

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. X, No. 10, 9<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Kason 1385 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Thursday, 27 April 2023

## The Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council: Five-Point Road Map

1. Priority will be given to fully realizing peace, stability and rule of law throughout the Union to safeguard the socioeconomic life of the people.
2. People-centred development work that enhances socioeconomic well-being will be undertaken to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.
3. Processes will further continue to consolidate a genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system and build a Union based on democracy and federalism.
4. Priority will be accorded to work aligned with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, in order to achieve enduring peace for the entire nation.
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.

## The student youths are expected to become good leaders of the State in the future: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the meeting with outstanding students for the 2022-23 academic year in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

**T**HE government emphasizes sending outstanding students to foreign countries for further studies, said State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with outstanding students for the 2022-23 academic year at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In his address, the Senior

General said that nurturing the educational outstanding students to become human resources endowed with high talent and knowledge with health and fitness, industrious efforts, good morale, high morality, politeness and patriotic spirit can be defined as laying the sound foundations for the future State.

The Senior General noted that the outstanding student project for the 2022-23 academic

year was implemented for turning out of outstanding students with health and fitness and high morality, good and able citizens capable of participating in the welfare tasks of the State with interest in the educational development tasks and nurturing outstanding students as models for all students.

This academic year, the Senior General said that a total of 160 outstanding students were

**SEE PAGE-3**

... nurturing the educational outstanding students to become human resources possessing high talent and knowledge with health and fitness, industrious efforts, good morale, high morality, politeness and patriotic spirit can be defined as laying the sound foundations for the future State.

### INSIDE TODAY

#### NATIONAL

SAC Member DPM MoD Union Minister attends Grand Opening Ceremony of Trademark Registration, World IP Day (2023)

**PAGE-4**

#### CURRENT AFFAIRS

Shwedagon Pagoda to organize 40<sup>th</sup> Kason water pouring festival

**PAGE-10**



#### LOCAL BUSINESS

Peanut price moves slightly up on foreign, domestic demand

**PAGE-11**





# Applications for establishment of political parties under verification

THOSE who want to establish a political party are applying to the Union Election Commission by stating the name of the party they want to establish. To date, there have been 13 parties that have applied for the right to establish parties. Among those that applied, the following two parties were found to comply with the political parties' registration law and regulations, and the Union Election Commission approved the application for the establishment of the two political parties yesterday.

1. Union Development Party
  2. Democratic Forces Labour Party
- These two parties, which have the right to establish a party, must apply to the Commission for registration as a political party under Rule 7 of the Registration of Political Parties within 30 days from the date of approval. To date, three political parties have been allowed to be established and the other parties that have applied for party establishment are also being scrutinized. —MNA/KZL

MYANMAR GAZETTE

## Appointment of Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of Dr Myintzu Min as Rector of Mohnyin University of the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education after the one-year probationary period.

## MRTV to broadcast pre-Academy theme songs

PRE-ACADEMY theme songs will be aired on the MRTV-HD channel following the 8 pm news programme on 28 April.

In this entertainment programme, famous singers Ye Aung, Soe Yan Aung, Zan Htoo, Saw Daniel, Lin Bhone Kyaw, Zaw Min Oo, Melody, Ei Ei Hlaing, Regina, Mya Nanda and Myint Myat Kyaw will sing accompanied by MRTV band. The programme will be rebroadcast again at 10:30 am on 30 April. — MNA/KZL



## 68 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 26 April, total figure registers 634,539

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to 634,539 after 68 new cases were reported on 26 April 2023 according to the Ministry of Health.

Therefore, a total of 10,324,846 laboratory samples were examined and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 634,539. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached 614,722 including six new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country remained unchanged at 19,490 on 26-4-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic.

The country has vaccinated 30,999,400 people aged 18 and above for COVID-19 vaccines and 6,849,055 people aged under 18 till 25 April 2023.

### Status of COVID-19 vaccination (as of 25 April 2023)

People aged 18 and above who received vaccines	30,999,400
People under 18 years old who received vaccines	6,849,055

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

As such, people need to follow the new normal way of living with COVID. Hence, all 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 their 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 crowds as much as possible.

While not wearing masks, if they cough and sneeze, they need to cover their 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. — GNLM

## Request to the public

1. THE Ministry of Health is continuously analyzing infection of Covid-19 not only in global countries and neighbouring countries but in Myanmar and is carrying out necessary prevention and control of the pandemic.
2. According to the press release of the World Health Organization on 20 April 2023, infection rate of Covid-19 is rising in Myanmar's neighbouring countries such as India, Thailand, Bangladesh and other regional countries as from January 2023, with infection of variant XBB. 1.16 (Arcturus).
3. It was found that infection of Covid-19 has been slightly increasing in Myanmar from the early April 2023.
4. According to the surveys and monitoring till today, variant XBB. 1.16 of Covid-19 is spreading 1.27 folds quicker than previously found variants but the former does not cause higher violent infection, situation of medical treatment at hospital and dead rate. But, suffering from the variant can be affected by current drugs. The drugs being used in Myanmar are effective over the prevention of the disease. Booster dose of vaccines can reduce infection of the disease, intensification and dead rate.
5. As such, all the people especially the aged and those suffering from chronicle diseases are –
  - (a) to specially take care of receiving Covid-19 vaccine and booster dose,
  - (b) to follow primary ways for prevention of Covid-19 pandemic with social distancing and wearing masks to go to the public places and closed sites,
  - (c) to take necessary treatment by contacting nearby health centres as quickly as possible if suspect symptoms of the pandemic are found,
  - (d) to follow the health protocols released by the Ministry of Health not to spread the virus to others and quarantine themselves at home.

Ministry of Health  
23-4-2023



# Prompt implementation of NCA peace process needed

AS NCA was drawn by stakeholders in accord with the proposals of ethnic armed organizations, only when all walk on that way will the peaceful and tranquil State we all aspire to. Hence, it is necessary to leave a peaceful legacy for posterity and quickly implement the peace process.

*(Excerpts from the message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to 67<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kayin State Day ceremony which falls on 7 November 2022)*

## The student youths are expected to become good ...

### FROM PAGE-1

turned out in the eighth standard, 160 more students in the tenth standard and 158 in the 11<sup>th</sup> standard, totalling 478 and they will be sent to outstanding student camps in Bagan, Taunggyi and Ngwesaung respectively.

Camping for the students aims to have friendly relations with outstanding students from regions and states to each other and exchange knowledge, traditional culture and customs to forge a national spirit to adore the State and the nationality.

The government is encouraging outstanding student projects as well as youth programmes to nurture students to become good leaders for the State, culture their spirit to serve the public interests and become



The Senior General, dignitaries and outstanding students pose for the documentary group photo at the event yesterday.



new generation youths with physical and mental morality.

The student youths are expected to become good leaders of the State in the future. The government emphasizes sending outstanding students to foreign countries for further studies. Hence, students need to strive for having high qualifications in their relevant subjects.

Students need to avoid narcotic drugs which threaten their health and development. They have to improve their capacity,

The Senior General warmly greets the outstanding student.

efficiently apply the Internet to seek knowledge and take care of their health conditions.

The Senior General stressed the need to build a perpetual State with high intelligence and initiatives of the citizens with national spirit and high morality.

Students must be good pupils and strive to become disciplined good leaders, said the Senior General.

On behalf of the outstanding students, double outstanding student Ma Chu Myat Sandi of Grade-11 of Nay Pyi Taw BEHS No 5 spoke words of thanks.

The Senior General and party had documentary photos taken together with outstanding students. Then, the Senior General cordially greeted outstanding students. — MNA/TTA

## 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).



# SAC Member DPM MoD Union Minister attends Grand Opening Ceremony of Trademark Registration, World IP Day (2023)

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Defence General Mya Tun Oo, in his capacity as Chairman of the Central Committee for Intellectual Property Rights, attended the Grand Opening Ceremony of Trademark Registration and World Intellectual Property Day 2023 held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the event, the Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Defence said Myanmar is a member of the World Trade Organization-WTO and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and it needs to establish an international intellectual property rights system for the country. The government enacted four major IP Laws in 2019 and the Trademark Law came into effect on 1 April 2023. The trademark registration processes will begin on 26 April 2023 and so that day is a historic and significant day for the country.

The WIPO member countries celebrate World IP Day re-



SAC Member Deputy Premier Union Defence Minister General Mya Tun Oo addresses the Grand Opening Ceremony of Trademark Registration and World Intellectual Property Day 2023 yesterday.

spectively and the theme of this year is "Women and IP: Accelerating Innovation and Creativity".

