

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. X, No. 9, 8<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Kason 1385 ME

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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.

## Athletes need to make utmost efforts in all events so as to hoist the State flag of Myanmar whenever they win: Senior General

**A**LL sports contingent members need to accept the concept that winning in all sports events are concerned with the prestige of the State and people of Myanmar, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony to hand over the flag for victory to the Myanmar sports contingent which will compete in the XXXII SEA Games to be held in Cambodia, at Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium B in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In his address, the Senior General expressed his belief that all athletes would be ready to compete in the XXXII South-East Asian Games to be hosted by Cambodia from 5 to 17 May 2023. The entire people would surely expect the return of the Myanmar sports contingent with victories, he added.

The Senior General stressed the need to try hard to secure victory not only in the SEA Games but in the Asia Olympic Games as well as the World Olympic Games in order to improve the victorious history of the Myanmar sports contingent.

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State Administration Council Chair Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing looks into the sports equipment that is to be used in the upcoming SEA Games.

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## Applications for establishment of political parties under verification

THOSE who want to establish a political party are applying to the Union Election Commission by stating the name of the party they want to establish. To date, there have been 13 groups that have applied for the right to establish parties. Among the groups that applied, the Federal Democratic Party was found to comply with the political parties' registration law and regulations, and the Union Election Commission approved the application for the establishment of a political party yesterday. The Federal Democratic Party, which has the right to establish a party, must apply to the Commission for registration as a political party under Rule 7 of the Registration of Political Parties within 30 days from the date of approval. It is reported that the other groups that have applied for party establishment are also being scrutinized. —MNA/KZL

<p><b>Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Announcement No 8/2023</b></p> <p>7<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Kason 1385 ME 25 April 2023</p> <p><b>Allowing New Democracy Party (Kachin) [NDP (Kachin)] to register as political party</b></p> <p>AS of 25 April 2023, New Democracy Party (Kachin) [NDP (Kachin)] with its headquarters located at No 3 Ward, Chanmaw Housing 17, Panwa, Chipwe Township, Chipwe District, Kachin State, has been allowed to register under Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law. The registration number of the New Democracy Party (Kachin) [NDP (Kachin)] is 3.</p> <p><i>Sd/Thein Soe Chairman Union Election Commission</i></p>	<p><b>Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Announcement No 9/2023</b></p> <p>7<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Kason 1385 ME 25 April 2023</p> <p><b>Allowing Phalon-Sawaw Democratic Party to register as political party</b></p> <p>AS of 25 April 2023, Phalon-Sawaw Democratic Party with its headquarters located at the corner of Ngu Shwewah Street and Ingyin 2 Street, Yadanadepa, No 9 Ward, Hpa-an, Kayin State, has been allowed to register under Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law. The registration number of the Phalon-Sawaw Democratic Party is 4.</p> <p><i>Sd/Thein Soe Chairman Union Election Commission</i></p>	<p><b>Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Announcement No 10/2023</b></p> <p>7<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Kason 1385 ME 25 April 2023</p> <p><b>Allowing National Unity Party to register as political party</b></p> <p>AS of 25 April 2023, National Unity Party with its headquarters located at No 24, Aungzeya Street, Shwetaungkya 1 Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon Region, has been allowed to register under Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law. The registration number of the National Unity Party is 5.</p> <p><i>Sd/Thein Soe Chairman Union Election Commission</i></p>
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## 71 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 25 April, total figure registers 634,471

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to **634,471** after **71** new cases were reported on 25 April 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

Therefore, a total of **10,316,486** laboratory samples were examined and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached **634,471**. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,716** including **21** new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at **19,490** on 25-4-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic.

According to the research, it is found that people who have been vaccinated do not suffer severely from the disease, need not be hospitalized and are unlikely to die. If they have received booster shots, the death rates can be reduced more.

As such, people need to follow the new normal way of living with COVID-19.

Hence, all people above five have to fully receive COVID-19 vaccination inoculated by the Ministry of Health free of charge. Six months after the vaccination, they have to take booster jabs at relevant health centres and ward/village administration offices without fail.

Moreover, they have to wear masks while in closed chambers and public places. They need to often wash their hands with soap and water or the hand gel containing alcohol (at least 60 per cent) for 20 seconds. People need to follow the social distancing rule and avoid crowds as much as possible.

While not wearing masks, if they cough and sneeze, they need to cover their mouth and noses with elbows in line with the personal hygienic ways. COVID-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health. —GNLM

## Request to the public

1. THE Ministry of Health is continuously analyzing infection of Covid-19 not only in global countries and neighbouring countries but in Myanmar and is carrying out necessary prevention and control of the pandemic.
2. According to the press release of the World Health Organization on 20 April 2023, infection rate of Covid-19 is rising in Myanmar's neighbouring countries such as India, Thailand, Bangladesh and other regional countries as from January 2023, with infection of variant XBB. 1.16 (Arcturus).
3. It was found that infection of Covid-19 has been slightly increasing in Myanmar from the early April 2023.
4. According to the surveys and monitoring till today, variant XBB. 1.16 of Covid-19 is spreading 1.27 folds quicker than previously found variants but the former does not cause higher violent infection, situation of medical treatment at hospital and dead rate. But, suffering from the variant can be affected by current drugs. The drugs being used in Myanmar are effective over the prevention of the disease. Booster dose of vaccines can reduce infection of the disease, intensification and dead rate.
5. As such, all the people especially the aged and those suffering from chronicle diseases are –
  - (a) to specially take care of receiving Covid-19 vaccine and booster dose,
  - (b) to follow primary ways for prevention of Covid-19 pandemic with social distancing and wearing masks to go to the public places and closed sites,
  - (c) to take necessary treatment by contacting nearby health centres as quickly as possible if suspect symptoms of the pandemic are found,
  - (d) to follow the health protocols released by the Ministry of Health not to spread the virus to others and quarantine themselves at home.

*Ministry of Health  
23-4-2023*



# Local economic growth depends on local food sufficiency and local monetary circulation

IF the region has local food sufficiency, local monetary circulation will improve, and it will contribute to local economic growth.

*(Excerpts from the discussion by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at a meeting with MSME businesspersons of Myeik District held on 5 November 2022)*

## Athletes need to make utmost efforts in all events ...

### FROM PAGE-1

Managers, coaches and athletes should notice that the competition of Myanmar sports contingent representing the whole country in an international sports competition is a significant pride and a chance for uplifting the prestige of the State. All sports contingent members need to accept the concept that winning in all sports events is concerned with the prestige of the State and people of Myanmar.

Outstanding sports athletes are allowed as selected players to compete in international competitions for uplifting prestige of the State as well as their so-



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets members of the Myanmar sports contingent for the 32<sup>nd</sup> SEA Games, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



The Senior General hands over the State Flag for victory.

over to the Myanmar sport contingent bound for the XXXII SEA Games represents the State for uplifting the pride of the contingent as well as realizing the national duty. So, athletes need to make utmost efforts in all events so as to hoist the State flag of Myanmar whenever they win.

The Senior General urged all athletes to strive for winning victories in all events with

national spirit and pledged to deservedly honour those who secured victories in the competition.

The Senior General presented the flag for victory to Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan.

The Union minister reported on preparations of the sports contingent to compete in the XXXII SEA Games.

The Senior General cordially greeted athletes, managers and coaches and viewed round sports gear to be used in the competition.

Cambodia will host the XXXII Games from 5 to 17 May 2023. The Myanmar sports contingent comprising 341 athletes will participate in 19 sports events in the games. — MNA/TTA



The Senior General cordially greets athletes, managers and coaches at the event yesterday.

cioeconomic life thanks to their efforts and victories.

The government has been providing cash assistance to veteran athletes above 60 who brought honour to the State. On

a monthly basis, the government presents K15.51 million to 230 athletes.

