

# 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.

## Only when the production of raw materials is robust will the finished products gain progress with a firm market: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views consumer goods and foodstuffs manufactured by MSME businesses in Kayin State on 17 October 2022.

**L**OCALS and public service personnel assigned in the region need to strive for the creation of a beautiful environment for attracting local and foreign travellers, peace and stability of the region, the prevalence of law and order and a secure state, said State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday morning at a meeting with MSME businesspersons from Kayin State at Zweekabin Hall of Hpa-an.

### Individual reports on requirements for the development of businesses

The Kayin State Chief Minister reported on the progress of MSME industries in Kayin State, operations of industrial zones, provision of loans and technologies for MSME development, and plans for potential products and future plans.

Local businesspersons reported on the needs of agriculture and production by local farmers, agricultural development, needs of electrification, quality strains of crops, improvement of tourism,

**SEE PAGE-3**

### INSIDE TODAY

**NATIONAL**  
Hot-air balloon ride over Bagan enchanting tourists  
**PAGE-2**



**NATIONAL**  
Myanmar imports approximately 100,000 tonnes of cement  
**PAGE-4**

**NATIONAL**  
Myanmar's maritime export volumes via Yangon port increase  
**PAGE-5**

**NATIONAL**  
Myawady, Muse borders log US\$299.257 mln trade in Sept  
**PAGE-6**

**CURRENT AFFAIRS**  
Over 140 Myanmar workers leave for Thailand under MoU system  
**PAGE-7**



## Statement of All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ)

- All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ) is deeply saddened by the fact that 19 innocent pilgrims were wounded and three women were killed as a result of the terrorist attack at the Kinmunchaung bus terminal at the foot of the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto Township, Mon State, on 12 October 2022.
- All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ) strongly condemns the terrorists who inhumanely attacked innocent pilgrims leading to Kyaiktiyo Pagoda with the deliberate intention of harming innocent civilians without any reason.

*All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ)*

## Judgements passed on 4 special civil appeal cases; 4 special criminal appeal cases heard

THE special appeal court comprising Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo and Supreme Court Judges U Aung Zaw Thein, U Khin Maung Gyi, U Tin Hone and U Thein Ko Ko passed judgements on four special civil appeal cases No 3/2021 (Magway), No 15/2021 (Yangon), No 41/2020 (Mon), and No 21/2022 (Yangon) at the office 1 of the Union Supreme Court yesterday morning.

Moreover, they heard four special criminal appeal cases No 3/2022 (Ayeyawady), No 4/2022 (Yangon), No 5/2022 (Yangon) and No 6/2022 (Yangon) in line with COVID-19 health rules. —MNA

## Hot-air balloon ride over Bagan enchanting tourists

THE hotels in Bagan Cultural Zone are occupied during Thadingyut Festival and the number of visitors this year was higher than that of the previous years. That being so, tourism-reliant businesses are flourishing. On 16 October, temples and pagodas were packed with visitors. Some homegrown visitors and tourists enjoyed hot-air balloon rides over the Bagan Cultural Zone.

In 2021, the hot-air balloon ride business to view Bagan's astonishing view was suspended. It will be resumed in the upcoming high tourism season. One company is undertaking activities to fully launch this service for the local visitors and tourists.

"The pilgrims have been flocking to temples and pagodas in the Bagan Cultural Zone since 8 October (the day before the Thadingyut full moon day). Last year, the visitors were rarely seen after the Thadingyut Festival. Therefore, the tourism related businesses of the local residents

are thriving. During the three-day Thadingyut Festival, all the hotels were occupied. The visitors do not need to bother in booking these days. Hot air balloon ride over the Bagan sunset view attracts the tourists and it is one of the bucket lists of some tourists.

Starting from Thadingyut full moon day (9 October), one company has started running this service. The foreigners appreciate the panoramic view of the Bagan area by taking hot-air balloon rides.

"As Bagan is relying on the tourism business, we cordially welcome the local travelers and tourists in the open season," said U Win Aung, deputy director of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Bagan branch).

There are over 150 hotels in the Bagan-NyaungU area. Over 70 restarted this business in the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 120 rooms are available in a hotel. Bagan was packed with the visitors and room occupancy rate was 100



Out of the four existing hot air balloon companies, one company started to offer the hot-air balloon service for the visitors to enjoy the stunning bird's eye view of the Bagan scenic beauty. **PHOTO: KANU**

per cent during the Thadingyut Festival, forcing some visitors to stay at monasteries, pagoda platforms and bus terminals. It brought tourism prospects for the upcoming high season. The authorities and officials of the related departments are also prepping the needs to ensure

the safe and sound travel for the visitors. The reviving tourism industry is ready for the upcoming peak-travel season.

Out of the four existing hot air balloon companies, one company started to offer the hot-air balloon service for the visitors to enjoy the stunning bird's eye view

of the Bagan scenic beauty. There are 3,822 temples and pagodas in Bagan covering an area of 19 square miles. The hot air balloon service over magical Bagan in the winter season is attracting the tourists and home-grown visitors with other appealing facilities.—Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition

### Table of Contestants and Prizes

No	Regions/States	Contestants			Gold	Siver	Bronze	Conso-lation	Spe-cial	Total
		Male	Female	Total						
1.	Yangon	137	105	242	78	32	15	3		128
2.	Mandalay	125	95	220	32	29	20	7		88
3.	Ayeyawady	98	95	193	14	19	16	9		58
4.	Bago	99	78	177	11	11	5	5	1	33
5.	Kayin	42	57	99	10	4	5	1		20
6.	Sagaing	74	55	129	8	10	11	7		36
7.	Magway	92	74	166	6	7	4	5		22
8.	Chin	32	36	68	5	6	7	3		21
9.	Rakhine	17	49	66	3	7	8	2		20
10.	Taninthayi	48	62	110	3	8	7	5		23
11.	Kayah	25	57	82	3	1	5	1		10
12.	Mon	28	63	91	2	4	7	1	1	15
13.	Kachin	31	63	94	2	2	5	2		11
14.	Shan	39	62	101	1	8	5	5		19
	Total	887	951	1838	178	148	120	56	2	504

**Note: Fourteen regions and states that performed tribal and folk dances and 14 special prizes (shields) awarded to 14 Regions/States are not included in the table.**

## Public Notice

- The Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to effectively curb corruption.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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*



## Necessary to preserve the languages and cultures of ethnic people as well as Myanmar literature, language and culture

THE Senior General urged relevant ministries to provide education, health, economic and transport facilities for ethnic people. Hence, relevant ministries need to cooperate with each other in work processes. It is necessary to preserve the languages and cultures of ethnic people as well as Myanmar literature, language and culture.

*(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)*

# Only when the production of raw materials is robust ...

### FROM PAGE-1

cheap prices of fertilizer for rubber growers, agricultural loans, the establishment of brokerages, wholesale centres and terminals, and dredging of canals blocked at Thanlwin River. **Sector-wise clarifications of Union ministers**

Union ministers explained easing restrictions for border trade process, needs to combat illegal trade, the prospect of exporting coffee grown in Kayin State, solving technological and other difficulties by relevant ministries, fulfilment of machinery and technologies for manufacturing value-added finished products using domestic raw materials, formation of cooperative societies, and other relevant sectors.

### Visit to discuss improving businesses in Kayin State to develop the State economy and fulfil the needs

In his speech, the Senior General said that he came to Kayin State to discuss improving businesses in Kayin State to develop the State economy and fulfil the needs. As the eco-



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets MSME business people in Kayin State yesterday.



nomie policy of the country is not a centralized system or a projected economic system, the government is just to control the policy. Hence, businesspersons need to strive for achieving success in their businesses. **Encouragement for production based on domestic raw materials**

Only when the production of raw materials is firm will finished products gain progress

with a firm market. Kayin State is endowed with abundant agriculture and livestock products as well as underground and aboveground natural resources. Due to the large volume of limestone, the state can produce cement.

Kayin State is 80 per cent of rice sufficiency. A high yield of crops needs good agricultural techniques and agricultural water. Waste from

livestock farms can be used as bio-fertilizer. Kayin State needs qualified rice mills to produce high-quality rice. Efforts must be made for achieving success in the cultivation of coconut, rubber and bamboo for the production of finished value-added products. Animal hide should be efficiently used in making personal goods. If beef cattle and pig farming tasks can be undertaken on vacant and virgin lands in the state, livestock products can be exported abroad for the development of local businesses. Loans will be disbursed as capital investments for agriculture and livestock farms and MSME industries.

