

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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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.

## Myanmar pockets over US\$3 mln from rubber export within week

MYANMAR exported over 2,160 tonnes of rubber worth US\$3.279 million via the sea route between 13 and 19 August.

It shipped 1,410 tonnes of rubber to China while over 120 tonnes to Malaysia and 630 tonnes to India. The rubber demand from Thailand is also high and they purchase the most volume of rubber via the border



A Myanmar worker taps rubber latex from the rubber tree.



trade route. The rubber can fetch good prices for such procurement until the coming rubber season, the rubber business people considered.

This week, the country exported over 1,315 tonnes of rubber – 108 tonnes via the Myanmar-Thai border and 1,207 tonnes via the Myanmar-China border and earned over \$1.832 million.

Therefore, the country

shipped 3,480 tonnes of rubber through sea and border trade routes earning \$5.11 million this week. The amount shows a decline of over 200 tonnes of rubber worth \$0.301 million compared to last week.

The rubber price was only K1,100 per pound locally and the RSS3 rubber price was on the rise amid high foreign demand. It reaches K1,300 per pound in

Mudon, Kyaikmaraw and Myeik. The country produces over 300,000 tonnes of rubber per year and the local consumption rate is only eight per cent, so a large volume of rubber is exported.

The rubber price is on the rise in local and foreign markets since the last rubber harvesting season to date. Therefore, quality rubber is planted in regions and states this year.

Currently, there are over 1.6 million acres of rubber plantation land in the country with 850,000 acres for harvesting.

Most of the country's rubber trees are grown in Mon State as well as in Kayin State, Taninthayi, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions. The plantations have also been expanded in Shan and Kachin states and Sagaing Region. – TWA/GNLM

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Pyin Oo Lwin

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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 statements 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*

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

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

## Working committee formed to establish Assets Management Company

TO strengthen the banking system of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) and adapt to international standards, a working committee to establish an Assets Management Company was formed under Notification 122/2022.

The working committee was formed to set up an Assets Management Company which would adapt to the country's situation in line with international standards. It will carry out a feasibility study and work procedures depending on the current situation.

Furthermore, laws, rules and regulations to establish that company must be reviewed and submitted according to the existing laws. If there is an amendment

needed to be made, it has to be reported. Regarding the rights and duties of the Assets Management Company, observing and reporting must be undertaken.

Reports on the activities of the working committee have to be submitted to the CBM and the Ministry of Planning and Finance every three months. The working committee's expenses will be used from the CBM's fund.

The deputy governor of the CBM serves as chair of the committee and the deputy minister of the Ministry of Planning and Finance acts as a co-chair. The committee includes a secretary, a joint secretary and 14 members. — TWA/GNLM

## Kyat stands around K3,500 in FX market despite CBM reference rate of K2,100



The office of the Central Bank of Myanmar-CBM (Yangon Branch).

ACCORDING to foreign currency dealers, the central bank's reference remittance rate is set at K2,100 per US dollar, but in the foreign exchange market, it is around K3,500 per dollar.

The Central Bank of Myanmar has issued a statement to set the foreign currency exchange rate within the Central Bank reference rate  $\pm 0.3\%$  starting from 10 August.

Therefore, those related to the dollar business, including exchange counters and banks, set the buying price of one dollar at K2100 and the selling price at K2,106.

Although, in the external market, the buying price of one dollar was around K3,400 and the selling price was around K3,500 on 3 September.

In the last few days, the foreign market rose to more than K4,500 per dollar, while the domestic gold price rose to a record high of K37,000,000

per tical.

Therefore, the Central Bank of Myanmar has been selling dollars to sectors that need US dollars through foreign exchange bidding to control the increase in dollar prices.

In 2021, the Central Bank of Myanmar sold \$443.8 million in a foreign currency competitive auction.

At the end of September last year, when the local currency market rose to a record high of over K3,000 per US dollar, the domestic gold price rose to a record high of K2,220,000 per tical.

Therefore, the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods is working to ensure that there are no delays or difficulties in domestic and foreign trade activities.

As the stability of the gold and currency markets is very important, it aims to support

the activities of the central committee on the one hand.

Under the command of the central committee, the gold and currency market will be monitored to ensure the stability of domestic gold and currency prices. The Monitoring and Steering Committee on the Gold and Currency Market was established on 17 December 2021.

The task of the committee is to speculate on the local gold market, look into transaction lists as necessary to verify and identify purchases, check whether the rules of payment issued by the Central Bank of Myanmar are followed and take action under the existing laws, rules, regulations, orders and directives.

Relevant officials will identify and take effective actions over illegal holders of foreign currencies and illegal traders and market players. — NN/GNLM

## Individual skills and knowledge of graduates will benefit the State

THE graduates must have skills to apply their experiences of social and knowledge from their respective majoring subjects in practical arenas. As individual skills of applying their knowledge will benefit the State.

*(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the third-day coordination meeting held on 10 August 2022 in regard to matters relating to the activities being carried out by the Union Government)*

## Union Ministers view special performance of “Doorman Chief Dathta Story” of MRTV programme “Nipattaw La Zet Thabin Maha”



Union Ministers and guests watch the special performance on the Doorman Chief Dathta Story of the Buddha's birth stories at the MRTV in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE special performance of “Doorman Chief Dathta Story” of “Nipattaw La Zet Thabin Maha” (Birth Stories of the Buddha) programme of MRTV that will be broadcast soon was performed at MRTV in Tatkon of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It was attended by Union Ministers U Maung Maung Ohn, U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Ko Ko Hlaing, Dr Thida Oo, U Ko Ko, U Thaug Han, U Shwe Lay, and U Saw Tun Aung Myint, Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Than Swe, Union Civil Service Board Chairman Dr Maung Maung Naing, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Tin Oo Lwin, ACC members and

staff, staff of the Auditor-General Office and invitees.

On arrival at the MRTV in Nay Pyi Taw, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, Union Ministers and guests were welcomed by news announcers and staff of the ethnic TV channel and MRTV radio.

First, dignitaries and officials inspected news broadcasting procedures at the Convergence News Room, Presentation Room and News Studio in the MRTV main building.

Then, they visited the Diamond Jubilee Museum and a video clip covering the history of

the museum was played at Mini Theatre. They also observed the machines and tools in successive eras of MRTV, scale models and studios and other materials displayed in the museum, the Radio Master Control Room and Virtual Room.

The MRTV staff and artistes presented music performances and the Myanmar traditional dancers performed dual dances.

Then, theatrical artiste Padamyar Kay Khine explained the story of Doorman Chief Dathta, the aim of the story and introduced the artistes who perform in the story.

Then, the Union minister

and party enjoyed the performance of the Doorman Chief Dathta Story.

The story is about a government servant of a country who took a bribe. The story intends that every government employee of the country should love their country showing their loyalty. It also shares the knowledge that only good civil service makes the country or nation better and the disadvantages of bribes and positive cases and life achievement for having good character.

After the show, Union Ministers and guests provided cash prizes to performers and MRTV staff, and the MRTV returned

the gifts to dignitaries.

The MRTV is broadcasting the 38-principle Mingala programme every Saturday to preserve the traditional culture upholding the objectives — to inform, educate and entertain. The programme is aimed at young people and children to be polite and also for the artistes to resume their art industry.

Moreover, arrangements are being made to broadcast the show of Buddha stories that highlight the importance of loyalty, good characteristics and power of education for up to 20 episodes by cooperating with theatrical artiste Padamyar Kay Khine. — MNA

## 90 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 3 September, total figure rises to 615,489

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **615,489** after **90** new cases— **seven** imported and **83** local transmission—were reported on 3 September 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **593,745** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,439** without more casualties. —MNA

## Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit [www.moi.gov.mm/mal](http://www.moi.gov.mm/mal), [www.moi.gov.mm/km](http://www.moi.gov.mm/km), [www.moi.gov.mm/nlm](http://www.moi.gov.mm/nlm) and [www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper](http://www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper).

News and Periodicals Enterprise

## Government facilitates investments at a steady pace, MoC Union Minister stresses



THE State Government is planning and implementing the plans to facilitate investments, stressed Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo of the Ministry of Commerce during the meeting with the members of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone Management Committee and the companies that are making investments in the Yangon Thilawa Special Economic Zone yesterday morning.

