

# 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.

## Message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to ceremony marking 48<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rakhine State Day

15 December 2022

**Esteemed national brethren in Rakhine State,**  
I wish ethnic national people residing in the Rakhine State and all national brethren living throughout the Union to enjoy physical and mental well-being

and all kinds of auspiciousness on the significant occasion when the 48<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rakhine State Day falls today.  
Rakhine State Day is one of the eminent days

for Rakhine ethnics. According to the Constitution approved in 1974, the 15<sup>th</sup> of December was designated as Rakhine State Day.

**SEE PAGE-2**

## Products from agriculture and livestock farms can be exported to foreign countries for ensuring regional economic growth: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets departmental officials and town elders of PutaO Township in Kachin State on 14 December 2022.

**S**TONE-FILLED fences should be created along streets and in residential

wards as a significant landmark to attract local and foreign travellers, said Chairman of the

State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at a meeting

with departmental officials and town elders of PutaO Township in Kachin State at the lounge of

Putao Airport yesterday morning.

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## Message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to ceremony marking 48<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rakhine State Day

### FROM PAGE-1

As Rakhine State Day which is significant for Rakhine ethnics has been held on a grand scale annually, the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 turns 48.

Rakhine State is located in the western part of Myanmar and covers the coastal strip between the Rakhine mountain range ageographical conditions, Rakhine State is endowed with valuable rivers, creeks, lakes and islands. It is one of the world's most beautiful beaches and has long and attractive coastal areas with plentiful natural resources.

Rakhine State is an area of producing rice, fish and meat, and natural products because of proper water and fertile soil. Being an area rich in lovely traditions and customs of local ethnic and national people and cultural heritages, Rakhine State can operate community-based tourism services and inbound and outbound tourism services.

Rakhine State located on 14,200.1 square miles of land is made up of 17 townships in five districts. On 30 April 2022, Taungup and An districts were formed in the state. Hence, Rakhine State is formed with seven districts.

Rakhine State was an area where Buddhism flourished. Strenuous efforts are being made to have recognition for MraukU region as a city involved on the list of World Heritage Sites. Not only many monk and layperson literati but a lot of Rakhine ethnic scholars have emerged in Rakhine State from the time of the ancient Rakhine monarchical era to date. Rakhine literature flourished in the Danyawady era in about the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. As historical records were found that the Lawkathara poem which has been famous in Myanmar literature was composed by Rakhine Thu Myat in the Laymyo era, Rakhine State can be identified as an area with invaluable abundant ancient cultural heritage in literature, culture and customs.

### Esteemed ethnic national brethren,

Currently, the State Administration Council is taking all State responsibilities in accord with the Constitution and formed the provisional government in implementing the five-point roadmap and political, economic and social objectives of the State Administration Council. The government is striving for the resurgence of businesses as much as possible for ensuring the stability of the State, peace and tranquillity, regional development and improvement of social and economic lives. Rakhine State had difficulty in the transport sector due to natural geographical conditions and it lagged behind development in comparison with other regions. As armed conflicts happened in Rakhine State due to political and ethnic affairs, the government is solving problems to overcome hindrances to the development of Rakhine State.

The governments in successive eras placed

an emphasis on the development of Rakhine State. During its tenure, the Tatmadaw government prioritized the transport sector of Rakhine State not to lag behind development rather than other regions, so it gains improvement. As local people in Rakhine State have easy access to all regions of ethnic national people residing in the Union at any time, such a move contributes much to raising amicability among ethnic nationals.

After forming the Rakhine State Peace, Stability and Development Central Committee, the State Administration Council is carrying out agriculture, livestock, education, health and socioeconomic development tasks of Rakhine State. As more than 70 per cent of the people are residing in the rural area of the country, efforts are being made to narrow the rural and urban development gap as much as possible.

The government has allotted K10 billion from the State economic promotion fund to implement projects in the agriculture, livestock, manufacturing and fishery sectors to develop Rakhine State.

It does not need to pay back such amounts of money to the Union and it must be spent in Rakhine State as a continuous money circulation so as to improve relevant sectors and increase the incomes of local people.

At present, the government is carrying out comprehensive prevention, control and treatment activities against the Covid-19 pandemic global countries face. On the other hand, it is striving for the improvement of the socioeconomic lives of all regions and states including Rakhine State in order to resurge the businesses which faced losses in the Covid-19 pandemic.

### Esteemed ethnic national brethren,

All ethnic national brethren have been living in Myanmar since time immemorial through thick and thin. Their traditional heritages and fine arts such as literature, theatrical drama and musical works have been flourishing for thousands of years. Despite amicably living in the nation, unity deteriorated among ethnic national brethren under the instigation of colonialists in their governance, triggering internal armed conflicts.

Now is the time to initiate perpetual peace, which is essential for building the Union based on democracy and the federal system the entire people aspire to. So, the government is striving for ensuring national reconciliation and peace in the Union with a firm vow in order to bring harmonious development that all national brethren can enjoy on equal terms.

With regard to peace, the State formed the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee to continuously hold informal meetings, separate meetings and formal meetings with relevant dialogue partner organizations. The Peace

Talks Team of the State held peace talks with the Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) for the first time on 14 and 15 June 2022 and for the second time from 24 to 26 August. Depending on the discussions and negotiations, they could sign and approve the state-level both sides' attitudes.

Only following the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA for restoration of the peace in the Union will build a peaceful and tranquil country all the people anticipate.

The State has extended the invitation to NCA signatory ethnic armed organizations and non-NCA signatory ethnic armed organizations to hold peace talks for ensuring internal peace and national solidarity. Only when ethnic national brethren hold talks to seek a solution based on the Union spirit in the restoration of peace without external interference will they achieve success.

### Esteemed ethnic national brethren,

The years 2022 and 2023 are important. Diamond Jubilee Union Day which fell on 12 February 2022 was observed in Nay Pyi Taw on a grand scale. As the forthcoming 4 January 2023 is also Diamond Jubilee Independence Day, the music variety show was grandly staged in Nay Pyi Taw with the entertainment of artistes as a gesture of hailing Diamond Jubilee Independence Day.

Moreover, plans are underway to hold sports competitions and literary and arts shows whereas Union ministries and regions and states will manage the driving of decorated floats, entertainment of traditional dances by ethnic nationals and stage exhibitions and serve traditional foods. The ceremony to mark Diamond Jubilee Independence Day will be organized on a grand scale for the people to be able to enjoy the fruits of independence.

Rakhine State is inhabited by Rakhine ethnics such as Rakhine, Kaman, Khami, Dainet, Maragyi, Mro and Thet together with Myanmar and Chin ethnics. Peace and tranquillity and development of the state depend on the unity of all ethnic national peoples residing in the state and the strength of the Union spirit. Concerted efforts of ethnic national brethren residing in Rakhine State reflect local peace and stability and development which are a strength to build the country.

I send a message in honour of the 48<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rakhine State Day with a wish for all Rakhine State people to be able to serve the interests of the local people, the state and the Union based on the Union spirit and the patriotic spirit and to enjoy peace, tranquillity and happiness forever.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing  
Prime Minister  
Chairman, State Administration Council

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

## Government ready to disburse loans to MSME industries

A plan is underway to loan the MSME businesses and development of livestock sector through the remaining fund from the State economic promotion fund. The government is ready to disburse loans to MSMEs under the scheming rules and regulations.

*(The excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of the MSME Development Central Committee Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 1/2022 of the central committee on 23 September 2022.)*

# Building united strength to safeguard the region and the State: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds the meeting with Tatmadaw members and families from PutaO Station of the Northern Command in Kachin State yesterday.

AS military units are formed with local ethnic nationals, these units must be united with local people in harmony. If they have united strength, anyone cannot harm the military units. Likewise, if security forces, departmental personnel and all local people are in unison, anyone cannot harm the region. So, they all have to build a united strength, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General

Min Aung Hlaing at a meeting with officers, other ranks and families from PutaO Station of Northern Command at the station hall yesterday morning. **Build the united strength**

Security forces, departmental personnel and local people are to be united for ensuring peace and stability and the prevalence of law and order in the PutaO region. The local battalion is formed with Tatmadaw members and families including local ethnic people.

