

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## Myanmar elevates implementation of two political visions, two national goals in alignment with Five-Point Roadmap and Nine Objectives



State Administration Council Vice-Chair, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win receives ASEAN Air Chiefs who attended the 20<sup>th</sup> AACC in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

**V**ICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army)

Vice-Senior General Soe Win received ASEAN Air Chiefs who attended the 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Air Chiefs Conference (AACC) hosted by Myanmar, at the parlour of

Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, the Vice-Senior General discussed successful imple-

mentation of two political visions and two national visions in accord with the five-point roadmap and nine objectives

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## Effective market intervention ensures stable rice prices

MARKET regulatory practices by institutions concerned led to rice price stability in September, helping reduce consumers' concerns.

The prices of rice were more volatile in mid-2023 than mid-2022. Starting from 7 August, the rice subsidy scheme commenced to offer the rice at a fairer price for consumers. The Myanmar Rice Federation bolstered rice subsidy schemes in various regions.

The prices stood at K125,000 per sack of Pawsan rice from Shwe-

bo, K100,000 per sack of Pawsan rice from other producing regions (Myaungmya, Pyapon, Mawgyun and Bogale), K96,000 per sack of Pawkywe, K72,000 per sack of 90-day short-mature rice variety and the K69,000 per sack of rice grown under the intercropping system on 14 September. Unless there is market intervention, rice prices would move up for sure. However, rice adulteration involving cheap and low-grade rice with high-grade rice was detected. So, the retailers

are vigilant about rice adulteration fraud. The new rice will soon flow into markets so the traders boost the sales of old stocks. They prioritize an increase in sales.

The price of high-grade Pawsan rice in Yangon and Shwebo areas is the same at K125,000 per sack.

Yet, the price is still high at K150,000 per sack in Monywa. Pawsan paddy is priced at K3.7 million per 100 baskets in the Shwebo and Monywa areas, as per the price data of those regions. — TWA/EM

### CURRENT AFFAIRS

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MoH constructs central vaccine cold storage in Yangon

### LOCAL BUSINESS

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Myanmar to ship 10,000 tonnes of sugar to Viet Nam in 2023-24 sugarcane season

# NATIONAL

## Construction of four flyover bridges integral to Yangon circular railway upgrading project



MR staff are seen working for the Yangon circular railway upgrading project.

MYANMA Railways will construct four flyover bridges, which are a part of the Yangon circular railway upgrading project, in this FY, according to No 7 Division of Myanmar

Railways (MR). It also invited tender for the construction of four flyover bridges, said U Thaung Htike, superintendent of Yangon Railway Station.

“We invited tender for upgrading projects including the construction of four overpasses at four locations along Yangon circular railway line,” he added.

The four flyovers will be at Paywetseikgon-Kyaukyedwin stations, Baukhtaw-Tamway stations, Kyaukyedwin-Tadakalay stations and Yegu-Tadakalay stations.

Currently, the Yangon circular railway upgrading work such as upgrading of railways, stations, level crossings are being conducted.

Moreover, it will also upgrade the seven railway stations — Aung San, Kamayut, Okkyin, Phawkan, Thamine, Tamway and Kyaukyedwin along the Yangon circular line starting this year using the allocated budget of respective FY. Similarly, the Okkalapa and Thamine Myothit railway stations will be reconstructed this year.

The Yangon circular line upgrade, once completed, would provide a chance to run express trains that can carry about 240,000 passengers daily. — ASH/KTZH

## 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 14 parties that have applied for the right to establish parties.

Among those that applied, the Labour Party and Union Peace and Unity Party are found to comply with the political parties’ registration law and regulations, and the Union

Election Commission approved the application for the establishment of the political parties yesterday.

The two parties must apply to the Commission for their registrations under Rule 7 of the Registration of Political Parties within 30 days from the date of approval. To date, 10 political parties have been allowed to be established and the other parties that have applied for party establishment are also being scrutinized. — MNA/KZL

### PHOTO NEWS



Amara Bo representing Kengtung was crowned in the Miss Universe Myanmar Grand Final at Novotel Hotel on 14 September together with first runner-up winner Dee representing Mawlamyine and second runner-up winner Khay Mar representing Bhamo. Myanmar pageants will take part in the Miss Universe in El Salvador. PHOTO: HTUN HTUN/GNLM

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“ခရီးသွားလုပ်ငန်း ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေး၊ အစိမ်းရောင်ရင်းနှီးမြှုပ်နှံမှုများ မြှင့်တင်ပေး”

WORLD TOURISM DAY 2023 | TOURISM & GREEN INVESTMENTS

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COVID-19 report, 14 September 2023	NEW TESTS	NEW CASES	CASUALTIES
	5,349	2	0

# NATIONAL

## Myanmar elevates implementation of two political ...

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for the all-round development of the State, enumeration of population and household registration on test, preparations to collect population and household registration once every 10 years, progress in preparations to successfully hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election and cooperation among ASEAN armies, and reviewed accomplishment of the 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Air Chiefs Conference (AACC).

ASEAN Air Chiefs also introduced themselves and discussed their visits to landmarks in Myanmar, the hospitality of Myanmar and the successful holding of the conference.

The Vice-Senior General was accompanied by Commander-in-Chief (Air) General

Tun Aung, Chief of Staff (Navy) Lt-Gen Zue Win Myint, Chief of Staff (Air) Lt-Gen Zaw Win Myint and officials.

Commander of the Royal Brunei Air Force Brig-Gen (u) Dato Seri Pahlawan Mohammad Sharif Bin Dato Paduka Haji Ibrahim, Commander of the Royal Cambodian Air Force General Soeung Samnang, Chief of Air Force Brig-Gen Khamlek Sengph Achanh of Laos, Air Chief Marshal Alongkorn Vannarot of the Royal Thai Air Force and Commander of the Air Defence of Viet Nam Lt-Gen Nguyen Van Hien and officials. Yesterday morning, they visited the Memorial to Fallen Heroes (Nay Pyi Taw), the Butterfly Museum in PyinOoLwin National Kandawgyi Garden and the View Resort in PyinOoLwin. — MNA/TTA



ASEAN Air Chiefs are seen during their observation tours in Myanmar yesterday.

## MoHA Union Minister attends NGO/INGO Registration Workshop



SAC Member Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae warmly greets the workshop attendees yesterday.

A workshop aimed at streamlining the registration process for NGOs and INGOs was held at the Kumudra Ballroom of Hotel Max in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. State Administration Council Member Union Home Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae presided over the opening ceremony and emphasized the importance of a smooth and efficient registration process.

He highlighted the role of associations in supporting the development of rural, border, and remote areas in Myanmar, stressing the need for proper registration to ensure legal compliance. Lt-Gen Yar Pyae

also mentioned the importance of government endorsements during the registration process.

He referred to an Inter-Country Evaluation Report by the Asia-Pacific Anti-Money Laundering Organization, which raised concerns about the potential misuse of philanthropic organizations for illegal activities. He urged INGOs and NGOs to operate within the bounds of the law during their aid activities.

Following his address, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and other officials extended a warm welcome to workshop attendees. The deputy director-general of General

Administration Department provided information on the association registration process, and the deputy director of the Bureau Special Investigation explained aspects related to philanthropic organizations and efforts to combat money laundering and terrorism financing.

Attendees from various associations had the opportunity to ask questions and engage in discussions about the NGO/INGO registration process, with clarifications provided by the director-general of General Administration Department. — MNA/TS

## SAC Member inaugurates Mohnyin University's new three-storey building

STATE Administration Council Member Daw Dwe Bu, along with State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan and other state ministers, met with district and township officials, town elders, village administrators, cultural groups, business associations, MSME entrepreneurs, and agricultural organizations supported by the National Economic Promotion Fund at Mohnyin district town hall yesterday.

The SAC member and the state chief minister also

visited the Government Technical Institute (Mohnyin) and interacted with students at the IBPD Centre, encouraging projects that demonstrate English proficiency and practical skills.