MoC Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo meets companies in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone yesterday.

In addition, he discussed the continuous collaboration efforts amongst the Thilawa Special Economic Zone Management Committee, the Central Working Committee on Special Economic Zones and investors.

Then, the Union minister and party viewed round the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

The Union minister inspected the milling and producing processes of high-grade export rice with a modern rice mill by Wilmar Myanmar Limited, enhanced production and distribution of edible oil and the construction of the bran oil factory before coordinating the necessary things. — MNA

## CRIME NEWS

### Illegal fuel oil, consumer goods, foodstuffs, home appliances, construction materials and vehicles confiscated

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

An inspection team led by the Maritime Police Force under the instructions of the Sagaing Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted inspections on 1 September.

Officials captured K40,640,000 worth of 4,800 gal-

lons of diesel and 280 gallons of fuel at the Nyaungpingyi jetty in Monywa township. The action was taken under the Petroleum and Petroleum Product Law.

In addition, an inspection team led by the Forest Department nabbed a total of 1.988 tonnes of illegal teak worth K656,040 in the 18-Mawkuu forest reserve on 2 September. The action was taken under the Forest Law.



Seized illegal fuel oil in Sagaing Region.



Confiscated illegal commodities in Kayin State.

On 3 September, an on-duty team at the Thanlwin Bridge (Hpa-an) Combined Checkpoint made inspections under the management of the Kayin State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force.

They confiscated K3,350,000 worth of duty-free foodstuffs and home appliances from a Yutong bus (approximately K135,000,000).

The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Afterwards, the Muse District Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force examined a stopped vehicle in the Pankham Bus Terminal compound in Muse township and seized K36,280,180 worth of foodstuffs, construction materials and stainless-steel seat legs

from a Dongfeng truck (approximately K20 million). The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Therefore, 11 arrests (approximately K235,926,220) were made on three consecutive days from 1 to 3 September; according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

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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.

## One dies on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway

AN express bus passenger died during an overnight stop while travelling from Mandalay to Yangon at the Mile Post 138 Checkpoint of the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway on 3 September.

The deceased is a man named Ko San Lwin Aung, aged 46, who lives in Nyaungpin Village of Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township in Yangon Region. He was missing and found dead when passengers regather to leave in the following morning.

“Travellers must stop at the assigned places at the midnight lock-down period and return to the trip at 4 am. Drivers from

all the parked express buses slept on the scorching concrete road or the ground with mats and blankets. Some passengers slept on the bus and some are spending four or five hours of their time at the shops or stalls opened by the nearby villagers, waiting for departure without sleeping,” said Ko Aung Myint, a Yangon-Mandalay passenger.

The body was carried to the Ottwin Hospital with the help of the Yinkhonthan parahita (welfare) association at 6 am, and the investigation of death was opened by the relevant police station. — TWA/GNLM



The deceased man is seen being carried by the Yinkhonthan parahita association.

## Power cut in some townships of Yangon Region



One electric power station.

MAINTENANCE works are underway at the Thakayta, Ahlon and Shweli power stations so temporary power outages will occur in some townships in Yangon Region, according to the Yangon Electricity Supply Cooperation.

Among electric power generators in Yangon Region, the Thakayta U Energy power station is under repair and the distribution of approximately 106 mW can be reduced while

Ahlon Toyo Thai power generator is under maintenance with the distribution being reduced by approximately 55 mW.

Similarly, the Shweli Hydropower Plant and the Ahlon CECC power station are also under repair and there are shortages of power distribution. Furthermore, the seasonal temperature rises during this week and the electricity consumption in Yangon Region is also increasing.

Therefore, in order to stabilize the power system, emergency load reduction is being carried out when electricity consumption is high in Yangon Region. Temporary power outages will occur in some townships in Yangon Region, and measures will be taken to ensure that there are no power outages in important areas, according to the Yangon Electricity Supply Cooperation. — TWA/GNLM

## 314 Myanmar citizens repatriated from Thailand

OFFICIALS received 314 Myanmar returnees from Thailand through the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II in Myawaddy on 1 September.

They are 218 men and 96 women from various regions and states including Bago Region, Mon State and Taninthayi Region.

Relevant departmental staff and officials welcomed them, disseminated information about COVID-19 disease and collected their data.

Among them, returnees from Bago Region, Mon State and Taninthayi Region were sent to the quarantine centre in Mawlamyine and others will be sent

back to their respective townships only after a 10-day quarantine in Myawady trade zone and Maekanel until no infection is detected. — TWA/GNLM

The picture shows Myanmar nationals who returned from Thailand.



## Onion price reaches record high in H2 despite low demand by foreign markets

THE wholesale prices of onion in the Yangon market continued to spiral on 2 September 2022, Ko Lwin Ko, a buyer at Nyaungpinlay market told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

On 1 September, the wholesale prices stood at K2,600-3,250 per viss of onion from Seikphyu Township and K3,000-3,650 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) of onion from Monywa Township. The prices slightly rose to K2,700-3,500 per

viss of onions from Seikphyu Township and K3,000-3,850 per viss of onions from Monywa Township on 20 August.

Since 29 August, onion prices have continued to rise for five consecutive days. On 2 September, the prices were up by K700 from Seikphyu Township and K950 from Monywa Township compared to the prices recorded on 29 August. On 1 August, large-sized onions fetched only K1,950-2,000. The figures, therefore, showed a dramatic

increase of K1,900 per viss, the GNLM quoted trader Ko Zaw as saying.

The wholesale prices were K475 per viss in the corresponding period in 2020 and K450 on 1 September 2021. The current market price is eight times higher than the prices recorded in the corresponding period of 2021 and 2020.

The prices hit a record high of K3,700 per viss in December 2015 and 2019. The onion prices registered on 2 September

broke the record prices. It is three months earlier than the cases in 2015 and 2019, a veteran trader who delivers the onions to regions and states other than Yangon, told the GNLM.

Those traders who keep the onion stock in their hands are expecting a higher price than the current price.

Traders gave reasons for the price hike due to the onion market collapse in 2020 and 2021 and the low inventory. The local onion prices are higher

than the ones in external markets.

There are three months left for the new onion to enter the market. As a result of this, the prices are likely to remain on upward trends, said Ko Swe, a seller involved in Bayint Naung Wholesale Market.

Consequently, the consumers are expecting that the related institutions set onions at a fair price. They are calling for a fair market price amid the inflation pressure. — TWA/GNLM

# ARTICLE

## The Rice Market – Past, Present and Future

By Linn Oo

**R**ICE is the staple food of Myanmar with those with high affordability consuming Pawsan species of rice while those with low income rely upon a bit rough or coarse-grained species. In the domestic market, Pawsan is the most famous among the rich. Nonetheless, in the 1970s, Pawsan was not that famous, and the Ngakywe species was of the highest quality consumed by the prosperous and the people of the medium class. However, Ngakywe was also known as Meedon, which is now called Pawkywe. The term Meedon was used by the state-owned purchase depots.

### Rice Production in the past

During the pre-war period, Myanmar was one of the major exporters of rice around the world. There were a lot of rice mills owned privately in addition to the state-owned ones. The private brands were also famous in the world market with some topping the exporters' list. In the post-independence period, private entrepreneurs were granted to be engaged in the trading of paddy and rice. The Delta Area witnessed huge rice mills and big paddy/rice go-downs.

Beyond 1962, when rice and paddy trading was nationalized, private entrepreneurs could not be engaged in this business. Nevertheless, the rice mills were not nationalized. Therefore, the paddy can be milled by private entrepreneurs, and for almost three decades, the privately-owned rice mills were assigned the duty to mill the paddy for both governments' prescribed quota



Female farmers are seen transplanting the paddy.

and self-sufficiency paddy for the farmers. The government exported the surplus paddy only. Nonetheless, the volume of trade was rather low when compared to that exported before 1962.