At a time when regiments and units in some regions faced the ambushes of armed groups, women who are Tatmadaw member families bravely counterattacked the armed groups for protecting their families and their military units. As motherly spirit and fatherly spirit will create a family with united strength, the PutaO region needs to forge such spirit. Military units need to strive for achieving success in military own agriculture and livestock farms in order to contribute to the food supply of the units. **Obeying disciplines with military awareness and conscience**

Good discipline and obedience are good practices of individual Tatmadaw members. If they correctly do daily functions under the disciplines and codes of conduct, they will be qualified Tatmadaw members. Tatmadaw members in individuals must take training on the skilful use of arms and equipment. If so, they will skilfully handle the arms on the battlefields.

**Encouraging education**

Dutiful performance, dis-

Security forces, departmental personnel and local people are to be united for ensuring peace and stability and the prevalence of law and order in the PutaO region. The local battalion is formed with Tatmadaw members and families including local ethnic people. At a time when regiments and units in some regions faced the ambushes of armed groups, women who are Tatmadaw member families bravely counterattacked the armed groups for protecting their families and their military units. As motherly spirit and fatherly spirit will create a family with united strength, the PutaO region needs to forge such spirit.

cipline and obedience will contribute much to raising their ranks. So, they have to strive for improvement in their lives and carry out tasks in line with their ranks. **Reading can support their lives, so officers, other ranks and families need to read. They have to encourage their offspring to learn education.**

As PutaO is a far-flung area and has a cold climate, they all have to take care of their health. They have to take physical exercises and avoid indulgence with self-control. The Senior General then asked

about the difficulties of Tatmadaw members and families.

**Presenting foodstuff and cash assistance**

The Senior General presented foodstuffs for Tatmadaw members and families to the station commander and the wife of the Senior General gave cash assistance for the station maternal and child welfare association to the wife of the station commander.

Later, the Senior General and party cordially greeted Tatmadaw members and families. — MNA



The Senior General presents foodstuffs for Tatmadaw members and families.

# SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pays homage to ancient historic Kaunghmulon Pagoda, visits Rawang Cultural Museum in Machanbaw Township

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, and officials, yesterday morning, paid homage to ancient historic Kaunghmulon Pagoda built on the bank of Namkyo (Malikha) River near Kaunghmulon Village of Machanbaw Township in PutaO District in Kachin State.

After going round the pagoda clockwise, the Senior General instructed officials to ensure the long-term existence of the pagoda, arrange convenient paying of homage by travellers and carry out sanitation around the pagoda.

The Senior General signed the visitors' book and presented cash for the all-round renovation of the pagoda to the chairman and members of the pagoda board of trustees, who returned the certificate of honour.

The pagoda enshrined with three pieces of the sacred relic of the Lord Buddha was built in

244 Sasana Era in the reign of King Siri Dhammasoka. Kings in successive eras renovated the pagoda. So, Myanmar Buddhists say "Kaunghmulon in upper, Shwedagon in lower and Shwezigon in the centre". Kaunghmulon Pagoda is very ancient, named "Kaungmuusa-okankham" called Shwehsatmin Pagoda in the Taikhamti Shan language. As it is the largest, tallest and most famous among other pagodas in Khamteelon area, the pagoda is named Sakaunghmulon, identified as the noblest pagoda, according to the records of all-round renovation of the pagoda.

At the Rawang Cultural Museum in the Rawang National Park in Duttan Ward of PutaO, the Senior General and party were warmly welcomed by Rawang Literature and Culture Association Chairman U Rei Dan Tang and Rawang ethnic people with the Rawang music.

The Senior General and party viewed round the booths



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pays reverence to the Kaunghmulon Pagoda in Kachin State yesterday.



The Senior General views round the Rawang Cultural Museum in Machanbaw Township yesterday.

on stone weapons, utensils made of stone, wooden utensils, hats made of wood and rattan, traditional musical instruments, wickerwork, utensils made of rattan and bamboo strips, swords, spears, axes, bows and arrow weapons, bamboo utensils, traditional bags, traditional medicines, traditional weaved equipment, Rawang traditional jewellery, the map showing the ancestors, and State leaders and Kachin state cultural leaders. U Rei Dan Tang and officials conducted the Senior General and party round the booths.

In his response to the explanations, the Senior General

said he took pride in preserving the culture and history of the Rawang ethnic people.

As ancient handiwork utensils are invaluable historical records, it is necessary to systematically preserve them and show them in tidiness. The Senior General stressed the need for the maintenance of the objects not to be damaged by natural disasters and pests.

The Senior General signed the visitors' book of the museum and posed for documentary photos in front of the Reindan called Manaw post together with the Rawang ethnic people. —MNA

## Products from agriculture and livestock farms can be ...

### FROM PAGE-1

#### Undertaking of regional development in the use of significant characters of the region

In his discussions, the Senior General said that the PutaO region endowed with natural beauty is significant in its characters with the cold season. Such advantages can contribute to shaping the region as a tourist destination so as to develop the

region. As a beautiful scene, the walls of residences are filled with stones. Hence, stone-filled fences should be created along streets and in residential wards as significant landmarks to attract local and foreign travellers. The Senior General stressed the need to arrange the beautifying tasks in society with the decoration of flowery plants.

#### Encouraging systematic agriculture and livestock farms

The Senior General noted that local farmers need to grow high-yield paddy strains with high eating quality. Moreover, they have to grow crops and breeding of animals suitable for the region. Feedstuffs can be produced in the region for livestock farms and waste from these farms can be made as bio-fertilizers. Products from agriculture and livestock farms can be exported to foreign countries

for ensuring regional economic growth. PutaO region can grow grapefruit, tea and coffee plants for having greater progress so as to attract local and foreign travellers.

#### High education qualification to contribute to regional development

The Senior General stressed the need to support school-age children of the PutaO region to promote their education quali-

fication and encourage education staff for teaching their children to be able to shape a brighter future. If so, individual education qualifications will contribute to the education promotion of the region and regional development.

The Senior General cordially greeted departmental officials and town elders at the meeting. —MNA

# Myanmar successfully concludes 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Quiz-Regional Level with first prize



Union Minister Lt-Gen Soe Htut presses the electric button to open the tenth ASEAN Quiz-Regional Level competition in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

MYANMAR hosted the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Quiz-Regional Level at MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Myanmar team stood first, Malaysia won second and Laos won third prizes in the competition.

The ASEAN Quiz was held on rotation by ASEAN member states every two years since 2002 with the aim of contributing to the spirit of healthy competition among ASEAN youths.

Thailand hosted the competition in 2002, Brunei in 2004, Malaysia in 2006, the Philippines in 2009, Cambodia in 2012, Viet Nam in 2014, Lao PDR in 2016, Indonesia in 2018 and Singapore in 2020.

Myanmar hosted this year's event and selected the students between the age of 15 and 18 who won the first, second and third prizes in district, regional and state, and national level competitions to participate in the ASEAN Quiz-Regional Level.

The opening ceremony took place in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning and was attended by State Administration Council member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut, Union Ministers U Ko Ko Hlaing, U Maung Maung Ohn, Dr Nyunt Pe, Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, Dr Thet Khaing Win, U Min Thein Zan, Dr Thet Thet Khine, deputy ministers, departmental heads, students from ASEAN, supervisors, coaches, judges, teachers, students from schools in Nay Pyi Taw and guests. Contestants from Brunei, the Philippines and Thailand participated in the event online.

The event was inaugurated with ASEAN Anthem and the indigenous nationals from MRTV entertained with the song "Welcome to the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Quiz".

Then, SAC Member MoHA Union Minister pressed the electric button to launch the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Quiz-Regional Level.

In his opening speech, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn said Myanmar is very proud for holding the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Quiz-Regional Level as a host country. The current ASEAN Quiz project is one of the priorities of the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information and has been held every two years since 2002. The project can be said to be part and parcel of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Information.

The ASEAN Quiz is a competition on knowledge of ASE-

AN and it also promotes the spirit of healthy competition among ASEAN youths by holding a friendly quiz on ASEAN cultural, political, economic and social developments in the Region.

The intention of the ASEAN Quiz is to foster the spirit of healthy competition among the ASEAN youth in a friendly quiz to promote knowledge and understanding of the vision, roles and functions of ASEAN, particularly for sustainable development of regional peace, solidarity, and prosperity while fostering friendship among the ASEAN youth and sharing knowledge among the peoples of the ASEAN.

The host countries from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> events invited the ASEAN students to the in-person events and the format of the event was changed into an online event hosted by Singapore in 2020 due to the outbreak

of COVID-19. Currently, Myanmar hosts the competition in a Hybrid system in accordance with the COVID-19 health rules.