They then attended the official inauguration of Mohnyin University's new three-storey building, funded with K574 million from the Union capital fund for the financial year 2022-2023 and the three-storey Myayadana building, funded with K782.10 million from the Union capital fund. — MNA/TS



SAC Member Daw Dwe Bu (2L) is pictured during her inspection tours in Mohnyin yesterday.

# NATIONAL

## SAC Member attends awarding ceremony of Kayah State 24<sup>th</sup> Performing Arts Competition

THE awarding ceremony of the Kayah State 24<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition took place in Loikaw yesterday.

State Administration Council Member Porel Aung Thein attended the event along with the state chief minister, the regional control command commander and officials of relevant departments and organizations.

Speaking at the event, Kayah State Chief Minister U Zaw Myo Tin said a total of 369 candidates participated in state-level competition this year. The winners will be trained by qualified trainers to win the medals at national-level competitions. Therefore, the state government will provide the necessary things.



SAC Member Porel Aung Thein cordially greets winners at the event in Loikaw yesterday.

Then, the SAC member, the state chief minister and officials presented cash awards, medals, and certificates of honour to the winners of state-level competition and judges.

At noon, the SAC member and party inspected the Technological University (Loikaw) and Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Loikaw).

They also inspected the construction of a two-storey dormitory that can accommodate 160 students in the compound of Technological University (Loikaw) and the displayed photos, sports-related materials, dormitories and the library of the Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Loikaw). — MNA/KTZH

## SAC Member makes inspection tours educational institutions in Sittway



SAC Member Dr Ba Shwe holds the meeting at Sittway University yesterday.

STATE Administration Council Member Dr Ba Shwe, accompanied by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin and officials, paid homage to Lawkananda pagoda and Sakya Muni Buddha Image and met departmental officials after inspecting the universities and rehabilitation activities in Sittway Township of Rakhine State yesterday.

During the meeting, the SAC member highlighted the political objective of the SAC, the key role of the Union spirit, the well-educated population

to develop a nation, efforts of the government to promote the education level of citizens and measures to enhance the development of agriculture and livestock sectors of Rakhine State.

The state chief minister and attendees then reported on the regional peace, rule of law, expansion of the local production sector and regional development programmes.

The SAC member and party proceeded to Sittway University, Technological University (Sittway) and University of Computer Studies (Sittway) and

met with rectors, pro-rectors, professors/department heads, faculty members and students.

At noon, the SAC member and party went to Detlel Monastery, Nanda Yama Monastery and Kywa Phyu Monastery in Sittway and paid homage to Presiding Sayadaws and offered Waso robes and donations.

They also inspected the upgrading of Sittway Point resort, repairing of Shukhintha road (from Sartaik junction to Sittway hotel) and road expansion works in the evening. — MNA/KTZH

## SAC Members encourage education in Lashio

STATE Administration Council Members U Shwe Kyein and U Yan Kyaw, along with Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Zaw Aye and officials, met faculty members at Lashio University in Shan State (North) yesterday.

U Shwe Kyein stressed the importance of teachers nurturing well-rounded, educated individuals capable of contributing to the country's development. SAC members provided financial support to several educational institutions in Lashio, and respective rectors and principals received the contributions.

They also visited No 1 Basic Education High School, where U Yan Kyaw emphasized the crucial role of education in the nation's political, economic, agricultural, and livestock sectors, encouraging teachers to inspire students and foster their happiness and intelligence.

Township education officers received financial contributions from SAC members and the Shan State chief minister. Additionally, they visited the Lashio Council of Churches, where reverend bishop Father George offered prayers. — MNA/TH



SAC Members U Shwe Kyein and U Yan Kyaw meet educational officials and personnel in Lashio yesterday.

## SAC Member meets Chin State departmental staff

STATE Administration Council Member Dr Hmu Thang, along with Chin State Chief Minister Dr Wong Hsum Thang, convened a meeting with departmental staff assigned to Chin State at the General Administration Department's meeting hall yesterday.

During the meeting, Dr Hmu Thang expressed pride in meeting the staff and highlighted the challenging weather and road conditions in Chin State. He assured that efforts would be made to improve convenience.

Chin State Chief Minister Dr Wong Hsum Thang delivered a

welcoming address.

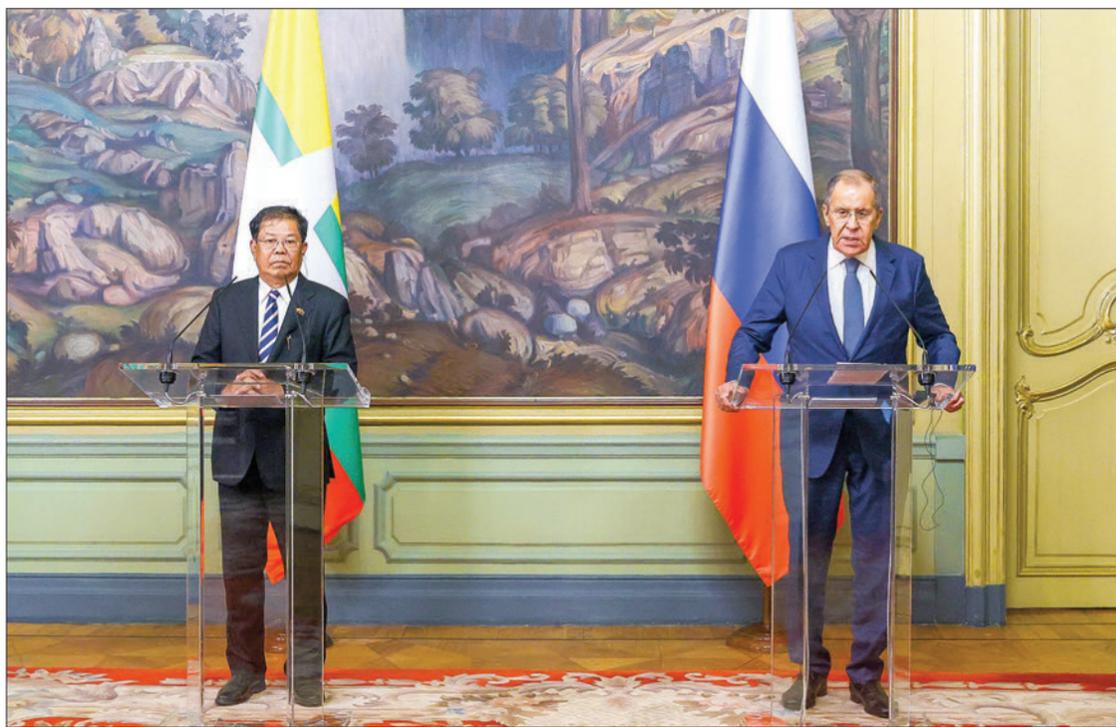
Officials then discussed the operational status of their respective departments, with SAC members and the chief minister overseeing the presentations of departmental staff assigned to various townships in Chin State.

A subsequent meeting with departmental staff was held at the township office meeting hall at 10:00 am. Discussions focused on departmental operations and implementation, with SAC members addressing questions and reports from departmental officials. — MNA/KZL



SAC Member Dr Hmu Thang warmly greets the departmental personnel at the meeting yesterday in Chin State.

## Myanmar-Russia bilateral talks held in Moscow



Deputy Prime Minister and MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe (L) is seen alongside Russian Foreign Minister Mr Sergey Lavrov at the joint press briefing in Moscow yesterday.

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe, who paid a working visit to the Russian Federation at the invitation of Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Mr Sergey Lavrov, arrived at Tolmachevo International Airport in Novosibirsk, the Russian Federation, on 12 September 2023. At the airport, the Myanmar delegation was welcomed by officials con-

cerned from the Government of Novosibirsk Region.

