

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IX, No. 96, 9<sup>th</sup> Waning of Waso 1384 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Thursday, 21 July 2022

## Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
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.

## Athlete youths need to accept that sports victories in all events must be a national duty in order to uplift the prestige of the State: Vice-Senior General



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the ceremony to hand over the flag to the Myanmar universities sports team in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 July 2022.

**V**ICE-SENIOR General Soe Win, Chairman of the Education, Health and Human Resource Development Committee, Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister, said

he firmly believed that students from Myanmar universities who will take part in the 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN University Games would preserve the fine legacy of university students who excelled in sports in successive eras in My-

anmar. He said to at the ceremony to hand over the flag to ensure victory to the sports contingent at the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The contingent will represent Myanmar in the 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN

University Games to be held in Ubon Ratchathani of Thailand.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General said that the ASEAN University Sports Council holds the games in continuation as part of en-

couraging unity among ASEAN countries, flourishing the spirit of friendly relations, building mutual understanding among the countries and forging the ASEAN spirit.

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# Announcement for opening reception centres to receive CDM staff, students and youths

THE State Administration Council has been striving for the all-round development of the country including economic, social, education and health sectors. In addition, security forces are performing their duties day and night so that the entire mass of national people in various regions across the Union should be able to lead their lives and earn their living in the peace of mind. The State Administration Council gives priority to achieving genuine and perpetual peace, building up the united strength of the national brethren.

In order to prevent the unnecessary loss of human resources, the State Administration Council has publicly invited the basic education staff who are absent from duty to resume their duties and those who take part in armed resistance under various names of groups,

including PDFs, to return to the legal fold if they wish to, and is systematically receiving the returnees.

It is found that, due to the persuasion, instigation and coercion of CRPH and NUG terrorist groups, some CDM staff, students and youths went to the strongholds of some ethnic armed organizations and received training in arms, ammunition and explosives.

It is known that some of those who have completed the training no longer want to be involved in terrorist attacks and so they fled to the regions within and without the country and are working there for their living. When they see terrorist attacks with their own eyes, they cannot accept such terrible acts at all. On the other hand, they have come to believe in the government's five-point roadmap and its endeavour for

endurable peace. Moreover, they want to live peacefully in their hometowns again with their parents and relatives. Nevertheless, they cannot do so because of the coercion and intimidation by CRPH and NUG terrorist groups and their subordinates, it is learnt.

Therefore, the government is taking measures to be able to open reception centres in border areas for those who would like to return homes to their respective regions. Moreover, those wishing to return home can contact Tatmadaw units and police stations. It is guaranteed that they will be able to lead their daily lives peacefully.

*Information Team  
State Administration Council*

## Myanmar Pyi Thein Tan's Song Diary 3 concert to be broadcast on MRTV

MYANMA Radio and Television is enhancing performances of entertainment, happiness, and motivation to people through the artistes' performances.

As a performance of Friday Night Show, famous singer Myanmar Pyi Thein Tan's Song Diary 3 music concert will be broadcast on MRTV HD Channel after Friday 8 pm news pro-

gramme on 22 July.

It will feature Myanmar Pyi Thein Tan as well as new generation singers such as Saw Daniel, Regina, Cho Mie Mie Zaw and Ei Ei Hlaing, film stars Nay Dway and Thinzar Myintmo and the MRTV orchestra.

This programme will be broadcast again at 10:30 am Sunday on 24 July. — MNA

## Union Information Minister provides K1 million financial assistance to lifetime literary award winner Maung Paw Tun

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn provided K1 million in financial assistance to unhealthy lifetime literary award winner Maung Paw Tun.

U Kyauk Taung, friend of Sayagyi Maung Paw Tun, posted about the health condition of Sayagyi on his Facebook on 15 July.

He wrote that Sayagyi is suffering from cancer, it costs over K1 million for treatment, all his savings are running out, contacted MoI Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn for knowing about his helpfulness, the wish of Sayagyi to take medical treatment to insert stents into necessary parts of colon at the military hospital, health condition of Sayagyi and taking K1 million donation of Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn.

Sayagyi Maung Paw Tun entered the field of litera-



Sayagyi Maung Paw Tun is seen together with some friends at his home.

ture with his translation of the Russian story "Seven-Year-Old Girls", which was described in the "Sarpanchi" magazine in 1958. He translated novels and articles for magazines and journals. He worked as the consultant editor, editor-in-chief and consultant editor for "Saroaklawka" publication, "Pan" magazine, "Cherry" magazine and the economic magazine.

He translated about 50 novels, including "Revolution on the Nile" and "Sukarno", My Husband and My Lover.

He was presented the Literary Award for Lifetime Achievements together with other doyen literati Ko Lay-Inwa Gonyi (U Ko Lay) and Mya Zin (U Win Pe) by the government in 2014. — Htun Htun/GNLM

## 16 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 20 July, total figure rises to 613,871

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 613,871 after 16 new cases were reported on 20 July 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 592,766 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at 19,434 without more casualties.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 19-7-2022, a total of 30,012,602 people above 18 have been vaccinated. A total of 5,828,780 people under 18 have been vaccinated. —MNA

## Further invitation to remnant groups to hold talks

DEMOCRACY as well as federalism requires equal rights. Talks will continue with the ethnic armed organizations to restore peace.

Good results came out from the talks with EAOs. Efforts will continue to restore peace by holding better talks.

Some EAOs cannot participate in the talks for various reasons. In line with the firm implementation of two political visions, the government further invites remnant groups to hold talks.

*(The excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in meeting with ministers of Yangon Region government on 9 June 2022.)*

# Athlete youths need to accept that sports victories in all events must be a national duty in order to uplift ...

### FROM PAGE-1

Youths from ASEAN countries will forge friendly relations via the ASEAN University Games and will have a chance to show off their brilliant sports skills. They will have the opportunities to exchange nature of relevant universities and cultures of relevant countries.

The games will be held in Ubon Ratchathani of Thailand with the theme of “Games for Sustainability” with the aim of cementing the unity among ASEAN countries through the sports meet.

The Vice-Senior General expressed his firm belief that the students from Myanmar universities who will take part in the 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN University Games would preserve the fine legacy of the university sports sector with victories in successive eras in Myanmar.

As university student-athletes have vigorously made

preparations for the competitions, they have to take part in the games in harmony and unison in a bid to set a record of their endeavours in the university sports history.

As such, the Vice-Senior General noted that athletes need to make utmost efforts in the games at home and abroad with sporting spirit by showing their brilliant sports skills in order to enhance the health and fitness of the people and sports standards.

Athlete youths need to accept that sports victories in all events must be a national duty in order to uplift the prestige of the State.

If they apply their skills, experiences and practice based on rationality, ready wit, correct perspective and rapid decision in the competition, they will secure the victory.

The Vice-Senior General handed over the flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar



The Vice-Senior General cordially greets the Myanmar universities sports team.

to the leader of the Myanmar university sports contingent Rector of Yangon University Dr Tin Maung Tun.

Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe reported on preparatory tasks of the Myanmar university sports contin-

gent.

Later, the Vice-Senior General cordially greeted the athletes. — MNA

# Union Chief Justice joins 3<sup>rd</sup> China-ASEAN Justice Forum online

UNION Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo virtually joined the

third China-ASEAN Justice Forum, which aims to improve

the mutual relations and judicial exchange and cooperation

between China and ASEAN, held in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China yesterday.

The forum was sponsored by the Supreme People’s Court of the People’s Republic of China and hosted by the High People’s Court of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

At the opening ceremony, Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo, Mr Zhou Qiang, Chief Justice of the People’s Republic of China, Chief Justices of 10 ASEAN countries and the ASEAN Secretary-General presented special speeches.

Then, the leaders frankly exchanged views under the theme of establishing a High-Level Judicial Cooperation Platform to Jointly Build

the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road.

The forum focused on a variety of topics including “Accelerate the Adaptation of New RCEP Economic and Trade Rules to Provide Judicial Services for Regional Trade and Investment”, “Enhance Intellectual Property Right Cooperation to Improve the International Protection of Intellectual Property Rights”; and “Promote Cross-Border Online Litigation to Provide Judicial Assistance for Pandemic Prevention and Control and Economic Recovery”.

They then approved and issued the Nanning Statement of the third China-ASEAN Justice Forum. — MNA



## 2022 inter-region/state U-19 men's football tournament opening ceremony held

THE opening ceremony of the 2022 Inter-Region/State U-19 Men's Football Tournament, jointly organized by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and the Myanmar Football Federation, was held yesterday afternoon at Wunna Theikdi Football Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw.

Members of the State Administration Council U Khin Maung Swe, Daw Aye Nu Sein, Jeng Phang Naw Taung, U Moungh Har, U Sai Lon Hsai, Saw Daniel, Dr Banya Aung Moe and U Shwe Kyein, Union Ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Deputy Ministers, departmental officials, administrators and coaches of the competing teams, athletes and football fans attended the ceremony.

First, Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan said that the competition is held with the aim of improving the standard of football sport in



SAC members and dignitaries attend the opening event of the 2022 Inter-Region and State U-19 men's football tournament in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Myanmar and producing new footballers continuously, promoting unity among football players from various states and regions, as well as the union spirit.

