

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IX, No. 339, 1<sup>st</sup> Waxing of Tagu 1384 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Tuesday, 21 March 2023

## 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.

## Manufacturing process using domestic materials will help the development of the region: Senior General

**E**VERYBODY needs to consider instigation of those who seek political profit not to successfully implement the projects, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with departmental officials, town elders and MSME businesspersons at Chindwin Hall of the region government yesterday morning.

### Individual reports on economic development

Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Myat Kyaw and businesspersons reported to the Senior General on operating industrial zones in districts of the region, MSME expositions, conducting training for the development of human resources and future plans for MSME, preservation for quality of Shwebo Pawsan rice, supply of electricity, running of more flights, improvement of industrial zones, arrangements for the swift import of machines, secure and smooth transport of commodities in the region sufficient supply of water to Sagaing in the solar system, upgrading of Sagaing hilly road and strand road, construction of Sagaing detour, running of Mandalay-Sagaing-Indaw-Katha train, and requirements for the economic development of the region.

### Discussions of Union min-



State Administration Council Chair Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views the products displayed at the meeting with departmental personnel, town elders and business people in Sagaing Region yesterday.

### isters over relevant sectors

The Union ministers explained plans of distributing quality strains of paddy, improvement of agriculture and livestock farms prioritized by

relevant ministries, holding MSME shows and contests, and formation of cooperative societies for the improvement of the socioeconomic life of the people.

The Senior General re-

sponded to the discussions and reports.

**Good economic driving force will affect political and defence driving forces**

Speaking on the occasion,

the Senior General said that if the country builds an economic driving force, it will be powerful to some degree in the international arena.

**SEE PAGE-3**

### INSIDE TODAY

**NATIONAL**  
EV charging stations inaugurated in Yangon Region  
**PAGE-6**



**LOCAL BUSINESS**  
Avocado fetches handsome price in domestic market  
**PAGE-7**



**CURRENT AFFAIRS**  
International tourist arrivals surge by 214%  
**PAGE-10**



## Objectives of 78<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Armed Forces Day

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

### Judgement passed on one special criminal appeal case; 4 civil appeal 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 Kyi Thein, U Tin Hone and Daw Thin Thin Nwet was convened yesterday morning at the Supreme Court of the Union and passed the judgement of one special criminal appeal case No 12/2022 (Kachin).

In addition, a total of four special civil appeal cases Nos 17/2022 (Rakhine), 18/2022 (Rakhine), 54/2022 (Magway) and 55/2022 (Magway), were heard in accordance with the COVID-19 prevention and control guidelines. — MNA

### Application for registration, political party establishment rights ongoing

UNDER Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law, the Democratic Party of National Politics (DNP), Kachin National Congress (KNC), and Arakan National Party which are desirous of organizing political parties yesterday applied to the Union Election Commission for permission to establish political parties under the law and rules.

To date, six parties have applied under Section 3 of the Political Parties Registration Law, and 26 parties under Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law, totalling 32.

Among these 32 parties, eight parties will organize the entire union and 24 parties only within a region or state.

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

## 58<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Gems Emporium continues for fourth day



THE fourth day of the 58<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Gems Emporium continued yesterday at Maniradana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. Foreign and local gem merchants observed pearl, gems and jade lots on display at the event.

The tender proposals for 120 gem lots were opened, and

officials announced a total of 77 lots were auctioned off. They inspected pieces of jade from 1 to 750 lots for sale at the emporium and placed bids inside the tender boxes. On the fifth day, jade from lot 1 to lot 750 will be sold to international and domestic jewellers through the

open tender system.

Jewellery and gem ornament shops are bustling with buyers.

So far, 290 of 295 pearl lots were sold to local and foreign gem traders on 18 and 19 March and 77 lots of 120 gems lots were sold. — MNA/KZW



Foreign and local gem merchants are seen evaluating jade stones.

General view of the 58<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Gems Emporium in progress yesterday.

## No new case of COVID-19 reported on 20 March, total figure records 633,992

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases recorded **633,992** after **no** new case was reported on 20 March 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **614,480**, including **seven** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at **19,490** on 20-3-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. — GNLM

## Sports can uplift prestige of State and its nationalities

- The sports are a national duty to uplift the prestige of the State and the nationality with the concept to polish the image of the nation as part of competing with the opponents without giving up till the last second.
- The victory and fame of an athlete automatically uplift the prestige of the country and themselves.

*(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the opening ceremony of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Sports Competition 2022 on 14 November 2022)*

# Manufacturing process using domestic materials will ...

### FROM PAGE-1

Among many driving forces, the economic driving force takes a leading role in the development of the nation and contributes to the peace and stability of the nation. The good economic driving force can affect the political and defence driving forces. The business based on agriculture and livestock farms needs to be emphasized for increasing the interests of the State and the citizens.

### Efforts to be poured out for successfully operating agriculture and livestock farms in relevant regions

Sagaing Region needs to increase the yield of wheat. The Department of Agricultural Research, local farmers and wheat users are to cooperate with each other in seeking quality seeds of wheat. But, it can be seen that some 500,000 acres of allowed cultivable lands are not fully used in Sagaing Region.

If dairy cows and beef cows are systematically bred as well as agriculture and livestock zones are undertaken, Sagaing Region will have greater success. The government encourages the cultivation of staple cotton to have greater success. Local farmers need to cultivate quality



State Administration Council Chair Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets departmental officials, town elders and businesspersons in Sagaing Region on 20 March 2023.

cotton strains and the government will provide the necessary assistance to them. If the cultivation of cotton achieves success, it can be supplied for domestic use and for export purposes. So also, successful production of paddy, wheat, cotton and oil crops will

help develop the region as well as the State.

The government is ready to allow the establishment of paper mills in the region and to provide assistance to the manufacturing of rubber products.

### Arrangements for full elec-

### trification

The government is striving for a sufficient supply of electricity. Sagaing Region can generate electricity through solar power. Hydropower can be generated in many sites along Chindwin and Ayeyawady rivers. Businesspersons were urged to generate solar power which can operate river water pumping works for agriculture and livestock farms. Coal from Kalewa can be used in generating electricity. Implementation of the projects must emphasize the interests of the region and the country. Everybody needs to consider the instigation of those who seek political profit not to successfully implement the projects.

### Encouraging education for the emergence of human resources

Agriculture, livestock and basic technical schools are opened in 50 districts for turning out human resources for the agriculture and livestock sectors.

The qualified students will have the chance to join the colleges and universities.

The Senior General continued to say that the manufacturing process using domestic materials will help the development of the region. MSME businesses also contribute to urban and rural development. As local authorities need to enforce discipline, local people are to follow prescribed rules and regulations for the development of their regions.

The Senior General presented foodstuffs to departmental personnel through officials. The Senior General then cordially greeted MSME businesspersons, town elders and departmental officials.

The Senior General viewed minerals, foodstuffs, consumer goods, industrial products, traditional products, clothes and traditional medicines and asked about market sharing of the products.—MNA/TTA



The Senior General looks into the products exhibited at the event yesterday.

# SAC donates cash and kind to seven Buddhist learning centres in Monywa



State Administration Council Chair Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and congregation take the Five Precepts from members of the Sangha in Monywa yesterday.



The Senior General and wife present offerings to Sayadaw,

THE State Administration Council donated rice, cooking oil, salt, gram and cash for nine prerequisites to members of the Sangha from seven Buddhist learning centres in Monywa of Sagaing Region at the Dhammayon of Yankin Monastery in Monywa yesterday morning.

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu

Hla and the party offered alms, cash for nine prerequisites, rice, cooking oil, salt and gram to abbots from Maha Weikza Theikpan, Yankin and Dhamma Paragu monasteries.

Yankin monastery abbot delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared the merits gained. The Senior General supplicated propagation of Buddhism, regional development and peaceful and stable

measures and sought words of advice from the venerable members of the Sangha.