The Senior General said that the flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar handed



# SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects progress of building Maravijaya Buddha Image



State Administration Council Chair Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects the progress in the construction of the Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

**C**HAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday morning inspected the progress in the construction of the Maravijaya Buddha Image in the Maravijaya Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw.

At the briefing hall, Lt-Gen Kan Myint Than of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) reported on accomplishments over the instructions given by the Senior General on 5 and 22 April, the

carving of the image, progress of finished works, preparing to install the Unnalun sacred hair, the expression for weight and measurement of the image in QR Code, and Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Kyaw Swa Lin on the construction of religious edifices, water fountain square, terrace, Gandakuti chamber, Musalinda Pond, Nagayon Pagoda, Sasana Beikman, stone inscription chamber Cetis, archways and progress of works.

The Senior General inspected progress in carving

the image, construction of the banner post, Gandakuti chambers, Sudhamma public rest houses, water fountain square, archways, stone inscription chamber Cetis, and Musalinda Pond and fulfilled the needs of officials.

The Maravijaya Buddha Image is being carved with the aim of showing the firm progress of Theravada Buddhism in Myanmar to the world, ensuring Myanmar is the focal point of reverencing Buddhism, shaping the State's peace and stability and ensur-



The Senior General hears the progress report.



The Senior General views round religious edifices in the Maravijaya Buddha Park.

ing the world is peaceful and prosperous. The marble rock for the image was conveyed from Sagyin Hill in Madaya Township to Sameikkhon Port and then to Nay Pyi Taw along Mandalay-Yangon Expressway.

The part of the image combined with parts 1, 2 and 3 was lifted on the jewelled throne on 26 January 2023 and it was accomplished on 31 January. Centre places of the throne were enshrined with precious jewellery items donated by well-wishers led by the Senior General on 27 January and 10 February. Part 4 of the image was conveyed onto the throne on 11 February. Now, the carving of the image is 95 per cent complete.

Meanwhile, religious edifices are being built in Bud-

dha Park. In accord with the advice of venerable Buddhist monks, Pitakat treatises in line with the copies in the 6<sup>th</sup> Buddha Synod are being carved on marble plaques in Pali and Romanized languages with the use of modern machinery. Moreover, arrangements are being made to print Pitakat treatises in Pali and Romanized languages to be distributed to monasteries across the world. So far, construction of the religious edifices and Buddha Park is 82 per cent completed.

At night, the stone inscription chamber Cetis, water fountain squares, terrace of the Buddha image, Sudhamma public rest houses and the entrance road are illuminated for magnificence. —MNA/TTA



# The education of youths who will serve the State duties in the future must be excellent in the time of SAC: Vice-Senior General

THE conference needs to discuss the ways for students who completed the agriculture, livestock and industrial subjects to be able to go to the workplaces and then join higher education, said Chairman of the Leading Committee on Organizing the Myanmar National Education Conference 2023 Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the meeting between the leading committee and the working committee at the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General said that the Myanmar National Education Conference 2023 to be held in early May in Nay Pyi Taw will comprise keynote addresses, panel discussions, parallel sessions, themes, sub-themes, presentations, Q&A sessions and recommendation sectors.

The conference aims to improve the future education of Myanmar. It is a platform for discussing the future education of the country.

The conference will take place in line with the objective of the SAC: to comprehensively promote the education sector to make it capable of producing the



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win chairs the coordination meeting for the Myanmar National Education Conference 2023, yesterday.

human resources necessary for building a modern, developed, and progressive democratic nation.

During the tenure of the State Administration Council, the budget for the education sector was increased. Likewise, assistance was given to teachers. To improve the education sector, Naypyitaw State Academy was inaugurated on 9 November 2022. As of October 2021, cash assistance has been provided to faculty members depending on their educational qualifications as well as administrative costs to schools. Moreover, refresher

courses are being conducted for the enhancement of the capacity of teachers.

In the conference, participants need to seek ways for remedying a lesser number of students who change grades as the first point. The second point is for regions and states to implement the KG+9 education scheme as a national duty. For the third point, agriculture, livestock breeding and industrial techniques must be taught to students in grades 10, 11 and 12 for having basic vocational knowledge. The fourth point is to teach applied subjects at ag-

riculture, livestock and technical institutes to produce human resources. The fifth is to teach higher education to students in the environs contributing to the society. The sixth is to turn out arts and science professionals as well as technologists and to revitalize the national spirit and patriotic spirit of the youths.

The conference needs to discuss the ways for students who completed the agriculture, livestock and industrial subjects to be able to go to the workplaces and then join higher education. Resource persons are to compile papers on the improve-

ment of Myanmar's education sector. The education of youths who will serve the State duties in the future must be excellent in the time of SAC.

Deputy Minister for Education Dr Moe Zaw Tun reported on the formation of subcommittees, duties and functions, titles of papers and arrangements for holding the conference.

Those attendees participated in the discussions. The Vice-Senior General coordinated suggestions and discussions and gave a concluding remark. — MNA/TTA

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.

## 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.



## DPM MoTC Union Minister receives delegation led by RMAFC Vice-Chair

SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San met the delegation led by Mr Anatoli Bulochnikov, Vice-Chairperson of the Russia-Myanmar Association of Friendship and Cooperation of the Russian Federation yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Both sides exchanged views on matters in connection with cooperation in the railway transport sector between Myanmar and Russia, mutual exchange of representatives between the two countries, expansion of overseas direct

flights, cooperation in the shipping sector and potential investments.

The meeting was attended by the deputy ministers, departmental heads, responsible officials and representatives of the Russia-Myanmar Association of Friendship and Cooperation of the Russian Federation. — MNA/TS

Deputy Prime Minister Admiral Tin Aung San meets Mr Anatoli Bulochnikov, RMAFC Vice-Chair and his delegation yesterday.



## MoFA, MoIC Union Ministers meet officers/staff who will serve at Myanmar embassies, permanent representative offices, and consulates

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe and Union Minister for International Cooperation U Ko Ko Hlaing delivered speeches respectively at the meeting with officers and staff who will serve duties at the Myanmar Embassy, permanent representative offices, and consulates in foreign countries yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Myo Htut, diplomats, directors-general, deputy directors-general and officials and staff from the ministry attended the meeting.

At the meeting, Union Minister U Than Swe mentioned that the staff are not assigned to serve in foreign countries alternatively but the suitable ones are selected by the department heads. It is needed to safeguard the national interests and serve the duties on the front line as diplomacy is the first line of



The meeting between Union Ministers and officers and staff in progress yesterday.

defence showing loyalty to the country. It is vitally important that diplomats must be more effective in their work and always consider their ethics in addition

to the rules and regulations of the civil service. They need to keep studying the current situation of the world and the development of the country to be

able to give a proper response and protect the national interest of the country. They should make efforts despite the ranks. Negotiations should be done in

reference to international relations to promote better bilateral interests.

Then, Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing called for efforts to be good diplomats in serving duties. He talked about the meaning of Embassy and Messenger, saying the embassy represents the country and it should stand for the national interests of the country and the diplomats should share the messages and attitude of the government for its people to the international arena. Being the foreign service staff, they are eligible for privilege and immunity. Privilege means being recognized as a diplomat with proper authority and one should make efforts to be a good diplomat. The Union minister also urged them to be perfect diplomats learning international affairs, international laws and the rules of the Vienna Convention. — MNA/KTZH

### Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council's Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

The following telephone numbers, fax and email address can be reached to safely report information in connection with illegal trade.

Auto telephone number - 067 409 883  
Mobile phone - 09 404339969  
Fax - 067 409 886  
Email address - antiillegaltradeinfo@gmail.com

*Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee*

### Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council's Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

Regarding the "request for money from departmental organizations in conducting trade", the following numbers can be reached to safely report such information.