The representatives from Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia and Viet Nam join the event in person and those from Brunei, the Philippines and Thailand join online.

Myanmar hosts this year's ASEAN Quiz under the theme of "ASEAN: A Community of Peace, Prosperity and Sustainability".

The country chose this theme to reflect the motto of ASEAN: One Vision, One Identity, One Community.

After the performance of artistes from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, officials presented gifts to judges, supervisors, contestants and senior officials of the ASEAN Secretary-General Office and took commemorative photos.

Then, MRTV staff performed the song "Mingalaba ASEAN".

Judge Daw Htay Htay Swe first explained the marking scheme and method for the competition and launched the event.

The ASEAN Quiz (Regional Level) was held under four categories - Multiple Choice, Fill in the Blank, True or False and Mixed Questions regarding the knowledge of the ASEAN Political and Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Culture Community.

After the performance of the respective ministry staff, Union Ministers presented first, second and third prizes to the winners and took documentary photos.

At noon, the ASEAN students and their supervisors visited the Gem Museum and National Museum in Nay Pyi Taw.

The dinner was served at Park Royal Hotel and Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn expressed thanks to the participants and supervisors and gave certificates to each of the 18 contestants.

At the dinner, the modern music band of MRTV entertained with songs and the attendees also joined the performance by singing.

Then, Daw Khin Swe Win, wife of Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn, drew lots for Myanmar traditional food to give to the participants as presents. — MNA/KTZH



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn speaks on the launching occasion yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.



The photo display of the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Quiz-Regional Level Competition convened in Nay Pyi Taw on 14 December 2022.



Brunei, the Philippines and Thailand compete in the contest online.



Entertainment of ethnic damsels at the event.



Cambodian contestants.



Contestants from Laos.



Malaysian contestants.



Indonesian contestants.



Contestants from Myanmar.



Vietnamese contestants.



Gifts are presented to three judges (left to right).





The tenth ASEAN Quiz-Regional Level Competition is in progress at MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



Competition of Cambodia, Indonesia and Laos.



Competition of Malaysia, Myanmar and Viet Nam.



The screengrab of the competition.



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn gives the first prize to Myanmar.



Commemorative gift to the office of the ASEAN Secretary-General.



The second prize to Malaysia.



The third prize to Laos.



ASEAN student contestants tour round the National Museum in Nay Pyi Taw.



ASEAN student contestants are pictured at the Gem Museum in Nay Pyi Taw.

# OPINION

## Anticipate a blossoming brighter future in Rakhine State

**R**AKHINE State and its ethnic national people can be dubbed as the western wall of the nation in preventing inappropriate infiltrations into the mainland and other parts of the nation. As a strategic area, Rakhine State bridges the mainland of the nation and neighbouring countries India and Bangladesh. It is an outlet of border trade to earn income for the people and the nation as well as a location of abundant natural resources on the mountain ranges to extract valuable ones for the nation.

Moreover, historical records were found that the Lawkathara poem which has been famous in Myanmar literature was composed by Rakhine Thu Myat in the Laymyo era, so Rakhine State can be identified as an area with invaluable abundant ancient heritages in the literature, culture and customs.

In the past, Rakhine State had difficulty in the transport sector due to natural geographical conditions and it lagged behind development in comparison with other regions. As armed conflicts happened in Rakhine State due to political and ethnic affairs, the government is solving the problems to overcome hindrances.

In its tenure, the Tatmadaw government prioritized the transport sector of Rakhine State not to lag behind development. As local people in Rakhine State have easy access to all regions of ethnic national people at any time, such a move contributes much to raising amicability among the ethnic nationals.

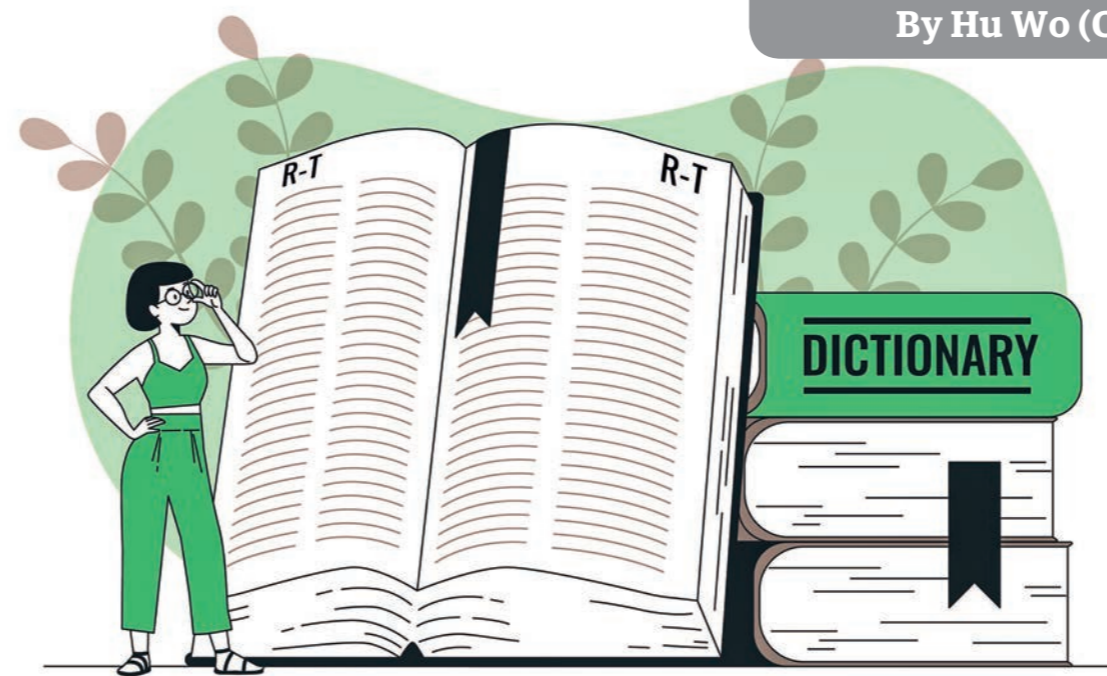
The government has allotted K10 billion from the State economic promotion fund to implement the projects of agriculture, livestock, manufacturing and fishery sectors to develop Rakhine State. The allocated fund must be spent in Rakhine State as a continuous money circulation so as to improve relevant sectors and increase the incomes of local people.

The government formed the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee to continuously hold informal meetings, separate meetings and formal meetings with relevant dialogue partner organizations. The Peace Talks Team of the State held peace talks with the Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) for the first time on 14 and 15 June 2022 and for the second time from 24 to 26 August. Depending on the discussions and negotiations, they could sign and approve the state-level both sides' attitudes.

Peace will shape all things to have improvement. Hence, peace the entire people aspire to will shape Rakhine State to have development soon. A brighter future for the people and Rakhine State will see the blossoming of perpetual peace soon.

## Recap on Different Varieties of English Vocabulary Usage

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)



English learners need to master language word skills so as to get hold of a wide and pretty vocabulary as much as they can afford. **ILLUSTRATION CREDIT: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/FREEPIK**

**S**O FAR as the number of global languages is concerned, I know that there is still a region of 7,000 languages living in the world. Among these languages, English is a global language which is also most spoken all over the world, we know. Of course, English came out with a basic Anglo-Saxon word stock; Viking and Norman invaders from the 9th century enriched the language enormously with a large number of words taken from their own languages often referred to as loanwords or borrowings. Like, since English has always accepted words from other languages into their lexicon easily, it is calculated that English vocabulary has its sources in at least 120 languages. As we all know, quite a lot of words in English are derived from Latin roots. Nowadays there are over a half million words in English. In that connection, English has been a language of rich vocabulary until now as well. But even an average native speaker is, to my knowledge, only able to use the order of 5,000 words in everyday speech. English learners need, therefore, to master language word skills so as to get hold of a wide and pretty vocabulary as much as they can afford.