The State Administration Council donated 181 bags of rice, 326 visses of cooking oil, 272 visses of salt, 326 visses of gram and 163 visses of vermicelli to 791 members of the Sangha and K5 million each as nine prerequisites for seven Buddhist learning centres in Monywa. — MNA/TTA

# Pammawady Bridge (Myinkaseik) on Pathein-Kankon-Myinkaseik-Myaungmya Road opened

HAILING the 78<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the opening ceremony of 1,260 feet long Pammawady Bridge (Myinkaseik) on Pathein-Kankon-Myinkaseik-Myaungmya Road in Myaungmya Township of Ayeyawady Region was held yesterday.

Speaking at the event, State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San said transport is absolutely essential for the development of a region. Being a delta region, the Ayeyawady Region is a key area for rice production. The region also processes successful agricultural farming, marine production and livestock industries. Currently, the Pammawady Bridge (Myinkaseik) was inaugurated to streamline public transport.

Then, Union Minister for

Construction U Myo Thant talked about the key role of transport in the growth of the country and proportionate development of regions/states, construction of new roads and bridges including the upgrading works.

The capacity of the 1,260 ft long Steel Box Girder bridge is 60 tonnes and the bottom of the bridge is constructed of RCC Bored Pile. Moreover, it also paved over 1,885 miles of roads and constructed 109 bridges over 180 feet long of length in Ayeyawady Region using the Union budget, the region budget and international loans. In 2022-2023FY, 12 bridges over 180 feet long and seven bridges under 180 feet long are being constructed.

SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung, Union Construction Minister U Myo Thant, Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win, Commander of South-West



Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San, SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung and dignitaries unveil the Pammawady Bridge in Myaungmya Township yesterday.

Command Brig-Gen Kyi Khine and the regional minister for Security and Border Affairs cut the ribbon to inaugurate the bridge after the remark of the region's chief minister.

Then, SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister

Admiral Tin Aung San and SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung pressed the electric button to unveil the stone inscription of the bridge and sprinkled scented water on it.

The Pammawady Bridge (Myinkaseik) is construct-

ed on Pathein-Kankon-Myinkaseik-Myaungmya Road in Myaungmya Township of Myaungmya District in Ayeyawady Region. It is 1,260 feet long with a 24 feet wide two-lane motor way bridge. — MNA/KTZH

# Councilmembers attend 49<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mon State Day commemorative dinner



The commemorative dinner for the 49<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mon State Day in progress and Mon ethnic cultural troupes present performances at the dinner in Mawlamyine on 19 March.

THE 49<sup>th</sup> Mon State Day commemoration dinner was held on 19 March at the Mawrawady Park in Mawlamyine.

The dinner was attended by member of the State Ad-

ministration Council Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo, member of the State Administration Council U Yan Kyaw Union Ministers Lt-Gen Tun

Tun Naung and Jeng Phang Naw Taung, Mon State Chief Minister U Aung Kyi Thein, the commander of the South-East Command and deputy ministers, departmental officials

and invitees.

At the dinner, the SAC members and the Mon State chief minister presented the first prize to the State Electricity Supply Enterprise, the

second prize to the State Fisheries Department and State Fish Farmers Association and the third prize to the Mon State Environmental Conservation Department and Forest Department for the 49<sup>th</sup> Mon State Day commemorative exhibitions.

Then, SAC members, Union ministers, the chief minister of Mon State, the commander of the South-East Command and attendees enjoyed the honorary dinner to commemorate the 49<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mon State Day. They also watched performances of the Mon ethnic cultural troupes, and then presented the flower basket and cash awards. — MNA/TS

## MoFA Union Minister receives Myanmar Honorary Consul-General to Austria

U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Mag Philip Schonthal, Myanmar Honorary Consul-General to Austria with residence in Vienna at 10 am yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, the Union minister explained recent developments in Myanmar and both sides cordially exchanged views on possible avenues for promoting friendly relations and cooperation as well as activities of the Austria-Myanmar Society. — MNA



Union Minister U Than Swe receives Mr Mag Philip Schonthal, Myanmar Honorary Consul-General to Austria yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

## CBM discusses outstanding export proceeds



CBM Governor Daw Than Than Swe presides over the coordination meeting on outstanding export proceeds yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) organized a coordination meeting on outstanding export proceeds with the companies in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, CBM Governor Daw Than Than Swe said the meeting is aimed at the companies that fail to deposit the export earnings to know and follow the law, rules and directives issued by the CBM.

The CBM supervises whether the exporters deposit their export incomes into their bank accounts in the country according to Section 18 (a), Section 38 (b) of Foreign Exchange Management Law, Paragraphs 35, 36 and 37 of Foreign Exchange Management Regulations and Notification No (27/2021) by cooperating with the relevant ministries and departments.

Then, the deputy minister for Commerce and joint secretary of the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods explained the deposit of export proceeds, time frame management for conversion of export proceeds by the government and other activities of the government.

The meeting also discussed the key role of export incomes in stabilizing the foreign exchange market and the duties of export companies to follow the Foreign Exchange Management Law, Foreign Exchange Management Regulations, instructions of CBM and the Ministry of Commerce to streamline the currency flows in the country. Then, the officials of export organizations of UMFCCI and export companies coordinated the discussion and reported on their difficulties, and the relevant officials resolved them.—MNA/KTZH

## MR to provide special railway service during pre-Armed Forces Day, pre-Thingyan holidays

MYANMA Railways will run the special Up and Down trains for Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay routes on 24 March before Armed Forces Day and during pre-Thingyan holidays (7-8 April), MR stated.

“This move is to facilitate rail transportation for the commuters during three holidays including Armed Forces Day falling on 27 March. MR will expand its railway service on 24 March and 7 and 8 April for Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon with airbag up trains, in addition to the trains regularly running. Tickets are available at the respective railway offices,” said an official of the Mandalay Railway Station.

The special train includes six coaches each for the ordinary and upper classes.

The ticket fares for Mandalay-Yangon up trains (No.6 and No. 4) are set at K7,750 for the ordinary class, K15,450 for the upper class and K21,250 for slipper class. The airbag trains will depart from Mandalay on 24 March and stop at Kyaukse, Thazi, Pyawbwe, Yamethin, Nay Pyi Taw, Pyinmana, Toungoo and Nyaunglebin stations.

The trains running on 7 and 8 April will also depart from Mandalay and stop at Thazi, Nay Pyi Taw, Pyinmana and Bago stations. — Maung Aye Chan/EM

## MoIC Union Minister receives Myanmar Honorary Consul-General to Austria

U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister for International Cooperation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Mag Philip Schonthal, Myanmar Honorary Consul-General to Austria with residence in Vienna at 11 am yesterday at the Union Minister's Office of the Ministry of International Cooperation in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, they discussed recent developments in Myanmar and the Union min-

ister highlighted Myanmar's efforts in cooperation with the international community and the implementation of humanitarian assistance provision in Myanmar. — MNA

The Myanmar Honorary Consul-General to Austria calls on Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.



## EV charging stations inaugurated in Yangon Region



The Yangon Command commander and officials unveil the EV charging stations in Yangon yesterday.

THE opening ceremony of the EV charging stations of Chindwin Shan Construction Co Ltd and Earth Renewable Energy Co Ltd was held at the Thakin Mya park in Ahlon Township and at Mile-Post 1 on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway in Hlegu Township yesterday. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Commander of the Yangon Command Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe, Deputy Minister for Construction U Win Pe, ministers of Yangon Region, officials and invitees attended the ceremony.

Firstly, EV running and Infrastructure Implementation Work Committee Chair Deputy Minister for Construction U



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and officials view the EV charging process.

Win Pe gave an opening speech.

Officials from Chindwin Shan Construction Co Ltd and Earth Renewable Energy Co Ltd explained the purpose for the

opening of stations.

Finally, they carried out test-driving EVs from the 60 kW DC fast charging station and EV charging station. — MNA/KZW

## MoNREC designates Lonmon as protected public forest

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has designated the area of 462 acres in Tangyan Township, Tangyan District in Shan State (North), as "Lonmon Protected Public Forest" from 14 March 2023 under the Forest Law (2018).

The Lonmon protected public forest is designated with the

aim of enhancing the verdancy of the surrounding environment, conserving and safeguarding water, land and biological diversity, maintaining a climatic equilibrium, and safeguarding the forest areas adjacent to the former pine plantations established by the Forest Department.—Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation/KZW



General view of the Lonmon Protected Public Forest.