He said that the goal of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs is to achieve a success-

ful position in Southeast Asia and the Asian region in order to raise the standard of Myanmar football. For the Myanmar national football team to achieve success, the ministry is continuously holding state and regional youth football tournaments that will strengthen the

Myanmar national team.

Under the guidance of the head of state, it is an important responsibility to achieve the success of Myanmar football sports, and all are seriously working to develop a winning plan, he continued.

As the State is providing

support for sports, the sportspersons also need to respect the state's gratitude and not do any actions that will discredit the country's image, he urged.

He also called on the athletes to compete in a clean manner and full spirit of sportsmanship, and for referees to be free from bias and observe the set regulations.

After the ceremony, SAC members and the party warmly greeted the administrators and athletes of the competing teams and enjoyed the Nay Pyi Taw team and Kachin State team's match, the opening match of the U-19 football tournament.

The 2022 Inter-State/Region U-19 Men's Football Tournament will be held from 20 July to 3 August at the Wunna Theikdi Football Stadium. A total of 325 athletes from 14 competing teams will compete, and those who are interested in playing football can come and watch for free, it is reported.

— MNA

## MoH's VBDC holds annual review meeting for 2020-2021

THE opening ceremony of the annual review meeting of vector-borne disease control branch was held with COVID-19 regulations at the Ministry of Health meeting room in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In the meeting, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Aye Tun stressed that the total number of malaria patients was 58,835 in 2020 and 79,001 in 2021. In the anti-malaria project there was no one found with plasmodium falciparum in the country in 2025 and the infection of malaria will disappear in 2030. He also stressed making malaria treatment drugs and medical supplies accessible to everyone, ensuring medicines not to be expired, and delivering the mosquito net to everyone.

He expressed that in the

first-six months of this year, there were 7,835 dengue fever patients and 31 died. The most common infectious area was Ayeyawady Region, Yangon Region, Mon State, Bago Region and Taninthayi region and it is necessary to give awareness to people for prevention of the disease.

He said that under the guidance of MoH and in cooperation with regional governments in the respective regions and states, it is necessary to carry out malaria prevention work and prevention and suppression of dengue fever.

The attendees discussed the advantages, weaknesses and difficulties in preventing diseases transmitted through mosquito bites such as malar-



The annual review meeting for 2020-2021 of the vector-borne disease control branch is in progress.

ia, dengue fever, Lymphatic filariasis, Japanese encephalitis, Chikungunya virus and Zika virus.

The director-general of the Public Health Department, deputy directors-general of relevant departments, repre-

sentatives from WHO, UNOPS, Save the Children and officials attended the meeting. — MNA

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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

## No service and warranty of Suzuki (Myanmar) changed despite its operation suspension

SUZUKI stated on 20 July that car productions of the Suzuki (Myanmar) Motor Co Ltd and Suzuki Thilawa Motor Co Ltd will be temporarily suspended, however, there will be no change in terms of warranty and service.

The suspension is reported because of delays in the import of car parts to be assembled and manufactured due to current circumstances, although the company is doing its best to address the needs of the customers.

The statement also stated the profuse apologies for the delay to deliver the cars to the customers and for not being able to predict the exact time of the delivery. However, it stressed



Services are given to Suzuki cars.

that the company will fully serve better services regarding the purchased cars and urged customers to understand if due to unforeseen circumstances any

problems occur.

Since 2019, 13,000 Suzuki cars have been sold in Myanmar, accounting for 60 per cent of the market. —TWA/GNLM

## Myanmar exports over 120 tonnes of crab, 20.8 tonnes of eel to China

MYANMAR exported 129.249 tonnes of crab worth \$0.646 million and 20.800 tonnes of eel worth \$0.83 million to China.

These exports were made via the Muse 105<sup>th</sup> Mile trade zone between 20 and 27 June this year. In the 2019-2020FY, the country exported 8,211.759 tonnes of crab worth \$23.737 million, 2,855.100 tonnes of eel worth \$9.675 million, in 2020-2021FY, 1,962.760 tonnes of crabs worth \$5.430 million and 6,984.350 tonnes of eel worth \$28.127 million were exported while there were no crab and eel exports in the 2021-2022 mini-budget period, according to

the data.

In export, the crab price declines if there are over 50 tonnes. They fetch good prices especially on the Chinese significant days, May Day, New Year Day and Chinese New Year Day. The crab is priced at 33.336 yuan per kilo depending on the size and it is between 36 and 40 yuan per kilogramme of eel, according to the dealers.

Myanmar's crab and eel trucks to China have to wait for 30 minutes after disinfecting. If they reach China, they have to take PCR tests and wait another five hours to export. —TWA/GNLM

## OWIC cards issued to more than 36,000 migrant workers

THE Ministry of Labour issued the Overseas Worker Identification Card-OWIC to more than 36,000 migrant workers between 1 February 2021 and 1 June 2022.

The ministry has also been working on signing employment contracts for workers going to work abroad. According to the ministry, a total of 36,365 workers went abroad to work in 57 foreign countries, including 11,123 workers in Thailand, 10,561 workers in Singapore, and 2,083 workers in the Republic of Korea, 7,558 workers in Japan, and 3,286 workers in Malaysia.

The workers who were issued the OWICs were the ones who went abroad through licenced foreign employment agencies, on their own, or leave/PR. In addition, from 25 March to 30 June, the Ministry of Labour signed employment contracts with 39,939 workers. —TWA/GNLM

## Onion prices still on uptick trend



THE onion prices become higher day by day, according to the wholesale centre.

On 20 July, a total of 270,000 visses of onion entered the Yangon market at high prices. On that day, the Seikpyu onion was priced at K1,300-1,550-1,750-1,850 per viss while K1,400-1,650-1,850-1,950 per viss of Monywa onion, K1,400-1,750-1,850-2,000 per viss of Myingyan onion. Between 24 June and 16 July, it was only K1,700-1,800 per viss of large size onion.

On 18 July, it was K1,400-1,650-1,800-1,950 per viss of Monywa onion, K1,250-1,550-1,650-1,750 per viss of Seikpyu onion, K1,300-1,600-1,750-1,850 per viss of Myingyan onion. Within two market days, it rose about K200 per viss.

On 16 July, it was K1,350-1,650-1,750-1,850 per viss of

Monywa onion, K1200-1450-1575-1700 per viss of Seikpyu onion and K1,300-1,500-1,600-1,700 per viss of Myingyan onion.

The highest onion price was only K1,300 per viss in Seikpyu wholesale centre and it was K1,500 per viss on 16 July. In Pakokku wholesale centre, the price of Yaw onion was K1,350 per viss and on 19 July, it was K1,500 and the price of Pale rose to K1,625 from K1,525 per viss.

In 2022, the people predict that the onion production rate

can drop by half and the price may be K2,000 per viss in the countryside.

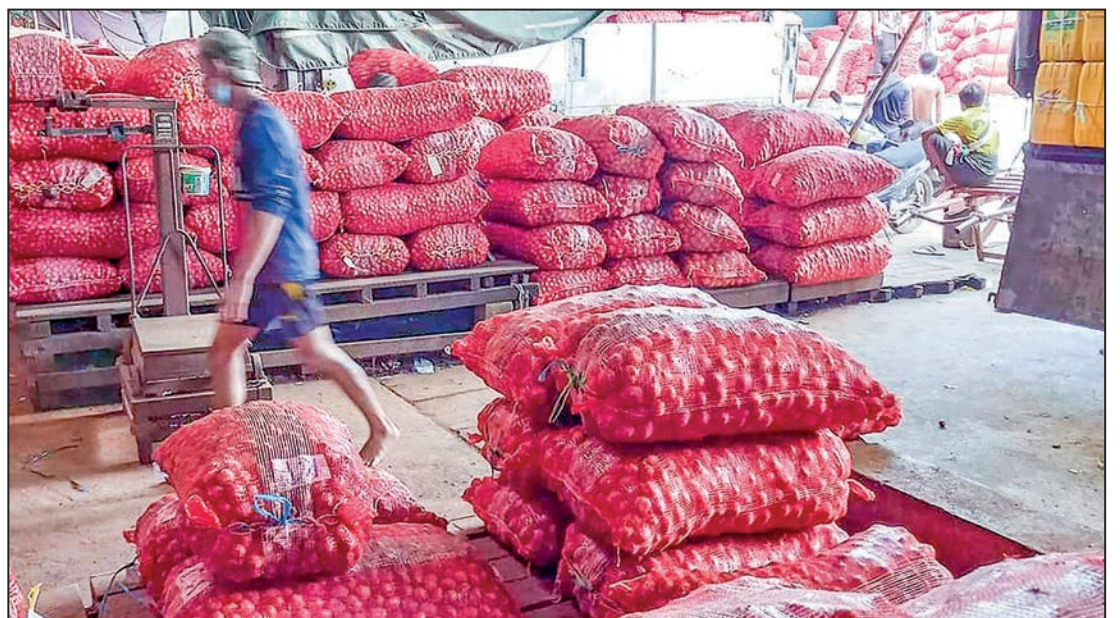
The Pakokku wholesale centre received 10.3 million viss of onion during the first six months of 2022. The dealers said the leftover onion will be about 4.5 million visses in the countryside.