Whenever a word is found anywhere, language learners should see which part of speech this word relates to, i.e., is it a noun, pronoun, determiner, adjective, verb, adverb, preposition, conjunction, or interjection? In the sentence "I am home", the word "home" is an adverb, not a noun. Afterwards, care should be taken to memorize the spelling and pronunciation of a word. As regards avoiding spelling mistakes, words will need to be learnt by making them in a letter cluster; for example, "B-E-A-U-T-I-F-U-L" one group a syllable. For English pronunciation, phonetic symbols have already been formulated, for instance, /byutafal/ for the word "beautiful". Next, diverse word forms must have been studied as far as we can remember. For example, the noun and irregular verb forms of "write" are "writer, wrote, written, writing". Similarly, one word may be of many meanings. This is called "vocabulary polysemy" by linguistics. For instance, the capitals in the phrases "capital letters" and "the capital of New Zealand" do not have the same meaning - the former means "big" whereas the latter says "the city of a country". Such this meaning difficulty might be overcome by guessing contextualized meaning and recognizing the prefix, root or suffix of a word. In the word "unconsciously", for example, "un-" is the prefix, "conscious" is the root and "-ly" is the suffix. By looking at the prefix "un-" and the suffix "-ly", it is easy to estimate that the word "unconsciously" not only has a negative sense but also is an adverb.

As my teacher Saya Thet Zaw (Meiktila) said, anyone, will never have got a good command of English even until his death if he is learning the language word by word. I totally agree with him. There are a great number of multi-word expressions in English that should have been studied in chunks, particularly phrasal verbs, idioms, and collocations. By Oxford, phrasal verbs are a verb combined with an adverb or a preposition, or sometimes both, to give a new meaning. These adverbs and prepositions are altogether called particles of a phrasal verb. In the sentence "You will go away", "go away" is the phrasal verb and "away" is the adverb. In the sentence "She could stay at a house", "stay at" is the phrasal verb and "at" is the preposition. In the sentence "I look forward to your homecoming", "look forward to" is the phrasal verb, "forward" is the adverb and "to" is the preposition. So phrasal verbs are usually in three structures of word order: verb+adverb, verb+preposition, and verb+adverb+preposition. In my experience, several learners of English tend to use "accuse for" instead of "accuse of" mistakenly and carelessly. Thus, the particles of a phrasal verb must be exactly retained in pairs or phrases while being committed to memory.

By Oxford, an idiom is a group of words whose meaning is different from the meanings of the individual words. According to this definition, it is quite apparent not to be able to tell the meaning of an idiom off the cuff at first sight. "The best way

to understand an idiom is to see it in context", Cambridge says. Moreover, idioms are mostly fixed in their form, hence getting the keywords and details right with regard to idioms becomes essential for learners indeed. And there are idioms from many varieties of English too. By way of illustration, the sentence "It's raining cats and dogs" in England, "It's throwing cobbler's knives" in Ireland, "It's raining shoemaker's apprentices" in Denmark, and "It's raining old women with clubs" in Namibia. The types of idioms include the form "verb+object/complement and/or adverbial" (e.g., kill two birds with one stone), prepositional phrases (e.g. in the blink of an eye), compounds (e.g. a bone of contention), similes (e.g. as dry as a bone), binomials (e.g. rough and ready), trinomials (e.g. cool, calm and collected), clauses (e.g. to cut a long story short), greetings and good wishes (e.g. Hi there!), sayings, proverbs or quotations (e.g. Don't put all your eggs in one basket.). The purposes of using idioms are to lay emphasis, to agree with a previous speaker, to comment on people or a situation, to make an anecdote more interesting, to catch the reader's eye, to indicate membership in a particular group and so on. However, it should be remembered that idioms disappear very quickly but some last for an age.

Actually, phrasal verbs, idioms, and collocations can be said to interrelate with one another. By Oxford, collocations are termed a combination of words in a language that happens very often and more frequently than would happen by chance. Depending on their usage, collocations have three kinds: strong, fixed, and weak. As Cambridge says, a strong collocation is one in which the words are very closely associated with each other, e.g., mitigating circumstances. Fixed collocations are collocations so strong that they cannot be changed in any way, e.g., to and fro. Weak collocations are made up of words that collocate with a wide range of other words, e.g., in broad agreement, a broad smile, and broad shoulders. Grammatically speaking, there may be divided into seven sorts of collocations - verb+noun (e.g., withstand pressure), noun+verb (e.g., opportunity arise), noun+noun (e.g., a stroke of luck), adjective+noun (e.g., plain truth), adverb+adjective (e.g., stunningly attractive), verb+adverb/prepositional phrase (e.g., drive recklessly, burst into song), and more complex collocations (e.g., put the past behind you). The reasons why it is important to learn collocations are to use the words we know more accurately, to sound natural when we speak and write, to vary our speech and writing, and to understand when a skilful writer departs from normal patterns of collocation.

Exceptionally, phrasal verbs have a one-word equivalent form; for example, "acquire" is the single-word equivalent form of "pick up". Some writers like to use idioms in order to make sentences flowery - they should be careful not to use too many, though! Also, natural collocations are not always logical or guessable. Over and above those I have discussed, there are still other remarks in the English language: synonyms (e.g., stop = cease), antonyms (e.g., urban vs rural), homophones (e.g., there, their; they're), homographs (e.g., I "read" in bed each night. I "read" War and Peace last year), vague expressions (e.g. or so), easily confused words (e.g. continuously & continually), abbreviations (e.g. NHS stands for national health service.), clippings (e.g. sci-fi is short for science fiction.), acronyms (VAT means value-added tax), metaphors (e.g. see the light), fixed statements (e.g. So far, so good.), clichés (e.g. Ignorance is bliss.), outdated words (e.g. consumption as tuberculosis/TB), US English (e.g. "rest room" is "toilet" in British English.), false friends (e.g. gift's in English and German), connotation, degrees of formality (i.e. neutral, formal, or informal), language and gender.

There is a lot to say and study on English vocabulary usage. It is natural that learners' memory will probably lessen as soon as they are getting aged. The learners have to grasp as many vocab-

ularies as they can by looking up words in monolingual, bilingual or multi-lingual dictionaries, using the Internet, and brushing up on vocabulary notebooks. In a vocabulary notebook, highlighter pens, mind maps, pictures, drawings, and stickers can be used where necessary. It is best if language learners study vocabulary at a regular time every day on end - at least 30 minutes or one hour a day. Oftentimes modern or updated words are in daily newspapers. Sayagi Dr Htin Aung once said, "Simple English is the best". The English that the great teacher meant is an effective and efficient one, I think. To write out effective and efficient English, learners must be able to use living words, phrasal verbs, idioms, collocations or whatever with fluency and accuracy. Almost all various fields of study have been written in English around the globe. If study fields were a lock, the English language would possibly be a key. In this connection, any linguistic learner should have owned a language key called English, anyway.

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## Article

### Africa CDC calls for enhanced research, innovation in public health

**T**HE Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has emphasized the need to advance efforts to strengthen research, innovation and emergency management in Africa's public health sector.

The Africa CDC, the African Union's specialized public health agency, said in a statement issued late Monday that the 2nd International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA 2022), which is underway in Kigali, Rwanda from Dec. 13 to 15, envisaged to "significantly advance" developments in Africa's public health arena.

mous pressure on health systems in Africa, but also sounded the alarm on the need to reform and revitalize the continent's health system.

The Africa CDC further noted that the conference also comes as Africa witnessed emergence and re-emergence of infectious disease outbreaks such as Ebola and the growing burden of non-communicable diseases posing a grave threat to the health and lives of millions in Africa.

"It is time that countries should collectively invest in stronger health system governance, including multi-sectoral



The Africa CDC said the conference comes at a critical time when many African countries continue to feel the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. **PHOTO: WHO**

The conference that brings together African leaders, ministers of health as well as leading researchers and scientists "helps to serve as a catalyst for accelerating progress against the continent's most significant health challenges and building more resilient health systems," the Africa CDC said.

The Africa CDC said the conference comes at a critical time when many African countries continue to feel the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It said the COVID-19 pandemic not only exerted enor-

collaboration within countries," the Africa CDC statement quoted Ahmed Ogbwell, acting director of the Africa CDC, as saying.

The Africa CDC chief said the AU specialized public health agency has presented its vision of a new public health order, which aims to ensure that effective health systems exist before a crisis and remain resilient during and post-crisis.

"CPHIA 2022 will shine a spotlight on this new approach to public health shaped by local leadership and regional solutions," he said.

**SOURCE: XINHUA**

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

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# Central Committee on Drug Abuse Control holds 1/2022 meeting

THE Central Committee on Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) held a meeting 1/2022 at the hall of the Myanmar Police Force in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday under the health guidelines of COVID-19.

First, the video clip of CCDAC's activities was played.