As the country carries out the trademark registration and protects the trademarks as per the law, it will benefit investment and trading, fully protect the owner of brands and eligible people,

and curb the imitation of products and fake products in the market to ensure the competitive market system and create a safe community for the public.

Then, the vice-chair of the committee and Union minister for Commerce made a remark and the video message of the

director-general of WIPO was played.

Then, the Deputy Prime Minister pressed the electric button to launch the trademark registration system.

After the ceremony, he also observed the demonstration of trademark registration process-

es, documentary photos for the development of the IP system, works of winners of poems, posters, cartoons and articles competitions marking 2023 World IP Day and regional development programmes of the Intellectual Property Department, four major IP Laws and counterfeit-real goods.

The event also included a talk show under the theme of 2023 World IP Day by one female director-general of the IP Department and three female directors-general of the departments concerned while the deputy director-general of the IP Department and business people discussed the matters related to the trademark rights.

The business people can make trademark registration starting 26 April at the IP Department Nay Pyi Taw (head), Lower Myanmar (Yangon branch) and Upper Myanmar (Mandalay branch) in person or via the representatives online. — MNA/KTZH

## MoFA Union Minister receives IFRC Regional Director for Asia Pacific



The IFRC Regional Director for Asia Pacific calls on Union Minister U Than Swe yesterday.

U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Mr Alexander James Matheou, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Regional Director for Asia Pacific, yesterday at

the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

The IFRC regional director for Asia Pacific briefed the Union minister on the nature of the work of IFRC and the role of IFRC in supporting and strengthening the activities

of the Myanmar Red Cross Society. The Union minister discussed matters related to providing technical assistance in the sectors of health, sanitation and awareness raising. — MNA

## MoIC Union Minister receives IFRC Regional Director for Asia Pacific

U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister for International Cooperation received Mr Alexander James Matheou, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Regional Director for Asia Pacific, yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The IFRC regional direc-

tor for Asia Pacific updated on the nature of the work of IFRC and the collaboration between IFRC and the Myanmar Red Cross Society. Afterwards, the Union minister discussed the facilitation of the provision of humanitarian assistance in Myanmar. — MNA



Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing receives the IFRC Regional Director for Asia Pacific yesterday.

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm  
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com



### CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,  
Hotline - 09 454237515

### ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,  
Hotline - 09 251022355

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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

newsroom@gnlm.com.mm, gnlmnews@gmail.com  
www.gnlm.com.mm

### Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email [aunghuya@gnlm.com.mm](mailto:aunghuya@gnlm.com.mm) with your name and title.

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



# Central committee meeting for correctness and quality of statistical information 1/2023 held



Deputy Prime Minister MoPF Union Minister U Win Shein chairs the central committee meeting for correctness and quality of statistical information 1/2023 yesterday.

THE central committee meeting for correctness and quality of statistical information 1/2023 was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Planning and Finance, Office No 32 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein, in the capacity of the Chairman of the Central Committee for Correctness and Quality of Statistical Information, attended

and gave a speech.

Union ministers who are members of the Central Committee, the Union auditor-general, the Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, the deputy ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council member, the directors-general, sectoral task force chairpersons and officials attended the meeting in person while regional and state economic ministers, professors from the Department

of Statistics, Yangon University of Economics, and the Myanmar Statistics Association vice-president via the video-conference system.

In the meeting, Chairman of the Central Committee Deputy Prime Minister U Win Shein said that the correctness of statistical information is very important for every country, and it is especially necessary for the comprehensive development of a country and the

strengthening of the national statistical system.

By having quality statistical information, policymakers, planners, private entrepreneurs, and socio-economic research practitioners will be able to establish development policies and projects and create a good business environment, and limited resources will be used efficiently and effectively, he said.

The statistics sector is essential at every stage of the country's development, so it is necessary to be able to work with evolving technologies and methods.

As the statistical system practised in our country is a statistical system that reduces central control, it is especially necessary to have coordination and cooperation between the departments and organizations related to statistics, not only the Central Statistical Organization but also those involved in the national statistical system to compile and publish statistical information.

To adapt the consumer price of goods and services to the modern system, the base year is changed from 2012 to 2017, so it is necessary to

cooperate for the completion according to the timeline, he added.

Secretary of the Central Committee and Director General of the Central Statistics Organization U Tun Zaw clarified the reorganization of the Central Committee for Correctness and Quality of Statistical Information, completion of Central Committee Meeting 1/2021 resolutions, actions of working groups according to statistics sector, calculation of consumer price index and inflation rate from the base year 2012 to 2017, promotion of statistical knowledge, conducting meetings, business performance training and surveys and publishing Survey Calendar and statistical bulletins.

Then, the Union ministers who are members of the central committee, Nay Pyi Taw Council member, regional and state economic affairs ministers and officials discussed the correctness and quality of statistical information according to relevant sectors.

The chairman of the central committee coordinated what is necessary. — MNA/KZL

# MoIC Union Minister receives delegation headed by RMAFC Senior Vice-President

UNION Minister for International Cooperation U Ko Ko Hlaing received the delegation headed by Mr Anatoly Bulochnikov, Senior Vice-President of the Russia-Myanmar Association of Friendship and Cooperation at the Union Minister's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Union minister expressed his gratitude to the Russia-Myanmar Association of Friendship and Cooperation for its efforts in strengthening bilateral relations and multi-sector cooperation. Afterwards, they exchanged their views on the further extension of activities in the sectors such as trade, social, culture, transport, tourism, education, le-

gal and finance as well as the benefits of participating in the various fora held in Russia.

Also present at the meeting were senior officials from the Ministry of International Cooperation and representatives from the Russia-Myanmar Association of Friendship and Cooperation. — MNA

The RMAFC Senior Vice-President calls on Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.





# MoRAC Union Minister arrives back from People's Republic of China

UNION Minister U Ko Ko of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture returned from the People's Republic of China yesterday afternoon after attending the General Assembly of the Alliance for Cultural Heritage in Asia held on 24 and 25 April.

Officials from the Chinese Embassy and the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture met the Union minister at the Yangon International Airport.

Myanmar became a member of the alliance by agreement of the original member countries, along with Sri Lanka and Azerbaijan. In addition to the original 10 countries, Bangladesh, Singapore, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam attended the meeting as observers.



Union Minister U Ko Ko poses for the documentary group photo at the General Assembly of the Alliance for Cultural Heritage in Asia meeting in Beijing.

During his visit, the Union minister met with the minister and deputy minister of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of

the People's Republic of China and they discussed cultural and archaeological cooperation between the two countries.

In addition, the Union minister discussed with Shen Yiqin State Councillor of the People's Republic of China and

officials from the Bureau of Archaeological Cultural Heritage. —MNA/KZW

# MoEP Union Minister receives delegation led by RMAFC Senior Vice-President



Union Electric Power Minister U Thaung Han holds talks with the RMAFC Senior Vice-President and his delegation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

UNION Minister for Electric Power U Thaung Han received the delegation headed by Mr Anatoli Bulochnikov, Senior Vice-President of the Russia-Myanmar Association of Friendship and Cooperation of the Russian Federation yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Both sides extensively discussed the events for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Russia-Myanmar cooperation, the result

of the long-term cooperation with bilateral friendship, the successful undertaking of all sectors, and Russia's technical assistance and cooperation for the development of Myanmar's electricity sector.

The Union minister said the Myanmar delegation studied renewable energy and thermal power plants and the formation of cooperation organizations, enhancement

of cooperation in hydropower projects in Myanmar and the opportunities for cooperation with local companies from Myanmar.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister U Aye Kyaw, heads of department, officials and responsible officials from the Russia-Myanmar Association of Friendship and Cooperation. — MNA/TS

## ADVERTORIAL

### Lecture on “Sino-Myanmar Customs and Cultural Differences” Held by DAPEIN I Hydropower Company Limited

RECENTLY, DAPEIN I Hydropower Company Limited invited Mr Li Zuqing, the president of the Fuqing Language and Computer School (where the joint programme Confucius Classroom is established) in Mandalay, Myanmar, to give a substantial cultural lesson to the employees. President Li gave a special lecture on “Cases of Conflicts due to Sino-Myanmar Cultural Differences”. The lecture was held virtually, and attended by all employees of the company.