### Varieties of Rice

In the aftermath of the 1962 coup launched by General Ne Win, the farmland was owned by the state, and the farmers, therefore, were required to sell at least 12 baskets of paddy per acre per annum to the government's purchase depots. The surplus paddy, which is the difference between the prescribed quota and the yield per acre, can be milled for the self-sufficiency of the farmers. The consumers could buy the quota rice from the Public Property Corporation Shops [later from the co-operative society shops]. Some bought the rice direct from the farmers in addition

to the quota rice. In those days, both fine-grained and coarse-grained rice was consumed by the people without much discrimination between the former and the latter.

Among the paddy species procured by the state-owned purchase depots, Nga Kywe was

In the post-1988 period, when the market-oriented economy was first introduced, private entrepreneurs were permitted to be engaged in rice/paddy trading businesses. With the new economic policy concerning rice/paddy laid down, rice export grew, resulting in the ability to export

species of both coarse-grained and fine-grained rice. Around the 1980s, there arose a new species known as Pawsan, a hybrid of Ngakywe and Meedon. During the period when the farmers had to sell the prescribed quota of paddy to the government, there had also arisen another species called Ngakywe Taungpyan, which was of the highest quality. This species produced long-grained rice when cooked. This rice was soft and delicate. In addition to Ngakywe Taungpyan, there had also emerged Kaukkyi Taungpyan. Afterwards, there had also arisen sub-species of Pawsan known as Pawsan Shwewah, Pawsan Baygya and Pawsan Taungpyan. These Pawsan species sold well in the market. However, the Taungpyan species produced less rice when milled.

In the post-1970s, the rice species produced in Pathein were quite famous in the market, selling the first. The consumers liked these Pathein species because they produced a higher volume of rice compared to other species.



Workers are pictured putting rice into bags at one rice mill.

sold for the highest price. The colour of the paddy was black. The paddy species — Ngakywe, Meedon, Ngasein, Hnanka, Emahta and Kaukhnyin — were bought by the state-owned paddy purchase depots at the prescribed prices depending on the species. One basket of paddy weighs 46 pounds.

### Market Economy and Rice Production

more than three million tons of rice and rice products in 2020. This volume of export was equal to the annual export tonnage before the pre-war period.

### Famous Pawsan - Hybrid of Ngakywe and Meedon

In addition to the export of coarse-grained rice, the local rice market had become rather competitive again. Between 1988 and 2022, there had emerged a new

Depending upon the water type, soil type and paddy prices, the quality of rice varies from species to species. The Ngakywe Hmwe, Kaukkyi and Taungpyan produced in the Delta Area sold very well in the market. Nonetheless, this popularity has faded gradually for a lack of properly maintaining the quality, for not cultivating at the right time and for not using the pedigree seeds. ▶▶▶



Pawsan rice is measured in a traditional way at one rice outlet.

# ARTICLE

▶▶▶ Out of the paddy-cultivating towns in the Delta Area, only nine townships had Pawsan species cultivated. When Ngyaw Hmwe lost its popularity, Pathein Pawsan, Myaungmya Pawsan and Pyapon Pawsan became the best sellers in the post-2000s period.

## Shwebo Pawsan

In 2007, Shwebo Pawsan started to be famous among the people living in Pakokku Region. These days, this species topped the list of the best sellers. This is sold for the highest price. Around 2005, the Pawsan species from the Delta Area was moved to the Shwebo Region for cultivation on an experimental basis. Stinking less fragrance, the quality of this species is excellent, producing long-grained rice, which does not decompose in the intense heat. Regarding the per-acre yield,

It is learnt that there are 354,785 acres of land in Shwebo which are put under cultivation of Pawsan species. There is a great dam in Shwebo which supplies the irrigated water for cultivation. Shwebo Pawsan species are being sold throughout the country but Yangon is its biggest market. It is also learnt that around three-lakh bags of rice are being transported every month to Wahdan rice market in Yangon.

Shwebo Pawsan yields better, 70 baskets per acre when compared to Delta species, which yields only 40/50 baskets per acre.

It is learnt that there are 354,785 acres of land in Shwebo which are put under cultivation of Pawsan species. There is a great dam in Shwebo which supplies the irrigated water for cultivation. Shwebo Pawsan species are being sold throughout the country but Yangon is its biggest market. It is also learnt that around three-lakh bags of rice are being transported every month to Wahdan rice market in Yangon.

## Prices of Pawsan Rice

The rice brokerages usually demonstrate the quality of their rice by cooking it in front of po-

tential buyers. The same species of rice usually have sub-categories, which are sold for different prices. There are at least three sub-categories for a rice species. Most consumers prefer to have a look at the sample rice cooked in their presence. But their choice is also influenced by the prices. The highest-priced Shwebo Pawsan ranges from K82,000 to K91,000 per bag. Contrary to the name Shwebo Pawsan, there is also the same species produced not in Shwebo but in the Delta Area. This rice species are being sold for around K75,000 per bag. Pathein/Myaungmya Pawsan species are being sold wholesale for K70,000 per bag while Pyapon Pawsan, Bogale Mawgyun Pawsan and Dedaye Kyapyan Pawsan are being sold for K68,000, K65,000 and K70,000 per bag respectively, according to certain rice brokerages in the Bayintnaung depot. Thanks to modern rice mills using advanced milling technology, the rice has become higher grade.

## Yangon - the Biggest Market for Pawsan Species

The Pawsan rice is being chiefly sold by the wholesale traders in Yangon Commodity Depot and Bayintnaung brokerages with less volume of rice being sold in other towns. Yangon, which has a population of seven million, has the biggest market for Pawsan species. Those who can afford to buy in advance summer rice, cooking oil, onion and chilli etc., for fear of shortage of supply. This being so, they do not suffer from the price hike. Pawsan consumers are also in the habit of panic buying.

As for the home delivery businessmen, they have the rice



A female farmer is still manually working while a rice combine harvester is being used on the paddy field.

cleansed and have the rice bags delivered right up to the doorstep. In addition to the rice bags of one-and-a-half baskets, they are also selling the smaller size of rice bags — a half basket or a quarter basket. The delivery costs the buyer only K5,000 or so per basket.

The retailers inside the wards are selling the rice per pyi for K3,000 to K4,000. The coarse-grained rice consumed by the majority of people is sold for K2,000 or so per pyi while the wholesale price is fixed between K35,000 per bag and K44,000 per bag. Therefore, the price of Pawsan doubles that of coarse-grained species.

## Price Changing Trends

Before 1964, the daily wage was K3.15. With the passage of 55 years, the daily wage is K4,800 now. In 2020, the coarse-grained species was sold for around K20,000 per bag while the broken rice was sold for K17,000 per bag and Pawsan, for about K50,000 per bag respectively. In mid-2020

however, the coarse-grained species were sold for about K30,000 per bag whereas the broken rice, for around K30,000 per bag and Pawsan, for about K70,000 per bag respectively. So, this year witnessed peak prices.

## Changing Trends in Consumption of Rice

True to the consumers' behaviour, people have turned to alternative choices. Instead of consuming Pawsan, some middle-income earners have turned to cheaper-priced rice known as the Delta Pawsan, which is sold for K20,000 or so per bag. Ordinary Pawsan's price has risen up to about K30,000 above that of the coarse-grained rice species. The people have, therefore, become thrifty, mixing the coarse-grained and the fine-grained rice species.

## Current Market Before the Monsoon Paddy Yield

The price hike of rice can be attributed to the higher price of paddy. Before the Monsoon paddy yield, the price of coarse-grained

paddy is about K1.2 million per 100 baskets while that of Delta Pawsan is around K1.6 million and that of Shwebo Pawsan is about K2.0 million per 100 baskets respectively.

As the rice can be stored for only a few months, the rice merchants are required to dispose of the go-downs before the yield of the new rice. Naturally, the traders would tend to create higher demand for their old rice, manipulating the prices of rice. The coarse-grained rice is consumed only domestically, and so, the supply is sufficient till the yield of new rice. Only 25 per cent of Emahta rice and the broken rice are exported. Pawsan is not exported. Therefore, people ought not to panic buying, which will only aggravate the rice market.

The Rice NGO is selling the rice to the consumers. Under their arrangement, three species of fine-grained rice and one species of coarse-grained rice are being distributed commencing from August and will continue to be sold up to October. This arrangement is believed to mitigate the concern of the consumers. During this three-month period, Monsoon coarse-grained paddy will yield. Likewise, the old-age paddy of the new Pawsan will also be produced.