Speaking at the meeting, SAC Member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut, in his capacity as CCDAC chairperson, said the special operations on drug abuse control have so far been launched 37 times. The cooperation of Tatmadaw, the Myanmar Police Force and the Customs Department led to such achievement. In 2022, they seized over 1.1 tonnes of opium, 1.32 tonnes of heroin, 164.87 million stimulant tablets, 21.75 tonnes of Ice (methamphetamine), 2.04 tonnes of ketamine in addition to narcotic drugs and chemical precursors, worth more than K1,069.94 billion.

The respective region and state anti-drug agents should work with 11 working groups under the CCDAC and the success in combating drugs does not mean the total eradication of narcotic drugs.

He continued that 29 drug cases were transferred to Financial Intelligence Unit in 2021 and 26 cases in 2022. Those who participated in drug operations were promoted and awarded.

He also highlighted the 2022 UNODC drug report in East and Southeast Asia and strict inspection on officially imported chemicals.

He then called on the attendees to participate in anti-drug operations in accordance with the newly drafted policies and accelerate the operations in 2023.

Then, Secretary of CCDAC Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar Police



The meeting 1/2022 of the Central Committee on Drug Abuse Control is underway in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Force Maj-Gen Zin Min Htet reviewed the drug control plans and Joint Secretary of CCDAC Commander of Drug Enforce-

ment Division Police Brig-Gen Win Naing reported the anti-drug operation and ongoing work plans.

Then, attendees coordinated the discussion and the CCDAC chair concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

## Public Notice

1. The State Administration Council awarded Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma, Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma, Agga Maha Thray Sithu, Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu, Maha Thray Sithu, Thray Sithu, Sithu, Thura, Thiri Pyanchi, Zeya Kyaw Htin, Wunna Kyaw Htin, Alinka Kyaw Swa and Theikpa Kyaw Swa titles in 2022 with Order Nos 2/2022, 54/2022, 63/2022, 211/2022, 212/2022, 213/2022, 214/2022, 215/2022, 218/2022, 219/2022, 220/2022 and 221/2022.
2. The honorary titles recipients will be awarded honouring Diamond Jubilee Independence Day and are invited to attend in person or their family member to the honorary titles conferring ceremony.
3. It is here announced that the recipient of titles or one family member on behalf of awardees who will attend the ceremonies must contact Phone Numbers 067-3412715 and 067-3412716 of Sub-Committee on Invitation no later than 20-12-2022.

## 33 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 14 December, total figure rises to 633,508

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **633,508** after **33** new cases were reported on 14 December 2022 according to the Ministry of Health.

The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **608,044**, including **46** new recoveries.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged to **19,488** on 14-12-2022 with no new death reported from the pandemic.

The country has vaccinated **30,807,669** people aged 18 and above for COVID-19 vaccines and **6,785,059** people aged under 18 till 13 December 2022.

### Status of COVID-19 vaccination (as of 13 December 2022)

People aged 18 and above who received vaccines	30,807,669
People under 18 years old who received vaccines	6,785,059

According to the research, it is found that people who have been vaccinated do not suffer severely from the disease, need not to be hospitalized and unlikely to die. If they have received booster shot, the death rates can be reduced more.

As such, the people need to follow the new normal way in living with COVID. Hence, all the people above five have to fully receive COVID-19 vaccination inoculated by the Ministry of Health free of charge. Six months after the vaccination, they have to take booster jabs at relevant health centres and ward/village administration offices without fail.

Moreover, they have to wear masks while in closed chambers and public places. They need to often wash hands with soap and water or the hand gel containing alcohol (at least 60 per cent) for 20 seconds.

People need to follow the social distancing rule and avoid the crowds as much as possible. While not wearing masks, if they cough and sneeze, they need to cover mouth and noses with elbows in line with the personal hygienic ways.

COVID-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health.—MNA

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increasing of death rate based on the disease.

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## Weekly market update of dry groceries

DURING the week from 7 to 13 December, the prices of monsoon old onions and Kyukok garlic declined.

### Onion

Bayintnaung Wholesale market saw the entry of newly harvested monsoon onions from various regions.

On 13 December, the wholesale prices of monsoon onions from the Myingyan area were K2,000-3,800 per viss following a supply of 180,000 visses of monsoon onions, while those from the Myittha area were priced at K3,100-4,100 per viss.

The prices were down by around K900 per viss compared to those recorded on 9 December. Approximately 240,000 visses of monsoon onions from various regions were supplied to Yangon markets on 12 December. The fresh supply happened in the markets of regions outside Yangon. After the entry of 147,456 visses of monsoon onions to Pakokku Commodity Centre, the highest price was K2,775 per viss, showing a significant price drop compared to the previous weeks.

The new supply of monsoon onions brought down onion prices. On 13 December, the new onions from the Myingyan area decreased from K3,600 to K3,400 per viss whereas the onions from the Myittha area reached the maximum of K3,000 per viss only.

### Garlic

The wholesale price of the Kyugoat garlic variety was K3,100 per viss on 13 December, while the local garlic from Shan State (Aungban) fetched K2,900-3,900 per viss.

### Potato

The Yangon market saw a supply of seven truckloads of Chinese potatoes on 13 December. The prices of potatoes stood at K2,300 per viss of old Chinese potatoes and K1,650 per viss of new Chinese potatoes, while the prices of Shan potatoes moved in the range between K1,750 and 2,150 per viss.

### Chilli pepper

The wholesale prices of chilli peppers were K13,000-14,000 per viss of Shan long chilli pepper and K12,500-13,000 for the Moehtaung variety. The prices of bell peppers were K25,000-26,000 per viss for the Sinphykyun area and K12,500 per viss for Shan bell peppers.

### Palm oil

The wholesale reference price of palm oil in the Yangon Region this week was down by K115 per viss compared to the last week's price. The reference price for a week from 12 to 18 December was set at K4,515 per viss.

Consequently, the wholesale prices of palm oil slid to K5,400 per viss on 13 December.

### Rice

On 13 December, the price of glutinous rice from the Pyapon area was K92,000.

Meanwhile, the prices of high-grade old Pawsan stood at K90,000-98,000 per bag from the Shwebo area, K66,000-68,000 from Pathein/Myaungmya area and K63,000-65,000 from the Bogale area, while other rice varieties were K54,000, K73,000 per bag depending on the production regions, K51,000 of short mature rice (90 days), K47,000 for rice grown under intercropping system and K42,000 for monsoon low-grade rice.

### Pulses

The prices of various pulses stood at over K1,838,000 per tonne of black gram (Fair Average Quality/RC), K2,058,000 per tonne of black gram (Special Quality/RC), K1,875,000 per tonne of pigeon pea (red gram) RC, K3,900-4,100 per viss of chickpea and K2,830-3,000 per viss of green gram (Kayan Shwewah variety) in Yangon markets. — TWA/EMM

## News of reopening Myawady-Mae Sot Friendship Bridge I afloat



The photo shows the Myawady-Mae Sot Friendship Bridge I.

THE news that the Myawady-Mae Sot Friendship Bridge I on the Thailand-Myanmar border will be reopened before the end of this year is circulating, according to border-based traders.

Officials from Thailand and Myanmar had a meeting at the Myawady-Mae Sot Friendship Bridge II on 5 May for the reopening of Bridge I. The bridge was shut down on 23 March 2020

due to COVID-19 infections.

Closed for over two years, Mae Sot entrance checkpoints on the Thai side were cleaned by Thai authorities and immigration officials on 1 May 2022. Myanmar also conducted cleaning and painting work on the bridge and bridge frameworks on 4 May and officials from both countries had a discussion on 5 May about reopening the bridge.

The reopening of the bridge, control and prevention issues of cross-border illegal drugs, weapons smuggling and illegal border crossing by criminals were discussed at the meeting, according to news sources from the Thailand border.

When the bridge was open, there were about 2,000 tourists and hundreds of passenger vehicles per day.

Although the government of Thailand is working to reopen 17 border posts to speed up the flow of goods, the Myawady-Mae Sot Friendship Bridge I has not been opened yet.

In addition, those who will pass through the bridge will need a passport or a border pass. They will be accepted in three groups keeping in line with the health rules of Covid-19. — TWA/CT

## Solar demand surges amid frequent power outages

THE demand for solar-powered devices has significantly risen in the domestic market amid the prolonged Myanmar blackouts.

Solar products imported from the neighbouring countries China and Thailand are highly demanded in the domestic market, according to electronic stores.

“Solar-powered bulbs can last longer depending on batteries and value. A solar bulb can run for three to four hours. We cannot use up all the batteries as it is not good for battery life”, U Kyaw Tint, an electronic store owner, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The sales of solar bulbs worth K6,000-20,000 imported from the neighbouring countries are brisk amid the frequent power blackouts in the country.

“Light bulbs with solar panels imported from Thailand are priced above K15,000. Chinese bulbs can be purchased cheaper at K6,000. Those vendors at night markets and people without access to electricity in some remote townships use solar panels. Yangonites mostly buy rechargeable emergency lights imported from China,” Ko Min Min, an electronic store owner from Mingala Taungnyunt Township, told the GNLM.

Hydropower generation will drop in the coming summer. Hydropower plants do not run at full capacity to save water stored in reservoirs and dams. As a result of this, frequent power cuts occur for electric load reduction, and the Ministry of Energy declared a power cut plan in the first week of December.

“Home solar systems have been widely used



Pictures show a solar-powered house and a manual for a home solar system.

since 2021. It costs K1 million to K10 million. As the solar panels, inverters and batteries are imported from foreign markets, the installation costs a lot. The installation service fee is not that expensive,” the GNLM quoted U Zaw Htay, a store owner of solar products from South Okkalapa Township, as saying.

“Despite the high cost of installation, solar renewable energy is green and sustainable. It can run a stove, lights and AC if the customer uses solar panels worth K10 million. Some rich households turn to home solar systems due to frequent power cuts,” U Zaw Htay said.

Solar panel installation is easy. The communities without electricity access use solar energy for irrigation, using water pumps and providing lights at fish farms and poultry farms.

“We started to use the solar power system just two months ago. The meter bill is K40,000 per month. I use two solar panels, a 24-volt battery and a 3000-Watt inverter. It costs approximately K4 million. I can use a 1 HP water pump. I am free to use solar power from 9 am to the afternoon, while solar batteries work at night. I can save the meter bill and reduce it to K10,000,” said Ko Kyaw Swar Oo from Dagon Myothit (East) Township. — TWA/EMM

# ECONOMY WORLD

## Norway seeks to extend gender quota to thousands more firms



The minority coalition government will need to gather support in parliament to move forward with this proposal, which may see modifications. The Norwegian Parliament is pictured in Downton Oslo, Norway.  
**PHOTO: KYREE LIEN / AFP**

NORWAY, a gender equality pioneer, plans to expand its quota system to the boards of several thousand additional companies, its government said Monday.

Since 2004, state-owned company boards must be comprised of at least 40 per cent women, with that rule being applied to publicly traded firms since 2008.

Norway now wants to extend this rule to between 10,000 and 25,000 additional companies, or about three to seven per cent of the country's total.

"Twenty years ago, we had 15 per cent of women on boards of companies, and today we have 20 per cent," said Norwegian Trade and Industry Minister Jan Christian Vestre in a statement.

"If we continue at this pace, we will never reach our goal."

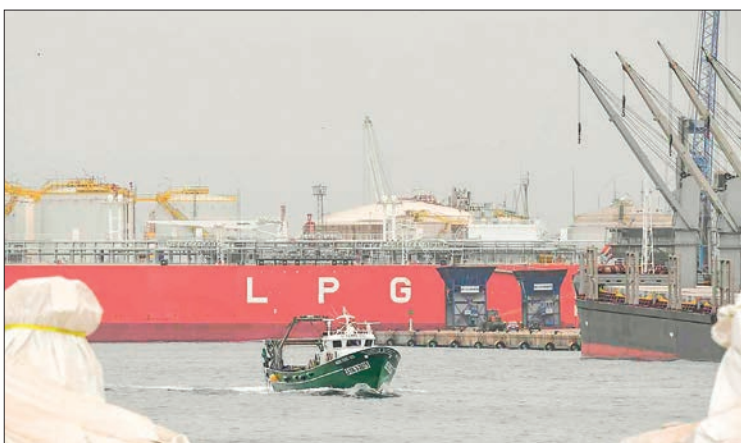
The minority coalition government will need to gather support in parliament to move forward with this proposal, which may see modifications.

Thanks to Norway's quota law, women now make up 43 per

cent of boards of large publicly traded companies, but only nine per cent of top executives, the numbers of which are not regulated by quotas.

The European parliament, meanwhile, has ratified new rules requiring major companies in the European Union — of which Norway is not a member — to fill at least 40 per cent of non-executive board seats or 33 per cent of all board seats "with the under-represented gender" from July 2026.— AFP

## EU energy ministers seek compromise on gas price cap



The "Hellas Poseidon", loaded with liquefied petroleum gas, at the port of Tarragona (Catalonia), Spain, on 20 October 2022. **PHOTO: PAU BARRENA / AFP**

EU ministers meeting in Brussels on Tuesday struggled to bridge differences over a pro-

posed cap on natural gas prices, a challenge stymying other measures designed to mitigate

Europe's energy crunch.

The continent has entered a biting cold winter with fewer energy options because Russia has reduced gas supplies in retaliation for EU sanctions imposed over its war in Ukraine. Gas prices are high, albeit lower than during the middle of the year, spurring worries that European homes and businesses could face blackouts or unpayable bills, if not this winter than in the next. Several energy ministers going into the talks doubted a compromise could be reached. They said discussions could roll over to another meeting scheduled for next Monday.—AFP

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

#### BoE to test 'shadow banking' after markets chaos

THE Bank of England will test so-called shadow banking institutions such as pension funds, that played a key role in recent UK bond market chaos, it said Tuesday.

The BoE was forced to buy UK debt in September in an emergency intervention to avert financial catastrophe, after a controversial tax-slashing budget by the government caused bond yields to soar and sparked panic.

The crisis, which sparked the downfall of former Conservative prime minister Liz Truss, threw the spotlight on non-banking financial institutions (NBFIs) and their risk to stability, the BoE noted Tuesday.

"There is a need to develop stress-testing approaches to understand better the resilience of NBFIs to shocks" and their links with commercial lenders and markets, it added in a report.—AFP

#### Singaporean jailed for selling beverages to North Korea

A Singaporean man has been jailed for selling nearly US\$1 million worth of strawberry milk and coffee to North Korea, following other sanctions-busting trades from the city-state that have included sending wine, whisky and perfume to Pyongyang.

North Korea has been hit with a barrage of sanctions, including from the United Nations, over its nuclear and ballistic missile tests, while Singapore suspended trade ties with the country in 2017.

Phua Sze Hee, 59, a former manager at beverage company Pokka International, was sentenced to five weeks in jail on Monday after he pleaded guilty.—AFP

## Brazil's 2022 inflation forecast falls to 5.79%

BRAZIL'S financial market lowered its inflation forecast for 2022 from 5.92 per cent to 5.79 per cent, the Central Bank of Brazil said Monday.

According to the bank's weekly survey of the country's top financial institutions, analysts maintained their inflation forecast for 2023 at 5.08 per cent.

Target inflation has been set at 3.5 per cent this year and

3.25 per cent next year, in both cases with a margin of tolerance of 1.5 per cent.

Analysts expect the benchmark interest rate, currently at 13.75 per cent annually, to remain unchanged until the end of the year. The exchange rate forecast expects the US dollar to trade for 5.25 reals both at the end of this year and next year.—Xinhua



People visiting a commercial street in downtown Sao Paulo, Brazil.  
**PHOTO: AFP**

# Confidence falls among Japan's major manufacturers

BUSINESS confidence fell slightly among Japan's largest manufacturers for the fourth straight quarter, a closely watched Bank of Japan survey showed Wednesday.

Optimism grew among non-manufacturers, however, and both readings beat market expectations.

The BoJ's quarterly Tankan survey — considered the broadest indicator of how Japanese businesses are faring — showed that major manufacturers still feel much more upbeat



Yukata casual kimono are sold at Matsuya Ginza department store in Tokyo on 21 July 2020.

PHOTO: KYODO

than during the depths of the Covid-19 pandemic. Confidence among large manufacturers stood at plus seven, down slightly from plus eight three

months earlier.

A positive figure means more manufacturers see business conditions as favourable than those that consider them unfavourable.

Economists had forecast plus six for Wednesday's reading.

"Weak demand in overseas markets including China, which was hit by its zero-Covid policy, was a headwind for manufacturers," chief economist Saisuke Sakai of Mizuho Research & Technologies, told AFP.—AFP

# Polish fish farm fights 'myth of Russian caviar'

WITH Moscow blacklisted since it invaded Ukraine, Europe's main producer of caviar wants to put an end, once and for all, to the delicacy's traditional association with Russia.

"For most people, caviar means Russia, but that hasn't been the case for a long time now," said Agata Lakomiak-Winnicka, marketing and sales manager for Poland's Antonius Caviar.

Based in the north-eastern village of Rus, the company is one of the world's top makers of the luxury food, having produced 42 tonnes of black caviar last year — more than any one firm in Italy or France and almost as much as those in China.

"We used to get clients who couldn't locate Poland on a map. Today

we're on a whole different level," Lakomiak-Winnicka said.

The company exports mostly to the United Arab Emirates, the United States, France and Denmark and also supplies Michelin-starred restaurants around the world.

Retail prices range from 1,200 to 2,400 euros (\$1,275-2,550) for sturgeon caviar and up to 8,000 euros for the albino kind.

The company's challenge now, one faced by producers worldwide, is the battle against "the myth of Russian caviar".

"Take any box of caviar that reads 'Russian tradition' or 'Russian method' and you'll see that 99 per cent of the time it doesn't actually come from Russia," Lakomiak-Winnicka said.—AFP

# Viet Nam factory workers laid off as West cuts imports

PHAN Thi Nhieu has spent a decade assembling shoes for worldwide brands such as Timberland and K-Swiss, but she is now among tens of thousands of Vietnamese factory workers laid off as Western consumers cut spending.

Almost half a million others have been forced to work fewer hours as orders fall in the Southeast Asian country, one of the world's largest exporters of clothing, footwear and furniture.

The cost-of-living crisis in Europe and the United States — major markets for Vietnamese-produced

goods — has seen the buying power of Western shoppers plunge. Women factory workers, who make up 80 per cent of the labour force in Vietnamese garment industry, have been hit the hardest by the knock-on effect. Early last month, 31-year-old Nhieu — who lives in a nine-square-metre (100 square feet) room in Ho Chi Minh City with her two young sons and husband — was told she was no longer needed at Ty Hung Company, a Taiwanese shoemaker that supplies big Western labels.— AFP

# India's Paytm to buy back shares after 75% stock rout

INDIAN mobile payments giant Paytm will launch a share buyback, it said Tuesday, offering investors little more than a third of what they paid just over a year ago in the country's then-biggest IPO.

Paytm's shares have nosedived 75 per cent since its \$2.5 billion flotation in November 2021, demonstrating the risks of overpriced share offers in loss-making tech firms.

Its market debut came in the midst of an IPO frenzy in Asia's third-largest economy last year, with start-ups at-

tracting billions of dollars in investment in a bright spot in the Covid-battered economy.

But the shares nosedived 27 per cent on their first day of trading due to concerns about losses, dropping further in subsequent months before settling to trade at a quarter of their IPO value.

Paytm said it will buy shares back at 810 rupees (\$9.80) each, a steep 62 per cent discount to the IPO price of 2,150 rupees, but a 50 per cent premium on Tuesday's closing price.—AFP



Most caviar is now farmed, with the sturgeon at Antonius Caviar's farms swim around in canals fed by the crystal clear water of a nearby river. PHOTO: AFP

## The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

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## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC MANILA VOY.NO. (2286S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC MANILA VOY.NO. (2286S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-12-2022** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HONG HAI ACE VOY.NO. (12/22)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HONG HAI ACE VOY.NO. (12/22)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-12-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **SPW-7** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301928

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

# GLOBAL AFFAIRS

## RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

### EU wants to 'reconnect' with Southeast Asia amid Ukraine war



Europe is keen to boost trade with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which counts some of the world's fastest-growing economies. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/EUROPA.EU/AFP**

EU leaders meet their counterparts from Southeast Asia for a summit in Brussels on Wednesday, looking to bolster ties in the face of the war in Ukraine and challenges from China.

Europe is keen to boost trade with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which counts some of the world's fastest-growing economies. "There is a need for Europeans to reconnect with ASEAN, one of the most dynamic areas in the world," the French presidency said. The EU has been on a diplomatic push to galvanize a global front against Moscow as

its invasion has sent economic and political shock waves around the world.

But ASEAN's 10 nations have been divided in their response to the Kremlin's war on Ukraine.

Singapore has gone along with Western sanctions on Russia, while Viet Nam and Laos, which have close military ties to Moscow, have remained more neutral. Along with Thailand, they abstained from a United Nations vote in October condemning Russia's attempted annexation of regions of Ukraine seized since February. —AFP

### 'Explosions' heard in central Kyiv: mayor

EXPLOSIONS were heard in a central neighbourhood of Ukraine's capital Kyiv on Wednesday, mayor Vitali Klitschko said, following what appears to have been a drone attack.

For weeks Russia has pummeled Ukraine's energy infrastructure with missiles and drones, plunging millions into cold and darkness in winter.

"Explosions in the Shevchenkivsky district of the capital. (Emergency) services are on their way," Klitschko said on social media on Wednesday morning. —AFP

## WORLD: TOP HEADLINES

### Sudan inks \$6 bln UAE deal for new Red Sea port

SUDAN signed Tuesday an initial \$6 billion deal led by United Arab Emirates' AD Ports Group and Invictus Investment to build a vast new Red Sea port and economic zone.

"The massive project, which is estimated to cost around \$6 billion, will give a strong boost to the national economy and will bring countless benefits for the whole country," said Sudan's Finance Minister Gibril Ibrahim during the signing ceremony.

The Abu Amama port, to be built north of the existing key hub of Port Sudan, will include an industrial zone, an international airport, and an agricultural area covering over

400,000 acres, Ibrahim said.

AD Ports Group is majority owned by ADQ, among Abu Dhabi's sovereign wealth funds. Invictus Investment is headed by Osama Daoud Abdellatif, head of the Dal Group, Sudan's biggest conglomerate.

The UAE's official WAM news agency said the deal gives the consortium the "right to develop, manage, and operate port and economic zone assets" in Sudan.

Tuesday's signing came a week after Sudan's military and civilian leaders inked an initial accord aimed at ending the crisis since last year's military coup. —AFP

### Japan plans to extend quake recovery tax to cover defence spending

THE Japanese government on Wednesday proposed a plan to prolong a temporary tax implemented to pay for the 2011 quake and tsunami recovery as it seeks to fund an envisioned increase in defence spending.

The government intends to extend the special tax designed to finance reconstruction for affected areas by 14 years from its expiration in 2037, according to the plan proposed to the Liberal Democratic Party's tax commission.

Senior members of the ruling party's tax panel affirmed at an unofficial meeting that revenues from the special tax for reconstruction as well as corporate and tobacco taxes will be used on



Members of the Liberal Democratic Party's tax commission meet at the party headquarters in Tokyo on 14 Dec 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

defence, LDP lawmakers said.

The move comes as Japan aims to raise its spending on defence to a combined 43 trillion yen (\$317 billion) over the next five years through fiscal 2027.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishi-

da has faced backlash over the plan, with his economic security minister raising questions about the timing and business leaders pushing back against tax hikes that would target the corporate sector.—Kyodo



Sacks of corn are loaded onto trucks in the Sudanese Red Sea city of Port Sudan on November 20, 2022. A new deal has been signed to build a vast new port. **PHOTO: AFP**

### Japan, US, S Korea pledge close cooperation amid N Korea threat

SENIOR diplomats from Japan, the United States and South Korea pledged to continue their close cooperation in coping with the threat of North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missiles as they met in Jakarta on Tuesday.

The meeting came after the three countries tightened sanctions against North Korea earlier this month, targeting its officials

and organizations following its latest intercontinental ballistic missile test in November.

Takehiro Funakoshi, director general of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, said the series of ballistic missile launches by the North this year is "unprecedented", while his South Korean counterpart Kim

Gunn said that Pyongyang "is becoming more aggressive and blatant" in its use of nuclear weapons as a threat.

The North Korean provocations, however, "have only strengthened our trilateral cooperation," said Kim, South Korea's special representative for the Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs.—Kyodo

## Fiji PM vows to respect election result, as vote gets under way

PRIME Minister Frank Bainimarama vowed to respect the outcome of Fiji's election Wednesday, as he faced a rival ex-coup leader looking to end his 16 years in power and pivot away from China.