About 100,000 visses of onion entered the Bayintnaung market daily and about 3 million visses about 25 days after the opening of the wholesale centre.

During the first six months

of 2022, about 20 million visses of onion entered the Yangon market. During such a period, the market received 4.2 million visses of onion in January 2022, and 3.6 million visses in June. In the second six-month term, if the local leftover amount is low, the cheap foreign onion might enter the Yangon market.

In 2020, the onion price was below K1,000 per viss in the country. The people bought onion at K600/700 per viss from onion trucks, said housewives in Yangon. —TWA/GNLM



A consumer is showing onions delivered by the door-to-door system (top). Onions are seen at the Bayintnaung wholesale market (above).

# MoC Deputy Minister examines construction of roads, bridges

DEPUTY Minister U Win Pe of the Ministry of Construction and officials inspected the Monghsat City Road (Airport Circle Road), an asphalt road, and other roads which were to repave with asphalt concrete, on the morning of 19 July. The deputy minister also urged respective departments to manage the land compensation fees for the extension of 1,000 feet long section into the runway of Monghsat Airport as per related rules and regulations.



Afterwards, Director U Ye Lin (Civil) of the Department of Highways, Shan State (East) presented the road and

bridge construction projects that were planned to implement in the 2022-2023 financial

year, after the arrival of the deputy minister and party, at the Loisamson Road Camp

on Monghsat-Tachilek Road. The deputy minister directed the responsible personnel to

plan and execute the following tasks by category: paving the 5.5-metre long concrete road, expanding the blind spots of the road, repairing the main road with laterite, constructing the gravel-filled drain, mending the road shoulders with concrete, building the box culvert and planting guard post and direction boards.

Later, the deputy minister inspected the Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridge-I and the Meiktila-Taunggyi-Kengtung-Tachilek Road (Tachilek City Road), which is being carried out under the BOT system, in Tachilek Township. — MNA

## Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Yangon participates in YUFL Cultural Exchange 2022

THE Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Yangon expressed thanks for the chance to participate in the Yangon University of Foreign Languages-YUFL Cultural Exchange 2022, according to its statement on 19 July.

The Embassy participated in the cultural exchange of YUFL held on 18 July and provided Mandi food, dates and Arab coffee to the officials and university students.

Similarly, the embassy also offered dates and Arab coffee at the booths of students and displayed photos of King Abdulaziz, King Salman, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, picturesque scenes of the country,

flags of Saudi and fragrances. Although there is no Arabic language department at YUFL, the embassy is delighted for being invited to the ceremonies of the university, the statement said.

At the ceremony, the students of Myanmar, English, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Italian, French and Russian languages conducted their traditional food, costumes and cultural performance.

It was attended by the Yangon Region advocate-general, officials of the Education Ministry, Chinese Embassy, Korean Embassy and Saudi Arabian Embassy. —Soe Myint Aung/GNLM



## Yangon Water Bus to resume

THE Yangon Water Bus suspended for over two years will resume its services on 1 October, according to its statement on 19 July.

The arrangements are being made to resume the services of Yangon Water Bus on 1 October. It prepares 75 per cent of

short trips and communicates with departments concerned, it said.

The main routes are Botahtaung, Pansodan, Lanthit, Sar Par Chaung and Arnt Gyi and fare can be made through KPay, CB Pay and Wave Pay.

The Tint Tint Myanmar

started running the Yangon Water Bus service on 7 October 2017 from Insein to Botahtaung townships.

A total of 11 water buses carried about 100,000 passengers per month before the temporary suspension. — NN/GNLM



Vessels owned by Yangon Water Bus service are seen berthing at one Yangon port.

## Public Notice

1. The Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to effectively curb corruption.
2. The ACC used SMS on the mobile phone to ask the public who seek services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via Short Code No "1111" for feedbacks, including the Public Feedback Programme-PFP.
3. According to the PFP, the right replies of the citizens via Short Code No "1111" will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.
4. Therefore, the public should make a reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at Short Code No "1111" and such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

*Anti-Corruption Commission  
Answer "1111" to fight against corruption  
Answer "1111" to improve services  
Let's work together to eliminate corruption towards prosperity*

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## LOCAL BUSINESS

# Over 1.3 million acres of monsoon rice completed in Ayeyawady Region

AYEYAWADY Region Department of Agriculture covered 1,311,813 acres of monsoon rice in eight districts of the region as of 16 July 2022. The number of monsoon rice acres is up by 157,304 acres as against the year-ago period.

A total of 70,261 acres in Patheingyi District, 125,120 in Kyanpyaw, 219,579 in Hinthada, 232,917 in Myanaung, 101,144 in Myaungmya, 79,668 in Labutta, 227,282 in Maubin and 255,842 in Pyapon have been cultivated under rice so far in the region.

Only 1,154,509 acres of monsoon rice were cultivated in the same period last

year. Therefore, sown acreage has increased this year. Farming types are seed broadcasting, transplanting and direct seeding. The regional government is making a concerted effort to enhance the agriculture sector. They are focusing on soil testing, implementation of model farming acres, distributing pedigree and high-yielding seeds, establishing agricultural service centres to increase the interests of the farmers, shifting traditional farming methods to mechanized farming and raising awareness of growing methods among the farmers. — Maung Maung Myint (IPRD-Rtd)/GNLM



Only 1,154,509 acres were cultivated in the same period last year. Therefore, sowing acres increased this year. Farming types are seed broadcasting, transplanting and direct seeding.

## Myanmar ships over 520,000 tonnes of various pulses in Q1



Myanmar conveyed US\$830.625 million worth of over 1.09 million tonnes of various beans and pulses to foreign trade partners between 1 October 2021 and 31 March 2022 in the mini-budget period.

MYANMAR exported US\$395.7 million worth of 522,332 metric tons of various pulses over the Q1 (1 April-8 July) in the current financial year 2022-2023, according to statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

India is the main buyer of Myanmar beans, especially black beans, green grams and pigeon peas. Besides India, Myanmar's beans are purchased by Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, UAE, Malaysia, Indonesia, China (Taipei), Japan, and European countries. But, the volume of demand by those countries is small, according to the domestic bean market.

India extended relaxations of conditions regarding clearance consignment for black gram (called urad in India) and pigeon peas until 31 March 2023.

High yield in India is rolling

back the prices of black gram. The prevailing price of black gram is K1,537,000 per tonne, whereas the price peaked at K1,700,000 per tonne on 30 June. Meanwhile, pigeon pea prices increased to K1.45 million per tonne on account of strong demand.

After export earnings were set to be paid in dollars, the official exchange rate against the US dollar was set at K1,850. Meanwhile, a dollar is worth over K2,300 in an unauthorized FX market. The new policy hampered the export businesses, traders stressed.

The price of black gram hit an all-time high of K2 million per tonne on 29 September 2021 following Kyat weakening against the US dollar.

After Myanmar's export ban on oil crops reversed, the prices of peanut and sesame prices in-

flated. The local oil millers are also increasingly purchasing them, scaling the stocks down, according to the commodity depots.

Myanmar conveyed \$830.625 million worth of over 1.09 million tonnes of beans and pulses to foreign trade partners between 1 October 2021 and 31 March 2022 in the mini-budget period. The country shipped \$780.156 million worth of over one million tonnes of pulses and beans to foreign markets through the sea route, and over 61,895 tonnes valued at \$50.469 million were sent to the neighbouring countries through land borders. Myanmar's agriculture sector is the backbone of the country's economy and it contributes to over 30 per cent of Gross Domestic Product. The country primarily cultivates paddy, corn, cotton, sugarcane and pulses and beans. Its second-largest production is the pulses and beans, accounting for 33 per cent of agricultural produce and covering 20 per cent of growing acres. Among them, black beans, pigeon peas and green grams constitute 72 per cent of bean acreage. Other beans including peanut, chickpea, soybean, black-eyed beans, butter bean and rice bean are also grown in the country. — KK/GNLM

## Raw materials import by CMP businesses jumps to \$824 mln as of 8 July

IMPORTS of raw materials by CMP (cut-make-pack) businesses rocketed to US\$824.379 million between 1 April and 8 July in the current financial year 2022-2023, which reflects a sharp increase of \$456 million compared with the year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The figures rose from \$368.27 million registered during the year-ago period, the Commerce Ministry's data indicated.

Although some labour-intensive enterprises faced financial hardship amid the COVID-19 negative impacts and the political changes, the industry is now returning to normal after the COVID-19

vaccination programme for workers as per the IHS Markit's September report.

In a bid to boost factory productivity with a healthy workforce in the garment industry, Mobile Medical Check to garment workers took place in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw, supported by UNICEF Myanmar.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in garments and textiles produced on the Cutting, Making and Packaging basis, and it contributes to the country's GDP to a certain extent.

Myanmar mainly exports CMP garments to markets in Japan and Europe, along with the Republic of Korea, China, and the US. — KK/GNLM



# OPINION

## Establish forests to lessen climate change

**M**YANMAR'S forest reserve system was initiated in 1870 with the aim of successfully implementing forest management measures in an effective manner. Hence, it can be said that the establishment of forest reserves and announcements for setting the protected public forests are aimed at systematically managing the forests for long-term existence.