During the lecture, President Li introduced the differences in cultural background, customs, and values between Myanmar and China. Besides, he deeply analyzed the differences in cultural customs between Myanmar and China and the tips needing attention by quoting typical cases of conflicts caused by customs and cultural differences between Myanmar and China. He further exchanged ideas with the employees and gave them guidance on how to strengthen cultural understanding and respect and avoid misunderstandings and conflicts caused by ignorance of cultural differences.

Through the lecture, the employees have a deeper recognition of Myanmar's cultural customs, knowing how to have better behaviours in Myanmar.

Myanmar and China are linked by common mountains and rivers, and the people of the two countries have lived a harmonious life since ancient times, which leaves a deep friendship between the two countries. Employees of the company have expressed their wishes to strengthen the study and understanding of Myanmar's cultural customs and strive and forge ahead to promote the Sino-Myanmar friendship by bringing vigour to the traditional “Pauk-Phaw” friendship between the two countries.



## MoHT Union Minister attends Russia-Myanmar Cooperation Strategies Conference, Myanmar-Saint Petersburg Tourism Forum online

THE Russia-Myanmar Strategies for Cooperation Conference dedicated to the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Russia and Myanmar Diplomatic Relations was held at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (University) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (MGIMO) on 24 April.

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Aung Thaw joined the conference online. In his opening remark, the Union Minister said the diplomatic relations between the two countries bring firm and equal interest, value and mutual respect. Despite the geographical challenges, the people can communicate and make investments in trade, economy, tourism and industry.

Then, the Myanmar ambassador to the Russian Federation, the Russian ambassador to Myanmar and Pro-Rector Dr Stanislav Surovtsev of MGIMO made speeches respectively. Myanmar and Russian delegates

discussed bilateral relations, diplomacy, education, IT and business.

The conference will be held from 22 to 29 April in Moscow and St. Petersburg.

On 25 April, the Union Minister attended Myanmar-Saint Petersburg Tourism Forum via video conferencing and made a speech. He said the tourism sector is one of the promising sectors for promoting mutual benefits. Direct airway and payment systems are the most important matters. Efforts are being made for attracting more tourists from Russia to Myanmar by forming the Leading Committee and Work Committee which comprise the Government and private sector under the "Welcome Russia" programme. The ministry and Russia-Myanmar Friendship Association jointly arranged a tour for Russian singers, video producers and bloggers to Myanmar from 11 to 19 April.



Union Minister U Aung Thaw joins the Russia-Myanmar Cooperation Strategies Conference and St Petersburg Tourism Forum virtually on 24 and 25 April.

He said that most of the 4.36 million foreign visitors to Myanmar in 2019 were Russians and talked about other proper bilateral cooperation to promote the tourism sector.

St. Petersburg Tourism Development Committee Deputy Head Ms Nana M Gvichia and Director-General of Directorate

of Hotels and Tourism explained tourism-related matters.

Then, Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) of Myanmar Airways International (MAI) Mr Tanes Kumar briefed the flight services operated by MAI and the rules to be followed while flying with the MAI.

Then, the tourism entre-

preneurs of the two countries exchanged views on cooperation in tourism.

Next, Mr Vyacheslav Kalganov, Vice-Chair of the Committee on External Relations of St. Petersburg talked about the benefits of the forum and the event came to a close. — MNA/KTZH

## CRIME NEWS

### Illegal timbers, industrial materials, consumer goods, foodstuffs, auto parts and vehicles seized

THE combined team led by the No 74 Traffic Police Team (Dawei) under the management of the Taninthayi Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force captured an unregistered Honda Insight car (approximate value of K5 million) near No 6 BEHS in Dawei township. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

On 24 April, the Customs on-duty teams seized four injectors assy worth K1,374,000 without Import Licence from luggage at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk). Moreover, two kinds of goods (including 2,500 kilogrammes of iron sheets) worth K5.37 million that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) were seized from a Mitsubishi Fuso tractor head and a trailer (estimated value of K55 million) heading to Yangon from Myawady at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint. A total of 80 Mac

book batteries worth K4 million without official documents were also confiscated from a Yutong bus (approximate value of K70 million) heading to Mandalay from Muse at the Yepu permanent checkpoint. The effective action was taken under Customs procedures.

On the same day, the Muse District Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force inspected smuggled goods that were stacked on the side of the road over the Sinyu checkpoint and confiscated 37 kinds of goods (including 85 lady clothes) worth K29,276,320. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

In addition, the Hlegu District Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force inspected the smuggled goods that were stacked on the side of the road near the Minlwingon checkpoint on the former Yangon-Mandalay road, according to information, and nabbed six kinds of foodstuffs

(including 276 bottles of red cherry fruit) worth K3.67 million. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Similarly, an on-duty combined team sized 107 used tires of Dunlop, Yokohama, Tokyo, Bridgestone worth K10.7 million without official documents from a Nissan Diesel truck (estimated value of K35 million) heading to Pyawbwe from Myawady at the Thanlwin Bridge combined checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Afterwards, a total of 16.982 tonnes of illegal teak and 30.044 tonnes of illegal hardwood worth K18,560,800 were captured in Toungoo and Nyaunglebin districts. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 11 arrests (estimated value of K237,951,120) were made on 23 and 24 April, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

### Drugs seized in Waingmaw, Mahaaungmyay and Lashio townships

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force examined a motorbike driven by Myint Aung (aka) Aikekae at 13 kilogrammes combined checkpoint in Waingmaw township at 2 pm on 25 April and seized 9,500 stimulant tablets.

At 7 pm on 24 April, the Police Force examined a suspect by the name of Aung Kyaw Zaw (aka) Sit Min Chant who claimed the Parcel at the bus stop in Mahaaungmyay township and captured 2.018 kilogrammes of Happy Water.

At 6:40 pm on the same day, the Police Force searched the apartment of Li Haung in the No 1 ward of Lashio township and captured 0.88 kilogramme of Ketamine, 0.11 kilogramme of Ice and 2,970 Erimine-5 with MMK 400,000.

The suspects have been prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA/MKKS



An arrestee is seen along with confiscated drugs.



# OPINION

## Try hard to harness climatic conditions for people

**M**EDIA in various forms in Myanmar recently mentioned the terrible impacts of natural disasters, most of which hit some regions and states. Such unexpected natural disasters destroyed the life and property of the people.

In occurring the untimely natural disasters based on climate change, strong winds on 21 April 2023 destroyed hundreds of houses in Aungmyingon Village and TadaU Village from Lewe Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, leaving 199 people injured and six people dead. In the incident, not only public houses but monasteries, schools and rural dispensaries also collapsed.

Now is the time for the pre-monsoon period. If humans cannot defy climatic conditions, they will face terrible losses in society. Hence, they have to try hard to grasp a trump card in hand to harness the climatic conditions based on exact weather forecasts. If so, it will be favourable weather benefiting the society as the people expect.

Actually, if they wish for proper climatic conditions, they should conserve their environs. To do so, they have to grow various kinds of trees in order to sustain the climatic conditions, water sources and natural environment. If so, they will have a chance to expect favourable weather which may not bring bad impacts to the society as they like.

Now is the time for the pre-monsoon period. If humans cannot defy climatic conditions, they will face terrible losses in society. Hence, they have to try hard to grasp a trump card in hand to harness the climatic conditions based on exact weather forecasts. If so, it will be favourable weather benefiting the society as the people expect.

Currently, day temperature is still rising in the country. The instability of the atmosphere may cause strong winds, falling hail stones and heavy rains. Hence, people residing across the nation need to take care of climatic conditions and they must be in touch with weather forecasts at any time. If so, they can make necessary preparations for their families depending on the weather news. Moreover, local authorities need to declare weather forecasts related to their regions to the residents without delay.

Meteorologists can easily predict weather forecasts based on necessary data collected in their relevant arena. Some climatic characteristics including strong winds, lightning strikes and falling hail stones are initial characteristics of the tornado. Hence, people should observe possible natural disasters which may occur in relevant seasons for making necessary preparedness to be safe for their life and property.

**M**YANMAR has a long cultural history and remained a high historical continuity and integrity of the nation-state with a vigorous tradition. Human beings were found on this Myanmar soil millions of years ago. Moreover, its high cultural standard with its long withstanding high cultural aspects stand out from the prehistoric periods of the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age cultures to Proto Historic Period when the Pyu culture flourished, followed by successive periods like the Bagan Period till to the present.

