

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IX, No. 130, 13<sup>th</sup> Waning of Wagaung 1384 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Wednesday, 24 August 2022

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

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

## National Peace Talks Team meets peace delegation of PNLO, LDU, ALP



The first-day meeting between the National Peace Talks Team and the delegations from the Pa-O National Liberation Organization-PNLO, the Lahu Democratic Union-LDU and the Arakan Liberation Party-ALP in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 August 2022.

**T**HE State Peace Talks Team held a meeting with the peace delegation led by the chairman of the Pa-O National Liberation Organization-PNLO, the chairman of the Lahu Democratic Union-LDU and the vice-chairperson of the Arakan Liberation Party-ALP at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre's meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Member of the State Administration Council and Union Minister at the Union Government Office (1) Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee, Leader of the Peace Talks Team Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Team Members: SAC member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, Lt-Gen Min Naung, the Secretary of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee and committee members:

Lt-Gen Min Naing, Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein and Lt-Gen Aye Win, and Chairman Khun Thurein and Vice-Chairman Khun Tun Tin, of the Pa-O National Liberation Organization-PNLO, Lahu Democratic Union-LDU Chairman Kyar Solomon and General Secretary Kyar Ya Kok, ALP Vice-Chairperson Saw Mra Raza Lin and Member of the Central Executive Committee

Khine Soe Mra attended the meeting.

At the meeting, Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and PNLO Chairperson Khun Thurein, on behalf of the participating ethnic armed organizations delivered opening remarks. Afterwards, Negotiation Committee Member Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein clarified the list of Union legislation - Table 1 and the list of regional or state

legislation - Table 2 in the 2008 Constitution sectors-wise and Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naung continued the presentation of post-2020 levelized procedures and phased implementations - Table 2.

Then, the attendees shared their attitudes and desires with each other and closed the first day of the meeting. The discussion will be continued on 24 August, it is learnt. — MNA

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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 border 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*

## New white elephant looks healthy and happy with his mother mammal



A 33-year-old female elephant called Zar Nan Hla kept by the Myanma Timber Enterprise in Taungup Township of Rakhine State has given birth to one white male elephant at 6:30

am on 23 July 2022. The baby elephant was two feet and five inches in height, three feet and one inch in girth, with its birth weight of about 180 pounds.

The newly born white ele-

phant has pearl-coloured eyes, a plantain branch-shaped back, white hair, a distinctive tail, auspicious plot signs on the skin, reddish-brown or pinkish skin, and five claws on the front legs, and big ears. Therefore, these features conform with seven out of eight characteristics.

Now, the baby white elephant is one month old, with two feet and six inches in height, three feet and three inches in girth, and weighs about 202 pounds.

He stays healthy and happy with his mother elephant and is being trained with the human and friendly system to become tamer, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

— MNA

## Objectives of 23<sup>rd</sup> Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions 2022

- (a) To uplift national prestige and integrity and to preserve the cultural heritage and national characteristics
- (b) To discover, preserve and uplift the traditional cultural heritage of performing arts of ethnic nationals and national cultural characteristics
- (c) To preserve traditional cultural performing arts in order to further revitalize adoration of the State and hand it down to new generation youths
- (d) To contribute much to the restoration of perpetual peace

 Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons 

USE AND ABUSE OF  
**TECHNOLOGY**

Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day 13<sup>th</sup> September



### 2022 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Days' Objectives

- \* To mobilize the participation of all citizens in combatting human trafficking as a national duty;
- \* To have the public instilled with awareness about and knowledge of trafficking in persons;
- \* To protect and care trafficked victims with empathy; and
- \* To strengthen cooperation and coordination among all counter trafficking stakeholders government agencies, civil society organizations, UN agencies, international organizations and general public.

## If the ethnic armed organizations come to the peace talks, the future politics of the nation will be assured

THE 4<sup>th</sup> of January 2023 will be the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day of Myanmar. We will continue to prioritize the cessation of armed conflicts. As 2022 has been set as the year of peace, it is necessary to implement the peace process in a pragmatic way. Thus, I myself invited the leaders of ethnic armed organizations-EAOs to join the peace talks. These talks brought good results for the regions and the nation, so, if the ethnic armed organizations come to the peace talks, the future politics of the nation will be assured.

*(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.)*

## Leading Organizing Committee on Variety Show for Diamond Jubilee Independence Day holds coordination meeting

A coordination meeting of the Leading Organizing Committee on Variety Show for Diamond Jubilee Independence Day 2023 was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It was attended by Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, in his capacity as the Committee Chairman, Vice-Chairpersons of the committee Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko and Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Tin Oo Lwin, committee members and departmental officials, and the Chairmen of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, Myanmar Music Association (Central) and secretary of Myanmar Theatric Association joined online.

First, the Union minister said the variety show marking the diamond jubilee Independ-

ence Day will be held to entertain the people. The entertainment industry suspended due to COVID-19 health restrictions will resume. It is expected to hold the State-level variety show in November to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Independence Day which falls on 4 January 2023.

Diamond Jubilee Independence Day 2023 is a meaningful and significant day as the sovereignty of the country has been preserved by successive governments for 75 years. Therefore, all should participate in holding the variety show.

Then, vice-chairpersons (1) and (2) of the committee reported on the event schedule, proper cooperation work without delays and an open-air theatre of the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall.

Deputy Minister U Ye Tint



MoI Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn chairs the coordination committee to convene a variety show for Diamond Jubilee Independence Day 2023 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

also clarified the time schedules for events, programmes and organizing of the sub-committee

and working committee and the other participants coordinated the discussion.

The Union minister then concluded the meeting after giving proper instructions. — MNA

## 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China education cooperation week, 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN-China Education Ministers Roundtable Conference opened



MoE Deputy Minister Dr Zaw Myint Joins the 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China education cooperation week and the third ASEAN-China Education Ministers Roundtable Conference virtually.

THE 2022 ASEAN-China Education Cooperation Week was launched in southwest China's Guizhou Province at 7:30 am yesterday and the Ministers of Education from ASEAN member countries and Dr Zaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Education, Myanmar attended virtually.

The Standing Committee member of the Guizhou Province of the Communist Party of China and the ASEAN alternate Chairmanship of Cambodia Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports and the ASEAN Secretary-General delivered opening speeches during the opening ceremony. Afterwards, the Vice premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China

delivered the speech.

Next, the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN-China Education Ministers Roundtable Conference was held at 8:30 am and the Ministers of Education from ASEAN countries attended the meeting via videoconferencing.

Deputy Minister Dr Zaw Myint participated in the discussion on the topic of improving the quality of human resources, qualifications of students and teachers and capacity of staff from admin/finance sections and also discussed the issues of promoting ASEAN-China Education Cooperation, and exchanged views amongst China-ASEAN Education Ministers. —MNA

## Asia-Pacific Joint Group-AP JG holds its plenary meeting virtually

THE meeting on the assessment of the Asia-Pacific Joint Group (AP JG) was held to discuss the progress of Myanmar's Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism-AML/CFT at the Central Bank of Myanmar via videoconferencing at 2:30 pm on 23 August.

The meeting was attended by officials from the Financial Action Task Force-FATF and Asia Pacific Group-APG, representatives from the AP JG member countries, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Than Than Swe, representatives from the Ministry of Legal Affairs, Anti-Corruption Commission, Myanmar Police Force, General Administration Department, Bureau of Special Investigation, Directorate of the Investment and Com-



CBM Governor Daw Than Than Swe virtually joins the Asia-Pacific Joint Group plenary meeting yesterday.

pany Administration, Union Supreme Court, the Ministry of Planning and Finance, Internal Revenue Department, Customs Department, Department of Forest, Myanma Gems Enterprise and Financial Investigation Force.

