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## Full description of discussions between SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Special Envoy of United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar

**UPON the meeting between Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Ms Noeleen Heyzer, Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar, the one-sided statement of the Special Envoy created misunderstandings about Myanmar by the international community and the public and thus, the discussions of the meeting are fully described.**

1. Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, and Ms Noeleen Heyzer, Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar, met on 17 August 2022 and the Special Envoy issued an unconstructive statement regarding the meeting.
2. At the meeting, they agreed to restrain in releasing news in order to maintain further cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations.

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## 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.

## Special task forces, OSS members should strive to effectively seize illegal goods and help merchants and businesspersons correctly operate trading on the right track: Vice-Senior General



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the meeting 4/2022 of the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 August 2022.

THOSE who participate in Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force need to strive for having more seizures while eliminating illegal trade which is a primary goal, said Chairman of the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the meeting 4/2022 of the steering committee at the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Speaking at the meeting, the Vice-Senior General stressed the need to carry on good practices such as keen cooperation, good obedience and disciplinary acts which are of importance in securing success in anti-illegal trade.

Data and figures show the progress and effectiveness in combating illegal trade and the

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## Those wishing to enter the legal fold can contact respective townships' Red Cross Society, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Social Welfare Office and social welfare organizations authorized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in addition to reception centres in border areas, Tatmadaw units and police stations

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council has released the statement inviting CDM staff, students and youths, who are in border areas and ethnic armed groups, they can contact the nearest reception centres in border areas, Tatmadaw units and police stations if they want to enter the legal fold and the government will guarantee their lives following the rules and regulations.

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. Meanwhile, 3,156 education workers, who were absent from their duties, another 1,009 people, who want to withdraw the cases that were opened against them, and 231 PDF members have contacted and returned to the legal fold. Then, they were given back to their parents systematically and the numbers of people who enter the legal fold and those who wish to are rising. Therefore, the government is making efforts to accept more numbers of those people.

The government opens reception centres in bor-

der areas for those who would like to return to the legal fold. Moreover, those wishing to return home can contact respective townships' Red Cross Society, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Social Welfare Office and social welfare organizations authorized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. It is guaranteed that they will be able to lead their daily lives peacefully.

*Information Team  
State Administration Council*

## COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

DOCTORS and nurses from public hospitals, Tatmadaw medical teams, healthcare workers and volunteers are working hard to give COVID-19 vaccines in different states and regions as the vaccination programme is one of the most important activities in the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 disease.

COVID-19 vaccine is administered daily to target groups regardless of race or religion, including Buddhist monks and nuns, local people over the age of 40, students, religious leaders,

prisoners, people with disabilities, ethnic armed groups, people with chronic diseases, people in IDP camps and over 12-year-old students, respectively.

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 375 people from Tamway Township in Yangon Region, 7,442 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 2,114 people from eight townships in Rakhine

and Chin States, and 10,357 from seven districts in Mandalay Region, respectively.

Similarly on that day, healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 1,682 students from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 815 students from five townships in Rakhine and Chin States and 9,357 students from seven districts in Mandalay Region.

It is reported that officials from the respective Military Commands visited the site and coordinated the necessary work. —MNA



A student in Kyaukpyu Township, Rakhine State gets COVID-19 vaccine shot on 19 August.

### MYANMAR GAZETTE

## Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(1) Dr Kay Thi Thin	Rector Taunggyi University Higher Education Department Ministry of Education
(2) Dr Kay Thwe Hlaing	Rector Yangon University of Education Higher Education Department Ministry of Education
(3) Dr Tint Moe Thuzar	Rector Yadanabon University Higher Education Department Ministry of Education
(4) Professor Dr Myo Thet Tin	Rector University of Medicine (Mandalay) Department of Human Resources for Health Ministry of Health
(5) U Nay Win	Director-General Youth Affairs Department Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs

## 32 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 19 August, total figure rises to 614,573

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **614,573** after **32** — **13** imported and **19** local transmission — new cases were reported on 19 August 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **593,185** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,437** without more casualties.—MNA

## Committing electoral fraud and using unscrupulous ways to fix the election will tarnish the image of the State and delay the democratic process of the country

THE election is a national duty linked to the prestige of the State. Only when the election is free and fair, will multiparty democracy desired by the people flourish and only then will the nation have higher prestige in political history and among the international community. Committing electoral fraud and using unscrupulous ways to fix the election will tarnish the image of the State and delay the democratic process of the country. The voting fraud in the 2020 multiparty democracy general election tarnished the image of the State's efforts to achieve a democratic culture.

*(The excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on the Occasion of the Eighteen Month of the Assumption of State Duties by the State Administration Council on 1 August 2022.)*

## Special task forces, OSS members should strive to effectively seize illegal goods and help merchants and businesspersons correctly operate trading on the right track: Vice-Senior General

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progress of trade in official routes can be known in an indirect way. Seizures in June this year hit K3.4 billion compared with K6.1 billion in July. The seizure in Bago Region was the largest amount in July. Seizures of illegal trade volume worth K31.28 billion in 2,182 cases from January to July exceeded K25.46 billion in 930 cases in the corresponding period of last year thanks to the region and state anti-illegal trade task forces

and personnel from relevant departments. Those who participate in Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force need to strive for having more seizures while eliminating illegal trade which is a primary goal.

Special task forces, OSS members should strive to effectively seize illegal goods and help merchants and businesspersons to correct operate trading on the right track. Especially, duty-assigned staff members need to seek the narcotic drugs, arms

and ammunition, and explosives carried by vehicles without registering at the checkpoints in various ways and means. In doing so, they have to take personal security awareness.

Special task forces and relevant departments are to raise awareness of their staff to be free from corruption and bribery cases, perform surprise checks and take effective action against the staff who participated in the illegal trade process.

The Vice-Senior General urged region and state special task forces to adopt proper plans for carrying out anti-illegal trade activities as well as emphasize security measures of assigned staff as security is very important in border areas.

Secretary of the steering committee Deputy Minister U Nyunt Aung reported on accomplishments for decisions of the meeting 3/2022 of the steering committee, undertakings of the

steering committee, collection of information and seizures of illegal goods. The information letters sent to the steering committee meeting 4/2022 were submitted. Vice-chairmen and members of the committee and attendees reported on measures of anti-illegal trade.

Later, the meeting decisions were put on records, and the Vice-Senior General coordinated the reports and gave remarks. — MNA

## Chairman of Union Constitutional Tribunal attends 5<sup>th</sup> conference of AACC



The Constitutional Tribunal of the Union virtually joins the fifth AACC conference on 18 and 19 August.

CHAIRMAN U Thar Htay of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union and member U Kyaw San attended the fifth conference of the Association of Asian Constitutional Courts and Equivalent Institutions-AACC and the meeting of board member states virtually, which were held on 18 and 19 August.

The Constitutional Court of Mongolia which is currently acting as an alternate chairman of the AACC led the fifth AACC conference under the theme "Recent Development of Constitutional Justice in Asia".

The conference was attended by chief justices, presidents and judges of the Constitutional Courts/

Councils/Tribunals from 17 AACC member countries. The chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union read the paper under the title "The Constitutional Review in Challenging Times" at the conference. Legal experts from AACC member countries and international organizations discussed and exchanged their knowledge and experiences by reading papers as well.

Likewise, the meeting of board member states was continued on 19 August and attended by invited legal experts from international organizations and chief justices, presidents and judges of the Constitutional Courts/Councils/Tribunals from 20 AACC member countries. — MNA

## Arkha ethnic people hold 12<sup>th</sup> traditional collective swing festival

THE 12<sup>th</sup> Collective Arkha Swing Festival was held at the Ufudae village of Monghsat District in Shan State (East) at 9:30 am on 18 August.

Arkha People Leader U Min Nyo addressed the ceremony and Shan State Chief Minister Dr Kyaw Tun, Triangle Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Myo Min Tun, state cabinet members, the advocate-general of the state, the state government secretary and the director-general of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism opened the ceremony.

Afterwards, officials planted cherry saplings at the Basic Education Post-Primary School of Arr Sao Paw Moe to commemorate the festival and the head-

mistress received the K1,000,000 grant from the Shan State government, which was presented by Shan State Chief Minister Dr Kyaw Tun.

Then, the second part of the festival was held in the Arkha Ethnic Traditional Hall and State Chief Minister Dr Kyaw Tun gave words of thanks for the invitation to this well-attended ceremony where he could observe the beauty and customs of Arkha traditional costumes. He continued that Shan State is more peaceful than other regions and states because ethnic groups are living with unity and mutual understanding. Shan State government should give priority to regional development, he added.



The 12<sup>th</sup> traditional collective swing festival of the Arkha ethnic people in action.

After that, State Chief Minister Dr Kyaw Tun delivered a donation of K10 million for the Arkha traditional collective swing festival from the Shan State gov-

ernment. The Arkha ethnic people from the festival organization received the donation and presented a courtesy gift to the chief minister.

Then, Triangle Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Myo Min Tun and Director-General U Maung Maung Kyaw of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism presented a donation of K1 million for the festival and delivered speeches. Officials and a village head received donations and returned courtesy gifts to them.

Later, a villager of the Ufudae village explained the facts regarding the village and Arkha People Leader U Min Nyo gave a speech of thanks to him. It is learnt that the participants were presented with commemorative gifts and then ethnic young people entertained them with beautiful dance and music. — Maung Maung Than (Taunggyi)/GNLM

## Full description of discussions between SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Special Envoy of United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar

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#### 3. Introduction by Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar

I came here as an old friend of Myanmar and I will try my best to support the country. The issues related to Myanmar are multidimensional with many challenges. I would like to address those challenges based on four points. First, I would like to have continued dialogue and engagement between us. I have realized that the State Administration Council of Myanmar has been implementing the nine objectives. Second, I would like to discuss how to provide humanitarian assistance to Myanmar. I have learned the last point of the three political objectives which stated that Myanmar practices "independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy and upholds the principles of peaceful co-existence among nations. We also share the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries. As for myself, I will extend assistance to implement that policy into action. United Nations Secretary-General Mr Antonio Guterres is the guardian of the United Nations Charter. The specific provision of the Charter stated sovereignty. I've noticed that Myanmar stated itself as a sovereign country. The United Nations was established with the aim of preventing future conflicts and crises in the world. The most important are peace and security. Speaking of sovereignty, the UN always recognizes and respects the sovereignty of states.