The delegation led by the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister left for Moscow on 13 September. Upon arrival at Sheremetyevo International Airport in Moscow, the Myanmar delegation was welcomed by U Lwin Oo, Myanmar Ambassador to the Russian Federation, staff of the Myanmar Embassy, responsible officials from the

Protocol Department and Third Asia Department of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In the evening, the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister visited the Myanmar Embassy in Moscow and met Myanmar Ambassador U Lwin Oo, staff and families of the Myanmar Embassy, and attended the dinner hosted by the Myanmar Ambassador.

On 14 September, the Myanmar-Russia Bilateral Talks were

held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. The meeting was co-chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar U Than Swe, and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Mr Sergey Lavrov. Also in attendance were Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Mr Andrey Rudenko, and senior officials from the Foreign Ministries of Myanmar and the Russian Federation.

At the meeting, both sides cordially exchanged views and discussed a wide range of topics, including consolidation of the longstanding friendship and acceleration of ongoing bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and Russia, with a particular focus on closer collaboration between the two foreign ministries, establishment of Myanmar Consulates-General in St Petersburg and Novosibirsk, cooperation in defence, security, tourism and people-to-people linkages, economy and trade, banking, energy, industry, education, and information, amongst others. The Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister expressed Myanmar's profound appreciation to the Russian Federation for its prin-

cipled position, understanding and consistent support towards Myanmar in both bilateral and multilateral contexts, the United Nations in particular. The Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister, on behalf of the government and people of Myanmar, also expressed deep gratitude to the Russian Federation for donating Covid-19 vaccines during the Covid-19 pandemic and for providing humanitarian assistance to the victims of Cyclone Mocha on 9 September 2023.

Subsequently, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister U Than Swe attended a joint press briefing together with Russian Foreign Minister Mr Sergey Lavrov.

In the afternoon, Mr Sergey Lavrov hosted a working luncheon for the Myanmar delegation at the Foreign Ministry of the Russian Federation. During the luncheon, the ministers also exchanged views on recent developments in their respective countries as well as on regional and international matters of common interest.

Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister U Than Swe and delegation departed from Moscow in the evening for Minsk, Republic of Belarus. — MNA

# NATIONAL

## Myanmar ready to start repatriation and resettlement of displaced persons : Union Border Affairs Minister



Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung presides over the coordination committee meeting 1/2023 yesterday.

THE chairman of the work coordination committee led international diplomats including those from the Chinese Embassy on their visits to Rakhine State two times to observe preparations for the pilot project of repatria-

tion of displaced persons under the bilateral agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh, said Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung yesterday.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun

Tun Naung, who is also in the capacity of Chairman of the Rakhine State Stability, Peace and Development Work Coordination Committee, delivered a speech at the meeting 1/2023 of the committee at the Ministry

of Border Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

He continued to say that currently, Myanmar is ready to start reception and resettlement of displaced persons at any time, adding that development undertakings in the state

have achieved success to some extent.

Vice-Chair 1 Union Minister at the Union Government Office 2 U Ko Ko Hlaing and Vice-Chair 2 Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win discussed the progress of Rakhine State in all aspects, verifying reception of displaced persons, explaining progress in resettlement measures to the diplomats, humanitarian aid for displaced persons, functions of reception centres and preparations to accept displaced persons.

The meeting also focused on the verification of population, international cooperation, preparations to accept those persons, socioeconomic development and security measures. — MNA/TTA

## MoC Union Minister leaves for China-ASEAN Construction Ministers' Meeting

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant left Yangon for China yesterday evening to attend the China-ASEAN Construction Ministers' Meeting to be held in Nanning, capital of Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, from 15 to 17 September.

The meeting will be attended by the Chinese Minister for Housing and Urban-Rural Development and invited ministers of ASEAN countries. — MNA/MKKS



Union Minister U Myo Thant (2R) is pictured before the departure to China.



Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo (C) is seen before leaving for China yesterday.

## Union Commerce Minister leaves for 20<sup>th</sup> China-ASEAN Expo, 20<sup>th</sup> China-ASEAN Business & Investment Summit

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Commerce U Aung Naing Oo left for China yesterday morning to attend the 20<sup>th</sup> China-ASEAN Expo and the 20<sup>th</sup> China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit to be held in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in China,

from 16 to 19 September with a view to ensuring the development of BRI (Belt and Road Initiative).

The Union minister was accompanied by the chairperson of the Mandalay City Development Committee, ministers from the Mandalay Region government and Yan-

gon Region government, the director-general of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization and 209 entrepreneurs.

Myanmar will display rice, marine products, fruits, coffee, green tea, spices, things made of wood, textiles and clothing, handicrafts and gems at 80 booths. — MNA/MKKS

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 increase of death rate due to the disease.

## Myanmar joins 7<sup>th</sup> China-ASEAN Summit for Drug Development and Cooperation



The group documentary photo of the Seventh China-ASEAN Summit for Drug Development and cooperation in China yesterday.

MYANMAR delegation led by Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win attended the opening ceremony of the Seventh China-ASEAN Summit for Drug Development and Cooperation in Fanchenggang, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the People's Republic of China yesterday.

Speaking at the event, the Union minister said the China-ASEAN Summits for Drug Development and Cooperation plays a key role in promoting the cooperation for medical development. This year's theme is "Conveying the Voice of Traditional Chinese Medicine to the World, ushering in a new future for traditional medi-

cines".

He added that the summit will focus on quality assurance, assessment, capacity building and strategic related matters and exchange the policy and regulations for traditional medicines. International cooperation is key to overcoming the challenges in traditional medicine sectors.

He then highlighted the systematic duties of the Food and Drug Administration (Myanmar) that assure the quality and safety of traditional medicines, medical-related materials, health supplements, foodstuffs, public health and registration of food and medicines.

Then, the heads of China and ASEAN traditional medicine sources coordinated the discussion and Dr Su Su Dwe, Director-General of the Traditional Medicine Department of the Ministry of Health presented the progress in the traditional medicine sector of Myanmar, its policies, research and Withama traditional medicine for COVID-19 treatment.

At noon, the Myanmar delegation attended the opening ceremony of the China-ASEAN drug control officials training course, a discussion on policy for traditional drug development and China-ASEAN medicine production and export-related events. — MNA/KTZH

## International-standard trade zones, border checkpoints to be established

THE first meeting of the Assessment and Reporting Committee to establish trade zones and border checkpoints in line with international standards was conducted at the Ministry of Planning and Finance yesterday.

Committee Chair U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance, told the meeting that the committee was formed after the State Administration Council had accepted the suggestion of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. The committee's objective is to access the necessary measures that may contribute to the establishment of trade zones and border checkpoints close to border lines in the same manner the neighbouring countries are practising complying with international norms, he added.

The chairman also explained that such kind of establishment will facilitate officials in their attempts to check and control export and import processes, and immigration measures and eradicate illegal trade, lessening the unmatching of trading lists between the checkpoints of the two countries while enhancing trade cooperation with neighbouring countries.

He also highlighted the existence of towns and villages between the border lines and the border checkpoints that can enable illegal trade routes.

The committee chairman also pointed out that trade zones and border checkpoints of Myanmar are required to be established next to border lines as the country has to implement the ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS), Single Window Inspection (SWI) and Single Stop Customs Inspection (SSCI) under the agreements of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT) and Greater Mekong Sub-Region Cross Border Transport Agreement (GMS-CBTA).

The chairman also urged regional/state-level work committees to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of existing border trading facilities and provide suggestions for establishing international-standard border trading zones and checkpoints and measures to eradicate illegal trade.