Co-chair of the AP JG, Mr

Yogpal Singh who is a citizen of India and Governor Daw Than Than Swe of the Central Bank of Myanmar gave their opening speeches at the meeting. During the meeting, the following issues are mutually discussed regarding Myanmar's AML/CFT progress: performing an

evidence-based and systematic approach to the risk of loss related to money laundering; reducing the risks of loss; taking a systematic approach to supervising activities by changing and appointing new supervisory authorities who can take full action against

company organizations according to relevant sectors; ensuring full disclosure during investigations and seizures by law enforcement agencies; drafting about the material management by the Law Drafting Committee; combating the financing of terrorism; advancing of awareness-raising related to counter-terrorism financing and the spread of weapons of mass destruction in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions and the field inspection of compliance of banks and financial institutions.

On the Myanmar side, the weaknesses in the Action Plan recommended by the FATF have been fully prepared. Thus, they requested the AP JG to increase the level of compliance to a large scale. —MNA

## State funds lose some K260,000 million, US\$13.32 million in corruption cases

THE Anti-Corruption Law was enacted on 7 August 2013 for ensuring the emergence of a clean government and good governance in Myanmar and the Anti-Corruption Commission was formed in 2014 in order to take action against those who commit bribes and losses to the State.

In the fourth amendment to the law on 21 June 2018, a definition mentioned "Anyone breaks the existing laws, rules, disciplines and procedures to cause losses to monetary, materials and property of the State in demanding, taking and managing public finance and liquidation of relevant government departments, government

organizations, public organizations and other organizations, participating in and managing an agreement". If losses happen, the action was taken against the offenders under Section 3(a) (2).

During the term of the previous government, some persons were notorious for corruption but scrutiny and taking action were weak. So, three cases were related to prosecuting the offenders for the loss of the State from 2019 to 31 January 2021, exposing losses of K20 million and 255,930.69 euros.

After taking the State responsibilities, the SAC exposed cases of corruption due to complaints from 1 February 2021 to 31 July 2022. Among 186

criminal cases and 45 general cases, as the persons with current political status from Union ministries and region and state governments in various kinds of corruption cases, the State fund lose K259,670 million and US\$13,326,746 in 108 cases.

Due to corruption cases, cases of incorrectness in allotting the fund for the public interests, loss of natural resources, lack of efficient using the land plots reclaimed, loss of basic rights for the people, and hindrances to local and foreign investment happened in the administration, economic and social sectors, according to the Anti-Corruption Commission. — MNA

### Public Notice

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

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

## 52 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 23 August, total figure rises to 614,748

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **614,748** after **52** new cases—**18** imported and **34** local transmission—were reported on 23 August 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **593,315** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,437** without more casualties. —MNA

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

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

## Old curriculum matriculation exam to be held for last time in 2023



The office of the Department of Myanmar Examinations in Hlaing Township of Yangon Region.

THE Department of Myanmar Examinations under the Ministry of Education on Tuesday announced that they will hold the matriculation exam in the old format and curriculums in 2023 for those who failed or did not sit for the exam in the last academic year.

The applications can be submitted between 1 and 30

September 2022 and the applicants have to pay K900 — K700 for a deposit stamp and K200 for the application form to the Ministry of Education.

The headmasters of basic high schools, branch BEHS, Affiliated BEHS and private schools must pay the entrance fees and buy the stamps and stick the stamps on the appli-

cation forms for the students and must submit them to the Department of Myanmar Examinations no later than the deadline, it added.

The external students can buy the stamps at the respective township education offices and pay the fee at these offices within the deadline. They must fill in the correct data in the application forms.

The applicants need to check their combination of subjects as they are not allowed to take the exam for different subjects except for the subjects mentioned in the cards, it said.

The application forms and stamps can be bought at Office No (52), Department of Myanmar Examinations (head office), Nay Pyi Taw and Myanmar Examinations Department, Parami street, No (12) Ward, Hlaing Township, University of Yangon (Hlaing Campus), Yangon. – TWA/GNLM

## Areca nut price edges up to over K7,000 per viss

THE prices of areca nuts are moving onwards and touching a high of K7,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes), according to the areca nut market.

On 1 August, the prices of areca nuts ranged between K5,100 and K6,100 per viss. The current market price jumped to K6,200-7,200 per viss, showing a significant increase of K1,000 per viss over the three weeks.

“Low inventory drove the prices up,” an official of the Nyi Nyi Areca Nut Trading told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Furthermore, some traders are keeping the stocks of dried areca nuts in their hands.

Normally, dried betel nuts were primarily exported to India. At the moment, betel nut exports to India have plummeted amid security concerns on the Kalay-Tamu trade route. Consequently, dried areca nuts are mainly relying on

the domestic market, traders stressed.

Soft and moist areca nuts are harvested in April and China’s strong demand for areca nuts is seen, traders said.

The prevailing price of areca nuts was K30 per piece last year. This year, the price jumped to over K60. The farm owners are keen on selling soft and moist areca nut fruits rather than dried ones.

Generally, the matured betel nuts are placed on the market after the drying and processing stages. Meanwhile, the soft areca nut fruit is offered K35 at the minimum without having additional charges for processing. This way, the farm owners focus on the sales of soft and moist areca nut fruits.

Myanmar’s areca nut fruit market has become widespread. The commodity depot of areca nut fruits emerged in the producing states and regions (Rakhine, Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi and Ayeyawady regions). The

brokers do a roaring trade with the competitive pricing.

The brokers go down to farms and buy areca nut fruits from 17-18 grammes sized fruits to over 30 grammes sized fruits.

Earlier, Myanmar harvested only matured areca nut fruits and only the dried areca nuts were delivered to the market. Nonetheless, coronavirus impacts in 2020 and political changes in 2021 hindered some business operations.

Therefore, the farm owners expressed an interest in the harvest of ripe betel nut fruits on the back of China’s demand with high prices. The market grew this way and farm owners make a handsome profit at present.

As a result of this, the dried areca nut production is likely to drop in future and the prices are likely to go up on low inventory and possible foreign demand, traders shared their opinions. – NN/GNLM

## Weekly kitchen goods market update

ONION wholesale prices inched higher to K3,000 per viss in Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre in a week ended 23 August 2022. Kyukok potato variety and palm oil wholesale prices dipped last week. The chickpea price rose and price changes are recorded for black gram and pigeon peas.

### Rice

In the week ended 23 August 2022, the prices of both high-grade and low-grade rice slightly increased. The wholesale rice prices per bag were K85,000-93,000 for Pawsan from the Shwebo area, K70,000 for Pawsan from Myaungmya and Patheingyi areas, and K68,000 for Pawsan from the Pyapon area, K53,000 for Pawkywe variety, K50,000 for short matured rice (90 days) and K42,000 for rice grown under multiple cropping.

### Chickpea, black gram and pigeon pea

On 24 August, pulses price stood at K1,843,500 per tonne of black gram (Fair Average Quality/RC), K2,148,500 per tonne of black gram (Special Quality/RC) and K1,970,000 per tonne of pigeon pea (red gram) RC, whereas Chickpea prices rose to K4,200-4,400 per viss in the wholesale markets.

### Palm oil

The wholesale reference price of palm oil in the Yangon Region is set at K4,860 per viss between 22 and 28 August. The price is up by K720 compared to the rate recorded in the previous week.

The palm oil wholesale prices in the markets declined from K10,000 to K9,500 per viss on 22 August. The palm oil price was estimated at K102,000 per jerrycan.

### Onion

Approximately 120,000 visses of onions were supplied to Bayintnaung Wholesale Market on 23 August. Onion wholesale prices climbed to K2,300 -2,900 per viss of onions from Seikphyu Township and K2,450-3,000 per viss of onions from Monywa Township. The prices soared from K1,550-2,300 per viss depending on varieties and size on 13 August. The prices are up by K700 per viss in eight days of the market.

### Potato

On 23 August, potatoes moved in the range of K1,450-2,200 per viss depending on qualities, while potatoes from China were valued at K2,400 per viss. The price of potatoes from Shan State is higher than those from China.

### Garlic

On 23 August, garlic produced in Aungban town, Shan State fetched K2,400-4,000 per viss depending on the size in the wholesale markets, while Kyukok garlic variety peaked at K3,850 per viss.