### 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.

### Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar 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).

News and Periodicals Enterprise

# LOCAL BUSINESS

## Avocado fetches handsome price in domestic market

AVOCADO traders are doing a roaring trade in the domestic market and the prices move up in the late season as well, said U Myo Nyunt, joint secretary 1 of Myanmar Avocado Producers and Exporters Association.

The domestic market sees dwindling stocks of avocados of local origins. Those are supplied by Chin and Shan states and PyinOoLwin and Nawnghkio areas. The prevailing prices stand at K35,000-40,000 per 35-viss bag.

“The avocados of local origin fetch a handsome price. They were priced at K28,000-30,000 per bag during the abundant avocado season. Now, the stock is decreasing. The price, therefore, goes up to K35,000 per bag on low supply during the near end of the season. This year, the avo-



The prevailing prices stand at K35,000-40,000 per 35-viss bag.

cado season started earlier than usual. High domestic demand pushed up the prices as well,” he elaborated.

They are mainly sent to Yangon and Mandalay big cities and

the remaining are delivered to Muse, Lashio and Monywa markets. The traders explore markets through digital platforms as well. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/EM

## Palm oil wholesale reference price for Yangon Region dips

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market slid again this week ending 27 March compared to that of the previous week, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The reference price stood at K4,635 per viss in the week from 13 to 19 March. For the week ending 27 March, the price was set slightly lower at K4,570 per viss, showing a small decrease of K65 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 in order 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 1 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



Imported palm oil jerry cans are seen in stacks.

## Abundant supply of peanuts slashes peanut oil prices

THE large volume of peanut supply to the Mandalay market diminished peanut oil price to K12,000 per viss, Mandalay traders said.

The prices soared to K14,000 last month. Bulk supply from various regions reduced the price to K12,000 from K14,000 per viss. Following the peanut oil price slip, prices of other edible oil varieties have fallen accordingly.

“Mandalay market sees an abundant supply of peanuts. The price of peanuts hit the highest of K7,000-7,600 per viss in the last two weeks. The price dropped to K6,300-7,000

per viss this week on large supply. Peanut has both foreign and local demand. Chinese buyers are mostly purchasing them. Kyat’s value against Yuan appreciates for now. This being so, the oil prices declined. It brings positive impact on the consumers,” U Soe Win Myint, an owner of Soe Win Myint depot from Mandalay city. The peanut can be grown all year round. It is commonly found in Mandalay, Sagaing, Magway and Ayeyawady regions. Beyond self-sufficiency, peanuts are exported to external markets as well. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/EM



A shopper is seen selecting the brand of cooking oil at super centre.

## Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 20 March 2023

### Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,035
Octane 95	K2,120
Diesel	K2,090
Premium Diesel	K2,170

All of the prices are based on per litre.

### Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,358,600 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,979,000 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 t	K2,865 to K2,880

The above prices may change from time to time.

# OPINION

# ARTICLE WEATHER REPORT

## Expand forest areas to lessen climate change

IMPACTS triggered by global warming and climate change are terribly on the rise across the world on which global peoples cannot be able to avoid such kinds of terrible impacts. They do not have any spare lands where they may safely evade gradually enlarging the areas of global warming and climate change.

But, those global countries and global people are able to defy aforesaid impacts by saving the freshwater and conserving forests so as to stop the degradation of the environment. To be able to do so, they have to efficiently consume freshwater on a daily basis while participating in nurturing saplings to be used in the establishment of more and more forests and conserving the existing forests not to be depleted.

If so, their activities will be a drive to directly or indirectly reduce the impacts of climate change. Consequently, relieving climate change will help save the life of global peoples as well as grant the life of new generations. As such, global peoples are to disseminate their knowledge about nurturing and protecting forests to new generations with far-sightedness to prevent deterioration of the planet Earth as much as possible.

Globally, the United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals for the sake of the global peoples. Forests play a crucial role in poverty alleviation and in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. It is because forests can give food, clothing, and shelter to people at different levels, helping the improvement of their socio-economic life.

For example, a glass of water can make a great change in the world with the growth of trees. It is because a glass of water can change the situation of forests which can control the natural environment based on climate change which brings warming to the globe day by day. The efficient use of a glass of water can be a drive for ensuing lush and green forest areas. If so, global peoples can avoid unprecedented deforestation.

of water can be a drive for ensuing lush and green forest areas. If so, global peoples can avoid unprecedented deforestation.

The International Day of Forests is marked on 21 March, in accord with the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on 28 November 2013. The United Nations Forum on Forests and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with relevant governments, the collaborative partnership on forests, and other relevant organizations have been holding the commemorative International Day of Forests on a yearly basis. This year, the theme for International Day of Forests was set as the Forest and Health both of which cannot be separable for the interests of global peoples.

# EV for anti-pollution matter

By Saya Norm

POLLUTION comes in many forms, ranging from toxins in the air to trash at the bottom of the sea. The effects of pollution on the life of all kinds can be far-reaching spreading thousands of miles beyond its original source.

Pollution can spread through the food chain and be carried through air and water affecting all life. It also has a direct effect on human health: it is estimated that exposure to polluted air, water and soil caused nine million premature deaths – one in six of all deaths in 2015.

If we can't reduce the rate of pollution, the scenario for the future may be worse. Man-made pollution has a long history. The presence of soot on the walls of caves, dating back thousands of years, indicates that early humans generated air pollution from their fires.

Analysis of 2500-year-old ice cores in Greenland has shown evidence of air pollution from copper smelting thousands of miles away in the centre of the Roman Empire. But they were on a small scale. Since the industrial revolution in Europe, air and water pollution became serious. Then in the first quarter of the 20th century,

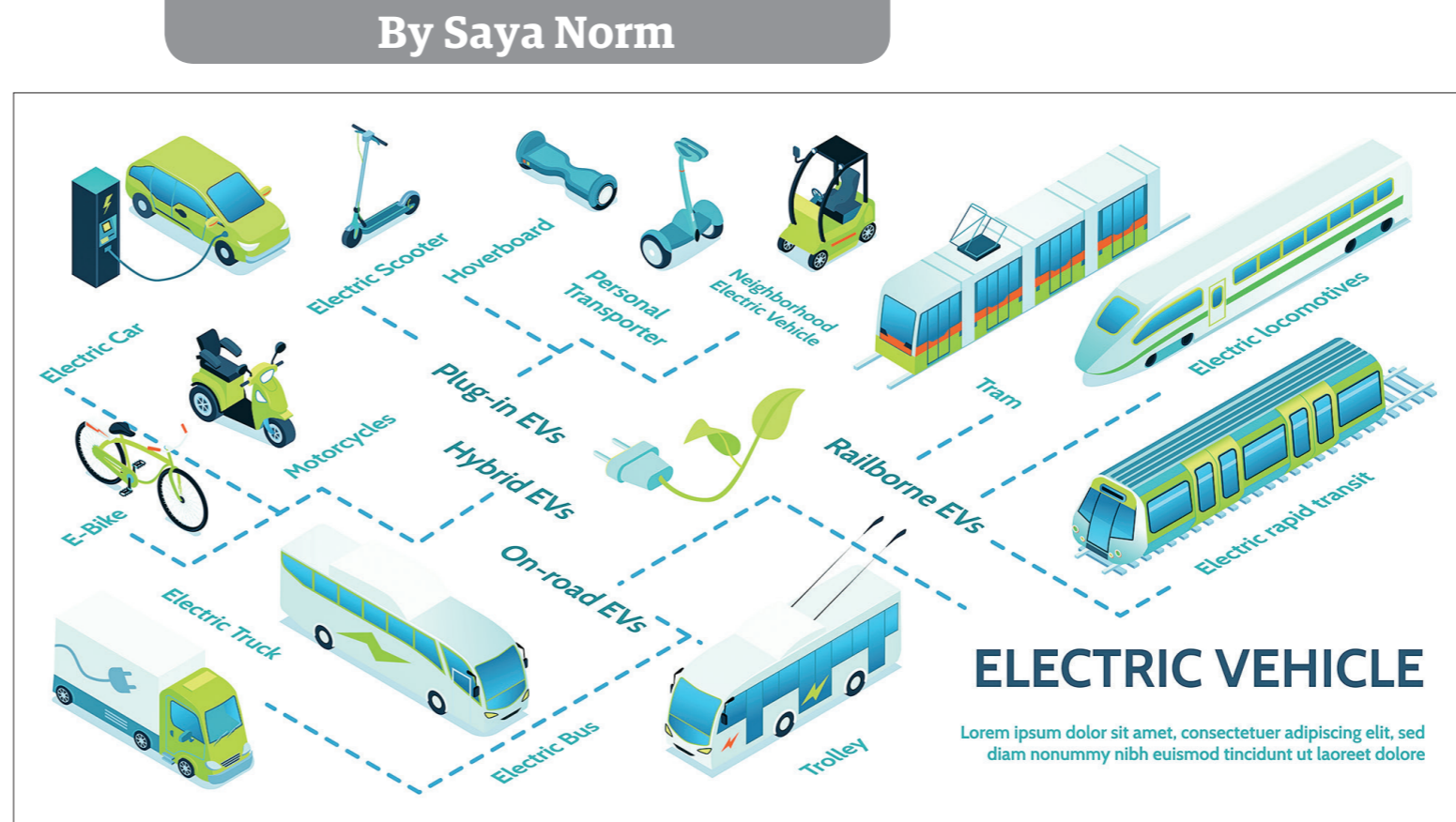
man made the situation worse to replace horse-drawn wagons with fossil-fuelled motor cars.

