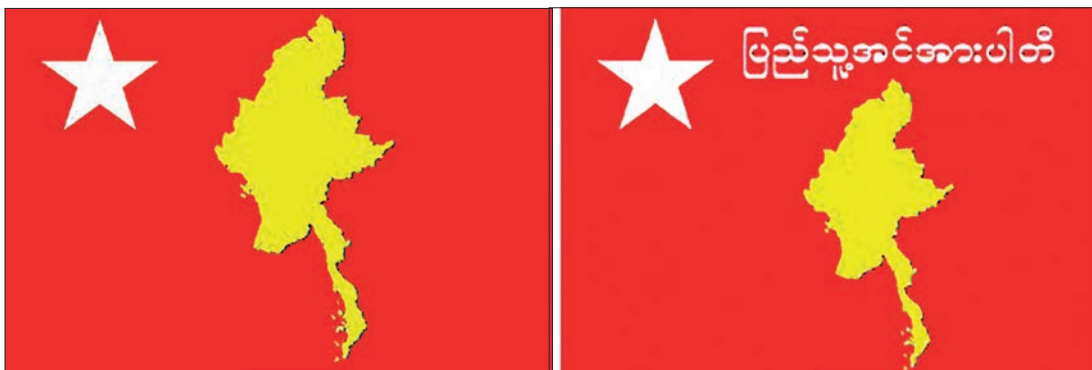
under the law and rules.

To date, four parties have applied under Section 3 of the Political Parties Registration Law, and 10 parties have applied under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law, totalling 14 parties.

Among these 14 parties, five parties will organize the entire Union and nine parties only within a region or state.

The Union Election Commission continues to verify the right to establish and register these parties. — MNA/KZL

Public Notice for Submitting Objection



Flag design of People's Power Party

Emblem of People's Power Party

PEOPLE'S Power Party with its headquarters located at No 318, Kyaukse Street, 5/8 Ward, Shwepyitha Township, Yangon Region applied on 3-3-2023 to be allowed continuity to exist and register as a political party under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration

Law. In such an application, it is reported that the party name, flag and emblem will be used as described.

Under Rule 14 (d) of the Registration of Political Parties, it is hereby announced to the public that those who wish to object to the name of the

party, the flag and the emblem to be used by that organization may submit their objection to the Union Election Commission with valid evidence within seven days from the date of this announcement.

Union Election Commission

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

VACCINATION is being carried out in full swing in various regions and states as the vaccination programmes are one of the most important activities in the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 disease.

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, and relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 135 monks and 418 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region.— MNA



A Buddhist novice gets jabbed against COVID-19 on 3 March 2023.

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of U Min Han Soe, Director-General of the Financial Institutions Supervision Department of the Central Bank of Myanmar, after the one-year probationary period.

Call for Nominations for ASEAN Prize 2023

THE ASEAN Secretariat is calling for nominations for the ASEAN Prize 2023 a prestigious regional award which aims to acknowledge the inspiring and outstanding achievements of an individual or organization in fostering the ASEAN identity, promoting the ASEAN spirit and championing the ASEAN way.

Nominees should have exceptional merit in contributing to the following designated focus areas:

- Collaboration between ASEAN Member States;
- Collaboration between ASEAN and the world;
- People-to-people engagement among ASEAN Member States;
- Economic integration and promotion of standards between ASEAN Member States; or
- Excellent contributions to ASEAN Community Building

A Judging Committee, consisting of eminent high-level members, including incumbent and former ASEAN Secretaries-General, will select a recipient who will be awarded the ASEAN Prize Trophy and a monetary prize of US\$ 20,000.

Submissions for ASEAN Prize 2023 are open from now until 28 April 2023. The nominee must be an ASEAN citizen or an ASEAN-based organization. The nomination form for ASEAN Prize 2023 can be downloaded at the ASEAN Secretariat Website <https://asean.org/nomination-form/>. The Nominee must submit the duly filled-in form to the ASEAN Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office No.9, Nay Pyi Taw or dgasean@gmail.com and amns.mofa@gmail.com no later than the deadline. —MoFA

No new case of COVID-19 reported on 3 March, total figure registers 633,935

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases stood at **633,935** after **no** new case was reported on 3 March 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,402**, including **one** new recovery.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at **19,490** on 3-3-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. —GNLM

Well-educated human resources needed to materialize the genuine disciplined democratic system without fail

TO implement federalism compatible with geographical conditions, national characters and culture of the nation although many countries exercise democracy and federalism across the world. Necessities to turn out well-educated human resources in realizing the genuine disciplined democratic system without fail. Only when the number of educated persons is on the rise can nation-building tasks be accelerated for the promotion of the education sector.

(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the peace talk with the peace delegation led by General Yawd Serk, Chairman of the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) on 29 August 2022)

SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla offer day meals to religious title recipient Sayadaws for 2023

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and members of the Sangha recited Metta Sutta.

The Senior General and wife donated offertories to Vice-Chairman Myingyan Sayadaw, SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, to the Vice-Chairman Thiho Pariyatti Buddhist Learning Centre in Kyaukme of northern Shan State Dr Bhaddanta Candanasara, SAC members and relevant heads at the ceremony, to title recipient Sayadaws.

The Senior General and wife and the Vice-Senior General and wife donated offerings to title-recipient nuns.

After the ceremony, the



Senior General and his wife offered day meals to title recipient members of the Sangha and nuns at home and abroad for 2023 led by Vice-Chairman Myingyan Sayadaw and Vice-Chairman Kyaukme Thiho Pariyatti Buddhist Learning Centre Sayadaw.

The ceremony was attended by 131 title recipient members of the Sangha at home and abroad and three nuns. — MNA/TTA

The Senior General and wife present offerings to the Myingyan Sayadaw.



The Vice-Senior General and wife offer donations.



The wife of the Senior General presents donations to the title recipient nun.



The wife of the Vice-Senior General offers donations to the title recipient nun.

Public Notice for Elimination of Violence

1. Declaring themselves to be “for the people”, the so-called CRPH, NUG and PDF terrorist groups are lawlessly killing Buddhist monks, civil servants including schoolteachers, and members of the general public, as well as looting and robbing.
2. Not encouraging, supporting, or assisting “CRPH”, “NUG”, and “PDF” terrorists, who are intimidating and killing people and committing destructive activities, is to protect the lives and property of the general public.
3. Giving information secretly to the authorities on terrorists and on the possession and transport of weapons/ammunition is tantamount to protecting the lives and property of innocent people.

SAC Member Daw Dwe Bu, Union Minister Jeng Phang Naw Taung attend opening ceremony of gateway, traditional housing, Manaw Compound of Lachid people in Kachin State



The inauguration ceremony of Manaw Compound organized by Lachid ethnics is in action yesterday in Waingmaw Township.

LACHID Literature and Culture Central Committee organized the opening ceremony of a gateway, traditional housing and Manaw Compound at the Lachid tradition and culture field in Madein Vil-

lage-tract of Waingmaw Township yesterday.

It was attended by State Administration Council Member Daw Dwe Bu, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Jeng Phang

Naw Taung, Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan and wife Daw Nang Seng, Northern Command Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko Maung, Kachin State Chief Justice U Tu Ja, military person-

nel and state ministers. They were welcomed by the chairman and officials of the Lachid Literature and Culture Central Committee and the Lachid people with their traditional songs.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister Jeng Phang Naw Taung said it should conserve the language, literature, cultural heritage, tradition and customs than before for the development, peace and prosperity of the Union and Kachin State.

Then, the State Chief Minister urged the participants to work together with the ethnic people to develop the literature, language, culture, region and Union from the respective sectors.

He then gave K20 million cash assistance while K500,000 by the state chief justice to the chairman of the Lachid Literature and Culture Central Committee.

Then, the SAC member and party cut the ribbon to inaugurate the Manaw compound after the praying of Rev Madane Zone Kyau. They also enjoyed the per-

formance of Lachid youths.

The SAC members and party also took part in the Manaw dance joyfully at the same venue.

The Lachid people celebrate Manaw festivals for years ago as they believe they can promote the health of their families, economy and social affairs. When they receive proper achievements or meet with their ethnic people, especially on significant days, they select a day to celebrate the Manaw dance after their leaders by erecting the Manaw poles in their region or house compound. They conserve such dace as Lachid cultural heritage.

The SAC member and party observed the Manaw compound and displayed photos of Lachid people, traditional materials, living styles, literature, weaving and Lachid leaders. The Manaw festival of the Lachid people will be celebrated starting 2 March and the Manaw dance for the closing ceremony will be on 4 March, according to the central committee. — MNA/KTZH

MoI Deputy Minister makes inspection tours to Monywa, Homalin townships

DEPUTY Information Minister U Ye Tint made an inspection tour of the Newspaper Sub-Printing House and Information and Public Relations Department in Monywa Township and encouraged the staff on 1 March evening.

On 2 March morning, the deputy minister together with officials visited the summer sports courses at the Monywa sports ground conducted by the Department of Sports and Physical Education and gave necessary instructions. During the inspection tour, the deputy minister donated books and journals to the sports science library and friendly met trainees, youths and students.

The deputy minister and par-

ty inspected the Monywa District IPRD library, met departmental officials from the district IPRD and the IPRD of Chaung-U, Salinyi, Pale and Kani townships, the MRTV re-transmission station and Monywa Sub-Printing House, and gave necessary instructions.

On 2 March afternoon, the deputy minister inspected the MRTV re-transmission station in Homalin Township. The deputy minister presented 20 DVB T2 set top boxes to the Homalin station commander for Tatmadaw members and families and 20 sets to the district administrator for families of the district administration body. — MNA/MKKS



Deputy Minister U Ye Tint presents the DVB T2 Set Top Box for families of Homalin District Administration Body.

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

Union Health Minister attends Traditional Medicine Conference and Exhibition of Shanghai Cooperation Organization

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win attended the opening ceremony of the Traditional Medicine Conference and Exhibition of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization held in Guwahati, State of Assam in India yesterday morning. It was inaugurated with traditional candlelight, and officials from the Ministry of Ayush gave welcoming speeches.

Then, Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win said in his opening speech that Myanmar traditional medicine is a medical science that has been firmly established as a cultural heritage of Myanmar from successive eras up till present day; During the Covid-19 pandemic, Myanmar, like other countries, conducted medical treatment using tradi-

tional medicines; In order to develop the science of traditional medicine, the University of Traditional Medicine was opened in Mandalay from where traditional medicine practitioners are produced every year; Experts, scholars and businesspersons from member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, observer countries and partner countries will make exerted efforts in the all-round development of traditional medicines; Conference will promote mutual understanding and collaborations for economic relations, trading and investments in the traditional medicine sector; expand traditional medicinal research, and ensure quality, security and efficacy of traditional medicines. Union Minister of Ayush and Minister



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win gives the opening speech at the event yesterday in Guwahati, India.

of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shri Sarbanada Sonowal then delivered the opening speech.

Afterwards, the Union min-

ister and attendees viewed round the exhibition. Delegates from eight member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organi-

zation, three observer countries and 13 partner countries attended the conference and exhibition.

— MNA/TS

Two-generation hatchery needed to designate short-headed catfish as National Fish



Breeders are seen preparing for hatching process. PHOTO: KANU

IN the effort to establish the short-headed catfish in Myanmar's waters as a National Fish of Myanmar, it needs to be successful in hatchery production for up to two generations, and

10 years of research and analysis are required.

Short-headed catfish, a native fish of Myanmar, can be seen in Myanmar's waters and there are no such species in ASEAN

countries. As a country based on agriculture and livestock, it has become a good opportunity to earn foreign income from aquatic products. Breeding ability and the ability to maintain the breed are particularly important in commercial breeding and production, so breeding and research work needs to be done for a decade to be successful.

"A successful hatchling of short-headed catfish will need to be bred again to get hatchable second generation-F₂. It took seven years to successfully breed river catfish. Therefore, we need to take 10 years to breed short-headed catfish," said Deputy Director Daw Moe Thuzar Maung from the Fisheries Institute (Twantay).

Great opportunities await as a consequence of the suc-

cessful breeding of Myanmar Short-headed catfish research, such as standing at high prices due to strong foreign demand, existing as a species in the country of Myanmar alone, being able to lead the market and produce more commercially than other countries, being able to establish a historical landmark from water products for the country if it can be designated as national fish, and being able to have a strong market for livestock farmers and entrepreneurs from commercial production to export.

As the country is rich in freshwater/saltwater products, there was once an abundance of fish like Hilsa and Swamp barb, but it has become rare these days. As Hilsa has been designated as a national fish in Bangladesh, they are leading the

market as foreign exports. In the relevant countries, for the development of the country's economy, surface and underwater resources are designated as heritage and national symbols, where economic opportunities are being developed. In South Africa and India, aquatic animals and products are being designated as National Fish and are promoting national pride.

It needs a period of time to develop Myanmar's short-headed catfish as a national fish, and it will be possible to commercialize breeding and production through the steps of hatchery work and research work within 10 years. There are lights of hope that it can advance as good support in promoting the country's economy as well. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/CT

Officials need to take stricter action against traffic offenders: YR CM

THERE were still traffic accidents in Yangon Region and officials need to take stricter action, according to Yangon Region Chief State Minister U Soe Thein at the meeting between the Committee on Safety of Roads and Traffic in the Yangon Region and four subcommittees on 1 March.

He also stressed the need to install new types of embossed number plates for vehicle registration as quickly as possible and the need to ramp up the implementation of uniformity in road directions and signs. He pointed out the need to install fire extinguishers in cars, reduce the number of il-

legal tri-motorbikes and make three-wheeler motorbikes officially registered. Cooperation among officials at different levels is needed to ensure the safety of roads and traffic for the convenience of road users, the general public, the Yangon Region chief minister stressed at the meeting. — TWA/KZW



YBS buses are pictured in the hub of Yangon city.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Those involved in online gambling, betting and illegal financing services to face legal actions



An online game advertisement.

THOSE who run online gambling, lucky draw and illegal financing services will face legal actions under the existing law, Myanmar Police Force announced on 2 March.

The statement said the unscrupulous persons fool people with online gambling while the technology has boomed widely and the police arrested 71 suspects who operated online gam-

bling, lucky draw and financial services. "Most of the young and elderly people face such cases. The youths face financial cases related to online gambling and the elderly face money

transfers for trade. Recently, we read about the police seizing an online gambling gang in newspapers. Such gambling has become popular among people gradually and most people do gambling online due to the short comedy videos or documentaries which advertise online betting. Besides this, some are waiting for a certain situation to run coin betting, fish hunting and apple gambling games by renting apartments or houses in the wards. The officials should take action against these gangs who run like licenced gambling houses. If so, it can guarantee

the rule of law, peace and tranquillity of the wards," a lawyer considered.

According to the release about the arrest in Hlinethaya Township, the suspects rent the ID cards at K10,000 per card to open bank accounts to run online gambling-related businesses, so those who lend their ID cards may face legal actions.

Therefore, those involved in online gambling, betting and financing services will be taken actions under the existing laws and the financial profits will be examined under the Anti-Money Laundering Law. - TWA/KTZH

Myanmar pockets over 150 mln yuan from bilateral trade with China in Jan-Feb

IN 2023, Myanmar-China bilateral trade reached more than 150 million yuan in two months, according to the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar.

The trade volume of Nongtong, which is a China-Myanmar border trade post, has hit 150 million yuan. It is mentioned in the statement that the Nongtong border had 80,000 tonnes of trade volume in last February.

Since the better preparedness of epidemic policies in China, a cross-border transport system which allows direct entry and exit of vehicles, has been practised at the Nongtong border. The system give access to inspect 200 incoming and outgoing vehicles and 2,600 tonnes of goods passing through the border daily.

Mang Wein, Nantaw, Sinphyu and Panseng land borders which have been closed since March 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic were reopened on 8 January and the permission to cross the border was re-authorized. In addition, China-Myanmar border trade has been better than before after the cancellation of the driver-substitution system in China, according to border merchants.