### Chilli pepper

On 23 August, the prices of chilli pepper moved in the range of K13,000 and K15,000 per viss depending on different varieties (Mohtaung, long red chilli (Panye) and green chilli). – TWA/GNLM



A shop is pictured selling kitchen goods.

# 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, eth-



A local in Yankin Township, Yangon Region gets COVID-19 vaccine shot on 23 August.



A local in Pantanaw Township, Ayeyawady Region is pictured receiving a vaccine for COVID-19 on 23 August.

nic 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 210 people from Yankin and Tamway Townships in

Yangon Region, 28,766 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 4,172 people from seven townships in Rakhine State, and 5,550 from seven districts in Mandalay Region, respectively.

Similarly on that day, healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 923 students from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, and 2,076 students from four townships in Rakhine State.

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

## CRIME NEWS

### Drugs impounded in PyinOoLwin, Tachilek, Maungtau townships

AT 6 am on 21 August, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a house of Ma Eaint (aka) Eaint Thitsar Soe and captured 582 stimulant tablets in No 7 Ward of PyinOoLwin township.

According to the investigation, at 12 noon on the same day, Police examined the house of Soe Zaw Thaw (aka) Soe Zaw (aka) Dedi. They captured 23,000 stimulant tablets with his wife, Ma Htay Htay Maw (aka) Soe May and a motorbike in the compound of his house.

Afterwards, at 4:30 pm, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and searched a motorbike driven by Lynyie near Loitawkham village in Tachilek township and seized 4,000 stimulant tablets and 0.03 kilogramme of heroin.

In addition, at 11:15 am, Police seized suspected Khaing Kyaw Moe by motorbike, 8,970 stimulant tablets and 0.075 kilogramme of stimulant powder on the Maungtau- Buthidaung Road in Maungtau township.

The suspects are prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, it is learnt. — MNA



Two arrestees are seen together with seized drugs and a motorbike.



An arrestee is pictured along with seized drugs.

### Illegal timbers, minerals, raw chemicals and vehicles confiscated

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

Under the instructions of the Taninthayi Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force, an inspection team led by the Kyunsu township Forest Department made inspections on 20 August.

Officials confiscated a total of 1.3772 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K275,440 from a wooden boat and related things (approximately K2.8 million) in the Kywekayan Creek in Kyunsu township of Myeik district. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 22 August, a combined team led by the Dawei district Crime Suppression Department captured 58 bags of minerals (mixed tin-tungsten) worth K47,610,000 without official documents in Sanchi Ward



Officials check the confiscated illegal timbers in Bago Region.

of Dawei township. The action was taken under the Myanmar Mines Law.

In addition, on 21 August, at the container checkpoint of Asia World Port Terminal.

They seized an unregistered B/N Light truck (approximately K7,492,500) without the Import Licence Approval. The

action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, an inspection team led by Bago Region Customs Department nabbed K51,800,000 worth of raw chemicals without official documents from a Nissan 22-wheel truck (approximately K115 million) and a Mitsubishi Fuso 22-wheel truck (approximately K105 million) heading from Myawady to Yangon near the Phayagyi Tollgate. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

On 23 August, a total of 73.4292 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K43,550,174 were confiscated in Bago and Pyay districts. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 11 arrests estimated at K373,528,114 were made on four consecutive days from 20 to 23 August, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA



Seized illegal goods in Bago Region.

# LOCAL BUSINESS

## Expansion of saltwater shrimp farming boosts bycatch reduction

SALTWATER shrimp farming businesses in Myeik Archipelago, Taninthayi Region, are flourishing. If the farming businesses can ramp up production, it will reduce the amount of bycatch and generate foreign revenue.

The saltwater shrimp farming business commenced in 2014 in Myeik Archipelago. At present, the farmed shrimps are shipped to external markets.

“The saltwater shrimp farming business was conducted on 415 acres (64 farms) in Katalu village. About 250 and 300 tonnes of shrimps can be harvested per month. About 64 farms are seen during eight years of shrimp culture. At present, we have export challenges. We mainly export the shrimps to Japan and China. We boost production in summer. Rain decreases salinity so the growth rate is quite slow in the



Saltwater shrimps produced by the shrimp farming business in Myeik Archipelago are primarily sent to Japan, China and Thailand, generating foreign income.

rainy season. We have a plan for the saltwater shrimp farming business to expand in Thityawa village,” said U Moe Kyaw Han, manager of the Pyae Phyto Tun

Co., Ltd.

The saltwater shrimp farming businesses are currently found on Katan Island, Masanpar Island and Kyagyaw



Island in Myeik Archipelago and Thahtay Island in Kawthoung Township.

“There are many vacant plots of land to execute fish and

shrimp farming in our area. If the authorities concerned support this, it will help tackle the scarcity of fish species. It will also generate more revenues,” U San Maung, managing director of the Khaing Zin Yaw Company continued.

Approximately 25 to 30 tonnes of shrimps can be harvested when one million shrimp larvae are farmed in the rainy season. In summer, about 30-35 tonnes of shrimps can be produced at a minimum when 1.2 million tonnes of shrimp larvae are added to the farming pond. The farming period is around 90-110 days, said breeders.

Saltwater shrimps produced by the shrimp farming business in Myeik Archipelago are primarily sent to Japan, China and Thailand, generating foreign income. — Myint Oo (Myeik)/GNLM

## Palm oil wholesale reference price set at K4,860 per viss, price up by K700 against last week



In spite of the reference rate, the traders are found to raise the price to K9,000 per viss in markets.

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil in the Yangon market is set at K4,860 per viss, indicating an increase of over K700 per viss compared to the previous week's rate, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia including transportation costs, tariffs and banking services, and issuing the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil on a weekly basis.

The reference rate of palm oil in the Yangon market for a week from 22 to 28 August is set

at K4,860 per viss, whereas the reference price for a week ended 21 August was set at K4,140 per viss. The figures showed an increase of K720 per viss. However, the current market price is higher than the reference rate.

In spite of the reference rate, the traders are found to raise the price to K9,000 per viss in markets.

To tackle this, mobile market trucks operated by oil importing companies, in coordination with Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, were back to business in some townships on 17 July in order to offer palm oil at a subsidized rate. They sell palm oil at K5,000 per viss to consumers directly. However,

there are limited sources of supply although they directly sell the palm oil at a reference rate depending on the volume quota.

If those retailers and wholesalers are found overcharging, storing inventory intentionally and attempting unscrupulous action to manipulate the market, they will face legal action under the Special Goods Tax Law, MoC released a statement.

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

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at 1 million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the oil sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/GNLM

## Traders report brisk sales of newly harvested peanuts at high price

TRADING of the newly harvested peanuts is bustling and the price remains on the high side, Mandalay Commodity Wholesale Market stated.

Fresh peanuts from Kyaukpadaung, Tatkon, Yamethin, Magway and Aunglan areas are entering Mandalay markets from the third week of August. The local millers are also increasingly purchasing them, beyond the foreign demand, according to the commodity warehouses.

In end-July, the peanut prices moved in the range of K5,300 and K5,700 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) depending on varieties, whereas the price jumped to K6,000-6,600 per viss on 23 August. The figures reflected an increase of K600-1,000 per viss over the past 20 days.

Similarly, the prices of peanut oil rocketed to K14,000 per viss.

Last April, the world's top palm oil exporter Indonesia, which is one of the main oil suppliers to Myanmar, declared an export ban on cooking oil export to reduce the domestic shortage. Consequently, Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce temporarily suspended exports of oil crops (peanut and sesame) from 9 May in order to have oil self-sufficiency.

Exports of Myanmar's edible oil crops have resumed as the world's top palm oil exporters return to normalcy, according to a notification dated 5 July 2022 released by the Trade Department. — NN/GNLM



Fresh peanuts from Kyaukpadaung, Tatkon, Yamethin, Magway and Aunglan areas are entering Mandalay markets from the third week of August.

# OPINION

## Myanmar athletes with disabilities show capability in Para Games

**W**HENEVER the State flag is raised and the national anthem played in the games, it means deservedly honouring the victorious athletes for securing the gold medals. Hence, it is necessary to put the endeavours, perseverance and sporting spirit of the Myanmar athletes on record in the 11th ASEAN Para Games.