The participants then discussed matters relating to their area of work and the chairman coordinated and fulfilled the requirements. — MNA/TH

## Confiscation of illegal items: timbers, fuel oil, foodstuffs, industrial materials and vehicles

A combined team led by the District Forest Department under the supervision of Nay Pyi Taw Council Territory Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force made inspections on 12 September and captured a total of 6.022 tonnes of illegal teak and 1.178 tonnes of other illegal timbers worth K2,316,070 in Lewe and Ottarithiri districts. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

An on-duty team confiscated a Mitsubishi canter and a light truck (approximately K27 million) carrying three kinds of goods worth K33.45 million including 300 bottles of cooking oil (A Shrimp

brand) and 3,000 bags of Yum Yum instant noodle near Kyakalay-Zathapyin-Mawlamyine road in Hpa-an township on the same day. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The combined on-duty teams nabbed K232.1 million worth of 136 bags of industrial raw materials (used) at the Shwedana vintage shop, 305 bags of industrial raw materials (used) at the 99 vintage shops and 843 bales of raw industrial materials (used) at the Ma Than Shwe vintage shop, a Nissan Diesel truck (approximately K45 million), headed to Yangon from Myawady, carrying

170 Linglong tyres worth K10,626,020 that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) near Bago tollgate and a Yutong bus (estimated value of K140 million), headed to Yangon from Myawady,

carrying two kinds of goods worth K14.44 million including 140 Kate cool refrigerants near the zero mile post in Yangon on the same day. The action was taken under Customs procedures.



Confiscated illegal items in Yangon Region.

Similarly, a combined team impounded a SKAT and a LIFAN (estimated value of K30 million) carrying illegal fuel oil – 1,845 gallons of diesel, 1,845 gallons of petroleum – worth K60.885 million near Phakant-Lonekhin road in Phakant township on 13 September. The action was taken under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

As a result, a total of 14 arrests were made on 12 and 13 September, with an estimated value of K595,817,090, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

# OPINION

## Share knowledge of democracy with people

**M**YANMAR is on an earnest journey towards democracy, a transformation that its people have long yearned for, primarily driven by the 2008 Constitution. This democratic evolution seeks to enhance the socioeconomic well-being of its citizens. Presently, the government is diligently laying the groundwork for a democratic and federal union, catering to the diverse needs of all ethnic groups within the nation.

This year's International Day of Democracy theme, "Empowering the Next Generation", places a spotlight on the pivotal role that young individuals play in advancing democracy. It underscores the necessity of including their voices in decisions that wield profound influence over their world.

The United Nations acknowledges that democracies globally face persistent threats such as unresolved conflicts, the escalating menace of climate change, and financial instability. UN Secretary-General António Guterres, on the International Day of Democracy, issues a sombre warning that "the walls are closing in on civic spaces". He identifies the current proliferation of misinformation and disinformation as a corrosive influence, tainting public discourse, sowing division in communities, and eroding trust in institutions.

Consequently, the people of Myanmar are perseveringly working towards establishing a democratic system that resonates with the very essence of democracy. By doing so, the new generations of Myanmar will enjoy the fruits of democratic practices and a nurturing environment guided by the four cardinal virtues. These virtues underscore the importance of unity, compassion, altruism, and self-reliance, fostering a spirit of mutual support to surmount any challenges that come their way.

This approach paves the way for all ethnicities in Myanmar to transcend divergent viewpoints and establish a society founded on the principles of equity. UNESCO emphasizes that the International Day of Democracy serves as an occasion to assess the state of democracy globally. Democracy is not just a destination but an ongoing process. Only through comprehensive participation and support from the international community, national governing bodies, civil society, and individuals can the ideal of democracy be transformed into a tangible reality accessible to all, irrespective of location.

Consequently, the people of Myanmar are perseveringly working towards establishing a democratic system that resonates with the very essence of democracy. By doing so, the new generations of Myanmar will enjoy the fruits of democratic practices and a nurturing environment guided by the four cardinal virtues. These virtues underscore the importance of unity, compassion, altruism, and self-reliance, fostering a spirit of mutual support to surmount any challenges that come their way.

### Introduction

1. May I start with a well-known and universally accepted old proverb, "Knowledge is power". In this connection, I would also like to quote an extract from a famous speech by Abraham Lincoln, known as the father of freedom from slavery in the United States of America's history. It reads: "With malice towards none; with charity for all, with firmness in the right." So, with firmness, I would like to assert that "knowledge is power". Ignorance or lack of knowledge is a shame and sin. Well, to be free from shame and sin in our lives, we should go on learning to gain knowledge. Learning is a life-long process. "No educative process is ever the end, it is always the beginning of more education, more learning, more living."<sup>1</sup> Knowledge and Human Resources are inseparable. "Reading makes the people developed and that the developed people go on reading."<sup>2</sup>

2. Well, what does investment mean? "Investment in something means the act of investing money in something." And "invest something in something" means to buy property, shares in a company etc., in the hope of making a profit"<sup>3</sup>. In connection with the

# An investment in knowledge pays the best interest

U Khin Maung (A retired diplomat)

topic "an investment in knowledge pays the best interest; may I mention some more writings about knowledge and education". They know enough who know how to learn "Only the educated are free". The more we study, the more we discover our ignorance. And often in the modification, the more we know, the more we don't know. Mr Benjamin Disraeli, a famous writer, again said, "To be conscious that you are ignorant is a great step to knowledge"<sup>1</sup>

3. I would also like to present to you Myanmar proverbs and some words of wisdom, "on knowledge and education", translated into English by myself, an old learner: "In this world of ours, education, knowledge, skill, art and craft are really our true friends". The light of knowledge and skill is really

so bright and brilliant that each and every one, all and sundry have got to wonder at that.<sup>4</sup> "Of the lights, firelight, moonlight and sunlight; moonlight is brighter than firelight. Sunlight is brighter than moonlight. Ah, the light of knowledge is the brightest of them all. No light is there brighter than the light of knowledge. As such, Lord Buddha has preached. Therefore, all and sundry, each and every one should strive to acquire knowledge. Good knowledge is just like a Badeithabin tree, a tree of plenty and an inexhaustible store.<sup>5</sup> Western scholars have also asserted that the "brain is just like a muscle". You use it or you lose it. So, if you want to keep your brain sharp, active and alert, go brain-jogging." "Go brain-jogging" means read, read and read. As a



Knowledge refers to the information and understanding that a person acquires through learning and experience, while wisdom is the ability to apply that knowledge in a thoughtful and discerning manner. PHOTO: PIXABAY

matter of fact, learning is a never-ending process. We live to learn and learn to live. A day without learning is a day lost". So, let us go on learning continuously to get the best interest in our investment in knowledge.

4. In brief, I would like to advise you on the strength of the following words of wisdom to keep on learning and getting better every day.

- "Knowledge is not static. It is accumulating and expanding all the time. In the quest for knowledge, there must be a strong will and perseverance."
- "We should create a desire and dedication to update and upgrade ourselves continuously"
- "Knowledge is power" seems to have quite a following these days."
- "The object of education should be to increase the usefulness of man, usefulness to himself, and usefulness to others."

5. In conclusion, may I also advise you, in view of the coronavirus global pandemic, that we should seek knowledge about the global pandemic by constantly learning

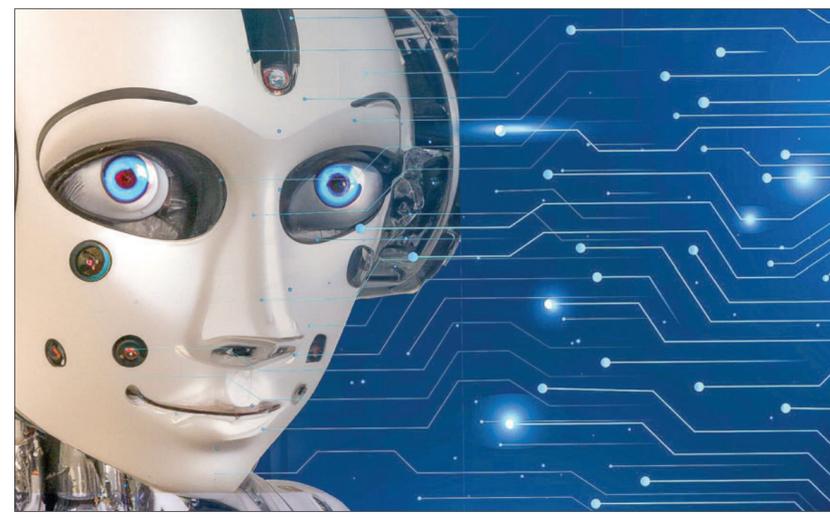
from the news media about the protective and preventive measures from that pandemic, by staying at home, by wearing masks, when going outside, by washing hands quite often and keeping a physical distance from each other. We have a saying. If informally translated into English, I think, it may read. It is knowledge and wisdom that safeguard one's life and longevity. It is fate or destiny that plays a decisive role in making wealth, well-being or fortune.<sup>6</sup>