Auto telephone number - 067 409 881  
Mobile phone - 09 699611116  
Fax - 067 409 887  
Email address - antiillegaltradeoffice@gmail.com

*Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee*



# MoI Union Minister inspects preparations for film academy awards presentation ceremony

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, in his capacity as Chairman of the Organizing Committee on Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Award Event, inspected the preparations for the event at an open-air theatre near Nay Pyi Taw City Hall together with Deputy Minister U Ye Tint and officials yesterday.

At the briefing hall, the officials reported on the stage construction, selected singers and songs, LED installation, dates to receive materials for the sound system, rehearsal programmes, practices session of Shwegyo (award bearer), invitation and reception processes and other ongoing work

programmes.

Then, the Union minister and party inspected the stage construction, 3D Projection Mapping system for the opening ceremony, LED signboards, entertainment stage, Red Carpet site, seating plans and air-conditioners, media zone, and the proper location for lighting fireworks and entrance.

The Union minister also instructed the need to complete the work plans in time, prepare to be perfect in sound and lighting systems, and estimate the weather condition, transport and accommodation.

The film academy awards presentation ceremony for 2019,2020 and 2022 will be held

at the open-air theatre near Nay Pyi Taw City Hall on 6 May. The

Fashion Awards will be rewarded to two males and two females

who attend the event this year. — MNA/KTZH



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn views the preparatory work for the Academy Award Event, yesterday.

# MoALI Union Minister attends opening ceremony of ASEAN-China Cooperation in Agriculture and Food Security Year



Union Minister U Min Naung speaks on the opening occasion of the ASEAN-China Cooperation in Agriculture and Food Security Year in Beijing yesterday.

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung and Director-General for Planning Department U Kyaw Swe Lin held a meeting with Chinese Vice-Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs Mr Ma Youxiang in China yesterday.

The Union minister and delegation arrived in Beijing of China to attend the opening ceremony ASEAN-China Cooperation in Agriculture and Food Security Year to be held from 25 to 27 April, ASEAN-China Forum on Digital Agriculture

Development and the 24<sup>th</sup> China International Vegetable Sci-Tech Fair at the invitation of Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs Mr Tang Renjian.

At the meeting, the two parties discussed the official export of frozen beef, mutton and duck

to China, holding of agricultural cooperation working committee meeting under the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor Joint Committee, cooperation work in the production of mixed-sunflower and potato species and prevention and control of animal diseases at the border area, Chinese experts to Kutkai township near China-Myanmar border to check and approve the disease at the animal disease control unit, technical and good species supports of china to expand the sheep and goat farming in Myanmar and financial support under Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund for development of Myanmar's agriculture sector, increase the income of rural people and poverty reduction processes.

Then, the Union minister and party attended the opening ceremony ASEAN-China Coop-

eration in Agriculture and Food Security Year held at Kempinski Hotel Beijing Yansha Centre in Beijing.

At the ceremony, the Union minister highlighted the national objectives of the country, the economic objective of the government "To enhance development based on agriculture and livestock using modern production techniques and to strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy", increasing export of agricultural products in 2022-2023, over \$2 billion trade between China and Myanmar in 2022-2023, bilateral cooperation in farming sectors. The Union minister also expressed thanks to the Chinese government for its support through the Mekong-Lancang cooperation programme and Silk Road Project. — MNA/KTZH

# EV chargers arrive in Yangon

CHINA-MADE 10 7-kW, 10 11-kW, 10 22-kW, six 60-kW and two 240-kW chargers for EVs arrived at Yangon Port, according to the Steering Committee on National-Level Development of Electric Vehicles and Related Industries.

The chargers were imported

by Super Seven Stars Motors Industry Co Ltd with the permission of the Steering Committee on National-Level Development of Electric Vehicles and Related Industries. The import of these chargers is exempted from Customs duties. — MNA/KZW



The imported EV chargers are seen at Yangon port.



# OPINION

## Don't be careless in the prevention of Covid-19 infection

NEW variants of the Covid-19 pandemic warn the global people to take care of their health condition and not to remove practices of following the health guidelines so as to prevent infection of the pandemic in the atmosphere.

In Myanmar, the Ministry of Health is continuously analyzing the infection rate of Covid-19 not only in global countries and neighbouring countries but in the motherland while carrying out necessary preventive measures and control of the pandemic as much as possible.

Indeed, preventive measures to be taken against the pandemic are not just a duty of the Ministry of Health. All the entire people are also responsible for following the health protocols to carry out prevention, control and treatment activities of the pandemic. Importantly, they have to wear masks whenever they go outside. If they go to public places or crowded areas unavoidably, they have to wash their hands with water and soap. They have to live in the family or society by following social distancing.

All the areas where the people live must have proper ventilation. If so, they will be free from infection by the pandemic to some extent. If possible, people need to receive booster doses of the Covid-19 vaccine. It is because infection of Covid-19 has been slightly increasing in Myanmar since early April 2023. They have to take necessary treatment by contacting nearby health centres as quickly as possible if suspect symptoms of the pandemic are found and to follow the health protocols released

by the Ministry of Health not to spread the virus to others and quarantine themselves at home.

According to the press release of the World Health Organization on 20 April 2023, the infection rate of Covid-19 is rising in Myanmar's neighbouring countries such as India, Thailand, Bangladesh and other regional countries as of January 2023, with infection of variant XBB. 1.16 (Arcturus). But it does not cause higher intensified infection, the situation of medical treatment at hospitals and death rates. But, suffering from the variant can be affected by current drugs. The drugs being used in Myanmar are effective in the prevention of the disease. Booster doses of vaccines can reduce infection of the disease, intensification and death rate.

Everybody needs to take care of self-health conditions by following the disciplines issued by the Ministry of Health. It means cooperation with the authorities in the prevention of surging the infection rate of the pandemic again. So, entire people should unite themselves in wiping off the evil pandemic.

# Leaving the dollar and the emergence of a new financial system

By Suzuka YOSHIDA

LAST time I wrote about the rise of the Global South. However, winners and losers are starting to appear in the global South on the financial side.

The current international monetary system began with the Bretton Woods system after World War II. After the Nixon shock and the Asian currency crisis, many countries are now shifting to a floating exchange rate system. Because trade and investment transcend national borders, any country is susceptible to the effects of international economic turbulence and is sensitive to the international situation that is generating those turbulences.

Needless to say, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has caused the biggest change in world affairs from last year to this year. No exact outcome of the war can't be seen yet, but it has triggered new changes in the world of finance.

Financial sanctions by the United States and its allies have begun to bring about major changes in the financial world. Far from being a change, there is a possibility that it will be a big change, such as a crucial movement, or even "the birth of a new stellar group."

This time, I will look at changes in the global South on the financial front.

### In the wake of financial sanc-

### 20 countries outside the G7

Country name	currency, System	recent financial movements
Australia	Australian Dollar: AUD	RBA: Reserve Bank of Australia Governing Council decides to raise the policy rate to 3.6 per cent (7 March 2023). New Zealand, currency and economy are highly interlocking. Reserve Bank of Australia and Bank of Japan Extend Foreign Exchange Swap Arrangement to Reciprocate Australian Dollar and Japanese Yen Until 17 March 2025 (17 March 2022)
Argentina	Peso (ARS)	The Central Bank Council announced the main policy rate of 78 per cent (16 March 2023). Brazilian President Lula and Argentinian President Fernandez co-authored an article in an Argentine newspaper stating, "We will reduce transaction costs and external vulnerabilities and advance discussions on a joint South American currency for financial and commercial flows in our two countries." I made it! (20 January 2023) The IMF is making progress, including approval of a \$3.8 billion funding contribution to the country in early October 2022 based on the Extended Fund Facility (EFF).
Brazil	Real (BRL)	Announced an agreement with China to eliminate the dollar from bilateral trade and to trade its own currencies, the real and the renminbi (29 March 2023)

### tions imposed on Russia

For several decades, governments and private companies around the world have used the US dollar as a key currency and other SDR currencies such as the euro, yen, British pound, and Chinese yuan in their economic activities. It was thought that this system would continue into the future, but recently, there has been a sudden activity increasing, such as the creation of a new trade settlement system among middle-developed countries.