I have noted well what you have said that to develop Myanmar's economy, it is to focus on the agriculture sector. I also welcome the point of running the economy suitable to the current situation. I personally invited an economist to come and observe the economy of Myanmar. Myanmar is a country with rich natural resources. However, those resources are still untapped. The said economist made comments that it is necessary for Myanmar to utilize the untapped resources for development. Myanmar is one of the first countries which signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I appreciate such a meritorious record in Myanmar's history. You have the power to shape the future of Myanmar and of the next generations. It can be clearly seen how and which approach Myanmar will take in implementing the nine objectives.

I would like to make some requests that would become the foundation of our future engagement. I hope my suggestions and requests will also pave the way to building an inclusive and prosperous country.

#### 4. Discussion by Prime Minister, Chairman of State Administration Council

As this is our first meeting, I have given you the floor first to deliberate your ideas in order to learn your perspectives. Currently, I am taking responsibility to lead the Myanmar Government. In this regard, we have been carrying out our duty for the betterment of Myanmar. However, my tenure as the Head of the Government is limited. The aforementioned matters that you have pointed out are to be implemented by the incoming government after the General Election. Legally speaking, the President is eligible to take two consecutive terms (ten years). The said matters are also to be implemented by the elected President during his ten-year tenure. At present, the Government is taking its responsibilities in accordance with the provision of the state of emergency. What is more important in particular is how to cooperate between us and it is more appropriate to address this issue.

The economic sector of Myanmar lacks in many ways. For instance, you have also mentioned earlier that Myanmar's abundant natural resources are lacking the required technology. Indeed, the natural resources above and underground are just the reserves of the country and I am considering how to utilize the land, soil and human resources to develop the country.

Even though it is more preferable to bring about the country's development through human resources rather than relying on the use of natural resources, there is no capacity enough to do so. It doesn't mean whether I accept or reject your views. I would like to discuss Myanmar and the United Nations. Myanmar gained her independence in 1948 and became a member of the United Nations subsequently. It will turn the 75<sup>th</sup> year of Myanmar's participation in the United Nations soon. The then Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, attended the Golden Jubilee (50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) of the establishment of the UN. Moreover, Myanmar has been complying with the UN Charter.

There were conflicts between the Eastern and Western blocs during the Cold War that occurred chaos and instability in the world. Similarly, the present era is on the blink of facing instabilities. I see it indeed imperative to avoid such circumstances. Myanmar has never violated the Charter of the United Nations until now. Likewise, the United Nations should take the approach of treating its members in accordance with the Charter. In doing so, the members would be able to entrust their faith to the United Nations. Developing countries like Myanmar are looking forward to receiving peace and tranquillity under the umbrella of the United Nations. Such privilege is indeed necessary for the member countries.

It is our understanding that the role of the United Nations is to support the areas which are facing challenges, difficulties and hardship. You have mentioned earlier the Secretary-General of the United Nations as the guardian of the UN Charter. Not only Myanmar is a member of the UN but also a Myanmar citizen, U Thant, who served as the Secretary-General of the United Nations. I met and discussed with former UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan three times. The UN Secretary-General should be the reliable person of member countries in order to make the consultation on good or bad things.

I have been serving as Commander-in-Chief of Tatmadaw since 2011 which turns 11 years. Through the experience received during these years, I regret to observe that the statements by the United Nations are one-sided. Accordingly, I am of the view that you, in your capacity as the special envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar, should overcome this issue as a priority.

The mandate of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar was created 30 years ago. To improve the relations between Myanmar and

the United Nations, we have constructively engaged with the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar. I do not have any personal feelings for you. With the aim to cooperate with the United Nations, I have agreed to meet you. Although there are many difficulties, we have facilitated your visit to Myanmar. It was stated not to interfere in the domestic affairs of the sovereign state. Myanmar exercises the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and it has clearly stated in Myanmar's Foreign Policy. Non-interference in each other's internal affairs, mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity are included in the Five Principles.

The Tatmadaw took the responsibility of the State after declaring a state of emergency in accordance with the State Constitution (2008). While Myanmar has been taking lawful measures, it is incomprehensible why the United Nations does not acknowledge it and there are many questions around. While the United Nations has been talking about non-interference, I wish to get a clarification on why the United Nations does not realize the measures we have taken. It is learned that you landed in Myanmar with the Singapore airline on 16 August 2022 as Myanmar is in stability. Otherwise, the Singapore airline will not fly to Myanmar and sixteen commercial airlines have been operating in our country. You spent three hours at the Yangon International Airport and landed at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport in the evening. You would more realize the situation on the ground if you travelled from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw by car and looked around Yangon instead of taking the flight. It is more appropriate to make comments on Myanmar only after realizing the real situation of the country.

We cannot understand that the United Nations have issued many statements, expressing their concerns about Myanmar while the situation in Myanmar has gained stability. Indeed, we have been carrying out the matters relating to the rule of law and stability in accordance with the law. The Tatmadaw has been taking responsibility based on the needs of the State and the Government has been established pursuant to the 2008 State Constitution. As we are the Government that legitimately abides by the law, all matters are to be done according to the law. This is what the United Nations should take into consideration. We also wish to highlight that there are also many discrepancies between their perception and the reality on the ground. Myanmar has been facing many difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021. The economic sector has contracted in the face of the second and third waves of COVID-19 in Myanmar. The Myanmar Government has made every endeavour to overcome these challenges and on the other hand, has been looking forward to cooperation with organizations such as the United Nations. But we have not received any assistance. The WHO itself, which has implemented the principle of the United Nations "Leaving No One Behind", has not rendered any assistance to Myanmar. This is very distressing. This is also a life-and-death matter. Even if it was a war-torn state, aid was given at the end of human suffering. In this regard, we are of the view that there is no reason not to render assistance when Myanmar is facing challenges. Fortunately, Myanmar's neighbouring and friendly countries, particularly Thailand, China and India have provided a lot of assistance to Myanmar. Such provision has helped save numerous lives in Myanmar. ASEAN, through AHA Centre, has only rendered a few assistance to Myanmar. Myanmar, in its own effort, has been making every endeavour. While Myanmar has been facing numerous difficulties, the UN side has given us under pressure. Not only the United Nations but also the ASEAN has been, in several ways, putting a lot of pressure on Myanmar. Although we were trying to elucidate, our representative was not accepted. It is necessary for the United Nations to review the decision made by the Credentials Committee regarding Myanmar's representation at the United Nations fora. This is the very first matter to be solved in the area of cooperation with the United Nations.

We wish to highlight the political situation in Myanmar. The Tatmadaw has conducted necessary measures to pave the way for multiparty democracy in Myanmar. The State Constitution was not drafted by the Tatmadaw but portrayed by over 1,000 individuals from 8 strata of citizens in the country including political experts, civil servants, farmers and workers. There are many armed groups who are taking their paths towards multiparty democracy. Nonetheless, some countries have not noticed the fact that the Tatmadaw has brought armed organizations to the table for peace and stability. The Tatmadaw is well aware of the fact that armed conflicts should be prevented while moving towards democracy. In this regard, the Tatmadaw has invited all the ethnic armed organizations to peace dialogues and held discussions for them to become legally armed organizations as part of the Tatmadaw. However, KNU, KNPP and KIA have not joined the peaceful path but kept holding arms. Up to date, there are over 20 battalions from ethnic armed organizations who are joining as part of the Tatmadaw and taking their duties. They have still existed as legitimate armed organizations, joining as part of the Tatmadaw. But this situation has never been mentioned by anyone.

There were three General Elections in Myanmar in 2010, 2015 and 2020. The 2010 General Election was organized in 325 townships out of 330, the 2015 General Election was organized in 323 townships, and the 2020 General Election was organized in 315 townships respectively. It is found that the decline of areas where the General Elections were taken place. Although the area where the General Elections were organized should be increased, the areas were decreasing due to instability, armed conflicts and threats. In a democratic system, it is vital to hold elections. Losing the right to vote is a negative sign for the democratic system. It is the duty of the government or the institution that takes the responsibility of the state to ensure everyone who has the right to vote can cast his/her vote. Therefore, it is the first priority for the country to have stability. While the country is striving for political stability, terrorist activities were taken place after the 2020 General Election without following democratic principles. Due to the terrorist attacks, the country's stability was affected. It was also affected by the issues with ethnic armed organizations and the denial to address electoral fraud. The terrorist activities and existence of

## Full description of discussions between SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Special Envoy of United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar

threats posed by the ethnic armed organizations create difficulties to convene the General Elections. With regard to the violence, we are not committing the such act but defending the terrorist attacks against the government and civil servants. Very recently, this morning (on 17 August), the terrorist abducted the passengers from the highway bus and passengers and terrorists were killed during the skirmish on the bridge in Sagaing Region located in the western part of the Mandalay Region.

The so-called PDFs have killed the educational staff, medical staff and monks. Those terrorist acts resulted from the General Election. However, the International Community never mentions the violence and cites that the State and Administration Council have not been carrying it out in a democratic way. Myanmar wishes the United Nations review to the real situation in Myanmar.

### 5. Discussion on the proposal of the ASEAN's Special Envoy on Myanmar and ASEAN's Five-Point consensus

It is necessary to build mutual respect and understanding to maintain the situation properly. I also accept the fact that the reporting should be made based on the situation on the ground. Firstly, I would like to propose that there should be consistent meetings between us and make progress. The second point is the legitimacy of the Myanmar Government and the representation of Myanmar at the United Nations. The Secretary General of the United Nations does not have the mandate to decide the representation and the recognition of Myanmar at the United Nations. Only the member states of the United Nations can recognize Myanmar's representation. Accordingly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations has been seeking all possible means to assist Myanmar. One of the five-point consensus of ASEAN is the immediate cessation of violence in Myanmar which is an important point in finding solutions in Myanmar. I am the one who mentions that the violence is made by both sides as well as the one who firstly acknowledges the usage of "Myanmar Led, Myanmar Way".

### 6. Positive responses of the Chair of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

You have stated that you will be engaging with other stakeholders in your future visits to Myanmar depending on the observation of the situation. You have to report to the officials concerned. Their responses and remarks highly depend on your reports. We will also observe what you report and how you report the outcomes of the visit. It is important to have a mutual understanding between us.