Humans have been altering Earth's natural environment through increased carbon dioxide emissions. In the various forms of pollution, air pollution is the foremost priority. It can have natural resources such as volcanoes or wildfires but is mainly caused by human activity.

The main air pollutants are emissions from fossil-fuel-burning power stations, factories and motor vehicles mostly. Poor air quality damages human health and crops and some fossil-fuel emissions cause acid rain, which has killed forests and fish in thousands of lakes.

The WHO estimates that nine out of ten people worldwide are breathing polluted air causing widespread illness and allergies. Air pollution creates climate change which endangers the planet and all living things. As scientists have become more aware of the human causes of climate change, they find ways to reverse it. EV (electric vehicle) is one of the solutions they are finding.

According to the international energy agency's Global CO2 emission from fossil fuel combustion 2021 report, the



CREDIT: MACROVECTOR BY FREEPIK.

transportation sector, which includes gasoline-fueled cars, account for about 24 per cent of global CO2 emissions from fuel combustion in 2019.

It can vary depending on the country and region. In the United States, transportation accounts for about 28 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions, with

light-duty vehicles (including gasoline-fuelled cars). In other countries where transportation infrastructure and fuel sources may differ.

The amount of carbon emission from gasoline-fuelled transportation varies depending on several factors, such as the fuel efficiency of the

vehicle, driving habits and the type of gasoline used. On average, burning one gallon of gasoline produces around 8.89 kilograms of carbon dioxide emission. This figure takes into account the carbon content of gasoline and the chemical reaction that occurs when it is burned. Not only carbon dioxide

but other harmful pollutants such as nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and volatile organic compounds are also released into the atmosphere during combustion.

Changing from fossil-fuelled cars to EVs has some pronounced benefits. On average, driving an EV produces 50-

60 per cent fewer greenhouse gas emissions than driving a gasoline-powered vehicle. This figure takes into account the carbon emissions generated during the production of electricity, as well as emissions generated during the manufacturing and disposal of the battery.

If an EV is charged with electricity generated entirely from renewable sources, its carbon footprint would be close to zero. Besides, EVs have other benefits for their owner. Although the market price of EVs is still higher than fossil-fuelled cars, EVs are cheaper to operate than gasoline-fuelled vehicles. But with technological improvements and mass production worldwide the gap may be increasingly narrower in the future.

Currently, the battery price for EVs is much cheaper than five years before. And they offer a smooth and quiet operation, which is more comfortable and enjoyable for passengers. Also, EVs have fewer moving parts thus they are easy to repair and lesser maintenance cost. On the other hand, EVs have some technical obstacles to be solved. The first one is a limited driving range. In 2023, top EV models have improved their driving range of 400 miles. However,

they are expensive and not affordable for most people.

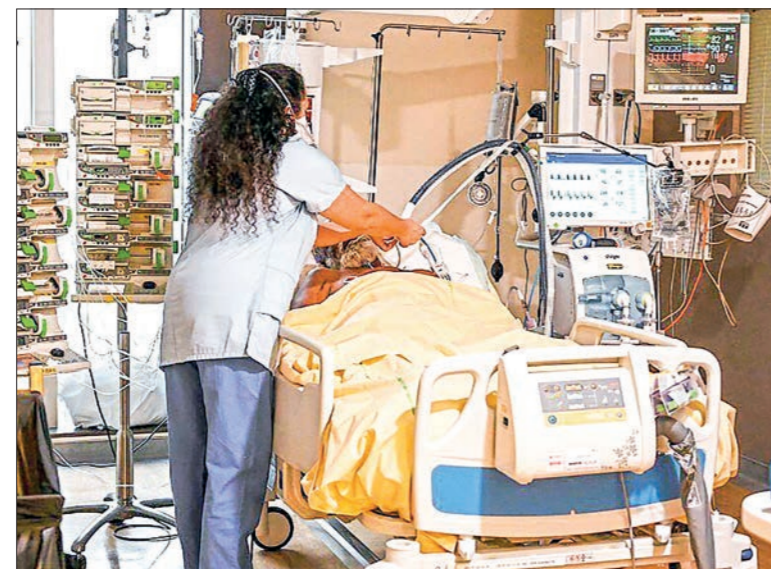
Although the EV market is booming, charging infrastructure can't catch up with EV usage in most countries. With limited charging infrastructure, it is difficult to recharge on longer trips. And also takes significantly longer charging time than refuelling a gasoline-fuelled vehicle, which can be inconvenient for some drivers.

Besides, the higher upfront cost of EVs is not attractive for most people even with the government's tax incentives. The disposal of batteries used in EVs can be problematic, as they contain hazardous materials. Even when there are some weak points in EV technology, we should gradually change our path to EV.

It is deserved to change not only for environmental benefits that may reduce the carbon footprint and combat climate change but for the improvement of public health including respiratory problems, heart disease and cancer.

As technology improves and charging infrastructure becomes more widely available, the benefits of EVs are likely to become even more significant.

## How the Black Death and Covid-19 are linked



A genetic mutation that spread thanks to the Black Death in the Middle Ages, could help its carriers today fight off respiratory diseases, including Covid-19. PHOTO: AFP

THE Black Death epidemic, which caused millions of deaths in the mid-14th century, is believed to have resulted in a genetic mutation that helped survivors fight off this bacterial disease.

According to a recent British study, this genetic variation is still present in some people today.

The modification of the ERAP2 gene is believed to help carriers fight respiratory diseases such as Covid-19 and pneumonia.

But in a trade-off of sorts, this genetic inheritance is also linked to an increase in autoimmune diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis and inflammatory bowel

disease.

To reach this conclusion, the researchers did a study to assess whether variation in the ERAP2 gene was associated with severe infection, autoimmune disease and parental longevity.

The scientists from the United Kingdom's University of Bristol, in collaboration with colleagues at the universities of Edinburgh, Oxford, Cardiff and Imperial College London, used health data from thousands of UK residents from three large databases (namely, the UK Biobank, FinnGen and GenOMICC).

"This gene essentially chops up proteins for the immune sys-

tem," explains study lead author Dr Fergus Hamilton from Bristol, in a news release.

"Although we don't know the exact mechanism influencing disease risk, carriers of alleles that provide more protection against respiratory disease seem to have an increased risk of autoimmune disease.

"It is potentially a great example of a phenomenon termed 'balancing selection', where the same allele has different effects on different diseases."

"This is a theoretical story of balance – relating to historical and contemporary disease profiles – which reflects our past

and is rarely seen in real human examples," adds study co-author and professor of genetic epidemiology Dr Nicholas Timpson.

Identifying causal links between genetics and disease susceptibility may pave the way for potential treatments, the researchers say.