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- (4) ဤလောကမှာ တတ်ပညာ၊ မှန်စွာ မိတ်ကောင်းပါ။ ပညာအရောင် ထွန်းလင်းခြင်း၊ ငြိမ်းခြင်းနှင့်ကြုံခြင်း။
- (5) မီးရောင်၊ လရောင်၊ နေအရောင်၊ ဉာဏ်အရောင်လွှမ်းမိုးပြီး၊ ပညာသမား၊ အာတာနုတ္တိ၊ မြတ်မုနိ၊ ဟောရုံကျွမ်းကျင်ကိုး။ ထို့ကြောင့်များစွာ ၊ လူတကာ ပညာရအောင် ကြိုးစား။
- (6) ပညာကောင်းမှာ ၊ ပဒေသာ သုံးရာမကုန်နိ။ အသက်ကို ဉာဏ်စောင့် ၊ ဥစ္စာကို ကံစောင့်။

# How cyber scammers are trying to make AI tools pay

AI, including chatbots, is accelerating the pace of cyber attacks, potentially making them more sophisticated and harder to detect.



The emerging threat of cybercriminals using chatbots to enhance the effectiveness of phishing scams has prompted cybersecurity experts to intensify their efforts to develop advanced detection and prevention measures. PHOTO: PIXABAY

**P**ROponents of artificial intelligence say its potential is limitless. But cyber scammers could also use it to their advantage.

Analysts explained to AFP how the technology could increase the risk from online crime.

### Phishers of emails

Chatbots are the best-known of all AI tools thanks to the rampant success of ChatGPT and many that have come afterwards, not least Google's Bard.

Phishing is the most ubiquitous form of cyber scam, and involves criminals posing as a company or an individual sending batches of emails that include links to counterfeit websites or malware.

The two worlds are already starting to collide, with cybercriminals trading tips in online forums

on the best ways to get chatbots to generate phishing emails.

The big players block users from generating these kinds of emails, so developers have designed programmes aimed at creating phishing messages — FraudGPT and WormGPT among them.

The effectiveness of these tools has yet to be tested, with Gerome Billois of consulting firm Wavestone telling AFP: "We're only at the very beginning."

Experts say the major skill of chatbots for phishing gangs is to generate fairly clean prose.

One of the telltale signs of a phishing email has long been dodgy spelling and scattergun punctuation.

"AI accelerates the pace of attacks," said Billois.

The FBI said it received 300,497 complaints about phish-

ing scams last year, with losses suffered worth \$52 million.

### Attack of the clones

Earlier this year, US mother Jennifer DeStefano explained how she received a call from her daughter begging for help, before being told by a kidnapper to pay \$1 million ransom. "I never doubted for one second it was her," she told local media.

Only the voice was an AI-generated imitation and DeStefano quickly uncovered the ruse.

But it points to the risk of a future where deepfake impersonations of loved ones or colleagues appear on phone or video calls — a development that could be a gold mine for scammers. With a recording of just few seconds of a person's voice, online tools can produce an imitation capable of tricking employees or friends.

Jerome Saiz, founder of the French OPFOR Intelligence consultancy, said "a whole industry of small-time crooks" already adept at extorting credit card details through text messages was likely to start using such tools.

He told AFP such scammers were often young and skilled with technical tools.

### A programming guide

One of the much-vaunted talents of chatbots such as ChatGPT has been their ability to generate passable computer code.

Scammers could employ those skills to create malware capable of locking a victim's computer or gaining access to files or accounts.

There are claims online that the new breed of bespoke chatbots are able to perform this kind of operation but solid evidence is

hard to come by.

Chatbots can certainly identify flaws in existing code and even generate malicious code but they cannot execute it directly.

Saiz said he could see AI helping scammers who have little talent to become more skilled — a kind of coding tutor. "But someone starting from scratch is not going to get ChatGPT to code malware for them," he said.

Saiz, who generally gets called when something major has gone wrong, said he had not seen any evidence that any of his cases over the past year had involved AI.

Shawn Surber of US cybersecurity firm Tanium is equally cautious. "Much of the concern over how generative AI will affect risks for businesses is based on fear of the unknown rather than specific threats," he said.

SOURCE: AFP

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### MoH constructs central vaccine cold storage in Yangon

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Health, a central vaccine cold storage in Yangon, capable of storing vaccines required for Myanmar for one year, was constructed in Mayangon Township at a cost of K2.3 billion. The facility was jointly built by the Ministry of Health and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to accommodate the increasing availability of vaccines and to store medicine and medical supplies.

The new four-storey building comprises seven walk-in coolers, four walk-in freezers, ultra-cold chain freezers capable of storing vaccines at minus 80 degrees Celsius, a dry store for syringes and related materials, offices, and meeting rooms. Additionally, it includes a training hall for approximately 400 people,

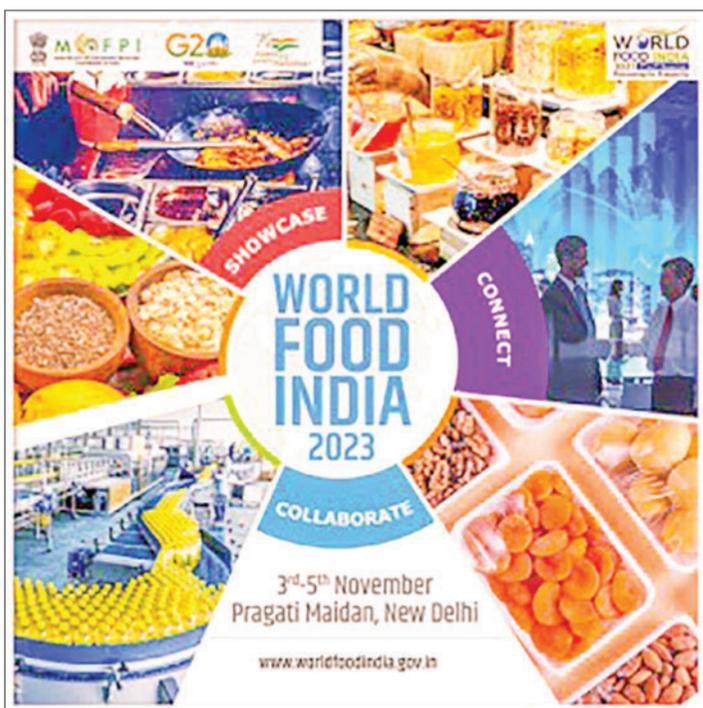


The four-storey central vaccine storage cold room (Yangon) in Mindhamma Road, Mayangon Township.

accommodation for about 50 trainees, passenger elevators, freight elevators, solar power systems, two 300 kVA backup generators, and a 10,000-gallon water tank. It is reported that this facility can store the nationwide vaccine requirement for one year.

The Union minister said that the central vaccine cold storage in Yangon will enable systematic transport of various vaccines without compromising their cold chain integrity, leading to more efficient vaccination operations. — TWA/CT

### Myanmar entrepreneurs invited to World Food India 2023



An advertisement of the World Food India 2023.

BUSINESSPEOPLE in Myanmar have been invited to participate in World Food India 2023, scheduled to be held in New Delhi from 3 to 5 November, as announced by the Union of Myanmar Federation of Cham-

bers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).