We have been responding to the terrorist activities by exercising maximum restraint but we will have to counter-attack if they attack us and innocent people. With regard to the ASEAN Five-Point Consensus, I have yet touched on this issue until now. I just referred to the five principles of peaceful coexistence which our country is adhering to such as mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence. We are dealing with the international community in accordance with the five principles of peaceful coexistence. Your visit to Myanmar is the official visit and we have received you at the President's Office. Your visit is a visit to a country possessing sovereignty and territorial integrity. If you don't accept the proposal of Myanmar, a member of the UN, you (UN) should not accept the proposal made by opposition groups.

### 7. Discussion of the UN Special Envoy on the development of Myanmar

I have no mandate to make any decisions but to point out and discuss the development of Myanmar. The purpose of calling on you in Myanmar is to convey the message of the Secretary-General. I would like to make two specific requests to you which are to halt the aerial bombing and to stop burning the villages and houses of the people.

### 8. Response of the Prime Minister and Chairman of the State Administration Council

I would like to discuss the two requests you made. We are just targeting the location of the insurgents who attack security forces and counter them. We will never initiate the attack if there is no attack on us. And there is no government and country in the world that accepts armed attacks. I categorically reject the allegation of burning the villages and houses of the people. The Tatmadaw always protects the people of Myanmar. Tatmadaw has been providing relief services to people whenever they are hit by natural disasters.

For example, with the permission of the Government, the Nippon Foundation has provided assistance to refugees in Myanmar. There are also other organizations which have provided assistance to them. It is common sense that we would never burn and destroy the houses of people for whom we are responsible to protect. Therefore, I totally deny the alleged burning of villages.

### 9. The proposal of the UN special envoy on the cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations

Since Myanmar is a member of the United Nations with a good legacy, Mr Antonio Guterres, the UN Secretary-General, wishes Myanmar to re-engage with the UN. We value and respect Myanmar. Secondly, I would like to discuss the execution of the death penalty on prisoners. Regardless of past executions, I hope that leniency and humanitarianism will be taken into consideration for flexibility on further execution.

As you are a kind-hearted person, I do believe that leniency will be taken into consideration for execution in the future. Thirdly, I would like to discuss how the provision of humanitarian assistance will proceed. I would like to encourage you to provide humanitarian assistance by using different channels. I also had a meeting with Mr Prak Sokhonn, Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair, right before my visit to Myanmar. Mr Prak Sokhonn said he had a meeting with Lieutenant General Yar Pyae, Union Minister at the Ministry of Union Government's Office and the Chair of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee and discussed the possible ways for the inclusion of all Ethnic Armed Organizations in the peace process. I would like to have a meeting with Lieutenant General Yar Pyae during

my visit if the schedule permits. I took note that during the visit of Mr Wang Yi, Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, it was stated that Myanmar would carry out constructive and all-inclusive consultations.

### 10. Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister apprising on matters related to works implemented by the State Administration Council -

We are working on holding inclusive dialogues. We are meeting with the Ethnic Armed Organization (EAOs) and the Union Election Commission (UEC) is also meeting with political parties. Lt-Gen Yar Pyae is also holding meetings with both political parties and the EAOs. If you wish to meet with Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, we can arrange a meeting for you to discuss with him on 18 August 2022. We wish to meet with all stakeholders. However, for us to meet with them, those groups opposing the State first need to cease all their activities. Otherwise, we cannot have dialogue like having a casual talk on the sidewalks. We also need a gentlemen's agreement. On 22 April 2022, I invited the EAOs for dialogue. So far, I have met with ten EAOs and in the coming week, we will be having a second round of dialogues with them. And, we will be meeting again in September for the third round of meetings. We are also meeting with political parties. Even though we can arrange meetings with legally existing political parties at any time, it is absolutely impossible to discuss with the terrorist groups which are opposing the Government. They, first, need to assure us that they will not commit terrorist attacks and if they comply, then, we will find ways to start the dialogue with them. Regarding the death sentences, even though we have legislative, executive and judicial powers, we have never exercised beyond the laws. They were given sentences that they deserved, as they were found to have committed inhumane brutal crimes. Some of them have murdered 4, 5 or 6 persons. We would like to ask how you would feel if your relatives were killed. We have to take necessary legal actions with a view to the prevalence of the rule of law in the country.

### 11. In Response to the issues raised by the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar with regard to legal actions against children

Mr Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations is exploring ways to bring Myanmar back to the international community. If Myanmar releases political prisoners, it will build more trust for Myanmar in the international fora. I know that it will be difficult for Myanmar. Moreover, if Myanmar could release Mr Sean Turnell, an Australian Economist, it will demonstrate friendly relations between Myanmar and Australia. I know that you accord priority to children's education. So, if the children are detained in prisons, I would like to request you to release them.

### 12. Chairman of State Administration Council and Prime Minister's Response relate to actions in line with existing laws

Regarding the issue of children, we have a few numbers of detainees who are 16 and 17 years old. We have leniently sentenced them. With regard to the case of Mr Sean Turnell, should the Australian Government takes positive steps, we will not need to take stern actions. In the Mr Sean Turnell's case, the evidence shows that severe penalties could be imposed. The terrorist attacks in Myanmar claimed over 3,500 innocent civilians including 48 teachers, 12 healthcare staff, 53 monks, 1 nun and including 82 children. These innocent civilians were murdered without committing any crime. We would like to know how to find solace for the members of the bereaved families and relatives. As Mr Antonio Guterres represents the whole world, I represent Myanmar. Therefore, I am responsible to ensure public security, and the rule of law and restoring democracy in Myanmar.

### 13. Discussions pertaining to Bengali Issues by Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar

As the fifth point, I would like to discuss the ongoing issue between Myanmar and Bangladesh. Since I plan to visit Bangladesh after Myanmar, I would like to discuss over 1.2 million refugees who are sheltering in Bangladesh. Currently, I have already learnt that the two Governments have reached agreements on the return of the displaced persons, and over 1,000 displaced persons were repatriated under the pilot project. I would also like to discuss the arrangements for the safe return of refugees to the Rakhine State and their sustainable development. (Notes: During the discussion, the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar did not use the word "Rohingya".)

### 14. Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister's response on matters pertaining to solving the Bengali issue in accord with the bilateral agreements and existing laws -

We have reached an agreement with Bangladesh to repatriate the Bengali who fled to Bangladesh. In 1992, there were four agreed points between Myanmar and Bangladesh regarding the matter. The first point is repatriation must be on a voluntary basis while other points include that they need to prove that they were born or have resided in the country. In 2017, in addition to those agreed four points, we agreed to add one additional point. That is, those newly born need to have an affidavit from the Courts. We have agreed to receive them back. However, they have not returned to Myanmar. While we have requested the lists of refugees from the Bangladeshi side, they failed to provide the verification forms agreed by both sides. Therefore, we have difficulties in proceeding with verification. Among the 55 million population in Myanmar, five per cent profess Islam. There have not been any major issues in Myanmar with the people who practise Islam. You can discuss the matter when you visit Bangladesh and we are also ready to discuss the matter anytime. Although we have invited several times, they have been giving excuses which resulted in no progress on the matter. The major issue here is we cannot accept the term "Rohingya" which they themselves have claimed that they are not Bangladeshi but of Bengali race. We will accept the refugees in Bangladesh only after a thorough verification process in accord with our existing law but not

SEE PAGE-6

## Full description of discussions between SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Special Envoy of United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar

### FROM PAGE-5

through international demands. We are not saying that we will not take back the Bengalis. We will accept if they can prove that they have resided in the country. We have also requested our neighbours China and India regarding this matter.

Myanmar has good relations with four neighbouring countries out of five, except Bangladesh. Myanmar does not have the right to choose which country should be a neighbouring country. Nevertheless, Myanmar will maintain positive relations with Bangladesh.

### 15. Discussion on former State Counsellor by the UN Special Envoy on Myanmar

The last fact I would like to discuss is the return of former State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to her home before she was convicted. I wish to request to have a meeting with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. I regard her as a person, who can negotiate with those who have different perspectives on Myanmar's current developments.

### 16. Discussion on legal actions taken on former State Counsellor by Prime Minister and Chairman of the State Administration Council

In 1960, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi went abroad with her mother, without returning to her home country until 1988. She returned to Myanmar due to the health condition of her mother. When she returned, she was involved in political matters in Myanmar. I have met Daw Aung San Suu Kyi several times and the last time in January 2021. I requested Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to address the election fraud in accordance with laws. Although we requested several times, she even carried out further illegal activities without addressing the issue of electoral fraud. Therefore, legal actions were taken against her. If Daw Aung San Suu Kyi had addressed the electoral fraud lawfully, the current situation wouldn't have happened. There are many reasons behind not being able to solve the problems lawfully. Therefore, we will have to take lawful actions against her. Depending on the circumstances after the completion of the judiciary process, we will consider how to proceed. Although we can take more serious action against her, we are lenient on her. However, if we have to compare priorities between democracy and anti-democracy, we will prioritize democracy and we will carry out the appropriate action that we should

do. Regarding the prosecution, as an example, Mr Najib Razak, the former Prime Minister of Malaysia was also convicted in court. A similar legal punishment was inflicted upon Ms Park Geun-hye, the former President of the Republic of Korea (ROK). As all of them are politicians, they have the obligation to understand the law and abide by the law. Due to this obligation, they have the responsibility to solve the problems by legal means. Similarly, in the case of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the State Administration Council (SAC) has taken legal actions in accordance with the law. At the present time, it is too early to say how it would proceed. Besides, we have given special privilege to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi by letting her stay in a home-like arrangement. I am also interested in the Charter of the United Nations that you showed me and I also have one. However, the UN Charter should not be only on paper but to follow in practice.

### 17. Exclusive Explanation

It is observed that the statement issued by the Special Envoy on 17 August 2022 does not follow the code of conduct which requires the UN personnel to fairly incorporate the responses given by the government in their public statements. The statement could mislead the international community and create misunderstanding among the public.

The Press Statement of the Special Envoy was based on the misinformation provided by the illegal and terrorist organizations in the country and abroad without reflecting the comprehensive explanation of Myanmar's side with facts, evidence and the actual incidents that had happened in reality. The discussion of the two sides is released because of the one-sided press statement made by the Special Envoy without reflecting the comprehensive explanation of the Myanmar side. Such a statement can cause obstacles to the constructive discussions/ dialogue between the two sides.

*Information Team  
State Administration Council*

## Illegal timbers, consumer goods, foodstuffs, materials, motorbike parts and vehicles confiscated

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

An on-duty team under the instructions of the Yangon Region Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force conducted inspections.