"However, it also highlights potential challenges; therapeutics to target ERAP2 are currently being developed to target Crohn's disease and cancer, so it is important to consider potential effects on the risk of infection from these agents," the news release concludes.

SOURCE: AFP

**Myanmar Daily Weather Report**  
(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 20 March 2023)

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

**FORECAST FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 21 March 2023:** Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Southern Shan, Chin and Rakhine states scattered in Lower Sagaing Region and (Northern and Eastern) Shan State isolated in the remaining regions and states. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3 - 6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Sagaing and Mandalay regions and Kachin, Shan, Chin and Rakhine states.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 March 2023:** Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).



# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## Chinese Cultural Centre Yangon will reopen as usual on 21 March

THE Yangon Chinese Cultural Centre in Ahlon Township will be reopened as usual on 21 March, according to the social network of the Chinese Cultural Centre Yangon.

The centre will be open to the public from Tuesday to Saturday from 9 am to 12 pm and 2 pm to 5 pm. If there are holidays, an announcement will be made separately.

A gallery, a multipurpose hall, a library, and three classrooms are provided at the centre, and cultural activities and tourism introduc-

tion activities are held regularly. In addition, cultural arts, intangible cultural heritage, Wushu, Traditional Chinese Medicine courses and cooking classes are open to Myanmar audiences.

The library has also been opened for readers, and many activities such as various exhibitions, cultural exchange, travel introduction, and exchange of ideas are also held at the hall from time to time.

The Chinese Cultural Central Yangon is located at No 39, Minyekyawswa Road in Ahlon Township. — TWA/CT



Director Sun Jie (1st L) of the Chinese Cultural Centre and Fiji's Minister Rosy Akbar for Education, Heritage and Arts visiting the photo exhibition at the centre on 1 July 2021.



File photo taken in 2019 shows international travellers visiting the Mandalay Region.

## International tourist arrivals surge by 214%

INTERNATIONAL tourist arrivals to Myanmar increased by 214 per cent, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

A total of 35,722 tourists has visited Myanmar since January this year, as compared with 11,372 visitors in the same period last year, the ministry stated.

A total of more than 4.36 million foreign travellers entered the country in 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic. In January this year, 17,884 tourists visited the country by air, 89 travellers by cruise and 17,421 entered through land border crossings, it is learnt.

Over 230,000 foreign tourists visited Myanmar in 2022. There has been a continuous decrease in the number of international travellers during the Covid-19 period. —TWA/MKKS

## ADVERTISE

with us / Hot Line :

# 0 9 9 7 4 4 2 4 8 4 8

## MW to get OWIC in one-day starting 20 March

OVERSEAS Worker Identification Cards can be processed within a day at the office of the Yangon Region Labour Department from 20 March, according to the Department of Labour.

Qualified labourers who intend to seek employment overseas, workers who are back home on leave, and those with permanent residence permits would have to apply for the renewal of OWIC at the Department of Labour (head office). The Department of Labour would take two or three days to scrutinize and

approve OWIC following rules and regulations.

Now, commencing on 20 March, applicants are required to apply together with the original documents and a photocopy, as previously specified, to the Department of Labour in Mayangon Township. Applicants may submit their applications in person and can take out the OWIC.

From 1 February 2021 to 28 February 2023, more than 216,000 workers were sent to work in 82 foreign countries with OWIC cards. —TWA/KZW



MoL Deputy Minister U Win Shein inspects the issuing of OWICs in Mayangon Township on 9 March.

## Price varies in domestic palm oil market despite no change in foreign market

ACCORDING to oil traders in Yangon, there are five different oil prices in the Yangon palm oil market.

On 17 March, the palm oil wholesale price at the Nyaungpinlay Market in Lanmadaw Township was K6,050 per viss but each regular customer was sold only a limited number of barrels. Another wholesale outlet sold it at K6,800-K6,850 per viss while two oil outlets from Bayintnaung depot traded at K6,350-K6,750 per viss to their consumers, oil resellers told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Oil traders have started

storing palm oil these days as the Thingyan holidays are approaching and this has given rise to different selling prices in the Yangon oil market.

Although it was said in early March that the delivery price of palm oil was expected to reach K6,000 per viss, it didn't happen until two weeks later. The current wholesale price of palm oil was K6,600, K6,700 and K6,800 per viss in the Yangon oil market. The Mandalay oil market also saw a wholesale price of around K7,000 per viss.

Although there are no visible changes in the foreign oil price, oil import and currency



Oils are seen being filled into the barrels from the oil tank.

exchange rate, the wholesale price of palm oil went up to around K7,400 per viss in the Yangon market. Those who pur-

chased palm oil in advance with a price of more than K7,000 per viss faced losses when the price dropped down below K7,000 per viss.

People are saying in the oil market that if authorities take effective measures against those who do not sell palm oil according to the wholesale reference price published weekly, selling at a higher price of around K2,000 per viss than the wholesale reference price in the Yangon market will decrease, and more and more oil sellers will get to know the actual prices on a daily basis. — TWA/CT

# HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

## 'Floating toilets' help Cambodia's lake-dwelling poor

POINTING to the murky waters of the Tonle Sap, Si Vorn fights back tears as she recalls her four-year-old daughter dying from diarrhoea after playing in the polluted lake.

Her family of 12 is among 100,000 people living in floating houses on Cambodia's vast inland waterway, and while their village has 70 houses and a primary school, it has no sanitation system.

Now a local social enterprise, Wetlands Work (WW), is trying to tackle the problem by rolling out "floating toilets" to filter waste, but the high cost of installation means for now they are available to only a lucky few.

For generations, villagers whose livelihood depends on

fishing have defecated directly into the water that they use for cooking, washing and bathing — risking diarrhoea and even more severe water-borne diseases such as cholera.

"We use this water, we drink this water, and we defecate into this water. Everything!" Si Vorn, 52, told AFP, saying her family fell ill all the time.

"Every day, I worry about my health. Look at the water, there is no sanitation. I'm so worried but I don't know what to do."

### Microbe magic

More than a million people live on or around Tonle Sap, the world's largest inland fishery, but there is no system in place for managing human waste

from the 20,000 floating houses around the lake. Cambodia, ravaged by war and the genocidal Khmer Rouge in the 1970s, is one of the poorest countries in Southeast Asia.

Around a third of the population does not have access to proper toilets, according to the WaterAid charity, and diarrhoea is a leading killer of children under five.

Wetlands Work hopes its HandyPods, as the floating toilets are properly known, can help Si Vorn's village and others like it in other countries.

HandyPods use three small tanks to filter and clean the sewage.

Human waste passes from the toilet into the first tank, then



This photo taken on 13 March 2023 shows students arriving at a school near floating toilets in Chong Proloy village on Tonle Sap lake in Siem Reap province. PHOTO: TANG CHHIN SOTHY / AFP

the second and third. Inside, trillions of microbes in a "biofilm" — a slimy matrix of microorgan-isms — remove pathogens and the treated water is discharged into the lake. — AFP

## Unwanted visitor ruins spring break in Florida - toxic algae

WITH its brilliant sun, white sand and turquoise water, Lido Key Beach would make for a perfect postcard of Florida beaches if it weren't for the dozens of dead fish lying on the shore, killed by a toxic algae bloom known as red tide.

The bloom usually hits Florida's Gulf Coast in the summer, but this year it has come during spring, a time when thousands of American families flock to the Sunshine State during school break, and the outbreak bodes ill for its tourism sector.

On the terrace of the Lido Beach Resort, Jeff Napier, a 62-year-old employee, laments the effect red tide has had on business.

"We had a lot of cancella-

tions. People get sick," Napier told AFP. "Why would you want to spend that kind of money and stay here?"

High amounts of the harmful algae, known as *Karenia brevis*, can kill marine life and cause respiratory complications in some people. It also has a sulfurous, decaying smell.

Dick Bowser experienced that firsthand a few days ago. The 80-year-old tourist walks along the shoreline with a cane in each hand, happy that the ocean currents have turned the tide away from Sarasota, at least for now.

"It smelled horrible. I couldn't stand to be near the beach," Bowser said. "It bothered me in the form of coughing,

continuous coughing. I got a sore throat every day, having trouble with my eyes or sinuses."