In the 11th ASEAN Para Games, the Myanmar sports team stood sixth with 14 gold, 12 silver and 17 bronze medals, totalling 43. The WHO stated that some 15 per cent of the global population are disabled. Hence, it is necessary to emphasize the rights of persons with disabilities.

As persons with disabilities are also humans, they have to be physically and mentally healthy. All global people need to encourage them to raise their mental power with full confidence.

Hence, they have to pledge for making greater efforts to be able to secure more medals in the coming 12th ASEAN Para Games to be hosted by Cambodia from 3 to 9 June 2023 as part of paying a debt of gratitude to the State.

A survey on four kinds of disabilities in the 2014 census showed some 2.3 million people are disabled, accounting for 4.6 per cent of the total population. Upholding the four cardinal virtues, Myanmar people need to accept the issues of persons with disabilities as the issue concerned the whole Myanmar society.

It is necessary to give a chance to persons with disabilities for showing their brilliant skills so as to uplift their prestige shoulder to shoulder with other people in society. Myanmar stood third in the first ASEA Para Games with 77 medals in 2001, fourth with 47 medals in 2003, 5th with 46 medals in 2005, sixth with 51 medals in 2008, sixth with 40 medals in 2009, 6th with 34 medals in 2011, 5th with 34 medals in 2014, 6th with 62 medals in 2015 and 6th with 43 medals in 2017.

It can be seen that these sports records showed that Myanmar athletes are disabled but capable, uplifting the prestige of the State. Myanmar athletes secured 14 gold medals in the track and field and swimming events, 12 silver in track and field swimming and weightlifting events and 17 bronze medals in the track and field, swimming, weightlifting, archery and football events.

In accord with the declaration prior to the competition of the Myanmar team, the State decided to present K1,006 million cash awards to victorious athletes, coaches and managers for their excellent performances in the para games.

Hence, they have to pledge for making greater efforts to be able to secure more medals in the coming 12th ASEAN Para Games to be hosted by Cambodia from 3 to 9 June 2023 as part of paying a debt of gratitude to the State.

# The Intention behind the Statement released by the UN Special Envoy

By Zin Nyein

**T**HE United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Myanmar Ms Noeleen Heyzer on 17 August 2022 met State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. She issued a press release concerning the discussions during her meeting and uploaded it onto the UN's Website on 17 August.

The points of discussion mentioned in her press release are found to be very much different from the meeting minutes recorded by the Information Committee of the State Administration Council. She has mentioned certain points which were not discussed during the meeting. Such an action can lead to misunderstanding by the people and entities from within and without the country.

In the press release, the Special Envoy said, "My visit is to convey the concern of the United Nations and propose concrete steps needed to reduce the conflict and suffering of the people. UN engagement does not in any way confer legitimacy. The people of Myanmar have the right to de-

mocracy and self-determination free from fear and want, which will only be possible by the goodwill and efforts of all stakeholders in an inclusive process."

However, according to the meeting minute of the Information Team of the State Administration Council, what the Special Envoy said is as follows: "United Nations Secretary-General Mr Antonio Guterres is the person who has to protect the United Nations Charter, which has enshrined unambiguously the provisions related to the sovereignty of all nations. I am aware that Myanmar is consistently emphasizing its national sovereignty. The United Nations was formed with the objective of preventing conflicts and terrorist activities from breaking out again in the world. What counts most is to ensure peace and security. And the United Nations has been constantly recognizing and paying respect to the national sovereignty which the nation of Myanmar is always talking about." The expression "UN's engagement does not in any way confer legitimacy" is not found in her discussion.

Regarding the discussions about the Bengali refugees, she never mentioned the term 'Rohingya' during the discussions. Nonetheless, the term 'Rohingya' is mentioned in the UN press release. Additionally, concerning an Australian Economist called Mr Sean Turnell, the UN Special Envoy is found to have said that if the detainee is released, it will be tantamount to an indication of maintaining amiable ties between Myanmar and Australia. Matter-of-factly, the affair of Australian Economist Mr Sean Turnell is concerned with Australia only. I am wondering why the UN is behaving like an advocate for him.

This is the first visit of Ms Noeleen Heyzer to Myanmar.

It is quite astonishing to find out that there is a great difference between what is mentioned in the UN press release and what she said during the meeting with the Senior General. Such a variance cannot be regarded as a mistake; this must be deliberately concocted. What should be mentioned in the press release is what was discussed, what was agreed and what was not agreed. Such a wrong statement indicates their dishonesty.

Regarding the discussions about the Bengali refugees, she never mentioned the term 'Rohingya' during the discussions. Nonetheless, the term 'Rohingya' is mentioned in the UN press release. Additionally, concerning an Australian Economist called Mr Sean Turnell, the UN Special Envoy is found to have said that if the detainee is released, it will be tantamount to an indication of maintaining amiable ties between Myanmar and Australia. Matter-of-factly, the affair of Australian Economist Mr Sean Turnell is concerned with Australia only. I am wondering why the UN is behaving like an advocate for him.

This is the first visit of Ms Noeleen Heyzer to Myanmar.

Promise has been made to keep in touch with each other. Should she harbour a positive attitude, want to see progress and have genuine Cetana towards us, what she says is needed to be in concordance with what she does. Otherwise, mutual trust will be adversely affected.

Again, I would like to reiterate that what the Special Envoy said during her meeting with the Prime Minister is not in accord with what is mentioned in the UN's statement. This can in no way be a coincidence; this cannot be a mistake. Maybe, what the Special Envoy said during the meeting with the Senior General is merely an exercise of diplomacy. The UN, which is said to be abiding by the provisions enshrined in the United Nations Charter, is found to be biased, practising the double standard, not strictly adhering to the provisions embodied in the UN Myanmar and Australia. Matter-of-factly, the affair of Australian Economist Mr Sean Turnell is concerned with Australia only. I am wondering why the UN is behaving like an advocate for him.

This is the first visit of Ms Noeleen Heyzer to Myanmar.

played by US and OIC, which are chiefly contributing funds to the UN. When the United States invaded Iraq, the United Nations did not intervene to take any concrete action. Likewise, when the US intruded on Afghanistan, the UN could not have prevented the US from aggression. Again, the UN failed to intervene when Russia launched attacks on Ukraine. It can, therefore, be assumed that the United Nations is weak in the effectuation of both global and regional peace and stability. Instead of preventing the wars from breaking out, the UN is bent more on providing humanitarian assistance only when the conflicts occur.

It is true that providing humanitarian assistance to conflict-stricken people is part of the UN's duties. Nonetheless, the priority should be the prevention of conflicts as the saying goes, "Prevention is better than cure." UN is being seen to be engaged in the activities that will escalate the wars as well as in those that will cause the conflicts to grow bigger instead of exertion of efforts to end the conflicts and the wars.

It is worth recalling that such acts can derail the original ob-

jectives of the UN. Additionally, such wrong actions and activities can cause a superpower to resort to nuclear weapons. If that happens, how can the member nations have perfect trust in the UN's ability to have control over the nations?

In the case of Myanmar, although the UN is shouting aloud about peace, stability, democracy and humanitarian attitude, it is carrying out the activities which put the oil into the fire, fanning the flame, simply to please the superpowers that are pulling the strings from behind. Such acts are diametrically opposed to the principles and provisions enshrined in the United Nations Charter. If a special envoy of the UN is misbehaving or violating diplomatic ethics, the trust that the nations have in the UN will decline with the passage of time.

The United Nations ought to learn lessons from the events that led to the downfall of the League of Nations which was formed in the aftermath of World War I with the objective of maintaining world peace. The reason behind the collapse of the League of Nations is that it was influenced by the superpowers. Because of the failure

on the part of the League of Nations to intervene in the conflicts, World War II broke out. What a bitter experience for a global organization!

Nowadays, the superpowers, ignoring the existence of the UN, are blatantly interfering in the weaker nations' internal affairs, going so far as to launch attacks on them. And the UN has merely to intervene in international affairs through negotiation. Such a question has generated profound concern over the future of the UN.