Officials nabbed K4,050,000 worth of consumer goods and industrial materials without declaration in the Import Declaration (ID) at the container terminal of the Myanmar International Port (Thilawa) on 16 August and K710,400 worth of 480 pairs of sport shoes that were different from the Import Declaration (ID) at the container terminal of the Myanmar Industrial Port on 17 August. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, a combined on-duty team under the supervision of the Mandalay Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force carried out patrol inspections at the 16<sup>th</sup>-Mile Kyaukchaw Checkpoint on 18 August.

They confiscated K2,028,800 worth of consumer



Confiscated consumer goods in Mandalay Region.

goods and foodstuffs with custom duty at the 18/6 Milepost on the Mandalay-PyinOoLwin Road and K27,887,600 worth of motorbike parts, foodstuffs, baby accessories and cosmetics without official documents from a Mitsubishi Canter (approximately K13 million) heading from Taunggyi to Mandalay at the 360/5 Milepost near the Myitnge Bridge. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.



Seized items at Myanmar Industrial Port.

On 19 August, a combined patrol on-duty team at the Yepu Permanent Checkpoint seized 40 bags of black powder that were suspiciously lead powder worth K18 million that were stacked without an owner near the 197<sup>th</sup> Milepost in Sanloun village and the action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Afterwards, K2.8 million worth of toilet accessories that were not mentioned in the Import Declaration (ID) from a vehicle heading from Myawady to Yangon were confiscated at Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Combined Checkpoint under the Kayin State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force and the action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, a total of 3.5336 tonnes of illegal ironwood worth K1,766,800 were impounded in the Yoma protected public forest in Yedashe township of Toungoo district.

Therefore, 11 arrests (approximately K70,243,600) were made on four consecutive days from 16 to 19 August, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

# LOCAL BUSINESS

## Yangon market sees trading flat of high-grade Pawsan rice

PRICES of high-grade Pawsan rice varieties were volatile in the Yangon market and the prices remain unchanged on the high side at the present time, said a rice trader told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

Pawsan rice from the Shwebo area peaked at K90,000 per bag in the Yangon market this month, while it was priced at K85,000 per bag in the Shwebo market. There are many Shwebo Pawsan varieties in the markets. The retail price of Shwebo Pawsan is K3,600-3,700 per pyi, while Pawsan rice varieties from delta regions ranged around K7,000 per bag.

Pawsan rice prices stood at K72,000 per bag of rice from the Myaungmya area and K70,000 per bag of rice from the Pyapon area in the retail market. The rice warehouse offers them at K65,000 and K63,000 per bag re-



A variety of rice is pictured being displayed at a rice shop.

spectively.

Yangonites have purchased Pawsan rice at a high price. Therefore, the demand is likely to decline in the coming days. Three Pawsan rice varieties can be purchased at fairer prices at the Wadan Warehouse Centre

starting from 3 August under the scheme of the non-governmental rice association. Sales volume is limited to one bag per household.

The prices of other Pawsan rice varieties have risen along with the hike in the price of

Shwebo Pawsan. Normally, the price of Shwebo Pawsan rice is K5,000 higher than the other two varieties' rates. This year, when new Pawsan rice was flowing into the market in January, all the Pawsan rice varieties were sold at approximately K43,000

per bag in January. This is a rare case in the seven years, said a rice warehouse owner from Bay-intnaung Commodity Market.

Newly harvested monsoon rice of low-grade will enter the market. Moreover, new Pawsan rice will be harvested in November as well. The main supplier – the delta region (nine townships) – has not experienced any flood cases. Additionally, those Pawsan rice varieties are resilient to floods for many days.

Pawsan rice prices rely on Yangon market conditions. About 300,000 bags of Shwebo Pawsan rice were supplied to the Wadan market per month, the commodity depot's trade data indicated.

Supply exceeds demand in the Yangon market so there is a lesser possibility for the prices to continue to rise, said a rice trader. — TWA/GNLM

### State-owned real estate to bid for sales

THE Privatization Commission notified that a total of 27 State-owned land, buildings and apartments will be put up for auction through an open tender system.

The property is located in Bago (four lots), Mandalay (six lots), Yangon (five lots), Shan State (11 lots) and Ayeyawady Region (one lot).

The proposals for each Lot number must be submitted separately. PO Cheque (Payment Order Cheque) must be forwarded with a tender proposal.

Tender forms will be sold between 19 August and 2 September 2022 at the Privatization Commission of Project Monitoring and Progress Reporting Department in Nay Pyi Taw (Office No. 32), Nay Pyi Taw. The tenders must be submitted by 8 September.

Those interested buyers can observe the State-owned real estate starting from this notification. They must also attach the commitment letter stating that they have observed the building, apartment and lots of land in the proposal. For further details, they can contact the commission through the contact numbers 067-406339 and 067-406133 or study them on the official website www.mopf.gov.mm, the commission stated. — NN/GNLM

## Black gram price drops by K60,000 per tonne, pigeon peas price remains downward trend

THE prices of black gram rose on 18 August 2022, whereas the pigeon peas price continued a downward spiral, according to statistics released by the Yangon Commodity Exchange.

Transactions of pulses were not seen in the market yesterday. The prices stood at K1,829,200 per tonne of black gram (Fair Average Quality/RC), K2,129,200 per tonne of black gram (Special Quality/RC) and K1,900,000 per tonne of pigeon peas (red gram/RC). The black gram prices increased again while the pigeon peas prices continued to decline.

On 17 August, the prices of black gram and pigeon peas fell in the Yangon market. The price of black gram was down by K60,000 per tonne and the pigeon pea price showed a decrease of K30,000 per tonne, a trader Ko Thet told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

On 16 August, the prices were recorded as K1,853,200 per tonne of black gram (FAQ/RC), K2,165,200 per tonne of black gram (SQ/RC) and K1,970,000 per tonne of pigeon peas (red gram/RC). On 17

August, black gram prices were estimated at K1,786,000 per tonne for FAQ/RC, and K2,086,000 per tonne for SQ/RC, whereas the pigeon pea was priced at K1,940,000 per tonne respectively, as per the daily trade data released by the commodity depot.

The statement revealed that about 25 containers (600 tonnes) of black gram and five containers (120 tonnes) of pigeon peas were traded on 17 August, when the price slipped.

The main buyer of Myanmar beans India experienced a 4.6 per cent of acreage drop in the monsoon black gram season and a two per cent drop in pigeon peas acre compared to the corresponding period last year. Pigeon pea price jumped from 97 to 115 Indian rupee, citing the news of India's pulses market.

A drop in pulses acreage, low inventory and low yield amid floods drove the prices up to 15 per cent over one month, according to that statement.

The pigeon peas are worth 115,000 Indian rupees per tonne in India. It is valued

at about K3 million per tonne when it is calculated with the local currency. The price rise in the Indian market might prompt traders to buy Myanmar's black gram and pigeon peas. As a result of this, hundred tonnes of pulses were traded when the price slightly declined in the Yangon market, a trader Ko San shared his opinion with the GNLM.

The prices of black gram and pigeon peas came close to K2 million per tonne. After the

monsoon rice is harvested, the prices of crops such as summer paddy, black gram and chilli pepper increased this month compared to the rates recorded in the previous years to be grown under a mixed cropping system. Nonetheless, whatever crops we choose, there is a strong possibility to earn a high profit, the GNLM quoted U Phay Gyi, a grower from Phonesoegy village, Kyaunggon Township as saying. — TWA/GNLM



The photo shows a lush green field of black grams.

# OPINION

# ARTICLE

## Efficiently, honestly consume electricity for all

EVERY country hungers for electricity to be used in the production of industries as well as electrifying the people for the improvement of living standards. Currently, not only developed countries but least developed nations are generating electricity through various ways and means.

Electricity is generated from nuclear energy, solar energy, hydropower, wind energy, coal-fired and fossil fuel. Renewable energy is the cheapest for generating electricity and it can ease environmental degradation. Hence, most countries are emphasizing the ways of generating electricity through renewable energy.

Generating electricity in Myanmar cannot meet the local demand till today. As utmost efforts are being made to increase the industrial sector, it much consumes electricity generated from the power plants. Hence, the government shares the supply of electricity for public consumption and industrial use in a proportionate ratio. That is why the country's demand always exceeds the generating capacity of electricity till today.

At present, infrastructures are being upgraded for meeting the electricity demand of industries as much as possible. Only when the people and industries use sufficient electricity will the State economy improve much. That is why electricity consumers and producers need to join hands in implementing more projects so as to electrify the whole nation within a few years.

the relevant ministry is implementing more and more hydropower projects across the nation in order to meet the growing demand for electricity on a yearly basis.

In addition, efforts are being made to generate electricity through various sources including wind power. In doing so, an emphasis is being placed on stabilizing the electricity system and implementing the installation of 500 kV power cable projects and construction of sub-power station projects which can manage the full capacity of electricity for distribution.

At present, infrastructures are being upgraded for meeting the electricity demand of industries as much as possible. Only when the people and industries use sufficient electricity will the State economy improve much. That is why electricity consumers and producers need to join hands in implementing more projects so as to electrify the whole nation within a few years.

The sector of generating electricity will go on to the goal. The people and industries need to efficiently consume electricity without waste. All need to be honest in consuming the electricity without stealing the billing amounts not to pay deserved charges for consumption. Only when all are honest in efficiently using electricity will the whole nation develop soon.

Now at 82 I am fully due or may be overdue to die at any next second or I may live for years to come. Frankly speaking, I am neither too willing nor too unwilling to live very long beyond 82 years. Luck alone would determine when I die. Why? Despite having cheated death about 9,10 months ago, now I am far from very healthy on the one hand and daily bodily requirements such as sound sleep, clear-headedness (no dizziness) etc. ... are not that easy to be fulfilled when one is too old on the other. A good dutiful looking after by a willing career is also indispensable for me. Even though I am lucky enough to lead the life of a middle-class individual in Myanmar my capacity for enjoying life is much reduced by my old age. There had been times when I preferred death

To be able to solve such a problem, the relevant ministry is striving for implementing on-going power projects such as hydropower and solar power projects while arranging to purchase electricity abroad through cross-border cables.