In Napier's case, the toxic algae gave him five days of migraines, something he doesn't want to experience again.

"They just got to fix that red tide. They got to fix it," he says. "But I don't know what they're going to do about it."

### 'Kill the algae'

Fifty kilometres (30 miles) from Lido Key Beach, scientists from the Mote Marine Laboratory have been working since 2020 to lessen the impact of red tide, a phenomenon first reported by Spanish explorers in the 15th and 16th centuries, based on accounts of the native populations in the area.

The goal of the research is to "kill the algae, denature the toxin and not have significant impacts on the nontarget species," explains Dr Michael Crosby, president and CEO of the laboratory.

To achieve this, researchers cultivate specimens of *Karenia brevis* in huge tanks of seawater that imitate the ecosystem of the Gulf of Mexico and test various substances against it.

So far they have identified a dozen methods that work, and over the next two years they plan to test them in the ocean, Crosby says. — AFP

## 'Ted Lasso' cast to visit White House to promote mental health

ACTORS from the smash-hit comedy series "Ted Lasso" will meet President Joe Biden at the White House on Monday to discuss the importance of mental health, the administration said Sunday.

The Apple TV+ series, whose third season premiered 15 March, delves into various characters' mental health, with storylines tackling issues with bullying, anger, relationships and self-esteem, as well as panic attacks.

The show stars Jason Sudeikis as Ted Lasso, an out-of-his-depth American football coach who is recruited to lead a dysfunctional English soccer club in the aftermath of its owners' divorce, and as Lasso faces his own mental health issues.

The president and First Lady Jill Biden "will welcome Jason Sudeikis and the cast of Ted Lasso to the White House to discuss the importance of addressing your mental health to promote overall well-being," the White House said in a statement.

"Ted Lasso" has inspired the world through its universal themes around optimism, kindness, and determination,

and the Lasso philosophy to 'believe,' Apple TV+ said in a statement, as reported by entertainment news outlet Deadline.

Biden on Sunday tweeted a photo of the Oval Office with a sign reading "BELIEVE" taped above the door — a reference to Lasso's mantra.

The Biden administration said it has expanded mental health resources for young people and provided nearly \$500 million to help states transition to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

Anyone experiencing a mental health or suicide crisis can access confidential counselling by calling or texting 988 in the United States to reach the hotline.

"Ted Lasso" won Emmys in 2022 and 2021 for best comedy, best lead actor in a comedy for Sudeikis and best supporting actor in a comedy for Brett Goldstein, among other wins.

After winning in 2021, Sudeikis said the show was about family, mentors and teachers, and teammates.

"And I wouldn't be here without those three things in my life," he said. — AFP



A sign warning of the red tide risk is displayed at Lido Key Beach in Sarasota, Florida, on 15 March 2023. PHOTO: AFP

# ECONOMY WORLD

## Stocks plunge despite Credit Suisse buyout, central banks' pledge

EQUITIES sank Monday on fears about the financial sector, despite news of UBS's takeover of embattled Credit Suisse and central bank pledges to provide liquidity to troubled lenders.

The losses came ahead of the Federal Reserve's latest policy meeting this week, with speculation mounting that it will pause its interest rate hikes to provide some stability to markets.

Asian traders tracked Friday's losses in New York and Europe.

Hong Kong plummeted 2.7 per cent, with heavyweight HSBC off nearly six per cent



People walk past a sign showing the numbers for the Hang Seng Index in Hong Kong on 20 March 2023. Asian equities sank on 20 March 2023 following a sell-off in New York on fears over the financial sector, with traders giving short shrift to news of UBS's takeover of embattled Credit Suisse and central bank pledges to provide liquidity to troubled lenders. **PHOTO: AFP**

on worries about its exposure to risky bonds related to Credit Suisse. Standard Chartered also sank.

The losses came even as the city's de facto central bank said its banking sector had "insignificant" exposure to Credit Suisse.

Other regional bank shares were also hit, including Japan's Mitsubishi UFJ Financial, National Australia Bank and India's ICICI.

The Japanese government said the country's "financial organizations on the whole have ample liquidity and capital, and the financial market is stable overall".

And ahead of the open in Europe, France's central bank chief said Credit Suisse's woes "don't concern" European banks.

London, Frankfurt and Paris all fell in early Monday trade.

Tokyo, Sydney, Seoul and Mumbai were also in the red.

Shanghai rose after the Chinese central bank cut the amount of cash banks must keep in reserve, hoping to boost the country's economy.

The collapse this month of regional lenders Silicon Valley Bank, Signature Bank and Silvergate sparked fears of contagion as worried customers withdrew cash. — AFP

## IDB predicts 'difficult' 2023 for Latin America

LATIN America and the Caribbean will experience a "difficult" 2023 with barely one per cent growth due to global uncertainty, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) said on Sunday.

The one per cent growth figure "is very low given the developmental challenges in our countries," said IDB chief economist Eric Parrado at the end of the financial institution's annual general assembly in Panama.

"In general, 2023 will be difficult for Latin America and the Caribbean, given the complexity of the global scenario

and its major uncertainties," added Parrado.

The IDB projection is lower than the International Monetary Fund's expectation of 1.8 per cent growth in the region, or the 1.3 per cent estimation from the UN's Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

The IDB assembly, which gathers the heads of finance from the region, took place amid the backdrop of the collapse of three banks in the United States, among them the Silicon Valley Bank, and Swiss financial institution Credit Suisse. — AFP

## Japan govt to spend additional 2 trillion yen to ease inflation pain

JAPAN will spend over two trillion yen (\$15 billion) in reserve funds from the state budget for the current business year to March to give cash handouts to low-income families and cut liquefied petroleum gas bills as part of a fresh inflation-relief package, government sources said Monday.

As key pillars of the package expected to be compiled on Wednesday, the government plans to give 30,000 yen to each low-income household and an extra 50,000 yen per child to the same group, the sources said.

The ruling coalition of the Liberal Democratic Party and Komeito has been urging Prime

Minister Fumio Kishida to take additional steps to ease the pain of accelerating inflation on households ahead of a series of local elections this spring.

The government will finalize the size of the package in consultation with the ruling parties, the sources said.

"We will draw up additional steps and implement them swiftly to protect people's livelihoods and businesses," Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told a regular press briefing.

Many households in rural Japan use LP gas. The government has already lowered utility bills for households, tar-

getting electricity and city gas, on top of subsidies given to oil wholesalers to keep gasoline and kerosene prices from rising sharply.

The government also handed out cash to low-income, child-rearing families as part of an earlier package. Japan's core consumer prices, which exclude volatile fresh food items, jumped 4.2 per cent from a year earlier in January, marking the fastest pace of gain in about four decades. As higher energy costs, amplified by a weaker yen, have been driving inflation higher, the government has moved to reduce utility bills this year. — Kyodo

## European banks are solid, says French central bank chief

FRANCE'S central bank chief sought Monday to distance European and French banks from the problems at Credit Suisse and banking woes in the United States.

Credit Suisse and the banking volatility in the United States "don't concern French and European banks", Francois Villeroy de Galhau, a member of the European Central Bank's governing council, told France Inter radio.

He added that French

banks were "very solid" and that "there are no problems for French banks".

He welcomed the takeover of stricken Credit Suisse by fellow Swiss bank UBS which he said would help guarantee "the stability of the whole financial system".

French Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire also welcomed the takeover, saying: "I'm delighted with this deal. It's a good deal."

He added: "At the same

time... (Credit Suisse) is a heavyweight in Europe, so we will remain extremely vigilant about the reaction of the markets."

Asian and European stock markets fell on Monday morning, while Credit Suisse's stock price collapsed further, more than 60 per cent below the level UBS had agreed to pay to take it over.

Shares in UBS also took a hit, falling almost nine per cent. UBS agreed to buy its ri-



A sign of Credit Suisse bank is seen at their headquarters in Zurich on 20 March 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

val for \$3.25 billion following crunch weekend talks aimed

at preventing a wider international banking crisis. — AFP

## Europe gas under 40 euros for first time since 2021

EUROPE'S natural gas price slid Monday below 40 euros for the first time in more than a year and a half, dampened by mild weather and high storage levels.