It is known to all that the affair of Myanmar is an internal affair — an internal political crisis. Nonetheless, the superpowers and influential international organizations are meddling in other countries' affairs. If the UN has the genuine desire to help Myanmar solve the crisis, it is required to stand upright in carrying out the intervention process. If it is biased, it will be like fanning the flame on the part of the UN. And the Special Envoy of the UNSG on Myanmar is required to be ethical in her behaviour. Then only, can friendly relations be built up. Otherwise, the UN will have its image adversely affected. Last but not least, the special envoy should be aware that her mission will be a total failure.

In those days, the UN has been a great negotiator in settlement of the global issues. Cuba is a strong case in which the people of the UN these days should

Translated.

# Japan's economy faces headwinds amid resurgence of COVID-19 infections

**J**APAN'S gross domestic product (GDP) expanded an annualized 2.2 per cent in the April-June period, the Cabinet Office said recently, but analysts believe that the Japanese economy, lacking momentum, faces multiple headwinds in the future.

The reading marked a 0.5-per-cent rise from the previous quarter, but the rise was below market expectations.

Japan's growth in the quarter was entirely driven by domestic demand, which contributed 0.5 percentage points to economic growth, official data showed.

On the external demand side, the contribution of export growth was completely offset by the sharp rise in imports, due to the high prices of energy and resources commodities.

In the second quarter, Japan's service sector, including dining out and hotel accommodation, picked up the pace and personal consumption grew 1.1 per cent month on month, official data showed.

Equipment investment by enterprises, another pillar industry of domestic demand, increased by 1.4 per cent from a decline in the previous quarter. While on a monthly basis, residential investment further fell from the previous quarter by 1.9 per cent.

Personal consumption, which accounts for more than half of the Japanese economy, showed sluggish growth in the second quarter without the expected rebound, according to local media and analysts.

According to a survey conducted by Japan's Ministry of In-



A Covid-19 testing facility in Naha, Okinawa Prefecture. PHOTO: KYODO

ternal Affairs and Communications, real household income fell 2 per cent in the second quarter from a year earlier while real consumer spending fell 0.7 per cent.

Experts noted that falling real incomes in Japan will dampen household spending amid rising prices, and Japan's economic recovery still faces multiple headwinds amid various risks from home and abroad.

Amid the seventh wave of COVID-19 infections, the country reported 1,395,301 cases in the week from 8 August to 14 August, the highest weekly number of new cases in the world for the fourth week in a row, according to the World Health Organization.

Although the government has not taken any measures to restrict economic activity, many consumers are still restrained

from spending outside.

The economy is in a severe shortage of labor as hundreds of thousands of newly infected people and close contacts are forced to stay at home for quarantine every day, affecting the normal operation of factories, which aggravates the supply side constraints.

Analysts here also noted that a recession in the US economy will also worsen the environment for world growth. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has slashed its forecast for world economic growth in 2022 to 3.2 per cent, as rapid cooling of the US economy will inevitably hit the global economy.

Japan's Cabinet Office recently issued a report, cutting the economic growth forecast for this fiscal year to two per cent from 3.2 per cent at the beginning of

the year, considering that the US recession may pose a huge downside risk to the global economy while worsening the environment for Japan's external demand recovery.

Experts noted that Japan's economic and security policies, which Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has been pushing hard, are also likely to create headwinds for the Japanese economy in the future as a variety of specific government decrees, expected to be introduced focusing on the economic security law passed in May, are likely to increase the burden on enterprises.

Yasuhide Yajima, chief economist at the NLI Research Institute worried that Kishida will "prioritize security even at the expense of economic growth."

SOURCE: Xinhua



# HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

## COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE

### Japan to ease COVID entry requirements, raise cap on entrants

JAPAN is planning to stop requiring proof of a negative COVID-19 test result from entrants to the country as long as they have completed three rounds of vaccinations, while also raising the cap on the number of entrants from the current 20,000 a day, a government source said Tuesday.

The government is also set to open Japan to more foreign tourists by allowing unguided tours — ones not accompanied by tour conductors — after the country on 10 June started processing applications for accepting foreign visitors on guided package tours from 98 countries and regions deemed low-risk for coronavirus transmission.

The countries include the United States, Britain, China, South Korea, Indonesia and Thailand.

Prime Minister Fumio



People wearing face masks are seen at an arrival lobby of Haneda Airport in Tokyo on 23 August 2022, amid the coronavirus pandemic. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Kishida is expected to announce further easing in entry requirements and a higher cap on entrants Wednesday.

While Japan has slowly lifted its cap on entry numbers, most recently doubling it to 20,000 on 1 June, the government seeks to

raise it further, possibly to 50,000, the source said. The timing of the relaxation is still under consideration, and whether tourists will return quickly remains unclear at a time when oil prices have surged globally amid Russia's war in Ukraine.—Kyodo

### Takeda apparently to become 1st Japan's firm to sell vaccine abroad

TAKEDA Pharmaceutical Co., Japan's biggest drug maker, said Tuesday that its vaccine for dengue fever was approved in Indonesia, apparently becoming the first Japanese company to sell a vaccine abroad.

The medical giant, which has lagged behind in COVID-19 vaccine development, said it is also applying for approval of one for dengue fever in Asian and South American countries as well as in the European Union, aiming to push its annual sales up to \$1.6 billion.

Dengue fever is contracted through mosquito transmission. Annually, 390 million people are estimated to be infected across the globe, with the incidence of infection increasing in recent years, ac-

ording to the World Health Organization.

While it remains undecided when Takeda will begin supplying the vaccine, the drug firm is additionally eyeing the possibility of its use in Japan.

Takeda's vaccine, which needs two shots, is intended for people from the ages of 6 through 45, and is available regardless of prior exposure to the virus. Individuals do not require a prior test to receive the shot.

The Japanese pharmaceutical said in a press release that its vaccine can prevent 84 per cent of hospitalized dengue cases and 61 per cent of symptomatic cases.

Takeda also plans to apply for approval of its vaccine, manufactured in Germany, in the United States.—Kyodo

## 2022 MONKEYPOX OUTBREAK

### New US monkeypox vaccine strategy offers uncertainty: media

THE new US monkeypox vaccine strategy, which aims to stretch the US vaccine supply, offers more doses and uncertainty, said a report of the National Public Radio (NPR).

After a bumpy start, the Joe Biden administration is trying to smooth out the vaccination campaign aimed at controlling the country's growing monkeypox outbreak, said the report.

The effort now rests on a

new and untested strategy of dividing up what were previously full doses in order to stretch the limited stockpile of vaccines in the country.

Already facing the expected logistical hurdles of running a vaccine campaign in a public health emergency, health officials now have to tackle another challenge: how to squeeze five doses out of single-dose vials, said the report.—Xinhua



US cases have quickly soared to 13,500 since May, when the current outbreak began in Europe. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

### Colombia's confirmed monkeypox cases rise to 273

COLOMBIA'S confirmed cases of monkeypox have risen to 273, with most cases (227) detected in the capital Bogota, the National Institute of Health (INS) said Monday.

Since June, Colombian authorities have analyzed 699 suspected cases and ruled out 242, with 184 still being monitored as potential monkeypox infections, the agency said.

The director of the INS, Martha Ospina, called on the population to take steps to contain the outbreak of monkey-

pox, which could be spreading through community transmission. "We are facing something completely different from the COVID-19 pandemic, but we still have to make a joint effort on the part of the entire population," Ospina said.

On 26 July, the Colombian Ministry of Health and Social Protection raised the risk level for monkeypox from moderate to high, to implement stronger measures to contain the disease amid an increase in infections.—Xinhua

### Italian tourist dies in Cuba's first case of monkeypox

AN Italian tourist with monkeypox, the first reported case in Cuba, has died, the country's health ministry announced on Monday. "This patient rapidly deteriorated to critical condition, having been unstable since 18 August, dying on the afternoon of the 21<sup>st</sup>," the ministry said in a statement.