Their activity was triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. After the outbreak of war in February 2022, the United States and its allies restricted access to dollar settlements and foreign exchange reserves to keep Russia out of the dollar trading network. It started with the idea that financial sanctions would be an effective way to force Russia out of Ukraine, as Russia would then be forced to pay interest on dollar-denominated bonds using their limited dollar.

However, contrary to the intentions of the United States, although the ruble fell sharply at one point, it generally recovered in two to three months.

Meanwhile, market prices of Russia's export commodities, oil and gas, have soared, and grain prices have begun to soar. Countries in the Global South have run out of foreign exchange reserves.

In the United States, the consumer price index has become overwhelming.

Countries in the global South have suffered varying degrees of damage. Some countries have been hit even harder by the sharp drop in tourism due to COVID-19. What they have in common is that the dollar shortage has progressed sharply, and leaders of affected countries have started to think that it would be better to create a world where the dollar is no longer used.

To put it simply, the world economy fell into the following trend;

High oil prices, high grain prices ⇒ High prices around the world ⇒ Inflation accelerated in the US, and US policy interest rates rose ⇒ Global South currencies will depreciate further ⇒ Inflation in the countries of the global South will accelerate further ⇒ Extremely short of the dollar ⇒ Some countries have begun to move away from the dollar.

This negative chain continues.

### Create ties between currencies other than the dollar

The only thing the countries of the global South have found out of the shortage of dollars is to create another world which is a dollar-less world. They implemented financial measures such as swapping currencies with other countries and changing the settlement currency to a currency other than the dollar. This is because it is the least risky way to reduce

transaction costs.

The United States and its allies intended to use the strength of the US dollar to harass Russia with financial nets, but instead turned the dollar away from the global South.

### What will happen next?

Confidence in the dollar remains strong, but its demand is likely to decline. Then, under the system of one country-one currency, many thin threads will appear that connect the currencies of each country. It will be like a dim nebula floating in the darkness far away from the dollar. That said, it's still in the early stages of exploration.

Changes are beginning to appear in the G20, which is a cluster of middle-income countries in the Global South. I have summarized the changes in the G20 countries, excluding the G7 countries, in a table. Please take a look.

If nations of the world agree to share a system of payment in digital currencies in the future, then the outnumbered Global South will be able to negotiate on an equal footing with the dollar. Until then, it will continue to be a winner or loser in the global South on the fringes of this dollar-centred system. Similar to the great migration of birds and animals just before a cataclysm, the depreciation of the dollar is just around the corner.

What we are seeing now is the germination of a new financial system.

People's Republic of China	Chinese Yuan (RMB), IMF SDR holdings	The above agreement with Brazil can be said to be the greatest achievement in challenging the hegemony of the dollar through the internationalization of the renminbi. China announced on 14 March 2023 that it had implemented RMB loan cooperation with the Saudi State Bank. The Export-Import Bank specifically implemented the "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Agreement between the People's Republic of China and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia" signed during President Xi Jinping's visit to Saudi Arabia in December 2022. This was the first renminbi-denominated loan cooperation between the Export-Import Bank and a financial institution in the Arab region. China National Offshore Oil Corporation has settled in yuan for 65,000 tons of liquefied natural gas purchased from the UAE. The People's Bank of China and the Bank of Japan have extended a foreign exchange swap arrangement to 25 October 2024 for a reciprocal exchange of RMB and Japanese Yen.
Russia	Ruble (RUB)	Since the beginning of 2018, the US Treasuries, which peaked in 2010, have been sold and reduced to about 10 per cent or less. I bought more gold instead. Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin held an online summit meeting in November 2021 when the Ukraine crisis escalated, "spurring efforts to create an independent financial network that is not affected by third parties (the United States)." and clarified his intention to escape from dollar trading. After the US-led sanctions were imposed to completely remove Russia, China and Russia fully implemented the renminbi-ruble settlement in their trade. China-Russia renminbi-ruble settlements increased nearly 90-fold from 2.2 billion yuan in January 2021 before the war to 201 billion yuan in January this year. On 30 December 2022, the Russian Ministry of Finance revised the National Wealth Fund (NWF) worth about \$186.5 billion to double the yuan to 60 per cent and gold to 40 per cent. The Central Bank of Russia and the State Wealth Fund held RMB assets worth \$140 billion as of March. After the war in Ukraine, Russia traded raw materials such as oil to China, China traded industrial products with Russia, neutralized Western sanctions, and China promoted the internationalization of the yuan. By the end of 2022, the Russian ruble and all "friendly" currencies accounted for 52 per cent of Russia's export settlements, surpassing the dollar and euro for the first time since records began.
India	Indian Rupee (INR)	Announced an agreement to settle directly with Myanmar. India, a major importer of cheap Russian oil, expanded ruble-rupee settlement in trade between the two countries after the Ukraine war and is also discussing rupee settlement in non-petroleum product transactions with the UAE. In June 2008, a Bilateral Currency Swap Arrangement (BSA) was signed with Japan, under which the Japanese and Indian authorities can mutually exchange the US dollar and their own currencies up to a maximum amount of US\$75 billion. The expiry date will be extended every three years until 2025.
Indonesia	Indonesian Rupiah (IDR)	a digital cross-border payments system, allowing ASEAN member states to use local currencies in trade, would be expanded further. An agreement on such cooperation was reached between Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, and Thailand in November 2022. President Widodo has urged ASEAN regional authorities to abandon Visa and Mastercard payment systems and start using credit cards issued by local banks.
Mexico	Mexican Peso (MXN)	It is strongly linked to crude oil prices. It is easily affected by the US economy. Central Bank of Mexico decided to raise the policy interest rate continuously from June 2021 to 11.25 per cent (March 2023)
Korea	Won (KRW)	The Bank of Korea (BOK) raised its policy rate by 25 basis points (bp) as expected to 3.50 per cent, the highest level since December 2008 (13 January 2023). A won-rupiah currency swap agreement between the Bank of Korea (Central Bank) and the Central Bank of Indonesia was concluded in 2014, and mutual financial support is possible until 2026 (7 March 2023). The Bank of Korea (Central Bank) and the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed a won-dirham currency swap agreement in 2013 and extended it until 2027.
Saudi Arabia	Riyal (SAR), dollar peg system, petrodollar system	In March 2022, immediately after the outbreak of the Ukrainian war, Saudi Arabia actively discussed the settlement of oil prices in the renminbi with China. The Saudi State Bank and the China Exim Bank announced that they had completed RMB loan cooperation (March 14, 2023)
South Africa	RAND (ZAR). Forms a common currency area with Eswatini, Namibia and Lesotho.	Since the export of mining resources such as gold, diamonds, and platinum is a key industry, it is positioned as a resource country currency and is easily affected by commodity prices such as gold. The South African Central Bank (SARB) is committed to keeping year-on-year consumer price index (CPI) growth within the 3-6 per cent range over the medium term.
Türkiye	New Turkish Lira (YTL)	It has been suffering from currency depreciation and high inflation for many years. President Erdogan continues to pursue rate cuts. The Bank of Korea (central bank) and the Central Bank of Turkey signed a currency swap agreement for their own currencies (won and lira). The contract amount is 2.3 trillion won/17.5 billion lira (about two billion dollars), and the contract period is three years from August 2021.

Collected INFORMATION FROM VARIOUS MEDIA, GOVERNMENT WEBSITES, RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS, ETC. AND SUMMARIZED THE CURRENCIES OF THE G20 COUNTRIES, EXCLUDING THE G7 COUNTRIES. MADE BY THE AUTHOR

Source: <https://jp.reuters.com/article/usa-treasury-securities-idJPKBN2TY00C>  
<https://www.rt.com/business/573730-asean-dollar-euro-dump/>  
<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/04/08/c90000-20002956.html>



# Russia-Myanmar: Strategies for Cooperation Forum opened in Moscow

ON April 24, an official opening of the forum “Russia-Myanmar: Strategies for Cooperation” took place in Moscow.

The event was held at MGIMO University (MFA) of the Russian Federation. The forum was opened by the Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Chairman of the Myanmar Association for Friendship and Cooperation with Russia Commodore Aung To, Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nikolay Listopadov, and Myanmar Ambassador to Russia U Lwin Oo.

The agenda of the event included such issues as changing nature of international relations in the current political realities, the development of educational projects between Russia and Myanmar, cooperation between our countries in the technological industry and the field of the peaceful atom, as well as joint projects aimed at attraction of Russian tourists to Myanmar.

On the margins of the opening of the forum, the Ambassador of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in the Russian Federation U Lwin Oo, Director of the ASEAN Center at MGIMO (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) of



The forum of the Russia-Myanmar: Strategies for Cooperation in progress in Moscow.

the Russian Federation Professor Ekaterina Koldunova, Lecturer at the Myanmar Military Academy U Zar Ni Mo Win and Vice-Rector of MGIMO University Mr Stanislav Surovtsev gave their comments about the event and prospects of Russia-Myanmar cooperation.

The forum “Russia-Myanmar: Strategies for Cooperation”, which is being held in Moscow and St. Petersburg from 22 to 29 April is dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Russian Federation and the Re-

public of the Union of Myanmar. The event is organized by the Russian-Myanmar Association for Friendship with the direct support of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in the Russian Federation and the Committee for External Relations of St. Petersburg.

The purpose of the forum is to strengthen humanitarian, economic and socio-political cooperation between Russia and Myanmar, as well as to familiar-

ize the Myanmar delegation with the possibilities and prospects for cooperation with the Russian state and public institutions. A seven-day programme of the visit to Russia includes several academic and expert meetings, with receptions at relevant state and public organizations.

On Sunday during the first day of the delegation in Moscow, the delegates were greeted by the vice presidents of the Russian-Myanmar Association for Friendship - Mr Alexander Ostrovsky and Mr Vitaly Solonetskiy.

Afterwards, a cultural programme in the centre of the capital was organized for the members of the Myanmar group. The delegates examined the main sights of Moscow. Also, Myanmar guests visited the Patriot Military Patriotic Park of Culture and Recreation of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation. It is a unique multifaceted complex, impressive in its scale and diversity, recently built by the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation.

As part of the program, the delegation members had an excursion in the Museum and Temple Complex of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, built in honour of the Resurrection of Christ and dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War. Additionally, Myanmar guests were shown the “guerrilla village” and the museum exposition dedicated to the special military operation, which is now taking place in Ukraine.

In the next four days, participants will have a rich program in Moscow and St. Petersburg, the purpose of which will be to strengthen partnerships between our countries in various areas of cooperation. — MNA

## CRIME NEWS

### Drug seized in Kunlong, Tachilek townships

A combined team comprising members of the anti-drug squad raided the house of a man called Laukae in Nanthuu village, Kunlong Township, on 21 April and seized 4,180 stimulant tablets and 0.12 kilogramme of heroin from his house.

Similarly, officials searched a Crown vehicle driven by Sai Thura Oo, accompanied by Sai

Tun Aung, Aik Rone and Aik Raung, at Pahlan 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Tachilek Township on 23 April, and found 5,000 tablets of ecstasy. After interrogating them, officials nabbed Kyaing Tit (aka) Sai Aung Khan at Sengsai B ward in Tachilek. They all have been prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. —MNA/KZW



Five offenders are seen along with seized drugs and a saloon.

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

THE Customs on-duty team under the management of Kayin State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force stopped and searched a Nissan UD car (approximately K40 million) that drove along the Asia highway road on 20 April without going through the Myawady Trade Zone (export goods inspection gate). Officials captured 12,000 kilogrammes of corn seeds worth K10 million without official documents. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 21 April, an Insein District Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force examined four vehicles on No 3 road in Mingaladon township and

seized 106,400 kilogrammes of galvanized iron sheet in coil worth K167.58 million without official documents from four vehicles and two trailers (approximately worth K131 million). The action was taken under Customs procedures.

In addition, an on-duty team made inspections at the MITT Port and confiscated 797,325 kilogrammes of H-Beam construction materials worth K1,088,348,625 that arrived at the port before the import licence was issued. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Similarly, a total of 8.749 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K612,486 was captured

in Yekyi township and action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 23 April, an on-duty team nabbed a total of 2.226 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K1,113,200 in Mindon township of Magway Region and an unregistered motorbike worth K300,000 without official documents near Magway Police Station in Magway township. The action was taken under the Forest Law and the Export and Import Law.

Therefore, 16 arrests (estimated value of K1,438,954,311) were made on 20, 21 and 23 April, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS



## Myanmar's power sector attracts above US\$820 mln in FY 2022-2023



The picture shows the power sub-station being constructed with foreign direct investment.

MYANMAR'S power sector drew foreign direct investments of over US\$820 million in the 2022-2023 financial year, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). The power sector topped the FDI line-ups in the finan-

cial year 2021-2022. Meanwhile, \$504.123 million was pumped into the service sector, while the manufacturing sector was ranked third with \$271.806 million including the capital expansion by the existing enterprises.

Singapore was the top source of FDI with \$1.158 billion, as per the statistics released by the DICA.

Myanmar's power sector attracted \$1.026 billion in the 2019-2020 FY, \$3.121 billion in the 2020-2021 FY, \$20.584 million in the six-month mini-budget period and \$820.27 million in the 2022-2023 FY respectively.

The DICA has planned to call for bids for foreign investment in the power sector. — TWA/EM



Passengers are seen disembarking from one of the MAI planes.

### MAI to extend Yangon-Chennai-Yangon, Yangon-Dubai-Yangon flights in May

MYANMAR Airways International-MAI will extend Yangon-Chennai-Yangon and Yangon-Dubai-Yangon flights commencing in the first week of May.

Yangon-Chennai-Yangon flight will be run every Saturday starting from 6 May. The flight will leave Yangon International Airport at 8 am (local time in Myanmar) and will arrive at Chennai at 10:15 am (local time in Chennai). And also, the flight will leave Chennai at 11:15 am (local time in Chennai) and will arrive at Yangon International Airport at 3:15 pm (local time in Myanmar). The ticket fee is US\$260.

In addition, the Yangon-Dubai-Yangon flight is operated every Sunday and the flight will also be operated on Mondays starting from 1 May.

The flight on Sunday will leave Yangon at 7:40 am (local time in Myanmar) and will arrive in Dubai at 10:50 am (local time in Dubai). The flight will leave Dubai at noon (local time in Dubai) and will arrive at Yangon at 8:15 pm (local time in Myanmar).

The flight on Monday will leave Yangon at 5:50 pm and will arrive at Dubai at 9:05 pm (local time in Dubai) and will leave Dubai at 10 pm (local time in Dubai) and will arrive at Yangon at 7:15 am (local time in Myanmar).

MAI extended flights to Dubai to aim at the convenience of Myanmar nationals and other citizens who want to transit out of Dubai and the price of the ticket at US\$468. — TWA/MKKS



An advert of the CB Bank iBanking.

### CB Bank allows daily transfer benchmark of K50 mln to all local banks

A total of K50 million can be transferred daily from CB Bank to any local bank using CB Bank's Business iBanking service through smartphones, tablets and laptops, according to CB Bank.

The iBanking service can be accessed anytime and anywhere through the Internet. Personal iBanking account can be opened at CB Bank branches and Business iBanking account at CB Bank (UFC Tower - 2nd Floor).

CB Bank has informed the customers that CB Bank's Internet Banking service can be used by connecting with their CB Bank accounts. — TWA/MKKS

## MRF issues warning to stop rice price manipulation

MYANMAR Rice Federation (MRF) issued a warning ahead of the price hike at Yangon's rice wholesale centre.

MRF stated that it will inspect those manipulators who spread malicious rumours on digital platforms to spark the concerns of the consumers and raise the rice prices for the sake of the long-term benefit of the rice industry. The federation will forward the reports to the relevant authorities. Those stakeholders in the supply chain need to exert concerted efforts in this, as per the MRF's notification dated 24 April.

This move is to stabilize

the rice price and steer the market for the right price and the right product. The MRF will join hands with the rice millers, rice traders and companies.

Additionally, it encouraged the mill owners to achieve performance balance between the short term and long term. Individuals and family entities can contact the rice wholesale centres for a fair price and the right product. It is mentioned in the statement that the office of MRF can be contacted in the event of any difficulty.

On 25 April, the prices of rice stood at K82,000-K1,060,000

per bag of Pawsan rice depending on producing areas (Shwebo, Myaungmya and Pyapon and Bogale), K72,000 for Pawkywe, K65,000 for short-mature summer rice (90 days) and K60,000 for monsoon Nangka variety.

As the growers have sold the paddy out, the traders who keep the stocks in their hands are making great profits. Consequently, the price has risen. The price hike occurred three times in 2023.

The price of rice usually goes up in the Yangon market when old stocks diminish and the harvest season has not come. This year, the price goes up for various reasons. The rice prices spiked as per speculations on rice prices in the post-Thingyan period.

The authorities warned those unscrupulous traders of spreading any malicious rumours on social media to trigger the consumers' concerns. The consumers also request the traders to have sympathy for them. — TWA/EM



Shoppers are seen selecting rice from the shelf at the super market.



# ECONOMY

## WORLD/AD

### Stocks seek direction before tech earnings results

EUROPEAN and Wall Street stock markets were largely flat Monday after some losses in Asia, as investors awaited earnings from US tech behemoths this week.

Bourses in New York, London, Frankfurt and Paris dipped in and out of negative territory throughout the day.

All eyes will be on results from the likes of Amazon, Facebook owner Meta, Google-parent Alphabet and Microsoft.

“The first quarter earnings reporting period will go into hyperdrive this week, which is partly why things are starting today at a slow pace,” said Briefing.com analyst Patrick O’Hare.

The US calendar also includes readings on first-quarter gross domestic product and an update on consumer confidence.

German business confidence edged up in April, a survey showed,



A trader on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York during the opening bell on 17 April 2023. PHOTO: AFP

but the rise was weaker than expected. Manufacturers have been boosted in

the short term by lower energy prices — which had surged last year following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine — and the reopening of China’s economy after long Covid shutdowns.

But the Germany economy was still “far away from strong growth” and it would “continue its flirtation with recession,” warned ING economist Carsten Brzeski.

Also this week, investors will be watching

important economic data from South Korea, Australia and the eurozone, as well as Bank of Japan chief Kazuo Ueda’s approach as he chairs his first key policy meeting.

In parliament on Monday, Ueda suggested the bank would stay the course in terms of monetary stimulus, adding that inflation was expected to cool below two per cent in the second half of the fiscal year ending next March. —AFP

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MTT SAISUNEE VOY.NO. (23MS097N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MTT SAISUNEE VOY.NO. (23MS097N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-4-2023** 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 MTT SHIPPING SDN.BHD**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (196N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (196N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-4-2023** 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**

### S Korea’s retail sales up 6.4% in March

SOUTH Korea’s retail sales rose in single digits last month due to solid demand for clothing and sports items in springtime, government data showed Tuesday.

Revenue among major online and offline retailers gained 6.4 per cent in March from a year earlier, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy. Sales by offline retailers increased 6.6 per cent last month as the lifting of measures against the COVID-19 pandemic fuelled outdoor activities in springtime. Offline demand for clothing and sports items grew in double figures, but the sales of home appliances and household items reduced in single digits last month.

Sales among department stores and convenience stores advanced 9.5 per cent and 9.7 per cent each, while revenue of discount outlets added 1.2 per cent on demand for clothing and sports items. Revenue among online retailers expanded 6.1 per cent in March from a year earlier on the back of robust demand for clothing and cosmetic products. —Xinhua



Visitors walk past vendor stalls and shops in Namdaemun Market in Seoul on 3 March 2023. PHOTO: ANTHONY WALLACE / AFP

### PESTICIDE DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

Notice is hereby given that the official distributor have been changed to **NEW MAYKHA AGROCHEMICAL CO., LTD.** for the following insecticide manufactured by **NACL Industries Limited.**

No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1.	Nagarjuna 2,4-D	2,4-D Amine Salt 72%W/W SL	Full	F2020-3012
2.	Nagarjuna Oryzole	Propiconazole 25%EC	Full	F2020-3010

We invite objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are receive within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

NACL Industries Limited  
Plot No.12-A, 'C' Block, Lakshmi Towers, Nagarjuna Hills, Panjagutta, Hyderabad- 500082 Telangana, INDIA.

### PESTICIDE TRADE NAME CHANGING

Notice is hereby given that the official trade name have been changed of Marlarmyaing Public Co., Ltd for the following insecticide manufactured by Sinamyang Group Pte.,Ltd.

Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration No.
Softer 30 EC	M Pawn 30 EC	Pretilachlor 30%EC	Full	F2022-3915

We invite objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are receive within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

Sinamyang Group Pte., Ltd.  
9, Temasek Boulevard, # 18-01A, Suntec Tower Two, Singapore 038989.

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**01 860 4530**



## Japan to give Rapidus 260 bln yen subsidy for new Hokkaido plant

THE government will provide chipmaker Rapidus Corp an additional subsidy of 260 billion yen (\$1.9 billion) for a new factory, to be built in Hokkaido, northern Japan, in an effort to boost domestic chip production, the country's industry minister said Tuesday.

The government had already announced a subsidy of 70 billion yen to the chipmaker for development purposes, bringing the total amount of government support for Rapidus to 330 billion yen. Rapidus was established through an initial 7.3 billion-yen investment by Toyota Motor Corp, Sony Group Corp. and six other major Japanese companies last year.

Rapidus plans to

set up a trial production line in 2025 and begin mass-producing advanced semiconductors by 2027 in partnership with US tech giant IBM Corp.

"We would like to continue promoting the next-generation chip project in cooperation with relevant parties in the country and abroad," Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura told at a press conference.

The state-of-the-art, 2-nanometre chips, set to be produced at a new factory near New Chitose Airport are thought to be indispensable for next-generation industries, such as autonomous driving and artificial intelligence. — Kyodo

## China's NEV purchase tax exemption up 36% in Q1

CHINA'S vehicle purchase tax exemption for new-energy vehicles (NEVs) went up 36 per cent year on year in the first quarter of 2023, amid the country's continuous efforts to promote automobile consumption and advance green development, official data shows.

A total of 21.24 billion yuan (about 3.09 billion US dollars) of tax was waived off in the January-March period, according to the State Taxation Administration. China has been im-



A Rising Auto F7 is displayed at the 20th Shanghai International Automobile Industry Exhibition in Shanghai, east China, 24 April 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

plementing the purchase

tax exemption policy since 2014 to shore up the development of the NEV sector. In September 2022, it extended the preferential tax policy to the end of 2023.

Partly boosted by tax incentives, China's NEV sector has been growing rapidly over the years. During the first quarter, the retail sales of NEVs jumped 22.4 per cent year on year to 1.31 million units, industry data showed. — Xinhua

## Netflix to invest \$2.5 bln in South Korean content

NETFLIX will invest \$2.5 billion in South Korean content over the next four years, the streaming giant's CEO Ted Sarandos announced after meeting with the country's Pres-

ident Yoon Suk Yeol in Washington.

South Korea has cemented its status as a global cultural powerhouse in recent years, thanks in part to the

explosive success of the Oscar-winning film "Parasite" and the hit Netflix series "Squid Game".

"Netflix is delighted to confirm that we will invest US\$2.5 billion in

Korea including the creation of Korean series, films, and unscripted shows over the next four years," Sarandos said in a statement given to AFP on Tuesday. — AFP

## First Republic Bank shares dive on 40% drop in deposits

FIRST Republic Bank said Monday that it lost more than 40 per cent of its deposits in the first quarter this year, but added that the situation has stabilized since late March.

Its shares fell more than 20 per cent in after-hours trading, following its first earnings report since the dramatic failures of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) and Signa-

ture Bank last month shone a spotlight on regional lenders and their vulnerabilities.

The collapse had sparked fears of contagion, prompting US authorities to unveil emergency measures to fortify the industry.

First Republic — which announced a major employee downsizing to cut costs — reported deposits of \$104.5 billion

at the end of March, a drop of nearly \$72 billion from the level at end-2022.

"Deposit activity began to stabilize the week of 27 March and has remained stable through 21 April" the bank said Monday.

"Total deposits were \$102.7 billion as of 21 April 2023, down only 1.7 per cent from 31 March 2023," it added. — AFP

## Novartis raises year forecast after sales boost

PHARMACEUTICAL giant Novartis said Tuesday it was increasing its full-year sales and profits outlook after strong earnings in the first quarter on the back of a handful of new drugs. The Swiss drugmaker said that its medicines for heart dis-

ease, cancer and multiple sclerosis had buoyed earnings in the quarter.

The group reported a three-per-cent increase in net profit in the first three months of the year to nearly \$2.3 billion. Sales were also up three per cent compared to the last three

months of 2022 to almost \$13 billion. Novartis said that its operating profit would likely increase in the high single-digits this year on the back of strong momentum at the start of the year, while group sales are expected to grow in mid-single digits. — AFP

### PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of **Shandong United Pesticide Industry Co.,Ltd** have registered the following products in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name "**Huynh Zaw Co.,Ltd**", to new distributor name "**Y Agro Solution Co.,Ltd**". If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. **Y Agro Solution Co.,Ltd**. Ph-09401573814

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	Bit	Bifenthrin 10% EW	P2018-4141

### PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of **Shandong United Pesticide Industry Co.,Ltd** have registered the following products in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name "**Shwe Sike Khinn Co.,Ltd**", to new distributor name "**Y Agro Solution Co.,Ltd**". If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. **Y Agro Solution Co.,Ltd**. Ph-09401573814

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	Tribu	Tebuconazole 50% + Trifloxystrobin 25% WG	P2020-5120

### PESTICIDE TRADE NAME CHANGE ADVERTISING

The following three pesticides distributed by **Our Farm Co.,Ltd** and here we would like to pesticide trade name change advertising. Anyone who would like to object or inquiry about new trade name contact within 14 days to Joint-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon. **Our Farm Co.,Ltd** Tel:09-401573814

Sr.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration No.
1.	NAB-Htate Tan 10 EC	Our Bifen 10 EC	Bifenthrin 10% EC	P2018-4077
2.	Top-Carbsect 20 EC	Our Carbo 20 EC	Carbosulfan 20% EC	F2022-3410



# GLOBAL AFFAIRS

## Sudan's warring rivals agree 72-hour ceasefire



A man raises his arm in support as he drives near Sudanese army soldiers loyal to army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, manning a position in the Red Sea city of Port Sudan on 20 April 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

A US-brokered 72-hour ceasefire between Sudan's warring generals officially came into effect Tuesday after 10 days of urban combat killed hundreds, wounded thousands and sparked

a mass exodus of foreigners.

The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) agreed to the ceasefire "following intense negotiations", Secretary

of State Antony Blinken said in a statement shortly before the truce took effect at midnight (2200 GMT Monday).

Previous bids to pause the conflict failed to take hold, but both sides confirmed they had agreed to the three-day halt.

"This ceasefire aims to establish humanitarian corridors, allowing citizens and residents to access essential resources, healthcare, and safe zones, while also evacuating diplomatic missions," the RSF paramilitary tweeted.

In a statement on Facebook, the SAF said it would also abide by the ceasefire on condition its rivals did so. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned earlier that Sudan was on "the edge of the abyss" and that the violence "could engulf the whole region and beyond". — AFP

## UN chief, Russian FM discuss Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday met Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, and they discussed the Ukraine crisis, as well as the situation in Afghanistan and Syria.

With regard to the Black Sea Grain Initiative, which allows the export of Ukrainian grain and other agricultural products from Black Sea ports, Guterres expressed concerns about the recent obstacles encountered by the Joint Coordination Centre in its daily operations, according to a readout of the meeting issued

by the UN chief's press office.

Guterres presented Lavrov with a letter to Russian President Vladimir Putin, outlining a proposed way forward aimed at the improvement, extension and expansion of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, taking into account positions recently expressed by the parties and the risks posed by global food insecurity, said the readout. The UN chief took note of the concerns expressed by Russia on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between Russia and

the UN Secretariat on promoting Russian food products and fertilizers to the world markets. He provided a detailed report on the progress already achieved in this regard and reiterated the United Nations' commitment to continue working to address remaining issues, said the readout.

Guterres also updated Lavrov on the efforts of the UN Secretariat to address host country issues, notably in relation to visas for Russian officials. Lavrov is at the UN Headquarters in New York to chair Security Council meetings as his country holds the rotating Security Council presidency for the month of April.

The Russian mission to the United Nations said the United States denied the issuance of US visas to Russian journalists who were supposed to accompany Lavrov on his official visit to New York for Security Council meetings. This was done despite the fact that Russian media representatives complied with all relevant terms and requirements, including valid UN media accreditation, said the Russian mission in a statement on Sunday. — Xinhua



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (R) gestures to Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov following a UN Security Council meeting at the UN headquarters in New York on 24 April 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Ukraine in talks with Russia over "all-for-all" prisoner exchange: intelligence chief

KYRYLO Budanov, chief of the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ukrainian Defence Ministry, said Ukraine is in talks with Russia over an "all-for-all" prisoner exchange, local media reported Monday.

Speaking in an interview with RBC-Ukraine media outlet, Budanov said that the two countries "in principle are getting closer" to an agreement,

envisaging the release of all captives by the two parties.

Since the start of prisoner exchanges, Russia has freed more than 2,220 Ukrainian captives, he noted.

According to the Ukrainian authorities, Ukraine and Russia have carried out more than 40 prisoner swaps since the first exchange in March 2022. — Xinhua



This video grab taken from footage provided by Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War on 16 April 2023, shows a freed Ukrainian prisoner eating a traditional Easter cake during his exchange in an unknown location in Ukraine. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / COORDINATION HEADQUARTERS FOR THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR / AFP**

## Rape allegation against Trump heads to civil trial

JURY selection is scheduled to start Tuesday in a civil trial pitting Donald Trump against a prominent former American columnist, who says he raped her in the 1990s.

E Jean Carroll, 79, says Trump sexually assaulted her in a New York department store and then defamed her after she went public with the allegations years later.

Trump, who is facing a slew of legal woes that threaten to derail his 2024 run for a second term in the White House, denies the allegations.

The start of the trial comes just weeks after his historic arraignment on criminal charges related to a hush-money payment made to a porn star just before the 2016 election.

Carroll, a former column-

ist for Elle magazine, says she was raped by Trump in the changing room at the luxury Bergdorf Goodman department store on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan in the mid-1990s.

She said the attack came after Trump asked her for shopping advice.

Carroll first made the allegation in an excerpt from her book published by New York Magazine in 2019.

Trump responded then by saying he never met Carroll, that she was "not my type" and that she was "totally lying".

Carroll first sued Trump for defamation in 2019 but was unable to include the rape claim because the statute of limitations for the alleged offence had expired.

— AFP



## Competition between states should not rule out cooperation — UN chief

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Monday that competition between states should not rule out cooperation.

The world faces unprecedented and interlocking crises. Yet the multilateral system is under greater strain than at any time since the creation of the United Nations. Tensions between major powers are at a historic high, so are the risks of conflict, Guterres told a UN Security Council open debate on multilateralism.

“Competition between states is inevitable. But that should not rule out cooperation where shared interests and the greater good are at stake,” he said.

When competition escalates to confrontation, the multilateral system, founded on the UN Charter and international law, is the most effective means



The United Nations Security Council holds an open debate on multilateralism at the UN headquarters in New York on 24 April 2023. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Monday that competition between states should not rule out cooperation. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

to manage disputes peacefully, he noted.

“We must cooperate. We must adapt multilateral insti-

tutions and foster trust where it is most needed. The urgency of global challenges demands bold and swift action,” said Guterres.

The United Nations was created for crises. Throughout its history, the world body has overcome seemingly intractable

conflicts and deep divisions, he said. “We must find a way forward and act now, as we have done before, to stop the slide toward chaos and conflict. It is time to deepen cooperation and to strengthen multilateral institutions, to find common solutions to common challenges.”

Members of the Security Council, particularly the permanent ones, have a particular responsibility to make multilateralism work, rather than contribute to its dismemberment, said the UN chief.

Effective multilateral responses are urgently needed to prevent and resolve conflicts, manage economic uncertainty, rescue the Sustainable Development Goals, and address challenges to the global norms against the use and possession of nuclear weapons, he said. — Xinhua

## India to become world’s most populous country in April: UN

INDIA will become the world’s most populous country in April, according to UN projections.

By the end of April, India’s population is expected to amount to 1,425,775,850, becoming the most populous country in the world, said the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) on Monday in a press release.

This forecast is based on the latest UN estimates and projections of the global population.

India’s population is ex-

pected to continue growing for several decades, said the UN department.

Fertility is a key driver of population trends. India’s current fertility rate (2.0 births per woman) is just below the “replacement” threshold of 2.1, the level required for population stabilization in the long run in the absence of migration, it said.

India is rapidly aging. Between 2023 and 2050, the number of persons aged 65 or over is expected to more than double in India. — Xinhua



Commuters travel in an overcrowded train near a railway station at Loni town in India’s state of Uttar Pradesh on 24 April 2023 **PHOTO: AFP**

## Japan mulls expanding scope of skilled worker visa with no stay limit

JAPAN’S immigration authorities on Monday proposed expanding the scope of a blue-collar skilled workers visa that effectively allows holders to stay in the country indefinitely in a possible major shift in its foreign labour policy.

The move comes in response to calls from the business community seeking to secure human resources amid an ongoing labour shortage and will increase the number of sectors that can be upgraded to the Specified Skilled Worker No 2 status from two to 11.

If the proposal at a meeting with the Liberal Democratic Party is approved by the ruling coalition, the Cabinet could give the green light as early as June,



A meeting on policies for foreign workers is held at the Liberal Democratic Party’s headquarters in Tokyo on 24 April 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

according to sources close to the matter. Japan has traditionally taken a cautious stance toward foreign labour resulting in strict immigration policies. But

a turning point could be on the horizon as the government is also considering overhauling the country’s controversial trainee programme. — Kyodo

## Powerful Indonesia quake sends islanders fleeing

A 7.1-magnitude earthquake rattled residents on islands west of Indonesia’s Sumatra on Tuesday, forcing them to flee to higher ground before an hours-long tsunami warning was lifted.

The epicentre of the quake, which struck at 3 am (2000 GMT Monday), was in the sea near

the Mentawai islands at a depth of 15.5 kilometres (more than nine miles), the United States Geological Survey said.

No casualties or severe damage were reported.

“The quake was so strong that we struggled to stand up and walk outside. We were struggling

to get out of the house, we had to hold on to the walls,” said Patriz Sanene, a 34-year-old resident of Siberut, Mentawai’s largest island. “This is the strongest quake... this year. I thought probably there will be a tsunami. Thank God there is no tsunami.” — AFP



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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 beat Kyrgyzstan 1-0 in U-17 Asian Cup Qualifiers

THE first day of the 2024 AFC U-17 Women's Qualifiers Group F began on the night of 24 April in Kyrgyzstan, and team Myanmar defeated host Kyrgyzstan 1-0.

The Myanmar team won with a single goal scored at the beginning of the game, and it was a good situation to qualify for the second round.

The Myanmar girl squad started the opening match against the host team and struggled a bit, but they took the lead at the start of the match and were able to control the whole game and bag three points.

Team Myanmar lined up with goalie Thuzar Aung, Yamin Phyu, Yu Yu Naing, Min Min Nu, Honey

Moe Lwin, Kay Thwe Phyo Oo, Nyein Nyein Phyo, Yuya Naing, Khin Bhone, Thel Ei Hlaing, and Zakar Rosy.

From the start of the game, both teams began attacking and in the fourth minute, Yuya Naing scored the first or winning goal for the Myanmar team.

Near the end of the match, Myanmar had a chance to take a penalty kick, but the Kyrgyz goalkeeper was able to save Kay Thwe Phyo Oo's kick.

Team Myanmar is placed in Group F with India and host Kyrgyzstan. Myanmar will play against India on 28 April as the last match for Group F – Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Myanmar female footballers (white) try to score near the Kyrgyz goalie (black) during the AFC U-17 Women's Qualifiers Group (F) match against host Kyrgyzstan on 24 April 2023. PHOTO: MFF

## Arsenal on the ropes as Man City aim for knockout blow in Premier League title race

ARSENAL'S trip to Manchester City on Wednesday has been circled for months as a potentially decisive date in the Premier League title race, but the Gunners must now wrestle back a huge swing in momentum towards the defending champions.

Mikel Arteta's men travel to the Etihad five points clear at the top of the table, yet many see the title as City's to lose thanks to two games in hand and home advantage in midweek.

Arsenal could have amassed an 11-point advantage in recent weeks to pile the pressure on City, as they try to balance their effort in a bid to win a treble of Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup.

Instead, Arteta's young guns have showed their inexperience of dealing with a title race in the run-in as three consecutive draws have gifted City back control of their own destiny. — AFP



Arsenal's Norwegian midfielder Martin Odegaard reacts on the pitch after the English Premier League football match between Arsenal and Southampton at the Emirates Stadium in London on 21 April 2023. The game finished 3-3. PHOTO: AFP

## Barcelona raise 1.45 bln euros for Camp Nou rebuild

BARCELONA said on Monday they had secured 1.45 billion euros (\$1.6 billion) in funding for a redevelopment plan and would start the renovation of the Camp Nou stadium on 1 June.

The club said in a statement that the money had come from deals with 20 investors who would receive repayment over periods of between five and 24 years. Barcelona said they would start

paying back the loans when the work was completed. In addition to the football stadium the plan, called 'Espai Barca', includes spending on other club facilities. It includes 420m euros earmarked for the Palau Blaugrana, home of the club's basketball and handball teams, and 20m euros for the Johan Cruyff stadium where the men's reserve and women's football teams play.

The club said they expected the work on the Camp Nou to be completed by 2026. The men's first team will play at the Olympic stadium on Montjuic before returning in the 2024-25 season to a Camp Nou not yet at full capacity.

Barcelona are emulating their main Spanish rivals Real Madrid who began the latest renovation of their Bernabeu Stadium in 2019. — AFP