Forest reserves and protected public forests are set up for easing climate change, stabilize the ecosystem, increase environmental services, systematically manage mangrove forests and natural forests including tropical forests, continuously extract timber and forest products and fulfilling the needs of timber, bamboo, firewood and forest products to local people.

The forest areas are demarcated with the use of natural boundaries such as creeks, canals, mountain ranges and ravines. These natural boundaries are very distinct on the ground as well as on the maps for enabling the forestry officials to easily find the forest areas in carrying out forestry tasks and how to manage the forest reserves which should be expanded or reduced or cancelled if necessary.

The Department of Forest under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation slates to establish 50155900 acres of forest reserves and protected public forests, accounting for 30 per cent of the national lands under the Myanmar Forestry Policy (1995) and the National Forestry Sector Master Plan (2002-2002 financial year to 2030-2031 financial year).

In so doing, the government has set up 826 forest reserves on 29,693,174 acres of land and 454 protected public forests on 13,446,058 acres of land, totalling 43,139,232 acres of land, accounting for 25.80 per cent of the total land area of the nation. Moreover, efforts are being made to establish some 801,900 acres of forest areas on a yearly basis for meeting the target.

The government submitted the action plan on the implementation of mitigating climate change at a national level to the United Nations in 2021 as a duty of member states of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The action plan emphasizes the implementation of the forest sector involved in the main sectors for lessening the carbon emission.

Greening measures taken by the government for thriving the forests aim to prevent degradation of the environment and contribute to the improvement of the socio-economic life of the people through the extraction of forest products and advantages of the greening process. Hence, all the people are to join hands with the government in greening the barren hills and plains to ease climate change for the whole nation as well as the world.

# A couple who was both old friend and good friend to Myanmar: Former Japanese Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe and Madame Akie Abe

Author: Former Ambassador U Hla Myint — Translated by: TZM

**O**N the morning of 8 July 2022, I heard about the tragedy of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. He was shot by an improvised gun while he was canvassing for an LDP senate candidate in Nara city of Japan. I was deeply shocked and distressed by this news since this kind of incident was unusual in Japan, a country where gun control legislation is strictly imposed. I prayed for him to survive but my prayers were gun control answered. Mr Abe passed away that evening. If we feel a heavy heart and mourn his tragic demise, there is no word to describe the sadness of his own Japanese people. Not only him but his wife, Madame Akie Abe, was both an old friend and good friend of us, the Myanmar people.

On 12 July 2005, 17 years ago from today, I was assigned to move to Japan from Brazil. At that time, the Japanese Prime Minister was Mr Junichiro Koizumi. He had a similar hairstyle to American actor Richard Gere but a frosty face. For us who came from a country of smiles, he seemed icy.

He had a special friendship like dancing together at a party one with then US President George W. Bush. Even though Japan abstained to vote whenever there was a resolution about Myanmar at the United Nations, it stood differently during Koizumi's term. Those were the rough times in Japan-Myanmar relations and not easy for Myanmar diplomats in Japan either.

The relations between Myanmar and Japan have a long history. Based on my knowledge, the bilateral relations began with the military training of General Aung San and thirty comrades. Burma Independence Army (BIA) was established in Bangkok for the fight against British rule. Alongside Japan, BIA was able to force British troops to Imphal. Later, Japan nominally declared Myanmar independence and ruled for three years. With the appointment of Japan, Dr Ba Maw became the Premier of Myanmar.



Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint and his wife warmly welcome Japanese Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe and his wife Madame Akie Abe at Yangon International Airport.

Under Japanese rules, many youths from Myanmar were sent to receive training at the Japanese imperial military academies. As far as I know, former Commander-in-Chief (Air), Brigadier-General Thauung Dan, and former Commander of the South-East Command and Minister for the Ministry of Industry-1, Brigadier-General Tint Swe, are alumni of Japanese Imperial Military Academies. There are also many other alumni.

Even though I do not know whether and to which extent, the Japanese military tactics and training are still practised in the current Myanmar military, I am sure that combat-use food containers (Hankaw) brought by Japan are still useful. The term "Hankaw" means food container in the Japanese language and was still widely used by the time I joined the Myanmar military. Moreover, the Hankaws we used at the time were also Made-in-Japan ones imported from Daimaru, Japan. On the frontline, they were useful in many ways such as in

cooking meals, carrying water and measuring rations. Back then, we used to measure rice and cooking oil that a distance of two-thirds of a finger from the top of the Hankaw was one Pyi of rice (estimated 2,560 ml) and a distance of a finger from the top of the Hankaw was one viss of cooking oil. This was a gentleman's agreement between Company Quartermaster CQ and store men in the military.

After the two atomic bomb attacks over the Japanese cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the US (the first atomic bomb attack in the world), the Japanese forces including the ones assigned in Myanmar had to surrender. The Japanese soldiers in Myanmar were arrested as war prisoners and some absconded. The pure-hearted Myanmar people who suffered from torture under the Japanese rule gave the absconding Japanese soldiers food and all sorts of the cure while they themselves were facing a dearth. They helped to hide them despite threats to their own life. We Myan-

also be sought.

As a custom of the war-losing country, Japan has to pay war reparations to Myanmar. The Chairman of our war reparations commission showed sympathy and understanding towards the Japanese. The chairman was greatly criticized about this as Japan could give us more.

The Lawpita hydroelectricity, which was built with that war reparation money, is still in use today. Hino, Mazda and TE motorcars were able to be installed and produced in Myanmar. National rice cooker, oven-pot National Matsushita lamps, batteries, light switch production were as well. At that time, we had to use magnets.

The President of Matsushita once visited Myanmar that the national light switch in the hotel where he stayed was more than 20 years old, but it still works with a spark, so it seems to be very impressive. It's a pile of paperbacks, but it's still imported to my country, where I used to prefer their national light switch until I arrived in Japan.

Japan ended the World War but the suffering did not end for the Japanese people. During the World War, Japanese soldiers died for various reasons throughout Asia and were buried in different ways in various places. In their tradition, it is believed that only by visiting the graves of the dead once a year and praying will they reach a good common life.

Therefore, it has become the most important matter to pick up the bones of their parents, brothers, sisters, and relatives of the Japanese soldiers who are buried in various regions in Asia and bring them to Japan, bury them, and hold prayers. In coordination with the governments of the respective countries, the collection of the bones of the deceased-Japanese soldiers was led by prominent figures related to living Japanese veterans.

Mr Imaizumi (Chairman of the Imaizumi Memorial Scholarship Association), a veteran who worked as a bone picker for such

dead Japanese soldiers in Burma, recounted his experience as follows: "We had to live hesitantly in a tent near the railway station of a small town in Myanmar to pick up the bones. Soon the local people found us and recognized us as Japanese bone-picking groups. They helped our task willingly. Some food, fruits, and vegetables were even given as gifts. It made us very happy and surprised. Local people had never wanted bone-picking groups to go to other countries. Even they made aggression towards such groups. At first, we were worried that this would also happen in Myanmar. We were amazed and respected the spirit of compassionate and considerate Myanmar people who had patience, a positive attitude, and a willingness to help."

However, at this time, only a few Japanese people alive who taught us military education; helped and cared for our Myanmar citizens when they almost lost the war; who knew that we helped them by sending rice when they were in trouble after the war; who knew that war reparations were taken lightly; who knew that they had given permission to pick up the bones of Japanese soldiers who had died all over Myanmar.

This is a rough picture of the history of mutual relations between Japan and Myanmar.

When we came to Japan in 2005, we saw that there are still some big figures from the politics and business sectors who know the history between our two countries. As a diplomat, I had to do my best to improve and strengthen the relationship between the two countries with the help of people over the age of 80 who still have a special bond with Myanmar.

I was able to host Mr Shinzo Abe, the Chief Cabinet Secretary of the Cabinet of the Government, for a Luncheon at Hotel Okura in Tokyo on the afternoon of 17 May 2006. Mr Shinzo Abe will run in the LDP presidential election after the resignation of Koizumi in September. According to public polls, he was one of the top contenders.

A total of four persons, including Kishi Nobuo, the younger brother of Mr Shinzo Abe, the Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Shiozaki Yasuhisa, and House of Representatives member Nishimura Yasutoshi also attended the Luncheon and had an open discussion on the promotion of the relationship between the two countries.

Before this, we applied for a visa for his wife, Madame Akie Abe, to visit Myanmar. However, at that reception, he did not say a single word about his wife's visit to Myanmar. The Chief Cabinet Secretary is the most powerful person in the Japanese Government after the Prime Minister. He has a smiling face, full of energy, and looked very youthful. I was really delighted to be able to speak with a smiling friend.

Mr Shinzo Abe's grandfather was Nobusuki Kishi who was the Prime Minister in the pre-war era. His father is Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe. Mr Shinzo Abe said that he was accompanied as a personal officer on his father's trip to Myanmar. At that time, some of the Ministers of the Myanmar government at that time were able to read and speak the Japanese language. At the reception, Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe seemed to be very fond of the Myanmar people when they spoke Japanese words cleverly and sang Japanese songs excellently. There is no doubt that Shinzo Abe was also influenced by Myanmar's sincerity.

It is a testimony that Mr Shinzo Abe once suggested to his wife for visiting Myanmar when they thought of establishing a GMI NGO.

Madame Akie Abe's first visit to Myanmar was a personal one. Even they didn't inform the Embassy of Japan in Yangon. I had not informed the MOFA since I wanted her trip to be personal and independent. I only prayed for a smooth trip. I felt relief only after I knew about the trip told by Ko Sein Zaw Than from GMI, who accompanied her.

"She wants to go freely. If it was formal, the host country would make well-preparation in advance, so she would never know the truth. Now she goes where she wants to go, she eats where she wants to eat, and she went to see what she wanted to see. She went to the place where she wanted to stay. She is wearing jeans and walking freely like a tourist. We offer the opportunity for her to see and understand the scenery and spirit of our country deeply".

We are also the kind of people who are very prepared when they hear the news. So, it's more practical for them to give their opinions as they see fit. It is fair.

Our Myanmar's own national characteristics are friendship, benevolence, kindness, civility, openness, honesty, and patience. Madame Akie Abe seemed very impressed with his eagerness to help. Since that trip to Myanmar, Madame Akie Abe has visited Myanmar several times. Her GMI NGO has donated monastic education school buildings in Myanmar. In addition to that, I have heard that she wrote and submitted a thesis about Myanmar's monastic education system for her master's degree. Mr Shinzo Abe served as the Prime Minister of Japan first time from 26-9-2006 to 16-9-2007. Even though he retired later as the Prime Minister, he went to sit in the parliament seat and served as a politician. Along with that, Madame Akie Abe also often praised the women's events held at our Myanmar embassy, a multi-national dance exhibition organized by ALFS women's organization. In addition to this, Mr Matsui's school teacher, Mr Matsui, organized Myanmar and related festivals in Okazaki city. It is also seen that they have given love to Myanmar through the event of donating fire trucks to Myanmar. She always sat down with us and local people to eat Bento's lunchbox as she was always down-to-earth and sincere.

SEE PAGE-10



# A couple who was both old friend and good...

## FROM PAGE-9

In our country, Cyclone Nargis struck in 2008. May 2 and 3 were the worst natural disasters in history. A total of 77,738 people were killed and 55,917 were missing. 19,395 people were injured. Many countries have called for relief for various reasons, citing the relief of Cyclone Nargis. We have rescue teams from Japan and Red Cross. The Minister of Foreign Affairs assists to issue visas for the visit of the Deputy Minister to Myanmar. Meanwhile, Madame Akie Abe, who has a strong attachment to Myanmar, has said she would like to donate to the Nargis-affected areas. She is the wife of the former Prime Minister of Japan. As usual, she will go in person and will not even notify the Japa-

nese Embassy in Yangon. That's why whenever she goes to Myanmar, she goes with a low profile. When she returned, she was asked about her trip through her companions. The road to get to the area was rough because the storm was not at the time. They went there by car, by boats and by trekking adventure also. But I was very grateful for her comments: "The house I went the house in a field. In that house, the surrounding houses were damaged and suffering people were gathered. The tight tent was not enough. But they cooked rice for our group with the little rice they had, fish dishes, and vegetables from the farm. We even received dried shrimp as a gift for us. I think there is only one country in the world."

We usually meet with Madame Akie Abe at the donation ceremony of GMI NGO as well as on other occasions. Mr Shinzo Abe was acting again as Japan's longest Post-war Prime Minister from 2012 to 2020. At that time, Madame Akie Abe, the wife of the Prime Minister, came to Myanmar, and she kept a low profile as possible, except in some situations.

I never met again with Mr Shinzo Abe in Japan except for the first meeting between me and him as Chief of Cabinet on 17 May 2006. I came back to Myanmar to retire at the end of 2010.

However, I recall the memory that we met in Yangon once. He paid a friendly visit to Myanmar at the invitation of President U Thein Sein.

At that time, I was a member of the group assigned to welcome Mr Shinzo Abe at Yangon Airport.

He greeted me very pleased when he saw me. "Taishi"-is still in my mind. Taishi means Ambassador in Japan Language.

Under Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe, Japan reduced our country's debt by a billion dollars and provided development assistance and soft loans. Please forgive me that I do not have enough time to write in detail at the moment.

In particular, there are few dignitaries who have a deep understanding of our long history of friendship and relationships. It is very important that there be dignitaries who will carry the relationships between the two

countries from one generation to the next.

Among those, Mr Shinzo Abe can be said to be a legendary person. It is not wrong if he is the one who makes the connection between the friendly relationship between the two countries among the generations of his grandfather, his father, and their generation.

Therefore, we are saddened by the death of such a great person, former Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe but hopeful that the relationship he built would last for a long time.

Moreover, I wish our own national cultural characteristics, which they respect, could be preserved forever.

## CRIME NEWS

### Illegal timbers, raw jade, consumer goods, electronics, walkie talkies and accessories, motorbikes and vehicles confiscated



Seized electronics in Shan State.

SUPERVISED by the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, effective action is being taken to prevent illegal trade under the law.

Under the instructions of the Shan State Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force, a departmental combined team made unexpectedly inspections on 19 July, according to information.

Officials captured K51,182,722 worth clothes, consumer goods, electronics, walkie talkies and accessories from a stopped Dongfeng truck with Chinese licence (approximately K20 million) without officials documents at the side of No.(5) street in Swansaw Ward of Muse Township. The effective

action was prosecuted under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, a total of 1.9126 tonnes of illegal teak doors worth K1,262,316 from an Isuzu 6-wheel vehicle (approximately K30 million) were seized near West Yangon University roundabout in Hlinethaya township.

Similarly, on 20 July, a team led by Myanmar Police Force made inspections under the supervision of Sagaing Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force.

They confiscated an unregistered Lifan motorbike (approximately K350,000) in Monywa township and action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

In addition, a total of

160.0424 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K63,202,160 were captured in Htigyaing township and action was taken under the Forest Law.

Afterwards, a combined inspection team confiscated K1.4 million worth of consumer goods without official documents near 18/6 milepost of Mandaly-PyinOoLwin Road and a total of 344 kilogrammes of raw jade worth K17.2 million from two motorbikes (approximately K500,000) at 16<sup>th</sup>-mile Kyaukchaw Checkpoint. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, an unregistered vehicle (approximately K3 million) was captured in Pandaung township. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law. A total of 4.4394 tonnes of illegal teak worth K1,722,204 was confiscated in Okpo and Zigon townships. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 14 arrests estimated at K189,819,402 were made on 19 and 20 July, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

### K600 million worth of heroin seized in Hsenwi township

A total of 40.6 kilogrammes of heroin worth K600 million were seized in Hsenwi township of Shan State (North), Myanmar Police Force stated.

At 8 am on 17 July, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force examined a Crown car driven by Honglwan accompanied by Zaw Ga Rong heading from Lashio to Muse township, according to information, and captured a total of 40.6 kilogrammes of heroin worth K600 million at Yepu Permanent Checkpoint.

According to the investigation, Myanmar Police Force

arrested a trafficker Yan Kyone Pyone (aka) Aung Kyaw Moe on the bypass road in Kaungmholon Ward of Muse township at 4 pm.

According to the investigation, the suspects admitted the seized heroin to be carried from Kehsi township of Shan State (South) to Muse township of Shan State (North).

The suspects are prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, and Police are investigating to arrest the rest in connection with the case, it is learnt. —MNA

### Over 74 tonnes of illegal timbers confiscated in Nay Pyi Taw, regions/states

THE Forest Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation is implementing various ways and means including the community monitoring and reporting system (CMRS) to curb illegal timber and forest products.

According to the data gathered from the relevant

forest departments, a total of 74.9754 tonnes of illegal timbers — 27.3208 tonnes of teak, 21.0198 tonnes of hardwood and 26.6348 tonnes of others-were confiscated in regions/states and Nay Pyi Taw between 11 and 17 July. Eighteen suspects were captured along with 18 vehicles, the department stated. — MNA

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Micronesia loses Covid-free status after outbreak confirmed

THE tiny Pacific state of Micronesia has lost its status as one of the few Covid-free countries, after confirming community cases on two islands. Apart from a few isolated border cases in managed quarantine, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) had remained free of the coronavirus due to its location around 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometres) north of Papua New Guinea.

That was until two students tested positive after arriving on the island of Kosrae from Pohnpei, the Micronesian capital island, earlier this week.—AFP

### Vaccine-induced immune response to Omicron wanes substantially over time: new study

ALTHOUGH COVID-19 booster vaccinations in adults elicit high levels of neutralizing antibodies against the Omicron variant, antibody levels decrease substantially within three months, according to a new study published on Tuesday. The findings, published in Cell Reports Medicine, are from a clinical trial sponsored by the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.—Xinhua

## Bangladesh jails eight over fake Covid test reports

A Bangladesh court on Tuesday jailed eight people for 11 years each for issuing thousands of false negative coronavirus test reports, a prosecutor said.

Private medical firm JKG Healthcare collected samples and issued fake results to about 16,000 people, a court in the capital Dhaka said.

The firm's high-profile owners Ariful Haque Chowdhury and his wife Sabrina, along with six of their staff, were each jailed for 11 years for fraud and forgery, said public prosecutor Azad Rahman.

"They have betrayed the nation," he told reporters. "This is a well-deserved punishment for them."

Nearly two million people have tested positive for coronavirus in Bangladesh, where at least 29,241 have died since the virus was first detected in March 2020, according to government data. Health authorities contracted the firm to provide patients with free testing services, but allegations emerged that JKG was issuing false negative reports to patients in return for a fee.—AFP



Health workers check the body temperature of an Indian national coming from Bangladesh, following an announcement about the closure of the India-Bangladesh border as a preventive measure against the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, at Fulbari Border checkpoint, some 16 kms from Siliguri on 13 March 2020.

PHOTO: DIPTENDU DUTTA / AFP/FILE

## PM encourages Australians to wear masks amid COVID-19 surge in winter



People wearing mask walk past the Flinders Street station in Melbourne on 16 July 2021, after Australia's second largest city entered a fresh lockdown amid a resurgence in coronavirus cases. PHOTO: ASANKA BRENDON RATNAYAKE / AFP/FILE

AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister Anthony Albanese asked people to wear masks when needed amid soaring coronavirus cases.

Albanese on Wednesday said the Chief Health Officers have not recommended the return of nationwide mask mandates, with the government instead relying on people to do so

where appropriate.

"We do want to encourage that behavior," Albanese told reporters.

He said there were four things Australians could do to "make a difference" during the current spike in infections.

"Get your booster. Get access to antivirals if you're eligible. Wear a mask if it's ap-

propriate, and stay at home if you are sick," Albanese said.

Australia on Wednesday reported more than 50,000 new coronavirus cases and more than 80 deaths.

As of Tuesday, there were 5,239 cases being treated in Australian hospitals including 158 in intensive care units, with an increase of almost 2,000 hospitalized cases from 3,272 at the start of July.

Amid the surge, Albanese said more than 500,000 Australians have received their fourth vaccine dose last week.

On Wednesday, top doctors' body the Australian Medical Association (AMA) called for a return of mask mandates.

"If we are going to try and protect hospitals, which obviously we believe should be a public priority, then we are going to have to slow down the spread of the disease in the community," President Omar Khorshid told the Guardian Australia.—Xinhua

## Tokyo's daily coronavirus tally tops 20,000 for 1<sup>st</sup> time since Feb.

TOKYO confirmed 20,401 new COVID-19 cases Wednesday, topping 20,000 for the first time since early February, as the country saw a record number of infections in several prefectures spurred by the highly transmissible BA.5 Omicron subvariant.

The number for the capital was the highest since it reported 21,110 coronavirus cases on 5 February. Four deaths were also reported, the metropolitan government said.

The number of patients is rapidly increasing across the country, with Gifu, Hyogo, and Okinawa, among other prefectures, logging record highs Wednesday.

Osaka Gov. Hirofumi Yoshimura said the number of new cases in the prefecture is expected to be about 22,000, a new high. Kanagawa Prefecture, near Tokyo, also said the daily tally is going to be a record at over 10,000.



People wearing masks for protection against the coronavirus walk in Osaka on 17 July 2022. PHOTO: KYODO

Infection cases in the country had been kept relatively low until mid-June but started to shoot up recently as BA.5 rampaged through the country.

Shigeru Omi, the govern-

ment's top COVID-19 adviser, said last week that Japan has entered its seventh wave of infections but also said there is no need to impose restrictions on people's movements for now.—Kyodo

# ECONOMY WORLD

## N.Macedonia weathers bruising path to uncertain EU future



The opposition in North Macedonia has rallied thousands to fight back against any new compromises with Bulgaria and the EU. **PHOTO: AFP**

AFTER years of setbacks, let-downs, and the change of its name, North Macedonia on Tuesday opened European Union membership talks even as unrest grows at home with a nationalist movement threatening to upend the process. Over the weekend, the country's government announced it had reached a compromise with Bulgaria in a long-running dispute that had served as an effective roadblock to the onset of talks for EU membership. On Tuesday, officials

from North Macedonia take the first symbolic step in Brussels to kickstart the accession process with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announcing the launch of talks.

The 17-year journey has been bruising, sapping many in the country of any enthusiasm for joining the bloc, according to North Macedonia's President Stevo Pendarovski.

The president was among a chorus of political leaders who backed the recent French-me-

diated deal that paved the way for ending the deadlock with Bulgaria over historic grievances, which calls for constitutional changes among other measures. The agreement was the latest in a long line of bureaucratic hurdles and political compromises for North Macedonia since it became a formal candidate to join the EU in 2005.

"From the standpoint of the procedure and the way that many in Europe — especially Bulgaria in the past two years — are treating us, it's a clear humiliation," Pendarovski told AFP during a recent interview in the capital Skopje.

### 'Soft spot'

And even as Pendarovski lent his support to the agreement accepted over the weekend, he admitted that patience with the EU was wearing thin in his country and more widely in the Balkans. Protests have been growing in recent weeks in North Macedonia, with the country's opposition rallying thousands to fight back against any new compromises with Bulgaria and the EU.—AFP

## Oil dispute sharpens Baghdad-Kurd tensions amid deadlock

IRAQ'S oil wealth is rekindling tensions between federal authorities and the autonomous Kurdish region, in a row that could compromise the lifeline industry and keep investors away, analysts say.

The long-simmering dispute came to a head in February — at a time of political deadlock in Baghdad — when the federal supreme court ordered Kurdistan to hand over oil extracted from its territories to the federal authorities.

Then earlier this month, a commercial court in the Iraqi capital annulled contracts between the Kurds and foreign firms, after the oil ministry in Baghdad filed a judicial complaint.

Authorities in the Kurdistan capital Erbil have cried foul, accusing Baghdad of heaping "unjust pressure" on them and announcing their own legal action.

Iraq, the second-largest producer in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, sits on enormous oil reserves, and revenues from the sector feed 90 per cent of the federal government budget.

It exports an average of 3.3 million barrels of crude oil per day (bpd), while production in Kurdistan amounts to just over 450,000 bpd.

The February ruling stated that a 2007 law adopted by Erbil to regulate oil and gas was unconstitutional.—AFP



Baghdad has fought to regain control of output from lucrative oil fields in Kurdistan since the autonomous region began marketing oil independently more than a decade ago. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## Johannesburg transport project digs into wounds of the past



Dug out by hand and deepened with explosives, the gouge testifies to the gold rush that founded Johannesburg — and fuelled segregation and inequality. **PHOTO: AFP**

OFF Johannesburg's main highway, surrounded by skyscrapers, heavy machinery has unearthed one of the city's original wounds — a deep gash left by the 1880s gold rush. The entire city centre is built over tunnels dug by gen-

erations of miners who extracted gold from the richest deposits the world has ever discovered.

The city of around six million grew around cavernous pits and mountainous dumps, which eventually became the physical

barriers of racial segregation.

Now the rather poetic challenge of healing wounds both social and geological has fallen to property developers, who are turning this symbol of division into a bus terminal, connecting the city and the region. "This is a gateway site," said Richard Bennett, marketing director for iProp, the company tasked with rehabilitating the site.

"It will allow the South African populace in Johannesburg and surrounds to gain easy access to public or effective transport."

### Connections

In the 1880s, the mine was one of the first places where prospectors dug with pickaxes, and eventually dynamite, hauling the gold 40 metres (130 feet) back up to the ground.—AFP

## EU seeks to double gas imports from Azerbaijan within 'few years'

EUROPEAN Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Monday said the European Union is seeking to double gas imports from Azerbaijan as it seeks non-Russian suppliers after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Natural gas supplies have emerged as a weapon between Russia and Europe since Moscow's 24 February invasion of Ukraine. "The EU is turning to more reliable energy suppliers. Today I'm in Azerbaijan to sign a new agreement," von der Leyen said on Twitter. "Our goal: double the gas delivery from Azerbaijan to the EU in a few years. Azerbaijan will be a cru-

cial partner for our security of supply and on our way to climate neutrality." Ahead of the visit, the European Commission said: "Amid Russia's continued weaponization of its energy supplies, diversification of our energy imports is a priority for the EU." Last year, Azerbaijan supplied some eight billion cubic metres of natural gas to Europe through pipelines running via Georgia and Turkey.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said last week that "an important document on energy security will be signed between the European Union and Azerbaijan."—AFP

## US gasoline prices decline from historic high

US gasoline prices have fallen from historic highs earlier in the summer, a retreat highlighted by a politically beset White House as a sign of moderating inflation.

President Joe Biden, who has seen his approval rating tumble amid the worst pricing pressures in

decades, took to Twitter to point out that prices at the pump have fallen for more than a month, saving the average driver about \$25 a month.

“I know those extra dollars and cents mean something. It’s breathing room,” Biden tweeted Monday night. “And we’re

not done working to get prices even lower.”

Since hitting an all-time high of \$5.016 a gallon on 14 June, prices have fallen the last 35 days amid rising worries over economic growth and an easing in the physical crude oil market.

Gasoline prices are now at a national average of \$4.495 per gallon, down 10 percent from a month ago but up 42 per cent from the year-ago level, according to the American Automobile Association. “The price went down a little bit,” said Rigobert Fokoua, 50, an independent contractor. “I’m feeling okay because before I was putting (in) like \$80 a day, but today I can put in \$60, it’s a little bit better.”—AFP



A sign displays gas prices at a gas station in Falls Church, Virginia on 19 July 2022. PHOTO: AFP

## Airbus tails Boeing in Farnborough jet orders tussle

EUROPEAN planemaker Airbus trailed its fierce US rival Boeing in an orders battle on the second day of the Farnborough airshow on Tuesday, as southern England buckled under a record heatwave.

Airbus finally opened its orders account with a \$1.1-billion order for 12 Airbus A220-300 passenger jets from Delta Airlines.

The new jets are due for delivery from 2026, and bring its total firm A220 order to 107 of the single-aisle aircraft.

However, Boeing already had the upper hand after clinching a \$13.5-billion order for Boeing’s crisis-hit MAX from Delta on the first day of Farnborough on Monday.

The US carrier or-

dered 100 medium-haul MAX jets with an option for 30 more, and swiftly afterwards Japan’s ANA agreed to buy 20 MAX 8 jets worth \$2.4 billion. The MAX jet, which suffered two deadly crashes in 2018 and 2019, is experiencing a rush of interest at this year’s five-day Farnborough spectacle southwest of London.—AFP



The manufacturer is looking towards developing more sustainable engine technology to help cut aviation emissions. PHOTO: JUSTIN TALLIS / AFP

## Rolls-Royce champions energy transition at Farnborough

BRITISH aircraft engine maker Rolls-Royce is “championing” the energy transition and the decarbonisation of aviation, its outgoing chief executive Warren East told AFP on Tuesday at the Farnborough airshow.

This year’s Farnborough spectacle, returning from a four-year absence, is set against the backdrop of air travel’s nascent post-pandemic recovery but as economic

turmoil hampers manufacturing.

Yet the airshow’s focus is on decarbonisation and sustainability in a sector often criticized for its impact on the climate, amid Europe’s blistering heatwave with record temperatures in England

### Energy transition

“The big theme is energy transition,” East told AFP in an interview at the company’s airshow

chalet.

“This is the number one issue for the sector. We’ve been championing that for some time — and saying it’s absolutely necessary and we embrace that as an opportunity.”

East, 60, is retiring after more than seven years at the helm of the aerospace behemoth, with his tenure marked by historic corruption fines for the group, Trent engine troubles and Brexit.—AFP

## China to fine ride-hailing giant Didi more than \$1 bn: reports

CHINA is preparing to hit ride-hailing giant Didi with a fine of more than \$1 billion to wrap up a long-running probe, media reports said, boosting investor

hopes that the country’s tech crackdown is winding down. Didi, once known as China’s answer to Uber, has been one of the highest-profile targets of the

widespread clampdown on the sector, which saw years of runaway growth and supersized monopolies before regulators stepped in.—AFP

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB229R)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB229R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-7-2022 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 MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (256)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (256) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-7-2022 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY.NO. (227W/229E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TORRES STRAIT VOY.NO. (227W/229E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-7-2022 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 MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE) PTE LTD

# GLOBAL AFFAIRS

## Unification Church founder was close to Abe's grandfather: ex-chair

THE former chairman of the Unification Church said Tuesday that its founder had a close relationship with both the grandfather and the father of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, amid growing public scrutiny of the church over the murder of Abe and his assailant's grudge against the religious group.

Kwak Chung Hwan held a press conference in Seoul, following media reports on the assailant's motive that his mother's donations to the church ruined his family's finances and he believed Abe's grandfather had invited the church to Japan from

South Korea.

Responding to a question about the relationship of the religious group and Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, Kwak said, "President Sun Myung Moon (of the church) was close to former Japanese Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi," Abe's grandfather.

The former chairman and reportedly one-time No. 2 of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, widely known as the Unification Church, added that he knew Moon, the church's founder, was also close to Abe's father, former Japanese



Kwak Chung Hwan, former chairman of the Unification Church, speaks at a press conference in Seoul on 19 July 2022. PHOTO: KYODO

Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe.

Kwak said political leaders in Japan during the 1960s to 1970s were concerned about left-leaning movements in the country.

Around that time, Moon released his anti-communism theory which impressed the Japanese political leaders, the former chairman said.

"Donations from Japan contributed to Moon's activities across the world greatly," he also said. Kwak, who parted ways with the church around 2009 according to the media reports, criticized the religious group's current leadership.—Kyodo

### RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

## Putin says West must remove restrictions on Russian grain exports



Russian President Vladimir Putin crosses a field during his visit to an agriculture exhibition in Rostov-on-Don, 30 June 2007. PHOTO: VLADIMIR RODIONOV/AFP/FILE

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday said that the West must remove restrictions on exports of Russian grain.

"We will facilitate the export of Ukrainian grain, but we are proceeding from the fact that all restrictions related to air deliv-

eries for the export of Russian grain will be lifted," Putin told reporters in Tehran after talks with the presidents of Iran and Turkey.

Russia's military intervention in Ukraine has hampered shipments from one of the world's biggest exporters of wheat and other grain, sparking fears of global food shortages. "As you know, Americans have lifted -- essentially lifted -- restrictions on the supply of Russian fertilizers to the world markets," Putin said.

"If they sincerely want to improve the situation on the international food markets, I hope the same will happen with the supply of Russian grain for export."

Cereal prices in Africa, the world's poorest continent, have surged because of the slump in exports from Ukraine, sharpening the impact of conflict and climate change and sparking fears of social unrest. The United Nations has said Africa faces an "unprecedented" crisis caused by the conflict.—AFP

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

#### Russia ally Syria breaks ties with Ukraine: ministry

SYRIA announced Wednesday that it was severing ties with Ukraine in support of its close ally Russia, saying the move was a response to a similar move by Kyiv.

"The Syrian Arab Republic has decided to break diplomatic relations with Ukraine in conformity with the principle of reciprocity and in response to the decision of the Ukrainian government," a foreign ministry official, who was not identified, told the state news agency SANA.

#### US says Russia moving to annex additional Ukrainian territory

THE United States accused Russia on Tuesday of moving ahead with plans to annex additional Ukrainian territory.

"Russia is laying the groundwork to annex Ukrainian territory that it controls in direct violation of Ukraine's sovereignty," National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters. "Russia is beginning to roll out a version of what you could call an annexation playbook, very similar to the one we saw in 2014," when it invaded and eventually annexed Crimea, Kirby said.

#### Ukraine needs to win war before winter: top official

UKRAINE must win its war with Russia before winter to prevent its neighbour from bedding in long term, presidential chief of staff Andriy Yermak said Tuesday.

"It is very important for us not to enter into the winter. After winter, when the Russians will have more time to get a footing, it will certainly be more difficult. It is very important for us not to give them this possibility," Yermak told Ukrainian weekly Novoye Vremya.

SOURCE: AFP

## Putin says gas giant Gazprom to fulfil obligations 'in full'

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin Tuesday said gas giant Gazprom will fulfil all its obligations "in full" and mocked the West for relying on green energy.

Speaking in Tehran, Putin

took a jab at the West for seeking to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels and switch to green energy.

"They are great experts in the field of non-traditional rela-

tions, and in the field of energy, they have also decided to rely on non-traditional types of energy -- the sun and wind," Putin quipped.

"They themselves are shut-

ting down everything and then looking for someone to blame -- it would be funny if it were not so sad."

In May, EU leaders agreed to stop most Russian oil imports

by the end of the year, as part of unprecedented sanctions they slapped on Moscow over its intervention in Ukraine. But the bloc put off an outright ban on Russian gas.—AFP

## Ranil Wickremesinghe is Sri Lanka's new President: Parliament

ACTING President Ranil Wickremesinghe was on Wednesday elected as Sri Lanka's new President by Parliament, following a high-voltage political drama which saw his predecessor Gotabaya Rajapaksa fleeing the country and resigning after a popular uprising against his government for mismanaging the economy.

The 73-year-old six-time prime minister secured 134 votes in the 225-member House while

his nearest rival and dissident ruling party leader Dullas Alahapperuma got 82. Leftist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake secured just three votes.

The new president will have a mandate to serve out the rest of Rajapaksa's term, which ends in November 2024.

Earlier, the voting by secret ballot took place amidst tight security in the wake of the simmering tensions in the island

nation triggered by the unprecedented economic and political crisis. In the crucial election, 223 lawmakers voted while two MPs abstained. Four votes were rejected while 219 were declared valid.

This is for the first time in 44 years that Sri Lanka's Parliament will directly elect a president. Presidential elections in 1982, 1988, 1994, 1999, 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2019 had elected them by popular vote.—AFP



United National Party (UNP) party leader Ranil Wickremesinghe waves to supporters during the party's final campaign rally ahead of the upcoming parliamentary elections in Colombo on 2 August 2020. PHOTO: ISHARA S. KODIKARA / AFP/FILE

## Diverted Ryanair flight investigation concludes Belarus 'unlawful'



Chief of the Belarus Air Force Igor Golub (L), Belarusian activist Roman Protasevich (C) and Chairman of the Investigative Committee of Belarus Dmitry Gora (R) enter a press center before a briefing for journalists and diplomats in Minsk on 14 June 2021. PHOTO: STRINGER / AFP

THE United Nations agency in charge of investigating the diversion of a Ryanair flight by Belarus last year announced Tuesday it has completed its review, once again pointing the finger at the "unlawful" actions carried out by Minsk.

On 23 May 2021, a Ryanair flight from Greece to Lithuania was forced to land in Minsk, with Belarusian authorities arresting dissident journalist, Roman Protasevich, and his partner, Sofia Sapega, who were on board.

"The ICAO Council concluded

its discussions yesterday on the May 2021 incident in Belarus airspace involving Ryanair Flight FR4978, condemning the actions of the Government of Belarus in committing an act of unlawful interference," the International Civil Aviation Organization said in a statement.

The investigation was extended in early January to establish certain "missing facts" and examine new information.

The Montreal-based ICAO studied audio recordings of the Minsk air traffic controller who was monitoring the affected flight.

The agency said that the bomb threat used as excuse to divert the aircraft was "deliberately false and endangered its safety." "The threat was communicated to the flight crew upon the instructions of senior government officials of Belarus," it concluded.—AFP

## Armenia says Karabakh troops withdrawal by September

ARMENIA will withdraw all troops from the contested Nagorno-Karabakh region — over which it has fought two wars with arch-foe Azerbaijan — by September, officials said Tuesday.

Six weeks of fighting between the Caucasus neighbours in autumn 2020 claimed more than 6,500 lives and ended with a Russian-brokered ceasefire.

Under the deal, Armenia ceded swathes of territory it had controlled for decades, and Russia deployed some 2,000 peacekeepers to oversee the fragile truce.

"The units of Armenian armed forces have been returning to Armenia after the ceasefire, the process is nearing completion and will end in

September," the secretary of Armenia's security council, Armen Grigoryan, told state news agency Armenpress on Tuesday.

But local Armenian separatist forces "will remain there".

Grigoryan said Russian peacekeepers in Karabakh "guarantee" the security of the ethnic Armenian population there.—AFP



An Armenian soldier on the front line as troops fight to hold positions on 18 October 2020. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### US Senate moves to bring Finland, Sweden into NATO

THE US Senate on Tuesday took its first step towards bringing Sweden and Finland into NATO, with bipartisan support for the new alliance members following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

All 30 members of NATO must ratify the accession of the two Nordic countries, but Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan this week again threatened to freeze their bids despite his assent during a summit in late June in Madrid. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved a resolution to ratify their membership with nearly unanimous support, all but guaranteeing that the full Senate will follow suit in the coming weeks.—AFP

#### Greek population down 3.5% since 2011: study

GREECE'S resident population has dropped by 3.5 per cent since 2011 according to a census carried out by national statistical office Elstat published Tuesday.

According to data amassed over the past year the resident population was 10,432,481 — 3.5 per cent lower than the 10,815,197 recorded by the last census in 2011.

For the first time Elstat — which found that 51.4 per cent of residents are women and 48.6 per cent are men — carried out some of its research online owing to Covid-related restrictions.—AFP



## Myanmar team players selected to compete in ASEAN U-18 Women's Championship



The Myanmar U-18 women's team pose for a group photo with the team's administrators and coaches. **PHOTO: THAW GYI**

THE Myanmar team has selected the final players to compete in the 2022 ASEAN U-18 Women's Championship to be held in Indonesia.

Team Administrator Daw Myat Myat Oo, Head Coach Daw Thet Thet Win, Assistant Coaches Daw San Yu Naing, Daw Sein Si Si Hlaing, Daw Thuzar Htwe, and Goal Coach U Zaw Lin Aung will supervise the women's team.

Goal Keepers Lucier, May Oo Khin and Phye Bay, defenders Moe Pyae Pyae Maung, Kyei Sin, Nan Shwe Thin, Phyu Phyu Win, May Thet Mon Myint, Khin Htay Kyaing, Shoon Lei Khaing, Nwe Phwe, Phyu Phwe, Midfielders Hnin Pwint Aye, Wai Phue Eain, Wai Hin Phyo, Htet Htet Win, Hay Mran Soe, Khin San Lwin, Daisy Aung,

Aye Htet Htet Paing, Nann Cho Hmwe, July Htet Wai, Strikers Yin Loon Eain, Theingi Htwe, Phyar Myar Moh Moh Aye, Zin Moe Pyae, December Hnin, and Su Myat Noe will participate in the Myanmar U-18 Team for the upcoming event. The tournament will be held from 22 July to 4 August, and a total of nine teams will compete.

According to the group division, Viet Nam, Thailand, Indonesia, Cambodia, and Singapore will fall in Group A while Australia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Malaysia are placed in Group B.

According to the fixture, the Myanmar team will face the Malaysian team on 25 July, the Philippines team on 27 July, and the Australian team on 29 July as group matches. Group matches will be held from 22 to 30 July

while the semi-final matches will be held on 2 August. The third place match and the final will be held on 4 August.

The Myanmar U-18 women's team started training for this tournament in April, and as pre-tournament warm-ups, it played against the Myanmar national women's team played against Shwe Pyitha Youth Team and Myanmar senior Women's Team. The team is handled by Daw Thet Thet Win as the head coach.

Daw Thet Thet Win managed the Myanmar national women's team as the temporary head coach during the 2022 ASEAN Women's Championship held in the Philippines from 4 to 17 July and managed to beat the famous Viet Nam and win the third prize. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine 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 emphasize 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.

### 2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and 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 promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

### 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 peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.
- (c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

## Ayeyawady stops Yangon's consecutive wins in MNL Week 4

THE fourth day of the 2022 season of Myanmar National League Week 4 continued on 20 July and Ayeyawady United beat Yangon United 3-0 at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon. The Ayeyawady team, which has been showing regular performance, defeated the famous Yangon team with a hat-trick by striker Kaung Myat Thu. Team Yangon, which had won three consecutive games without conceding a goal, faced the first defeat against the Ayeyawady unexpectedly. Ayeyawady United started with good players and made some changes to the starting line-up.

The Yangon team continued to compete with key players including David Htan, Htet Phyo Wai, Zaw Win Thein and Thiha Htet Aung.

Ayeyawady launched the attack from the start of the game, and in the fourth minute, Kaung Myat Thu scored the opening goal.

After the deadlock was broken, Ayeyawady was able to control the game, and Kaung Myat Thu scored two more goals in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> minutes to complete his hat trick.

The Yangon team tried to score an equalizing goal, but their attacking style was not as effective as in the previous matches and they were unable to use the opportunities they had, so they were far away from the equalizing goal.

In the second half, the Ayeyawady team managed to maintain the winning result and stopped the attack of the Yangon team the best and won without conceding a goal.

After playing four games each, Ayeyawady and Yangon have earned nine points each with three wins and one loss. Myawady FC will play against Rakhine United today at the same venue.

— Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

## Stenson stripped of Ryder Cup captaincy as LIV rumours swirl

HENRIK Stenson was Wednesday stripped of the captaincy of the European Ryder Cup team, with the Swede understood to be on the verge of joining the Saudi-funded rebel LIV Golf series.

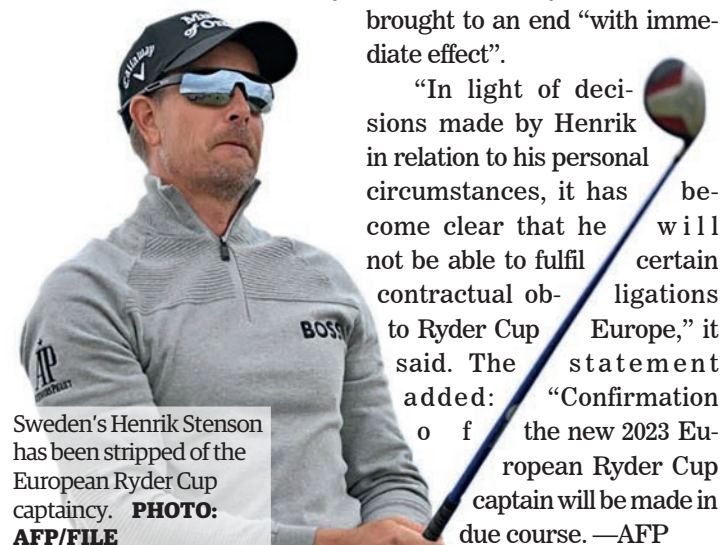
Following discussions with Ryder Cup Europe officials, the decision was made to effectively sack the 46-year-old as skipper of the team for the event in Italy

next year.

The move will deepen the rifts in a sport wracked by internal division, with a growing number of major stars defecting to the lucrative new circuit.

Ryder Cup Europe said in a statement that Stenson's tenure as skipper for the competition against the United States in Rome next year had been brought to an end "with immediate effect".

"In light of decisions made by Henrik in relation to his personal circumstances, it has become clear that he will not be able to fulfil certain contractual obligations to Ryder Cup Europe," it said. The statement added: "Confirmation of the new 2023 European Ryder Cup captain will be made in due course. —AFP



Sweden's Henrik Stenson has been stripped of the European Ryder Cup captaincy. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**