The 50-year-old arrived in

Cuba on 15 August and was hospitalized three days later, the statement said. "The autopsy carried out at the Institute of Forensic Medicine showed that the cause of death was sepsis due to bronchopneumonia caused by an unspecified germ and multiple organ damage," it added.

The ministry ruled out the patient having other pathologies

of infectious origin, after carrying out studies seeking explanations for the severity of his case.

The Italian had been staying in a rented house and visited several places in the western provinces of the country. On Wednesday he felt "general symptoms" of malaise and went to a doctor on Thursday because they persisted.—AFP



Cable cars are seen in Bogota, Colombia, on 19 March 2020. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

# ECONOMY WORLD

## Europe huddles down for a winter without Russian gas

WOOLLY socks and thermostats turned down a notch: Europeans are preparing for a difficult winter without gas supplies from Russia, part of the fallout from the war in Ukraine.

Latvians have been adjusting since the end of July, when Russia stopped supplying gas to the Baltic former Soviet state.

They know what to expect in the coming months.

“Energy prices are so exorbitant that we already cut off the hot water from the city pipeline and installed our own hot water boiler,” said Juons Ratiniks, who lives in the city of Rezekne, near the Russian border. “It is cheaper to use it when we actually need it than pay for constantly heated hot water,” supplied centrally, the retired border guard explained.

Politicians need to understand that people expected help when their energy bill started shooting up, said Ratiniks.

With elections due in October, he warned, “they better sup-



Many believe Russian President Vladimir Putin is using energy supplies as a strategic weapon to put pressure on nations that have applied sanctions against Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

port heating for us — otherwise we’ll give heat to them!”

Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands and Poland have also already had their gas cut, while other countries have seen their supply reduced drastically. Deliveries of Russian gas to Germany via the Nord

Stream pipeline will be halted for several days at the end of this month, the second stoppage this summer. While ostensibly for maintenance, Berlin has accused Moscow of halting supplies over Western sanctions imposed over Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.— AFP

## Top court upholds Malaysia ex-PM Najib’s jail sentence in 1MDB scandal



Malaysia’s highest court Tuesday upheld former prime minister Najib Razak’s 12-year jail sentence for corruption in the 1MDB financial scandal. **PHOTO: AFP**

MALAYSIA’S highest court Tuesday upheld former prime minister Najib Razak’s 12-year jail sentence for corruption in the 1MDB financial scandal, a decision analysts said could slam the door to a political comeback.

Chief Justice Maimun Tuan Mat also issued a warrant of com-

mittal, which a lawyer said means Najib is going immediately to jail.

The 69-year-old former prime minister looked somber and dejected, surrounded by his wife Rosmah and two children as the verdict was read.

“We find the appeal devoid of any merits. We find the conviction

and sentence to be safe,” Maimun said on behalf of a five-judge panel of the Federal Court.

“It is our unanimous view that the evidence led during the trial points overwhelmingly to guilt on all seven charges.”

Maimun said “it would have been a travesty of justice of the highest order if any reasonable tribunal, faced with such evidence staring it in the face, were to find that the appellant is not guilty of the seven charges preferred against him”.

Sankara Nair, a lawyer who is not involved in the case, told AFP that “with the court issuing a warrant of committal, Najib will be sent to prison immediately”.

The Federal Court decision was handed down after the tribunal threw out a last-minute move by Najib’s lawyers to recuse the chief justice from hearing the case, alleging bias on her part.— AFP

## OPEC+ has ‘means’ to deal with oil volatility: Saudi Arabia

OPEC leader Saudi Arabia’s energy minister said Monday that the oil cartel and its allies have the means to deal with market challenges — including by “cutting production”.

“OPEC+ has the commitment, the flexibility, and the means within the existing mechanisms... to deal with such challenges including cutting production at any time”, Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman said in an interview with Bloomberg, according to Saudi state news agency SPA.

The Saudi-led Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) consists of 13 members.

OPEC and 10 allies led by Russia — a group known as OPEC+ — agreed last month to raise production by 100,000 bpd in September following Western calls for more output after Russia’s war in Ukraine

and a post-pandemic surge in demand sent crude prices soaring.

They had agreed to increases of almost 650,000 bpd in July and August, but the cartel has struggled to meet its quotas. Oil prices have dropped from a peak in June due to growing supplies as well as concerns over the deteriorating economic outlook.

“Volatility and thin liquidity send erroneous signals to markets at times when clarity is most needed,” said Prince Abdulaziz.

He warned that a “vicious circle” was being “amplified by the flow of unsubstantiated stories about demand destruction, recurring news about the return of large volumes of supply, and ambiguity and uncertainty about the potential impacts of price caps, embargoes, and sanctions.”— AFP



OPEC and 10 allies led by Russia — a group known as OPEC+ — agreed last month to raise production by 100,000 bpd in September. **PHOTO: HAIDAR MOHAMMED ALI/AFP**

## UK economy shrinks by bigger-than-expected 11% in 2020: data

THE British economy shrank by 11 per cent in 2020, its sharpest contraction in more than 300 years, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, revised data by the official statistics body showed on Monday.

The Office for National Statistics had originally estimated that Britain’s gross domestic product shrank by 9.3 per cent in 2020, but the latest revision came about due to changes to the way the data are calculated, it said.

The contraction represents the sharpest since the “Great Frost” of 1709, according to data held by the Bank of

England.

The UK economy has therefore shrunk by more than all other Group of Seven economies, but the ONS pointed out that only the United States had so far undertaken the same type of in-depth revisions.

“Our more up-to-date data show that the health service faced higher costs than we initially estimated, meaning its overall contribution to the economy was lower,” said the ONS statistician Craig McClaren.

“Another industry where we have seen downward revisions is retail.—AFP

## Court denies Ben & Jerry's effort to prevent sales in Israeli settlements

BEN & Jerry's lost its bid Monday to block its parent company Unilever from selling its ice cream in West Bank settlements, which the US firm said would run counter to its values. The company, known for its political activism, took the unusual step seeking an injunction after London-based Unilever announced it had sold its interest in the ice cream to an Israeli licence-holder.

However, a US federal judge ruled Monday the ice cream company had "failed to demonstrate" that the move to sell the goods in the Israeli-occu-

pied settlements caused it "irreparable harm".

In July last year, Vermont-based Ben & Jerry's announced it would no longer sell its ice cream in the Palestinian territories, which the Jewish state seized in 1967, saying it was "inconsistent with our values," although it said it would keep selling its products in Israel.

However, Israeli licence-holder Avi Zinger had continued to produce the ice cream in his factory in the suburbs of Tel Aviv and distribute it to the Israeli settlements, going against the company's decision.—AFP

## Boeing delivers 2 commercial satellites to SES for launch

BOEING announced on Monday that it has delivered two satellites for global content connectivity service provider SES to

their launch site in Cape Canaveral, US state of Florida, ahead of the upcoming launch of the twin spacecraft on a United

Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket.

"SES-20 and SES-21 are the first commercial satellites we've delivered

since the start of the global pandemic," said Ryan Reid, president of Boeing Satellite Systems International.—AFP

### Trademark Caution Notice

**BG Intellectuals, Inc**, a company incorporated and existing under the laws of Kansas, the United States of America, with the Company Registration No. 199002145R and having its registered office at 740 S. Wichita Wichita, Kansas 67213 United States of America (hereinafter referred to as "the Company") is the owner of and has registered the following trademark at Office of Deeds of Registration, Yangon.