Bainimarama, 68, led a coup to seize control of Fiji in 2006 and has since legitimized his grip on power with election wins in 2014 and 2018.

Casting his ballot in the capital Suva, Bainimarama was asked if he would respect the

result. "Of course," he replied, before lashing out at reporters, suggesting they ask "better questions".

Standing in the way of Bainimarama's third elected term is his chief political rival, Sitiveni Rabuka, a 74-year-old former military commander nicknamed "Rambo" after leading two coups in 1987.

Rabuka — who is also a former Fijian international rugby player and Commonwealth Games hammer thrower —



Fiji's Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama vowed to respect the outcome of the election that could end his 16 years in power and return a rival ex-coup leader to office. **PHOTO: AFP**

served as Fiji's prime minister between 1992 and 1999.

"I'm feeling great and getting better. But victory belongs to the lord," Rabuka told reporters after casting his vote at a makeshift polling booth in the capital, Suva.

Rabuka called into question whether the prime minister would concede if defeated.

"I accepted my defeat in 1999," he said. "I hope he can do that. We cannot live forever, we cannot rule forever."—AFP

## Denmark has a new government, six weeks after elections: PM



The left-wing Frederiksen told reporters that the political alliance was "what our country needs", following a narrow election victory for her Social Democrats in legislative elections on 1 November.

**PHOTO: HENNING BAGGER/AFP**

DENMARK will finally have a new government six weeks after inconclusive elections with a left-right alliance forged after tortuous negotiations, prime

minister Mette Frederiksen said Tuesday.

The left-wing Frederiksen told reporters that the political alliance was "what our coun-

try needs", following a narrow election victory for her Social Democrats in legislative elections on 1 November.

"Both because of the crises we face — inflation, war in Europe — but also because we have to make decisions that force us to look at things differently," she said.

The new government team will be announced on Thursday, she said, "made up of the Social Democrats, the Liberals and the Moderates".

She spoke to the press after informing Queen Margrethe of the alliance.

Frederiksen said the new government would have "a lot of compromises, but above all, a lot of ambitions".—AFP

## Bangladesh arrests chief of largest Islamist party

BANGLADESHI police said on Tuesday that they had arrested the chief of the country's largest Islamist party, days after it announced it would join the main opposition in protests to oust Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Counter-terrorism officers arrested Jamaat-e-Islami party emir Shafiqur Rahman in Dhaka, metropolitan police spokesman Faruq Ahmed said, without elaborating on the charges.

A spokesman for Jamaat — the country's third-largest political party, which has been banned from contesting elections since 2012 — condemned the 64-year-old's arrest, saying it was intend-



Supporters of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party a huge rally in Dhaka on 10 Dec to press for a snap poll. **PHOTO: AFP**

ed to "scuttle the opposition's anti-government movement".

"This is just another episode of the unjust oppression contin-

uing against the party for the last 15 years," Matiur Rahman Akand, Jamaat's publicity secretary, told AFP. —AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Chilean Congress agrees to restart Constitution rewrite process

CHILE'S Congress signed an agreement Monday to start a fresh round of drafting a new Constitution, three months after voters rejected a first proposal in a referendum.

The legislature reached a multiparty agreement "from the conviction that it is essential to enable a constituent process and have a new Constitution for Chile," according to the text entitled "Agreement for Chile" that was presented late Monday by the heads of the Senate and the lower house.

It will feature a "Constitutional Council made up of 50 people whose sole purpose will be to discuss and approve a proposed text for a new Constitution," the agreement said.

The council's members will be elected in a mandatory vote in April 2023, and must be equal numbers of men and women. Unlike the previous council, there will be no quota of seats reserved for Indigenous peoples.

An expert commission will also be formed, its 24 members to be chosen by Congress on behalf of the different pro-government and opposition groups.

The Constitutional Council will begin its work on May 21 next year and must deliver the draft Constitution by 21 October.—AFP

#### Nicaragua bishop who criticized govt charged with conspiracy

A Nicaraguan bishop who has been a sharp critic of the government of President Daniel Ortega and who has been under house arrest since August was charged Tuesday with conspiracy and propagation of false news, a judicial body reported.

Bishop Rolando Álvarez, 56, was charged with "crimes of conspiracy to undermine national integrity and propagation of false news through information and communication technologies to the detriment of the Nicaraguan state and society," the Central Judicial Complex of Managua said in a press release.

The charges were brought by the prosecutor's office before a judge of the Managua Criminal District Court, the statement said.

The judge ordered the bishop to remain under house arrest, appointed him a public defender and scheduled the first pre-trial hearing for January 10, 2023.

Álvarez, bishop of the diocese of the northern department of Matagalpa, was taken by police to Managua on 19 August and placed under house arrest, after being held for two weeks inside his residence.—AFP

Fiji PM vows to respect election result, as vote gets under way

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# SPORT

## 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.

## Cambodian Traditional Chess competition to be held in Yangon

CAMBODIAN Traditional Chess Tournament (Ouk Chatrang) will be held at the Myanmar Chess Federation headquarters in Aung San Stadium, Yangon from 24 to 28 December.

The Cambodian traditional chess game will be included in the upcoming 32<sup>nd</sup> Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games), so through this chess tournament,

the preliminary teams for the 2023 Cambodian SEA Games will be selected. The chess tournament will be held as the men's and women's tournaments.

It is said that anyone will be able to participate in the competition after paying an entry fee.

"Cambodian traditional chess is familiar to everyone. It's similar to Thai traditional

chess. And it's a little similar to Myanmar chess. But the moves are different. The playing style is a little different," said Myanmar Chess Federation Joint Secretary U Myo Zaw Min.

It is reported that those who wish to participate in the competition should contact 09 795889880 and send the list by 17 December. — Bala Soe/KZL



Cambodian Traditional Chess: Ouk Chatrang is similar to Myanmar Chess but the moves are different. PHOTO: BALA SOE

## Bantamweight king Inoue eyes next challenge after beating Butler



Japan's Naoya Inoue became the first undisputed bantamweight world champion in half a century on Tuesday after beating Paul Butler. PHOTO: AFP

JAPAN'S Naoya Inoue said he had not yet reached his "goal" after becoming the first undisputed bantamweight world champion in half a century Tuesday with a knock-out win over England's Paul Butler.

The unbeaten Inoue, nicknamed "Monster", had to work hard to grind down a defensive Butler in Tokyo but finally dropped him to the canvas with a flurry of shots in the 11th round.

The win saw Inoue achieve his long-held ambition of becoming the first undisputed bantamweight world champion since Panama's Enrique Pinder in 1972, adding Butler's WBO title to

his own WBC, WBA and IBF belts.

But he warned that his rampage through the boxing world was not finished yet and that he will review his options before making his next move.

"This is not the goal," said the 29-year-old Inoue, who is widely expected to make the step up to the super-bantamweight division.

"Tonight was something great to see with the fans from where I was standing in the ring, but this is just a point along the way.

"Do I feel satisfied? I am satisfied but I want to turn my mind to what comes next."

Inoue becomes only the ninth undisputed world champion since the four-belt era began in 2004, and the first in the bantamweight division. — AFP

## Messi has chance to match Maradona as Argentina reach World Cup final

LIONEL Messi will get his date with World Cup destiny, and the chance to emulate Diego Maradona, after Argentina's emphatic 3-0 win over Croatia on Tuesday took them through to the final in Qatar.

It is 36 years since Maradona dragged Argentina to their second and most recent World Cup triumph in Mexico, the crowning moment of his dazzling but often troubled career.

Messi came to this World Cup admitting it would surely be his last at the age of 35 and therefore his final opportunity to lift the trophy that escaped him in 2014, when Argentina were defeated by Germany in Brazil.

The sense that Messi was building up to this moment was apparent in his displays for Paris Saint-Germain in the months before the tournament and he

has performed at this World Cup like a player with no more time to waste.

Sixteen years after making his World Cup debut as a teenager, Qatar has witnessed Messi finally score in the knockout stages of the tournament, and he has done so in three straight games.

On Tuesday he scored his 11<sup>th</sup> World Cup goal, overtaking compatriot Gabriel Batistuta, who previously held the Argentine record.

He has now equalled former German player Lothar Matthaeus' record of 25 World Cup appearances.

Messi's performance against Croatia at Lusail Stadium was typical of his late career — a player who saves energy and spends long periods on the fringes of the game.—AFP