### Emphasis placed on human resources development

Plans are underway to establish an agriculture institute and livestock breeding institute in Hpa-an. It is necessary to encourage the increasing number of educated persons in Kayin State. Only when the number of educated persons increases will human resources develop. **Visitors see prosperous home**

Locals and public service personnel assigned in the region need to strive for the crea-

tion of a beautiful environment for attracting local and foreign travellers, peace and stability of the region, the prevalence of law and order and a secure state, and the production of traditional foodstuffs can attract travellers. If efforts are made for the development of MSME industries, agriculture and livestock farms and the tourism industry, Kayin State will have economic growth as well as an improvement in the socioeconomic status of the local people.

The Senior General viewed consumer goods, foodstuffs, industrial products, traditional handicrafts, industrial goods, traditional products, clothing and traditional products at the booths and asked about prospects of grasping the market shares.

While in the Hpa-an Industrial Zone in the afternoon, the Senior General heard reports on sales of Bajaj brand tuk-tuk across the nation, and participation in welfare tasks by Precision Auto Engineering Co Ltd.

Later, the Senior General viewed round manufacturing of tri-wheelers and vehicles and assembling process.—MNA



The Senior General looks into the assembling and manufacturing of tri-wheelers and vehicles.



# Capacity of the stadium must be calculated under a long-term plan based on future growing population: Senior General

**C**HAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday inspected the upgrading of Zweekabin stadium in Hpa-an, Kayin State.

The Kayin State Chief Minister and the State Minister for Social Affairs reported on the upgrading of the stadium in accordance with the guidance of the Prime Minister and the progress of work.

In his response to the reports, the Senior General said that the stadium must be in harmony with the state level. The capacity of the stadium must be calculated under a long-term plan based on the future growing population. The

Senior General invited reports on the construction of a gymnasium at the state level near the stadium, plans for the construction of a swimming pool with a diving board meeting set standard, and implementation of a state-level sports complex for the development of the sports sector and taking training for all sports.

The Senior General inspected the upgrading of the stands at the stadium and gave instructions on the reports.

In the afternoon, the Senior General arrived at the military hospital in Hpa-an where he asked about the health conditions of Tatmadaw members, members of the Myanmar Police Force and members of the



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing provides the patient with foodstuffs.



The Senior General hears the report on the upgrading of the Zweekabin stadium in Hpa-an, Kayin State yesterday.

Border Guard Force patients receiving medical treatments for their wounds they suffered in discharging the State defence duties. The Senior General then presented foodstuffs to them. After inspecting the hospital, the Senior General attended to the needs.

The Senior General and party then comforted security force member patients receiving medical treatment at the local military hospital in Mawlamyine, asked about the progress of their health conditions and gave them foodstuffs. — MNA

## Myanmar imports approximately 100,000 tonnes of cement

MYANMAR brought in about 100,000 tonnes of cement from foreign countries in September.

The country imported over 80,000 tonnes of cement worth \$51.839 million in September by sea, comprising about 38,000 tonnes from China, over 15,000 from Brunei, about 8,500 from Indonesia, about 4,500 each from the UAE and Thailand, about 2,500 from the Republic

of Korea, over 3,800 from Viet Nam, from 1,000 from China (Taipei), about 100 from Israel, about 250 from Germany, 150 from the Netherlands, 60 from Malaysia and 20 from India. The majority of the cement imports is from China. The seaborne import of cement saw a decrease of 4,000 tonnes compared to August's import volume.

Meanwhile, the country imported over 18,500 tonnes of cement worth \$10.230 million from the neighbouring countries through the cross-border trade posts in September, with over 9,700 tonnes from Thailand, 2,200 from India and about 6,500 from China. The cross-border import indicated an increase of 4,200 tonnes against that of August. —TWA/GNLM



The cement bags are systematically stacked in China.

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## Myanmar's maritime export volumes via Yangon port increase

STARTING this month, the monsoon season has ended and the open season has begun, the international trade and goods flow by sea route through Yangon port returned to normal and export volumes are increasing.

A total of 23 ships – two container ships, 15 general cargo ships, five tankers and one ship carrying palm oil-docked at Yangon Port yesterday. The country mainly imports various fertilizers, garments and textiles, medicines and medical supplies, foodstuffs, electronic devices, machinery, construction materials and Polypropylene and exports marine products, finished clothing, crops,

forest products and rubber using container ships. This month, over 55 per cent of estimated cargo ships get into the port to date.

In exporting rice and crops, large volumes of products are loaded on the hired general cargo ships in addition to container ships. Nowadays, the country exports the products in 15 general cargo ships including three rice ships and four maize ships to Southeast Asia and European countries.

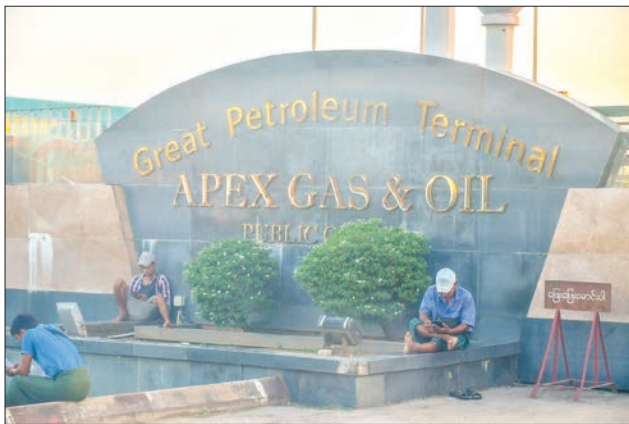
Moreover, the vessels carrying fertilizers, cement, heavy machinery, fuel oil and cooking oil also dock at Thilawa and Yangon ports.



Especially in the open season, it supports maritime trade and improves the better river

transport the country can also handle large numbers of huge vessels and export large volumes

of Myanmar's products to international markets. — Dr Arkar (MPA)/GNLM



A tanker is pictured unloading fuel oil at the Great Petroleum Terminal of APEX Gas & Oil.



Imported machinery.

## High-grade Pawsan rice varieties from delta region slides

THE prices of Pawsan rice from the delta region were down by K4,000 per bag on 12 October 2022 compared to those in the previous days, Ko Tint, a rice trader from Padauk lane of the Bayintnaung Wholesale Market, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The prices of Pawsan rice from the Shwebo area stood at K80,000-90,000 per bag while the Pawsan rice from Myaungmya and Patheingyi areas fetched K62,000-65,000 per bag and the prices of Pawsan rice variety from Pyapon and Bogale were K58,000-60,000 per bag in the second week of October in the wholesale market.

In late September, the prices of Pawsan rice from Myaungmya and Patheingyi areas were K68,000-70,000 per bag in the wholesale market, whereas Pawsan rice from Pyapon was priced at K62,000-64,000 per bag.

The retail price of Pawsan rice from the Mawgyun area stands at K59,000-61,000 these



Pawsan rice varieties are displayed at the rice retail outlet.

days on the vessels at Yangon Port, Ko Shein, a trader said.

The monsoon paddy is starting to be harvested in some places. The dealers directly come and purchase at the field. The paddy is transacted around K1 million per 100-baskets depending on the moisture content.

The price of paddy varies depending on the moisture content in the paddy. Pawsan paddy has

a low content of moisture rather than some low-grade monsoon paddy as Pawsan paddy is harvested under favourable weather conditions.

The paddy with 13 per cent of content can last up to two years, while those with 14 per cent, to one year and the paddy with 15 per cent to six months. The paddy with 23 per cent can last only one day. If the paddy has

a moisture content above 24 per cent, it must be dried within ten hours, said Ko Saung Lat, a rice miller. Some buyers offer below the market order because of the moisture content.

New Pawsan rice varieties will enter the Delta region at the end of Tazaungmone month (November).

Therefore, old Pawsan stocks can be sold without market competition within one month. In mid-2022, the prices of high-grade Pawsan rice varieties including popular ones from the Shwebo area were volatile in the Yangon market, sparking consumers' concern. Therefore, the majority of consumers keep the stocks in their hands.

Therefore, the demand decreased significantly this month. The prices of Pawsan rice went down accordingly. However, the prices of the Pawsan rice variety are still not lower than those in the corresponding period last year.