The abundance of cultural properties like ancient cities, old palace sites, ancient cultural edifices and historical structures, terracotta rings, stone inscriptions, palm-leave manuscripts, and parabeiks which can be found in all parts of Myanmar are the proven pieces of evidence of Myanmar's rich cultural heritage. In fact, the Myanmar cultural components: literature, performing arts, ten kinds of arts and crafts, architecture, and devotion to Theravada Buddhism have been perpetuated and flourished for more than thousands of years. Such kind of cultural characteristics has been preserved by generations starting from the early Pyu to the nationalities in the way of a single stem bearing hundreds of fruits.

The emergence of the Pyu from the Prehistoric period, 2,500 years ago, was listed as one of the high civilization peoples in South-east Asia and according to the archaeological evidence, the Pyu civilization flourished in Central Myanmar and Upper Myanmar. From the emergence of those Pyu city-states like Tagaung, Beikthano, Halin, Sri Ksetra, and Mai Mao, they paved the synergy for the successive historical eras in Myanmar namely: Bagan Period, Pinya Period, Inwa Period, Taungoo Period, Nyaungyan Period and Konbaung Period.

Most scholars viewed culture together with civilization but Myanmar does not. The majority of Myanmar's population believes in Buddhism, which is predominantly Theravada tradition. According

to Buddhist teaching, moral ethics heavily reflect the living styles and culture of Myanmar people from generation to generation. Culture can make a society unique; it can be mentioned as an invisible link that ties a community together and also affects the development of one's attitude towards life. Culture has been designated as the lifeblood of a vibrant society, a scale for civilization, expressed in many ways; telling our stories, celebrating the festivals, remembering the past, entertaining ourselves, and imagining the future.

The arts and culture were then deployed primarily by the state as an ideological tool to reinforce the discourses of nationalism and racial harmony among the main (8) ethnic groups: Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Myanmar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan. To this purpose, it was commonplace for schools and public institutions to use the arts as an opportunity for inter-ethnic interaction and symbolic displays of nationality through the showcasing of traditional ethnic dances alongside each other. The distribution of state funds for arts groups was dispensed as the State budget granted by the Ministry of Culture, without any long-term view to nurture the relationship between arts practitioners and the state and to showcase more at their respective States and Divisions.

The successive governments in Myanmar adopted attitudes towards cultural and educational policies by stressing the cultural identity and the use of the national language. According to these attitudes, the purpose of cultural policy is to mobilize the people to take a more active part in all cultural fields with the perspective of safeguarding tradition and customs. Thus, cultural activities like other social and economic activities have been affected by the "spirit of the masses." The assignment of "Thabin Wun" (means Minister in charge of Performing Arts, especially for the Royal Courts) can be judged that Myanmar people are always aware of culture and tradition and its sustainability. The "cultural dimension" has been

determined as one of the most important factors in the overall development plan. In this way, the successive Governments face the following tasks (common for those who are in the cultural arena):



More than 3,000 ancient pagodas are concentrated in Bagan ancient cultural zone, which was named UNESCO World Heritage Site on 6 July 2019. Myanmar is the only country in the world to have more than 3,000 such ancient pagodas in one place. PHOTO: KANU/GNLM/FILE

to preserve and revitalize cultural heritage by integrating vernacular cultures - folk tales and folk songs, handicrafts and art, museums and archaeological sites - into everyday life;

- to draw upon innovation and eradicate inappropriate traditions;
- to train competent staff in the field of culture and education;
- to encourage the area of cultural services (e.g., participation in the art);
- to stimulate creativity.

In general, those principles and methods of cultural policy, the evaluation of cultural needs, administrative structures and management, planning and financing, the organization of resources, legislation, budgeting, public and private institutions, cultural content in education, cultural autonomy and decentralization, the training of personnel, institutional infra-

structures for meeting specific cultural needs, the safeguarding of the cultural heritage, institutions for the dissemination of the arts, international cultural co-operation and other related subjects have been considered to be put in the policy. For this reason, Myanmar established the Ministry of Union Culture (later changed to the Ministry of Culture) in 1954.

The current discourse about culture (expressions, industries, media, collaborations), insists that a culture policy is needed to be in line with the existing government national policy. Since Myanmar is a nation with various nationalities and requires a Culture and National Heritage Policy that recognizes this diversity. It has huge cultural resources and talents, which should be incorporated into the national agenda. Since culture provides the ideological and philosophical foundation for national development, which is central to all development programmes, the Culture Policy of Myanmar has to recognize culture as a repository of 'knowledge' which is manifested in all aspects of life as a guide to the evolution of morals, attitudes, beliefs and values in society.

### Overview of Political Changes and the National Policy Before Independence

Throughout the political changes, nationalism plays a key role and those cultural preservations and the implementing policy have been reflected in its nationalism and those embedded ideologies are implied too.

From 1824 to 1920: It is the Period of anti-colonialism and struggles against the British. The country is under the British for more than a decade and nationalism and its movements had been spread the cultural policy for that period will be the influence of the British and their culture and language.

From 1920 - 1930: It is the Period of demanding Home Rule under British administration and self-administered rule that had been highly demanded by the Myanmar-educated youths and active politicians.

From 1930-1942: 1930 is one of the remarkable milestones in Myanmar politics as it was the era of Do Bamar Asi Ayon which was largely joined by active and patriotic university students and participated in political movements. The

slogan: "Thahkin myo hey Do Bamar" "became the national slogan in which Thakin: Myanmar word refers to the "Head or Superior". The Thakin leaders were men who had spent a lifetime in politics, having first entered politics as students and youths in the pre-war anti-colonial struggle, then resisting first the British and later the Japanese during World War II and in the post-war and post-independence period, assuming positions of responsibility in the AFPFL (Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League) and in the organizations affiliated to it. The "Thakin myo hey Do Bamar" Policy of the 1930s solely drove force for nationalism.

In 1942, which is the period of forming the Burma Defence Army (BDA), the Burma Independence Army (BIA) to fight against British Colonialism was joined by youths from all walks of life who were patriotic and active. The political will to get independence became the national policy and Getting Independence is the first priority; Independence is the second priority and the third also Independence.

This period (from 1945-1948) was followed by the forming of BPF (Burma Patriotic Force)

which fought against the Japanese and highlighted the nationalistic policy driven by "Independence is the first; Democracy is the second and Socialism is the third" respectively.

### After Independence

From 1948 to 1958, after getting Independence on 4 January 1948, multi-coloured insurgencies spread to the entire country and the split of AFPL factions and its consequences made the chaos and to restore peace and stability. The collapse of national solidarity had made the defections on ideological and racial grounds. This can be termed the "Union Government Era". In the resolutions proposed and adopted in the Preparatory Convention of the AFPFL, it was clearly stated that there shall be a guarantee of racial and cultural rights.

From 1958 to 1960, due to those political events and instability, the solution is the establishment of a Caretaker Government devoted to the supervision of general elections. The national policy then focuses on peace and tranquillity as the first, democracy as the second and socialist economy as the third. This Caretaker Government was led by General Ne Win.

After the assumption of State power by the Tatmadaw in 1962, formed the Revolutionary Council. Under the Revolutionary Council Government, peace and tranquillity, and the welfare of the public were supervised and taken responsibility by the Security and Administrative Committees concerned at different levels. The formation of the state's ideology under General Ne Win's regime was "the Burmese Way to Socialism". There are two main documents ideologically announced which were the benchmarks: the Burmese Way to Socialism and the Burmese Socialist Programme Party's official ideology. It has been mentioned as "at any rate, it is domestic trouble that seemed to be the main threat and the conviction of the Revolution-

# ARTICLE

## Overview of a Journey of Myanmar Culture Preservation and Promotion: The Emergence of Political Changes and the Cultural Policy

By Dr Nanda Hmun  
Permanent Secretary (Retired)

ary Council is apparently that both the Parliament system and those who worked it in this country have failed". 1974 Constitution was announced under the Union of the Socialist Republic of Myanmar and the People Council Government Era which lasted till 1988. From 1962 to 1988, the reformation of the State under the name of "Burmese Way to Socialism" is the state policy till the upheaval took place in 1988.

To jeopardize the state peace and stability of the Union and Independence, the State Law and Order Restoration Council was formed and took the responsibility of executive and administrative responsibilities. To take the challenges: non-disintegration of the union; non-disintegration of the national races and consolidation of national sovereignty have been laid down as national legacy and national causes. Indeed it is the main backbone of the sovereignty and sustaining the peace and tranquillity of the state. Those Three National Causes announced have been the major political commitments of SLORC and SPDC and the national cultural policy is also reflected by those ideologies as the Objectives followed by the national motto.

### Four Social Objectives vs Political Objectives

Since 1988 is the new chapter of the political landscape in Myanmar; it called for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation in which administrators are turned out to take responsibility for the security of the state, prevalence of law and order and socioeconomic development. People-oriented development has been demanded and the political thoughts and ideology of "change" has been appreciated and negotiations play a very important role. Along with the collapse of the General Ne Win regime in 1988, anti-government demonstrations led to the resignation of U Ne Win from the Chairman of BSPP.

(TO BE CONTINUED)



# CURRENT AFFAIRS



## Shwedagon Pagoda to organize 40<sup>th</sup> Kason water pouring festival

THE 40<sup>th</sup> Kason Water Pouring Festival will be conducted on 3 May at Shwedagon Pagoda,

Devotees are seen pouring water onto the Maha Bodhi tree in the previous year.

according to the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees.

The ceremony will start at 7 am on 3 May at the Bodhi tree on the Tuesday Corner of the pagoda with the participation of the Ovadacariya Sayadaw of Shwedagon Pagoda, members and staff of Shwedagon

Pagoda Board of Trustees and religious organizations.

The religious organizations and staff will help the pilgrims to participate in the water pouring festival at the Bodhi trees of four corners of the Pagoda. — TWA/MKKS

## 171 Myanmar migrant workers transferred back from Thailand

A total of 171 Myanmar migrant workers — 126 men and 45 women — who served terms in Thailand for various offences arrived in Kawthoung on 24 April via Ranong, Thailand, by boat.

Kawthoung District and Township Administration officials, Public Health Departments and departmental staff and NGOs made careful examinations lest the returnees should have COVID-19 infection and non-Myanmar citizens were among them. Then

they were provided with food, healthcare and other necessary assistance.

Those who tested positive were put under surveillance at Kawthoung People's Hospital and those who tested negative were transported back to their hometowns.

Myanmar nationals who have served their sentences in prisons in southern Thailand are often transferred to Kawthoung authorities at least once a month or more. — TWA/KZW



Returnees receive advice from an official.



## MMPO says invitations to film academy award ceremony must be obtained in person

THOSE who will attend the film academy award ceremony must withdraw their invitations in person at the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization between 26 and 28 April, the MMPO notified.

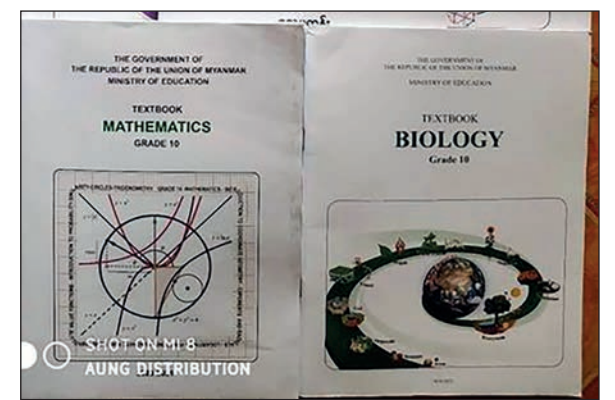
The announcement was made to the MMPO member film award winners and the producers and performers of the films shown in 2020 and 2022, as well as to people from all strata who want to attend the ceremony.

The film academy awards presentation ceremony for 2019, 2020, and 2022 will be held at the open-air theatre near Nay Pyi Taw City Hall on 6 May. The Myanma Radio and Television will broadcast the whole ceremony live at 6:30 pm. — TWA/CT



An advertisement is seen for the Film Academy Awards presentation ceremony for 2019, 2020, and 2022.

## Technical, agricultural and livestock breeding subjects to be included in Grade 10 new curriculums



Textbooks of new curriculum for Grade 10.

IN the 2023-2024 academic year, there will be new course options for those who have passed Grade 9 in the 2022-2023 academic year as part of the new KG+12 system of education, Deputy Minister Dr Aung Gyi of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation said.

The Deputy Minister made the statement at the opening ceremony of the training for enhancing the skills of the teachers of technical, agricultural and livestock breeding high schools.

The Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation and the Ministry of Science and Technology are working in collaboration so that technical, agricultural and livestock breeding subjects can be taught at 51 high schools in 51 districts in the 2023-2024 academic year.

The training course will last from 24 April to 18 May and 103 trainees are attending the agricultural course and 102 animal husbandry courses. — TWA/CT

## Japan-based Daiohs Memorial Foundation to offer scholarships to 20 Myanmar students

DAIOHS Memorial Foundation which is based in Japan will offer scholarships for 2023 to 20 Myanmar students and those interested can send in their applications, according to the Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo.

It is learnt that a student will be provided with a stipend of 10,000 yen per month every six months from April 2023 to March 2025.

This year's scholarships are intended for researchers from

universities and research organizations.

Detailed information about the requirements for the application can be seen on the website of the Myanmar Embassy in Japan. — TWA/MKKS



A general view of the building of the Daihos Memorial Foundation.



# LOCAL BUSINESS

## Peanut price moves slightly up on foreign, domestic demand

THE price of peanuts went up on the strong foreign and domestic demand, according to the Mandalay Commodity Centre.

On 1 April 2023, the prices stood at K6,300-7,000 per viss. The prices rose to K6,300-7,500 per viss on 25 April, showing a small increase of K200-500 per viss. The peanut supply to the Mandalay market is seen regularly. At present, both Chinese traders and oil millers are purchasing them.

In the last week of last November, the prices plunged to K4,700-5,750 per viss amid the falling demand by oil millers and lack of foreign demand.

Myanmar has been shipping oil seeds (sesame seeds and peanuts) to foreign countries. In April 2022, the world's top palm oil exporter Indonesia,

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

Exports of Myanmar's edible oil crops resumed as the world's top palm oil exporters returned to normalcy, according to a notification dated 5 July 2022 released by the Trade Department. The country has shipped more than 32,000 kilogrammes peanut and sesame worth US\$40.16 million to foreign markets through the border trade channels so far in the financial year 2022-2023 (April-March). — NN/EM



The country has shipped more than 32,000 kilogrammes of peanut and sesame worth US\$40.16 million to foreign markets through the border trade channels so far in the financial year 2022-2023 (April-March).

## India-Myanmar Multisector B2B Matchmaking enhances cooperation

INDIA-MYANMAR Multisector B2B Matchmaking was held at the India centre in Yangon on 24 April 2023 in cooperation with the Indian Embassy in Yangon and Global Network International Trade Advisory.

This B2B matchmaking was aimed at building joint ventures between Myanmar businesspersons and Indian partners to work together in pharmaceuticals, hospital services, manufacturing, fibre and garment, construction, food products, information technology, agriculture, sugarcane and sugar production, and energy and banking sectors.

Mr Shri Vinay Kumar, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, and Mr Naresh Kumar Dinodiya, chair of the India-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce, gave an opening remark respectively.

"This matchmaking will open up opportunities in business, trade and investment and cooperation in manufacturing, food production, garment, pharmaceuticals, health care services and IT," said U Aye Win, president of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Mr Jagat Shah elaborated that 25 Indian companies joined

this matchmaking to get together in the manufacturing sector. The majority of them are IT companies and pharmaceutical companies. They will pool their resources for long-term growth and create job opportunities.

The business representatives from India explained cooperation matters and invited Myanmar's entrepreneurs to join hands with them.

UMFCCI's president U Aye Win, vice-presidents Dr Win Si Thu, U San Lin, general secretary Daw Khine Khine Nwe, joint secretaries and businesspersons from two countries were present at the meeting. — Aik Thon/EM



The India-Myanmar Multisector B2B Matchmaking in progress on 24 April in Yangon. PHOTO: UMFCCI

## Prices of fuel oil, gold and dollar on 26 April 2023

### Fuel Oil Price (Yangon)

Octane 92	K2,085
Octane 95	K2,180
Diesel	K2,035
Premium Diesel	K2,115

All of the prices are based on per litre.

### Gold Price

The reference price of high-purity gold set by YGEA	K2,353,900 per tical
High-purity gold in the gold market	K2,992,000 per tical

### US Dollar Vs Kyat

A US dollar set by the Central Bank of Myanmar	K2,100
A US dollar in the forex market	K2,855 to K2,870

The above prices may change from time to time.

**A d v e r t i s e**

with us \ **Hot Line :**



**09974424848**



# ECONOMY WORLD

## Japan aims to draw 100 tril yen foreign investment, digital nomads



Japan aspires to become a technology leader in the digital economy. A device allowing customers to pay their bill without touching it at a Kura Sushi restaurant in Osaka. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE / KYODO**

JAPAN will aim to attract 100 trillion yen (\$750 billion) worth of foreign direct investment by 2030, and more foreign talent and remote workers known as “digital nomads”, as part of its drive to boost economic growth and global competitiveness, the government said Wednesday.

The numerical target, included in a new action plan, is roughly double the 46.6 trillion yen of foreign investment at the end of 2022. The government previously set an 80 trillion yen target for 2030. The plan comes as the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia’s war in Ukraine have underscored the need to streamline and strengthen supply chains for critical components, and ensure national security. Japan wants to boost its standing as a production and research hub, capitalizing on a weak yen that would

serve as an incentive for foreign investment. Under the plan, Japan will use funds and other resources to attract investment in strategic areas such as semiconductors, digitalization, green technology and health care. It will seek to develop necessary human resources via tripartite cooperation among the government, firms and academia.

The project to build a Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co chip-making plant in Kumamoto Prefecture, southwestern Japan, is a recent example of the public and private sectors joining hands, with the government deciding to extend financial assistance. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who wants to achieve a virtuous cycle of growth and redistribution, sees digital and green transformation as key areas of investment. —Kyodo

## EU to revamp budget rules to spur growth



President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen. **PHOTO: JOHN THYS/AFP**

THE EU will unveil an overhaul of its fiscal rules on Wednesday, a long-awaited reform that has bitterly divided member states over how to encourage investment while strengthening scrutiny of government spending.

The European Commission, the EU’s executive arm, wants

to reform the rules, known as the Stability and Growth Pact, that limit how much the bloc’s 27 member states can borrow.

But the proposals have split the bloc between the more frugal northern countries, including Germany, and the southern states like Italy.

Germany, a staunch defender of fiscal discipline, fears Brussels will overly relax the EU’s budgetary straitjacket and undermine fairness within the bloc. Italy and others argue the rules constrain their ability to invest.

The pact currently stipulates that states’ public deficits should not go above three per cent of gross domestic product, and debt should stay below 60 per cent of GDP.

The European Union suspended the rules in 2020 to allow member states to pour money into their economies during the coronavirus pandemic.

That was extended last year to let states raise spending to protect households and businesses from sky-high energy prices from Russia’s war in Ukraine, and to avoid recession.—AFP

## Digital economy contributes 9.4% to Philippines GDP in 2022

THE Philippines’ digital economy in 2022 amounted to 2.08 trillion pesos (37.44 billion US dollars), contributing 9.4 per cent to the country’s gross domestic product (GDP), the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said on Tuesday.

“This amount represents an

increase of 11 per cent from the 1.87 trillion pesos (roughly 33.67 billion dollars) in 2021,” the PSA said.

The digital economy comprises digital transactions covering digital-enabling infrastructure, e-commerce, and digital

media or content.

Of the total digital transactions in 2022, the agency said digital-enabling infrastructure made up the largest share of 77.2 per cent, amounting to 1.60 trillion pesos (roughly 28.81 billion dollars). —Xinhua

## ‘Infernal’: Fuel crisis driving Cubans round the bend

THE streets of Havana are quieter than usual — many of the rattling old cars the city is known for stand idle amid Cuba’s worst fuel shortage in years.

“This is infernal!” exclaimed 59-year-old Lazaro Diaz, a private delivery driver, after queuing an entire day for gasoline. Without luck.

Queues snake for kilometers (miles) around fuel stations in the capital of the communist island suffering its worst economic crisis in three decades worsened by biting US sanctions and a tourism slump caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The dearth of fuel, which started end-March, is felt in

all sectors and economic classes.

Everything from concerts to baseball games have been postponed or cancelled — including, authorities said Tuesday, the upcoming May Day rally in Havana’s Plaza de la Revolution.

The event usually draws thousands — largely traveling by bus — to the square from all over the city. Instead, smaller events are being organized among Havana’s various neighborhoods.

A university in the capital and four in other provinces have had to cancel in-person lectures this week with students and professors unable to get to class.—AFP



The dearth of fuel in Cuba, which started end-March, is felt in all sectors and economic classes. **PHOTO: AFP**



## Tiffany to reopen NYC flagship under French management

THE tarpaulins and scaffolding that obscured the facade of Tiffany and Co's flagship New York jewellery store for years have finally come down ahead of its re-opening this week.

The mythical store on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue — immortalized by the 1961 film "Breakfast at Tiffany's" — has been extensively remodelled, which the luxury jeweller hopes will help fuel the brand's momentum under its new owner, the French luxury giant LVMH. The revamped landmark store will be officially inaugurated on Wednesday following its first complete renovation since it opened in 1940. It will reopen to the public on Friday. The goal, according to Tiffany chief executive officer Anthony Ledru, is to offer "a unique client experience," with a blend of "art, craftsmanship, heritage and lifestyle".

Tiffany is looking to remain true to its origins while remaining culturally "relevant," he told AFP in an email. The company wants to make Tiffany's "approachable to all generations", he said.

### Beyonce and Nike

Tiffany was founded in New York in 1837, and has become best known for its diamonds, silver jewellery and engagement rings sold in the brand's iconic robin's egg blue boxes. The company, which employs 14,000 people and operates some 300 retail outlets around the world, was acquired by LVMH in early 2021 for just under \$16 billion. At LVMH's annual earnings presentation in January, CEO Bernard Arnault noted that Tiffany was on track to "exceed \$1 billion in current operating income" this year.—AFP

## Honda aims to accelerate EV expansion, catch up with Chinese rivals

HONDA Motor Co. on Wednesday announced a series of measures to accelerate the expansion of its electric vehicle business, including a tie-up with Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. to strengthen its chip procurement, as it seeks to catch up with leading EV manufacturers.

Honda President Toshihiro Mibe told a press conference that his company is still trailing behind

Chinese automakers in EV technology. The company, however, should be able to catch up with them as it sets up new EV production lines, strengthens the development of software for onboard systems and secures stable supplies of chips and battery materials in line with its plan to only sell zero-emission vehicles globally by 2040, he said.

"They have gotten further ahead than we expected," Mibe said of Honda's



The compact, fully-electric Honda e is inspired by Honda's 2030 prediction, and its desire to improve the environment, particularly in busy urban areas. PHOTO: KYODO

Chinese rivals, referring to the vehicles displayed by

companies at the Shanghai International Automobile Industry Exhibition held through Thursday.

Touching on the superior quality of self-driving and artificial intelligence technologies in many Chinese-made cars, Mibe said, "I admit we are a little behind. But we are going to turn the game around."

"If we could win in the Chinese market, we could win in the global market, too," he added.—Kyodo

## China deepens cooperation with World Intellectual Property Organization



China's National Intellectual Property Administration conducts a preliminary examination. It then registers the patent and grants a standard patent. Photo taken on 26 November 2020 shows a model of a 5G-supported smart factory at a 5G-themed exhibition held during the World 5G Convention in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong Province. PHOTO: DENG HUA/XINHUA

THE National Copyright Organization (WIPO) on Tuesday signed an updated memorandum of understanding (MoU) on

bilateral cooperation.

The updated MoU aims to consolidate the existing exchanges and cooperation in the field of copyright and expand the bilateral cooperation in formulating and implementing international copyright treaties, discussing digital copyright protection issues, improving the risk prevention and control capacity of the copyright industry, sharing copyright to encourage creation and innovation among the small and medium-sized enterprises, and promoting the inheritance and development of folk literature and art.—Xinhua

## UK blocks Microsoft's \$69-bln Activision takeover

BRITAIN on Wednesday blocked Microsoft's \$69-billion takeover of US video game giant Activision Blizzard, arguing it would harm competition in cloud gaming and leaving the blockbuster deal in peril. The UK's Competition and Markets Authority prevented the deal "over concerns... (it) would alter the future of the fast-growing cloud gaming market, leading to reduced innovation and less choice for UK gamers over the years to come", the CMA said in a final decision on its long-running probe. bMicrosoft replied it would appeal the verdict over its vast

takeover, which has yet to win regulatory approvals in Europe or the United States. The Xbox-owner launched in 2022 its bid to create the world's third biggest gaming company by revenue with the takeover of Activision, owner of hit games "Candy Crush" and "Call Of Duty", triggering antitrust concerns worldwide.

The CMA added Wednesday that Microsoft's proposed remedies over cloud gaming contained "significant shortcomings" and would require further regulatory oversight instead of allowing the market to decide.—AFP

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC INCHON VOY.NO. (2310S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC INCHON VOY.NO. (2310S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-4-2023** 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

### MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

MYANMA RAILWAYS

#### INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

- Open Tender is invited for supply of the following item in Euro-  

Sr No	Tender No	Description
1	12(T)1/MR(ISN)	Wheel Monobloc Rolled Steel (Rough)-(120)Nos Euro/23-24

Closing Date & Time – 26.5.2023 (Friday) (14:30)Hrs
- Tender documents are available at our office starting from 26.4.2023 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager, Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of 51<sup>th</sup> Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon, Phone-95-1-291985, 291994,

Advertise with us/ Hot Line : **09251022355, 09974424848**



# GLOBAL AFFAIRS

## US, S Korean leaders to agree on stronger extended deterrence

US President Joe Biden is expected to agree with his South Korean counterpart Yoon Suk Yeol on Wednesday to bolster extended deterrence measures in response to North Korea's growing nuclear threat.

Biden and Yoon, who arrived in Washington on Monday for a state visit, will release a joint statement designed to reinforce US security commitments, including shielding allies under its nuclear umbrella, according to senior US administration officials. Another reason for agreeing on what they called the "Washington declaration" is to improve the clarity of what it means by extended deterrence and at the same time reaffirm South Korea's commitment to its non-nuclear status.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the United States will take steps to make its extended deterrence policy "more visible" by regularly



US President Joe Biden, First Lady Jill Biden, South Korea President Yoon Suk Yeol and First Lady Kim Keon Hee, visit the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC on 25 April 2023. PHOTO: AFP

deploying strategic assets, such as a nuclear ballistic submarine visit to South Korea, something that has not taken place since the early 1980s.

While continuing to enhance their military training, the leaders are set to also agree on the creation of a peacetime nuclear consultative group.

The officials said the new mechanism will give Seoul ad-

ditional insight into how Washington thinks about planning for major contingencies and will give it a voice in those deliberations.

They suggested that the declaration, which was discussed "for months", is aimed at providing better deterrence against North Korea and will help to quell persistent calls in South Korea for nuclear armament.—AFP

## Norway irked over Swedish rocket crash on its turf

THE Norwegian foreign ministry expressed irritation Tuesday with Sweden for not immediately informing it of a research rocket that crashed in Norway, in a rare spat between the two neighbours.

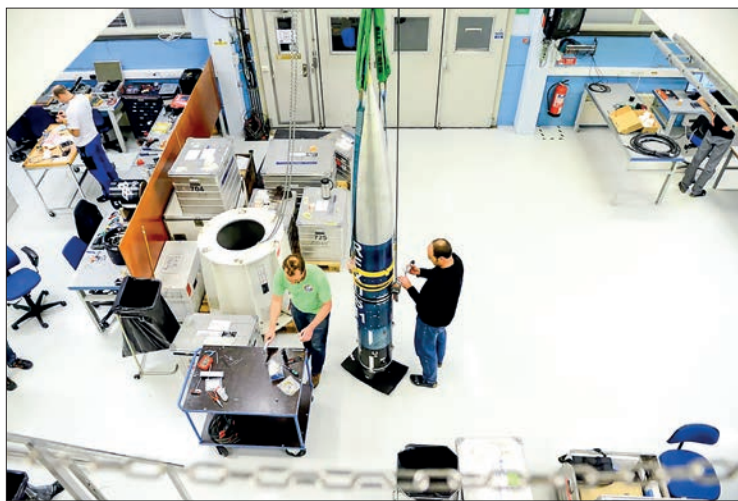
The rocket, which was launched early Monday from the Esrange Space Centre in Kiruna, northern Sweden, plunged into a mountainside in the Malselv municipality in Norway's far north, about 10 kilometres (six miles) from the closest inhabited area.

No one was injured and no material damage was reported.

"The crash of a rocket like this is a very serious incident that can cause serious damage," the foreign ministry in Oslo said.

"When such a border violation occurs, it is crucial that those responsible immediately inform the relevant Norwegian authorities through the proper channels," it said.

The rocket was carrying out experiments in zero gravity at an



Rocket technicians of the Swedish Space Corporation assemble the student rocket "Rexus 11" at the Esrange Space Centre near Kiruna. PHOTO: JONATHAN NACKSTRAND/AFP

altitude of 250 kilometres.

"The rocket took a slightly longer and more westerly trajectory than calculated and landed after a completed flight 15 kilometres (9.3 miles) into Norway," the Swedish Space Corporation said in a statement on Monday.

"Work on retrieving the payload is underway," it added.

Norway's foreign ministry also noted that retrieval work was not supposed to begin without Norwegian authorization, which had not been granted.

Norway's Civil Aviation Authority said it had learned of the crash from the Swedish Space Corporation's press release issued on Monday.—AFP

## Homegrown fried chicken chain replaces KFC in Russia

THE Russian incarnation of KFC opened its first restaurant in Moscow on Tuesday after the American fast food chain exited the country over the Kremlin's offensive in Ukraine.

The new owners of the US giant's former restaurants across Russia are resuscitating Rostic's, a brand that appeared in the tumultuous early years of post-Soviet Russia.

At the launch in central Moscow, Colonel Harland Sanders, the founder of the KFC chain, was absent from the logo, but the new colour scheme still featured its signature red and white.

Several dozen customers were seen at Rostic's flagship venue on Tuesday afternoon.

"For us Rostic's is like a childhood memory," Yevgeny Lazarev, a 31-year-old software tester, told AFP outside the restaurant. "They were here before and they came back."

Originally launched in 1993, Rostic's helped KFC expand in Russia and was eventually bought out by it. For many Russians, Rostic's brings back memories of the turbulent early years of transitioning to a free-market economy following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.—AFP



The new owners of the US giant KFC's former restaurants across Russia are resuscitating Rostic's, a brand that appeared in the tumultuous early years of post-Soviet Russia. PHOTO: AFP

### WORLD: TOP HEADLINE

#### Russia hosts talks with Iran, Syria, Türkiye

RUSSIAN Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu on Tuesday hosted four-way talks aimed at normalizing ties between Ankara and Damascus, which were severed at the start of Syria's civil war in 2011.

"Practical steps were discussed in the field of strengthening security in the Syrian Arab Republic and normalising Syrian-Turkish relations," the Russian defence ministry.

Moscow stressed the importance of countering "the fight against all extremist groups in Syria".

Shoigu, who hosted counterparts from Syria, Türkiye and Iran, also held a number of bilateral talks.

The Kremlin has sought to mend ties between Damascus and Türkiye's Recep Tayyip Erdogan.—AFP

#### 'Be a real man': Russian army launches recruitment drive

A slick new video that has gone viral on Russian social media platforms shows a taxi driver, a security guard and a fitness coach at work.

"Did you really dream of being this kind of defender?" the footage released by the Russian defence ministry says.

The video, set to dramatic music, then depicts armed men in full combat gear walking across a battlefield in thick fog.

"You're a real man! Be one!" says the ad, encouraging Russians to sign a contract with the defence ministry.—AFP



## US, Philippine troops fire rockets at ship in largest-ever drills



Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos has sought stronger defence ties with the United States. **PHOTO: AFP**

US and Philippine troops fired a salvo of rockets at a warship representing an enemy vessel in the disputed South China Sea on Wednesday, in the final exercise of the allies' largest-ever military drills.

It was the first time the countries had conducted a joint live-fire exercise in the hotly contested waters, which China claims almost entirely.

Philippine President Ferdi-

nand Marcos, who has sought stronger defence ties with the United States, sat in an observation tower with US and Philippine officials watching the event north of Manila.

"No Hollywood effects this morning, this is old fashioned training," said Lieutenant Colonel Nick Mannweiler, a US Marine Corps public affairs officer.

The live-fire drill kicked off with the US HIMARS precision

rocket system launching a series of rounds at a decommissioned Philippine Navy corvette anchored about 22 kilometres (14 miles) off the coast.

The objective was to sink the decades-old ship, which represented an enemy vessel approaching the Philippine shore.

That was followed by artillery units lined up along a grassy field firing rockets at floating drums 10 kilometres offshore.

The exercise was briefly interrupted when a small private aircraft entered the exercise area, Mannweiler told AFP.

### 'Ironclad alliance'

The drills aim to boost Manila's military capability while serving as a US show of support for its Asian ally as China's assertiveness in the region grows stronger.

Nearly 18,000 troops have taken part in the annual exercises dubbed Balikatan, or "shoulder to shoulder" in Filipino.—AFP

## Quad leaders' meeting to be held in Sydney on 24 May

AUSTRALIA said Wednesday it will host a Quad group meeting with the leaders of India, Japan and the United States in Sydney on 24 May.

The Quad meeting will take place after the three-day Group of Seven industrialized nations summit from 19 May in Hiroshima, western Japan. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese is expected to visit Hi-

roshima for the summit, while the White House has announced that US President Joe Biden will also attend.

Albanese told reporters that the Quad leaders will discuss global economic conditions, growing strategic competition in the Indo-Pacific, the ongoing impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and other issues.

Albanese and Biden will dis-

cuss with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi how to deepen cooperation on critical and emerging technologies, high-quality infrastructure, global health, climate change, maritime domain awareness and a range of other issues, White House spokeswoman Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement.—Kyodo



A general view of the Sydney Opera House in Sydney, Australia, in April 2020. **PHOTO: KYODO**

## Japan's population projected to shrink 30% to 87 mln by 2070

JAPAN'S population is expected to fall to 87 million by 2070, shrinking 30 per cent from 2020, a government estimate showed Wednesday, highlighting the country's need to overhaul its social security systems and restructure its urban communities.

Foreign residents, including students and workers residing in Japan for more than three months, are set to comprise 10.8 per cent of the population at 9.39 million in 2070, expanding from 2.2 per cent in 2020.

The National Institute of Population and Security Research said those aged 65 or above in Japan are projected to hit 33.67 million in 2070 after peaking at 39.53 million in 2043. In 2070, they will comprise 38.7 per cent of the population, resulting in ballooning social security costs.

The health ministry's research body provides 50-year demographic forecasts approximately every five years based on public data such as censuses. The government will use the latest data to calculate the country's future pension payouts.

The population, numbering 126.15 million as of 2020, is expected to fall under the 100 million threshold in 2056, it said. The projected fertility rate, or the expected number of children born per woman during her child-bearing years, was at 1.36 for 2070, slightly up from 1.33 in 2020 but remaining well below the threshold of 2.07 for maintaining the population.

The number of births, which slipped below 800,000 in 2022, is likely to decline further to under 700,000 in 2043 and below 500,000 in 2070, the institute said.—Kyodo



Children wear masks at a nursery school in Tokyo's Katsushika Ward in February. **PHOTO: KYODO**

### WORLD: TOP HEADLINE

## Colombia president denies expelling Venezuela's Guaidó

COLOMBIA'S President Gustavo Petro on Tuesday denied expelling leading Venezuelan opposition figure Juan Guaidó, but accused him of entering the country illegally.

On Monday, Guaidó claimed to have been kicked out of Colombia, hours after he arrived in Bogota ahead of a conference on his crisis-torn country hosted by Petro.

"Mr. Guaidó was not expelled and it is better that this lie does not appear in politics," wrote Petro on Twitter.

Petro said Guaidó had been allowed to travel to Miami, where he arrived on Tuesday, "for humanitarian reasons despite the illegal entry into the country."—AFP

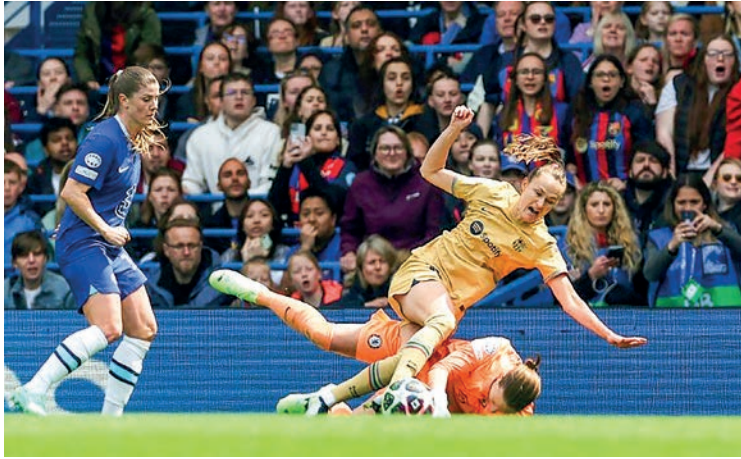


US, Philippine troops fire rockets at ship in largest-ever drills  
PAGE-15



# SPORT

## Barca confident of ousting Chelsea to make third consecutive final



Chelsea goalkeeper Ann-Katrin Berger saves from Barcelona's Norwegian forward Caroline Graham Hansen in the first leg at Stamford Bridge. PHOTO: AFP

BARCELONA are confident of achieving their goal of reaching a third consecutive Champions League final when they host Chelsea on Thursday, boasting a 1-0 advantage from the semi-final first leg.

The Catalans, who lifted the trophy as part of a treble in 2021 with a 4-0 romp over the Blues, have reached three finals in the last four seasons.

With Olympique Lyon eliminated by Chelsea — the French side beat Barcelona in the other

two finals — Jonatan Giraldez's team are favourites to lift the trophy again.

Caroline Graham Hansen struck early at Stamford Bridge last weekend to give her side the lead in the tie and although Chelsea clung on to give themselves a lifeline, Barcelona will relish their chances playing at Camp Nou.

Giraldez's side have scored 23 goals in just four games at home in the Champions League this season, conceding just once,

when they crushed Roma 5-1 in the quarter-finals.

"I think we had control, we got the goal and could have scored a couple more, but, in the end, it was a really good game," Graham Hansen told reporters Tuesday.

"If you see our statistics in recent years, we have lost away from home (in Europe). We have still gone through, but the away games have been tough.

"Now we have a great chance to reach another final here at home in front of our fans."

The Norwegian forward says that triumphing in Europe is the club's main goal once again — they are poised to lift Liga F on Sunday, a competition in which they have 60 consecutive victories.

"Our big objective this season is to win the Champions League and if we get to the final we are one step closer to that," added the winger.

"I promise I will do everything in my power to achieve it." — AFP

## Newcastle boss Howe weighing up Gordon role against Everton

NEWCASTLE manager Eddie Howe will have no qualms over fielding Anthony Gordon at former club Everton on Thursday as the Magpies continue their quest for Champions League qualification. Gordon, 22, left Goodison Park for Newcastle in the January transfer window, for a fee that could rise to £45 million (\$56 million), with his move from his native city of Liverpool sparking an angry response among some Everton fans. The winger has had to wait for his chances at St James' Park and was clearly frustrated when substituted at Brentford earlier this month, having started just two games for his new club.

Howe, asked at a pre-match news conference on Wednesday if he was concerned about a hostile reception Gordon could receive at Goodison, replied: "You don't want to have or do anything that



Newcastle midfielder Anthony Gordon. PHOTO: AFP

impacts the team, which is the most important thing.

"This is something surrounding the game, but is not influencing the game in terms of tactical preparation." "There is nothing I can do to change that. It's something we need to be mindful of, but I'm not too sure

— other than concentrating on how we play — what we can do."

When the Toffees announced Gordon's exit, Everton said the player, confronted by angry fans as he left Goodison following a 2-1 defeat by Southampton in January, had submitted a formal transfer request. — AFP

### The Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council: Twelve 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 prioritize 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.
- (d) To ensure peace, stability, rule of law, and the safe and smooth functioning of transport networks across the Union.

#### 2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance development based on agriculture and livestock using modern production techniques and to 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 assure support for the sustainability of Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) that prioritize import substitution, export production, and the use of domestically produced raw materials, in order to increase domestic production and generate employment opportunities.
- (d) To advance the socioeconomic life of the people, in order to ensure the country's prosperity and food security.

#### 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 people and preserve and safeguard their faiths, beliefs, culture, and characteristics of patriotic nationalism.
- (c) To strengthen basic health care in order to achieve the emergence of a health system that enhances the longevity and health of the entire nation.
- (d) To comprehensively promote the education sector to make it capable of producing the human resources necessary for building a modern, developed, and progressive democratic nation.

## Medvedev to headline return of elite men's tennis to China

FORMER world number one Daniil Medvedev will headline the return of elite men's tennis to China after a Covid-enforced break of four years, organizers said on Wednesday.

The Russian, winner of the US Open in 2021 and a two-time Australian Open runner-up, will play at the ATP Tour's Zhuhai Championships on 20-26 September. Zhuhai Championships officials have also been in "fruit-

ful" talks with other grand-slam champions and top-ranked players, the ATP said. More star names will be announced "imminently". Another ATP event will take place in Chengdu, in the southwest of China, at the same time as the Zhuhai tournament. Those are followed by the China Open in Beijing starting in late September, before the prestigious Shanghai Masters in October. — AFP