The event will feature participation from food manufacturers, equipment manufacturers, logistics companies, cold storage operators, entre-

preneurs, and retailers from various countries.

The exhibition will offer opportunities for mutually beneficial partnerships, with discussions focused on various topics and countries. Moreover, participating food manufacturers and suppliers can explore opportunities in India's agriculture and food production sectors through their involvement in the exhibition.

For those interested in joining as a partner country, a booth covering at least 400 square metres is required. Meanwhile, those participating as a focus country must have a booth covering at least 200 square metres.

Organizations affiliated with UMFCCI and entrepreneurs interested in participating in World Food India 2023 can enquire with the Committee on Exhibitions, the UMFCCI office, the Membership Department, and the Exhibition Department for further details. — TWA/CT

### Over 430 Myanmar workers under EPS leave for ROK in Sept

A total of 434 Myanmar workers were legally sent to the Republic of Korea through the Employment Permit System (EPS) in September, according to a statement from Myanmar's Embassy in Seoul.

Those Myanmar workers are to be engaged in manufacturing, agriculture and livestock industries.

Under the EPS, 142 new workers for the manufacturing industry on 5 September, 105 for the manufacturing industry on 6 September, 40 for the agriculture and livestock industry and 147 for manufacturing on 12

September, including 126 new workers and 22 experienced workers with re-entry permits.

The labour attaché of the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul welcomed them at the Incheon Airport and intimated the do's and don'ts and work etiquette to them and fulfilled their needs.

The ROK decided to recruit 100,000 foreign workers in 2023 under the EPS, with 75,000 designated for manufacturing businesses, 14,000 for agriculture and livestock, 7,000 for fisheries, 3,000 for construction and 1,000 for service industries. — TWA/EM



The photo shows the arrival of 151 Myanmar MoU workers at Incheon International Airport on 13 September.

### MAI imports Boeing 737 cargo aircraft to carry out Myanmar aviation cargo transport

MYANMAR Airways International (MAI) has imported a Boeing 737 cargo plane to facilitate aviation cargo transportation in Myanmar and has initiated foreign aviation trade operations.

MAI, a leading airline in the evolving landscape of Myanmar's aviation sector, has consistently been at the forefront of developments. Currently, MAI is engaged in a joint venture based on the ACMI system with My Indo Airlines (2Y). A welcoming ceremony, which included a water salute, was held at Yangon International Airport on 13 Sep-

tember to mark the arrival of a Boeing 737 cargo plane.

The introduction of the Boeing 737 cargo plane underscores the airline's commitment to expanding aviation cargo services, bolstering Myanmar's economic growth through the efficient flow of goods, and connecting the country to global trade routes.

The event was attended by prominent figures in the aviation transport industry, including officials from the Department of Civil Aviation, MAI representatives, and partners from the aviation cargo transport sector. — TWA/CT

# LOCAL BUSINESS



The country produces 450,000 tonnes of sugar per year and exports between 70,000 and 90,000 tonnes of sugar to Viet Nam yearly. The picture depicts workers loading harvested sugarcane onto the vehicle.

## Myanmar to ship 10,000 tonnes of sugar to Viet Nam in 2023-24 sugarcane season

A total of 10,000 tonnes of sugar produced in the 2023-2024 sugarcane season will be exported to Viet Nam, according to U Win Htay, Vice-Chair of Myanmar Sugar and Cane Related Products Association.

Viet Nam has offered to purchase 10,000 tonnes of Myanmar sugar in the 2023-2024 sugarcane season, and the two sides are now negotiating regarding the sugar prices and

proper period of sugar production and shipment.

“They (Viet Nam) send a letter saying they want to buy our sugar. The sugar season is in December so we can sell in 2023-2024 new sugarcane season. Currently, we prioritize the local consumption,” he added.

Although the country received sugarcane and sugar demand from many foreign

countries, it will export only to Viet Nam considering the local production rate and consumption.

The high foreign demand makes sugar prices increase locally. The sugar mills in northern Shan State also offer K110,000 per tonne of sugarcane and they also might increase the prices.

The country produces 450,000 tonnes of sugar per

year and exports between 70,000 and 90,000 tonnes of sugar to Viet Nam yearly. Moreover, it also explores new sugarcane plantation areas and invites investors in sugarcane cultivation and sugar production. Approximately, 450,000-500,000 acres are covered by sugarcane across the country, with an annual production of 500,000 tonnes of sugar. — ASH/KTZH

## Border trade surges beyond US\$4 billion in April-August period

MYANMAR'S border trade totalled US\$4.1 billion as of 1 September in the 2023-2024 financial year beginning 1 April. Myanmar's exports surpassed imports in border trade, with exports worth \$2.63 billion and imports valued at \$1.47 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The value of border trade was estimated at \$3.37 billion in the corresponding period last FY, including exports worth \$2.49 billion and imports valued at \$879 million.

The figures showed an increase of \$737.7 million over the past five months of this FY compared to that recorded in the same period of the previous year.

Myanmar conducts cross-border trade with the neighbouring countries (China, Thailand, Bangladesh and India). Of them, Thailand was ranked first with \$2.39 billion, including exports worth \$1.67 billion and imports worth \$718 million. China was placed second in border trade with \$1.706 billion, comprising exports worth \$950.577 million and imports worth \$755.59 million. The value of cross-border trade with Bangladesh and India stood at \$7.448 million and \$2.29 million respectively.

There are 16 border posts between Myanmar and the neighbouring countries; with China through Muse, Lweje, Chinshwehaw, Kampaiti and Kengtung, with Thailand through Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Tachilek and Mawtaung, with Bangladesh through Sittway and Maungtaung, Laos through Kenglat and India through Tamu and Reed.

Myanmar conveys agricultural products, livestock products, fishery products, minerals, forest products, manufacturing goods and other goods to the neighbouring countries.

Myanmar imports capital goods, consumer goods, intermediate goods and raw materials from the CMP enterprises to increase incomes of foreign exchange. — KK

## Black cardamom to enter Chinese market

KACHIN State is set to export black cardamom, a spice native to its mountainous region, to China as a new export item. This spice, with existing demand in China for both culinary and medicinal purposes, will be showcased by MSME entrepreneurs from Kachin State at the 20<sup>th</sup> China ASEAN Expo in Nanning from 16 to 19 September.

U Tun Tun Naing, the central executive member of the MSME Entrepreneurs Association, highlighted that exporting black cardamom to China as a new item would generate local employment opportunities and boost trade volume.

Black cardamom thrives in



Black cardamom thrives in swampy soil and is already popular in Kachin State as both a spice and medicine.

swampy soil and is already popular in Kachin State as both a spice and medicine. The Kachin

State Department of Agriculture estimates that the region produces 15,000 tonnes of black

cardamom plants, primarily for the domestic market. — MNA/KZL

# ECONOMY WORLD

## Thailand to offer Chinese tourists visa-free entry

Thailand's tourism sector plays a crucial role in its economy, contributing to nearly 20 per cent of its GDP. However, it has faced significant challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic and evolving travel preferences.



Pattaya, a quiet fishing village as recently as the 1960s, it's now lined with resort hotels, high-rise condos, shopping malls, cabaret bars and 24-hour clubs. A vendor sells brooms and dusters from his motorbike in Pattaya, Thailand. **PHOTO: AFP**

CHINESE tourists will enjoy visa-free entry to Thailand from the end of September under a temporary scheme announced by the kingdom's newly formed cabinet Wednesday.

Thailand's vital tourism sector accounts for almost 20 per cent of its GDP but has struggled in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic and changing traveller habits.

In particular, Chinese tourists — accounting for the largest percentage of Thailand's visitors, with some 11 million

touring the country in 2019 — have been slow to return.

Under the current rules, they can apply for a visa on arrival but must demonstrate travel insurance, hotel bookings, and proof of funds exceeding \$280 at immigration for a maximum stay of 15 days.

Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin said the new scheme would run from 25 September until 29 February next year and would “test if there is any impact (on the Thai economy)”.

There were no details

about how long Chinese tourists might be able to stay under the arrangement.

“We have discussed with all relevant parties to make sure that we are fully ready,” Srettha told reporters after his first cabinet meeting.

Officials said they estimate the scheme, which also includes Kazakhstan, could bring a total of 30 million visitors this year, up from 11 million in 2022. “It's a quick win for Thailand,” government spokesperson Chai Watcharong said. — AFP

## US consumer inflation ticks up in August on gasoline prices

CONSUMER inflation in the United States picked up in August for a second straight month, according to government data released Wednesday, putting the heat on policymakers as they work to lower prices.

The consumer price index (CPI), a key inflation gauge, jumped 3.7 per cent from a year ago, picking up pace from July's 3.2 per cent figure, said the Labour Department. But a measurement stripping out volatile segments cooled.

All eyes are on the report, which is expected to have a bearing on the US central bank's interest rate decision released next week.

The Federal Reserve has lifted the benchmark lending rate rapidly since March last year to tamp down demand and sustainably lower inflation — but the current figure remains stubbornly above officials' two percent goal.

In August, higher gasoline

costs bumped up headline inflation but the “core” reading — removing the volatile food and energy components — cooled to 4.3 per cent on an annual basis.

“The index for gasoline was the largest contributor to the monthly all items increase, accounting for over half of the increase,” said the Labour Department.

The department added that the shelter index, which takes into account rent, continued advancing — rising for a 40<sup>th</sup> consecutive month.

Between July and August, CPI rose 0.6 per cent, accelerating from the prior month too.

While the latest report could give the Fed some pause, analysts expect it may not translate to further rate hikes.

If “core” readings continue to weaken, “that will be taken as a sign by the Fed that perhaps further tightening is not necessary”, said Gregory Daco, EY chief economist. — AFP



Gasoline prices bumped up the US inflation reading in August, ahead of policymakers' key interest rate decision. **PHOTO: AFP**

## China's fast-growing e-commerce market benefits Thai exporters: study

CHINA'S fast-growing e-commerce market has provided potential benefits to Thai businesses with its cross-border trade boom, a Thai Commerce Ministry study showed on Tuesday.

The Chinese government has implemented regulations and set up 165 pilot cross-border e-commerce (CBEC) zones in 33 cities and areas. These zones facilitate the sale of Chinese products on foreign websites and the sale of foreign products on Chi-



A staff member arranges durian pulps at a fruit products company in Chanthaburi Province, Thailand, on 17 August 2023. **PHOTO: WANG TENG/XINHUA**

nese websites, according to the study released by the ministry's Trade Policy and Strategy Office (TPSO).

Trading through the CBEC is key to tapping into Chinese markets. It will help Thai entrepreneurs increase their opportunities due to its tax benefits as well as faster and simpler customs procedures, said Poonpong Nainapakorn, director of the TPSO, in the report.

Entrepreneurs should exam-

ine the legal, geographical and cultural factors of their target customers in China, Poonpong noted, adding that effective communication with prospective customers requires matching the platform to the product.

According to the report, citing China's Customs data, the value of imports and exports through the CBEC reached 150 billion US dollars in the first half of 2023, representing a 16-per-cent year-on-year growth. — Xinhua

# Maersk unveils world's first bio-methanol container ship

EUROPEAN Commission head Ursula von der Leyen on Thursday christened the world's first bio-methanol container ship, Laura, which joined the fleet of Danish shipping giant Maersk.

Built in South Korea by Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI) and fitted with a dual-fuel engine, Laura is a relatively small model that will be able to transport 2,136 20-foot (TEU) containers.

It will begin operating in the Baltic Sea in Octo-

ber, Maersk said.

"Green methanol is our fuel of choice ... because it is the only scalable solution that can meet the net-zero (carbon emissions) requirements," Maersk chief executive Vincent Clerc said during Thursday's inauguration ceremony in Copenhagen's harbour.

"Neither we nor the climate can afford complacency or waiting for other solutions to emerge in the late 2020s," he added.

In line with tradition

for christening vessels, van der Leyen then swung a bottle of champagne across the ship's hull.

Green methanol, also known as "e-methanol", is composed of waste carbon dioxide (CO2) and "green hydrogen", which is created by using renewable energy to split water molecules.

Over the past two years, Maersk, the world leader in container shipping, has ordered 25 vessels that run on green methanol. — AFP



European Commission head Ursula von der Leyen on Thursday christened the world's first bio-methanol container ship, Laura. PHOTO: AFP

## Bulgaria lifts ban on Ukraine grain imports



Farmers harvesting a wheat field in Ukraine's Kharkiv region last year. The United Nations says ideas are being floated to help get Ukrainian grain to global markets. PHOTO: AFP

BULGARIA decided on Thursday not to extend a ban on Ukrainian grain imports in five eastern EU nations that is set to expire this week.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has closed off Black Sea shipping routes used before the war, resulting in the EU becoming a major transit route and export destination for Ukrainian grain.

But in June, the EU agreed to restrict Ukrain-

ian grain imports to five member states, seeking to protect their farmers who blamed the imports for a slump in prices on local markets. The five member states are Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.

Bulgaria's parliament voted 124-69 on Thursday for a resolution to end the ban, citing "solidarity with Ukraine" and the need to "guarantee food security on a global scale". — AFP

## Former Starbucks CEO Schultz steps down from board

STARBUCKS said Wednesday its former chief executive Howard Schultz will step down from the coffee chain's board of directors "as part of a planned transition".

Schultz, who ended his third stint as CEO in March, helped transform the brand from a small coffee shop into an international chain over the decades. "I look forward to supporting this next generation of leaders to steward Starbucks into the future as a customer, supporter and advocate in my role as

chairman emeritus," the longtime Starbucks leader said in a statement.

In 2017, Schultz stepped aside as chief executive after his second tenure, handing the reins to Kevin Johnson. He later announced his retirement from the company and weighed a run for US president.

When Johnson left in 2022 after five years at the helm, Schultz returned as interim CEO, before Laxman Narasimhan took over the position in March this year. — AFP

## US auto union chief says 'preparing to strike' as talks deadlock

THE head of the US auto workers union announced Wednesday plans to strike by the three major Detroit automakers, saying the

two sides are still "very far apart" in contract negotiations.

"We are preparing to strike these companies in

a way they've never seen before," Shawn Fain, president of the United Auto Workers union, said of a stoppage that could be-

gin at a limited number of plants Friday morning and expand gradually while contract talks continue. — AFP

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (107N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (107N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-9-2023 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD



BYD electric cars waiting to be loaded on a ship are stacked at the international container terminal of Taicang Port at Suzhou Port, in China's eastern Jiangsu Province. **PHOTO: AFP**

## China warns EU car subsidy probe will have 'negative impact'

*China has expressed concerns that the EU's investigation will have a detrimental effect on trade relations between the EU and China. The Chinese Ministry of Commerce believes that the EU's measures are aimed at protecting its own industry under the guise of "fair competition".*

CHINA warned on Thursday a probe by the European Union into Chinese state subsidies for electric cars will have a "negative impact" on trade relations between the bloc and Beijing.

"The Chinese side believes that the EU's proposed investigative measures are to

protect its own industry in the name of 'fair competition'... and will have a negative impact on China-EU economic and trade relations," a commerce ministry statement said.

It said the investigation was "naked protectionist behaviour that will seriously

disrupt and distort the global automotive industry supply chain, including the EU".

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced the anti-subsidy investigation on Wednesday, vowing to protect the bloc's automakers against unfair competition. — AFP

## 'Huge' overfishing problem shows need to ratify ocean treaty: Greenpeace



The Greenpeace ship Arctic Sunrise is docked in Long Beach, California on 13 September 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

OVERFISHING in international waters has surged in the past five years and demonstrates the need to ratify a recent global treaty to protect the high seas, a Greenpeace report said Wednesday.