The prices of rice vary de-

pending on the quality. Some wholesalers sell the rice by demonstrating the cooked rice, Ko Win, a rice trader, told the GNLM.

The door-to-door retail price of rice was K4,000-5,000 higher than the wholesale prices, the GNLM quoted Ko Khin Myint, a buyer from Tamway Township, as saying.

At the end of 2021, the new Pawsan rice varieties from the delta region was priced at K45,000 from the Myaungmya area and K43,000 from the Shwebo area. The wholesale prices rocketed to K92,000 for Shwebo Pawsan and K70,000 for Myaungmya Pawsan in 2022.

That being so, the price of new monsoon rice (low-grade) is expected to go higher than the price recorded in 2021 for sure, Ko Than Myint, a rice miller, told the GNLM. Those buyers who keep the rice stocks in hand for a year primarily purchase rice in March and April periods.—TWA/GNLM



## Surgeons performed Primary Closure on four-day-old baby girl with Gastroschisis at Sao San Tun Hospital successfully

THE medical team led by Prof (Surgery) Dr Aung Khine Zan, assistant surgeon Dr Htet Aung Kyaw and Prof (Anesthesiology) Dr Phone Myint performed the primary closure on a four-day-old baby girl of her mother Nan Mway Phaung, with gastroschisis with preterm low birth weight, at Sao San Tun Hospital on 30 September.

The baby was born in a normal delivery weighing 2.2 kilo-

grammes before the due date as the opening of the amniotic sac occurred at Kholam General Hospital (100-bed) in Shan State at 6:15 pm on 26 September.

At 8 pm on that day, Dr Lin Htin Kyaw, medical Superintendent of Kholam General Hospital and party conducted the primary repair to place the bowels back inside of the baby's belly and transferred the patient to Sao San Tun Hospital

in Taunggyi on 27 September.

The baby was discharged on 3 October and found in good health at her medical appointment on 11 October. — MNA

Two photos (from left to right) show a four-day-old baby girl of her mother Nan Mway Phaung before and after the primary closure an gastroschisis (from left to right).



## Repairs needed for dilapidation and damage to suit city characteristics: YCDC



A dilapidated apartment building is pictured in Yangon.

A notification has been issued by Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) to mend the ruins of Yangon City in line with city standard features.

District and township administration bodies urged that the people of Yangon city are required to clean bushes and shrubs in their properties which face main roads as well as repair their unsightly fences by cleaning or painting them, according to relevant districts and townships.

An official from YCDC

commented, "We mainly encouraged the people to make their buildings clean and beautiful to conform with city features. Dilapidated buildings are covered with mosses and vines in their facets, and the lack of maintenance in empty yards disgraces the beauty of the city. This is being conducted in accordance with rules and regulations."

Sub-Section (K) of Section 65 is stipulated, "Cleaning trees and bushes in yards and buildings, painting them in specified

colour, fencing the unenclosed property and maintaining the dilapidated yards for the city features," under Sub-Section (J), Section 65 of the City of Yangon Development Law 2018.

"It is necessary to abide by the provisions of the law. If you fail to comply with this instruction, you can proceed with the committee's plan. It is provided that one can ask the owner of the building (or land), or the resident to pay the cost of repairs," said Ko Htike, the advocate. — TWA/GNLM

## ECD releases statement regarding air quality analysis in September

THE Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) issued the status of air quality analysis in September.

Regular measurements of main parameters such as Environmental Perimeter Air Station (EPAS)-Haz-Scanner, Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5), Particulate Matter 10 (PM10), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) and Carbon Monoxide (CO) in the air quality of Union Territory, Regions and States, are constantly analyzed by the ECD for the study of ambient air quality throughout Myanmar.

The ECD notified ambient air quality results of September 2022 which were calculated with the Air Quality Index (AQI) in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Monywa, Dawei, Myitkyina, Loikaw, Hpa-an, Mawlamyine, Sittway, Tachilek and Lashio.

The AQI index between 0 and 50 is referred to as the

green level which represents good air quality. Index number 51 to 100 means yellow level and can moderately affect people with low resistance. In addition, index numbers 101 to 150 (orange level) can affect the health of people with weak resistance. AQI index between 151 and 200 represents the red level and can affect the health of people, especially those who have low resistance. Index numbers 201 to 300 (purple level) can severely affect people's health, and index 301 to 500 is a crimson level which needs to be reported as a health emergency.

It is reported that ambient air quality results can change according to the air temperature, wind speed, wind direction, humidity, rainfall condition, condition of vehicle use, the status of fume emissions from factories and the condition of surroundings where the ambient air quality is measured. — TWA/GNLM

## Myawady, Muse borders log US\$299.257 mln trade in Sept

THE cross-border trade through Myawady post and Muse 105<sup>th</sup>-mile trade zone amounted to US\$299.257 million in September of the current financial year 2022-2023, according to the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's Myawady border trade with Thailand was estimated at \$210.013 million in September, comprising exports worth \$60.646 million and imports worth \$149.367 million.

The exports were down by \$13.1 million at the Myawady border post compared to the corresponding period last FY yet imports were up by \$9.003 million. The figures showed a decrease of \$4.097 million against the year-ago period.

During the week from 24 to 29 September, the cross-border trade via Muse 105<sup>th</sup>-mile trade zone with China accumulated \$19.244 million, including exports worth \$9.333 million and imports worth \$9.911 million.

Compared to the trade value recorded in the second and third week of September, export at Muse trade zone in the last week of September was up by \$0.554 million and import was up by \$2.822 million.

The trade value via the Myawady border trade zone in September 2022 was up by \$38.991 million against that in August 2022, indicating an increase of \$10.472 million in exports and \$28.519 million in imports.

However, exports via Myawady declined compared to those in the second week and third weeks of September. The exports to Thailand via the Myawady border fell in minerals, forest products, livestock, fisheries products, manufacturing goods and other export groups, except for the agricultural products group. The value of imports via the Myawady border rose in capital goods and industrial goods groups, however, the imports

of consumer goods decreased.

Myanmar mostly exported eel, broken rice, rubber, crab, black sesame seed, rice, cotton, cashew nuts, green gram, ginger, white sesame and peanuts to China via Muse 105<sup>th</sup>-mile trade zone, while machines and equipment, building materials, motorcycle parts, electrical device, tractors, vehicles and auto parts, steel wares, apparel, trailer used in farmed machines and plastic raw materials. — TWA/GNLM





MoU workers are seen at the Kawthoung border.

## Over 140 Myanmar workers leave for Thailand under MoU system

MYANMAR sent 148 migrant workers to the Ranong District, Thailand, under the MoU system, through the Kawthoung border on the morning of 17 October.

By the arrangement of the Lovely World Services Co Ltd, an overseas employment agency (Thailand), the Myanmar workers (men) are to work for Thailand companies: Sino-Thai Engineering & Construction Public Co Ltd and Champ Ace Co Ltd, under a two-year contract.

Kawthoung District labour office, Kawthoung District im-

migration and population office and responsible organizations made necessary inspections for workers and transported them to Thailand, under the guidance of the Ministry of Labour.

In addition, 390 Myanmar nationals returned to the country through the Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge No 2 on 15 October. It is reported that those migrant workers are from various regions and states and include 345 men and 45 women.

Myawady authorities made necessary examinations about the information of returnees,

inspected whether foreigners were included in them and whether they carried prohibited drugs and narcotics. Health workers also tested them for Covid-19.

Returnees from Bago Region, Mon State and Taninthayi Region were sent to the quarantine centres in Mawlamyine, and those from other regions and states were sent to the Myawady trade zone and Mekanel quarantine centre. They will be sent back to their respective townships after 10 days when they test negative for Covid-19. — TWA/GNLM

## Central Bank Bills to be sold to tame inflation



Central Bank of Myanmar (Yangon Branch).

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) will sell Central Bank Bills (CBBs) in order to curb inflation.

The CBM conducts monetary policies through interest rate policy, Minimum Required Reserves and open market operations. The CBM has a plan

to issue and sell its securities (CBBs) as one of the open market operations to drain liquidity.

This is an attempt of the CBM to mop up excess liquidity in the financial system to reduce inflation to a certain extent. The issue and sale of CBBs is to practise monetary stability, one of the

three pillars of the Central Bank of Myanmar.

The issuance of the CBBs is to control the currency and stabilize the price. The earnings from the issuance of the Central Bank Bills will be contributed to the government projects and the sector for the growth of the Gross Domestic Products.

The Central Banks of other countries also issue treasury bills on behalf of the government to cover the state's budget deficits or to use the CBBs as a tool of monetary policy.

The move of the issuance of the treasury bills is to cover the short-term state's budget's deficits. The Open Market Operations entail the issuing of the CBBs to steer money supply.—TWA/ GNLM

## Onion supply brings down prices at Bayintnaung Wholesale Market

FOLLOWING an entry of 240,000 visses of onions from various regions to the Bayintnaung Wholesale Market on 17 October, the prices declined.

The large supply caused traffic congestion on the streets of Win Yetama and Nguwah at the Bayintnaung Wholesale Market at 7 am on 17 October, Ko Kyaw Thet, a buyer from Nyaungpinlay market told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Approximately 40 12-wheeled trucks of onions caused delays at the market and the authorities reduce the traffic congestion until 10 am.

Earlier, only ten trucks entered the market and there was no traffic jam, said Ko Han, a businessman involved at a warehouse.

Only 66,000 visses of onions entered the market on 15 October. The price reached a record price of K3,700 per viss of onions from the Seikphyu area and K4,000 per viss from the Myingyan area then. However, an inflow of 240,000 visses of onions on 17 October resulted in a price decrease of K200 per viss, Ko Phoe Zaw, a dealer, told the GNLM.

On 17 October, the wholesale prices of onions stood at K3,100-3,800 per viss from Myingyan, K2,900-3,500 from the Seikphyu area and K3,200-3,800 per viss from the Monywa area.

The highest prices of onions were K3,300 per viss in the Seikphyu area and K3,275 per viss in the Pakokku area, according to the price data of the respective depots.

The monsoon onions usual-

ly enter the market in late 2022. Those farmers who cultivated the monsoon onions earlier than usual reaped a handsome profit in December due to the high prices in the previous years.

As the onion prices rose in 2022, monsoon onion plantations were also seen earlier than usual. However, torrential rain affected onion plantations in some villages of the Monywa and Myittha areas.

Torrential rains in Viet Nam and Thailand wreaked havoc on onion plantations and India's onion exports came to a temporary halt in recent days. As a result of this, demand goes up in the onion-producing regions.

During Thadingyut Festival, onion supply to the Yangon market decreased and the price increased a bit in mid-October. The onion supply on 17 October is about four times that of 15 October, causing traffic jams. The price set by the depots also dropped, Ko Thein Myint from onion depot, told the GNLM.

There are only 50 days remaining for summer onions to sell in the market. The domestic consumption of onions is the highest at six million visses and the lowest at three million visses per month. Prior to the entry of monsoon onions, only five million visses of onions are required at Bayintnaung market during that period. Although onion stocks are getting lower in the market, there is the self-sufficiency of onions in the market. When the price inflates, Chinese onions will re-enter the market, the market observers pointed out. —TWA/ GNLM



The photo shows trucks loaded with onions entering the Bayintnaung Wholesale Market on 17 October 2022.



# OPINION

## Successfully overcome challenges of natural disasters

EVERY country needs to take care of the dangers triggered by the consequences of climate change as well as global warming. As such, those global countries should take preparations to defy the bad impacts of climate change.

The reports issued by relevant organizations stated that global warming would impact the rise of temperature from four to seven degrees Fahrenheit in 2100 by raising the water level of the seas to 28 to 97 centimetres. Storms at various levels and tidal waves would rise across the world.

Consequently, the drought areas would face more dryness but rain-fed areas would encounter heavier rains. Due to the larger volume of carbon emission, the situation of acidification would be stronger in the oceans.

The sixth report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change-IPCC stated that the bad impacts of climate change were worse and wider than expected. The global peoples would suffer bad impacts of climate change in the future. Rocketing the temperature would affect the global countries. As such, proper living in conformity with climate change is of importance.

The climate change events triggered terrible catastrophes throughout the world whereas Myanmar faced 748 outbreaks of fire, 161 flooding, 1,502 storms, and 1,178 times of disasters including earthquakes, totalling 3,589 within 18 months. The government provided more than K3,647 million for over 1.5 million disaster-hit victims.

Myanmar stands third in the vulnerability to climate change according to the report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. As such, it is necessary to reduce natural disaster risks, systematically respond to disasters and minimize loss and damage in accordance with the early warnings.

Relevant organizations and ministries need to strongly cooperate in reducing natural disaster risks while the region and state organizations need to join hands with non-governmental organizations and social organizations. Only when people and private sectors systematically cooperate will loss of life, damage to infrastructure and hurt of businesses decline.

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As such, the authorities and the people need to build a public-centred early warning system and exactly follow the warnings by releasing the disaster warning to reduce disaster risks and systematic response for making necessary preparations and evacuation measures.

Based on natural resources and experiences, Myanmar has to contact ASEAN countries as well as the international community, follow international frameworks and agreements and apply modern technologies for easing disaster risks steadfastly so as to implement long-term sustainable socioeconomic lives with the resilience of disasters.

## Chinese cities make bespoke response to COVID-19 resurgences

WANG Yan, an empty-nester in her 70s in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan Province, dialled the local citizen hotline 12345 one day to seek help for solving one new problem: picking up groceries.

Due to a leg injury, Wang was unable to collect deliveries at the gate of her residential compound, which was under closed-off management due to COVID-19 flare-up.

Half an hour after Wang's call, a community worker contacted her and promised to arrange daily deliveries to her doorstep. "My children are out of town, so I was a bit anxious at first. Now I feel much assured as I'm assigned a personal liaison," said Wang.

### A megacity of 21 million people

When Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province and a megacity

of 21 million people, was hit by a COVID-19 resurgence in September, local authorities turned 12345 into a service desk for solving urgent difficulties facing residents during the outbreak.

Between 1 and 27 September, the hotline received about 1.58 million calls or online messages related to the epidemic, with 98.29 per cent of the cases solved. A special team was also set up to expedite cases concerning senior citizens, children and pregnant women, officials said.

In virus-hit Chinese cities, more flexible and custom-made measures are being rolled out to protect both the work and lives of ordinary people, while preventing large-scale outbreaks.

The Chinese government has stressed coordinating epidemic prevention and control with economic and social development, and adopting targeted and science-based measures to minimize the epidemic impact on people's



Residents buy vegetables at a market under COVID-19 prevention and control measures, in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 2 September 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA/SHEN BOHAN

work and lives.

In an effort to ensure supplies of livelihood-related commodities,

the Ministry of Transport has vowed to keep logistics vehicles, postal and express distribution

outlets and service stations in normal operation during the epidemic.

In tourist city Jinghong, Yunnan Province, authorities offered free meals and are negotiating reduced hotel fees for stranded tourists in the Gaozhuang area after a COVID-19 flare-up prompted travel restrictions in early October.

The city has since 8 October allowed non-local travellers to embark on return trips as long as they could provide negative test results.

### Epidemic-affected residents

Local communities are fully mobilized to care for epidemic-affected residents. In Chengdu, all neighbourhoods are divided into 126,000 "micro-grids," served by 149,000 volunteers recruited from couriers, community workers and retirees.

"Each of such micro-grid personnel is responsible for contacting and helping an average of 12 households," said Zheng Zhi, an official with Chengdu's commu-

nity management commission.

Wearing a red jacket, courier Wang Kehao is one of such micro-grid workers. His new job involves delivering epidemic-control materials and necessities, collecting epidemiological information and reporting residents' complaints to authorities.

"I'm impressed by the community staff who stick to their tasks despite bad weather. By working together, we'll get through this soon," said one resident in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province. After an infection was reported in a local residential complex, volunteers worked overnight to assemble a testing kiosk and facilitate grocery pick-up.

New technologies have facilitated communication in this process. In Chengdu, after big data had helped identify a flurry of complaints about grocery purchase, the municipal commerce bureau immediately organized

dozens of retail companies to offer regular deliveries to closed-off neighbourhoods.

### Collecting information

A telephone AI was also employed to make over 60,000 calls, collecting information for epidemiological investigation and issuing reminders of tests and vaccination.

"The epidemiological tracking used to involve over a dozen staff members making phone calls all day long. It is now done by the robot in an hour, so our people have more time for other epidemic prevention work," said a doctor from the West China Hospital of Sichuan University.

The Chinese mainland on Wednesday reported 322 locally transmitted COVID-19 cases and 1,154 local asymptomatic carriers, compared with 374 and 1,386 on Tuesday.

SOURCE: XINHUA

## Japan to encourage online medical care as COVID, flu spread in winter



People walk along the Nakamise shopping street in Tokyo's Asakusa district earlier this month. PHOTO: KYODO

JAPAN'S health ministry said Thursday those at low risk of developing serious coronavirus symptoms will be encouraged to use at-home test kits and online medical services this winter, when COVID-19 and seasonal influenza are expected to spread simultaneously.

The measures, which assume a peak of 750,000 cases per day, seek to lessen the burden on hospitals and prioritize medical care for the elderly amid warnings of another surge of viruses during the upcoming colder months.

### "preemptive preparations"

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida stressed at a government review meeting involving health ministry officials the need for "preemptive preparations," calling on the Japan Medical Association and other organizations to cooperate in the rollout of vaccines and to improve the health

care system.

The government anticipates that COVID-19 and flu infections will peak at 450,000 cases and 300,000 cases per day, respectively.

While the elderly and others at high risk of developing severe symptoms will be encouraged to visit medical institutions, others from low-risk groups who test negative for COVID-19 at home will be asked to use online medical services or see their family doctor.

### Flu medication

Self-administered flu medication will also be prescribed as necessary.

Should they test positive for COVID-19, they will be required to contact their local health centre and isolate at home.

The government began considering measures to prevent outpatient fever clinics from becoming overwhelmed after a health ministry expert panel released a report on 5 October stating there is an "extremely high possibility" of both COVID-19 and the seasonal flu spreading in the six months to March.

SOURCE: KYODO

## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 17 October 2022)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is partly cloudy over the East-central Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**SPECIAL FEATURES:** According to the observations at (17:30 hrs MST) today, the Typhoon "Nesat" over South China Sea continue moving to West-Southwestwards.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 18 October 2022:** Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Sagaing Region and Chin and Rakhine states, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi regions and Kachin State and isolated in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi regions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Squall with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (30-35) mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (7-10) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and (4-6) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

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

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 October 2022:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 October 2022:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 October 2022:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).



# LOCAL BUSINESS

## Myanmar black gram price likely to edge up tracking Kyat depreciation

THE price of Myanmar black gram is likely to climb up following the Kyat devaluation in the local forex market, according to Ayeya Trade Centre (ATC) under Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

At present, a dollar is exchanged at K2,900. The black gram price stands at K1,835,000 per tonne.

In late August, the dollar against Kyat peaked at K4,500 in the black market. Following that, the black gram price reached a record high of K2.1 million per tonne.

The monsoon black gram (urad) India, Myanmar's main buyer country, is flowing into its local markets yet the heavy rain during the harvest time affected the quality and the moisture content is at a high level.

Therefore, high-grade black gram is highly demanded in India on the low stock.

That being so, the black gram of good quality is expect-



Bean and pulse merchants evaluate the goods.

ed to fetch a handsome price. At present, the price of black gram (urad) is likely to rise to Rs 8,000-8,500 per quintal in Chennai, Agri World Mumbai forecasted.

Additionally, the price rise is certain if there are no trade policy changes, ATC stated.

According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black gram and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY to fulfil the require-

ments of pulses consumption.

Myanmar conveyed over 833,984 tonnes of various beans and pulses worth \$655.015 million to foreign trade partners between 1 April and 7 October 2022 in the current financial year 2022-2023. The country shipped over 690,134.616 tonnes

of pulses and beans valued at \$557.391 million to foreign markets by sea, and over 143,849.671 tonnes valued at \$97.624 million were sent to the neighbouring countries through land borders.

Myanmar exported over 2 million tonnes of various pulses worth US\$1.57 billion to foreign trade partners last financial year 2020-2021. The country shipped 1.24 million tonnes of pulses and beans worth \$966.4 million to foreign markets through sea routes, and 786,920 tonnes worth \$604.3 million were sent to the neighbouring countries through land borders.

Myanmar yearly produces approximately 400,000 tonnes of black gram and about 50,000 tonnes of pigeon peas. Myanmar is the top producer of the black gram that is primarily demanded by India, while pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are cultivated in Australia and African countries besides Myanmar. — NN/GNLM

## Unauthorized money changers face legal action for illegal transactions

THOSE individuals involved in selling, buying and transactions of foreign currency without holding a foreign exchange business licence are facing legal action, according to the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM).

Those two businesses (Perfect Money and B to P Money Exchange) were found to execute illegitimate transactions of foreign currency through the digital platform (Facebook) without holding any valid licence of the CBM.

They have been sued under Section 42 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law for breach of the provisions of Section 38 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, according to the statement.

Afterwards, those entities engaged in illegal foreign exchange through the respective Facebook pages (Black Market

Rate, USD Exchange Rate, Gold and Forex Trading, Gold and Dollar Market Dollar Buyer and Seller were found to violate the provisions of Section 38 of the law and the operators of those businesses will get sued under the Section 42 of the Law.

On 12 June 2022, the CBM notified the people of the unauthorized mobile pay/ mobile wallet and digital money transfer businesses not to have unnecessary losses.

The CBM greenlighted 18 commercial banks, 10 banks for internet banking, eight banks for mobile payment, five institutions for mobile financial service, seven entities for transportation card and shopping card payment, and four companies for MMQR of merchant acquiring service under Sections 40 and 79 of the Central Bank of Myanmar Law, Section 5, 129 and 130 of the Fi-



Those two businesses (Perfect Money and B to P Money Exchange) were found to execute illegitimate transactions of foreign currency through the digital platform (Facebook) without holding any valid licence of the CBM.

ancial Institutions Law, rules and directives of the mobile financial service and mobile banking business and e-payment to ensure safe and effective transaction and regulate the financial sector.

The list of those companies and financial institutions and ser-

vice providers is notified on the official website of the CBM.

At present, illegal mobile money service providers are posted on social media for mobile pay/mobile wallet service, transfer service between clients and payments for transactions of goods and services. The CBM

warned the people of illegal transactions and digital financial service providers so that they will not lose their money. Those individuals involved in this will face a fine and/or sentence under Section 172 of the Financial Institutions Law, the CBM stated. — NN/GNLM

### 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



# Rubber production rises; price hits up to K1,600 per pound

THE rubber outputs increased in October compared to last month's production rate. Rubber prices touched a high of K1,600 per pound, said rubber growers.

Heavy rainfall hit some rubber growing areas in September. During the tapping season, rubber fetched a K1,500 per pound. Rubber industry ramped up this month (October), U Tin Htut, a rubber farmer, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

In 2021, the price of rubber was K1,000 per pound in the tapping season. This year, the price

rose to K1,480-1,600 per pound.

Myanmar's rubber production is estimated at 200,000 tonnes ever year and more than 90 per cent of production goes to external markets. Only eight per cent is sent to domestic markets.

Rubber is commonly grown in southern Myanmar areas: Mon and Kayin states. It is also found in Yangon, Bago and Taninthayi regions. There are 500,000 acres of rubber in Mon State and nearly 270,000 acres in Kayin State. The overall rubber areas are estimated at 1.6 million

acres across the country.

Last year, the price of ribbed smoked sheet (RSS-3) was K1,200 per pound. This year, the RSS-3 is valued at K1,450 per pound in the second week of October. The price is likely to climb up to K1,600 per pound on the back of strong foreign demand, Ko Khaing Gyi, a rubber dealer, told the GNLM.

Myanmar shipped nearly 2,460 tonnes of rubber worth \$3.572 million by sea in September 2022, while it delivered 6,350 tonnes of rubber worth \$8.423 million to neighbouring countries via the cross-border trade channels, with nearly 5,380 tonnes of rubber to China and over 970 tonnes of rubber to Thailand.

The export volume of rubber in September was down by 3,500 tonnes compared to October's rubber export volume (8,810 tonnes). China was the main buyer of Myanmar's rubber last month. Myanmar's rubber is exported to Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Japan, China (Taipei) and India, according to Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association.—TWA/GNLM



A worker is loading ribbed smoked sheet rubber onto a truck.

## Illegal timbers, edible oil, foodstuffs, industrial materials, electronics, auto parts and vehicles confiscated



Confiscated illegal items at Yangon International Airport.

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

A combined inspection team led by the Forest Department under the supervision of the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted inspections and captured a total of 10.5988 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K3,322,030 in Lewe and Tatkon townships on 14 and 15 October. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

In addition, an on-duty team under the management of the Customs Department conducted inspections at the warehouse of Yangon International Airport and nabbed five used laptops – Lenovo Think Pad – worth K2.5 million that were hidden with suitcases and without official documents. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Afterwards, the Mayanchaung Permanent Checkpoint in Mon State confiscated K1.89 million worth of auto parts that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from a truck (approximately K40 million) heading from Myawady to Yangon. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

The 16th-Mile Kyaukchaw Checkpoint seized K9 million worth of industrial materials without official documents from a Nissan car (estimated value of K20 million) heading from Mandalay to Mongyai. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

On 16 October, a combined team confiscated a total of 3,060 litres of edible oil worth K10,200,000, 122 cartons of Lactasoy juice worth K951,600 without official documents from a Higer KLQ6123K car (approximately K30 million) at the Pauktai Bridge Checkpoint of Dawei township and the action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

On 17 October, a total of 2.932 tonnes of illegal hardwood worth K733,000 was seized in the Thayawady district and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 11 arrests (estimated value of K118,596,630) were made on four consecutive days from 14 to 17 October, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA



Seized illegal foodstuffs in Taninthayi Region.

## 284 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 17 October, total figure rises to 628,861

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **628,861** after **284** new cases were reported on 17 October 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **602,754** have recovered from disease. Death toll reaches **19,471** after **one** death.

Myanmar reported 145 COVID-19 deaths between 28-1-2022 and 26-9-2022. Of them, 102 deaths (70 per cent) had underlying chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, liver, kidney, lung and cancer.

According to the analysis of the COVID-19 vaccination rate of deaths with underlying chronic diseases, 81.4 per cent have received no vaccination at all and have not been fully inoculated, 17.2 per cent have received full vaccination and 1.4 per cent has received booster shots.

### COVID-19 vaccination rate of deaths with underlying chronic diseases

Out of COVID-19 deaths with underlying chronic disease		
81.4 per cent	17.2 per cent	1.4 per cent
have not been vaccinated at all and have not been fully vaccinated	have been fully vaccinated	have received booster shots

Therefore, according to the analysis of the COVID-19 vaccination rate of deaths with underlying chronic diseases, it causes fewer deaths obviously among those who are fully vaccinated and those who receive the booster shots. The people who are suffering from chronic diseases should follow the COVID-19 health rules, wear face masks and contact the nearest health departments, and village/ward administrative offices to receive the vaccines and booster shots.

More detailed information about COVID-19 can be found on the website of the Ministry of Health: moh.gov.mm. — MNA



# ECONOMY WORLD

## Iraq unveils archaeological park with ancient carvings

AUTHORITIES in northern Iraq on Sunday unveiled an “archaeological park” of 2,700-year-old carvings from the rule of the Assyrians, including showing kings praying to the gods.

The 13 stunning monumental rock-carved bas-reliefs were cut into the walls of an irrigation canal that stretches for some 10 kilometres (six miles) at Faida in northern Iraq.

The panels, measuring five metres (16 feet) wide and two metres tall, date from the reigns of Sargon II (721-705 BC) and his son Sennacherib.

“Perhaps in the future oth-

ers will be discovered”, said Bekas Brefkany, from the department of antiquities in Dohuk, in Iraq’s northern autonomous Kurdistan region.

Faida is the first of five parks the regional authorities hope to create, part of a project aimed to be “a tourist attraction and a source of income”, Brefkany added.

The carvings were unearthed during several digs over recent years, by archaeologists from Kurdistan and Italy’s University of Udine.

Last year, Daniele Morandi Bonacossi, professor of Near Eastern archaeology at the uni-

versity, said that while there were other rock reliefs in Iraq, none were so “huge and monumental” as these.

Iraq was the birthplace of some of the world’s earliest cities.

As well as Assyrians it was once home to Sumerians and Babylonians, and to among humankind’s first examples of writing.

But in recent years it has suffered as a location for smugglers of ancient artifacts.

Looters decimated the country’s ancient past, including after the 2003 US-led invasion. —AFP



A picture shows a carved plaque lining an ancient irrigation canal dating back to Assyrian times, in the archaeological site of Faydeh (Faida) in the mountains near the town of the same name in the autonomous Kurdish region of Iraq, on 16 October 2022, during the opening of the first phase of a planned archaeological park in Iraqi Kurdistan. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Sterling rises with UK finance minister set to unveil spending plans



Britain’s new Chancellor of the Exchequer Jeremy Hunt leaves 10 Downing Street in central London on 14 October 2022, after having a meeting with Britain’s Prime Minister Liz Truss. **PHOTO: AFP**

STERLING rose Monday as Britain’s new finance minister prepared to announce new tax and spending measures aimed at calming markets after a botched debt-fuelled budget by his pre-

decessor sent shivers through trading floors.

Jeremy Hunt was put in place on Friday after Prime Minister Liz Truss sacked Kwasi Kwarteng as she battles to save

her political career just weeks after taking the keys to Downing Street. Hunt is tipped to tear up the previous plans and warned at the weekend of tax hikes as he dramatically reversed course on right-wing Truss’ radical programme.

“It does indicate that they are moving back to some degree of fiscal probity and employing a slightly more prudent fiscal outlook,” said Peter Kinsella, of Union Bancaire Privée UBP SA.

The pound held above \$1.12, having sunk Friday owing to the uncertainty in Westminster, while a news conference by Truss did very little to reassure nervous investors.

Bonds also rallied on the first day without the Bank of England support put in place in response to turmoil caused by Kwarteng’s mini-budget.—AFP

## Lao economy to grow at 2.2% in 2022: IMF

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) is predicting that Laos will see economic growth of 2.2 per cent in 2022 before rising 3.1 per cent in 2023.

The IMF’s October projection remained unchanged at 2.2 per cent, but the figure was downgraded from a 3.2-per cent forecast in April, according to an updated report released on the IMF website on Saturday.

The IMF’s downgraded growth for Laos is linked to both external and internal factors, with the report forecasting that global growth will decrease from 6.0 per cent in 2021 to 3.2 per cent in 2022 and 2.7 per cent in 2023.

“About a third of the world economy faces two consecutive quarters of negative growth. Global inflation is

forecast to rise from 4.7 per cent in 2021 to 8.8 per cent in 2022 but to decline to 6.5 per cent in 2023 and to 4.1 per cent by 2024,” according to the report.

In Laos, the skyrocketing price of fuel and the petrol shortage in May and June have had huge effects on economic activities, notably agriculture and manufacturing.

Meanwhile, in its recent report released on 21 September, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) lowered its 2022 growth outlook for Laos to 2.5 per cent from 3.4 per cent projected in April and to 3.5 per cent from 3.7 per cent for 2023.

The downgrade is linked to supply disruptions and rising commodity prices, which have increased inflationary pressures.—Xinhua

## Australia’s economic outlook to be downgraded amid global uncertainty: Treasurer

AUSTRALIA’S Treasurer has warned the country is facing economic downgrades amid global uncertainty.

Ahead of delivering his first federal budget on 25 October, Jim Chalmers on Monday said the global economy is on an “increasingly perilous path”.

After returning from meet-

ing with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and G20 (Group of Twenty) counterparts in Washington DC, Chalmers said Australia would not escape the downturn.

“The global economy is treading an increasingly perilous path and downside risks loom large - this was a clear message

from meetings with my counterparts in Washington DC,” he said.

“The budget will confirm the stark deterioration in the outlook for global growth and in several major economies, with some at risk of falling into recession.”

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Chalmers have

repeatedly said that their first budget since the Labour Party won power in May’s general election will be austere, with a focus on “responsible cost of living relief”.

Chalmers said Australia was protected from some of the factors causing global turmoil but that the budget would in-

clude significant downgrades to growth forecasts amid uncertainty.

“Here in Australia we have some things going for us, including plenty of people in work and decent demand for our exports, but we will not be spared from the consequences of a global slowdown,” he said.—Xinhua



# 1<sup>st</sup> Chinese-invested expressway in Cambodia sparks tourist influx to coastal province: PM

CAMBODIAN Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen said on Monday that some 200,000 vehicles had travelled on the kingdom's first-ever expressway since it was open to the public for trial use for free on 1 October.

Invested by the China Road and Bridge Corporation, the two billion-US-dollar Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville Expressway connects the capital Phnom Penh and the deep-sea port province of Preah Sihanouk.

"It's good for Preah Sihanouk provincial residents because a lot of people have visited there, travelling on the expressway for free of charge for

a month's trial use," Hun Sen said during a graduation ceremony of some 6,400 students at the National University of Management in Phnom Penh.

Preah Sihanouk provincial spokesman Kheang Phearom said on Monday that some 125,000 national and international tourists visited Preah Sihanouk province this weekend.

"The increase in tourists came after the Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville Expressway was put into trial operation for one month from 1 to 31 October for free," he said.

With two lanes for traffic in each direction plus an emergency lane on each side and paved



Photo taken on 1 October 2022 shows a toll station on the Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville Expressway in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. **PHOTO: PPSHV EXPRESSWAY/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

with asphalt concrete, vehicles will be able to reach their destination in about two hours on the 187-kilo-

metre expressway, instead of five hours on the National Road 4.

Vasim Sorya, under-

secretary of state and spokesman for the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, said the ex-

pressway is the largest single project under the Belt and Road Initiative cooperation between Cambodia and China.

"The expressway will inject new impetus into Cambodia's economic development since it links between the capital and the international deep-water seaport," he told Xinhua.

Ministry of Commerce's undersecretary of state and spokesman Penn Sovicheat said that the expressway is crucial to serving both economics and tourism, saying that it helps ease traffic congestion, save travel time, and reduce transportation costs. — Xinhua

## Bankrupt Sri Lanka slashes fuel prices



An employee fills petrol in an auto rickshaw at Ceylon petroleum corporation fuel station in Colombo on 17 October 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

CRISIS-HIT Sri Lanka slashed fuel prices on Monday, the second cut in as many weeks, after the World Bank warned that

the economy will shrink an unprecedented 9.2 per cent this year.

The energy ministry said the price of petrol will

be reduced by 40 rupees to 370 rupees (\$1.02) a litre from Monday night after a similar 10 per cent reduction earlier this month.

But the price of regular petrol is still twice the amount before the start of the crisis last year while diesel is three and a half times more than what it was in December 2021.

Earlier this year motorists spent weeks to get fuel, contributing to weeks of protests that forced president Gotabaya Rajapaksa to

flee the country in July and quit.

The wait at the pumps has reduced to a few hours in recent weeks, but fuel is still strictly rationed because of an enduring shortage of dollars needed to pay for essential imports.

Public transport also ground to a halt due to a lack of diesel but now services are almost back to normal, although many fares — in common with soaring prices for other services and goods — have doubled. —AFP

## Singapore's year-on-year NODX growth drops to 3.1% in September

SINGAPORE'S non-oil domestic exports (NODX) rose by 3.1 per cent year on year in September, following the 11.4 per cent growth in August, Enterprise Singapore, a government agency, announced on Monday.

It is the 22nd consecutive month for Singapore's NODX to see year-on-year

growth. In a breakdown, the electronic NODX decreased by 10.6 per cent year on year in September, following the 4.5 per cent decrease in August. The non-electronic NODX grew by 7.6 per cent year on year in September, compared to the 16.9 per cent growth in the previous month.

On a month-on-month seasonally adjusted basis, Singapore's NODX decreased by four per cent in September to 16.5 billion Singapore dollars (about 11.57 billion US dollars), after the previous month's 3.9 per cent decline.

Singapore's non-oil re-exports (NORX) grew by 20.2 per cent year on

year this September, following the revised 14.9 per cent growth in the previous month. Both electronic and non-electronic NORX grew.

Singapore's oil domestic exports expanded by 56.3 per cent year on year in September, after the 72.2 per cent growth in August. — Xinhua

## Philippine remittances up 4.4% in August

PERSONAL remittances from overseas Filipinos reached 3.02 billion US dollars in August, an increase of 4.4 per cent year on year, the Philippine central bank said on Monday.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said the cumulative personal remittances from January to August rose by three per cent to 23.34 billion US dollars.

The BSP said the United States, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, and Qatar contributed mainly to the remittance increase in this period. Filipinos have worked and settled across international borders over the past decades and personal remittances remain a major source of the Southeast Asian country's foreign exchange inflows. —Xinhua

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (153N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (153N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-10-2022** 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  
Myanmar Port Authority**

Agent For:

**M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING PTE LTD**



# GLOBAL AFFAIRS

## Iran prison fire toll doubles as protest tensions surge



A picture obtained from the Iranian Mizan News Agency on 16 October 2022 shows damage caused by a fire in the notorious Evin prison, northwest of the Iranian capital Tehran. **PHOTO: AFP**

EIGHT Iranian inmates were killed in a fire that raged through Tehran's Evin prison, the judiciary said Monday, doubling the official toll from the blaze that further stoked tensions after a month of protests sparked by the death of Mahsa Amini.

Authorities in the Islamic republic have blamed the fire late Saturday on "riots and clashes" among prisoners, but human rights groups said they doubted the official version of events and feared the real toll could be even higher.

The judiciary authority's website Mizan Online said Monday that four Evin prison inmates injured in the fire had died in hospital, after reporting the previous day an initial toll of four dead from smoke inhalation.

Gunshots and explosions were heard during the dramatic blaze from inside the complex, according to social media footage, and state media later broadcast images of parts of the prison gutted by the flames.

Iranian authorities have accused "thugs" of torching a prison clothing depot and reported clashes between prisoners, and then between inmates and guards who intervened to put an end to the violence.

Judiciary chief Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei said Monday that the fire was "a crime committed by a few elements linked to the enemy".—AFP

## EU leaders to discuss energy crisis measures

EU leaders this week will attempt to overcome divisions on how to face Europe's energy crisis and end weeks of feuding over a gas price cap, a draft of the summit conclusions said on Monday.

The bloc's 27 member states are deeply split on how to address skyrocketing energy prices caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine that have seen heating bills explode in Europe just ahead of winter.

Several meetings of EU energy ministers have failed to break the deadlock and the European Commission, the EU's executive arm, will propose a fresh set of options on Tuesday in a renewed effort to bridge differences.

These will be taken up by leaders during a two-day meeting in Brussels on Thursday in hopes of achieving a better result than a

summit earlier this month in Prague that ended in stalemate.

A large group of EU countries, led by Italy, have pushed hard for some form of price cap on gas imports and vented frustration against Germany, Europe's biggest economy, for a 200-billion-euro plan to help Germans meet the high prices.

"The prices are insane: we agree on the diagnosis, but are still discussing the therapy to be administered," Italian Minister of Ecological Transition Roberto Cingolani said last week.

According to the draft of summit conclusions seen by AFP, the commission's plans will include a vaguely worded proposal to "explore a temporary EU framework" to cap the price of gas used in electricity generation.—AFP

## EU agrees border-monitoring mission for Armenia, Azerbaijan

EU foreign ministers on Monday agreed to send a short-term border mission to Armenia to observe the situation with arch-foe Azerbaijan.

The team will consist of "up to 40 EU monitoring experts along the Armenian side of the international border with Azerbaijan," the European Council

said in a statement.

The mission will have "the objective of monitoring, analyzing and reporting on the situation in the region" and would "in principle" last no more than two months, it said.

The decision comes after deadly clashes in September along the Armenian-Azerbaijani

border that have raised the fears of a fresh all-out conflict.

The two countries have already fought two wars, in 2020 and in the 1990s, over Azerbaijan's Armenian-populated region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The EU decision to send the mission follows an 6 October meeting between French Pres-

ident Emmanuel Macron and European Council President Charles Michel with Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

Facing an energy crunch and weaning itself off Russia fossil fuels because of the war in Ukraine, the EU has turned to al-

ternative gas suppliers including Azerbaijan. Yet Macron ruffled Baku's feathers last week when he said "we will not abandon Armenians" while "Azerbaijan has launched several offensives along the border". Russia, which has criticized Macron for his remarks, maintains around 2,000 soldiers in Armenia.—AFP

### RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

## Six killed in Russian attacks in Kyiv and Sumy: Ukraine

AT least six people were killed by Russian attacks on the capital and the eastern region of Sumy, Ukraine officials said Monday, after dozens of drones were launched at Kyiv.

"As of now, the number of people killed as a result of a kamikaze drone attack on a residential building has increased to three. Nineteen people have been rescued. (Rescue) work is ongoing," the deputy head of the presidency, Kyrylo Tymoshenko, said on social me-

dia. Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko said two of the people killed in the capital were a young married couple.

"A husband and wife who were expecting a child. The woman was six months pregnant," he said on social media.

In the eastern region of Sumy the regional governor meanwhile said three people had been killed and several more were injured.

"At 5:20 (0220 GMT) in the morning, three Russian

rockets hit a facility of civil infrastructure. At least three people died. Nine are injured. There are still people under the rubble," Sumy regional governor Dmytro Zhyvovskyy said on social media.

Prime Minister Denys Shmygal earlier said Russian strikes had hit energy facilities in Sumy and the central Dnipropetrovsk region, where, according to the presidency, attacks had left some people killed and injured.—AFP



Ukrainian firefighters work on a destroyed building after a drone attack in Kyiv on 17 October 2022, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. **PHOTO: AFP**





Meta Platforms Inc demonstrates a metaverse service that enables participants wearing virtual reality headsets to hold business meetings in the form of their avatars in various virtual settings at an electronics exhibition in Chiba, near Tokyo, on 17 October 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

## Metaverse business tools on display at Japan annual tech show

COMPANIES from Japan and abroad are showcasing next-generation business tools related to the metaverse — a virtual world in which people can work, shop and socialize — at Japan’s major electronics show that opened to the media Monday.

The annual show, which will be open to the public from Tuesday through Friday at Makuhari Messe convention centre near Tokyo, was held online in the previous two years due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Meta Platforms Inc, which owns the Facebook social networking service, is demonstrating its Horizon Workrooms metaverse service that enables participants wearing virtual reality headsets to hold business meetings in the form of their avatars in various virtual settings such as a seaside suite and a classroom.

The company, which changed its name last year to focus on the metaverse, says the virtual sphere is not limited to games and entertainment.

“We see a big potential for the business application of the metaverse,” Taeko Morimura, head of communications in the company’s Japan unit, said. “We hope many people get to experience how it can be used for business through our product.”

Toppan Inc, a major Japanese printing company, has built a virtual showroom in the metaverse in which people can see different colours and the details of materials used in cars and homes as if they were in a real showroom. —Kyodo

## UN chief calls for renewing commitment to better world for all

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday called for efforts to renew the commitment to a better world for all in his message for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, which falls on 17 October annually.

This year’s theme of “dignity for all in practice” must be “a rallying cry” for urgent global action, Guterres said, noting that inequalities are widening, national and household economies are battered by job losses, skyrocketing food and energy prices, and the gathering shadows of a glob-

al recession. “At the same time, the climate crisis and raging conflicts are causing immense suffering, with the poorest people bearing the brunt,” he said.

Speaking of the status quo of the Sustainable Development Goals, Guterres said that they “are being pushed far out of reach”.

He called for actions to invest in people-centred solutions, saying that actions must be taken to support developing countries as they transition from planet-killing fossil fuels to renewable energy and job-creating green economies. —Xinhua

## World Cup boom pushes some Qatar residents out of homes

QATARI landlords eyeing profit from the looming World Cup have been kicking out a growing number of mostly foreign tenants, sometimes with just a few days’ notice.

More than one million football fans are expected to descend on the capital Doha during the November-December tournament, putting a strain on the tiny Gulf nation.

Landlords who have spotted an opening to increase rents “show no pity” and the market is dominated by “greed”, said a representative of a real estate company, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Reem, a foreigner working for a major Qatari company, was told she had a week to leave her apartment. The woman, using a



Banners depicting footballers hang on buildings in the Qatari capital Doha ahead of this year’s FIFA football World Cup, on 16 October 2022. **PHOTO: GIUSEPPE CACACE / AFP**

pseudonym to avoid blowback from her employer, told AFP the owner of the block wanted the dozens of apartments he has

rented to her employers emptied so they could earn more during the World Cup. “We felt humiliated,” Reem said.—AFP

## WHO seeking quick bucks from business via foundation

THE World Health Organization is sourcing rapid response financing directly from companies to help tackle international crises, through the foundation it set up to bridge the shortfall from member states.

The WHO Foundation — set up in May 2020 as the UN health agency scrambled for resources to fight the Covid-19 pandemic — was created to marshal new resources from business and philanthropists.

The foundation, which went live in January 2021, aims to

“mobilize more support for the WHO, from the public, from businesses, from philanthropists,” its chief executive Anil Soni told AFP.

“No organization, no sector can solve the challenges that the world is facing alone,” the 46-year-old American said.

The WHO has a two-year budget of \$5.8 billion but its financial independence has steadily declined.

Its 194 member states provide barely 16 per cent of the organization’s financing through

membership fees.

The rest comes from voluntary contributions, of which 88 per cent are “specified”, meaning the money goes to projects earmarked by the donors.

And with national budgets tightening around the world, governments “are having to make tough decisions about where they give their money”, said Soni. “That’s why we should do more with the private sector.”

### ‘Matchmaker’

The foundation says it ex-

ists because the WHO lacks sufficient resources to fulfil its mandate.

The list of health crises currently being combatted by the WHO includes Covid-19, the cholera outbreak in Haiti, the war in Ukraine, the devastating floods in Pakistan, monkeypox and attempts to get aid into Ethiopia’s besieged Tigray region.

The foundation has raised \$30 million since the start of 2021 — money which has mainly been focused on sup-

porting the WHO’s emergency response to Covid-19 and the war in Ukraine.

“Part of our job is to be a matchmaker, is to make sure that we can facilitate dialogue and share information,” said Soni.

“So the WHO sees the benefit of working with the private sector, and the private sector sees the power of the WHO.”

The foundation has around 40 staff compared to more than 8,600 for the WHO, which is also based in Geneva. —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.

## Real Madrid and France star Karim Benzema wins Ballon d'Or



Real Madrid's French forward Karim Benzema receives the Ballon d'Or award from French former forward football player Zinedine Zidane during the 2022 Ballon d'Or France Football award ceremony at the Theatre du Chatelet in Paris on 17 October 2022. **PHOTO: FRANCK FIFE / AFP**

FRANCE striker Karim Benzema won the Ballon d'Or at a ceremony in Paris on Monday, the reward coming after his stunning performances helped Real Madrid win the Champions League and La Liga last season.

Benzema, who is the first French winner of the most prestigious individual prize in football since Zinedine Zidane in 1998, scored 44 goals in 46 games for his club including 15 in the Champions League.—AFP

## Lewandowski wins Mueller Trophy for top scorer

ROBERT Lewandowski received the award for last season's top goalscorer, renamed the Gerd Mueller Trophy, for the second straight year at the Ballon d'Or ceremony on Monday.

The 34-year-old, who joined Barcelona from Bayern Munich in the close season, scored 57 goals in 56 matches

for club and country last term. He was the top-scorer in the Bundesliga with 35 goals.

Lewandowski also won the award last year when it was presented for the first time, after breaking the Bundesliga scoring record for a single season, previously held by Mueller, with 41 goals.—AFP



## Shwe Aunglan winner Saw Ba Hein to fight against Golden Belt Champion Saw Shwe Lay in Myanmar Boxing Challenge



Myanmar Traditional Boxing Challenge features many thrillers including newcomers' fights plus special challenges. **PHOTO: BALA SOE**

IT has been reported that the Myanmar Traditional Boxing Challenge, which will be hosted by Lethwei Journey Group, will be held at Theinbyu Boxing Hall in Yangon at 1 pm on 23 October.

Shwe Aunglan winner Saw Ba Hein will face Golden Belt Champion Saw Shwe Lay and Golden Belt Champion Win Htun will take on Thura Ye Aung in the challenging fights.

Saw June (Nagar Marn) will fight against Saw William (Doh Yoe Yar) in the other challenge. Meanwhile, Saw Wun Chone

will meet Saw Kayin in a special fight.

There will also be seven bouts for newcomers.

"This tournament has a regular Saturday talk show about traditional boxing. In that Saturday conversation, the new generation of traditional boxing was brought out, and 360Sport separated Yangon-based events from the Yangon-based discussion.

"Because of that, we gathered together those who thought about the traditional boxing event and formed two groups

for the traditional boxing journey. The group has taken responsibility.

"That is why we are offering new generation events, special events, and demonstrations to meet the audience who come to watch in a different way than others," said event organizer Ko Oscar.

The tourney will be broadcast live on the Lethwei Journey Facebook page and 360 Sports YouTube Channel, and tickets are set at K5,000 and K10,000.—Bala Soe/GNLM