In morning London deals, the price of benchmark Dutch TTF gas hit 39.65 euros per megawatt hour — last seen in July 2021.

Monday's low is almost nine times less than the record high struck after key gas producer Russia invaded Ukraine more than one year ago.

Energy bills remain high for many households and businesses, however,

with wholesale costs taking time to filter down to the end consumer.

"We are now more than halfway through... the last winter month, and approaching spring with seasonally much weaker gas demand," noted DNB Bank analysts.

"Gas inventories are still close to seasonal record levels, and 20 per cent above normal levels."

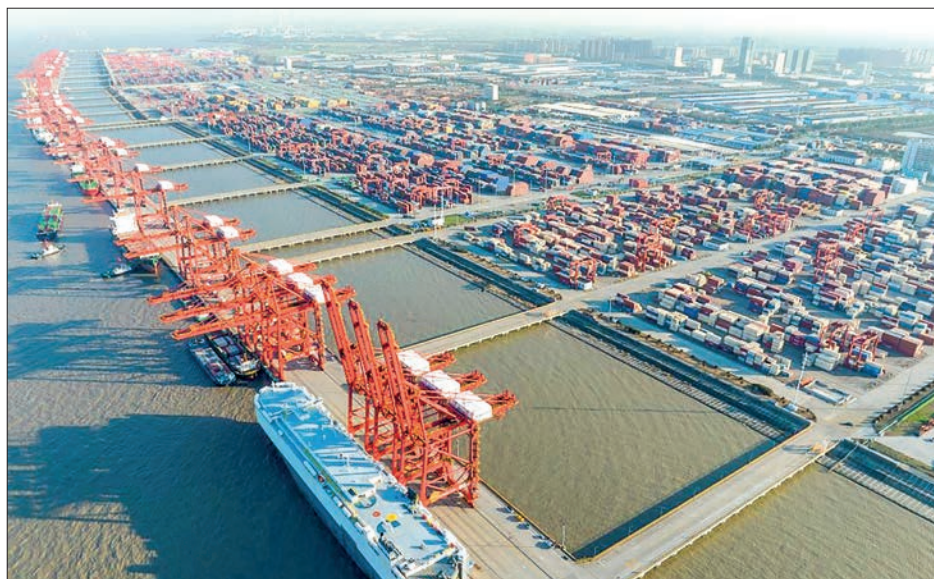
Following Moscow's invasion, Western nations have been forced to source gas supplies from outside sanctions-hit Russia, with Norway becoming Europe's main supplier. — AFP

## China's foreign trade off to a good start in 2023: official

CHINA'S foreign trade has gotten off to a good start this year, with an upbeat trend to follow, a customs official said on Monday.

The number of containers for export has been rising since late February, Yu Jianhua, head of the General Administration of Customs (GAC), told a press conference, addressing recent reports of empty containers piled at Chinese ports that have sparked concerns over trade.

Weekly GAC data shows that trade has been improving since February, according to Yu. Although the foreign trade of goods



This aerial photo taken on 13 March 2023 shows a container terminal of Taicang Port, east China's Jiangsu Province. PHOTO: XINHUA

edged down 0.8 per cent year on year in the first two months, exports expanded 0.9 per cent, Yu said. — Xinhua

<p><b>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE</b> M.V PIRA BHUM VOY.NO. (566W)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on <b>M.V PIRA BHUM VOY.NO. (566W)</b> are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on <b>20-3-2023</b> and cargo will be discharged into the premises of <b>MITT/MIP</b> where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: <b>2301185</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Shipping Agency Department</b> <b>Myanma Port Authority</b></p> <p>Agent For: <b>M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES</b></p>	<p><b>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE</b> M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (166N)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on <b>M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (166N)</b> are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on <b>21-3-2023</b> and cargo will be discharged into the premises of <b>AWPT</b> where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: <b>2301185</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Shipping Agency Department</b> <b>Myanma Port Authority</b></p> <p>Agent For: <b>M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING PTE LTD</b></p>	<p><b>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE</b> M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (279N)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on <b>M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (279N)</b> are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on <b>21-3-2023</b> and cargo will be discharged into the premises of <b>MIP</b> where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: <b>2301185</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Shipping Agency Department</b> <b>Myanma Port Authority</b></p> <p>Agent For: <b>M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES</b></p>
--	---	--

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
M.V HANSA SIEGBURG VOY.NO. (309W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HANSA SIEGBURG VOY.NO. (309W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-3-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
M.V BAMBOO STAR VOY.NO. (3)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BAMBOO STAR VOY.NO. (3)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-3-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** 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 BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE**

AS the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the **27<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023 (Armed Forces Day)**, Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

**Ads Call**

**09251022355,  
09974424848**

NEWS IN  
BRIEF**Demonstrators call for France's withdrawal from NATO in Paris**

THOUSANDS of demonstrators called over the weekend for France's withdrawal from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and an immediate halt to arms deliveries to Ukraine.

According to RIA Novosti, the "March for Peace" kicked off near the site of the French Senate. The demonstrators waved banners "Stop the war provoked by the United States and NATO" and "Freedom, Truth, Resistance".

Many French Internet users have posted photos and videos of this march on social media. "Thousands of people are asking for (France's) withdrawal from NATO, the EU, and all the organizations that deprive us of our national sovereignty!" said one of the social media users.

An independent Lebanese geopolitical commentator Sarah Abdallah asked on her social media: "why is Western media ignoring the anti-NATO protests happening today in Paris, France?"—Xinhua

**US beach city issues state of emergency, curfew after deadly shootings**

THE City of Miami Beach, in the US state of Florida, issued a state of emergency and a curfew on Sunday after two deadly shootings.

The city said the curfew will be from 11:59 pm Sunday local time (0359 GMT Monday) until 6 am Monday (1000 GMT). Officials intend to impose similar additional curfew restrictions from Thursday through next Monday.

The measures came after a man died and another man was injured in a shooting in South Beach Friday night, and another deadly shooting in Miami Beach early Sunday morning.

Miami Beach Mayor Dan Gelber said in a video message posted on Sunday that the crowds and presence of firearms have "created a peril that cannot go unchecked".

A south Florida island city, Miami Beach will hold a special commission meeting on Monday afternoon "to discuss the restrictions beyond Monday," according to a press release.—Xinhua

**Four Ukrainian soldiers killed by shell during training**

UKRAINE said Monday that four soldiers were killed over the weekend in an accident at a military training ground in the north of the country.

Ukraine's State Bureau of Investigation said that according to its preliminary findings, "on 18 March, a shell detonated during routine firing (drills) carried out by a military unit in the Chernigiv region".

"The explosion killed four soldiers," it said.

Investigators have opened a probe into possible violations of rules on handling weapons.

The Chernigiv region, an area the size of Belgium, borders both Belarus and Russia to the north.

It was partially taken by the Russian army in the first few weeks of the invasion launched in February 2022, before its forces withdrew in spring last year.

Ukraine is closely monitoring the movements of Russian troops stationed nearby, but it does not expect a fresh attack for now.—AFP

**Xi meets Putin in Moscow**

Russian President Vladimir Putin meets with China's President Xi Jinping at the Kremlin in Moscow on 20 March 2023. **PHOTO: SERGEI KARPUKHIN / SPUTNIK / AFP**

CHINESE President Xi Jinping met his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, on Monday in Moscow.

The two countries share many similar development objectives and can work together via cooperation in this regard so as to push for the realization of

those objectives, Xi said while meeting the Russian leader.

The comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination between the two countries has safeguarded the international fairness and justice on the one hand, and promoted common prosperity and development of

the two countries on the other, he said.

Xi also thanked Putin for his constant appreciation and support for China's development. At the invitation of Putin, Xi arrived earlier in the day in the Russian capital for a state visit.—Xinhua

**20 years after US invasion, war-scarred Iraq faces uncertain future**

IRAQ on Monday marked 20 years since the start of the US-led invasion that toppled dictator Saddam Hussein, but no official celebrations were held.

The oil-rich country remains traumatized from the years of war, occupation and bloody sectarian turmoil that followed the operation launched on 20 March 2003.