Sagaing Region is home to paddy-cultivating farmers, and so, the rice produced from this region is transported to the whole country, chiefly to Yangon. Such being the case, the prices of rice are very unlikely to rise to a record high. Nonetheless, the traders who have stored the rice will manipulate the rice prices. Therefore, people are advised not to panic buying.



# OPINION

# ARTICLE BOOKRACK

## Emphasize road safety for road users under prescribed rules

THE National Road Safety Council is taking responsibility for the road users to be able to stay away from death and injuries in traffic accidents under the national road safety plan (2021-2030) in cooperation with the people individuals.

In 2018, the Global Status Report on Road Safety released by the World Health Organization mentioned that some 1.3 million people lost lives in road accidents on a yearly basis and more than 50 million people were injured, adding 18.2 per cent of 100,000 global people die of road accidents, most of whom live in Africa and Southeast Asia. Road accident stands eighth in the chart of the root causes of death for human and first for deaths of people between the ages of five and 29 years.

The United Nations adopted the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020) based on the Moscow Declaration released by the Global Ministerial Road Safety Conference held in Moscow of Russia in November 2019 whereas ASEAN countries are also implementing the ASEAN Regional Road Safety Strategic Plan. This being so, Myanmar is realizing the National Road Safety Action Plan (2014-2020) for taking road safety measures.

Implementation of the Decade of Action for Road Safety depends on Road Safety Management, Safer Road and Mobility, Safety Vehicles, Safer Road Users, and Post-Crash Response. In Myanmar, NRSC will continue its efforts to implement visions and action plans of the Myanmar National Road Safety Action Plan (2021-2030).

Article 3.6 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) was drawn to reduce 50 per cent of the dead number in road accidents as road safety measure becomes a global problem. As such, global countries are actively participating in the project whereas Myanmar joins the movement as a dutiful country.

It is necessary to take the 5e system — education, engineering, enforcement, emergency medical care and evaluation — being practised by global countries into consideration. All the countries need to choose the relevant prioritized sector for correctly solving the problems of road safety measures on the ground in a short period.

If people in individuals follow road safety measures, if all vehicles are in good condition and if all the roads are safe, road users will be free from road accidents. As such, an emphasis must be placed on the enactment of traffic disciplines, discipline enforcement and taking action against offenders whereas road users need to focus on maintenance of vehicles and careful driving for shaping a good and safe road environment.

# New Value of Agriculture in Urban Areas

By Suzuka YOSHIDA

JAPAN is an archipelago extending from north to south, bordering Russia to the north, the Philippines to the south, and Chinese Taipei to the west. Although it is a land rich in diverse climates and diverse nature, the land area is 380,000 square kilometres, which is about 70 per cent of France and slightly larger than Germany. Moreover, about 80 per cent of the country consists of mountains and hills with forests, making it unsuitable for agriculture. In recent years, however, an increasing number of young people are moving to mountain villages to farm. Even in central Tokyo, an increasing number of Tokyo residents are

renting small plots of land from local governments and working hard on agriculture. It shows the emergence of agriculture with a new value, not just agriculture as a mere “industry.”

### Agriculture in Japan is close to “horticulture”

Those who have visited Japan will have seen a forest covered in deep green just an hour away by train from big cities such as Tokyo and Osaka. Japan’s land was formed by repeated crustal movements and volcanic eruptions over hundreds of millions of years ago. Urban areas were built on that limited, relatively flat land. Agricultural land is scarce, and

Japan’s arable land that can be used for farming is 4.349 square kilometres. The majority of Japan’s nearly 120 million people live in plains and areas called “satoyama” where both hills and plains coexist.

The population density of the plains is 1,504 people per square kilometre. Compared to France, which has 109 people per square kilometre, the population density is about 14 times higher. Agriculture in this densely populated land looks very different from that in countries with many flatlands.

When trying to use a small piece of land as a field, the only way to get over the steps is to have people go back and forth

on foot without using machines.

Therefore, in Japan, it is not possible to harvest and water the crops with large machinery, as is done in the United States, and there are many types of people who are involved in farm work with the whole family. Compared to the labour force, the yield of each kind is small, and multiple varieties should be mixed to increase the total income. Japanese agriculture is similar to “horticulture” in the sense of requiring a lot of labour and bringing little income.

### Food self-sufficiency in Japan with poor cost performance

On the other hand, looking at

agriculture from the standpoint of the side that sells ingredients in the market and the side that manufactures processed foods, it is not possible to harvest a large amount of a single ingredient, so it is necessary to purchase from various sources. In other words, it is time-consuming and costly. Japan’s food self-sufficiency rate has fallen significantly because importing food from foreign countries is cheaper. As a result, importing food incurs huge transportation costs, and food mileage has become the largest in the world. Food mileage refers to the “Food Miles” movement, a citizen movement, that was active in the UK, and we are conscious of [the amount of food × transportation



Farmland used by residents in Tokyo is so popular that it is full of various crops.

distance], and we will reduce the environmental load by consuming food produced in the region as much as possible. Although

importing food makes sense for importers, it imposes a burden on the environment and goes against the goals of the SDGs. Japan is

the world’s largest importer of food and the largest transportation distance.

SEE PAGE-10



Book Title	-	Picasso's Parrot
Author	-	Zaw Zaw Aung
Publishing House	-	Seikku Cho Cho
Publication Date	-	August 2022 (1st Edition)
Price	-	K4,000

## Picasso's Parrot

THIS book is a collection of short stories and essays by author Zaw Zaw Aung who illuminates approaches to modern and post-modern literary theories and literary arts.

His unpublished literary works are unveiled in this book by Seikku Cho Cho Publishing.

Saya Zaw Zaw Aung is well-known for introducing the concepts of modern, postmodern and contemporary arts to the readers. His short stories and essays make the readers a perfect reading experience. The

author is keen on plotless fictional modern short stories rather than conventional approaches and dramatic situations. The author earned a master’s degree from the University of Yangon and served as an assistant lecturer at the Yangon University of Economics.

Being a Myanmar tutor, he is adept at Myanmar literature. His modern stories satisfy the readers as he puts himself in the readers’ shoes. Furthermore, the author’s writing style and usage make his essay and stories

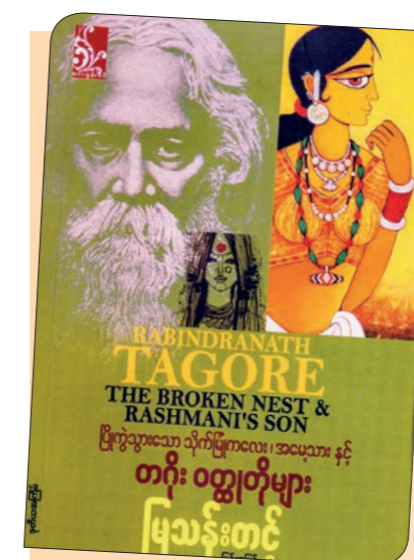
significant.

In an article entitled ‘fake short story stating shadow on the beach’, broken hopes in life are described as scattered pieces of waste paper in the room employing metaphor: Who should I trust? Life is a metaphor. Just fill the fresh water in the pot for those who come and leave.

A nameless breeze is blowing in the forest and the leaves are dancing in the light breeze. In my mind, I feel quite flustered. Only one flower has bloomed

yet a spring covers the whole life. People must differentiate between important matters and trivial things. If one clearly realizes it, life would be beautiful. The readers can feel enjoyment from his writing skills.

The book contains Parts I and II. In Part I, 25 stories are put together, while 20 are included in Part II, totalling 45 stories. The readers who enjoy his work will feel pleased for sure. Also, the book is a good recommendation for those who appreciate modern fiction.



Book Title	-	The Broken Nest & Rashmani's son by Rabindranath Tagore
Translator	-	Mya Than Tint
Publishing House	-	Lin Lun Khin
Publication Date	-	July 2022 (2nd Edition)
Price	-	K6,500

## The Broken Nest & Rashmani's son by Rabindranath Tagore

THE school that Rabindranath Tagore established in Santiniketan was declared to be a central university and an institution of national importance and it is well-known for a valuable collection of arts and literature in India. Tagore won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913 for his collection Gitanjali. His birthday is annually commemorated on 8 May across India. He is none other than Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. Tagore who worked as a poet, writer, playwright, composer and phi-

losopher magnificently wrote about 60 poem books and other prose, dramas, plays and other complementary works. Tagore’s works are translated into English and published across the world. This week’s pick is the book translated into Myanmar by the prolific writer Mya Than Tint for the English stories of Tagore.