Registration No: (4/4802) (Date: 29 June 2022)

**BG Intellectuals, Inc**, will use the above trademark for the purpose of doing business in automotive chemicals--namely, transmission fluid; cooling system additive; gear oil supplement; air intake system cleaner; automatic transmission cleaner; brake fluid; brake cleaner; catalytic converter cleaner; automatic transmission conditioner; cooling system cleaner; diesel fuel conditioner; diesel fuel system cleaner; diesel oil conditioner; engine oil system cleaner; engine oil additives; fuel system cleaner; power steering fluid conditioner; power steering system cleaner; automotive air conditioning system treatment; gasoline additives, automotive coolants and antifreeze, rust inhibitors, sealers for electrical wiring and electrical terminals, all included in **Class 01**; Automotive glass cleaner; brake pad treatment; air conditioning treatment; cooling system cleaners and carburetor cleaners, all included in **Class 03**; Engine oil; grease; penetrating oil; chain lube; automotive lubricants, transmission and gear lubricants, all included in **Class 04**; Climate control biocide used for automotive air-conditioner; odor eliminators not for personal use, air deodorizing preparations, all included in **Class 05**; Fluid power flush and exchange machines for changing automobile fluids; Automotive service equipment, namely, fuel system cleaning apparatus; Automotive service equipment, namely, fluid exchange machines; Automotive service equipment, namely, fuel system cleaning machine, all included in **Class 07**, in connection with such business throughout the whole Republic of the Union of Myanmar. From the effective date of the registration of trademark, if any individual or party or company or organization other than the Company uses a mark which would be likely to confuse the public in relation to the Company's registered mark, the Company shall deal with them in accordance with the law in any court of Myanmar, including but not limited to, demanding compensation, to restricting such usage, or taking such other action as may be deemed necessary or appropriate in accordance with the applicable laws. Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trademark or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt according to the law.

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Date: 24 August 2022

### Trademark Caution Notice

**Toyota Motor Asia Pacific Pte Ltd**, a company incorporated and existing under the laws of Singapore, with the Company Registration No. 199002145R and having its registered office at 1 Wallich Street, #36-01 Guoco Tower, Singapore 078881 (hereinafter referred to as "the Company") is the owner of and has registered the following trademark at Office of Deeds of Registration, Yangon.

## Move your world

Registration No: (4/3712) (Date: 25.05.2022)

**Toyota Motor Asia Pacific Pte Ltd**, will use the above trademark for the purpose of doing business in downloadable electronic publications, software and applications for mobile devices, video recordings, as well as electronic and recorded multimedia publications, all included in **Class 09**; mainly surgical, medical, dental and veterinary apparatus, instruments and articles generally used for the diagnosis, treatment or improvement of function or condition of persons and animals, all included in **Class 10**; vehicles and apparatus for the transport of people or goods by land, air or water, all included in **Class 12**; services involving business management, operation, organization and administration of a commercial or industrial enterprise, as well as advertising, marketing and promotional services. For the purposes of classification, the sale of goods is not considered to be a service, all included in **Class 35**; services for the transport of people, animals or goods from one place to another by rail, road, water, air or pipeline and services necessarily connected with such transport, as well as the storing of goods in any kind of storage facility, warehouses or other types of building for their preservation or guarding, all included in **Class 39**; services provided by persons in relation to computer software, software development and maintenance, as well as computer programming and design, all included in **Class 42**, in connection with such business throughout the whole Republic of the Union of Myanmar. From the effective date of the registration of trademark, if any individual or party or company or organization other than the Company uses a mark which would be likely to confuse the public in relation to the Company's registered mark, the Company shall deal with them in accordance with the law in any court of Myanmar, including but not limited to, demanding compensation, to restricting such usage, or taking such other action as may be deemed necessary or appropriate in accordance with the applicable laws. Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trademark or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt according to the law.

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Email: [mm.dml@dentons.com](mailto:mm.dml@dentons.com)

Date: 24 August 2022

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (177N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (177N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-8-2022** 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 KOTA RAJIN VOY.NO. (KRJN0261N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA RAJIN VOY.NO. (KRJN0261N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-8-2022** 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES**

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**09 454 237 515**

# GLOBAL AFFAIRS

## Emperor Pedro I's heart returns to Brazil for 'state visit'



The golden urn containing the heart of Brazil's founder and first ruler, Emperor Pedro I, has arrived in Brazil from Portugal ahead of the South American nation's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. **PHOTO: EVARISTO SA /AFP**

NEARLY two centuries after it was cut from his corpse and stashed in formaldehyde, the heart of Emperor Pedro I, who declared Brazil's independence from Portugal, returned Monday for politically charged commemorations of the South American nation's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Dom Pedro, a beloved figure in both Brazilian and Portuguese history, has been divided between the two countries in death — his heart enshrined in a church in Porto, Portugal, and the rest of his remains in an independence monument in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

But after Porto city officials

agreed to return the heart on loan, it arrived back in Brazil for the country's bicentennial independence celebrations on 7 September.

The heart, which is kept in a glass jar in a golden urn, arrived with all the pomp and circumstance of a state visit.

"It will be treated as if Dom Pedro I were alive and with us... just as if it were a state visit by a foreign leader," said Alan Coelho, chief of ceremonial protocol at the Brazilian foreign ministry.

Dom Pedro fled to Brazil with his family as a nine-year-old boy when Napoleon's army invaded

Portugal in 1807.

He stayed behind to rule the then-colony as regent when his father, King Joao VI, returned home to the increasingly restless metropole in 1821.

Facing pressure to rein in the political autonomy the colony had enjoyed, Pedro I instead declared it an independent country on 7 September 1822. Known in Portugal as Pedro IV, he abdicated in 1831 and led an army into Porto in support of constitutionalists fighting to block his younger brother from usurping the throne and returning the country to absolute monarchy.—AFP

### RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

## Russian tourists' luxury cars fill up Helsinki airport

PORSCHEs, Bentleys and other luxury cars with Russian licence plates are filling up the parking garage at Helsinki's airport as Finland becomes an important transit country for Russian tourists flying to Europe.

The European Union shut its airspace to Russian planes after Moscow invaded Ukraine, forcing anyone who wants to travel to Europe to drive across the border or take a circuitous route using non-Western airlines.

Since Russia's COVID-19 restrictions expired in July, there has been a boom in Russian travellers and a rising backlash in Europe against allowing in Russian tourists while the war continues.

A quick stroll through the carpark at the Helsinki airport revealed dozens if not hundreds



Cars and travellers outside Helsinki Airport's Terminal 2. **PHOTO: AFP**

of high-end cars with Russian licence plates, including a new Mercedes-Benz S-class sedan and Porsche 911 Turbo S.

"It boggles me," Finnish traveller Jussi Hirvonen said after leaving the garage. "I

wish they weren't here before Ukraine's situation is solved."

Finnish Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto told AFP that the Nordic nation has become a "transit country" for Russian tourists.—AFP

## Russia accuses Ukraine over car bomb assassination

RUSSIA on Monday accused Ukraine over the assassination of the daughter of a leading hardliner, as Kyiv said nearly 9,000 of its soldiers had been killed since Moscow launched its invasion.

The FSB security services pointed the finger at Ukraine for Saturday's shock car bombing in Moscow's outskirts that killed Daria Dugina, the 29-year-old daughter of Russian ideologue Alexander Dugin, an outspoken advocate for the invasion of Ukraine.

"The crime was prepared and committed by Ukrainian special services," the FSB said in a statement carried by Rus-

sian news agencies, adding that a bomb had been attached to the car driven by Dugina.

The brazen killing — and Moscow's rapid accusation — marks a potentially destabilizing turn in the six-month-old conflict.

Russian President Vladimir Putin denounced the killing of the journalist and political commentator as a "vile crime" in a message of condolence to her family.

The FSB said the person responsible was a Ukrainian woman born in 1979 who had rented an apartment in the same building where Dugina lived.—AFP



Some Russian media reports have suggested that Dugina borrowed her father's car at the last minute. **PHOTO: INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF RUSSIA /AFP**

## Russia wants talks to buy time for a fresh attack: Kyiv

RUSSIA is trying to get Ukraine into fresh talks to buy time to regroup so it can launch a fresh offensive, a Ukraine presidential adviser told AFP Monday.

For weeks now, the Kremlin has been "trying to convince Ukraine to enter into negotiations", Mykhaylo Podolyak told

AFP, as the sixth month of the war draws to a close.

During such talks, Moscow wanted to "freeze the conflict while preserving the status quo in the occupied Ukrainian territories", he added.

Russia "sends its proposals via various intermediaries", he

said, without naming them, as Kyiv currently has no political contact with Russia.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who met Russian leader Vladimir Putin at the beginning of August, has on several occasions said he is ready to act as an intermediary.—AFP

# Term-limit row leaves Thai PM facing calls to quit

A legal showdown that could oust embattled Thai Prime Minister Prayut Cha-O-Cha reaches the country's constitutional court this week, threatening fresh political turmoil for the kingdom just months before national elections.

The former general has clung on to office through major anti-government protests in 2020, a bruising pandemic, a faltering economy and scores of political near-misses — but now the very constitution whose design he oversaw is being used against him.

Opponents of the 68-year-old

— who seized control in a coup — are agitating for his removal under rules limiting a prime minister to a maximum of eight years in office, a threshold they say he will reach Wednesday.

While the outcome is uncertain, many observers think the court will rule in Prayut's favour.

Prayut's adversaries say his term started when he took power in the coup in May 2014, the latest of the more than a dozen military putsches to upend Thai politics since the birth of democracy in 1932.

But supporters say he has



The resumption of international tourism has failed to lift Thailand out of the economic doldrums. PHOTO: JACK TAYLOR / AFP

been the premier from 2017 — when the current army-drafted

constitution was implemented — or in 2019, when he controver-

sially won much-delayed national polls.— AFP

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Argentina prosecutor seeks 12 yrs jail for VP Kirchner in graft trial

ARGENTINA'S public prosecutor on Monday asked that Vice-President Cristina Kirchner be sentenced to 12 years in prison and disqualified from public office for life for alleged corruption during her two terms as president.

Kirchner, 69, is accused of fraudulently awarding public works contracts in her fiefdom in Patagonia, but even if convicted she would not go to jail so long as she benefits from parliamentary immunity as an elected senator.—AFP

### UN split over ban on Taliban officials' travel

MEMBERS of the United Nations Security Council remained divided Monday over whether to exempt some of Afghanistan's Taliban officials from a travel ban, diplomatic sources said.

Under a 2011 Security Council resolution, 135 Taliban leaders are subject to a sanctions regime that includes asset freezes and travel bans.

Thirteen of them benefited from an exemption from the travel ban, renewed regularly, to allow them to meet officials from other countries abroad.—AFP

# New silo collapse in blast-ravaged Beirut port



This grab from AFPTV footage shows a massive plume of smoke rising over Beirut port after the collapse of eight more grain silos damaged in a devastating 2020 explosion. PHOTO: AFP

EIGHT more grain silos at Beirut port toppled Tuesday, succumbing to damage from a devastating 2020 explosion in the third such collapse in a month,

AFP correspondents reported.

A cloud of dust rose over the port after the collapse, which brought down the last of the northern block of silos that was

more heavily damaged in the blast and where a fire had been burning since July.

The remaining southern block is more stable and not at imminent risk of collapse, said French civil engineer Emmanuel Durand, who has installed sensors on the silos.

The silos absorbed much of the impact of the massive explosion of haphazardly stored ammonium nitrate fertilizer that killed more than 200 people on 4 August 2020.

Other silos already collapsed on 31 July and 4 August.

A fire has been burning in the silos for more than a month as remaining grain stocks ferment in the summer heat.—AFP



Major asset: Tamar gas field off Israel already producing. PHOTO: AFP/SCANPIX

# Israel warns Hezbollah attack on gas field may mean war

ISRAEL on Monday warned Lebanon's Hezbollah any attack on its gas assets could spark war, after the militant group threatened to "sever" Israel's hands if it taps a disputed offshore field.

The warning from Defence Minister Benny Gantz comes amid lengthy negotiations be-

tween the eastern Mediterranean neighbours to settle a dispute over their maritime border.

Tensions spiked in June when a production vessel chartered by Israel arrived near the Karish offshore gas field, which Lebanon claims is within contested waters.

Israel said on 2 July that it had downed three drones launched by Hezbollah towards Karish.

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said on 9 August that "the hand that reaches for any of this wealth will be severed".—AFP

Term-limit row leaves Thai PM facing calls to quit

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# SPORT

## Ronaldo has Man Utd future despite Liverpool axe: Ten Hag

ERIK ten Hag insists Cristiano Ronaldo still has a future at Manchester United after the Portugal star suffered the embarrassment of being dropped for his side's rousing 2-1 win against Liverpool.

United looked far more dynamic without Ronaldo as they stunned Liverpool to end a dismal run of two successive defeats at the start of the Premier League season.

With the ageing Ronaldo reduced to a substitute appearance in the closing minutes at Old Trafford on Monday, United were finally able to successfully deploy Ten Hag's aggressive game plan.

Marcus Rashford, Jadon Sancho and Anthony Elanga formed an attacking triumvirate that gave United the pace and energy they lacked in the 2-1 defeat against Brighton and the subsequent 4-0 humiliation at Brent-

ford. Vindicating Ten Hag's decision to axe Ronaldo and igniting fresh debate about his future, it was Sancho who



Manchester United striker Cristiano Ronaldo made a brief appearance against Liverpool. PHOTO: AFP

scored United's opener and Rashford who doubled their lead.

After missing United's pre-season tour due to "family reasons" amid reports he had told the club he wanted to leave, Ronaldo was already unsettled heading into the new season.

United's failure to qualify for this season's Champions League convinced Ronaldo he should quit a club without a major trophy since 2017, giving Ten Hag a major headache just weeks after his arrival from Ajax.

But, with United insisting Ronaldo is not for sale, the former Real Madrid and Juventus striker has found himself in limbo.

The 37-year-old, who finished as United's top scorer last term, hardly appeared committed to the Ten Hag regime when he walked out of Old Trafford before full-time after being substituted during a pre-season friendly against Rayo Vallecano.— AFP

### 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.

## Kachin United trounce Yaw Myay FC 7-0 in MNL II

KACHIN United made a big win over Yaw Myay FC 7-0 in the Myanmar National League II match held at Thuwunna Training Ground-1 in Yangon yesterday.

Kachin United won their first win of the season by defeating Yaw Myay FC, and the team managed to get one point after two games. Yaw Myay FC lost two games in a row and lost victory. Kachin United scored

only two goals in the first half but scored five more goals in the second half.

The winning goals for Kachin United were scored by Zaw Mon Aung at 22, 25, and 49 minutes and Seng Aung at 65, and 83 minutes and S Gun Lum at 78 and 86 minutes. On the second day of the match (4) on 25 August, Mawyawady FC will play against Dagon Star United. —Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM



A Kachin United player (blue) vies for the ball against a Yaw Myay FC player during their Myanmar National League II match at Thuwunna Training Ground-1 in Yangon on 23 August 2022. PHOTO: MNL

## ASEAN Football body issue Tournament Group Draw Schedule

THE ASEAN Football Federation has released the guidelines for the AFF Cup 2022 group draw to be held at the end of this month.

The ASEAN Football Federation will hold the tournament with the support of Mitsubishi Electric, and it will be called the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2022.

The group draw for this competition will be held in Thailand on 30 August, and the ASEAN Football Federation released the sedan specifications last few days.

In terms of sedans, Defending champion Thailand and Viet Nam are included in Pot-1, while Indonesia and Malaysia in Pot-2, Singapore and the Philippines in Pot-3, Myanmar and Cambodia

in Pot-4, and Pot-5 includes Laos and the qualifying team.

The ASEAN Football Federation will hold the tournament in the format of the 2018 tournament, with five teams participating and divided into two groups.

Each participating team will play four group games: two home matches and another two away matches.

Semi-finals and finals will be held in a two-leg home and away system.

According to the ASEAN Football Federation, the two lowest-ranked teams, namely Timor-Leste and Brunei, will play in the qualifiers, and only the winning team will be allowed to compete in the tournament.

The ASEAN Football



ASEAN Football Federation will hold the AFF Cup 2022 with the support of Mitsubishi Electric. PHOTO: AFF

Federation will hold this year's tournament from December 2022 to January 2023, and the fixtures will be announced at the group drawing-lots event. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM