

# 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 receives delegation of Fund RC-Investments from the Russian Federation



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Mr Shatirov Alexander Sergeevich, Director of Fund RC-Investments from the Russian Federation in Nay Pyi Taw on 14 March 2023.

**C**HAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received the delegation led by Mr Shatirov Alexander Sergeevich, Director of Fund RC-Investments from the Russian Federation at the parlour of the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday

afternoon.

They cordially exchanged views on manufacturing value-added products with the use of minerals and natural resources of Myanmar; plans to conduct research for the conservation of natural resources, exporting agricultural and livestock products as well as marine products from

Myanmar to Russia, promotion of bilateral trade, production of modern furniture and other equipment by using forest products of Myanmar and technology, production of pulp, cooperation in the enhancement of direct aviation transport and tourism sectors between the two countries, plans of Russia to do research

on Myanmar's promotion of transport sector, investments of Russia in Myanmar, further promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation, and future plans.

The Senior General and the Russian Director exchanged commemorative gifts and had documentary photos taken together with attendees.

Also present at the meeting were SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo and Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw. The Russian Director was accompanied by delegation members and officials of the Russian Embassy in Myanmar. — MNA/TTA

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## Objectives of 78<sup>th</sup> 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.

### MYANMAR GAZETTE

#### Heads of Service Organizations transferred, confirmed, and appointed

1. The State Administration Council has transferred and appointed U Hla Maung Thein, Director-General of the Department of Environmental Conservation of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, as Director-General of the Union Minister's Office of the same ministry from the date he assumes charge of his duties.
2. The State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of Daw Hnin Kyi, Director-General of the Department of Teacher Training under the Ministry of Education, after the one-year probationary period.
3. The State Administration Council has appointed Daw Yu Yu Khin, Deputy Director-General of the Prosecution Department of the Ministry of Legal Affairs, as Director-General of the Legal Knowledge Dissemination Department of the same ministry on probation from the date she assumes charge of her duties.

## 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 contribution 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](mailto:dgasean@gmail.com) and [arnns.mofa@gmail.com](mailto:arnns.mofa@gmail.com) no later than the deadline.

## Application for registration, political party establishment rights ongoing

UNDER Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law, the Khamee Nation Development Party, and the United Nationalities Democracy Party which are desirous of organizing political parties yesterday applied to Union Election Commission for permission to establish political parties under the law and rules.

To date, six parties applied under Section 3 of the Political Parties Registration Law and 17 parties under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law, totalling 23. Among these 23 parties, five parties will organize in the entire union and 18 parties only within a region or state.

Union Election Commission continues verifying the right to establish and register these parties. — MNA

### Public Notice for Submitting Objection

1. The Party for People with its headquarters located at No 4/361, Karya 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Thingangyungyi Ward, Mingaladon Township, Mingaladon District, Yangon Region, applied on 13-3-2023 to be allowed to continue to exist and register as a political party under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law. It is reported that the party name, flag and emblem will be used as described below.
2. 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.



The flag design of the Party for People



The emblem of the Party for People

Union Election Commission

### Public Notice for Submitting Objection

1. Shan-Ni Solidarity Party (SSP) with its headquarters located at No 1/89, Myopat Road, Ayethaya Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Region applied on 13-3-2023 to be allowed to continue to exist and register as a political party under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law. It is reported that the party name, flag and emblem will be used as described below.
2. 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.



The flag design of the Shan-Ni Solidarity Party (SSP)



The emblem of the Shan-Ni Solidarity Party (SSP)

Union Election Commission

## Systematic paddy cultivation needed

It is necessary to procure seed paddy of pure stock, fertilizers, farm water and correct growing methods in the systematic implementation of agricultural activities.

*(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with businesspersons of Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) from Myeik District on 5 November 2022)*

# Farmers and livestock breeding entrepreneurs must be educated to increase the production of quality agriculture and livestock products: Vice-Senior General



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the meeting 1/2023 of the Steering Committee on Protection of Farmer Rights and Enhancement of Benefits in Nay Pyi Taw on 14 March 2023.

**T**HE State economic promotion fund will be spent on the cultivation of 500,000 acres of green grams and 850,000 acres of summer paddy, said Steering Committee on Protection of Farmer Rights and Enhancement of Benefits Leader Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the meeting 1/2023 of the steering committee at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General said that the agricultural sector constitutes 23.7 per cent of the GDP of the State, and agriculture and livestock products are important export goods.

The Law of Protection of the Farmer Rights and En-

hancement of their Benefits has been enacted for enabling farmers to enjoy deserved rights and benefits. Under Section 4 of the law, the Steering Committee on Protection of Farmer Rights and Enhancement of Benefits was formed with 39 members led by the SAC Vice-Chairman to implement duties and functions. In accord with the law, the floor prices of paddy were set in November 2022, and now, a plan is underway to form a crop floor price-setting team.

Under the MEB two-step loan plan, arrangements have been made for farmers to link Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank and relevant departments to take out agricultural loans for cultivation in vacant, virgin, fallow and forest lands.

The Ministry of Electric Power must give technological assistance for solar projects and

the implementation of solar systems in the supply of water. The Agriculture Department releases input prices every two weeks. Farmers plan to grow 1.5 million acres of sunflower for local oil sufficiency and development of oil crop sector. The government disburses K100.248 billion of loans to sunflower growers. Moreover, a four-year special plan is being implemented for extending the cultivation of cotton plants to substitute import goods of long-staple cotton, increase per-acre yield and extend cultivable lands. So, 458,388 acres of cotton plantations have been cultivated up to 28 February 2023 against the target of 700,000 acres. In addition, the State economic promotion fund will be spent on the cultivation of 500,000 acres of green gram and 850,000 acres of summer paddy. The Vice-Senior General

stressed that farmers and livestock breeding entrepreneurs must be educated to increase the production of agriculture and livestock products of good eating quality.

Up to 31 December 2022, a total of 8,855 water use groups-WUGs were formed with 226,930 farmers. Furthermore, water use association-WUA is being formed one after another for the participation of farmers across the nation.

Currently, the emerald green (fishery sectors) village project is being implemented in regions and states, and 394 villages are implementing the project with K30 million each of funds for fishery development in the rural area.

The government provided K10 billion each to Kayah, Chin and Rakhine states, K8 billion each to Kachin, Kayin, Mon and

Shan states and Taninthayi Region and K5 billion each to six self-Administered Divisions and Zones, totalling K100 billion for enhancement of socio-economic life of the people and recovery of State economy.

Secretary of the steering committee Union Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock U Min Naung reported on the progress of functions by the steering committee.

Union ministers, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, the governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar and chief ministers of regions and states discussed the progress of relevant sectors and future plans related to the protection of farmers' rights and enhancement of benefits.

The meeting ended with the concluding remark of the Vice-Senior General. — MNA/TTA

# DPM MoTC Union Minister receives Russian delegation of Fund RC-Investments

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San received a delegation led by Mr Shatirov Alexander Sergeevich, Director of the Fund RC-Investments from the Russian Federation, yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Both sides cordially discussed and exchanged views on long-term good relations, the collaboration of the two countries, and mutually beneficial cooperation, better prospects for cooperation in the transport and communications sectors, promotion of the tourism sector, the expansion of direct flights between the two countries, technical assistance in the use of electric

trains and electric vehicles, human resources development and investment opportunities in the transport and communications sectors.

The meeting was attended by the deputy ministers, directors-general, managing directors from the Ministry of Transport and Communications, and representatives and officials from the Roscongress Investment Fund of the Russian Federation. — MNA/TS

Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San receives the delegation of Fund RC-Investments yesterday.



# MoNREC Union Minister receives Russian delegation of Fund RC-Investments

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi received the delegation led by Mr Shatirov Alexander Sergeevich, Director of Fund RC-Investments from the Russian Federation yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed mineral exploration, systematic management of mining industries, feasibility study, required technology and gathering information and establishment of a pulp factory in Myanmar.

The deputy ministers, the permanent secretary, the directors-general and managing directors from relevant departments and enterprises under the ministry attended the meeting. — MNA/KZW



Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi meets the Russian delegation of the Fund RC-Investments yesterday.

# China-Myanmar Trans-border E-commerce Course held at Htonebo Post-harvest Technology Training Centre



The China-Myanmar Trans-border E-commerce Course is underway online on 9 and 10 March.

THE China-Myanmar Trans-border E-commerce Course was virtually conducted on 9 and 10 March. It was initiated by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with officials of the Htonebo Post-harvest Technology Training Centre, according to the packaging of fruits and vegetables to extend the shelf-life project under the Mekong-Lancang Special Fund.

Some businesspersons and farmers including instructors reportedly attended the course. — Teacher Gyi (Htonebo)/GNLM



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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.

## MoCRD Union Minister receives Russian delegation of Fund RC-Investments

UNION Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe received the delegation led by Mr Shatirov Alexander Sergeevich, Director of Fund-RC-Investments from the Russian Federation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They held talks on the cooperation of Myanmar and the Russian Federation in rural development measures and fertilizer production, agricultural activities carried out by the cooperative system, rural infrastructure and micro,

small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister U Myint Soe, Permanent Secretary U Khant Zaw, directors-general and officials of the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development. — MNA/TS

Union Minister U Hla Moe holds talks with the Russian delegation of Fund RC-Investments yesterday.



## Deputy Information Minister meets staff of IPRD in Yamethin, Meiktila Districts



Deputy Minister U Ye Tint views the course for youths during summer holidays in Meiktila District.

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Ye Tint yesterday

arrived at the Yamethin District Information and Public

Relations Department to inspect the library and meet

with the assistant director and staff. Then, he discussed with the trainees who attend the summer Japanese language course conducted jointly with volunteer teachers at the IPRD office.

On arrival at the IPRD office of Pyawbwe Township, the Deputy Minister observed the first aid training conducted by the township Red Cross Society and instructed the necessary things.

At noon, he went to the Meiktila District IPRD office and met with the coaches and trainees of the basic Thaung (martial art) course conducted by the Township Myanmar Traditional Martial Art Sub-

committee and Fitness Dance class launched by the Sports and Physical Education Department.

He also met with the assistant director and staff of the Meiktila District IPRD Office, department heads concerned and in charge of the MRTV retransmission station of Thazi and Mahlaing townships.

During the meeting, he stressed the need to launch awareness campaigns and courses for the youths during summer holidays, serve the duties in accord with the six-point oath and other matters. — Meiktila District IPRD/KTZH

## 15 staff of Htonebo Post-harvest Technology Training Centre, Department of Agriculture leave for Thailand

UNDER the arrangement of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund, 15 staff members of the Htonebo Post-harvest Technology Training Centre and the Department of Agriculture left for

Thailand yesterday to join the packaging workshop on quality control and shelf-life extension of vegetables and fruits hosted by Assumption University, Bangkok. — Teacher Gyi (Htonebo)/GNLM



### 8 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 14 March, total figure rises to 633,965

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **633,965** after **eight** new cases were reported on 14 March 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,457**, including **four** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at **19,490** on 14-3-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. — GNLM

# CURRENT AFFAIRS



Vehicles are pictured in the hub of Yangon.

## Private vehicles to have new number plates: RTAD

THE Road Transport Administration Department has issued a notification that all private vehicles, whether their licences have expired or are still valid, will have to have new embossed number plates as soon as possible.

According to statistics from the Road Transport Administration Department, there are more than 600,000 privately-owned vehicles across the country. To prevent new embossed numbers from being installed on illegal vehicles, notices were issued to change and install the embossed numbers on vehicles as soon as possible in the respective road transport administration offices.

The new embossed number plates to be installed will have the descriptions of the relevant region and state, the number representing the township and the car manufacturer. Vehicle owners have to apply for new embossed number plates with the original and copy of the owner book and wheel tax and it will take almost two weeks. — TWA/KZW

## New strand road to be closed temporarily during installation of steel beams at Dala Bridge Project

THE Department of Bridges under the Ministry of Construction and Myanmar Port Authority issued a notice that the new strand road will be temporarily closed while the steel girders are being installed at the Myanmar-Korea Friendship (Dala) Bridge Project.

The section between the place where the Panso-

dan road and the new strand road meet and the top of Sabai Road in Ahlon Township will be closed to traffic on 18, 19, 23, 25, 26 and 27 March for the sake of safety during the installation of steel beams on the Ramp A and B bridges, the MPA notified.

Further notices were issued for container trucks which will enter the jetties



Photos taken on 17 February 2023 shows the construction of the Myanmar-Korea Friendship Bridge (Dala) project.

on project execution days, to use the strand road for access.

The Myanmar-Korea Friendship (Dala) Bridge Project started in May 2019 with the help of the Korea Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF). The bridge is now 53 per cent completed and it was

reported in mid-February 2023 that it will be fully completed in early 2024. Among the steel cable suspension bridges in Myanmar, the Myanmar-Korea Friendship (Dala) River Bridge is the largest and longest and is under construction with advanced technology. — TWA/CT

## Reference letter for citizens with appropriate documents provided to open bank accounts in Bangkok: ME

MYANMAR Embassy in Bangkok in Thailand released a statement that it would provide a reference letter for Myanmar citizens holding appropriate documents to open bank accounts. Foreigners who stay on a short stay with tourist visas are temporarily not allowed to

apply for a Thai bank account from 8 March. Nonetheless, the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok will assist some Myanmar citizens with the appropriate documents to open the account.

Those working in Thailand with working visas, doing business in Thailand, studying at

public and private universities in Thailand, receiving hospital treatment, buying assets/property in Thailand with presenting deal contracts, investing in Thailand, working for institutions (Embassy staff holding diplomatic visas and UN staff) and holding retirement visas

(long-term visa). Thailand Elite/Thailand Privilege Card, certificate of the religious organization, aliens with house registration and migrant workers with work permits are entitled to open Thai bank accounts with the recommendation of the Myanmar Embassy. — TWA/EM

## Myanmar bags over US\$66 from rice exports to external markets in Feb

MYANMAR generated earnings of US\$66.497 million from rice and broken rice exports during a week in February 2023, according to the Ministry of Commerce's statistics.

Myanmar's seaborne rice exports to international trade partners amounted to \$30.683 million from over 70,830 tonnes last month, with over 35,830 tonnes to Asian countries and about 35,000 tonnes to European Union member countries.

Myanmar sent 20,020 tonnes to China, 11,830 to the Philippines, about 3,200 to Malaysia, 500 to Chinese Taipei and small

volumes went to Hong Kong SAR and Viet Nam.

Additionally, it conveyed over 8,100 tonnes to Spain, over 7,600 to Turkiye, over 5,170 to Poland, over 2,570 to Belgium, over 2,120 to Portugal, about 1,950 to England, over 1,420 to Italy, 1,070 to Czech, about 1,000 to the Netherlands, over 860 to Germany, over 770 to Romania, about 750 to Lithuania, over 300 to Slovenia, 200 each to France, Hungary, Greece and Croatia and small volume to Libya and Cyprus.

Last month, Myanmar exported over 16,900 tonnes of rice worth \$6.556 million to China

through border channels. More than 87,730 tonnes of rice were delivered to China by sea and border channels in February, indicating a decrease of over 60,000 tonnes from that in January.

Myanmar maritime trade saw over 47,000 tonnes of broken rice exports valued at \$17.808 million, with over 16,300 tonnes to EU countries and about 30,700 to Asian countries. The majority of the broken rice was sent to Belgium (1,450 tonnes). The country exported over 30,400 tonnes of broken rice to China and 300 to Singapore in Asia and 7,550 to Belgium, 3,650 to the Neth-



Rice bags to be exported are seen being loaded onto the vessel.

erlands, over 2,020 to England, 800 to Spain, over 570 to Italy, 500 to Poland, 450 to Portugal, 650 to France, 300 to Lithuania and over 100 to Czech.

On the other hand, over 30,700 tonnes of broken rice worth \$11.45 million were exported via cross-border points last month, with over 28,700 tonnes flowing to China and over 2,010

to Thailand.

The overall broken rice exports through maritime and border trade routes in February were estimated at 77,700 tonnes valued at \$29.258 million, which is a decrease of over 16,000 tonnes compared to that of January. The exports of rice and broken rice amounted to \$66.497 million from 165,430 tonnes. — TWA/EM

# LOCAL BUSINESS

## MIC nods 73 foreign projects worth \$1.6 bln in 11 months

MYANMAR Investment Commission gave the green light to 73 foreign projects from nine countries in the 11 months of the current financial year 2022-2023 beginning in April. The country attracted capital of US\$1.62 billion this FY, including expansion of capital by the existing enterprises, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Those enterprises are engaged in agriculture, mining, manufacturing, power, hotels and tourism, real estate and service sectors respectively.

Singapore is the top source of FDI this FY, with 15 Singapore-listed enterprises pumping FDI of US\$1.157 billion into Myanmar. Hong Kong SAR stands as the second largest investor this FY with an estimated capital of over \$165 million drawn from 12 projects. China is ranked third in the investment line-up with more than \$113.49 million from 37 projects.

Three from the Republic of Korea pumped \$52.4 million of investments into Myanmar and two from China (Taipei) put investments of \$4.14 million into the country, while one enterprise each from Belize, Japan, Thailand and the UK also made investments in the past 11 months respectively. The existing enterprises from Bangladesh, Japan, Seychelles, Chinese Taipei, China, Hong Kong SAR, the Republic of Korea, India, Thailand, the UK, Thailand, Switzerland and Samoa also increased investments.

Myanmar drew FDI of \$647 million in the 2021-2022 mini-budget period (October to March), DICA's statistics indicated.

The Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations has been inviting responsible businesses to benefit the country.

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) ensures the approval of responsible businesses by assessing environmental and social impacts. The commission is working together with the relevant departments to screen the projects as well.

MIC stated priority sectors for investments, including manufacturing of fertilizer, cement, iron and steel, value-added foodstuffs, pharmaceutical and medical supplies, agriculture and livestock farming and related industries, public transport services and electric vehicles and related businesses. — KK

## Domestic, foreign demand for chickpea push up prices



Myanmar ships chickpeas to foreign markets beyond self-sufficiency. More than 18,000 kilogrammes worth US\$12.834 million have been exported to foreign countries so far since April 2022. Workers are seen picking chickpeas in the picture.

STRONG domestic and foreign demand for chickpeas elevates prices, according to the Mandalay Commodity Wholesale Centre.

It is the harvest time for chickpeas. Local millers and foreign trade partners are purchasing them in bulk.

The prices moved in the range between K184,000 and K190,000 per 56.25/57.25 viss on 1 March 2023 and climbed to K195,000 and 203,000 per 56.25/57.25 viss depending on varieties on 14 March.

The figures showed a sharp increase of K10,000-12,000 per 56.25/57.25 viss within two weeks.

New chickpeas from various areas are entering the Mandalay market.

The chickpea is a winter crop and is usually grown in October and November. The harvest season is from January to April. They are mostly found in Bago, Ayeyawady, Sagaing and Magway regions.

The country primarily cultivates paddy, corn, cotton, sugarcane, various pulses and beans. Its second-largest production is pulses and beans, accounting for 33 per cent of agro products and covering 20 per cent of growing acres. Among them, black beans, pigeon peas and green grams

constitute 72 per cent of bean acreage. Other beans including peanuts, chickpeas, soybeans, black-eyed beans, butter beans and rice beans are also grown in the country. Agriculture is the backbone of Myanmar's economy. Among agricultural products, various beans and pulses are the main items.

Myanmar ships chickpeas to foreign markets beyond self-sufficiency. More than 18,000 kilogrammes worth US\$12.834 million have been exported to foreign countries so far since April 2022, according to the Ministry of Commerce's statistics. — NN/EM

## YGEA hikes reference rate to over K2.25 mln per tical amid gold spot prices up

YANGON Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association's reference price climbed to K2,250,000 per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) following the rise in gold spot prices.

On 1 March, gold spot prices hit US\$1,833 per ounce and YGEA's price was K2,159,500 per tical. As the gold price jumped to \$1,912 per ounce in the international market, the reference price escalated to K2,252,500 per tical on 14 March.

The figures indicated an increase of \$79 per ounce and over 93,000 per tical within two weeks.

Despite the YGEA's reference price, pure gold peaked at K2,886,000 per tical in the unofficial market, showing a large gap of over K630,000 per tical.

YGEA calculated the price depending on the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference exchange

rate of K2,100, with some addition, while the US dollar is exchanged at K2,880 in the unofficial forex market.

The gold spot prices and dollar exchange rates influence the domestic gold price.

The soaring dollar exchange rate at over K4,500 drove the pure gold price up to a record-high of K3.7 million per tical in late August 2022.

For the gold price to decline, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has been selling gold ingots under the competitive bidding system in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw.

With an aim at reducing gold prices, the YGEA and Mandalay Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association sold gold bullion supplied by the executive members and the members as well.

Under the guidance of the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods, the Monitoring and Steering Committee on Gold and Currency Market was formed on 21 January 2022 as gold and currency market stability play a crucial role in the trade facilitation.

The objectives of the committee are inspecting and prosecuting market manipulation, checking if there is compliance with payment rules or not in the domestic market, and proceeding against those unscrupulous traders who intend to interfere with the free and fair operation of the market under the existing laws, by-laws and regulations in line with the official directives, illegal foreign currency holding, illegal trade and taking legal actions against price manipulators. — NN/EM

## Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 14 March 2023

### Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,155
Octane 95	K2,240
Diesel	K2,190
Premium Diesel	K2,270

All of the prices are based on per litre.

### Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,252,500 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,886,000 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.

## OPINION

### Shape the nation to be an oil exporter by boosting production

**M**YANMAR'S daily consumption depends on rice and cooking oil. Rice is a staple food of Myanmar. Myanmar is sufficient in rice but has a deficiency in cooking oil although local farmers cultivate oil crops such as groundnut, sesame, sunflower and canola.

To meet the local demand for cooking oil, the country imports some 800,000 tonnes of palm oil yearly. Although the country is blessed with fertile soil, favourable weather and human resources, domestic production of cooking oil cannot meet the demand of local consumption by a cent per cent. Hence, the government is implementing policies on boosting the production of cooking oil at home and oil sufficiency.

According to the statistics, each citizen consumes 2.25 ticals of cooking oil per day. So, the country needs 1.1 million tonnes of cooking oil for consumption and industrial use on a yearly basis. As the country imports 60 per cent to 70 per cent of cooking oil abroad, efforts are being made to meet the domestic demand through cultivation and production.

As such, groundnut, sesame and sunflower are grown in Magway, Mandalay, Sagaing, Bago and Ayeyawady regions, horse gram and niger in Shan State and oil palm in Taninthayi Region. But farmers still cultivate oil crops on some 16 per cent of total farmlands.

Lesser sown acreage of oil crops is based on the weak resilience of oil crops against severe impacts of climatic conditions, hardships to seek the quality strains of oil crop seeds, lesser incomes of farmers in comparison with other crops and weakness of agricultural technologies. Hence, not only the government including agriculturists from relevant departments but also local farmers themselves need to seek quality seeds of oil crops, modern agricultural technologies and proper supply of water to croplands to be able to boost the per-acre yield of crops.

Really, many kinds of oil crops in Myanmar cannot meet the target per-acre yield except groundnut. Moreover, businesspersons export oil crops to foreign markets and import palm oil, sunflower oil and horse gram oil abroad for domestic consumption. But, such an act can harm the businesses of oil mills. Hence, the government has adopted the policy on domestic oil sufficiency to encourage the cultivation and milling of cooking oil at home.

Hence, it is necessary to strive for boosting the per-acre yield of oil crops and for enabling domestic oil mills to produce cooking oil meeting set standards. So, all oil crop growers and oil millers need to shape the country to be an oil exporter from an oil importer for benefiting all participants in the production chains.

“SOMETIMES the wrong choices bring us to the right places.” Unknown source. Six weeks ago, the doctors told me he had six weeks to live. I do not think he is going to survive the night.

“Why didn't you tell me this earlier?” I whimpered, my voice barely above a whisper. “We don't have any time left. I didn't think that as a 19-year-old, seeing my father die in a hospital was going to be something I would experience. Wasn't he meant to grow old and grey, with me taking care of him?”

Nevertheless, in the early hours of the following morning, when the rest of the world was lying in a quiet slumber, I was sitting at my dad's bedside, holding his hand while it slowly grew cold. I wasn't willing to let go, as letting go would mean accepting what was. I was not ready for that.

My dad and I had always had such a difficult relationship. I was the rebellious teenager and he was the frustrated father who just never knew what to do with me. In the end, when cancer had really taken over, he just gave up. He knew I wouldn't be his problem for much longer. As the weeks and months passed, it became easier to be without him. But the one thing that followed me was the regret I felt — of not trying to understand him, and not making our relationship better. The older

I get, the more I realize that that period of life was meant to teach me some tough lessons — lessons that have stayed with me to this day.

A couple of years after I lost my dad. I was in the changing room of the gym when I got talking to a woman I had never seen there before. She asked me how I was, and I decided to be completely honest with her. I told her I was feeling weighed down with regret. I had had a tumultuous relationship with my dad and I had not made the time to rectify it before he died. There were so many things I wanted to say, apologize for, and understand about him. There was so much I should have said but had not.

She told me that I could still do that. The mind is a powerful thing, influenced by fabrications, as well as real events. She told me to find someone I trusted, and talk to them like they were my dad. Be brutally honest. Say everything. It took me another year of thinking about it before finally having that conversation. It was the most liberating thing I have ever done. What regrets have you experienced, and what

have you learned from them?

Regrets, I've again had a few. But then again, too few to mention, Frank Sinatra crooned in his 1969 hit 'My Way! The song's idea is seductive: anyone can just declare that what's done is done and move on. Some take the declaration a step further and claim they have no regrets. Whether an aspiration or an actual philosophy, 'no regrets' suggests that life can and should be lived without looking through the rearview mirror.

Easier said than done, though. In 2020, author Daniel H. Pink launched the World Regret Survey, the largest survey on the topic ever undertaken. More than 15,000 people in 105 countries were asked: “How often do you look back on your life and wish you had done things differently?”

Eighty-two per cent said regret is at least an occasional part of their life; roughly 21 per cent said they feel regret 'all the time'. Only one per cent said they never feel regret.

If you are in the 'no regrets' school of life, you might think that all this regret is a recipe for unhappiness. But that isn't the case. True, letting yourself be

overwhelmed by regret is indeed bad for you. But going to the other extreme may be even worse. Extinguishing your regrets does not free you from shame or sorrow; it consigns you to make the same mistakes again and again. To truly get over our guilt requires that we put regret in its proper place.

As uncomfortable as it is, regret is an amazing cognitive feat. It requires that you go back to a past scenario, imagine that you acted differently, and with that new scenario in mind, arrive at a different present - and then, compare that fictional present with the one you are experiencing in reality. For example, if your relationship with your partner has soured, your regret might mentally take you back to last year: You would remember your pettiness and irritability, and then imagine yourself being kind instead of hurtful at key moments. Then you would fast-forward to today and see how your relationship could be flourishing instead of languishing.

Not all regrets are the same. Pink says they come in four basic varieties, and an instance of regret may involve just one or a

combination. Wishing you have been kinder to your partner is an example of a connection regret, in which you lament behaviour that harmed an important relationship, such as neglecting your bond with relatives before they died.

Many connections and regrets overlap with moral regrets, which can come about after you violate your values. For example, you may pride yourself on being a loving person, and thus regret not living up to this image in the relationship you harmed. Moral regrets can also involve just yourself. Maybe you regret not living up to your commitment to your health when you skipped the gym.

The other two categories of regrets involve life choices. Foundation regrets are those in which you did something that affected the course of your life in a way you do not like. A classic example is wishing you had studied further. Meanwhile, boldness and regrets are the opposite: they are all about inaction and forgone opportunities. You feel this when you kick yourself for not taking a chance, as in wishing you had just gone up to that attractive person

## Regret And Tough Lesson

By Yin Nwe Ko

and introduced yourself.

Unanalyzed and unmanaged, any variety of regret can be poison for your well-being. Regret is implicated in depression and anxiety, and excessive regret can adversely affect your hormones and immune system. For me, it is anathema to sleep. I am not alone in this: in 2013, researchers asked one group of participants in an experiment to describe 'your most burdensome regret' right before going to bed; this group took 61 per cent longer to get to sleep than a group told to think about a typical day.

But regret doesn't have to be left unmanaged. The trick is not to banish the bad feeling; it is to acknowledge it and use it for improvement. Instead of letting the spectre of your failed relationship make you miserable, you can be honest with yourself about what went wrong and use that knowledge in the future.

The benefits of regret do not come to us by chance. We have to seek them out on purpose to improve ourselves.

Here are three steps you can take the next time you find

yourself contemplating your past missteps.

- People often say their regrets 'haunt' them. This suggests that regret is like a ghost: not entirely clear but always intimidating. Bring your ghost out of the shadows by making a list of your regrets. Write down why each one still bothers you and its lingering bad effects. Be honest without catastrophizing. For example, note that you hurt a friend's feelings through your fault, but also that this almost certainly didn't ruin the person's life. You will find that a list is a lot less frightening than a ghost.

- After you make a mistake, life moves on. But sometimes you just can't stop kicking yourself. Perhaps you dropped out of school decades ago and are constantly calculating today how much money you would be making had you completed your studies. In other words, you have voluntarily chosen a life sentence for a poor decision you made in the past. Now is

the time to appeal that verdict. May - be you'd be making more today, but adding self-loathing to the financial penalty makes no sense. Resolve to commute your emotional sentence with a simple verbal declaration: “I make amends with myself and will not waste another minute of my life reliving a decision that cannot be changed.”

If you never experienced regret, you would keep repeating the same behaviours that led you to miss opportunities and wreck relationships in the past. Your regret can teach you to become smarter and more successful if you let it. In your list of regrets, also note how you want to change your behaviour and outline your future resolutions. Next, list the ways that you can invest in your skills right now - and get started. Regrets may hurt, but obsessing over them is destructive. Shunning them (or trying to live without them) is a lost opportunity to grow. Life is a journey full of pleasure and pain. To live it well and fully and to move forward - the ward, means learning from every bit of it, including the mistakes.

Reference: <https://tinybuddha.com/blog/>

## Greater gender equality helps both women and men live longer: Research

**T**HE first global study to investigate how gender equality may be associated with life expectancy has found that both women and men live longer as it improves.

However, variations between countries grouped into regions according to socioeconomic development and geographic proximity suggest that while mainly benefiting women's lives and health at first, progress in gender equality helps men to live longer too, eventually narrowing the gender gap in life expectancy.

Lead author Dr Cat Pinho-Gomes, Honorary Research Fellow at The George Institute for Global Health, UK in partnership with Imperial College London, said the results - published in the lead

up to International Women's Day - suggest that addressing longstanding gender inequality and empowering women might help extend longevity for both women and men.

### Working and living conditions

“Many of the factors that determine how long you will live - like working and living conditions, exposure to pollution, access to health care, education, income, and social support - are layered with gender differences around the world,” she said.

“As countries make greater progress towards gender equality and women are afforded the opportunity to participate more fully in political, economic, and social life, the whole of society reaps the



rewards.”

According to the latest report by the World Economic Forum, global events such as the rising cost of living, the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate emergency and large-scale conflict and displacement are stalling progress towards gender parity. This may, in turn, jeopardise socioeconomic development and improvement in living and working conditions, curbing the gains in life expectancy that have occurred over the past decades.

To investigate whether gender equality was associated with life expectancy (LE) for women and men and assess the gender gap in life expectancy across the globe, the researchers used a modified global gender gap in-

dex (mGGGI), based on the index developed by the World Economic Forum (WEF), and applied it across 156 countries between 2010 and 2021.

### Global Gender Gap Index

The WEF's Global Gender Gap Index benchmarks the current state and evolution of gender parity across four key dimensions (Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment). For this study, the health dimension was excluded because it includes healthy life expectancy, which was the subject of this study.

Among the three dimensions included in this study (i.e., political, economic, and educational), gen-

der equality in education had the strongest association with longer LE for both women and men.

“This suggests investing in education is paramount, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, where many girls are still denied access to education and resources are limited,” added Dr Pinho-Gomes.

“Even high-income countries - where substantial progress has been made to address gender inequalities in recent years - investing in gender equality may still benefit life expectancy, particularly for men. This study confirmed what we had already seen for countries in the EU using a different index, reinforcing the validity of our findings.”

SOURCE: ANI



# CRIME NEWS

## Illegal teak, foodstuffs, consumer goods, medications, industrial materials and vehicles confiscated

THE on-duty teams under the supervision of the Customs Department made inspections in various townships in several regions and states from 8 to 13 March.

Officials captured five kinds of goods (including five used industrial fans) worth K43,734,940 that were different from the Export Declaration (ED) from ten containers, 18 kinds of goods (including car tyres and multivitamin tablets) worth K177,622,997 that were taken over 61 days of Valid for Prior Arrival (VPA) and three kinds of goods (including tiles) worth K51,987,232 without Import Licence at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint, a total of 232.7 kilogrammes of food supplement and pregnancy supplement that were taken over 74 days of VPA at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk) on 8 and 9 March, three kinds of goods (including 200 solar lights) worth

K8,957,500 that were different from Import Declaration (ID) from a container at the Myanmar Industrial Port Terminal container checkpoint and a set of cold rolling crushing assemble worth K6.3 million that were different from Import Declaration (ID) at the Hteedan Port container checkpoints on 10 March. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

In addition, on 10 March, the Myawady district Illicit Trade prevention and control team conducted a surprise check and seized 400 cartons of restricted energy drinks worth K3.84 million from a warehouse and three kinds of goods (including five used motorbikes) worth K5.6 million without official documents from a warehouse in Myawady township. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 10 and 11 March, an on-duty team at the Yepu permanent checkpoint captured



Confiscated vehicle in Sagaing Region.

seven kinds of goods (including 1,300 kilogrammes of steel food carrier) worth K19,461,131 that were different from Import Declaration (ID) from three vehicles heading to Mandalay from Muse Trade Zone and the action was

taken under Customs procedures.

On 11 March, a combined team led by the Mandalay township Customs Department nabbed six kinds of goods (including 20 pieces of electron-

ic scales) worth K5.63 million without official documents from a Nissan caravan delivery van (approximately K15 million) heading to Mandalay from Muse near 21st-Milepost on Mandalay-PyinOoLwin Road. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

A total of 10 MT86H Ling Gong trucks (approximately K100 billion) were also seized in Sagaing township and action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

On 13 March, a total of 20.9816 tonnes of illegal teaks worth K13,847,856 was captured in the Thuyetann forest reserve in Pandaung township of Pyay district and action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 31 arrests (estimated value of K1,362,061,941) were made on 8,9,10,11 and 13 March, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

## Over K2 bln worth of drugs impounded in Yebyu township



Four offenders are pictured along with seized drugs and a lorry.

OVER K2 billion worth of stimulant tablets and Ice (methamphetamine) were captured in Yebyu township in Taninthayi Region, Myanmar Police Force

stated.

According to information, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force examined a passenger bus

driven by Phoe Thae accompanied by Than Htun Aung (aka) Mae Gyi, Zarni Oo (aka) Sein Thu and Myat Thu (aka) Bugyi at the Mahlwaltaung combined checkpoint in Yebyu township of Taninthayi Region at 11:30 am on 10 March.

The police seized a total of 1.3 million stimulant tablets and two kilogrammes of Ice (methamphetamine) worth over K2 billion from six plastic baskets in the bus.

After interrogation, offenders admitted that the seized drugs were to be borne from Yangon Region to Taninthayi Region.

Police took action against offenders and an investigation is underway to identify perpetrators of the crime chain. — MNA/MKKS

### Trafficker sentenced to 10-year prison with labour for human trafficking

THE Mingaladon District Court sentenced a woman to 10 years imprisonment with labour under Section 24 for trafficking a girl to a Chinese man on 13 March, the Myanmar Police Force stated.

The victim Ma..., aged 23, from Shwepyitha township of Yangon Region, was sold to a Chinese man by Daw Mya Mya Win from Shwepyitha township of Yangon Region. The offender exploited by telling the victim that she would earn K4 million if she married a Chinese man.

The trafficker was prosecuted at the Hlawga police station under Section 24/32 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law. — MNA/MKKS

### Traffickers sentenced to 7-year prison with labour for human trafficking

YANGON'S West District Court sentenced two men to seven years imprisonment with labour for their role in trafficking a man to a fishing trawler on 9 March.

The victim Mg..., aged 17, who stayed at the Hanthawady monastery in Sangyoung Township of Yangon Region, was sent to a fishing trawler by Myo Thet Paing (aka) Thet Paing from Shwepyitha township in Yangon Region and Zaw Lin Htut from Pyapon Township of Ayeyawady Region, who exploited the salaries of the victim.

The traffickers were prosecuted at Kyimyindine Myoma police station under Section 24/32 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law and sentenced to seven years imprisonment with labour. — MNA/MKKS

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.

## Injecting bacteria into tumours may trigger immune system to attack cancer: study

INTRODUCING bacteria to a tumour microenvironment (TME) creates a state of acute inflammation that triggers the immune system's primary responder cells to attack the tumour, according to a study led by Australia's Garvan Institute of Medical Research.

The research team said on Monday that injecting inactivated *Staphylococcus aureus* microbes into a tumour could stimulate the first-responder cells, neutrophils, to destroy the tumour in a range of animal cancer models, including Lewis lung carcinoma, triple-negative breast cancer, melanoma and pancreatic cancer.

Published in the *Cancer Research* journal in February, the study indicated that most solid tumours generate a sub-acute inflammatory response which favours a TME that stimulates tumour growth and suppresses anti-tumour immunity, but certain microbial preparations can shift the TME towards an acute inflammatory response which inhibits cancer growth.

The researchers noted that neutrophils generally defend against diseases, but they can also promote tumour growth, partly because they produce molecules that protect the tumour and suppress other parts of the immune system.

"Since attacking bacteria is the reason for neutrophils' existence, we had a good inkling that introducing bacteria would bring neutrophils to the site and activate them," said Tatyana Chtanova, co-author of the study and head of the Innate and Tumour Immunology Lab at the Garvan institute.

"We discovered that it's very effective in getting them to kill the tumours, chewing up their matrix," Chtanova added.

The study found that neutrophils also change at the gene expression level, as they begin to secrete molecules which attract fighter T cells as reinforcements. — Xinhua

## China to ease visa, entry policies

FOREIGNERS with valid visas issued before 28 March 2020 will be allowed to enter China, as the country is adjusting its visa and entry policies to facilitate travel across the border.

Visa-free policies will be resumed for entry to the southern island province of Hainan and cruise tour groups at Shanghai ports, said the National Immigration Administration.

Visa-free entry to the southern province of Guangdong will be restored for tour groups of foreigners from Hong Kong and Macao, and a similar mechanism will be reinstated for tour groups from ASEAN countries to enter Guilin in the southern Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The policies will come into force on Wednesday, according to immigration authorities. — Xinhua



Passengers walk through the arrivals hall for international flights at the Capital International Airport in Beijing on 14 March 2023. China will once again start issuing a range of visas to foreigners on 15 March in a major easing of travel restrictions in place since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic **PHOTO: AFP**

## New Zealand border crossings pass 1 mln, two-thirds of pre-COVID level

THIS January was the first month to see over 1 million border crossings since COVID-19-related border and travel restrictions were introduced in March 2020, two-thirds of the pre-COVID level, according to the statistics department Stats NZ on Tuesday.

There were 514,100 arrivals and 497,000 departures in January 2023, Stats NZ said.

"People have started to travel again," population indicators manager Tehseen Islam said, adding that January 2023 border crossings are two-thirds of the 1.5 million that travelled in January 2020, before the pandemic.

"As COVID-19-related border restrictions were gradually eased from early 2022, border crossing numbers increased nearly every month throughout that year," Islam said.

Border crossings include all arrivals and departures, either for short-term trips or longer-term migration, by people living overseas or in New Zealand.

There were 265,400 overseas visitor arrivals in January 2023, compared with 4,000 in January 2022, Islam said.

"We are seeing overseas visitor numbers rebound, although they are about two-thirds of the level before the pandemic," he said, adding that the peak season for overseas visitor arrivals to New Zealand is typically from December to February. — Xinhua



An Air New Zealand airlines plane seen at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) on 11 January 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Viet Nam on alert after human cases of pig-related disease discovered

VIET Nam's health ministry has urged medical facilities to be vigilant for suspected cases of streptococcus suis, a bacteria that comes from pigs, after a number of human cases were

found over the past few months, local media reported on Tuesday.

Since the beginning of the year, a number of streptococcus infections have been recorded across the nation and the ma-

majority of cases have involved people eating pork products such as blood pudding, or those who slaughter pigs, the Vietnam News reported, citing the health ministry. — Xinhua

## 17% of Denmark's COVID-19 patients develop long-lasting symptoms: survey

IN Denmark, 17 out of 100 people who had tested positive for COVID-19 experienced "long-term effects" within six to twelve months of infection, according to the preliminary results of a survey released by the Statens Serum Institut (SSI) on Monday.

The SSI, a governmental health and research institution, queried over 840,000 Danes about their post-COVID-19 condition (long COVID). The research began in August 2021.

The most common symptoms are alterations of sense of taste or smell, fatigue, breathing problems and heavy arms and legs, according to the survey. According to the survey, women are more susceptible to long COVID than men and "middle-aged citizens and people who had been hospitalized

with COVID-19 were more frequently affected by long COVID." Danes who have received a 3rd injection experience fewer post-COVID symptoms than those who have only received two shots, suggesting that vaccination may lower the risk of long-term effects. According to SSI, the after-effects of the Omicron variant differed from those of the Delta variant.

Those infected with the Omicron variant reported less loss of taste or smell, fatigue, breathing problems and cognitive impairment than those infected with the Delta variant, according to the SSI.

Further survey findings will be published in the coming months, including "several important results that can make us all smarter about long COVID." — Xinhua

# ECONOMY

## WORLD/AD

### Retail inflation eases to 6.44% in India

THE rate of retail inflation in India slightly eased to 6.44 per cent in February from 6.52 per cent in January, showed the official data released by the federal Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Monday.

The slight fall in the rate of retail inflation is attributed mainly to a decline in the rate of rise in prices of essential commodities like clothing, footwear and eggs, among others.

"Growth in eggs

prices eased to 4.32 per cent in February against 8.78 per cent in the previous month. Clothing and footwear inflation was at 8.79 per cent, compared with 9.08 per cent a month ago," said the data.

It further added that cereal prices rose 16.73 per cent in February, against a 16.12-per-cent rise in January. And, the rate of inflation in milk and milk products came in at 9.65 per cent, compared to 8.79 per cent in January. — Xinhua

### Volkswagen picks Canada for new battery plant

GERMAN auto giant Volkswagen said Monday it would build a battery plant in Canada but gave little away about its plans in Europe amid continued concerns about Washington's green subsidies.

The group's first North American battery factory will be located in St. Thomas, Ontario, the group said.

Production will start in 2027, with CEO Oliver Blume stressing that "our North American strategy is a key priority".

Volkswagen is also setting up a series of bat-



Arno Antlitz, CFO & COO of German car giant Volkswagen (VW), addresses journalists to present his company's annual business report on 14 March 2023 in Berlin. PHOTO:AFP

tery plants in Europe — chosen Valencia, Spain for one will open in 2023 in a third. Volkswagen said last year it planned to open 2025 and the company has a total of six plants with

partners in Europe, but the plans have moved slowly.

Asked about the state of play in Europe, Thomas Schmall, CEO of VW's components division, said the group was finalizing the decision on where the next plant would be and it would be announced in due course.

During a press tour of the 10-brand group's site in Salzgitter, he said they would "need more than three" European plants but would decide whether six would be necessary, depending on the environment. — AFP

#### TRADEMARK CAUTION

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No.3/A Bogyoke Aung San Road,  
Pabedan Township, Yangon, Myanmar.  
Dated: **15 March 2023**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (KHDY0338N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (KHDY0338N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-3-2023** 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.

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Ukraine expects agricultural exports at over US\$20 bln this year

UKRAINE'S agricultural export is expected to remain at over 20 billion US dollars this year, Taras Vysotsky, first deputy minister of agrarian policy and food, said in an interview aired on Monday.

"We estimate the export potential at least at the level of the previous year — more than 20 billion dollars," Vysotsky said in an interview published on an official Youtube channel of the Agrarian Policy and Food Ministry.

Ukraine's grain production, however, will drop this year as the country's farmers focus on planting oilseeds, he said. — Xinhua

#### Announcement of Open Tender

1. Myanmar Securities Exchange Centre Co., Ltd (MSEC) requires a securities trading system in order to make the trading transactions of YSX listed securities by connecting with Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX). Therefore, the interested companies and businesses are invited to submit the open tender.
2. The open tender application form, the request for proposal (RFP) and the rule for open tender will start to be distributed to the interested companies and businesses. The applicants shall submit the open tender application form together with the required documents not later than 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023.
3. The details can be inquired at the following address;  
No. 21-25, Sule Pagoda Road, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of MEB Yangon Region Office, Pabedan Township, Yangon Region.  
Contact No : 01-8376822 (ext: 111, 115, 116 or 206)  
E-mail address : [tender@msecmyanmar.com](mailto:tender@msecmyanmar.com)  
Inquiry period : 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

#### Central Committee for Holding Myanmar Gems Emporium

The Information on 58<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Gems Emporium 2023

1. The significant 58<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Gems Emporium 2023, under the supervision of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, will be held on March 17 to 23, 2023 at Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. Genuine Myanmar pearl, gems and rough jade lots will be sold at the Emporium.
2. Under the Myanmar Gem Law, permit holders and licensees will be allowed to attend and purchase the Lots at 58<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Gems Emporium 2023 according to the terms and conditions.
3. For further information in detail about granted admission to purchase Lots at 58<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Gems Emporium 2023, can inquire and keep contact with Emporium Central Committee, Myanmar Gems Enterprise (Head Office), Myanmar Pearl Enterprise (Head Office) in Nay Pyi Taw.

**Emporium Central Committee**

## Viet Nam's consumer market forecast to expand 8-9% in 2023

VIET Nam's consumer market is expected to expand eight per cent to nine per cent this year after getting off a solid recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2022, Vietnam News reported on Tuesday.

Viet Nam's total

goods retail sales and consumer service revenues increased 19.8 per cent year on year to approximately 5,679.9 trillion Vietnamese dong (about 239 billion US dollars) in 2022, higher than an official target of just eight per cent and the

previous year's growth of 10.15 per cent, according to the General Statistics Office.

Domestic consumption plays a fundamental role in the country's economic development and is a main driving force boosting growth.

The consumer market created 7.2 million jobs last year, equivalent to 14.7 per cent of the country's total labour force, according to the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Given the fact that Viet Nam's population is going to reach 100 million

next month, there is an untapped potential in the local consumer market, said Tran Duy Dong, head of the Domestic Market Department under the trade ministry. Over the next decade, 36 million more may join Viet Nam's consumer class

who spend at least 11 US dollars a day, according to a 2021 report by consulting group McKinsey, adding that Viet Nam's consumer class would grow rapidly from 10 per cent of the population in 2000 to 75 per cent by 2030. — Xinhua

## Russia's foreign trade grows by 8.1% in 2022

RUSSIA'S foreign trade rose by 8.1 per cent year on year to 850.5 billion US dollars in 2022, the country's Federal Customs Service said on Monday.

Russia's exports jumped by 19.9 per cent to 591.5 billion dollars, while imports dropped by 11.7 per cent to 259.1 billion dollars, according

to official data. As a result, Russia's trade surplus reached 332.4 billion dollars, a surge of 66.6 per cent from the previous year. Russia's top exports were mineral fuel, oil and products of its distillation, which accounted for 383.7 billion dollars or 64.9 per cent of the total exports. — Xinhua

## World Bank calls for adoption of digital technologies to spur economic growth, job creation in Africa

THE ability of African countries to accelerate economic growth and unleash quality jobs for the youth will be dependent on greater adoption of digital technologies, the World Bank said in a report launched Monday.

Under the title of "Digital Africa: Technological Transformation for Jobs," the World Bank report stresses that sustained efforts to bridge the digital divide in Africa are imperative in order to leapfrog the continent to a new phase of growth and renewal.

World Bank's Chief Economist for Africa Andrew Dabalen said rapid digitization will enable Africa to harness the full potential of its youth bulge and attain quality and inclusive economic growth.

Projected to have the largest share of the global workforce by 2100, Africa must boost the uptake of digital technologies in order to create opportunities for more than 22 million people in the continent to join the workforce annually, said the report.

Internet usage varies across the continent with South Sudan recording a low of six per cent and South Africa hitting 53 per cent, necessitating the need for rapid investments, policy reforms, and training as a means to bridge the digital divide across the continent, the report noted. The World Bank said digital technologies and innovations will be key to modernizing key sectors like manufacturing, agriculture, and financial services in Africa, calling for concerted efforts to bridge the digital divide weighing heavily on the rural poor as well as start-ups led by women and youth. — Xinhua

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For **Zespri Group Limited**  
c/o **Baker & McKenzie Limited**  
Suite 28, Level 14, Junction City Tower,  
No.3/A Bogyoke Aung San Road,  
Pabedan Township, Yangon, Myanmar.  
Dated: **15 March 2023**

### Notice for Change of Distributor

Notice is hereby given that the official distributor of the following pesticides manufactured by **Saigon Plant Protection Joint Stock Company**, will be changed from **Saigon Plant Protection Joint Stock Company (Myanmar Branch)** to **Asian Crops Global Co., Ltd.**

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration No.
1.	Sagochor Gold 8.5 EC	Cyhalofop butyl 6% + Pyribenzoxim 2.5% EC	Provisional	P2022-5781
2.	Dioto 250 EC	Niclosamide 250 g/l EC	Provisional	P2022-5894

Asian Crops Global Co., Ltd invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objects are received, party mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities.

**Asian Crops Global Co., Ltd., No. 20, Thiri Mingalar 2 Street, 8 Ward, Kamayut, Yangon.**

# GLOBAL AFFAIRS

## Russia agrees to 60-day Ukraine grain deal extension

RUSSIA agreed Monday to extending the Ukraine grain export deal, but only for a further 60 days, in a proposal criticized by Kyiv.

Following talks with the United Nations in Geneva, Moscow said it would not oppose prolonging the so-called Black Sea Grain Initiative aimed at easing the global food crisis, as had been feared.

But Russia only agreed to extending the deal for half of the 120-day period of the original deal.

Ukraine warned that “contradicts” the original agree-

ment, but did not reject the proposal.

Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 saw Ukraine’s Black Sea ports blocked by warships, until the deal signed in July allowed for the safe passage of exports of critical grain supplies.

Ukraine was one of the world’s top producers and the Black Sea Grain Initiative has helped soothe the global food crunch triggered by the conflict.

More than 24.1 million tonnes have been exported so far under the agreement, according to the UN.

The initial 120-day agreement struck with the UN and Türkiye was extended for a further 120 days in November, until 18 March.

The Kremlin had cast doubt on whether it would agree to any fresh extension, citing concerns that the twin deal on Russian exports was not being respected.

It said Monday it needed to see “tangible progress” on the parallel agreement on unhindered Russian food and fertilizer exports, claiming Western sanctions exemptions were “essentially inactive”. — AFP



The UN-chartered vessel MV Valsamitis is loaded to deliver 25,000 tonnes of Ukrainian wheat to Kenya and 5,000 tonnes to Ethiopia, at the port of Chornomorsk, east of Odessa on the Black Sea coast on 18 February 2023 amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Iran, Belarus ink deals to boost comprehensive cooperation



A handout picture provided by the Iranian presidency shows Iran’s President Ebrahim Raisi (R) and Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko during a ceremony to sign a memorandum of understanding in Tehran on 13 March 2023. **PHOTO: IRANIAN PRESIDENCY / AFP**

IRAN and Belarus on Monday set a roadmap for expanding their comprehensive cooperation and signed seven cooperation agreements in the fields of trade, transportation, agriculture and culture.

The roadmap was signed by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his visiting Belarusian counterpart Alexander Lukashenko in a ceremony held in Tehran, according to the website of the president’s office.

The other documents, including one on the transfer of convicts, were signed by senior Iranian and Belarusian officials in the presence of the two presidents. At a joint press conference with his Belarusian coun-

terpart following the signing ceremony, Raisi said Lukashenko’s visit marks a turning point in the expansion of relations between the two countries.

He added despite all the sanctions and threats, Iran has managed to take huge steps toward progress, having turned the sanctions and embargoes into opportunities.

Raisi also voiced Iran’s readiness to share its experiences with Belarus.

He stressed that both Iran and Belarus are against unilateralism and maintain that improving “effective and constructive” relations among independent states are among the ways to “neutralize” the sanctions. — Xinhua

## Cyclone Freddy returns killing over 100 in Malawi, Mozambique

CYCLONE Freddy, packing powerful winds and torrential rain, killed more than 100 people in Malawi and Mozambique on its return to southern Africa’s mainland, authorities said Monday.

Freddy, on track to become the longest-lasting storm on record, barreled through southern Africa at the weekend for the second time within a few weeks, making a comeback after a first hit in late February.

Malawi bore the brunt, counting at least 99 deaths after mudslides overnight washed away houses and sleeping occupants. “We expect the number to rise,” Charles Kalemba, a commissioner at the Department of Disaster Management Affairs, told a press conference.

Another 134 people were injured and 16 are reported missing.

Malawi’s commercial capital Blantyre recorded 85 deaths.

Residents used their bare hands to dig through the mud hoping to find survivors.

Government rescuers were late to arrive, said one resident refusing to give his name, covered in mud, as he helped with the rescue effort.

“The people are overwhelmed. The situation is very difficult,” said ambulance driver Honest Chirwa, adding rescuers lacked adequate equipment.

More than 11,000 people were affected by the storm, said

the United Nations.

The impact of the cyclone has piled more woes on a country grappling with the deadliest cholera outbreak in its history, which has killed over 1,600 people since last year.

“Severe weather events such as these are likely to exacerbate the spread of waterborne diseases like cholera,” the UN children’s agency UNICEF warned. — AFP



A general view of a collapsed road caused by flooding waters due to heavy rains following cyclone Freddy in Blantyre, Malawi on 13 March 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Reported hate crime incidents increase in US: FBI data

THE Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said on Monday in its updated data that 10,840 hate crime incidents and 12,411 related offenses were reported in 2021, up 11.6 per cent.

Nearly two-thirds of the

victims were targeted because of the offenders’ race, ethnicity, or ancestry bias, the FBI data showed.

While 15.9 per cent were targeted because of the offenders’ sexual-orientation bias, 14.1

per cent were targeted because of the offenders’ religious bias.

And there were 310 multiple-bias hate crime incidents that involved 411 victims, the data showed. — Xinhua

## North Korea fires two ballistic missiles, Seoul says

NORTH Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles Tuesday, Seoul said, Pyongyang's second launch in three days and the first since South Korea and the United States began their largest joint military drills in five years.

Washington and Seoul have ramped up defence cooperation in the face of growing military and nuclear threats from the North, which has conducted a series of increasingly provocative banned weapons tests in recent months.

"Our military detected two short-range ballistic missiles fired towards the East Sea from Jangyon area in South Hwanghae province from 0741 (2241 GMT) to 0751," the Joint Chiefs

of Staff said in a statement, referring to the body of water also known as the Sea of Japan.

"Our military has strengthened surveillance and vigilance in preparation for additional launches, while maintaining a full readiness posture through close cooperation between South Korea and the United States."

The launch comes just days after Pyongyang fired two "strategic cruise missiles" from a submarine in an apparent protest over the US-South Korea drills.

Known as Freedom Shield, the drills started Monday and will run for 10 days.

In a rare move, Seoul's mil-



People walk past a television screen showing a news broadcast with file footage of a North Korean missile test, at a railway station in Seoul on 14 March 2023. PHOTO: AFP

itary this month revealed that the two allies' special forces were staging military exercises

dubbed "Teak Knife" — which involve simulating precision strikes on key facilities in North

Korea — ahead of Freedom Shield. The Freedom Shield exercises focus on the "changing security environment" due to North Korea's redoubled aggression, the allies have said.

They will "involve wartime procedures to repel potential North Korean attacks and conduct a stabilization campaign in the North", the South Korean military said previously.

It emphasized that the exercise was a "defensive one based on a combined operational plan".

But North Korea views all such drills as rehearsals for invasion and has repeatedly warned it would take "overwhelming" action in response. — AFP

## Philippine island reeling from impact of massive oil spill



Sludge from a massive oil spill from a sunken Philippine tanker has coated the coastline at Buhay na Tubig, a village on the western Philippine island of Mindoro, as pictured on 12 March 2023. PHOTO: KYODO

RESIDENTS on the western Philippine island of Mindoro are still reeling from a massive oil spill from a sunken Philippine

tanker, as government and private-sector responders scramble to determine the extent of damage to livelihoods and ma-

rine resources.

The Philippine government has banned fishing, the islanders' main source of income, and prevented people from entering the water since the MT Princess Empress, which was carrying a cargo of 800,000 litres of intermediate fuel oil, encountered engine trouble and sank to a depth of 400 metres on 28 February.

Authorities said the oil spill had reached coastal areas in at least three western Philippine provinces, affecting over 100,000 people.

Jennifer Cruz, mayor of Pola where half of the coastal town showed traces of the oil, said the ban on fishing could remain in effect as long as the sunken vessel is out there. The government began paying residents of the town \$6 per day to scoop the oil and put up fence booms as the spill is beginning to threaten mangroves.

In two weeks, thick, black sludge collected from the shore had filled up over 700 rice sacks and plastic drums.

"But it's a domino effect," Cruz said, as the ban on fishing has pushed up the prices of other goods. She said resorts had also been forced to cancel bookings, just as tourism was picking up following the COVID-19 pandemic. — Kyodo

## Russia says West readying for 'years of confrontation' in Asia

RUSSIA'S Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov accused the West on Tuesday of fomenting "years of confrontation" in the Asia-Pacific region after the AUKUS alliance agreed a nuclear-powered submarines deal.

"The Anglo-Saxon world, with the creation of structures like AUKUS and with the advancement of NATO military infrastructures into Asia, is making a serious bet on many years of confrontation" in the region, Lavrov said in televised

comments.

The Kremlin said that the AUKUS agreement between Australia, Britain and the United States to supply Canberra with several nuclear-powered submarines would require international oversight.

"There are a lot of questions related to issues around non-proliferation," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters, adding that "particular transparency will needed". — AFP

## Iranian top leader says cooperation among sanctioned states helps destroy bans

IRAN'S Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei said on Monday that countries under the US sanctions should cooperate to destroy the "sanctions weapon".

He made the remarks in a meeting with visiting Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, adding that such an objective is achievable, according to the top leader's website.

Iran and Belarus are both under the "bullying" sanctions of the United States and other Western countries, said Khamenei.

The harsh sanctions made Iran realize its capabilities and intrinsic power, said Khamenei, pointing to the US sanctions imposed on his country since the victory of Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution and the harshest embargoes over the past 12 years.

The top leader called for cooperation between Tehran and Minsk in the completion of the International North-South Transport Corridor, a 7,200-km-long multi-mode network linking Moscow in Russia, and Mumbai in India. — Xinhua

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# SPORT

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

### 1. Political affairs

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

### 2. Economic affairs

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

### 3. Social affairs

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



Myanmar women's team head coach Daw Thet Thet Win shows the game strategy to her team during the training session. PHOTO: MFF

## Myanmar women's squad to play friendly matches in China

THE Myanmar women's national team will travel to China to train and compete in warm-up matches in preparation for the first round of the 2024 Paris Olympic qualifiers in April.

The Myanmar squad left for training in China on 14 March, accompanied by 24 players.

Team Myanmar will practice from 15 to 23 March and will play three friendly matches.

Myanmar team will take on the Cambodia team on 17 March,

China Women's Club Sichuan FC on 19 March and another China Women's Club Changchun FC on 22 March.

Team Administrator Daw Myat Myat Oo, Head Coach Daw Thet Thet Win, Assistant Coaches Daw San San Maw, U Sa Htet Nang Win, and U Yin Min Aung will handle the team during the trip.

The team includes goalkeepers: May Zin Nwe, Zulat Nadi, and Myo Mya Mya Nyein, Defenders: Moe Ma Ma Soe, Zun Yu Ya Oo,

May Thet Mon Myint, Aye Aye Moe, Khin Myo Win, Phyu Phyu Win, and Ei Ei Kyaw, Midfielders: Khin Marlar Tun, Nant May Thazin, Khin Mo Mo Tun, Yupar Khaing, May Sabel Phoo, Pone Pone Pyae Maung, Lin Myint Mo, Naw Htet Htet Wai, and Wai Phoo Eain, and Forward Players: Su Pyae Pyae Kyaw, Myat Noe Khin, San Thaw Thaw, July Kyaw, and Shwe Yi Tun. — Ko Nyi Lay/ KZL

## Ancelotti's Madrid will try to beat Liverpool, not make 'calculations'

REAL Madrid will go on the attack against Liverpool this week instead of trying to protect their Champions League last 16 first leg advantage, coach Carlo Ancelotti said on Tuesday.

Holders Madrid thrashed Liverpool 5-2 at Anfield in February, with Karim Benzema and Vinicius Junior scoring twice, along with an Eder Militao header, after the hosts had moved two goals ahead.

Despite their three-goal cushion, Ancelotti said his team had to focus on winning against the visitors on Wednesday at the Santiago Bernabeu to reach the quarter-finals.

"It's quite simple, we don't have to make calculations, instead try to play the best that we can, try to play a game like we did in the first leg," Ancelotti told reporters.

"Our ideal is not in making calculations, we have to play at maximum intensity, with maximum hope, trying to win the game."

The Italian coach believes the clash will be an open game, as Liverpool need to mount a huge comeback, while his team will not sit back and defend.

"We've looked at what we did in the first leg, we did a lot of things well, above all in attack," Ancelotti said.

"We'll not play a game thinking about our advantage, we will play our football, attacking football."

"Tomorrow will be an open game, Liverpool will try and change the dynamic of the tie, so we have to do two things well — defending and attacking."

Madrid striker Benzema missed the win over Espanyol on Saturday in La Liga with an ankle problem but is

fit again.

"Yes, tomorrow he's at 100 per cent, he trained on Sunday, he's done good sessions, he's at his best, motivated — for Karim and for the club it's a very important competition," said Ancelotti.

Madrid defender Antonio Rudiger said the team had to defend better than at Anfield, when Liverpool struck two early goals through Darwin Nunez and Mohamed Salah.

"Not sleeping in the first 15 mins, I think this is very important, as well as finding the right balance," Rudiger told reporters.

"This is very important for us, not only to come and defend and say 'OK, we have a three-goal lead' we also have to please our fans and gain confidence for ourselves." — AFP



Real Madrid's Italian coach Carlo Ancelotti heads a training session on 14 March 2023, at the Ciudad Real Madrid training complex in Valdebebas, outskirts of Madrid, on the eve of the UEFA Champions League last 16 second leg football match between Real Madrid CF and Liverpool FC. PHOTO: AFP