It is the second edition published by Lin Lun Khin publishing to mark its 13th anniversary. It includes 14 popular short stories of Tagore in Myanmar, in-

cluding the broken nest, Rashmani’s son, the atonement, the wife’s letter, the little master’s return, the punishment, the resentment appeased, the nuisance and other selected stories.

The broken nest story is about a family situation of a workaholic newspaper editor and a wife who felt neglected by a spouse. The story started with a dialogue “You are addicted to print. One would have been a particular addict. Tagore’s splendid work, distinctive style of writing and modern techniques

will be seen in the conclusion of this story, “Shall a wife whose heart was given to another get over if they part? Will I accompany her on her lonely and boring days and nights? How terrified I was to go back to the silent wife feeling distressed! How long can I embrace a woman without a soul?”

On top of that, the readers will notice the literary work of the translator Mya Than Tint through Tagore’s stories, without exaggerating or understating the facts.



# ARTICLE/ENVIRON WORLD

## New Value of Agriculture in Urban Areas

### FROM PAGE-9

On the other hand, since farmers could not improve their low incomes through agriculture, the number of people leaving farming increased as Japan developed its industry.

### Small farming has become active in Tokyo

Then, does agriculture disappear from Japan? In a different sense, the number of workers is increasing.

One is that more and more young people who are not from farming backgrounds are migrating to rural areas in order to balance environmental protection and farming. Young people are also motivated by local governments offering attractive incentives, such as housing and levying farmland.

Another factor is the rapid increase in the number of people living in urban areas who use farmland remaining in big cities such as Tokyo on weekends. Eleven of Tokyo's 23 wards (central wards) have 532 hectares of agricultural land, of which 428 ha are productive green areas. 1,455 farm households (2019) raise agricultural output value by about 4.3 billion yen. However, an increasing number of farm-

ers are going out of business because there is no successor. It shows that agriculture as an industry that supplies food is becoming unsustainable in urban areas.

In addition, there is small farmland owned by the local governments. It permits residents to open up farmland that is no longer used and freely cultivate fields. Many residents rent farmland of 4 to 10 square metres, share the joy of touching the soil, and enjoy communicating with each other through the exchange of agricultural products.

### Legislation to promote urban agriculture

Farmlands that are always green have the effect of healing people. People feel relaxed when they see greenery, so it can be said that it is a simple leisure activity. Above all, if residents grow their own food, even if only to some extent, it contributes to improving the food self-sufficiency rate. It has the effect of suppressing food mileage that is generated by importing food such as vegetables from other countries.

The government has enacted several laws to encourage this activity. In May 2016, the Cabinet approved the Basic Plan



Farmers in Tokyo are selling fresh agricultural products to residents through such an automatic vending machine because producers and consumers are living close together.

for Urban Agriculture Promotion. She reconsidered the policy that urban farmland should be made into residential land but now sees it as what cities should be. In other words, it turned into a policy in which farmland and city residents needed each other.

Furthermore, the government has discovered another angle on the value of the remaining agricultural land in the big urban area. The plan is to use farmland for disaster preparedness. In September 2018, the government enacted the Law on Facilitation of Leasing in Cities. This law established the following four roles based on the concept of protecting farmland

in preparation for disasters.

Make it an evacuation site in the event of a disaster,

Use it as a storage place for materials in the event of a disaster.

Leave it as a site for temporary housing,

Supply food to evacuation shelters in the event of a disaster.

In addition, Japan Agricultural Cooperatives Tokyo, an organization of farmers, started thinking about new roles for agriculture after the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011. And in 2020, it announced that it has signed a disaster agreement with lo-

cal governments. It states that urban agriculture has six functions. (1) creation of landscape, (2) creation of interaction between residents, (3) food education and education (grow healthy body and mind through good food), (4) local production for local consumption, (5) environmental conservation, and (6) disaster prevention function. This suggests that agricultural land in cities has a new function in addition to the function of supplying food.

Japan has entered an era of population decline. Urban areas no longer need new residential land, and instead, need new value. It is a hard-to-see role such as preparation for disasters, education as a person, and stability of people's minds. Strangely enough, it matches the SDGs-oriented lifestyle and economic style that seeks to minimize food transportation costs and reduce food mileage.

Reference:

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[https://www.tokyo-ja.or.jp/farm/city/pdf/city\\_map\\_01\\_2102.pdf](https://www.tokyo-ja.or.jp/farm/city/pdf/city_map_01_2102.pdf)  
<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

## Climate activists target UK parliament



Climate change activists targeted the UK parliament, calling for the public to have more say over environmental policy. PHOTO: ADRIAN DENNIS/ AFP

MEMBERS of climate activist group Extinction Rebellion on Friday glued themselves to the Speaker's chair in the UK House of Commons, calling for a "Citizens' Assembly" to help shape environmental policy.

"Just before noon today (1100 GMT), a group of around fifty people took nonviolent action at the House of Commons," the group said in a statement.

"The parliament action began with three people booked on an official tour of the building, gluing themselves in a chain around the Speaker's Chair."

The group, wearing t-shirts reading "Let The People Decide", took it in turns to read a speech calling for a Citizens' Assembly to "give ordinary people a say over the major crises facing us". —AFP

## Wildfire rages as California bakes under heat dome

HUNDREDS of firefighters endured triple-digit temperatures Thursday battling against a wildfire along a major highway, as the western United States bakes under a fearsome heat dome.

Super Scooper water-spraying aircraft were assisting the attack on the 5,000-acre (2,000-hectare) blaze that took hold of a swath of countryside near Los Angeles in California.

Seven firefighters had to be taken to hospital after suffering heat-related injuries in their bid to contain the Route Fire, which erupted on Wednesday.

All of them have been dis-

charged, and none is seriously hurt, fire chiefs said.

The inferno came as California and parts of Nevada and Arizona broiled under another day of blistering temperatures.

A stubborn bubble of high pressure sitting over the region has sent the mercury soaring, with a temperature of 109 degrees Fahrenheit (43 Celsius) forecast around the fire area Thursday.

The heat dome is expected to last well into next week, with thermometers set to peak at 116F in some densely populated areas around Los Angeles over the upcoming Labour Day holiday weekend.—AFP

# HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

## China sees broader, better IT application in public health sector

CHINA has made notable progress in the promotion of IT application in the public health sector, as evidenced by the rising number of health information platforms, digitalized anti-pandemic measures and healthcare services, according to a press conference on Friday.

All provincial-level regions, as well as 85 per cent of municipalities and 69 per cent of counties nationwide, have now established regional health information platforms, according to the conference held by the National Health Commission (NHC).

More than 7,000 public hospitals above the grade-two level have been connected to regional health information platforms, the conference said.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, China has given full play to IT application and made its digitalized anti-pandemic measures a highlight in the country's re-



Passengers perform self-service personal health confirmation at Terminal 2 building of the Shanghai Pudong International Airport in east China's Shanghai, 24 November 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA/DING TING

sponse, said Mao Qun'an, head of the planning department of the NHC.

With joint efforts by the NHC and relevant departments, China has established national data bases for nucleic-acid testing results and COVID-19 vaccinations, which enable members of the public to check their COVID-19 tests

and inoculation statuses via digital means.

China has continuously strengthened its construction of a national health information services system, promoted the application of big data, and promoted the development of internet-powered healthcare services, the conference said.—Xinhua

## Canada confirms 20,843 new COVID-19 cases in one week



Border testing is an important tool in Canada's detection and surveillance of COVID-19. On 20 March 2020, Canada and the United States imposed border restrictions on all non-essential travel across the Canada-US border. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

CANADA confirmed 20,843 new COVID-19 cases for the week of 21-27 August, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) said on Friday.

According to the weekly update issued by the PHAC, the

number of total COVID-19 cases and deaths in Canada reached 4,179,337 and 44,085 respectively. The daily positive rate during the week averaged at 10.8 per cent, and daily tests per 100,000 people were 61.

The agency said a detailed report on 4,060,184 cases showed that 191,565 cases, or 4.8 per cent, were hospitalized, and of those hospitalized, 15.4 per cent were admitted to intensive care units.

Health Canada on Thursday authorized an adapted version of the Moderna Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine for use as a booster dose in individuals 18 years of age or older which targets the original SARS-CoV-2 virus from 2019 and the Omicron (BA.1) variant.

COVID-19 modelling studies published recently showed that without Canadians' collective efforts in achieving high vaccine coverage and adhering to public health measures, the country could have accumulated up to 34 million cases, 2 million hospitalizations and 800,000 deaths as of April 2022, the PHAC said.—Xinhua

## EMA on alert over new COVID-19 variants: official

THE European Medicines Agency (EMA) stays alert for new variants of COVID-19, which "continues to mutate at high speed", an agency official said on Friday.

"According to the data, Europe is still experiencing the circulation of the Omicron BA.5 variant, although the peak of the summer wave was a few weeks ago in many of the member states," Marco Cavaleri, head of the EMA's health threats and vaccines strategy, told an online press conference from Amsterdam.

"The EMA keeps monitor-

ing the situation to better understand the trend of the new wave and to be prepared for new waves, which are always extremely difficult to predict," Cavaleri said. The official cited the situation in India as an example, where the Omicron subvariant BA.2.75 is spreading faster than other variants.

"As the virus continues to mutate at high speed, we keep track of all new variants to be able to anticipate on variants of concern," Cavaleri said. "In particular, the BA.2.75 currently spreading in India needs to be carefully monitored."—Xinhua



People walk near the Eiffel Tower wearing protective face masks amid the outbreak of COVID-19, the new coronavirus, on the Trocadero esplanade in Paris, on 10 March 2020. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Singapore reports 1<sup>st</sup> Zika case since 2020

THE first Zika case since March 2020 was reported in Singapore during the week of 21 to 27 August, the Straits Times reported on Friday night.

Zika is a virus infection transmitted by the bite of an infected Aedes mosquito. The insect is also a carrier of the dengue and chikungunya viruses. The newspaper reported that the Zika case comes amid a surge in dengue infections this year. Since the start of 2022, Singapore has reported 25,591 dengue cases, compared to the 5,258 cases reported for the whole of 2021. Singapore's Ministry of Health confirmed the localized community spread of the Zika virus infection in the city-state in 2016.—Xinhua

#### New York polio case stirs fear, vaccine push

WHEN Brittany Strickland heard that the United States recorded its first polio case in almost a decade, she was "deathly scared" — the 33-year-old wasn't vaccinated against the disabling disease.

"My mom was an anti-vaxxer, so I found out that I had never had any polio vaccines as a child," the designer explained to AFP, after finally receiving a shot this week. Strickland was inoculated in Pomona, in New York's Rockland County where the first US polio case since 2013 was identified in July.

Since then, the disease has been detected in wastewater samples in the area, as well as in a neighbouring county and in New York City sewage, suggesting the virus is spreading.—AFP

# ECONOMY WORLD

## Japan's exports of sanctions-exempt used vehicles to Russia surge

JAPAN'S exports of used vehicles to Russia, exempt from sanctions imposed over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, have surged to their highest level in more than a decade.

Moscow's success in keeping the rouble strong despite the sanctions has also boosted Russians' appetite for used but high-quality Japanese vehicles, which can be exported so long as they are worth less than six million yen (\$43,400).

Japan's total exports of secondhand cars to Russia were the highest on record since January 2009, according to government data.

Toyama Prefecture, which has long been a hub for exports of vehicles across the Sea of Japan to the Russian port of Vladivostok, has seen a particular surge in such shipments.

Nawab Ali Behlum, 59, a



Nawab Ali Behlum stands in front of secondhand vehicles to be exported to Russia, in Imizu, Toyama Prefecture, in July 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Pakistani auto-exports dealer in the coastal city of Imizu in the prefecture, said "work decreased a lot" in the first few months after Russian forces invaded Ukraine in February but quickly picked up in April.

That month, the Japanese government imposed a ban on

exports of luxury goods to Russia including vehicles costing over six million yen, opening the market up for used vehicles.

Behlum says Russians are snapping up "only high-end cars" in the used-vehicle market thanks to the strong rouble.—Kyodo

## 1<sup>st</sup> batch of Chinese-made high-speed trains arrives in Jakarta

A cargo of eight Chinese-made high-speed train cars has arrived at a Jakarta port marking the first batch of rolling stock for Indonesia's first high-speed railway network being built with Chinese technology.

Billed the first export case of a Chinese bullet train system, the project to connect the Indonesian capital and the West Java provincial capital of Bandung was about 80 per cent completed in late August and commercial operations

are expected to start in June next year.

After arriving at the port in North Jakarta late Thursday from the eastern Chinese city of Qingdao, the cargo, including an inspection train set, was unloaded Friday afternoon. The cars form part of the 11 sets of trains set to be shipped to Indonesia by the end of March.

The trains are designed to run on the 142-kilometre line at maximum speeds of 350 kilometres per hour, cutting the

travel time to about 40 minutes from the roughly three hours currently required.

Construction began in 2016 and was initially expected to be completed in 2019, but the project ran into problems mostly over land acquisition, delaying its completion several times.

Initially, both China and Japan were in competition for the project with Japan insisting on a government guarantee from the Indonesian side.—Kyodo



A high-speed electric passenger train, customized for the Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway, is loaded on a vessel in Qingdao Port of east China's Shandong Province, 18 August 2022. **PHOTO: CFP/CGTN**

## Germany's energy saving measures enter into force

ENERGY saving measures for individuals, companies and the public sector took effect in Germany on Thursday in response to soaring gas prices across Europe.

"To avoid an energy supply emergency in winter, policymakers, businesses and consumers must continue to work together," the German government said last week when it adopted the measures, stressing that "every kilowatt-hour saved helps".

The effects of the measures will be particularly visible in the

evening hours after sunset, as public buildings and monuments, such as the Brandenburg Gate in the capital Berlin, will no longer be illuminated. With some exceptions, neon signs and billboards will also be switched off at night.

When the weather turns colder, maximum room temperatures in public buildings and workplaces will be lowered from 20 degrees Celsius to 19 degrees Celsius. In places where heavy physical work is performed, temperatures may even be as low as 12 degrees Celsius.—Xinhua



An employee of Uniper Energy Storage walks through the above-ground facilities of a natural gas storage facility in Bierwang, Germany, 10 June 2022. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Sri Lanka's deposed ex-leader returns from exile

SRI Lanka's deposed former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa returned to the country Friday, an airport official said, seven weeks after he fled amid the island's worst-ever economic crisis.

Rajapaksa was festooned with flowers by a welcoming party of ministers and politicians as he disembarked at the main international airport, the official added — in a sign of his enduring influence in the Indian Ocean nation critics say he led to ruin.

"There was a rush of government politicians to garland him as he came out of the aircraft," the official told AFP.

Rajapaksa fled Sri Lanka under military escort in mid-July after unarmed crowds stormed his official residence, following months of angry demonstrations blaming him for the nation's unprecedented economic crisis.—AFP

#### Amid financial uncertainty, Brazilians prepare to vote

AT a market in Sao Paulo, Celia Silva counts her cash, hoping Brazil will soon be "back on track" and she will no longer struggle to make ends meet.

The 61-year-old marketing analyst is not alone: a majority of Brazilians will be thinking of their own pocketbooks first when they cast ballots in presidential elections next month.

According to a Datafolha poll, the economy will be the top issue for 53 per cent of Brazilians as they choose among candidates including far-right incumbent Jair Bolsonaro and leftist ex-president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

The largest economy in Latin America has shown recent signs of recovery after being hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic.—AFP

## Hino Motors cancels plan to produce trucks in Russia

JAPAN'S Hino Motors Ltd has cancelled its planned production of trucks in Russia, with an assembly plant under construction in the country to be sold after completion, officials said Saturday.

The truck-making subsidiary of Toyota Motor Corp said the decision was made after it re-examined its overseas operations and the business environment and was not related to Russia's invasion of Ukraine or a series of recent scandals.

Hino suspended shipments of most of its trucks

in the domestic market after becoming mired in a series of scandals involving the falsification of engine data, including those concerning its vehicles' emissions and fuel efficiency, leaving the company in a critical situation.

A joint venture developing next-generation vehicle technologies said last month it would expel Hino over the scandals, with Hino to transfer its 10 per cent stake to parent company Toyota.

A plant in Khimki, Moscow Oblast, scheduled to start operations



The decision was made after it re-examined its overseas operations and the business environment and was not related to Russia's invasion of Ukraine or a series of recent scandals. **PHOTO: HINO**

in mid-2020 but delayed, was to import parts from Japan and assemble around 2,000 vehicles per year. The company planned to spend roughly 2 billion yen (\$14.3 million).—Kyodo

## US stocks fall after Gazprom shutdown announcement

AFTER following European equities higher Friday, Wall Street stocks reversed course, finishing sharply lower after Russia kept shut a key gas pipeline to Germany.

US stocks had initially gained following August jobs data that showed employment growth moderating and unemployment ticking higher in a report seen by investors as lessening pressure on the Federal Reserve to increase interest rates. But markets did a 180-degree turn mid-



A solid but not too strong monthly US jobs report had initially lifted US stocks before markets reversed course on Russian gas company Gazprom's announcement to keep a key pipeline off-line. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

day as worries increased about the winter ahead after Russian gas giant Gazprom moved to keep natural gas deliveries to Germany off-line. In

a statement, Gazprom indicated it had discovered "oil leaks" in a turbine during a planned three-day maintenance operation, a statement

that was seen skeptically in light of international condemnation of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The announcement by Gazprom came the same day as the G7 nations said they would work to quickly implement a price cap on Russian oil exports, a move which would starve the Kremlin of critical revenue for its war effort.

Fear of shortages of natural gas has driven futures contracts for electricity in France and Germany to record levels.—AFP

## China to step up trade in agricultural services



A farming tractor equipped with the Beidou Satellite Navigation System sows cotton in Aksu, Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on 31 March 2022. **PHOTO: VCG/XINHUA**

CHINA will step up its efforts to promote the de-

velopment of agricultural services trade, an official

said Friday.

Ma Youxiang, an official with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, made the remarks at a forum during the ongoing 2022 China International Fair for Trade in Services.

Agricultural services trade refers to the cross-border trade of selling or purchasing agriculture-related services. Facing challenges in the

global food security, enhancing the productivity of agricultural industry and smoothening the supply chains require more efforts to promote the services trade in the agriculture sector, Ma said.

Ma called for efforts to formulate fair, equitable and reasonable rules on agricultural services trade and improve the quality of the trade with innovation.—Xinhua

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Nissan to end sales of March compact car in Japan as popularity wanes

NISSAN Motor Co is set to end sales of its iconic March compact car in Japan, sources familiar with the matter said, as the popularity of one of the company's best-selling cars fades about 40 years after its launch.

The automaker's plant in Thailand, which produces the current model of the car, has ended production for the Japanese market, the sources said. The company will continue sales of the car overseas, where it is branded as the Micra.

According to the Japan Automobile Dealers Association, domestic sales of the compact car stood at about 8,800 last year. That is only about 10 per cent of the sales volume for the automaker's flagship Note compact car the same year, which was about 90,000.

The decision is part of the company's efforts to narrow its product line and focus its resources on electric vehicles amid tougher carbon emission regulations worldwide.—Kyodo

#### Swedish PM calls for decoupling electricity, gas prices

THE Swedish government on Friday called for decoupling gas from the electricity pricing system, as this would lead to lower electricity prices.

"It is not reasonable that Swedish households and companies buy Swedish electricity that is produced cheaply, but have to pay sky-high prices because many of our neighbouring countries are dependent on Russian gas," Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson said at a press conference.

Sweden's government will demand that electricity prices on the European energy market be decoupled from the price of gas, which has become unreasonably high due to Russia's "energy war" against Europe, according to Andersson.

Decoupling gas would lead to the electricity price in southern Sweden being halved, Minister for Energy and Digital Development Khashayar Farmanbar said in the same press conference.

Andersson also announced that she would work for a broad coalition within the European Union to bring down the electricity cost, which has lately reached record levels.

The electricity price in Sweden, especially in the south, has repeatedly soared to new records during the last month with an average price of 3.05 Swedish crowns (0.28 US dollar) per kWh and peaks of close to eight crowns.—Xinhua

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (149N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (149N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-9-2022** 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 SHIPPING PTE LTD**

# GLOBAL AFFAIRS

## Czech gov't survives no-confidence vote

THE Czech government led by Prime Minister Petr Fiala on Friday withstood a no-confidence vote in the lower house of parliament mainly over its handling of the energy crisis.

A total of 184 parliamentarians in the Chamber of Deputies voted, with 100 supporting the government and 84, including members of the opposition ANO party and Freedom and Direct Democracy (SPD) party, voting for no-confidence, according to the lower house of parliament. Another 16 parliamentarians did not participate in the voting.

An absolute majority of at least 101 votes in the 200-seat Chamber of Deputies was need-

ed to topple the government.

The parliamentary debate lasted over 20 hours, beginning on Thursday afternoon. In addition to a domestic corruption scandal involving the former head of an intelligence agency, the discussion primarily centred on inflation and what the opposition described as the government's inability to address the rising cost of living properly.

The current Czech government, comprised of a centre-right coalition headed by the Civic Democratic Party (ODS), won its mandate last October after a tight election against the former coalition government led by ANO.—Xinhua



Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala delivers a speech in the Czech Parliament in Prague, 12 January 2022. PHOTO: AFP

### RUSSIA - UKRAINE CONFLICT

## G7 to impose price cap on Russia oil: US treasury secretary

FINANCE ministers of the Group of Seven (G7) countries have agreed to impose a price cap on Russian oil, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said in a statement Friday, without specifying implementation details.

By committing to finalizing and implementing a price cap, the G7 will significantly reduce Russia's main source of funding for the conflict in Ukraine, while maintaining supplies to global energy markets by keeping Russian oil flowing at lower prices, Yellen said.

Today's action will help deliver a major blow for Russian finances and will both hinder



Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak on Thursday said Russia would not supply oil and petroleum products to those countries that support the price caps. PHOTO: ANDREI PUNGOVSKI / AFP

Russia's ability to continue the fight in Ukraine and hasten the deterioration of the Russian economy, she said.—Xinhua

## EU opens medical evacuation hub for Ukrainians

THE European Union has opened a medical centre in the eastern Polish city of Rzeszow

to care for Ukrainian patients waiting for evacuation flights, officials said Thursday.



Fierce battles have been reported as Ukraine tries to retake the Russian-occupied southern Kherson region Russian servicemen on the roadside in Kherson region, Ukraine. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ OLGA MALTSEVA/AFP

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has made its airspace unsafe for mercy flights and Kyiv's allies have been evacuating the sick and wounded across the land border to Poland for treatment.

The new hub will create what EU spokesman Balazs Ujvari called a "safe space" for Ukrainians — both civilians and military personnel — to receive nursing care, vaccinations, disease screening a psychological support.

The centre is just outside Rzeszow-Jasionka airport, 80 kilometres (50 miles) from the Ukrainian border.—AFP

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

#### US raids properties of sanctioned Russian billionaire: media

US law enforcement on Thursday raided two New York properties belonging to Russian billionaire Viktor Vekselberg, a close ally of President Vladimir Putin and the target of sanctions, NBC News reported.

Federal agents and local police officers were spotted carrying boxes after they left an apartment in Manhattan's lavish Park Avenue and a house in the Hamptons, an upscale vacation destination near New York City, according to the report. Both properties are linked to Vekselberg, NBC said, citing US Treasury documents.

Authorities are also searching a property on Miami's Fisher Island believed to be linked to Vekselberg, NBC reported.

Vekselberg is the head of the Renova Group, a Moscow-based conglomerate, and one of several wealthy Russians who have been targeted by sanctions following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

The sanctions have frozen Vekselberg's US assets and banned American companies from doing business with him and his companies.—AFP

#### Ukraine exports 1.7 mln tonnes of foodstuffs in first month under grain deal

UKRAINE'S foodstuff exports under a key grain deal reached 1.7 million tonnes in August, the country's Infrastructure Ministry said Friday.

Since the deal came into effect on 1 August, a total of 68 vessels loaded with grain and other foodstuffs have left Ukrainian Black Sea ports for 18 countries, the ministry said on Facebook.

Ukraine has set a target to sell some eight million tonnes of foodstuffs abroad this month, with three million tonnes to be supplied via sea routes.

On 22 July, Ukraine and Russia separately signed a deal with Türkiye and the United Nations in Istanbul to resume food and fertilizer shipments from Ukrainian ports to international markets via the Black Sea.

On 1 August, the first cargo vessel carrying grain left the Ukrainian port of Odesa for the port of Tripoli in Lebanon.—Xinhua

## India commissions 1<sup>st</sup> domestically-built aircraft carrier



India's domestically-built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant. PHOTO: AFP

INDIA commissioned its first domestically-built aircraft carrier, Vikrant, in the southern state of Kerala on Friday, boosting its defence capability amid China's growing assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific.

The 262.5-metre long Vikrant, meaning "powerful" in Hindi, is India's second aircraft carrier after the Vikramaditya

which India purchased from Russia.

At the commissioning ceremony of the Vikrant, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the carrier gives the country new confidence.

"Today, India has joined those countries in the world, which manufacture such a huge aircraft carrier with indigenous

technology," Modi said, adding the Indo-Pacific region and the Indian Ocean are key areas for defence for his country.

India, which has imported the majority of its arms from other countries, aims to strengthen its domestic defence industry as China has been increasing its military clout in the Indo-Pacific.—Kyodo

## Russians bid to farewell to Gorbachev, but without Putin

LAST Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will be laid to rest Saturday in a Moscow ceremony, but without the fanfare of a state funeral and with the glaring absence of President Vladimir Putin.

With Russia isolated by its military campaign in Ukraine, no foreign leaders are expected to attend what will be a relatively low-key affair to remember one of the great political figures of the 20th century.

Gorbachev — affectionately known in the West as Gorby — died on Tuesday at the age of 91 following a "serious and long illness", the hospital where he was treated said.

In power between 1985 and 1991, Gorbachev sought to transform the Soviet Union with democratic reforms, but also eventually triggered its demise.

In Russia, many blame



Gorbachev— affectionately known in the West as Gorby — died on Tuesday at the age of 91. PHOTO: AFP

him for letting go of the Soviet empire and with it the country's position as a global power. But in the West, Gorbachev is viewed as the man who ended the Cold War and lifted the Iron Curtain — achievements recognized by a Nobel Peace

Prize in 1990.

Gorbachev championed freedom and democratic reform, seeking closer ties with Western nations, a legacy that critics say Putin has dismantled during his more than two decades in power.—AFP

## Thousands of Hungarians demonstrate for teacher payhikes

THOUSANDS of Hungarians protested in Budapest Friday against low pay and poor working conditions for school-teachers amid worsening staff shortages.

A crowd estimated at around 8,000 by an AFP photographer urged better conditions for teachers in a solidarity demonstration that was organized by students.

"Pay our teachers! Without them there is no future!" read one protester's placard, referring to an exodus of teachers

from the profession in recent years.

The number of unfilled teaching jobs in primary and secondary schools soared from 7,000 in 2014 to 35,000 in 2019 according to latest official data.

According to OECD figures, a teacher's salary in the EU is just 60 per cent of that received by similarly-educated employees in other sectors.

That compares with 90 per cent in other developed countries according to the OECD.—AFP



Thousands joined the protest in Budapest. PHOTO: AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Iran briefly seizes 2 US "surveillance vessels" in Red Sea

THE Iranian Navy briefly seized two "surveillance vessels" of the US Navy in the Red Sea on Thursday, Iran's state TV reported on Friday. On Thursday, while carrying out a counter-terrorism mission in the Red Sea, the Iranian Navy's destroyer Jamaran encountered US unmanned surveillance vessels on the international shipping route, according to the report.

"After warning the American side twice to prevent possible accidents, the Jamaran destroyer seized two (surveillance) vessels," it said.—Xinhua

#### 4 killed in Mexico soccer match shooting

AT least four people, including a former mayor, were shot dead in Mexico after armed suspects opened fire at a soccer match in the central Morelos state, the local prosecutor's office said on Friday.

The shooting took place at around 9:15 pm local time on Thursday (0215 GMT on Friday) in the town of Yecapixtla after the armed suspects arrived and opened fire on those present.

Two people, including former mayor of Yecapixtla, Refugio Amaro Luna, were killed at the scene, and two others died after being treated at a hospital. Around 10 people were injured, the office said in a statement. Violent crimes have been on the rise in Morelos, which also ranks first in terms of kidnapping rates nationwide, according to the Mexican Defence Ministry.—Xinhua



## 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.

## Australia pulls out of bid to host 2023 Asian Cup

AUSTRALIA said on Friday that it will not push ahead with a formal bid to host the 2023 Asian Cup, but is “strongly” interested in holding the women’s tournament in 2026.

China was supposed to host the 24-team men’s competition in June-July next year but pulled out as it pursues a zero-Covid policy, which makes staging sports events a major challenge.

Australia was among four new contenders un-

veiled by the Asian Football Confederation in July alongside South Korea, Qatar and Indonesia, with a decision due on 17 October.

“Football Australia today confirmed that it will not proceed with submitting a formal bid to host the AFC Asian Cup 2023,” it said in a statement.

But it “maintains its strong interest in bidding for the AFC Women’s Asian Cup 2026” and plans to submit a formal bid later this year. —AFP



Australia said on Friday that it will not push ahead with a formal bid to host the 2023 Asian Cup, but is “strongly” interested in holding the women’s tournament in 2026. PHOTO: THE ASIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION

## Tiger, Michelle Obama lead tributes to ‘the greatest’ Serena



Tiger Woods saluted Serena Williams as “the greatest” after her third round exit at the US Open. PHOTO: AFP

TIGER Woods and former first lady Michelle Obama hailed Serena Williams as “the greatest” on Friday as the tennis superstar headed into retirement.

Williams, the winner of 23 Grand Slam titles, played what was almost certainly the last match of her 27-year career at the US Open when she slipped to a three-set defeat to Ajla Tomljanovic.

“@serenawilliams you’re literally the greatest on and off the court,” tweeted Woods, a 15-time golf major winner who was in Serena’s player box for her second round win on Wednesday. “Thank you for inspiring all of us to pursue our dreams. I love you little sis!” Michelle Obama hailed Serena for her rise to super-stardom from the tough Californian neighbourhood of Compton to sporting and cultural icon.—AFP

## Shan United beat Myawady FC 1-0 to lead MNL table



Shan United player Kyaw Zin Lwin (red) eyes on the ball against the Myawady FC player during their Myanmar National League match at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 3 September 2022. PHOTO: MNL

THE first day of the 2022 season of the Myanmar National League week 10 was held yesterday at the Thuwunna stadium where the defending champion Shan United defeated the Myawady team 1-0. With the victory, the Shan United team continued to lead the standing table.

Shan United has been playing a series of tough games since the end of the first round, but they were able to play undefeated and continue to lead at the top.

The Myawady team had the best response against Shan United but lost due to a late goal. The Shan United team made some changes to the starting lineup and used three foreign players at the same time, while the Myawady team competed with the strongest lineup.

Since the first round, the Myawady team, which has been able to play hard against the big teams, was able to respond best to Shan United in this match as well. Team Myawady responded strongly to Shan United and created opportunities to score, but failed to capitalize on them.

Shan United team made a change of players in the second half to score the winning goal, and substitute winger Nanda Kyaw scored the winning goal in the 90<sup>th</sup> + 2<sup>nd</sup> minute. After this match, the Shan United team continues to lead with 28 points from 10 games, while the Myawady team is in third place with 18 points from 10 games. On 10 September, Rakhine United will take on Yadanabon FC as a second-day match of the MNL Week-10. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM