

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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

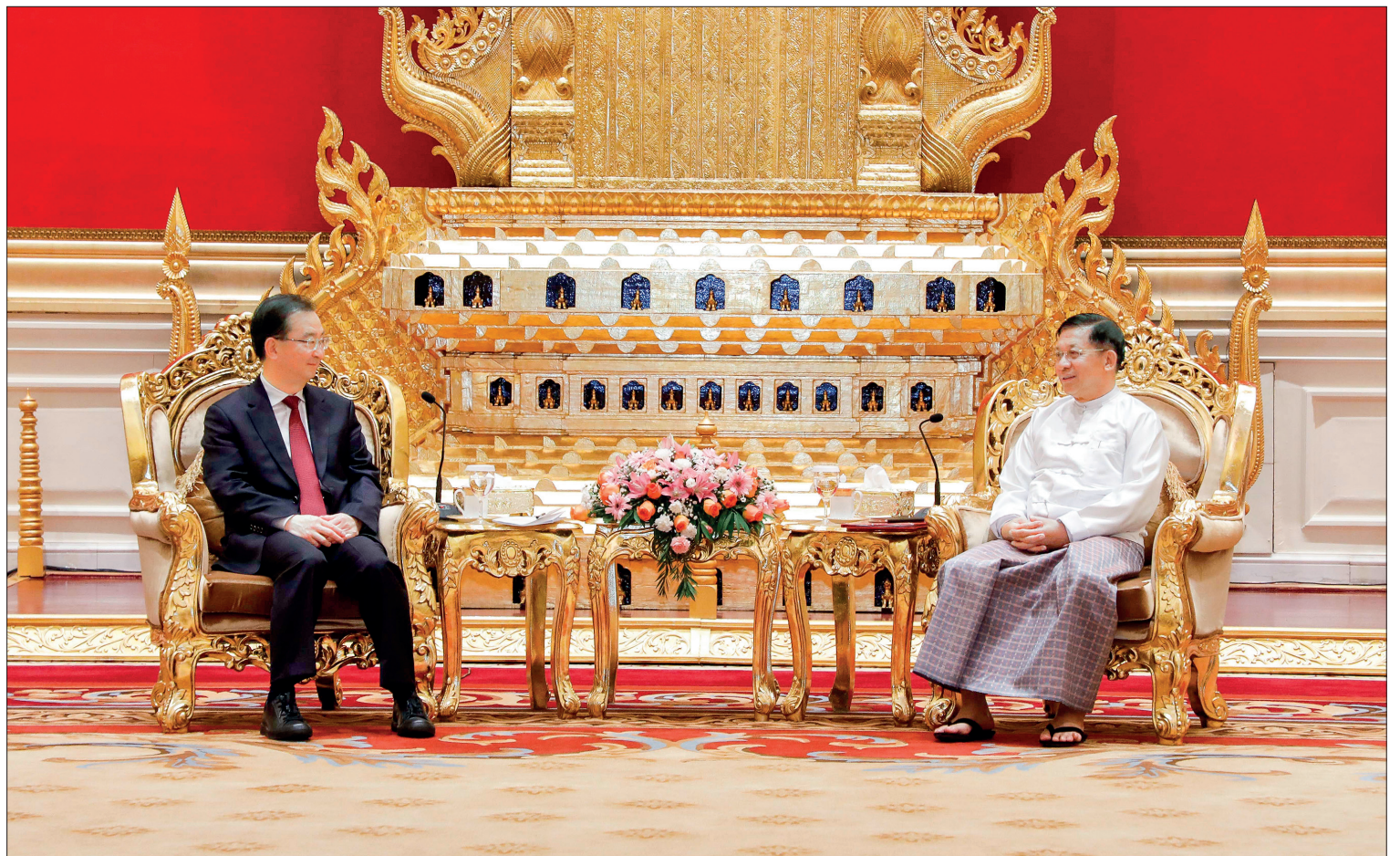
1. Priority will be given to fully realizing peace, stability and rule of law throughout the Union to safeguard the socioeconomic life of the people.
2. People-centred development work that enhances socioeconomic well-being will be undertaken to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.
3. Processes 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 Secretary Mr Wang Ning of CPC Yunnan Provincial Committee of PRC

**C**HAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Mr Wang Ning, Secretary of CPC Yunnan Provincial Committee of the People's Republic of China, at the Credentials Hall of the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed peace and stability in the border region of both countries, cooperation in further promotion of bilateral relations, cooperation in bilateral development between Myanmar and Yunnan Province, cooperation in the development of electric power, agriculture, livestock breeding, industrial, border trade and tourism sectors in Myanmar, enhancement of exchange of culture between the two countries and healthcare services, and plans to operate direct flight between Myanmar and Yunnan Province.

After the meeting, the Senior General and the Secretary of CPC Yunnan Provincial Committee of the People's Republic of China exchanged gifts and had



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Mr Wang Ning, Secretary of the CPC Yunnan Provincial Committee of the People's Republic of China in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 April 2023.

documentary photos taken.

Also present at the meeting were SAC Joint Secretary Lt-

Gen Ye Win Oo, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Ko Ko Hlaing and officials.

The Secretary of CPC Yunnan Provincial Committee of the People's Republic of China was

accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai and officials. — MNA/TTA

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## SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Secretary Mr Wang Ning of CPC Yunnan Provincial Committee of PRC

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The Senior General presents the gift.



The Senior General poses for the documentary group photo at the event yesterday.

## State Administration Council enacts Union Tax Law 2023

THE State Administration Council enacted the Union Tax Law 2023 as its law No 18/2023 under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 30 March.

The receipt of tax of the

Union in the Budget Law is the original estimate for the collection of taxes of the Union in schedule 1 of this Law for the relevant financial year.

The law was signed by Chairman of the State Admin-

istration Council Senior General Min Aung Hlaing under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The law shall come into effect from 1 April 2023. — GNLM

## 4 special civil appeals passed judgements; 4 more cases heard

A special appeal tribunal consisting of Chief Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union U Myo Tint, U Khin Maung Gyi, U Tin Hone, and Daw Thin Thin Nwet, was convened yester-

day morning at the Supreme Court of the Union and passed judgements of four special civil appeal cases – Nos 30/2022 (Mandalay), 47/2020 (Sagaing), 48/2020 (Sagaing) and 49/2020 (Sagaing).

In addition, a total of four

more special criminal appeals – Nos 16/2021 (Bago), 27/2022 (Bago), 44/2022 (Kachin), and 56/2022 (Ayeyawady) – were heard following COVID-19 prevention and control guidelines. — MNA

## Daily newspapers to be published alternately during New Year holidays

DAILY newspapers of the News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information will be in alternate circulation during the holidays of the Myanmar New Year.

The Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar dailies will be in circulation from 9 to 12 April, while the Myanmar Alinn daily will take a break.

The Myanmar Alinn Daily will be published from 13 to 17 April whereas the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar dailies will take holidays.

The Shwepyithar Rakhine Image supplement published every Wednesday by the Sub-Printing House (Sittway) will take a holiday on 12 April, the Ethnic Sector in the Shan Language by the Sub-Printing House (Taunggyi) published every Thursday on 13 April, the Ethnic Sector in Mon, Skaw Kayin, Poe Kayin and Pa-O languages published every Sunday by the Sub-Printing House (Mawlamyine) on 9 and 16 April. After the Thingyan holidays, all dailies will be published regularly from 18 April.

However, advertisements will be accepted throughout the holidays.

*News and Periodicals Enterprise*

## 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.

## Collective efforts needed to achieve advanced socioeconomic goal

Every nation and individual strives to advance their socioeconomic status. Our collective efforts are necessary to achieve this overarching goal. Dedicated work and determination enable us to achieve any goal we set.

*(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing at 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day ceremony on 4 January 2023)*

# SAC Chairman PM Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing honours Russian Deputy Minister of Defence Colonel General Alexander Vasilievich Fomin with title of performance, accepting honorary doctorate from Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences

**C**HAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing himself conferred honorary titles and medals on the persons for their excellent performances in development, peace and prosperity of the State in commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) Independence Day 2023 at the ceremonies where the title recipients attended on 1 and 2 January.

As some recipients missed the chance to attend the honorary titles conferring ceremony or send their representatives to the ceremony for various reasons, relevant region and state chief ministers and commanders of military commands presented the titles.

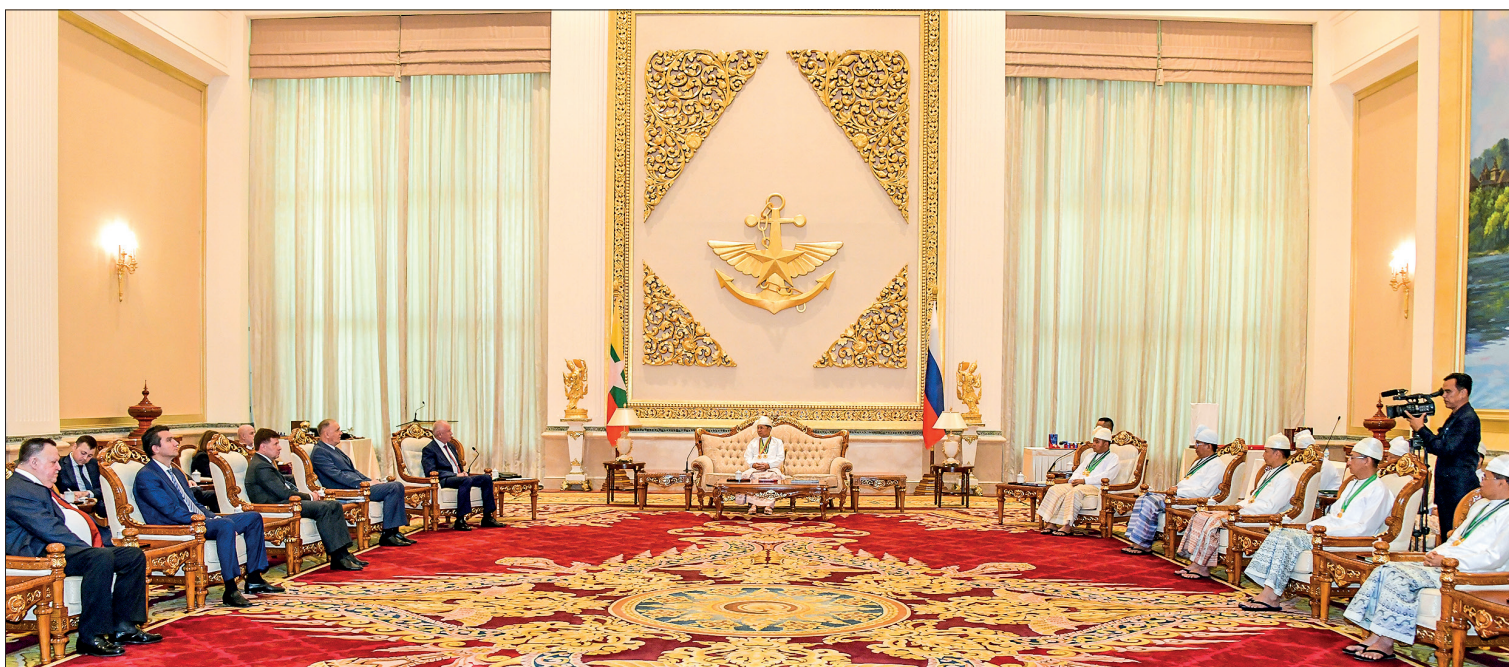
An honorary titles and



The Senior General receives the honorary doctorate yesterday.



The Senior General presents the Thiri Pyanchi title and insignia to the Colonel General.



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing receives the Russian delegation at the honorary titles and medals conferring ceremony yesterday.

insignia conferring ceremony took place at the parlour of Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, attended by the Senior General, SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Zeya Kyaw Htin Sithu Ye Win Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Zeya Kyaw Htin Sithu Moe Aung, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Zeya Kyaw Htin Sithu Tun Aung, Russian Deputy Minister for Defence Colonel General Alexander Vasilievich Fomin, Russian Federation Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nikolay Listopadov, Military Attaché Colonel Sergey Kurchenko, President of Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences

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## SAC Chairman PM Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing honours Russian Deputy ...

### FROM PAGE-3

Dr Professor Vitaly Vyacheslavovich Naumkin and officials.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Zeya Kyaw Htin Toe Yi read the order of conferring the title. Then, the Senior General presented Thiri Pyanchi title and insignia to Russian Federation Deputy Minister for Defence Colonel General Alexander Vasilievich Fomin for his excellent performance in cooperation for the development, peace and prosperity of the State.

The President of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences explained the conferring of an honorary doctorate. In

his speech, he said that under the leadership of the Senior General, political transparency based on national unity, development of socioeconomic life, and justice are vividly seen in Myanmar. The country is having an improvement in sectoral cooperation and relations with Russian Federation including the science and technology sector. The institute has decided to cooperate with Myanmar. The Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences unanimously decided to confer the honorary doctorate on the Senior General for his excellent performances in sectoral cooperation and development measures including humanitarian and sought

approval to confer the degree on the Senior General.

The Senior General accepted the honorary doctorate from the president of the academy.

In speaking words of thanks, the Russian Deputy Minister for Defence expressed his vow for making more efforts deserved to accept the honorary title. Diplomatic relations between the two countries have turned 75 years. As from the New Year occasion, he prayed Myanmar must have greater success and development under the leadership of the Senior General.

In his speech, the Senior General explained that the **Thiri Pyanchi title is a title**

**of performance for those who strived for significant performances benefiting the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The Russian Deputy Minister for Defence was awarded such a title for his great endeavours to benefit Myanmar and its citizens as well as modernize the Myanmar Armed Forces while enhancing friendly relations and cooperation between Russia and Myanmar.**

The Senior General expressed his delight at accepting the honorary doctorate from the academy. Myanmar students are learning at universities in the Russian Federation and have obtained advanced degrees. More students are

also pursuing education there. The Senior General pledged to strive for sectoral cooperation and relations between the two countries including military technology, education, science and cultural sectors.

The Senior General, the Russian Deputy Minister for Defence and the President of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences exchanged commemorative gifts.

After the ceremony, the Senior General, the Russian Deputy Minister for Defence and attendees to the ceremony had documentary photos taken. — MNA/TTA

## Myanmar, Laos ink MoU amendment on power cooperation, Notice to Proceed (NTP) for cross-border power project

THE MoU amendment signing ceremony on Myanmar-Laos Power Cooperation between the Ministry of Electric Power of Myanmar and the Ministry of Energy and Mine of Lao People's Democratic Republic and signing ceremony of Notice to Proceed (NTP) to conduct a feasibility study on cross-border power project to hand over to Consortium of PISASAI Energy and Mine Investment Pte Ltd and Primus Sapphire Power Company Limited were held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

First, State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San said Myanmar and Laos are members of ASEAN and GMS and working together closely for regional affairs. According to the MoU made on 15 January 2018, it worked together with PISASAI and Mine Investment Pte Ltd and Primus Sapphire Power

Company Limited during five years and it made progresses in power transmission/selling project. Besides the two companies, the two governments should work together closely.

Then, Union Minister for Electric Power U Thaug Han said Myanmar and Laos will conduct a feasibility study on connecting up to 600MW between the two countries by extending the MoU for another five years and Mekong hydropower project development programmes. The cross-border power project will be reached Kengtung in 2024 and Meiktila in 2026 and it will support the electrification of Myanmar.

After that, Laos Minister of Energy and Mines Phoxay Sayasone said the two countries approved extending the MoU on electricity cooperation for five years at the 5<sup>th</sup> Joint Working Committee (JWC) meeting and the 6<sup>th</sup> Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting. The MoU in-



Deputy Prime Minister MoTC Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San poses for the documentary group photo at the signing event yesterday.

cludes a cross-border power project and cooperation for the hydropower project. Enhancing bilateral cooperation in the power sector will accelerate the friendship and sector-wise development of the two countries.

Then, the Union Minister

and Lao Minister signed the MoU Amendment and exchanged it. Director-General U Soe Myint and officials of PISASAI Energy and Mine Investment Pte Ltd and Primus Sapphire Power Company Limited also signed the Notice to Proceed (NTP) and

exchanged it.

The Union Minister and Laos Minister then had commemorative photos taken and exchanged gifts.

In the evening, the dinner party was held for the guests. — MNA/KTZH

# DPM MoTC Union Minister receives Indian Ambassador

SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San received Ambassador Mr Vinay Kumar of India to Myanmar yesterday at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

Both sides frankly discussed and exchanged views on the multi-model transit transport project through the Kaladan River in

cooperation between Myanmar and India, ensuring the safe passage of vessels along the Kaladan River; marine surveying and dredging, flight expansion and future cooperation.

The meeting was attended by the deputy minister for Transport and Communications and relevant departmental officials. — MNA/TS



The Indian ambassador calls on Deputy Prime Minister MoTC Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San yesterday.

# MoE Union Minister receives Indian Ambassador



UNION Minister for Energy U Myo Myint Oo received Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Vinay Kumar at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They exchanged views on the present cooperation between Myanmar and India in the oil and natural gas sector; further increasing potential opportunities between India and Myanmar; and knowledge sharing of energy technology.

The meeting was also attended by the permanent secretary, directors-general, managing directors and responsible officials from the Ministry of Energy. — MNA/TS

Union Minister U Myo Myint Oo holds talks with Indian Ambassador Mr Vinay Kumar yesterday.

# Immigration & Citizenship Verification Work Committee holds meeting 2/2023

THE Immigration and Citizenship Verification Work Committee of the Central Committee on Rakhine State Stability, Peace and Development Committee held its 2/2023 meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

First, Committee Chairman Union Minister U Myint Kyaing talked about the formation of a central committee and five work committees to ensure the Rakhine State stability, peace and development including the Rakhine State development programmes, repatriation of refugees, humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation processes.

He continued that the Immigration and Citizenship Verification Work Committee makes efforts to accept the displaced persons and organized working committees under the



Union Minister U Myint Kyaing chairs the Immigration and Citizenship Verification Work Committee meeting 2/2023 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Myanmar-Bangladesh bilateral agreement. It also verified the lists sent by Bangladesh until the end of February 2023 and made replies for over 87,000 persons – over 56,000 who used to live in Myanmar, about 900 who are on the lists of terrorists by the Ministry of Home Affairs

and over 30,000 who have no documents to prove that they lived in Myanmar via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. According to the bilateral agreement, the repatriation processes are carried out under a pilot project and are estimated to accept over 200 households and over 700



persons. The Bangladesh side resent the lists of over 400 persons in addition to the estimated persons – over 700 persons and it was explained at the 1/2023 meeting.

Therefore, the verification group was formed to examine over 400 families and it inspect-

ed in Bangladesh between 15 and 21 March. Moreover, over 300 Hindus verified previously are estimated to accept under the second pilot project. These projects will be discussed at the JWW meeting.

Then, Secretary of Work Committee Permanent Secretary U Win Zaw Aung presented the decisions made at the 1/2023 meeting and Director-General U Ye Tun Oo reported on the findings of the inspection team and facts to be reviewed.

Vice-Chair of the Work Committee U Kyaw Myo Htut, members and attendees coordinated the discussion. Then, the director-general of the Immigration Department sought approval for the meeting and the Union minister concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

Daily newspapers available online

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

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## MoRAC Union Minister receives Indian Ambassador to Myanmar

UNION Minister of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko received Mr Vinay Kumar, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, at the lounge of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, matters related to friendly relations between the two countries, religious and cultural sectors, sending scholarships and cooperation

in the archaeological field were discussed.

The deputy ministers and the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture were also present at the meeting. — MNA/KZW

Union Minister U Ko Ko receives the Indian ambassador yesterday.



## MoNREC Union Minister meets Indian Ambassador



Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi meets Indian Ambassador Mr Vinay Kumar in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi met Mr Vinay Kumar, Indian ambassador to Myanmar, at the lounge of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

They discussed the conservation of forests for allevi-

ation of climate change and reduction of carbon emissions, implementation of agreements on the conservation of tigers and other wild animals and technical and technological cooperation and cooperation in mineral sector.

Deputy Minister U Min

Thu, the permanent secretary, the directors-general, managing directors, rectors, officials from the ministry and representatives from the Indian embassy attended the meeting. —MNA/KZW

## MoC Union Minister receives Indian Ambassador in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION Minister for Construction U Myo Thant received Mr Vinay Kumar, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, at the lounge of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

They discussed work programmes to be carried out for the development of transport between the two countries, upgrading of the Paletwa-Zorumpur road with aid from India, upgrad-

ing of the Yarkyi-Kalewa road section, maintenance of 69 bridges on the Tamu-Cikon-Kalewa road and plans to build new ones and construction of an integrated check post at the Tamu border.

The permanent secretary, directors-general and officials from the Department of Highways and Department of Bridges attended the meeting. — MNA/KZW



The Indian ambassador calls on Union Minister U Myo Thant yesterday.

## CRIME NEWS

### Illegal timbers, consumer goods, raw industrial materials and vehicles confiscated



Confiscated illegal goods at Asia World Port Terminal.

THE Muse District Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force inspected the vehicles that entering from China at the Sinphyu checkpoint in Muse township and captured 15 kinds of goods including 512 kilogrammes of cotton fabric roll worth K18,664,331 that were duty-free not paid custom duties by the side of the road over the Sinphyu checkpoint on 30 March. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 31 March, an on-duty team at the Asia World Terminal

container checkpoint confiscated four kinds of goods including 30,000 pairs of LUX duck head vests that exceeded 61 days of Valid for Prior Arrival-VPA. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 1 April, an inspection team from the Tamu Police station captured an unregistered Canda 125 motorbike worth K150,000 in Tamu township and an inspection team from Bamauk Police station seized an unregistered Toyota land cruiser Prado auto worth K5 million

in Bamauk township. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

On 1 and 2 April, a total of 9.633 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K2,969,100 was captured in Kyaukdaga, Gyobingauk and Pyu townships and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, seven arrests (estimated value of K135,557,866) were made on four consecutive days from 30 March to 2 April, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

# LOCAL BUSINESS

## Rice price move upwards in domestic market

THE prices of rice that are mainly consumed locally continued to rise, according to the Wahdan Rice Wholesale Centre.

At the end of March 2023, Pawsan rice prices moved in the range between K72,000 and K90,000 per bag depending on the producing areas (Shwebo, Myaungmya, Dedaye, Pyapon and Pathein). Meanwhile, the prices stood at K77,000 per bag for Kyapyan, K64,500 for Khunni, K54,000 for Ngasein, K59,000 for short-mature rice (90 days), K54,000 for Emahta, K65,000 for Pawkywe and K53,000 for rice grown under intercropping season.

The prices of Pawsan rice climbed up to K75,000-93,000 per bag on 3 April. The prices of various rice varieties were up



One of the rice retail outlets in Yangon.

by K1,000-3,000 per bag within three days.

An increase in paddy prices drove rice prices up.

Starting from 3 August 2022, Myanmar Rice Federation,

Myanmar Rice Producers and Planters Association, Myanmar Rice Millers Association, and traders and brokers engaged in Wahdan Rice Wholesale Centre and Bayintnaung Rice Wholesale Centre have been working together to offer fair prices for Shwebo Pawsan from K75,000-77,000 per bag and other rice varieties to the consumers at the Wahdan Wholesale Centre. The offer prices are K52,000-55,000 per bag of Pawsan from the Ayeyawady area, K55,000-60,000 per bag of Kyapyan, and K35,000-37,000 per bag of short-mature rice varieties (90 days) at the Wahdan Rice Wholesale Centre. Each household can buy only one bag. Those traders and retailers are not entitled to buy them. — NN/EM

## Palm oil wholesale reference price for Yangon Region bounces back from a-week fall

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market regained this week ending 9 April compared to that of the previous week, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The reference price stood at K4,440 per viss in the week from 28 March to 2 April. For the week ending 9 April, the price was set higher at K4,515 per viss, showing a small decrease of K105 per viss this week.

The Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution under the Ministry

of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia including transport costs, tariffs and banking services, and issuing the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil every week.

Regardless of the reference price, the current market price is too high at over K6,000-7,000 per viss.

If those edible oil retailers and wholesalers are found overcharging, storing inventory intentionally and attempting unscrupulous action to manipulate the market, they will face

legal action under the Essential Supplies and Service Act, MoC released a statement.

The Ministry of Commerce is striving for consumers not to worry over the supply of edible oil. The ministry is also trying to secure edible oil sufficiency, supervise the market to offer reasonable prices to the consumers and maintain price stability.

At present, mobile market trucks operated by oil importing companies, in coordination with Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, were back to business in some townships on 17 July 2022 to offer palm oil at a subsidized rate. They offer palm oil at a fairer price to the consumers directly depending on the reference price. However, there are limited sources of supply although they directly sell palm oil at a reference rate depending on the volume quota.

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at a million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the oil sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/EM



The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at a million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes.

## Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 3 April 2023

### Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,105
Octane 95	K2,185
Diesel	K2,065
Premium Diesel	K2,145

All of the prices are based on per litre.

### Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,310,300 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,940,000 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	K2,850 to K2,865

The above prices may change from time to time.

**One new case of COVID-19 reported on 3 April, total figure registers 634,086**

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases registered **634,086** after **one** new case was reported on 3 April 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,563**.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at **19,490** on 3-4-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. — GNLM

# OPINION

## Nurture saplings in summer for the coming monsoon

**N**OW is summer in Myanmar. It is a preparatory time for growing trees in monsoon. Hence, farms under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation have started nurturing saplings to be distributed to people across the nation for doing green tasks in their environment.

Myanmar always holds tree-growing ceremonies in June and July when the monsoon brings a lot of rainwater to the country. At that time, rainwater treats hard soil from summer to be soft. So, rainwater is mixed with humus to be ready for the cultivation of saplings.

Millions of saplings are grown across the nation on a yearly basis as a public campaign so as to be the environment lush and green. Of them, some saplings are damaged and lost for various reasons. Hence, it is necessary to take lessons from the past events of growing the saplings in order to lose saplings in the relevant positions. It is because the government spends a large sum of money on nurturing the saplings.

The report of the United Nations stated that some 7.3 million hectares of forests disappear across the world for various reasons on a yearly basis. At the same time, forest areas in Myanmar are facing deforestation for extraction of timbers and forest products for State income, reclamation of farmlands in the forest areas, mining of minerals including gold, construction of dams and embankments, roads and bridges for infrastructures, and expansion of urban and rural areas for public residences.

The report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 2020 stated that Myanmar's forests faced deforestation on 714,134 acres of areas on average yearly from 2010 to 2020. In consequence, deforestation brings bad impacts such as loss of biodiversity species, damage to soil, climate change, and root causes of natural disasters. As such, people should grow trees as much as possible to lessen the impacts of deforestation and greening of the environment in urban and rural areas.

In 2021, the monsoon tree growing ceremonies were held in the entire nation under the plan for growing two-foot saplings for two years old to have resilience to climatic conditions. Moreover, local authorities raised public awareness to protect the already planted saplings by preventing the various dangers to harm the saplings and substitute the withered plants with new ones. Actually, it is sure that the concerted efforts of the people in growing saplings will not be wasted, and the remaining trees apart from withered ones will help improve the climate of the nation gradually.

Moreover, local authorities raised public awareness to protect the already planted saplings by preventing the various dangers to harm the saplings and substitute the withered plants with new ones. Actually, it is sure that the concerted efforts of the people in growing saplings will not be wasted, and the remaining trees apart from withered ones will help improve the climate of the nation gradually.

# Cocaine trafficking surges following COVID-19-related slowdown

The supply surge matches a steep growth in demand, with many regions showing a steady rise in cocaine users over the past decade. While the cocaine market remains quite concentrated in the Americas and parts of Europe, the report warns that there is a strong potential for a large expansion in Africa and Asia.

**R**OUTED through new hubs and expanded criminal networks, cocaine trafficking has made a dramatic comeback following an initial slowdown caused by the emergence of COVID-19, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime said on Thursday in a hard-hitting new report.

"The surge in the global cocaine supply should put all of us on high alert," UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly said. "The potential for the cocaine market to expand in Africa and Asia is a dangerous reality."

### Sky high supply and demand

Criminal networks are now diversifying with alarming results alongside record levels of production, moving beyond the pandemic and its related global shutdown, which had appeared to have temporarily hobbled the illicit trade, UNODC said in its Global Report

on Cocaine 2023.

To best respond, Ms Waly urged governments and others to closely examine the report's findings to determine how this transnational threat can be met with transnational responses based on awareness raising, prevention, and international and regional cooperation.

### Inroads into Africa and Asia

The report details how coca cultivation soared 35 per cent from 2020 to 2021, a record high and the sharpest year-to-year increase since 2016.

The rise is a result of both an expansion in coca bush cultivation and improvements in the process of converting coca bush to cocaine hydrochloride, the drug which is then sold on the streets.

The supply surge matches a steep growth in demand, with many regions showing a steady

rise in cocaine users over the past decade. While the cocaine market remains quite concentrated in the Americas and parts of Europe, the report warns that there is a strong potential for a large expansion in Africa and Asia.

The report examines the emergence of new hubs for cocaine trafficking, noting that countries in Southeastern Europe and Africa — particularly those in West and Central Africa — are increasingly being used as key transit zones for the drug.

Ports on the North Sea like Antwerp, Rotterdam, and Hamburg, meanwhile, have eclipsed traditional entry points in Spain and Portugal, for cocaine arriving in Western Europe. Traffickers are also diversifying their routes in Central America by sending more and more cocaine to Europe, in addition to North America.



Security forces of the Saudi-backed and internationally recognized Yemeni government prepare to incinerate packages of what is reportedly believed to be narcotics on 5 October 2021. PHOTO: MOHAMMED AL-WAFI/AFP/FILE

### Record-high seizures

Arrests and seizures have also skyrocketed. Interceptions of cocaine shipments by law enforcement around the world recorded seizures reaching a record high of nearly 2,000 tonnes in 2021.

The report shows a criminal landscape fragmented into myriad trafficking networks. Examining these groups' modalities, the report found new traffickers filling gaps and an array of so-called "service providers" lending supply-chain services "for a fee".

For instance, the demobilization of fighters from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), which had previously controlled many of Colombia's coca-growing regions, created an opening for others to step in. This includes new, local actors, ex-FARC fighters, and foreign groups from Mexico and Europe, the report showed.

### Tracking trends

Angela Me, Chief of the UNODC Research and Analysis Branch, said the report contains a wealth of more information about the phenomenon.

"With its latest knowledge and trends on the routes, modalities, and networks employed by criminal actors," she said, "it is my hope that the report will support evidence-based strategies which stay ahead of future developments in cocaine production, trafficking, and use."

Ms Me told UN News in an interview before the report launch that dealing with the increase in demand for cocaine was a major international challenge, so rethinking ways in which countries could work together to tackle the problem was much needed.

SOURCE: UN NEWS

## Japan to soon scrap negative Covid test requirement for visitors from China



Travellers gather in the international arrivals lobby at Narita airport near Tokyo on 7 April 2022. PHOTO: KYODO/KFILE

According to the relaxed restrictions, which may go into effect in early April, as long as they have received at least three doses of a Covid-19 vaccine, passengers from mainland China will no longer be required to produce documentation of a negative coronavirus test done 72 hours or less before departure.

**O**WING to a low percentage of positive results from sampling at airports, Japan is considering scrapping a requirement of a negative Covid-19 test for those travelling from China, Kyodo News reported.

According to the relaxed restrictions, which may go into effect in early April, as long as they have received at least three doses of a Covid-19 vaccine, passengers from mainland China will no longer be required to produce documentation of a negative coronavirus test done 72 hours or less before departure.

Covid-19 testing of all arrivals

The Japanese government began requiring Covid-19 testing of all arrivals from the Chinese mainland, including those who had been there within the previous seven days, at the end of the last year, according to Kyodo News.

Early in January, Japan added a requirement for confirmation of a negative test further to tighten border inspections for visitors from the Chinese mainland.

However, the authorities decided to test only passengers on particular aircraft departing from China in March after observing a decline in the amount

of Covid-19-positive tests.

The relaxations came a day after Japan's audit board had requested the health ministry to provide supporting documentation for contracts with the US and British coronavirus vaccine manufacturers after finding a weak basis for ordering a total of 882 million doses in fiscal 2020 and 2021, Kyodo News reported.

The report released on Wednesday by the Board of Audit of Japan also found that at least 30 per cent of the doses were either cancelled or disposed of after expiring.

SOURCE: KYODO

## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 3 April 2023)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal and a few cloud elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 4 APRIL 2023:** Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine states, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing Region and Northern Shan State and isolated in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Taninthayi regions and (Southern and Eastern)Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon and Ayeyawady regions.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4 - 7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Shan, Chin and Rakhine states. **FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 APRIL 2023:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 APRIL 2023:** Partly cloudy.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 APRIL 2023:** Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).



# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## Fee for FDA approval application reduced by K500,000



The test for a ready-to-eat food product is running in an FDA laboratory.

IN order to encourage and promote micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the amount to be paid for applications for food production approval has been changed by the Food and Drug Administration Department under the Ministry of Health starting from 1 April.

According to the statement, the submission fee for the online e-submission for the approval of the Food and Drug Administration Department was originally K750,000 and it will be only K250,000 from now on.

In addition, the valid date for the application is from 1 April to 30 September, and the laboratory test fee is not included in the amount of K250,000 to be submitted for the online e-submission, the statement of MoH indicated. If the examination of the businesses which apply for approval within six months is completed, the approval valid for one year will be issued, notified the MoH.

It is stated that edible oils, potentially hazardous foods,

and purified drinking water with specially controlled food labels are not covered in this programme. In addition, the Food and Drug Administration Department has informed that there is no need for further testing in the FDA's laboratories for foods with a low risk of harm and foods with a medium risk level, if it presents the test results that have been checked within three months at the accredited laboratories of Myanmar Food Laboratory Network. — TWA/CT

## Yangon Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pavilion installs sprinklers, sprinkler guns and water spray

SPRINKLERS, sprinkler guns and water spray walkways will be installed at the Yangon Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pavilion in Thingyan Festival, according to YCDC.

Chairman of the Yangon City Maha Thingyan Festival Working Committee Yangon Mayor U Bo Htay said, at the Yangon City Maha Thingyan Festival Working Committee Meeting on 2 April, that measures will be taken for the public to be able to play water happily and safely during the Maha Thingyan Festival.

Head of the Engineering Department (Water & Sanitation) U Myint Zaw Than discussed the arrangements for water sources, testing of water quality and installation of sprinklers and sprinkler guns and spray walkways.

Film stars, musicians, theatre professionals, basic education and preschool students, and departmental employees will take part in the performances at Mayor Maha Thingyan Festival Pavilion. —TWA/MKKS



Yangon Mayor's Maha Thingyan Water Festival pandal under construction.

## DICA apprises companies of requisite attached documents in filing AR

THE Directorate of Investment and Company Administration has notified the companies of providing attached documents alongside the annual returns (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO to ensure compliance with the existing laws.

The DICA has been closely monitoring the companies. More attached documents are required for filing the AR to check whether the directors of the companies follow the laws or not.

This move is to support the anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing law. According to Section 97 of the Myanmar Companies Law, all



The photo shows an office building of Directorate of Investment and Company Administration-DICA.

registered companies need to submit AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of

incorporation. The DICA notified them of further necessary documents to be submitted along

with the AR.

The bank statement of a company's business account that shows a deposit for paid-up capital from shareholders must be presented while filing AR on the MyCO, together with the copy of the citizenship scrutiny card of the director and police verification certificate for proof of the actual address.

If the company's director is a foreigner, the certificate of registration is also to be provided with the documents made in line with the Registration of Foreigners Rules (1948).

Additionally, the police verification certificate for the pres-

ent address of the company that needs to be the exact address while filling out registration, a copy of the shareholders' citizenship scrutiny card and the police clearance must be attached with the AR.

If the company's shareholders are legal persons or legal entities, the proof of the institution concerned needs to be added as well, the DICA stated.

Only when the full set of documents is filed within two months will the DICA accept AR. Failure to do so will be proceeded under 430 (D) of Myanmar Companies Law, according to the DICA's notification. — TWA/EM



A Long March-11 carrier rocket carrying the Shiyao-19 satellite blasts off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China, 15 March 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

## China developing parachute system to recover reusable rocket parts

CHINESE engineers are working on a parachute system for recovering rocket boosters and fairings during launches.

Developed by the China Academy of Space Technology, the system will be used to help make the recovery of reusable rocket parts more precise and controllable.

According to the research team, the system, which uses glide-control technology, can narrow the landing range to a

smaller area than the usual range of 30 to 90 kilometres. Together with landing buffering technology, it will enable the boosters and fairings to remain intact after landing on the ground.

China's major launch sites are deep inland, which means that preventing fallen rocket parts from landing unpredictably, especially in areas with human activity, has become an urgent key task for scientists.

Teng Haishan, a deputy chief

engineer of the project, said the recovery system can also help lower the price of rocket launches, providing more economical services.

"In the past two years, China has conducted carrier rocket launches more than 50 times each year. Once such a recovery system is in place, more than one billion yuan (about 145 million US dollars) in launch costs can be saved each year," Teng noted.

— Xinhua

## NASA to reveal crew for 2024 flight around the Moon

NASA is to reveal the names of the astronauts — three Americans and a Canadian — who will fly around the Moon next year, a prelude to returning humans to the lunar surface for the first time in a half century.

The mission, Artemis II, is scheduled to take place in November 2024 with the four-person crew circling the Moon but not landing on it.

As part of the Artemis program, NASA aims to send astronauts to the Moon in 2025 — more than five decades after the historic Apollo missions ended in 1972.

Besides putting the first woman and first person of colour on the Moon, the US space agency hopes to establish a lasting human presence on the lunar surface and eventually launch a voyage to Mars.

NASA administrator Bill Nelson said this week at a "What's Next Summit" hosted by Axios that he expected a crewed mission to Mars by the year 2040.

The four members of the

Artemis II crew will be announced at an event at 10:00 am (1500 GMT) at the Johnson Space Centre in Houston.

The 10-day Artemis II mission will test NASA's powerful Space Launch System rocket as well as the life-support systems aboard the Orion spacecraft.

The first Artemis mission wrapped up in December with an uncrewed Orion capsule returning safely to Earth after a 25-day journey around the Moon.

During the trip around Earth's orbiting satellite and back, Orion logged well over a million miles (1.6 million kilometres) and went farther from Earth than any previous habitable spacecraft.

Nelson was also asked at the Axios summit whether NASA could stick to its timetable of landing astronauts on the south pole of the Moon in late 2025.

"Space is hard," Nelson said. "You have to wait until you know that it's as safe as possible, because you're living right on the edge." — AFP

## Arctic scientists race to preserve 'ice memory'

ARCTIC scientists are set to start drilling to save samples of ancient ice for analysis before the frozen layers melt away due to climate change, mission organizers said on Monday.

Italian, French and Norwegian researchers have set up camp in Norway's Svalbard archipelago in what they called a race against time to preserve crucial ice records for analyzing past environmental conditions.

They will extract ice in a series of tubes from as far as 125 metres (137 yards) below the surface, containing frozen geochemical traces dating back three centuries.

Analysis of chemicals in deep "ice cores" provides scientists with valuable data about past environmental conditions.

But experts warn that water from melting ice is leaking down and altering the geochemical records preserved in ancient ice beneath.

Ice scientists "are seeing their primary material disappear forever from the surface of the planet", Jerome Chapellaz,



(FILES) This file photo taken on 4 May 2022 shows a view of mountains near Longyearbyen, located on Spitsbergen island, in Svalbard Archipelago, northern Norway. A team of researchers will start digging ice on 4 April 2023, in the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard, in a race against time to extract centuries of climate and environmental data before they disappear due to climate change, the Ice Memory foundation, announced on 3 April 2023. PHOTO: AFP

president of the Ice Memory foundation running the operation, told AFP. "It is our responsibility as glaciologists of this generation to make sure a bit of it is preserved."

Human-caused carbon emissions have warmed the planet by 1.1 degrees Celsius since the 19th century. Studies indicate that the Arctic is warming between two

and four times faster than the global average.

One set of ice tubes will be used for immediate analysis while a second set will be sent to Antarctica for storage in an "ice memory sanctuary" under the snow, where the samples will be preserved for future generations of scientists. — AFP

## Dry spell leads to wildfires across South Korea

FIREFIGHTERS were scrambling Monday to contain wildfires across South Korea as a dry spell led to blazes in multiple regions, including on a mountain popular with hikers in central Seoul.

A fire broke out Sunday morning on Mount Inwang, a popular outdoor destination

in Seoul's Jongno district, and spread rapidly due to strong winds, the city government said in a statement.

About 120 households were forced to evacuate, but no deaths or injuries were reported, it added.

Firefighters using helicop-

ters were still struggling to extinguish smouldering fires early Monday, the statement said, although the main blaze was put out Sunday evening.

Authorities planned to investigate the cause of the fire once it was completely extinguished, Yonhap news agency reported.

On Monday, firefighting authorities were also battling strong winds and smoke in an effort to contain wildfires across Chungcheong province, south of Seoul.

More than 60 homes and buildings were damaged by fire and at least 236 people were evac-

uated in Hongseong county in the south of Chungcheong, according to the Korea Forest Service.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol on Sunday ordered fire and forest authorities to use "all possible resources" to put out the fires, his office said. — AFP

# ECONOMY WORLD



Tourist visit the Galle Face Green promenade in Colombo on 13 January 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Sri Lanka revises tourism targets due to positive trends

SRI Lanka's tourism industry is aiming to attract two million visitors in 2023, an increase from the previous target of 1.5 million, an official said on Monday.

Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) Chairman Priantha Fernando told the media that the SLTDA amended the estimates due to a positive trend in the first quarter of the year.

Fernando said Sri Lanka has already exceeded its target for March 2023, with over 112,000 tourists arriving in the first 28 days of the month, marking the first time since 2019 that Sri Lanka has welcomed over 100,000 tourists for three consecutive months.

Sri Lanka has welcomed over 323,000 tourists so far this year, he said.

The country is expecting a boost in Chinese tourists due to increased flights and promotional efforts in China, and is also considering adding direct flights from Israel, he said.

Tourism, one of Sri Lanka's leading foreign exchange earners, has suffered a setback due to the COVID-19 pandemic and economic and political crises in the country. — Xinhua

## Highway freight service facilitates trade between ASEAN, western China

THE volume of cross-border highway freight transport via the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor increased with a growing number of trucks involved in the first quarter of this year, according to the Chongqing Highway Logistics Base in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality.

During the period, 1,306 truck trips transported goods worth about 991 million yuan (about 144.03 million US dollars), surging 316 per cent and 394 per cent year on year, respectively. The service delivered 2,939 twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU) containers with a total cargo weight of 28,100 tonnes.

In March, 403 truck trips delivered 907 TEU contain-

ers of goods worth about 308 million yuan, a year-on-year increase of 153 per cent, 153 per cent, and 377 per cent, respectively.

Launched in April 2016, Chongqing's cross-border highway freight service mainly caters to countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). It reduced transportation time compared with sea freight massively.

As of 31 March, 11 cross-border highway freight-service routes had been launched, covering over 30 cities in Southeast Asia and parts of South and Central Asia. Via the service, auto parts, motorcycle parts, laptops, and fruits from Chongqing and other regions are transported to the ASEAN countries. — Xinhua

## NTT network service disruptions hit over 440,000 lines across Japan

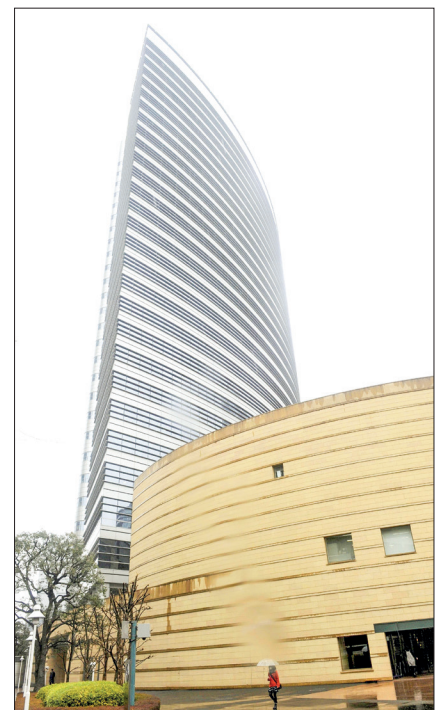
NIPPON Telegraph and Telephone Corp's regional subsidiaries said their internet and landline telephone services experienced disruptions Monday, affecting up to 446,000 internet lines across Japan.

The disruptions were caused by a failure in communications equipment on Monday morning, the first business day of fiscal 2023, before services were restored hours later, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone West

Corp said.

NTT Docomo Inc and SoftBank Corp, which both use NTT's optical line services, also experienced connection issues following the disruptions at NTT.

At an online press conference, officials from NTT East and NTT West acknowledged the outage constituted a "serious incident" under the law. The communications ministry may issue administrative orders to both companies depending on the cause, which is currently under investigation. — Kyodo



File photo taken in March 2012 shows the headquarters of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone East Corp in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO**

## Türkiye's inflation slows to 50% ahead of election

TÜRKIYE'S annual inflation rate slowed to 50 per cent in March, official data showed on Monday,

delivering another boost for President Recep Tayyip Erdogan ahead May elections.

The inflation rate slowed for a fifth consecutive month from a high of more than 85 per cent, according to the state statistics agency.

The official rate stood at 50.5 last month, down from 55.2 per cent in February.

The slowdown was led by a drop in the cost Türkiye's energy imports, the figures showed.

But analysts warn that consumer price increase may start speeding up again unless Türkiye radically alters its economic policies.

Erdogan has tried to fight inflation by slashing interests rates, the opposite approach taken by central banks in other countries. — AFP

## Indonesia's inflation falls to 4.97% in March

INDONESIA posted its inflation at 4.97 per cent year-on-year in March, the lowest in the last seven months, according to Statistics Indonesia (BPS) on Monday.

The March inflation figure was compared to 5.47 per cent in February and 5.28 per cent in January, but it was still above the central bank's target range of two per cent to four per cent.

"Inflation at this beginning of Ramadan was relative-

ly lower than the previous year, but we must be aware of rising commodity prices and high demand ahead of the Eid al-Fitr holiday," said BPS deputy for distribution and services statistics, Pudji Ismartini, at a press conference.

Indonesia, with its large population of Muslims, typically experiences higher inflation during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, which this year started in late March. — Xinhua



A couple of elderly look at high meat prices at a butcher in the historic Ulus district in Ankara on 27 January 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

## S Korean carmakers' global auto sale grows 19.8% in March



Visitors look at a Kia EV9 during a press preview of the 2023 Seoul Mobility Show at the KINTEX exhibition hall in Goyang on 30 March 2023. PHOTO: AFP

SOUTH Korean carmakers' global automotive sale grew in double digits last month thanks to solid demand both at home and abroad, industry data showed on Monday. The number of cars,

sold globally by five local automakers including Hyundai, Kia, GM Korea, Renault Korea and KG Mobility, was 730,241 in March, up 19.8 per cent from the same month of last year.

The domestic auto sale advanced 26.8 per cent to 140,926 units, and the car sale outside South Korea jumped 18.5 per cent to 589,315 units.

Global car sale by the country's top carmaker Hyundai Motor totalled 381,885 units in March, up 21.3 per cent from a year earlier.

Hyundai's car sale at home soared 40.9 per cent to 74,529 units, and its overseas sale spiked 17.4 per cent to 307,356 vehicles.

Kia Motors, affiliated with Hyundai, globally sold 278,275 vehicles in March, up 10.9 per cent from a year ago. — Xinhua

## Business confidence slumps among Japan's big manufacturers

JAPAN'S largest manufacturers feel less optimistic about business conditions with confidence falling to its lowest level in more than two years, a key survey showed Monday.

The Bank of Japan's closely watched quarterly Tankan survey is considered the broadest indicator of how Japanese businesses are faring.

It reports the difference between the percentage of firms that are upbeat and those that see conditions as unfavourable.

Among major manufacturers, business confidence fell to plus one from plus seven three months earlier.

The reading was the

lowest since December 2020, marking the fifth quarterly drop in sentiment, and was below market expectations of plus four.

Optimism grew slightly among non-manufacturers, however, from 19 to 20. A positive figure means more businesses feel optimistic than pessimistic.

During the fraught first months of the Covid-19 pandemic in June 2020, the Tankan score for Japan's big manufacturers plunged to minus 34.

Tsuyoshi Ueno, a senior economist at NLI Research Institute, had predicted a drop in the manufacturing reading ahead of the survey's re-

lease on Monday.

"Business confidence among large manufacturers is expected to worsen markedly, given high raw material and fuel prices, as overseas demand falls and the global semiconductor market continues to deteriorate," he said.

Central banks around the world have hiked interest rates to tackle soaring inflation linked to the war in Ukraine and other factors, but the Bank of Japan has stuck to its longstanding monetary easing policies.

The BoJ's new governor Kazuo Ueda is due to take the helm this month when Haruhiko Kuroda steps down after a decade in the job. — AFP

## Viet Nam's seafood exports in 1st quarter drop on weak global demand

THE value of Vietnamese seafood exports slumped 27 per cent in the first quarter from a year earlier to 1.85 billion US dollars as inflation in most countries has soared to multi-year highs, denting global growth and exacerbating weak demand, Vietnam News Agency reported on Monday.

The Viet Nam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP) said shipments of shrimps, a key earner, posted a year-on-year plunge of 40 per cent in the first three months to 577 million dollars, catfish exports tumbled 32 per cent to 447 million dollars, and tuna shipments fell 31 per cent to 179 million dollars. Sales

of other wild-caught fishes, the only bright spot in otherwise sluggish seafood exports, edged up three per cent to 435 million dollars, said VASEP.

Shrimp exports, which normally account for up to 45 per cent of Viet Nam's total annual seafood exports, faced tougher competition from low-priced products from Ecuador, India and Indonesia, especially in the US market, said Le Hang, VASEP's director of communications.

However, China's optimized COVID-19 response has given Viet Nam's catfish exporters renewed hope for a better-than-expected trading environment in the year ahead, Hang said. — Xinhua

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V WAN HE VOY.NO. (2331)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V WAN HE VOY. NO. (2331)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-4-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S NEW HIGHEST MARINE CO., LIMITED.**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (085N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (085N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-4-2023** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (778N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY.NO. (778N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-4-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (KHDY0340N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (KHDY0340N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-4-2023** 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**

### MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

AS the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the **9th APRIL 2023** to **17th APRIL 2023 Thingyan Water Festival (New Year Public Holiday)**. Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

# GLOBAL AFFAIRS



Supporters of Prachachat party hold placards during the first day of the constituencies candidates registration for the upcoming general election, in southern Thai province of Narathiwat on 3 April 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Thai poll hopefuls register as opposition vows constitutional reform

CANDIDATES began registering Monday for Thailand's upcoming general election, in which Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha faces a tough fight against opposition parties vowing to rewrite the kingdom's army-scripted constitution.

Former army chief Prayut, who came to power in a coup in 2014, insisted the country needed an experienced leader as he accompanied prospective MPs from his United Thai Nation.

He faces a difficult chal-

lenge from a resurgent opposition fronted by Paetongtarn Shinawatra, daughter of billionaire former PM Thaksin Shinawatra.

Prayut, 69, arrived on an open-top truck with supporters and candidates in lively scenes at a Bangkok sports hall.

Thailand "needs people who know how to do the job. If they have never done it, they can't do it," Prayut told Thairath TV.

Thais go to the polls on 14 May for the first election since

the kingdom was rocked by major youth-led protests in 2020 calling for political reform.

Prayut and his party are lagging in the polls behind Paetongtarn's Pheu Thai and the progressive Move Forward Party led by Pita Limjaroenrat.

But while opposition parties are riding high in the polls, Thailand's junta-scripted 2017 constitution gives army-favoured parties a big advantage when it comes to forming a government. — AFP

## IAEA head set for safety talks on Ukraine nuke plant

UN nuclear chief Rafael Grossi will travel to Russia's Kaliningrad territory on Wednesday for talks on the Moscow-held Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in southern Ukraine, officials said.

Grossi said last week while in Ukraine that he was working on a compromise security plan for the site and warned of increased military activity around it.

"Grossi will visit Kaliningrad on Wednesday as part of his ongoing consultations aimed at ensuring the protection of Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant during the military conflict," the International Atomic Energy Agency spokesman told AFP on Monday.

There are persistent fears over the safety of the plant in the southern Ukrainian region

of Zaporizhzhia, where there has been frequent shelling since Russian troops invaded last year.

Grossi is to meet a "Russian interdepartmental delegation" on Wednesday, Russia's ambassador to the UN in Vienna Mikhail Ulyanov told Russian news agencies.

Ulyanov added that "declaring that a protection regime at the plant has been established" was "still a long way off".

Kyiv and Moscow have accused each other of shelling the plant, increasing fears of a disaster.

Grossi said last week after visiting the plant that his team had previously focused on the possibility of establishing a security zone around the plant, but "now the concept is evolving". — AFP

## India's Rahul Gandhi appeals defamation conviction

TOP Indian opposition leader Rahul Gandhi appealed on Monday against the defamation conviction that resulted in his expulsion from parliament two weeks ago.

Gandhi, 52, who was sentenced to two years imprisonment in a case about remarks he made in 2019 seen as insulting to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and those sharing his surname, is looking to overturn the conviction before elections due next year.

The sentence also renders Gandhi ineligible to stand in the poll, which the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party is widely expected to win convincingly.

Modi's government is widely accused of using the defamation law to silence critics, and the case in the premier's home state of Gujarat is one of several



India's Congress party leader Rahul Gandhi (C) arrives at a court in Surat on 3 April 2023. India's parliament was adjourned twice on 3 April after lawmakers held rowdy protests and threw paper at the speaker following the expulsion from the house of top opposition figure Rahul Gandhi. **PHOTO: AFP**

lodged against his chief opponent in recent years.

"This is a fight against the era of favouring friends, saving democracy. In this regard truth

is my weapon, truth is my sanctuary," Gandhi tweeted after filing his appeal to the court in Surat.

It is scheduled to be heard next week. — AFP

## Egypt's leader makes snap Saudi visit as economic woes mount

EGYPTIAN President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi met Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler on a brief visit late on Sunday, state media said, as the North African country grapples with severe economic difficulties.

Sisi was greeted at Jeddah airport by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and was waved off again several hours later by the 37-year-old, according to the Saudi Press Agency.

Few details were given about the meeting, but import-dependent Egypt's economic fortunes

have plunged since Russia's invasion of Ukraine sent wheat prices soaring, fuelling rampant inflation.

Saudi Arabia, which will host an Arab League summit next month, is also engaging in significant de-escalation in the turbulent region, signalling a return to diplomatic relations with arch-rival Iran after a seven-year gap.

"They discussed developments in the regional and international situation and the efforts

exerted in addressing them, in addition to tackling all issues of common concern," SPA said.

Sisi's visit comes after Saudi Finance Minister Mohammed Al-Jadaan said in January that oil-rich Riyadh would stop providing unconditional aid to Egypt, setting off a brief spat between state-linked media in both countries.

The editor-in-chief of a state-owned Egyptian newspaper was forced to apologize to the Saudi people over an article at the

time. An Egyptian official told AFP that higher authorities in Cairo intervened to defuse the squabbling.

The Egyptian pound has lost half of its value in the past year, propelling annual inflation to 32.9 per cent in February.

Of the \$34.2 billion in Cairo's foreign reserves in February — a 20-per-cent drop from a year earlier — some \$28 billion are deposits from wealthy Gulf allies.

But Sisi's Gulf allies — on whose support he relied after

deposing Islamist president Mohamed Morsi in 2013 — are now demanding economic reform and greater transparency in return for their largesse.

As part of its regional de-escalation, Riyadh has announced talks with Syria on resuming consular services after a break of nearly 10 years.

Meanwhile, in recent weeks its ally Cairo has welcomed the foreign ministers of both Syria and Türkiye for the first time in a decade. — AFP

## Oil powers announce surprise cuts of more than 1 million bpd

MAJOR oil powers led by Saudi Arabia announced a surprise production cut of more than one million barrels per day on Sunday, calling it a “precautionary” move aimed at stabilizing the market.

The reductions, on top of a Russian decision to extend a cut of 500,000 barrels per day, and despite US calls to increase production, risk stoking inflation and pressure to raise interest rates.

Cuts by Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the UAE, Kuwait, Algeria and Oman from May to the end of the

year will top one million barrels per day – the biggest reduction since the OPEC+ cartel slashed two million barrels per day in October.

Russia, a leading member of the OPEC+ cartel, said it was also extending an existing cut of 500,000 bpd to the end of this year, describing it as “a responsible and preventive action”.

Oil prices soared almost six per cent in Asian trade on Monday morning with West Texas Intermediate jumping by 5.74 per

cent to \$80.01 a barrel and Brent climbing 5.67 per cent to \$84.42.

A Saudi energy ministry official “emphasized that this is a precautionary measure aimed at supporting the stability of the oil market”, the official Saudi Press Agency said. The cuts follow a drop in oil prices triggered by jitters over the banking sector, following the collapse of US lender SVB and UBS’s hurried buy-out of troubled rival Credit Suisse, UAE-based oil expert Ibrahim al-Ghitani told AFP. — AFP



A picture shows the Al-Gharraf oil field in Iraq's southern Dhi Qar Governorate on 24 August 2022. PHOTO: AFP

## S Korea, US, Japan conduct naval exercise

SOUTH Korea, the United States and Japan began a two-day naval exercise in international waters south of South Korea, officials said on Monday.

The anti-submarine and search-and-rescue exercise will be staged from Monday to Tuesday in international waters south of the South Korean southern

island of Jeju, according to South Korea’s Ministry of National Defence.

South Korea mobilized three destroyers and one combat support ship, the United States engaged the USS Nimitz nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, along with USS Wayne E Meyer and USS Decatur destroyers, and Japan sent JS Umigiri destroyer.

It marks the first trilateral anti-submarine exercise in six months since September 2022, the South Korean ministry said.

The trilateral search-and-rescue exercise will be held in seven years since 2016 to practice procedures such as rapid rescue, and emergency patient treatment and transportation in the event of a marine accident, the ministry added. — Xinhua



South Korean Navy personnel are seen standing alongside the USS Nimitz, during its port visit to Busan on 28 March 2023. The South Korean and US military forces “Ssangyong” exercises is running until 3 April, as part of the Warrior Shield forces exercise. PHOTO: AFP

## Russia to boost military in northwest as Finland joins NATO: diplomat

RUSSIA said Monday it would boost its military presence in the west and northwest of the country in response to Finland joining NATO.

Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg announced earlier in the day that Finland will become the 31st member of the military alliance on Tuesday.

“We will strengthen our military potential in the western and northwestern direction,” Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko was quoted as saying by state news agency RIA Novosti.

“In the event of the deployment of forces and resources of other NATO members on the territory of Finland, we will take additional steps to reliably ensure Russia’s military security,” he added.

Russia and Finland share a 1,300-kilometre (800-mile) border.

Finland and Sweden dropped a decades-long policy of military non-alignment and applied to join the western alliance last May in the wake of Moscow’s offensive in Ukraine. — AFP

## Finland to become 31<sup>st</sup> NATO member on Tuesday

FINLAND’S flag will be hoisted outside NATO headquarters on Tuesday when it becomes the newest member of the Western alliance, Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said.

“Tomorrow we will welcome Finland as the 31st member,” Stoltenberg told reporters on the eve of a historic meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Brussels.

Russian President Vladimir Putin’s all-out invasion of Ukraine last year upended European security and pushed Finland — and its neighbour Sweden — to drop

decades of non-alignment and seek to join NATO’s protective umbrella.

Objections from Türkiye and Hungary held up Helsinki’s bid for months, and are still blocking Stockholm, before the parliament in Ankara cleared the final obstacle for Finland with a vote last week.

Completing the ratification in well under a year still makes this the fastest membership process in the alliance’s recent history.

Now all that is left are the last highly choreographed formalities at NATO headquarters

in Brussels.

Finland’s foreign minister will hand over the formal accession papers to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, the keeper of NATO’s founding treaty, and the country’s blue-and-white flag will be raised alongside those of its new allies.

Finland’s President Sauli Niinisto will speak at the event, Helsinki said.

“President Putin went to war against Ukraine with a clear aim to get less NATO,” Stoltenberg said.

“He’s getting the exact opposite.” — AFP

## Three dead as powerful earthquake strikes PNG

AT least three people were killed after a 7.0-magnitude earthquake shook a remote region of northwestern Papua New Guinea before dawn Monday.

The country’s National Disaster Centre said dozens of homes were also affected as emergency crews continued to assess the damage across difficult terrain.

The quake struck at a depth of 62 kilometres (38 miles) near the Chambri Lake system in the sparsely populated region of East Sepik Province, the US Geological Survey said.

“Chambri lake is boiling and the continuous quake is still happening right now,” a

member of parliament in the area, Johnson Wapunai, said in a message on social media several hours after the quake struck.

The lawmaker urged people to watch out for falling objects or trees, and to be on alert for further seismic activity.

No tsunami warning was issued.

Colles Pinga, who lives not far from the epicentre, told Australia’s national broadcaster that three homes in his village were destroyed and people have been injured.

“There’s landslides along the riverbanks... it’s quite frightening,” Pinga told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. — AFP

Thai poll hopefuls register as opposition vows constitutional reform  
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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.

## Team Iran arrive in Yangon to play Olympic Qualifiers against team Myanmar



Iranian women footballers are welcomed by the young Myanmar woman (left) at the Yangon International Airport on 2 April 2023. **PHOTO: MFF**

THE Iranian women's national football team, which will compete with the Myanmar women's national football team in the qualifiers for the 2024 Paris Olympics women's football tournament (Asia Zone), arrived in Yangon on the evening of 2 April.

The Iranian women's team

will stay and take training at the Novotel Yangon Max Hotel, along with the arrangement of the host Myanmar Football Federation.

According to the schedule, Iran and Myanmar will compete in two rounds, and in case of a draw, it will be decided by goal difference, extra time and

penalties.

The two teams will face on 5 and 8 April at 4:00 pm Myanmar time at Thuwunna Stadium.

All the qualifiers will be broadcast live on Channel 9 free-to-air channel and Skynet Channel, according to the football authorities. — KZL

## Messi jeered as PSG suffer another home defeat

PARIS Saint-Germain suffered a second home defeat in a row Sunday, falling 1-0 to Lyon as their World Cup winning superstar Lionel Messi was jeered by a section of supporters.

After losing 2-0 at home to Rennes two weeks ago, it was Lyon's Bradley Barcola who inflicted the latest loss for PSG at the Parc des Princes.

The goal by Barcola — who had come on as replacement for injured Amin Sarr — made up for a missed penalty by Alexandre Lacazette in the first half.

It is the Parisians' fifth Ligue 1 loss this season, all of them in 2023, and leaves Christophe Galtier's side just six points ahead of both second-placed Lens and Marseille in third.

The night started in contro-

versial circumstances.

As the team line-ups were announced over the loudspeakers,

whistling greeted Messi's name in one part of the stadium. — AFP



Paris Saint-Germain's Argentine forward Lionel Messi and Lyon's French midfielder Johann Lepenant fight for the ball during the French L1 football match between Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) and Olympique Lyonnais (OL) at The Parc des Princes Stadium in Paris on 2 April 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Klopp not afraid of losing Liverpool job despite wave of departures

JURGEN Klopp says he is not afraid of the axe after a spate of Premier League casualties but admits struggling Liverpool must deliver as he prepares his team to face managerless Chelsea.

Liverpool, who fell agonisingly short of winning an unprecedented quadruple last season, are eight points off the top four after Saturday's painful 4-1 loss at defending champions Manchester City.

Klopp takes his team to Stamford Bridge on Tuesday after the weekend sacking of Graham Potter, hours after Leicester parted ways with Brendan Rodgers. Antonio Conte left Tottenham "by

mutual agreement" last week.

There have now been 13 managerial departures in the English top flight this season — a new record.

"I think the elephant in the room is probably why I am still sitting here in this crazy world," Klopp said at his pre-match press conference on Monday. "Last man standing."

The German admitted the current season had been a disappointment for the club, who are used to winning silverware.

"I'm aware of the fact that I'm sitting here because of the past and not because of what we did this season," said Klopp. "If this was my first season it would be slightly different." — AFP