A semblance of normalcy has returned but Iraq still battles a range of entrenched challenges, from political instability to poverty and rampant corruption.

Neighbouring Iran, the major Shiite power and arch-foe of the United States, now wields much influence in Iraq, whose Shiite majority was freed from the oppression of Sunni strongman Saddam.

Prime Minister Mohamed Shia al-Sudani, who is backed by a pro-Iranian coalition, at an event Sunday did not speak of the US invasion but only of the "fall of



Vehicles drive along a street in Baghdad on 19 March 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

the dictatorial regime" of Saddam, who was caught, tried and executed.

At a Baghdad conference on the eve of the anniversary, Sudani said: "We remember the pain and suffering of our people in those years that were dominated by senseless wars and systematic sabotage."

The government planned no events to mark the anniversary, and Baghdad's streets on Monday looked busy as ever, with most people more focused on the

holy fasting month of Ramadan due to start later this week.

"It's a painful memory" for the country, said Fadhel Hassan, 23, a journalism student. "There was a lot of destruction and too many victims – innocent people, Iraqis and American soldiers."

The US march to war started under then-president George W. Bush and gained pace in the aftermath of the 11 September 2001 attacks on the United States by Osama bin Laden's militant group Al-Qaeda.—AFP

## Thai House of Representatives dissolved ahead of general election

THAILAND announced on Monday that the House of Representatives has been dissolved, paving the way for a general election within two months, according to a royal decree.

As the prime minister informed the King that the House of Representatives has been performing its duties since 2019. It is expedient to dissolve the House of Representatives to hold a new general election of members of the House of Representatives, wrote the royal decree, which has been royally endorsed.

The general election of the 500-member House of Representatives will be held earliest in 45 days or latest in 60 days from Monday, according to the announcement released on the royal Thai government gazette

website.

The House of Representatives was formed after the 2019

general election, with its four-year term scheduled to end on 23 March. — Xinhua



Thailand's Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha speaks to press after chairing the National Rice Policy and Administration Committee at Government House in Bangkok on 20 March 2023. Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha has dissolved the country's parliament, an official announcement said 20 March, setting up a general election in May. **PHOTO: LILLIAN SUWANRUMPHA / AFP**

## Only 4% of missile shelters in Japan located underground



Photo taken 24 December 2022 shows the Sendai Subway's Sendai Station in northeastern Japan, which is designated as an emergency evacuation shelter. **PHOTO: KYODO**

ONLY four per cent of emergency evacuation sites designated by local governments in Japan as missile shelters are located underground, with the figure reflecting a lack of buildings with basements in regional areas, a Kyodo News survey showed Sunday.

With North Korea increasing its test-launches of missiles amid increased concern about the security environment in the region, the Japanese government has recommended municipalities increase the number of designated evacuation shelters

under the civil protection law, especially those underground, over five years from fiscal 2021.

The Cabinet Office considers underground facilities more effective in reducing air blasts than those on the surface, but a survey of 67 prefectural and major city governments conducted in January and February found that only 2,390 of the total 59,132 were located below ground level.

Akita Prefecture in northeastern Japan had the lowest number at zero, while 17 prefectures had fewer than 10. Tokyo possessed the most underground

facilities at 452, followed by Gifu and Ishikawa prefectures, both located in central Japan, with 306 and 176, respectively.

Nineteen prefectures said they increased the number of underground facilities during the current fiscal year, which started last April.

Gifu designated around 300 locations, including underground walkways, as shelters in that year alone. The move "was based on the international situation and national policy" in light of developments in North Korea and the war in Ukraine, a prefectural official in charge of the project said.

When asked about issues faced regarding the designation of underground shelters, the majority of the polled governments cited a lack of facilities.

In addition to the six prefectures in the northeastern Tohoku region and the four located on the western island of Shikoku, major hubs such as Osaka Prefecture and Sapporo city were also included among those who selected the response.

"For regional areas, having underground (shelters) is difficult," an Akita prefectural official said. — Kyodo

## Sri Lanka seeks 10-year debt moratorium ahead of IMF bailout

CASH-STRAPPED Sri Lanka is seeking a 10-year moratorium on its foreign debt, President Ranil Wickremesinghe's office said Monday on the eve of a desperately needed \$2.9 billion IMF bailout.

Wickremesinghe's office quoted him as saying the widely expected International Monetary Fund rescue "will only give us a breathing space where they will say we are no longer bankrupt".

"All the money we have to repay this year, I hope we will be given at least 10 more years to repay it," Wickremesinghe told a meeting of students in Colombo on Sunday.

He did not give details of his plans to restructure Sri Lanka's \$46 billion external debt.

Sri Lanka defaulted on its foreign debt in April 2022 as the country plunged into its worst economic crisis, running out of cash to finance even the most essential imports and causing massive social unrest.

Widespread protests over economic mismanagement, acute shortages of food, fuel and medicines, and runaway inflation forced Wickremesinghe's predecessor Gotabaya Rajapaksa to flee the country and resign in July.

The IMF's executive board was expected to sign off on Colombo's bailout application later on Monday after a long delay in securing financial assurances from China, Sri Lanka's largest bilateral lender. — AFP



A Sri Lankan man walks past currency exchange shop in Colombo on 20 March 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Oil from sunken tanker spreads to Philippines' vital marine reserves

THE massive oil leak from a tanker that sank off Oriental Mindoro province last month has reached one of the Philippines' marine reserves and sanctuaries, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said on Monday.

PCG Batangas station commander Captain Victorino Acosta said the oil slick was sighted on Monday morning in the Verde Island Passage between Batangas province on the mainland Luzon, south of Manila, and the northeastern

tip of Mindoro island.

The area is a body of water with the highest concentration of coastal fishes, corals, crustaceans, mollusks, sea grasses and mangroves, which is described as one of the global centres of marine biodiversity.

It is also home to endangered and threatened species, including the critically endangered hawksbill turtle, whale sharks, manta rays, dugongs, humphead wrasses, giant groupers and giant clams. — Xinhua



## 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 U-17 women's team players sing the national anthem before the match against Laos U-17 team in Okinawa, Japan on 20 March. **PHOTO: MFF**

## Myanmar beat Laos 4-0 in Japan Invitational Tourney

THE Myanmar U-17 Women's Team played against Laos U-17 Women's Team in the 2022 JENESYS U-17 Women's Football Memorial Cup held under the Japan-ASEAN Friendship and Cultural Exchange Programme in Okinawa, Japan yesterday.

Team Myanmar trounced Laos 4-0 in the invitational cup game.

Myanmar scored three goals in the first half and one more goal in the second half to secure their big win, according to the statement from the Myanmar Football Federation.

The Myanmar U-17 women's team will play against Japan's Okinawa team for fifth place on 21 March. — KZL

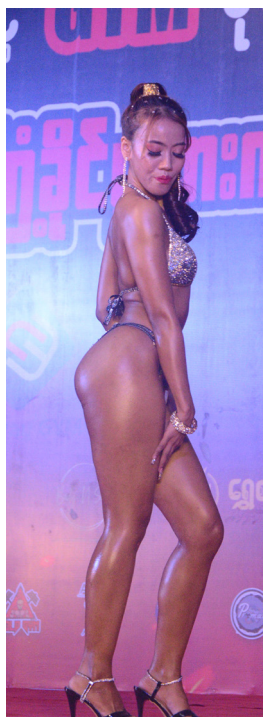
## Over 200 bodybuilders compete in Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Competition

MORE than 200 bodybuilders from gym clubs of various states and regions competed in the Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Competition, held at Padetha Sports Hall, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon on 19 March.

The competition was organized for the first time by veteran bodybuilders and Myanmar gym owners.

The competition features junior bodybuilding contests, under 70 kilogrammes senior bodybuilding contests, Men's bodybuilding contests, under and above 170 centimetres Men's Sport Physique contests, under and above 160 centimetres Women's Model Physique, and Men's Goa bodybuilding contests.

Then, the selected athletes compete in seven international standard poses, and the athletes who get first to fifth are awarded medals and cash prizes by officials of the gym clubs. — Bala Soe/KZL



The bodybuilders showing off their muscles at the Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Competition held in Yangon on 19 March. **PHOTOS: BALA SOE**