At present, power stations and sub-power stations are being built as well as national grids are being installed so as to supply electricity to the public and industries for enjoying stable electricity for safe household consumption and industrial production. Moreover,

# How to die to avoid Hell?

By Win Myint Han,  
First National Insurance

WHAT I really want to write is – how to die in order to avoid not only hell but also rebirth as an animal, a ငြိတ္တာ or in အသူရကာယ် which 2 Pali words I cannot translate into English?

Now at 82 I am fully due or may be overdue to die at any next second or I may live for years to come. Frankly speaking, I am neither too willing nor too unwilling to live very long beyond 82 years. Luck alone would determine when I die. Why? Despite having cheated death about 9,10 months ago, now I am far from very healthy on the one hand and daily bodily requirements such as sound sleep, clear-headedness (no dizziness) etc. ... are not that easy to be fulfilled when one is too old on the other. A good dutiful looking after by a willing career is also indispensable for me. Even though I am lucky enough to lead the life of a middle-class individual in Myanmar my capacity for enjoying life is much reduced by my old age. There had been times when I preferred death

to live longer, especially while suffering chest pain. I might have taken my own life had a handgun been within my reach at those times even though a suicide amounts to a homicide according to Buddhism.

As a man nearing death, I naturally consider life after death. What would I become once I breathe my last? Since I belonged to a pure Myanmar Buddhist family whose leader my father seemed very pious as he was in the habit of doing obeisance to a Buddha statue for a long time and in a loud voice daily. As I grew up within such a religious environment of Buddhists, I was instilled with a belief while still a boy that one would go to hell when one dies, if one did evils before one's death and vice-versa. My belief that good meritorious deeds done by one in one's life would surely propel one to reach nice pleasant realms such as the abode of celestials (နတ်), super celestials (ဗြဟ္မာ) or human beings on one's death does not change up to date. Accordingly, I tried

to do good such as donations, Sabbath-keeping etc. while simultaneously trying to refrain from committing evils. But I found myself nearly impossible to meditate in spite of my efforts to do so. I am sure of not becoming enlightened in the coming three, four existences. My mind flitted away while attempting to concentrate on the tip of my nose to notice the exit and entry of my breath, as directed by my instructors. The late Nann Kyu Kyu, a seer who had correctly predicted my results of appearing for both R.A and A.C.I.I examinations bluntly told me, "You would never make it" when consulting her about my meditation attempt.

Up to the age of 50 years or more, I failed to consider the importance of death scenes notwithstanding many stories thereof, having been heard, still clinging to the belief that one's net balance of either good or evil after they cancel out each other

would determine one's next life. But through the help of one of my friends I got a cassette tape which was not sold and listened to a sermon preached by a young monk called Myasein-yaung Sayadaw. He inter alia explained how important it is to concentrate one's mind on the 3 Gems of the Lord Buddha, His teaching and Sangha (clergy) just before or at the moment one passes away, as one's next birth is mostly determined thereby.

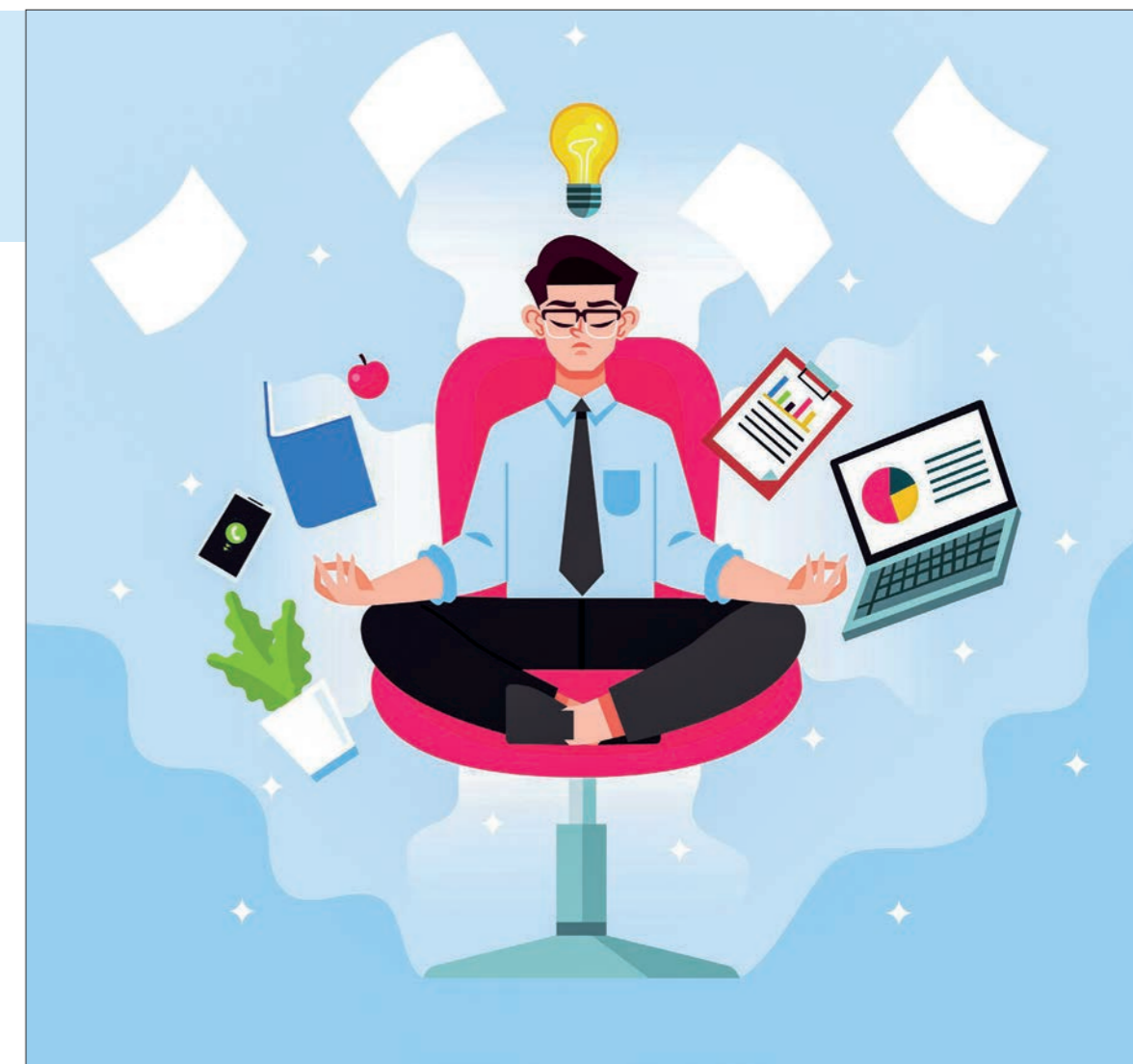
There were stories emphasizing how a quick concentration on the 3 Gems just before death upended one's next existence from hell to heaven.

Mahtakontali of Thawuththi (မုတ္တကုန္တလိ သာဝတ္ထိ) was on the verge of death and certain of getting to hell, as he did no good and only evils. Wishing to save him, the Lord Buddha appeared before his house and radiated His assorted rays. On seeing them, Mahtakontali made obeisance to the Buddha even while lying flat.

He died thereafter and was born in Tawataintha (တာဝတိံသာ).

The story of a monk during the lifetime of the Lord Buddha most vividly highlights the extraordinary importance of the mental feeling of a person just before or at the time of death. Ashin Taktsa (အရှင်တိဿ) was lauded by many as being fully or completely observant of all the rules imposed by the Lord Buddha to be obeyed by monks (ဝိနည်းထိုသည့်။). Naturally and accordingly, he was expected to reach either the highest plane of existence of super celestials or at least that of celestials, as his credit of good deeds was enormous. But in sharp contrast to the universal expectations, he became a bug in the robe donated by his niece. Why? Because in spite of having become an almost flawless monk before his death, his mind dwelt on the robe at the very moment he breathed his last, because he liked the robe extremely.

Now I am observing Five Precepts daily and intend to do so till my death. But to enable



Merit-making is important to Buddhist practice: merit brings good and agreeable results, determines the quality of the next life and contributes to a person's growth towards enlightenment. ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF FREEPIK

my mind to concentrate on the Three Gems or acts of merit at the very moment or just before I die can be a problem irrespective of many, many good deeds

I had carried out in my life because it is too difficult for me to fix or set my mind on something. But I believe that my net balance of a very, very large quantity of

good done would surely facilitate my mind to become controllable then.

## WHO urges caution after dog catches monkeypox

THE World Health Organization called Wednesday for people infected with monkeypox to avoid exposing animals to the virus following a first reported case of human-to-dog transmission.

A first case of human-to-dog transmission of monkeypox – between two men and their Italian greyhound living together in Paris – was reported last week in the medical journal The Lancet.

"This is the first case reported of human-to-animal transmission... and we believe it is the first instance of a canine being infected," Rosamund Lewis, the WHO's technical lead for monkeypox, told reporters.

Experts had been aware of the theoretical risk that such a jump could happen, she said, adding that public health agencies

had already been advising those suffering from the disease to "isolate from their pets".

She also said "waste management is critical" to lowering the risk of contaminating rodents and other animals outside the household.

### Species barrier

When viruses jump the species barrier it often sparks concern that they could mutate dangerously.

Lewis stressed that so far there were no reports that was happening with monkeypox.

But she acknowledged that "as soon as the virus moves into a different setting in a different population, there is obviously a possibility that it will develop differently and mutate differently".

The main concern revolves

around animals outside of the household.

"The more dangerous situation... is where a virus can move

into a small mammal population with high density of animals,"



The interface between humans, animals and the environment we share can be a source of diseases impacting public health. PHOTO: FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY/AFP/FILE

WHO emergencies director Michael Ryan told reporters.

"It is through the process of one animal infecting the next and the next and the next that you see rapid evolution of the virus."

He stressed though that there was little cause for concern around household pets.

"I don't expect the virus to evolve any more quickly in one single dog than in one single human," he said, adding that while "we need to remain vigilant... pets are not a risk."

Monkeypox was originally identified in monkeys kept for research in Denmark in 1958, though it is found most frequently in rodents. The disease was first discovered in humans in 1970, with the spread since then mainly limited to certain West and Central African countries.

But in May, cases of the disease, which causes fever, muscular aches and large boil-like skin lesions, began spreading rapidly around the world, mainly among men who have sex with men.

Worldwide, more than 35,000 cases have been confirmed since the start of the year in 92 countries, and 12 people have died, according to the WHO, which has designated the outbreak a global health emergency.

### 'Not a silver bullet'

With global case numbers jumping by 20 per cent in the past week alone, the UN health agency is urging all countries to do more to rein in the spread, including ensuring at-risk populations have access to services and information about the dangers and how to protect themselves. There is also

a vaccine, originally developed for smallpox, but it is in short supply.

Lewis also stressed that there was still little data on the effectiveness of the vaccine in protecting against monkeypox in the current outbreak.

While no randomised control trials had been conducted yet, she said there were reports of breakthrough cases following vaccination, indicating "the vaccine is not 100 per cent".

Pointing to limited studies in the 1980s suggesting that the smallpox vaccines used at the time might offer 85-per-cent protection against monkeypox, she said the breakthrough cases were "not really a surprise".

"But it reminds us that the vaccine is not a silver bullet," she said.

SOURCE: AFP



# Coordination meeting on implementation of facts discussed at 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of Myanmar-Bangladesh JWG on repatriation of displaced persons, further work plans held



MoBA Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung chairs the coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE Ministry of Border Affairs organized a coordination meeting on the implementation of facts discussed at the fifth meeting of the Myanmar-Bangladesh Joint Working Group (JWG) on the repatriation of displaced persons and further work plans yesterday.

First, Rakhine State Stability, Peace and Development Work Coordination Committee Chairman Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung said the meeting was held to discuss the outcomes of the fifth meeting of the Myanmar-Bangladesh Joint Working Group (JWG) on the repatriation of displaced persons in de-

tail. It also informed the working committee regarding the excerpts from the fifth JWG meeting and preparations. He also called on attendees to focus on the completion, challenges and the needs to be provided. He underlined the need to facilitate the repatriation processes including the Pilot Project and timely completion of work procedures.

Then, vice-chairs (1) and (2) of the committee coordinated the discussion and the secretaries of work committees and the Rakhine State Security and Border Affairs Minister reported on the matters of relevant sectors. — MNA

## Public Notification

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

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

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

*Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee*

## Public Notification

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

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

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

*Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee*

## Condition of Depression over the North Bay of Bengal

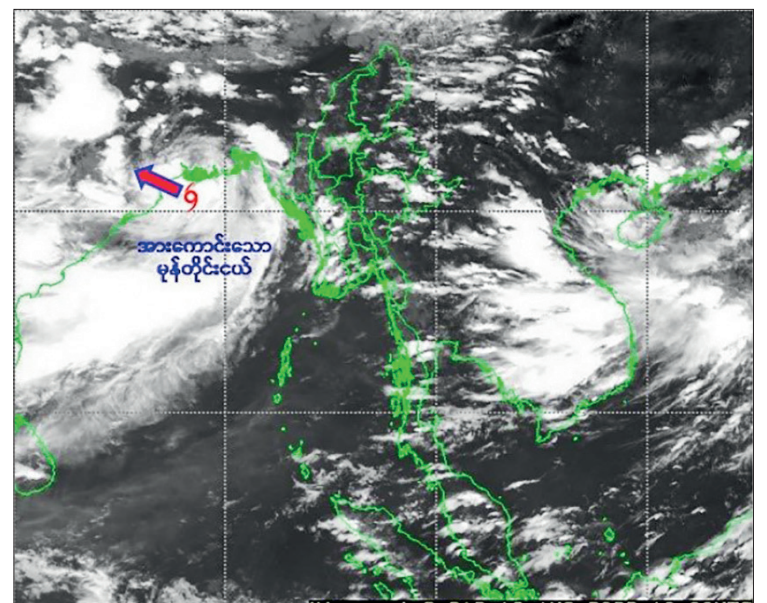
### Depression

According to the observations at 21:30 hrs MST yesterday, the Deep Depression over the North Bay of Bengal has moved West-Northwest wards and crossed West Bengal and adjoining North Odisha coast between Balasore and Sagar Islands, close to Digha (India).

It is forecast to move West-Northwest wards and cross West Bengal and Odisha and Jharkhand towards North Chhattisgarh during the next 24 hrs and weaken gradually.

### General caution

Due to the depression, rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread to widespread in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States with the likelihood of isolated heavy falls and strong wind from yesterday night to the next 24 hrs. Occasionally squalls with rough seas will



This satellite photo shows the direction of the Deep Depression.

be experienced in the Gulf of Mottama, Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 40 mph.

Wave height will be about 9-13 feet in the Gulf of Mottama, Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast.

### Advisory

People should be aware of heavy rainfalls with strong winds, natural disasters such as flash floods and landslides in hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flight. - DMH/GNLM

## Consumers warned of fake peanut oil

PEANUT prices climbed along with the price rise of palm oil in the markets. However, there is a gap of K4,000 per viss between palm oil and peanut oil before 2021. Therefore, fake peanut oil with artificial peanut oil flavour might be seen in the market so the consumers are warned of the fake cooking oil, Ko Min, a regular peanut oil buyer in Thanlyin told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Marketing of different cooking oil brands is seen, ensuring 100 per cent use of peanut oil. However, the consumers can check if it is real or not after using them.

There are certain ways to test peanut oil in general. Yet we cannot say 100 per cent for sure, said Ko Ti Ti from Ahlon Township. Peanut oil yield varies on quality and peanut varieties. A viss of peanuts produces 34-44 ticals of oil. Consequently, there is a price gap for peanut oil as well, Ko Win, a peanut and sesame trader



Pure peanut oil and palm oil are seen in the market.

explained.

The prices are different from the oil yield. Some peanut oil prices show a gap of K1,500 per viss depending on the different brands. We cannot be certain which brand offers the pure peanut oil, the GNLM quoted Ko Khin Maung Myint from Lanmadaw Township as

saying.

In 2000, peanut oil mixed with palm oil was witnessed in the markets. Starting from 2010, fake cooking oil with the use of artificial peanut flavour and palm oil are sold on the market. Those scrupulous traders lowered the prices of those fake cooking oil com-

pared to the real peanut oil.

Peanut flavour can be bought at K20,000 per can. It can be diluted with two jerry cans of palm oil. Therefore, peanut flavour for palm oil costs only K100 per viss. When it is sold as peanut oil, they make a profit of K1,000-1,500 per viss. It is a loss for consum-

ers as they have to buy palm oil at a higher price, U Saw from Hlinethaya Township who has worked at peanut oil shops for years elaborated on the fake cooking oil in the markets.

While there is a gap of K4,000 per viss between peanut oil and palm oil, the fake peanut oil is sold at K2,000-2,500 lower than the peanut oil per viss.

The department concerned has directed the edible oil producers and companies to put the full label in the Myanmar Language on the goods to ensure the rights of the consumers. Consumers need to take care of the standard quality of the cooking oil prior to the obligatory labelling. "Especially, the consumers must be aware of the fake peanut oil at a higher price," Daw Kyin, a seller told the GNLM.

Moreover, the prices of cottonseed oil (used in making soap) have unexpectedly risen in the market, she continued. — TWA/GNLM

## Criminal cases, civil suits must be examined without delays: Chief Justice of the Union



Union Supreme Court.

THE Union Supreme Court received 462 criminal cases between January and June 2022, said U Htun Htun Oo, Chief Justice of the Union during the coordination meeting with Region/State High Courts held on Thursday.

Between 1 January and 30 June, it resolved a total of 890 civil cases including eight old cases of the previous year and

the Region/State High Courts completed 1,981 criminal cases and 2,209 civil cases.

He said the Chief Justices of Region/State High Courts should supervise the judicial processes without delays in examining the criminal cases and civil suits at the newly expanded district courts.

The court-led mediation system was adopted at every

court for civil cases on 1 August and it needs to follow the manual of the system to carry out the correct procedures.

The year 2022 is the fifth five-year judicial strategic plan and all should keep making efforts to meet the objectives of the plan and serve dutifully without any corruption, he urged. — TWA/GNLM

## Myawady border trade zone resumes as normal

THE Myawady border trade zone in Kayin State was reopened yesterday and the trade activities were operated as usual.

There was an armed engagement on the Myawady-Kawkareik Asia Highway on the morning of 18 August and the trading zone was temporarily suspended. It was resumed on the morning of 19 August, the GNLM quoted truck driver Ko Aung Aung Oo as saying.

After reopening the trading zone, the trucks were inspected and so there was a long queue of lorries and

which caused heavy traffic jams from the approach road (Myaynigon) traffic light of the No (2) Friendship Bridge to Mekanal Ywathit. Currently, it returns to normal.

"All the people from trading zone areas were removed including vehicles due to the clash yesterday. Then, it was closed. The people from there moved to the Myawady area. It did not allow passing the Asia Highway and also entry and exit of the township temporarily. It returned to normal this morning," Ko Ar Ti, a resident told the GNLM. — TWA/GNLM



A cargo truck is seen near the Myawady border trade zone.

# ECONOMY WORLD

## Crisis-hit Sri Lanka warns of record 8% economic contraction

SRI Lanka's economic meltdown will result in a record contraction of at least eight per cent this year but the public could soon expect some relief from runaway inflation, the head of the country's central bank said Thursday.

The island nation defaulted on its \$51 billion foreign debt in April and is seeking an International Monetary Fund bailout after months of food, fuel and medicine shortages.

Its 22 million people have also suffered through lengthy blackouts and spiralling cost-of-living pressures after scarcity and a currency crash drove up prices.

The Central Bank of Sri Lanka had already projected the economy could shrink a painful 7.5 per cent for the calendar year, dwarfing the previous record 3.6 per cent contraction in 2020 as the pandemic raged.



Sri Lanka's economic turmoil led to months of protests that resulted in the ouster of former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa in July. **PHOTO: AFP**

"But now we think it will exceed 8.0 per cent," governor Nandalal Weerasinghe told reporters in Colombo.

He said inflation — officially running at 60.8 per cent — will peak at "about 65 per cent" in September, followed by a gradual

easing caused by lower demand and improvements in supplies.

The foreign exchange shortage that sparked the economic crisis had eased thanks to better currency inflows and lower imports, he added.—AFP

## Solomon Islands secures \$66m Chinese loan for Huawei deal



Fishermen paddle off Kennedy Island in the remote Western Province of the Solomon Islands. **PHOTO: TORSTEN BLACKWOOD/AFP**

SOLOMON Islands said Thursday that it had secured a US\$66 million loan from China to fund tech giant Huawei building 161 telecommunications towers across the Pacific nation.

The deal marks the first financing the islands country has received from Beijing since it

signed a secretive security pact in April, following the severing of diplomatic links to Taiwan.

The Solomon's government said the deal was a "historical financial partnership" that comes after it restored ties with Beijing in 2019.

But the Solomon's growing

financial and security links to China have roused concern from the United States and its allies.

Western officials said China could use the security pact to build a military base in the country — something the Pacific nation's prime minister, Manasseh Sogavare, has repeatedly denied.

Under the terms of the deal, the Solomons will receive a 20-year concessional loan from state-linked Export-Import Bank of China that will fully fund Huawei's construction of the towers, the government said.

Almost half of the towers would be built before the country hosts the Pacific Island Games in November 2023, according to the government's statement.

The towers would allow Solomon Islanders, especially those in rural areas, to be able to watch the games even if they are not able to not come to capital Honiara, the government said.—AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Germany to fall short of gas stock targets: regulator

THE head of Germany's energy regulator said on Thursday that the country would almost certainly fail to meet its gas reserve targets in the face of a Russian supply squeeze.

"I am not counting on our achieving our next reserve goals as quickly as the first," Klaus Mueller, president of the Federal Network Agency, told news website t-online.

He said the next benchmark — 85 per cent capacity by 1 October "is not impossible but certainly very ambitious".

"We fall short of an average level of 95 per cent by 1 November in all our projections," he added.

"There's hardly a chance of achieving that because some storage sites started at a very low level."

Warning of looming shortages, Economy Minister Robert Habeck outlined a series of targets last month for gas stocks to reach 95 per cent by 1 November ahead of the cold German winter.

At the time gas reserves stood at about 65 per cent of capacity and Germany last weekend reached 75 per cent two weeks ahead of schedule.

However Mueller warned citizens of Europe's top economy that there would be no alternative to saving energy.—AFP

## IMF sees Saudi growth soaring 7.6% this year on high oil prices

THE Saudi economy is expected to grow 7.6 per cent this year, up from 3.2 per cent in 2021, on the back of soaring oil revenues, the International Monetary Fund said Wednesday.

The government's Vision 2030 reform programme, designed to reduce the kingdom's dependence on oil, has also given the economy a boost as more Saudis join the workforce, particularly women, the IMF said.

"Liquidity and fiscal support, reform momentum under Vision 2030 and high oil prices and production helped the economy recover with a robust

growth, contained inflation and a resilient financial sector," it said.

"Overall growth was robust at 3.2 per cent in 2021, in particular driven by a rebounding non-oil sector — supported by higher employment for Saudi nationals, particularly women." Gross domestic product was "expected to increase significantly to 7.6 per cent in 2022 despite monetary policy tightening and fiscal consolidation, and a, thus far, limited fallout from the war in Ukraine," the IMF said, while projecting GDP growth of 3.7 per cent in 2023.—AFP



Record profits for oil giant Saudi Aramco on the back of high oil prices and output are set to help the kingdom's economy achieve growth of 7.6 per cent this year, the IMF says. **PHOTO: FAYEZ NURELDINE/AFP/FILE**

## S Korea's household income growth hits record high in Q2

SOUTH Korea's household income growth hit a record high in the second quarter due to the eased measures against the COVID-19 pandemic and the government's offer of relief grants for small businesses, statis-

tical office data showed Thursday.

The monthly average income per household with one or more family members stood at 4,831,000 won (3,660 US dollars) in the April-June quarter, up 12.7 per cent

from the same quarter of last year, according to Statistics Korea.

It marked the fastest quarterly increase since relevant data began to be compiled in 2006. Real household income, adjusted for inflation, gained 6.9

per cent in the quarter.

Earned income on a monthly average basis expanded 5.3 per cent over the year to 2,887,000 won in the second quarter, and business income advanced 14.9 per cent to 927,000 won.—Xinhua



South Korean market vendor (right) waits for customers at her food stall at Namdaemun market in Seoul. **PHOTO: PARK JI-HWAN/AFP**

## Strikes bring London transport system to near halt



UK workers in various sectors are pushing for pay rises in line with decades-high inflation and the soaring cost of living. **PHOTO: AFP**

PUBLIC transport workers in London held fresh strikes Friday over pay and conditions, cutting

services on almost all underground and overground rail lines that link up the UK capital.

The latest walkout comes during a summer of industrial action across Britain, with workers in various sectors pushing for pay rises in line with decades-high inflation and the soaring cost of living.

A spokesperson for Transport for London, responsible for most of the capital's network, told AFP there were "almost no tube (Underground) services" with only a couple of lines functioning with "very reduced services".—AFP

## China's Yunnan facilitates flower exports to Thailand

SOUTHWEST China's Yunnan Province, a main supplier of flowers, has launched a slew of favourable policies to facilitate flower exports to Thailand.

To ensure the freshness of the flowers, customs in Mengla County, Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, have set up a green channel to facilitate

customs clearance.

According to the customs, measures such as declaration in advance and priority in inspection have also been adopted.—AFP

### မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးနှင့်ဆေးပစ္စည်းလုပ်ငန်းရှင်များအသင်း

(၁၉)ကြိမ်မြောက် နှစ်ပတ်လည်အသင်းသားစုံညီအစည်းအဝေးအား  
Online စနစ်ဖြင့် ကျင်းပပြုလုပ်မည်ဖြစ်ကြောင်း

### အသိပေးဖိတ်ကြားလွှာ

မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးနှင့်ဆေးပစ္စည်းလုပ်ငန်းရှင်များအသင်း၏ (၁၉)ကြိမ်မြောက် နှစ်ပတ်လည် အသင်းသားစုံညီ အစည်းအဝေးကို ၂၀၂၂ခုနှစ်၊ စက်တင်ဘာလ (၁၇)ရက်နေ့၊ နံနက် (၁၀:၀၀)နာရီ အချိန်တွင် Online Zoom Video Conferencing စနစ်အသုံးပြု၍ ကျင်းပပြုလုပ်မည်ဖြစ်ပါ၍ အသင်းဝင်များအားလုံး အနေဖြင့် Online မှ တက်ရောက် ချီးမြှင့်နိုင်ပါရန် လေးစားစွာ ဖိတ်ကြားအပ်ပါသည်။

သို့ဖြစ်ပါ၍ အသင်းဝင်များအနေဖြင့် ဖိတ်စာရသည်ဖြစ်စေ၊ မရသည်ဖြစ်စေ အစည်းအဝေးသို့ မပျက်မကွက် တက်ရောက်ကြပါရန် လေးစားစွာဖိတ်ကြားအပ်ပါသည်။

အလုပ်အမှုဆောင်အဖွဲ့  
မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးနှင့်ဆေးပစ္စည်းလုပ်ငန်းရှင်များအသင်း

### Transferring Manufacturer of Registered Pesticide

Manufacturer of pesticide, Palit 10% SC (Chlorfenapyr 10% SC) with its registration number F2016-520, is transferring from **BASF SE, Germany to BASF Crop Protection (Jiangsu) Co.Ltd., China**. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayintnaung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon within 14 days.

BASF Myanmar Limited  
Phone – 01 8650976

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PROGRESS VOY.NO. (N026)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PROGRESS VOY.NO. (N026)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-8-2022** 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 INTER ASIA LINES

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AS FENJA VOY.NO. (035W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS FENJA VOY.NO. (035W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-8-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V VAST OCEAN 5

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V VAST OCEAN 5 VOY. NO. (V3257)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-8-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT 5** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301928

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO LTD

# GLOBAL AFFAIRS

## Disappeared Chinese-Canadian tycoon jailed for 13 years



The Canadian embassy in Beijing. Ties between Canada and China have been tested in recent years. **PHOTO: AFP**

A Chinese-Canadian tycoon who disappeared from a Hong Kong hotel five years ago has been sentenced to 13 years in prison and his company fined \$8 billion for embezzlement and bribery, a Shanghai court said Friday.

Xiao Jianhua, one of China's richest people when he was allegedly abducted in 2017, reportedly had close connections to the upper echelons of the ruling Communist Party.

There had been no official word about Xiao -- who is a Canadian citizen -- until Ottawa

confirmed in July that he was facing trial.

Xiao and his firm, Tomorrow Group, were found guilty of "illegally absorbing public deposits, breaching trust in the use of entrusted property... (and) illegal use of funds," the Shanghai No. 1 Intermediate People's Court said in a statement.

It added that Tomorrow Group had committed the "crime of bribery".

The firm's actions "have seriously disrupted the financial

management order, seriously endangered the country's financial security", the court said.

It also fined Tomorrow Group 55.03 billion yuan (\$8 billion) and Xiao 6.5 million yuan (\$950,000).

Xiao and his company pleaded guilty and cooperated with the authorities in recovering what they had illegally acquired, the statement said.

The Canadian embassy had said in July that its diplomats were denied access to the trial.—AFP

### RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

## Europe divided over banning Russian tourists

UKRAINE is pressuring the EU to bar Russian tourists from entering the bloc but has met varying responses, with some EU countries agreeing while others resist.

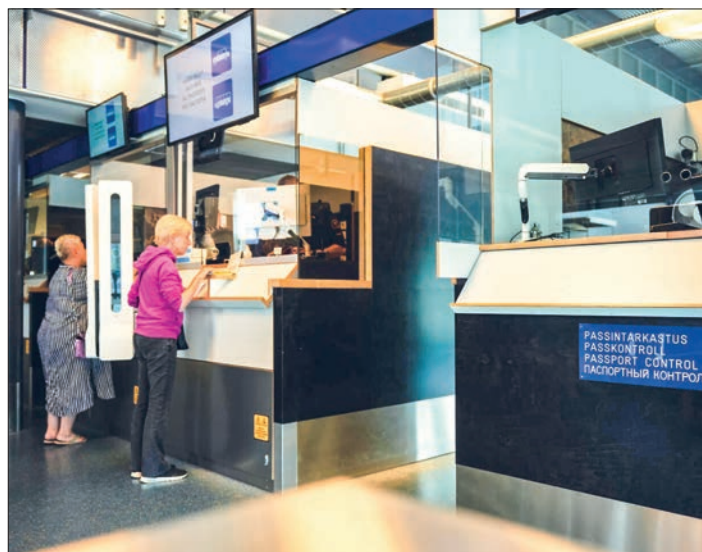
Already some EU nations neighbouring Russia are barring Russian visa applications or limiting visas issued by their own services, but no EU-wide ban is in place.

The issue is to be discussed at an EU foreign ministers' meeting in Prague on 31 August as the 27-nation bloc weighs whether to come up with a unified position on short-term visas for ordinary Russians.

### Ukraine: Russians stay home

"Russians overwhelmingly support the war, cheer missile strikes on Ukrainian cities and (the) murder of Ukrainians. Let Russian tourists enjoy Russia then," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba has said. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has demanded the West shut its borders to Russians, telling the Washington Post they should "live in their own world until they change their philosophy".

A furious Kremlin reacted by calling Kyiv's appeal "irrational" and pledged retaliation.—AFP



Finland, which has Europe's longest border with Russia, will slash the number of Russian tourist visa applications from September. **PHOTO: ALESSANDRO RAMPAZZO AFP/FILE**

## Erdogan warns of 'another Chernobyl' after talks in Ukraine

TURKISH leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned Thursday of a nuclear disaster in Ukraine during his first face-to-face talks with President Volodymyr Zelensky since Russia's invasion began, echoing pleas from the UN's chief.

A flare-up in fighting around Europe's largest nuclear facility in Russian-controlled southern Ukraine has sparked urgent warnings from world leaders, and UN chief Antonio Guterres cautioned during talks with Erdogan that any damage to the plant would be akin to "suicide".

"We are worried. We don't want another Chernobyl," Erdogan said during a press conference in the eastern city of Lviv, during which he also assured the Ukrainian leader that Ankara was a firm ally. "While continuing our efforts to find a solution, we remain on the side of our Ukraine friends," Erdogan said.

Guterres said he was



Rescuers take part in an exercise simulating a nuclear incident at the Zaporizhzhia plant on Wednesday. **PHOTO: AFP**

"gravely concerned" about the situation at the plant and that it had to be demilitarized, adding: "We must tell it like it is — any potential damage to Zaporizhzhia is suicide". Erdogan, who has major geopolitical rivalries with the Kremlin but maintains a close working relationship with President Vladimir Putin, met

with the Russian leader less than two weeks ago in the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

The Turkish leader and Guterres were key brokers of a deal inked in Istanbul last month allowing for the resumption of grain exports from Ukraine after Russia's invasion blocked essential global supplies.—AFP

## Russian munitions depot ablaze near Ukraine border

TWO Russian villages were evacuated on Thursday after a fire broke out at an ammunition depot near the border with Ukraine, local authorities said.

The blaze comes days after explosions at a military base and munitions depot in Crimea, the Ukrainian peninsula an-

nexed by Moscow, which Russia called an act of "sabotage" by Kyiv.

"An ammunition depot caught fire near the village of Timonovo," less than 50 kilometres (30 miles) from the Ukrainian border in Belgorod province, the region's governor

Vyacheslav Gladkov said in a statement.

No casualties were reported, but residents of Timonovo and the nearby village of Soloti were "moved to a safe distance", he said, adding that authorities were investigating the cause of the fire.—AFP

## Pope rules out sex assault inquiry into Canada cardinal

POPE Francis has ruled out a formal church investigation into a sexual assault claim against Canadian Cardinal Marc Ouellet after a preliminary inquiry found no basis for one, the Vatican said Thursday.

Ouellet, himself once considered a strong candidate to be pope, was named in court documents this week relating to a class action suit targeting more than 80 members of the clergy in the archdiocese of Quebec.

The 78-year-old is accused of abusing a female intern, identified only as "F", from 2008 to 2010, when he was archbishop

of Quebec. In the Vatican's first public response to the civil suit, spokesman Matteo Bruni said a "preliminary investigation" already ordered by Pope Francis had found there were "no elements to initiate a trial".

He said the pontiff again consulted the author of that probe, a Father Jacques Servais, and was told again that there were no grounds for opening a formal investigation.

"Following further relevant consultations, Pope Francis declares that there are insufficient elements to open a canonical investigation for sexual assault by

Cardinal Ouellet against person F," the statement said.

### 'Chased after'

Ouellet is a prefect of the Congregation for Bishops, one of the most important functions within the Curia, the government of the Vatican.

The claims against him in the civil suit, which the Quebec supreme court ruled could go ahead in May, are among the testimonies of 101 people who say they were sexually assaulted by members of the clergy and church staff from 1940 to today.—AFP



Cardinal Marc Ouellet was once considered a strong candidate to be pope. PHOTO: AFP

## Germany's Scholz faces grilling over tax fraud scandal

GERMAN Chancellor Olaf Scholz will answer to a committee on Friday as part of investigations into a financial scandal that cost the government billions, as the leader struggles to shed suspicions over his possible role in the huge tax fraud scam.

Scholz will testify for the second time to the parliamentary committee in Hamburg, which is probing whether local political figures helped a bank to avoid paying back falsely claimed tax rebates.

Scholz was the mayor of Hamburg from 2011 to 2018, when he became finance minister in the cabinet of the then Chancellor, Angela Merkel.

First exposed in 2017, the "cum-ex" scam involved numerous participants swiftly exchanging company shares amongst themselves around dividend day to claim multiple tax rebates on a single payout.

Dozens of people have been indicted over the scandal in Ger-



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz will testify for the second time to a parliamentary committee in Hamburg. The Chancellor of Germany delivered a special address at Davos 2022 on 26 May 2022. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

many, including bankers, stock traders, lawyers and financial consultants.

The Hamburg committee is investigating why local finance authorities in 2016 dropped a bid to claw back 47 million euros (\$48 million) in taxes from private bank M. M. Warburg over cum-ex trades.

The bank eventually had to pay back tens of millions of euros under pressure from Merkel's federal government.

According to German media reports, investigators have examined emails from the account used by Scholz during his time as the mayor of Hamburg in connection with the scandal.—AFP

## Islamic State 'Beagle' faces life sentence for US hostage deaths

A member of the notorious Islamic State kidnap-and-murder cell known as the "Beagle", is to be sentenced in a US court on Friday for the deaths of four American hostages in Syria.

El Shafee Elsheikh, 34, fac-

es a mandatory sentence of life in prison after being convicted in Alexandria, Virginia, in April of hostage-taking, conspiracy to murder US citizens and supporting a terrorist organization.

The gruelling two-week trial

of the former British national, which featured emotional testimony from former hostages and parents of the victims, was the most significant prosecution of an IS militant in the United States.—AFP

## N Korea rejects S Korea's aid offer as "height of absurdity"

NORTH Korea has rejected an offer of aid from South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol in exchange for Pyongyang taking denuclearization steps, saying the proposal is the "height of absurdity", the North's official Korean Central News Agency said Friday.

In a press statement issued Thursday, Kim Yo Jong, the younger sister and close aide of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, rejected Yoon's proposal from earlier this week as an "impracticable one to create mulberry fields in the dark blue ocean".

Kim Yo Jong, who is vice department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, indicated she believes Yoon's

"bold plan" is a replica of a similar proposal made by former South Korean President Lee Myung Bak more than 10 years ago, which was "only to be forsaken as a product of the confrontation" between the two Koreas.

She said the idea to barter economic cooperation for "our honor, nukes, is the great dream," adding, "No one barter its destiny for corn cake."

In his first Liberation Day speech Monday since taking office in May, Yoon vowed to offer economic support including a large-scale food program and infrastructure projects to North Korea if the nuclear-armed country embarks on a substantive process of denuclearization.—Kyodo



Panmunjom is in the Demilitarized Zone and on the border between North and South Korea. PHOTO: AFP

Pope rules out sex assault inquiry into Canada cardinal  
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# SPORT

## Myanmar team prepares for U-17 Asian Cup qualifiers



The Myanmar U-16 boys' team. PHOTO: MFF

THE Myanmar U-16 national team is preparing for the 2023 Asian Cup U-17 qualifiers to be played in October, according to the Myanmar Football Federation. The Myanmar squad continues to take training after the 2022 ASEAN U-16 Championship held in Indonesia from 31 July to 12 August.

Team Myanmar will compete in the 2022 Myanmar National League II tournament, under the

name of the Young Boys team, so they will continue training after the ASEAN tournament. The team is handled by U Aung Zaw Myo as the head coach, and the players who competed in the ASEAN U-16 tournament are taking special training.

The youth team began training in May and won fourth place in the 2022 ASEAN U-16 Championship as their first international competition.

The team will compete in the 2023 Asian Cup U-17 qualifiers, which will be held from 1 to 9 October as the second international tournament. In the qualifiers, Myanmar is composed of Group D with Saudi Arabia, Maldives, and Kuwait. The Myanmar U-16 team will compete under the name of the Young Boys team in MNL II tourney on 20 August against the university team. — 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.

## Casemiro wants to leave Real Madrid as Man Utd close in

REAL Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti confirmed on Friday Casemiro is keen to leave the European champions as Manchester United close in on the Brazilian international.

According to the BBC and The Athletic, United are set to pay an initial 60 million euros (£51 million, \$61 million) plus a further 10 million euros in add-ons for the 30-year-old.

“I spoke with him this morning. He wants to try a new challenge, a new opportunity and I and the club understand that,” said Ancelotti “For what Casemiro has done for this club and the person that he is, we have to respect his wishes. Now there are negotiations, nothing is official and he remains a Real Madrid player, but his desire is to leave.—AFP

## Barcelona looking for ‘patience’ despite spending spree



Frustrated: Barcelona and Robert Lewandowski (C) failed to score in their opening game against Rayo Vallecano. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

BARCELONA coach Xavi Hernandez called for “patience” after his side’s draw with Rayo Vallecano in their season opener, but will know the team are

expected to challenge for the La Liga title this season after a raft of high-profile signings.

Barca struggled in front of goal in the disappointing stale-

mate at the Camp Nou last weekend and face a tricky trip to Real Sociedad on Sunday.

Robert Lewandowski, Raphinha and Andreas Chris-

tensen all made their debuts from the start against Rayo and Franck Kessie made his first competitive appearance for the club as a substitute. Barcelona, who have struggled financially in the last two years, are also waiting to be able to register France defender Jules Kounde after his arrival from Sevilla.

But Xavi has called for calm from supporters as he looks to bed in the new players.

“I understand the disappointment, the expectations are really high,” Xavi said after the Rayo game.

“We will have to analyse the game, improve and continue to believe in the style of play.

“Rayo defended well. It was harder for us to create than usual. “It’s a shame because we wanted to show the fans that we are on the right track. It is disappointing, but we ask for patience and for people to believe in this team.”—AFP