In addition to this, the Chinese side cancelled the driver-substitution system, and since then, China-Myanmar border trade has been better than before, according to border merchants. — TWA/CT



An official is inspecting the passage of trucks at the China-Myanmar border.

MMPO patron, owner of Amyotha film production U Sein Tin passes away

U Sein Tin, patron of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization and owner of the Amyotha film production passed away on 3 March, according to the organization.

The funeral for the 89-year-old producer will be entombed at Yeway cemetery on 5 March.

His company produced the

"Amay Noh Phoe" movie which won seven academy awards including the movie production academy award in 2003.

The Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, movie production companies and artistes posted condolence messages on social networks respectively. - TWA/KTZH



K5-mln rewards including more than 1,500 prizes remaining to be withdrawn by 31 March



The opening of the 37th Aungbarle Lottery.

IN the opening of the 37th lottery, two K5 million rewards including a K150 million prize, remain to be drawn, and if they are not drawn by 31 March, they will be confiscated, the Ministry of Planning and Finance's Internal Revenue Department Aungbarle Lottery Division announced.

At the opening of the 37th K100

million Aungbarle Lottery Prize, which was opened on 1 April 2022, 17,576 prizes were distributed and 1,569 rewards were not claimed until today.

Two rewards of K5 million that were not claimed, four K1 million prizes, 19 prizes of K300,000, 90 prizes of K200,000, 562 prizes of K100,000, 892

prize certificates of K50,000 can be submitted to the Aungbarle Lottery branch offices in Yangon and Mandalay until 31 March 2023, and the prize money can be claimed.

The Aungbarle Lottery Division of the Ministry of Planning and Finance has announced that if the prize are not collected by 31 March, they will be confiscated as revenue.

In the opening of the 36th Aung Barle Lottery Award, which was opened on 1 March 2022, a prize of K 10 million was awarded, and seven prizes of K1 million, eight prizes of K300,000, 45 prizes of K200,000, 347 prizes of K100,000 and 727 prizes worth K50,000 remain to be redeemed, and the prize tickets that have not been redeemed until 28 February have been confiscated as revenue, according to the Ministry of Planning and Finance's Aungbarle Lottery Division. — TWA/KZL

LOCAL BUSINESS

Prices of watermelon, muskmelon on the rise amid fewer trucks to China

THE number of trucks carrying watermelons and muskmelons leaving for China is decreasing so the prices of watermelon and muskmelon stay on the high side, said fruit traders engaged in Muse border.

In January, over 150 truckloads of watermelon and muskmelon were conveyed to China through the Muse border. At present, only 80 trucks enter China per day.

Watermelon and muskmelon are fetching a good price at 6.1 yuan per kilogramme of the 855 watermelons, 8.1 yuan per kilogramme of muskmelon and six yuan per kilo of Taiwan melon.

In early February, tight inspections by Chinese Customs hindered truck transport. That being so, only 20-30 trucks were able to pass the checkpoint despite the delays amid the high price of watermelon and muskmelon.

Consequently, watermelon was sold out at the depots on the China side and more than 500 trucks queued in line on the Myanmar side.

On 5 February, the trade channel was eased and around 100 trucks entered China. Those trucks struck on the Myanmar side were given the go-ahead in rotation for exports depending on demand, Muse fruit wholesale centre stated.

Myanmar's watermelon and muskmelon are heavily reliant on the Chinese market. The traders struggled with China's strict virus policy.

In 2021, the COVID-19 restrictions hindered Myanmar's watermelon and muskmelon exports to China. Chinese Customs Regulation increased delay. Long delays of trucks caused harm to watermelon quality and only one in five trucks heading to China remained undamaged with quality

watermelons.

The traders are observing delivery time, price and profitability as they are perishable fruit, while they are trying to explore new markets besides China.

On 1 April, Nantaw and Sinphyu border posts were suspended in the wake of COVID-19 impacts. China has closed down the major border crossing - Mang Wein - from 30 March 2021 following the COVID-19 cases in Myanmar.

On 8 July 2021, the two-remaining cross-border posts Kyinsankyawt and Panseng were suspended. As a result of this, the border trade between Myanmar and China was completely halted.

Among the Sino-Myanmar border posts, Kyinsankyawt resumed operations on 26 November 2021. Trade activity at the Muse-Mang Wein crossing point, which performed the majority of trade between Myanmar and



The number of trucks carrying watermelons and muskmelons leaving for China is decreasing so the prices of watermelon and muskmelon stay on the high side.

China, resumed on 14 January 2023. Additionally, other goods except for agricultural products (watermelon, muskmelon), minerals and fisheries products are allowed to be sent to China through that border point.

Additionally, Nantaw and Sinphyu, which are major bor-

ders, were reopened on 25 January 2023.

At present, Myanmar daily delivers rice, broken rice, rubber, various beans and pulses, fishery products, chilli pepper and other food commodities to China through Kyinsankyawt by over 200 trucks. — NN/EM

Mandalay market sees bustling trade activity of tamarind on strong demand

STRONG domestic and foreign demand for Myanmar's tamarind pushed up the price. The Mandalay market is having brisk sales of tamarind before the Thingyan Festival falling in April.

It is the harvest season of tamarind. They are abundantly flowing into the Mandalay market. The prices vary at K1,500 per viss with seeds and K2,400 for seedless ones. The price is

pretty high for now, said U Soe Win Myint, an owner of Soe Win Myint depot.

"It is the year for tamarind to shine. The yield rate in the producing areas is forecast to increase this year. It has foreign demand beyond domestic consumption. At present, Bangladesh is purchasing them. Consequently, growers earn a healthy profit. The price is likely to go higher than that,"

he continued.

Tamarind is yearly exported to China, India and Bangladesh. It is primarily produced in Kyaukpadaung, Popa, Pakokku, Myaing, Yamethin, Nawng-hkio, Zeepingyi and Pinlebu towns. They will abundantly enter the market during the Thingyan period (mid-April). - Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/EM



Tamarind. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 3 March 2023

Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,120
Octane 95	K2,195
Diesel	K2,225
Premium Diesel	K2,305

All of the prices are based on per litre.

Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,172,400 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,840,000 per tical

US Dollar Vs Kyat

A US dollar set by the Central Bank of Myanmar	K2,100
A US dollar in the forex market	K2,865 to K2,880

The above prices may change from time to time.

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OPINION

Don't neglect wild fauna and flora for survival

TODAY'S globe is a habitat not only for wildlife but for human beings. Both groups of living beings have a chance to inhabit all parts of the world harmoniously.

As part of protecting the nature and habitat of wildlife, the United Nations General Assembly at its 68th session held on 20 December 2013 decided to proclaim 3 March, the international day of the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) on the planet raise awareness and benefits fauna and flora in 1973, as the World Wildlife Day.

The General Assembly of the United Nations reaffirmed the intrinsic value of wildlife and its various contributions, including ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic, to sustainable development and human well-being.

Appropriate habitats are the basic need for the conservation of endangered species of wild fauna and flora. As human beings dominate the planet Earth, they have to culture empathy and mercy over the wildlife and have to accept peaceful co-existence with the wildlife to harmonize their habitats. If so, the planet Earth will be pleasant and prosperous.

World Wildlife Day will be celebrated throughout the world in 2023 under the theme "Partnerships for wildlife conservation", honouring the people who are making a difference. In Myanmar, successive governments designated more than 30 wildlife sanctuaries and national parks across the nation as part of the creation of appropriate habitats for the survival of wildlife.

The government has issued restrictions for the conservation of wildlife sanctuaries for wildlife animals to be free from various forms of danger. It is because of the harmonious habitation of flora and fauna including human beings interrelated with the environment. Reciprocally, favourable conditions of the natural environment treat the nature of flora and fauna.

In a bid to improve the nature of wildlife, the government assigns staff and skilled labours to guard the wildlife sanctuaries and national parks. If necessary, personnel serve the reproduction of critically endangered species of wildlife such as golden deer, tortoise and turtle, crocodiles and other rare species of wildlife animals to be free from extinction while officials conduct research to seek ways for the betterment of wildlife habitats.

The UN marks the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). It is an international agreement between governments to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species. Today, it grants varying degrees of protection to more than 37,000 species of animals and plants.

Appropriate habitats are the basic need for the conservation of endangered species of wild fauna and flora. As human beings dominate the planet Earth, they have to culture empathy and mercy over the wildlife and have to accept peaceful co-existence with the wildlife to harmonize their habitats. If so, the planet Earth will be pleasant and prosperous.

I STARTED attending the computer course in 2001. After that, I tried to buy one but I could not afford it because the price of a branded desktop at that moment was at least eight or nine lakhs. Ten years later, I bought a used laptop and started using a computer. The screen size of my laptop was 14 inches and I thought it was too narrow for me to look at. Moreover, I envied those who were working in the desktop publishing house in my town. They are smartly using desktops with wide monitors of which screen sizes were about 19 inches. I could not still afford a brand-new desktop with wide monitors as they would cost about seven or eight lakhs.

However, I could buy a new desktop with a monitor of which a screen size was 18.5 inches in 2015. I sold my old laptop. The desktop was very smart and convenient to be used. After about two years, I became dissatisfied with my monitor as I thought it was narrow as well. I envied those using wide monitors whose screen sizes were 24 or 32 inches. I have seen them in photos and movies. Therefore, I tried to change my monitor to one of which size was 24 inches.

First, it was OK. After several weeks, when I sat in front of the desktop and worked, I started to get dizzy. I could not guess why. Later, I gradually realized that my wide monitor made me dizzy. So, I again changed to a new monitor with a screen size of 19 inches. Since then, it was OK to work for a long time. I have been still using it up to now. I got a good lesson about the shrinking size

The Bigger, The Better?

could make a person fine. When I happened to read the following article the Reader's Digest magazine one day, my thoughts were confirmed.

If you have a Smart TV, you'll know that when you switch it on in the evening, it's easy to feel paralyzed by the sheer range of viewing options. Because of the explosion of streaming apps and services, there is an almost infinite number of viewing choices available.

But have you ever wondered how it is that we can stream pretty much anything to our homes in high definition in an instant? The secret to this technological miracle is one of the most important tricks in computing: compression.

Compression has been a key part of computing since the very beginning. The idea is simple: what if you could shrink a piece of digital information to be the absolute smallest it needs to be? The smaller a file is, the more you can fit on a computer, and the faster it can be transferred over the internet.

Imagine you have a row of 100 red pixels in a photograph. One way to store that information would be to list "red" 100 times, but this would take up a lot of space! A much better way would be to simply record "red



The silicon chip is a classic example of the benefits of miniaturization. Becoming and making smaller or less. **ILLUSTRATION: FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/FREEPIK**

x100", and have the computer know that if it sees the "x100" instruction, to repeat it 100 times. This, in essence, is how files are compressed.

In practice, it gets a lot more complicated to crunch files down to their smallest possible size, as modern computers use highly sophisticated algorithms based on complex mathematics to spot

patterns in files.

The difference in file size can be enormous. To test this, I saved a photo of my cat, Hashtag, in two different formats. The uncompressed image (saved as a BMP file) was 36.6 megabytes while saving it as a PNG file, which uses some clever compression algorithms, reduces it to just 10.8 megabytes. That's three times

less storage space, and three times faster download if I post it on the internet.

There is, however, a way to make our files even smaller. It's essentially the digital equivalent of the Marie Kondo Method: throwing away what we don't need.

This is another type of compression known as "lossy" compression and is partially why streaming services don't fall over, even though millions of people are logging on to watch at the same time.

Take a video, for example. Usually, video files are very large, because they have to contain lots of information to digitally replicate the pictures and sounds. But it's easy to save space by stripping away unnecessary details, like the quiet parts of the soundtrack that are barely perceptible if you're not an audiophile wearing expensive headphones.

The picture can be cut down too — algorithms can subtly replace the sky in the background to use fewer colours, or reuse data from other frames in the video. Again, most of us won't notice. Unless you're obsessive about detail and watching your show on a massive TV, it's probably more useful for you to have the video

By Yin Nwe Ko

stream reliably, and be able to download the file quickly, than it is to be pixel-perfect.

JPEG photos work on those same lossy principles too. If I save my photo of a Hashtag as a JPEG, it shrinks even further to just 1.3 megabytes. That means that if the photo is sent as a JPEG, it will arrive 28 times faster than the uncompressed version—and I'll be able to store around 28 times as many photos on my computer. And the crazy part? Looking at it side by side with the original photo, although the JPEG is significantly less detailed than the original, I can't tell the difference between the two at all.

So, why not just compress everything down to be tiny? It isn't always the answer. Sometimes you'll need a more powerful computer to decompress a file, i.e., to perform the complex Math in reverse. And other times you'll want to keep the originals at their maximum possible quality especially if they are your photos and videos — whereas lossy formats often reduce picture quality.

But for everything else, compression is a brilliant way to do more with less, whether you're watching Netflix, streaming Spotify, or even sharing photos of your cat online.

In recent years, miniaturization technologies, similar to those that produced the 'chips' of electronic integrated circuits, have been adapted to create biological sensors, devices for chemical analysis, and chemical-processing systems in a 'chip-like' format. A revolution similar to that in microelectronics may yield a proliferation of miniaturized chemical sensors, medical diagnostic devices, and scientific research tools for the chemistry and biology communities. Increasing interest and activity in miniaturization technologies by industry, government labs, and academic research groups has stimulated the need for, and the initiation of, the journal *Lab on a Chip*.

This journal aims to provide a central resource for information and research results on miniaturization technology associated with chemistry and biology. The initial issues of the journal published a mixture of review articles and original research papers on the components and science associated with miniaturized chemical systems. It addressed 'plumbing', valves, materials, and the control of fluid flow in scaled-down geometries or microfluidics. There were also papers on the methods of fabricating these microfluidic systems, which is an area of continuing development.

Lab on a Chip has attracted original papers and review articles from leading research groups. The articles are timely and of good technical quality. To date, the materials, fabrication methods, and chemical applications appear to dominate the journal. Researchers and those

who wish to stay informed of technological developments in these rapidly evolving areas may find it to be a significant resource. The articles are technical in nature and appropriate for those with some technical background and those actively working in the field. The journal should be attractive for researchers in the areas of microfluidics, sensors, and microchemical analytical systems.

The editors of other technical journals in the areas of lab automation and chemical engineering are recognizing the importance of the miniaturization of analytical systems. Traditional scientific journals will continue to attract leading papers on the scientific advances in miniaturized systems, but *Lab on a Chip* concentrates on the technological issues associated with fluid handling and the miniaturization of chemical systems. Its 'research highlights' section, which reviews recent publications in the area from other journals such as *Nature*, *Analytical Chemistry*, *Sensors and Actuators*, and the *Journal of Microelectrochemical Systems*, is a helpful central source for keeping abreast of such developments.

The timely publication is important for the use of information in areas of rapid technological development. The journal has an electronic component and promises that papers will be available on the web four-six weeks before print publication. It accepts submissions electronically and aims for a rapid turnaround with publication in 120 days.

Reference: *Reader's Digest Aug 2022*

People with a higher omega-3 index more protected from severe COVID infection: Study

A RECENT research published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition (AJCN) investigated the impact of omega-3 fatty acids, particularly EPA and DHA, and whether they could be protective against getting COVID-19 infection and/or experiencing negative results.

The study compared the risk for three COVID-19 outcomes: 1-testing positive, 2-hospitalization, and 3-death as a function of baseline plasma DHA levels.

DHA levels (percentage of total fatty acids) were measured by Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectroscopy but were converted to Omega-3 Index (red blood cell EPA+DHA percentage) for this analysis.

The three outcomes and relevant covariates were available for 110,584 subjects (hospitalization and death) and for 26,595 ever-tested subjects (positive COVID-19 PCR test result) via the UK Biobank prospective cohort study.

These COVID-19 outcomes were assessed between January 2020 and March 2021.

In the fully adjusted models, subjects in quintile 5 (with the highest Omega-3 Index levels) were 21 per cent less likely to test positive than those in quintile 1, and the risk for a positive test was 8 per cent lower for each 1-SD (standard deviation) increase in plasma DHA percentage.

Quintile 5 subjects were also 26 per cent less likely to be hospitalized than those in quintile 1, and risk for hospitalization was 11 per cent lower per 1-SD increase in DHA percentage.

For death with COVID-19, risk was monotonically lower through quintile 4, but in quintile 5, the risk reduction was partially attenuated and became non-significant. Estimated Omega-3 Index values across the five DHA quintiles ranged from 3.5 per cent (quintile 1) to eight per cent (quintile 5).

Extremely low severity

The investigators also point out that

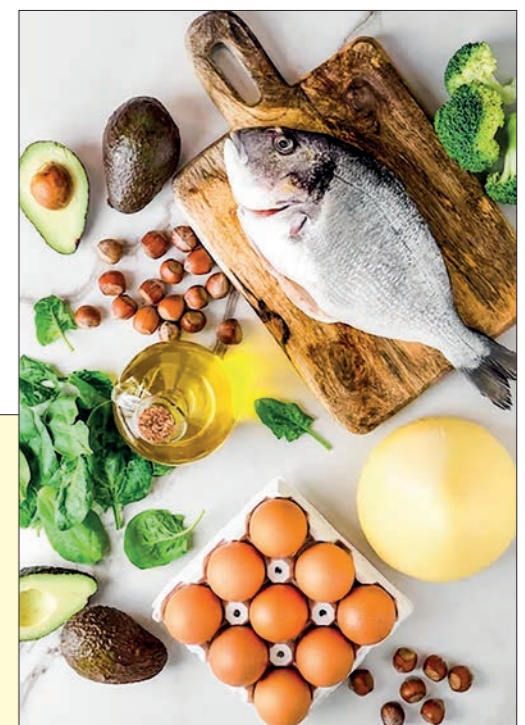
South Korea and Japan have reported an extremely low severity of COVID-19 disease and that although masking practices, social distancing policies and other population-wide interventions no doubt contributed to this, it is interesting to note that the Omega-3 Index values of healthy South Korean and Japanese individuals are about 8-12 per cent and 7-11 per cent respectively, which is much higher compared to an Omega-3 Index of 4-5 per cent in Western populations such as the United States.

"A worldwide pattern linking higher omega-3 fatty acid intakes with lower rates of death with COVID-19 was documented by

Vivar-Sierra et al. Although only suggestive, this observation adds further support for a potential role of omega-3s EPA and DHA in the prevention of fatal COVID-19 disease," the researchers said.

SOURCE: ANI

The three main omega-3 fatty acids are alpha-linolenic acid (ALA), eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA), and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA). ALA is found mainly in plant oils such as flaxseed, soybean, and canola oils. DHA and EPA are found in fish and other seafood. **ILLUSTRATION: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/FREEPIK**



SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

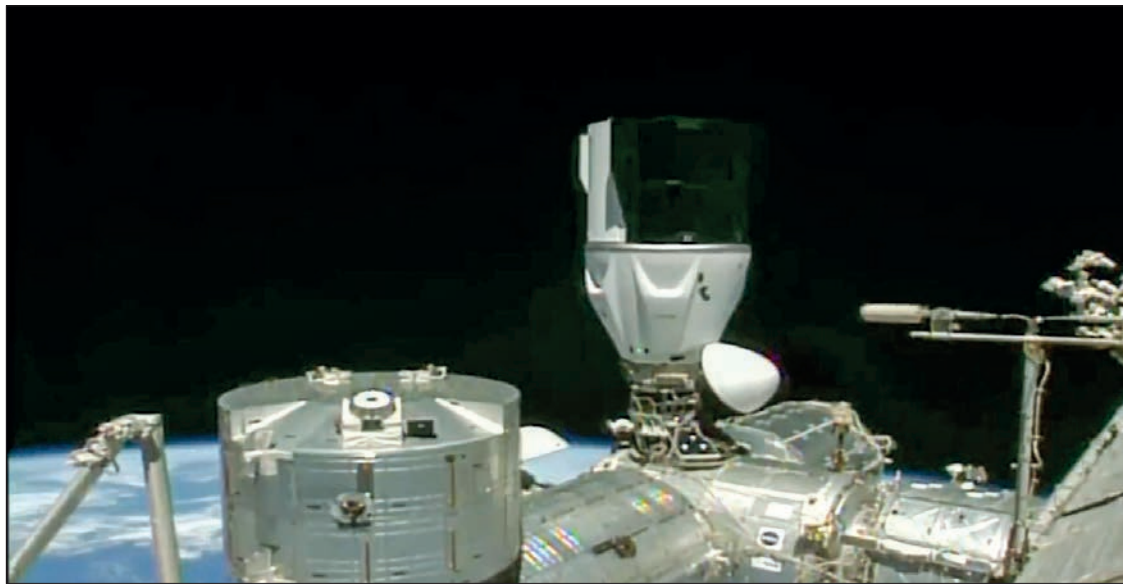
SpaceX Dragon crew enter International Space Station

FOUR astronauts entered the International Space Station on Friday after their SpaceX Dragon Crew-6 mission successfully docked, a NASA livestream showed.

The SpaceX Dragon Endeavour spacecraft arrived at the orbiting station at 0640 GMT on Friday, the US space agency said in a statement.

NASA's Stephen Bowen and Warren Hoburg, Russia's Andrey Fedyaev and Sultan al-Neyadi of the United Arab Emirates entered the station about two hours later, the livestream showed.

A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket carrying the spacecraft had blasted off to the station on



Four astronauts entered the International Space Station after their SpaceX Dragon Crew-6 mission successfully docked. **PHOTO: NASA TV/AFP**

Thursday after the launch was scrubbed just minutes before liftoff earlier in the week.

The crew will spend six months on the station, where they will conduct more than 200 science experiments and technology demonstrations, according to SpaceX. The mission was the first space flight for Neyadi, Hoburg and Fedyaev. Neyadi, 41, is the fourth astronaut from an Arab country and the second from the oil-rich UAE to journey to space. Fedyaev is the second Russian cosmonaut to fly to the ISS aboard a SpaceX rocket. NASA astronauts fly regularly to the station on Russian Soyuz craft.—AFP

US, EU pledge billions in ocean aid at intl conference

A global conference to save the world's oceans kicked off Thursday in Panama with urgent calls to adopt an international protection treaty, along with billions of dollars in US and EU pledges for

research, monitoring and conservation.

Political and business leaders, environmental activists and academics at the two-day conference are grappling with how

best to address a multitude of threats facing the oceans – from climate change and pollution to overfishing and mining.

The Our Ocean Conference is “so incredibly important because it is a conference that is focused on action, not on talk. It’s about real commitments and real solutions,” White House climate envoy John Kerry said at the meeting’s opening.

The former secretary of state announced US commitments of nearly \$6 billion across 77 projects to protect the high seas in 2023, including technical cooperation to facilitate “green shipping corridors”. In a similar spirit, the European Union announced it would dedicate 816.5 million euros (\$865 million) to ocean-related projects this year.—AFP



Vultures pick through garbage, including plastic waste, at a beach in the Costa del Este neighborhood of Panama City in June 2020.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Fishing banned as Philippine oil spill spreads

THOUSANDS of fishermen in the Philippines have been ordered to stay ashore as authorities struggled Friday to contain an oil spill from a sunken tanker that is threatening the region's rich marine life and economy.

The slick off Mindoro island, south of the capital Ma-

nila, stretched for 120 kilometres (75 miles) and was about nine kilometres offshore, said Ram Temena, disaster operations chief in the affected province of Mindoro Oriental.

The Philippine Coast Guard is still looking for the Princess Empress, which had engine trou-

ble and sank in rough seas off Naujan municipality on Tuesday.

It was carrying 800,000 litres (210,000 gallons) of industrial fuel oil from Bataan province, near Manila, to the central province of Iloilo. Another vessel rescued the 20 crew members on board.—AFP

Activists end protest at Norway ministries over illegal wind farms

DEMONSTRATORS protesting against wind farms that were declared illegal after they were built said Friday they will end their action, following a week of action at Norway's government buildings.

It follows an apology by the government for violating the rights of the Sami reindeer herders with the construction of 151 turbines in the Fosen region in western Norway — which are still in operation, despite the supreme court declaring them illegal in October 2021.

Elle Nystad, one of the Sami activist leaders, said Friday that Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store “has promised to

ensure that the government will give priority to this issue.”

“Therefore, for our last day of action, we are sitting in front of the Royal Palace during the weekly cabinet meeting,” she added.

A rally was also held in the morning in front of Norway's parliament, attended by dozens of people dressed in Sami traditional red and blue costumes.

Since 23 February indigenous Sami activists, later joined by Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, have been occupying or blocking ministries while demanding the demolition of the wind turbines.—AFP



The government has apologized to the Sami reindeer herders over the construction of wind turbines. Herders say the loud sounds produced by the giant structures scare away reindeer.

PHOTO: NTB/AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Former Italy PM under investigation over Covid response

THE former Italian prime minister Giuseppe Conte is facing a judicial inquiry over the government's response to the Covid-19 outbreak in early 2020, media reports said Wednesday.

Prosecutors in Bergamo, the northern city that was one of the epicentres of the coronavirus outbreak in Europe, targeted Conte after wrapping

up their three-year inquiry, according to the reports.

Conte, now president of the populist Five Star movement, was prime minister from 2018 to 2021 and oversaw the initial measures taken to halt the spread of what would become a global pandemic.

Investigating magistrates suspect that Conte and his

government underestimated the contagiousness of Covid-19 even though available data showed that cases were spreading rapidly in Bergamo and the surrounding region.

They note that in early March 2020 the government did not create a "red zone" in two areas hit hardest by the outbreak, Nembro and Alzano Lombardo, even though security forces were ready to isolate the zone from the rest of the country.

Red zones had already been decreed in late February for around a dozen other nearby municipalities including Codogno, the town where the initial Covid case was reportedly found.

Conte's health minister Roberto Speranza as well as the president of the Lombardy region, Attilio Fontana, are also under investigation, the reports said.—AFP



Bergamo has been the early epicentre of the COVID-19 epidemic in Europe. Italian army trucks have been deployed to Bergamo's Monumental cemetery to take about 60 coffins to crematoria in other regions. **PHOTO: STRINGER/ANSA/AFP**

Children in quake-hit Syria face 'catastrophic threats': UN

THE United Nations warned Thursday of grave risks to 3.7 million children in parts of war-ravaged Syria affected by last month's earthquake, as the UN children's agency chief visited the country. The 6 February quake that struck neighbouring Türkiye killed more than 50,000 people, including almost 6,000 in Syria, according to officials and medics.

In Syria alone, at least 8.8 million people have been affected by the devastating quake, according to the United Nations.

"The 3.7 million children in affected areas of Syria... are facing several growing and potentially catastrophic threats," the UN children's agency UNICEF said in a statement.

It cited the disaster's emotional and psychological impact as well as the increased risk of disease and "a lack of access to basic services for families left vulnerable by almost 12 years of conflict". UNICEF's executive director Catherine Russell, who wound up a two-day visit to Syria on Thursday, said "the

children of Syria have already endured unspeakable horror and heartbreak". The quake and aftershocks "not only destroyed more homes, schools and places for children to play, they also shattered any sense of safety for so many of the most vulnerable children and families".

UNICEF said it needed "\$172.7 million to deliver immediate life-saving support for 5.4 million people, including 2.6 million children, impacted by the

earthquake" in Syria.

"Providing access to essential services, like safe water, health care and psychosocial support" can help families begin to rebuild their lives, Russell added in the statement.

World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Wednesday urged the international community to help earthquake-hit northwest Syria, on his first ever visit to rebel-held areas of the country.—AFP



A family from the Rumaila area in Jableh district, in northwestern Syria stands close to their destroyed house. **PHOTO: HASAN BELAL/UNICEF**

New lung health study identifies importance of early-life factors



The researchers looked at 33 key factors covering the lifespan from birth to age 24 years - when lung function is at its peak and a robust indicator of respiratory health in later life. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ AFP**

NEW insights into the importance of early-life factors on lung health have been unveiled in the most comprehensive study of its kind, led by the Universities of Essex and Bristol.

The researchers hope the findings, published today in the European Respiratory Journal, will pave the way to developing predictive tools for respiratory health and reduce healthcare inequality by targeting early-life interventions for people at higher risk.

The study analyzed data

collected from 7,545 participants of Bristol's Children of the 90s study (also known as the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children, ALSPAC), a world-leading longitudinal study which has followed pregnant women and their offspring since 1991.

The researchers looked at 33 key factors covering the lifespan from birth to age 24 years - when lung function is at its peak and a robust indicator of respiratory health in later life.—ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

African cholera cases falling but floods up risk: WHO

CHOLERA cases are falling across Africa, the World Health Organization said Thursday, but the number of deaths remains stable and heavy flooding is increasing the risk of the disease spreading.

The United Nations agency said that 2,880 cases of cholera were recorded across the continent in the week ending on 26 February - a 37 per cent decline compared to the previous week.

But the disease has kept claiming lives at a similar rate. Eighty-one cholera deaths were recorded during week ending on 26 February, compared to 82 recorded the week before. Several African countries are battling cholera outbreaks, with the southern African nation of Malawi suffering its worst ever epidemic.—AFP

California officially ends COVID-19 state of emergency

THE COVID-19 emergency state in California, the most populous state of the United States, officially ended on Tuesday, nearly three years after Governor Gavin Newsom issued the country's first statewide stay-at-home order.

Newsom issued a proclamation on Tuesday terminating California's COVID-19 state of emergency. Since March 2020, the statewide emergency declaration has given Newsom the power to suspend or change laws in California to fight the spread of COVID-19.

Previously, the state government has lifted most of its COVID-19 restrictions, including mask mandates, restaurant dining capacity and vaccination proof for indoor sites.—AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Japan drops to 104th in gender disparity rank in World Bank survey

JAPAN ranked a dismal 104th in the World Bank's latest report on women's economic opportunities, continuing to trail the rest of the Group of Seven developed member countries over the progress towards gender equality in the law.

The annual survey, covering 190 countries and territories, assesses gender gaps in laws and regulations across eight areas, including workplace, pay, parenthood, and entrepreneurship.

In the just-released report, Japan scored an average of 78.8 out of 100, sharing the same score with countries such as the

Philippines.

Japan did poorly in the categories of workplace and pay, scoring 50 and 20 out of 100, respectively, though it did get full marks for pensions and mobility.

Among other G-7 members, Canada, Germany and France each scored 100 on the index, which means that women are on an equal legal standing with men in all of the areas measured. Italy and Britain followed with a score of 97.5, and the United States with 91.3. Japan's ranking has continuously fallen, ranking 74th in the 2020 report, 80th in the 2021 report and 103rd in 2022.

Globally, the World Bank said the average score in the latest report was 77.1, an improvement by only half a point from its last survey. It said there were only 34 gender-related legal reforms in 18 countries, the lowest number since 2001.

"At the current pace of reform, it would take at least 50 years to approach legal gender equality everywhere," the international organization warned in the report. "In many countries, a woman entering the workforce today will retire before she will be able to gain the same rights as men."—Kyodo



Japan ranked a dismal 104th in the World Bank's latest report on women's economic opportunities. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Egypt raises fuel prices amid spiralling economic crisis



The country's Petroleum Products Pricing Committee said the price per litre of 80-octane fuel would increase to 8.75 pounds (\$0.28) from eight pounds previously. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

EGYPT'S oil ministry has announced a rise in the price of fuel effective Thursday, as the

Arab world's most populous nation struggles with inflation and is sapped dry of dollars. The Egyp-

tian economy was hit hard after Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine unsettled global investors, leading them to pull billions out of the North African country.

The war has sent wheat prices spiralling, heavily impacting Egypt — one of the world's largest grain importers — and piling pressure on its foreign currency reserves. In under a year, the Egyptian pound has lost half of its value, propelling annual inflation in the import-dependent country to 26.5 per cent in January, figures in February showed.

Of the \$34.2 billion in Cairo's foreign reserves — a 20-percent drop from February 2022 — some \$28 billion are deposits from wealthy Gulf allies.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

UK's Johnson says 'difficult' to back new N Irish Brexit deal

FORMER UK prime minister Boris Johnson said Thursday he would find it "very difficult" to vote for successor Rishi Sunak's new EU deal overhauling post-Brexit trade rules in Northern Ireland.

Johnson, whose supporters accuse Sunak of betrayal for having helped force the former leader out last year, broke his silence after the breakthrough deal was announced on Monday.

"I'm going to find it very difficult to vote for something like this myself, because I believed we should've done something very different," Johnson said in a speech in London.

"This is not about the UK taking back control," he said, but "a version of the solution that was being offered (by the EU) last year".

"This is the EU graciously unbending to allow us to do what we want to do in our own country, not by our laws, but by theirs," he added.

As prime minister, Johnson rammed through the old "Northern Ireland Protocol" in his rush to withdraw Britain from the EU.

He admitted in his speech that the set of trading rules, now supplanted by Sunak's deal, had proved problematic.—AFP

Western Union ramps up US remittance service to Cuba

WESTERN Union said Thursday it was substantially expanding money transfer services to Cuba following a test phase more than two years after sanctions forced the US-based company to shut down operations on the communist-run island.

US customers are limited to sending a maximum of \$2,000 per day, but those transactions can now be made from more than 4,400 retail locations across 50

states, Western Union said in a statement.

It also made digital send service available from WesternUnion.com and the Western Union mobile app, it said.

As during the test phase, the money can only be deposited as US dollars into three Cuban banks: Banco Popular de Ahorro, Banco Metropolitano SA and Banco de Credito y Comercio (Bandec). Cuba is experiencing

its worst economic crisis since the 1990s and has seen record levels of its citizens leaving the island in recent years.

Remittances from the United States accounted for an estimated six percent of Cuba's GDP until 2020, when then-president Donald Trump's administration imposed sanctions on Fincimex, Western Union's in-country affiliate, accusing it of aiding the Cuban military.—AFP



Western Union offers money transfer services to every country on Earth except Iran and North Korea. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ AFP/FILE**

Lufthansa returns to annual profit after Covid losses

GERMAN airline giant Lufthansa said Friday it returned to annual profit in 2022 after two years of losses, its fortunes lifted by rebounding demand as economies reopened after Covid shutdowns.

The group reported

a net profit of 791 million euros (\$839 million) for last year. This compares to a net loss of 2.2 billion euros in 2021 and 6.7 billion euros in 2020.

“Lufthansa is back,” said the company’s CEO Carsten Spohr.—AFP



When the coronavirus brought global air travel to a halt, Lufthansa suffered massive losses. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ford to resume F-150 Lightning manufacturing on 13 March

FORD will resume production on its F-150 Lightning electric truck on 13 March, more than five weeks after a battery fire brought operations to a halt, the company said Thursday.

Ford suspended production soon after the 4 February fire, which involved a pickup truck that was undergoing standard inspection. A Ford spokeswoman said there was no timetable to resume deliveries of the trucks to dealerships or consumers. As the electric version of the F-150, the best-selling auto in the United States for four decades, the Lightning has been closely watched as a key benchmark for electric vehicle (EV) penetration into the US transportation



Ford plans to resume manufacturing of the F-150 Lightning on 13 March 2023. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

system. The company has not publicly provided a detailed explanation of the problem with the battery.

The US auto giant will restart production at its Dearborn, Michigan factory following the in-

stallation of battery cells from supplier SK, said Ford spokeswoman Emma Bergg.—AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BIENDONG STAR VOY.NO. (23006N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BIENDONG STAR VOY.NO. (23006N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-3-2023** 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 X-PRESS FEEDERS LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY.NO. (W144)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (W144)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-3-2023** 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 INTER ASIA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (KH DY0337N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (KH DY0337N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-3-2023** 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 PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PRETTY MERAK VOY.NO. (AR1372)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PRETTY MERAK VOY.NO. (AR1372)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-3-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIPL** 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: **2301928**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S GLOBAL MARS SHIPPING PRIVATE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HTK LUCKY VOY.NO. (03/23)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HTK LUCKY VOY.NO. (03/23)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-3-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MMKH** 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: **2301928**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S WILHELMSSEN PORT SERVICE(S) PTE LTD

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

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South Korea, US to hold large military drill amid North Korea threat

SOUTH Korea and the United States will hold an annual joint military exercise for 11 days later this month to strengthen their combined defensive posture, the countries announced Friday, as North Korea continues to develop ballistic missiles.

The Freedom Shield exercise is scheduled to take place between 13 and 23 March without a break, according to South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff and US Forces Korea.

"Freedom Shield is designed to strengthen defence and response capabilities of the alliance by focusing within the exercise scenario on things such as, the changing security environment, DPRK aggression and lessons learned



Officials of the South Korean and US military hold a joint press briefing in Seoul on 3 March 2023, on an annual joint military drill to be held 13-23 March. **PHOTO: POOL PHOTO / KYODO**

from recent wars and conflicts," JCS spokesperson Col Lee Sung Jun said at a joint

press briefing.

DPRK stands for North Korea's official name, the Dem-

ocratic People's Republic of Korea.

When asked about the possibility of provocative acts by North Korea during the exercise, Lee said the allies will remain in a "firm" readiness posture.

USFK spokesperson Col Isaac L Taylor added that the joint drill will provide a great opportunity to show how ironclad the South Korea-US alliance is.

The allies have been holding the Teak Knife special military exercise since last month, involving the first deployment of an AC-130J gunship by the United States on the Korean Peninsula as well as MC-130J multi-mission combat transport aircraft.—Kyodo

China, India promise to improve bilateral relations

CHINESE Foreign Minister Qin Gang met with Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar in New Delhi on Thursday, with both sides vowing to improve bilateral ties.

The duo held the meeting on the sidelines of the Group of 20 (G20) Foreign Ministers' Meeting held from Wednesday to Thursday. Qin said during the meeting that as neighbouring countries and major emerging economies, China and India have far more common interests than differences. The development and revitalization of China and India display the strength of developing countries, which will change the future of one-third of the world's population, the future of Asia and even the whole world, Qin noted.—Xinhua

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Biden, Scholz to weigh next steps for Ukraine

US President Joe Biden hosts German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in Washington on Friday for talks on charting the way ahead in

their support for Ukraine, after friction over tank deliveries to Kyiv.

Scholz's first trip to Wash-

ington since February 2022 offers the leaders the opportunity to demonstrate their resolve in backing Ukraine against Russia.

But the talks will likely delve into thorny issues dividing the two, including Germany's fears over Washington's green subsidies under the Inflation Reduction Act, and US caution over Berlin's continued strong economic ties with Beijing.

"I think the two of them are now more concerned about the way ahead — what will the next months in Ukraine look like? What does that mean for the support that the allies can organize for Ukraine?" said Scholz's spokesman Steffen Hebestreit.—AFP



Ukraine on 24 February marked one year since Russia launched its attack, ending decades of relative stability in Europe. **PHOTO: HANDOUT/AFP**

Ukraine: 38 prisoner swaps with Russia since March 2022

UKRAINE said there have been 38 prisoner swaps with Russia since March 2022.

A total of 1,863 Ukrainians, including 1,756 military person-

nel, were released as a result, Ukraine's Coordinating Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War said in a statement. Since it started operation

in March last year, the agency has provided about 28,000 consultations to the families of the Ukrainian military, according to the statement. —Xinhua

EU's Borrell sees 'small improvement' in US talking with Russia



EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said Friday he saw a "small improvement" in diplomacy with Moscow after a Group of 20 meeting that saw rare US-Russia talks. **PHOTO: AFP**

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said Friday he saw a "small improvement" in diplomacy with Moscow after a Group of 20 meeting that saw rare US-Russia talks.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken met briefly Thursday with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov at the meeting in New Delhi, with the top US diplomat pressing Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine.

Borrell noted that Lavrov remained in the room when Western nations criticized Russia, unlike at the last G20 foreign

ministers' meeting in Bali last year, when he stormed out.

"At least this time he stayed and he listened. This is a small improvement but it's important," Borrell said at the Raisina Dialogue, a forum in New Delhi.

"I think it's better than nothing," he said. Borrell said he would oppose any effort to boot Russia from the G20, meant to represent the world's major economies, in line with Russia's eviction a decade ago from the Group of Seven — then the Group of Eight — major industrial democracies.—AFP

UK disappointed as Argentina withdraws from Falklands pact

THE UK government on Thursday insisted the Falkland Islands remained British as Argentina walked away from a cooperation pact and demanded new talks over their sovereignty.

Known as the Malvinas in Spanish, the UK-ruled islands were the subject of a short but brutal war after Argentina invaded in 1982. Britain drove out the invading force after dispatching a naval armada.

In 2016, the two sides agreed to disagree about sovereignty, but to cooperate on issues such as energy, shipping and fishing, and on identifying the remains of unknown Argentine soldiers killed in battle.

But at G20 talks in New Delhi, Argentinian Foreign Minister Santiago Cafiero informed UK counterpart James Cleverly that his government was abandoning

the pact. In a series of tweets, he renewed Argentina's longstanding demands instead for negotiations about sovereignty of the islands at the UN in New York.

"The Falkland Islands are British," Cleverly retorted on Twitter over Cafiero's thread.

"Islanders have the right to decide their own future -- they have chosen to remain a self-governing UK Overseas Territory," he added.

The decision was announced just as Britain's minister for the Americas, David Rutley, was visiting Buenos Aires for what he called "productive" meetings.

"Argentina has chosen to step away from an agreement that has brought comfort to the families of those who died in the 1982 conflict," Rutley tweeted, calling the decision "disappointing". "Argentina, the UK and the



A ceremony commemorates the 40th anniversary of the beginning of the war between Argentina and Great Britain over the Falkland/Malvinas islands, in Ushuaia, Argentina, 2 April 2022. PHOTO: ALEXIS DELELISI / AFP/FILE

Falklands all benefited from this agreement," he said.

Both countries last year

marked the 40th anniversary of the conflict, which claimed the lives of 649 Argentinian sol-

diers, 255 British servicemen, and three women who lived on the island.—AFP

US conservatives target liberal 'threat' at annual forum

US conservatives reprised some of their greatest hits on the opening day of their annual conference Thursday, as they offered multiple "culture war" grievances that framed government as the biggest threat to the American way of life.

Thousands of Republicans gathered at a plush riverfront hotel in the Washington suburbs to vet hopefuls weighing challenges to frontrunner Donald Trump in the race for the 2024 presidential nomination.

The Conservative Political

Action Conference (CPAC) auditorium, which never appeared to be more than a quarter full, heard some serious discussion of the opioid epidemic, the rising threat from China and the immigration crisis. But much of the debate focused on so-called "wedge" issues such as transgender athletes, "woke" education and perceived attacks on religious liberty as an array of firebrands aimed their sharpest broadsides at fellow Americans perceived as too progressive.—AFP



Presenters at the Conservative Political Action Conference in suburban Washington included Senator JD Vance (C on stage) and Senator Ted Cruz (R on stage) on 2 March 2023. PHOTO: AFP

Cambodia opposition leader jailed 27 years for treason



Supporters of Kem Sokha gather outside the Phnom Penh Municipal Court where he was sentenced to 27 years for treason. PHOTO: AFP

CAMBODIAN opposition leader Kem Sokha was on Friday sentenced to 27 years in jail for treason, a verdict that ruled him out of elections this year and was

immediately denounced by the United States as a "miscarriage of justice".

Kem Sokha was accused of hatching a "secret plan" in collu-

sion with foreign entities to topple the government of longtime Prime Minister Hun Sen, upon his arrest in 2017.

The 69-year-old co-founder of the now-dissolved Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) has long been a prominent adversary of Hun Sen, who critics say has wound back democratic freedoms and used the courts to stifle opposition. Kem Sokha has repeatedly denied the charges against him, which rights groups say were designed to bar him from politics ahead of July's elections.

Immediately after the verdict at the Phnom Penh court, he was placed under house arrest and banned from meeting foreigners and anyone who is not a family member without permission of the court.—AFP

Scholz vows to ramp up Germany's armaments industry

CHANCELLOR Olaf Scholz vowed Thursday to ramp up Germany's armaments manufacturing industry, after NATO warned that Ukraine was currently using up more ammunition than allies were producing.

Scholz said he was in talks with the armaments industry to increase production of military equipment for both the Bundeswehr and other European armies.

"We need a running pro-

duction of important weapons, equipment and ammunition," he said.

"That requires long-term contracts and down payments to build up capacities," he added.—AFP

UK disappointed as Argentina withdraws from Falklands pact

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SPORT

Klopp says 'results machine' Man Utd are in Premier League title race

LIVERPOOL manager Jurgen Klopp has praised Manchester United's revival under Erik ten Hag and believes the Red Devils are still in the Premier League title race ahead of their trip to Anfield on Sunday.

United sit third in the table, 11 points behind leaders Arsenal but with a game in hand.

Ten Hag's side have already ended a six-year wait for silverware by lifting the League Cup last weekend and remain in the hunt for more trophies in the FA Cup and Europa League.

"It is obviously not a team built up for the next 20 years because of the players they have signed. It is for now — but now they are really good," Klopp said at his pre-match press conference on Friday.

"They have turned into a results machine. They are squeezing results out with some



In his no-nonsense way, Ten Hag has restored standards at Old Trafford that had badly slipped under his predecessors. Manchester United's Antony (left) vies with Newcastle United's Allan Saint-Maximin during the English League Cup final football match at Wembley Stadium in London on Sunday, 26 February 2023. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

really good performances. Top football, and if it is not going so well, they still get results. "That's why they are there. Everyone knows it, they are fully

in a fight to win the league." Marcus Rashford's career-best tally of 25 goals in all competitions has been a major factor in United's resurgence.—AFP

Howe dodges row over Newcastle's Saudi ownership

NEWCASTLE boss Eddie Howe has refused to become embroiled in a fresh row over the club's Saudi ownership, saying he is not qualified to talk on the matter.

The club have been thrust into the spotlight again after court papers filed in the United States described chairman Yasir Al-Rumayyan as a minister in the Saudi Arabian government.

That raises questions over the Premier League's confirmation that it had received "legally-binding assurances" of the separation between the state and its Public Investment Fund (PIF), of which he is governor.

Newcastle have been 80 percent owned by the PIF, which is Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, since October 2021.

Asked about the latest development on Friday, Howe, whose side face reigning champions Manchester City this weekend, said his focus was on his players.

"The minute I deviate from that is the minute I go into dangerous waters for me and I waste energy in areas that don't help the players," he told reporters.—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.

U-15 league to be held for new talented youth footballers

THE Myanmar Football Federation executive meeting was held yesterday and officials discussed the successful holding of the FIFA-MFF U-15 Youth League 2023, which will be held according to the guidelines of the World Football Federation for the emergence of new generations of young people.

The U-15 boy's teams from regions, states and townships will be invited to participate in the competition.

Provision of subsidies for each team, organization of the youth league as per the rules and regulations, organizing live broadcasts and publishing information to encourage fans will be focused during

the meeting. A scouting team was set up for outstanding players, and they discussed the possibility of the newcomers for the Myanmar national team according to their age.

The Myanmar Football Federation is making preparations for the FIFA-MFF U-15 Youth League 2023 tournament, and teams from townships will be invited soon.

In addition, if the number of members exceeds the specified number of teams for registration and admission, information will continue to be released for playing qualifiers and verifying the correctness of age, as well as the criteria to be kept in a team and the formation of administrative coaching groups. — KZL



U-15 boy's teams from regions, states and townships will be invited to participate in the FIFA-MFF U-15 Youth League 2023. PHOTO: MFF