The non-governmental network is calling on as many countries as possible to sign the treaty next week at the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Finalized in June, the text was hailed as a "historic" accord with the potential to better safeguard the oceans. — AFP

## Argentina dismantles prolific Nazi printing press

ARGENTINE police have seized more than 200 Nazi publications and book covers and arrested the owner of a printing press run out of a home in suburban Buenos Aires, authorities said Wednesday.

After two years of investigations, police raided the home in San Isidro, where they found publications bearing swastikas and markings of the SS paramilitary group which played a key role in enforcing Nazi German leader Adolf Hitler's ideologies.

"We are stupefied by the amount of material. It is historic. This is a true printing press for the dissemination and sale of Nazi symbols, books, and indoctrination," police chief Juan Carlos Hernandez told a press conference.

He said the "high-quality

material" had been openly sold on e-commerce websites "with a high level of purchases and inquiries".

"We do not rule out that it is the tip of an iceberg. For now, we have cut the distribution lines, but the law also punishes those who consume" such material.

Hernandez explained that even exhibiting Nazi symbols was against Argentine laws because it "justifies, vindicates and even venerates the atrocities committed by the Nazi national socialist regime against the Jewish community".

After World War II, Argentina became a haven for Nazis, many of whom fled there with the blessing of president Juan Peron, according to the Nazi-hunting Simon Wiesenthal Center.

— AFP



Police seized more than 200 Nazi publications and book covers and arrested the owner. **PHOTO: AFP**

### TOP HEADLINE

#### Japan's Prince Hisahito tests positive for COVID-19

JAPAN'S Prince Hisahito, who is second in line to the imperial throne, has tested positive for COVID-19, the Imperial Household Agency said Thursday.

The nephew of Emperor Naruhito has a high fever and will rest at his residence until Monday, it said, adding the prince's parents, Crown Prince Fumihito and Crown Princess Kiko, have tested negative.

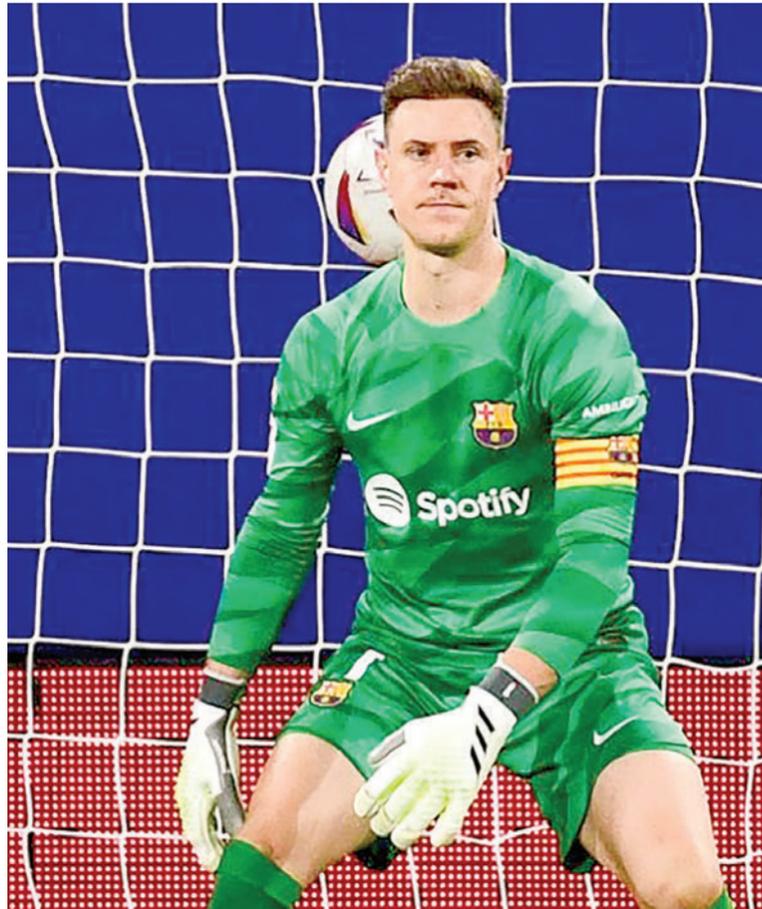
The prince, a second-year student at the Senior High School at Otsuka, University of Tsukuba, had a fever on Wednesday after returning from school but tested negative for COVID-19 at the time.

With the fever unabated on Thursday morning, he retook the test, and the infection was confirmed, the agency said.

The crown princess and crown prince's press conference at the Akasaka Estate in Tokyo about their official visit to Viet Nam scheduled for later this month has been postponed. — Kyodo

# SPORTS

## Barcelona hit by spending limit cut



Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen restructured his contract to help the club make signings in the summer. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

BARCELONA were dealt a blow on Thursday when the Spanish champions' spending limit for the season was cut to 270 million euros (\$290 million) by La Liga.

The Spanish top flight has strict spending controls which prevent clubs from continuing to overspend on player wages and transfers.

Barcelona's previous limit was 649 million euros (\$697 million), a figure inflated by the sale of future television rights income among a series of finan-

cial "levers" the club pulled.

The Catalans' current level of salary expenditure is around 400 million euros (\$429 million) per Spanish reports.

The punishment for exceeding the limit is being put under the division's spending cap, in which Barcelona will only be allowed to use around 50 per cent of income to improve their squad, until they make cuts to fall under the new limit.

The current situation means it is

unlikely Barcelona will conduct significant transfer business in January, with further cuts needed if they are to be in a position to reinforce next summer.

This is despite the departures of Sergio Busquets, Jordi Alba, Ousmane Dembele and several other players.

Goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen signed a new deal with the club in August until 2028, which allowed Barcelona to register new signings including loanees Joao Cancelo and Joao Felix. — AFP

## Spain women's league players call off strike after pay deal

FOOTBALLERS from Spain's women's top flight, Liga F, have called off a strike which postponed the first week of fixtures after an agreement over wages was reached, unions and the league said Thursday.

"Liga F and the unions have reached an agreement regarding the minimum wage that allows the strike to be called off," said Liga F in a statement.

Five unions, including AFE and Futpro, called a strike covering the first two rounds of fixtures last week.

"The deal is in regard to the minimum wage, the main cause of the strike — accepted by the players as an act of responsibility to the fans of the sport," said the unions in a statement.

Liga F has agreed to raise the minimum wage from 16,000 euros (\$17,000) a year to 21,000 euros (\$22,500) in the current season, rising to 23,500 euros (\$25,500) by the 2025-26 campaign.

Players were asking for a minimum wage starting at 23,000 euros from this season onwards.

However despite the strike being called off, the unions said there were various other issues on which agreements have not been reached after a year of negotiations.

"This step is the beginning and only a part of the agreement — now it is time to work to move forward on important points such as maternity, harassment protocol (and other aspects)," the unions added. Matches will now take place this weekend after the games on September 8-10 were not played. Last season a refereeing strike disrupted the first week of Liga F matches. — AFP

## Women to referee at men's Asian Cup for first time

WOMEN including Japanese trailblazer Yoshimi Yamashita will referee at the men's Asian Cup for the first time next year in Qatar, officials said Thursday.

Yamashita, who was also selected for the 2022 men's World Cup in Qatar, has been chosen alongside four other women for the regional championship in January-February. "For the first time ever, women match officials are poised to make their debut at Asia's most

prestigious men's national team competition," the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said in a statement. — AFP



Japanese trailblazer Yoshimi Yamashita. **PHOTO: AFC/AFP**

## Maguire can handle 'pressure' from mocking rival fans

HARRY Maguire said he can cope with the pressure of being in the spotlight for club and country after England manager Gareth Southgate condemned the "ridiculous treatment" meted out to the defender.

The Manchester United centre-back won his 59th cap as a substitute in England's 3-1 friendly win in Glasgow on Tuesday but his performance was marred by an own goal. Maguire was sarcastically cheered by Scotland fans every time he touched the ball.

"It's a joke," said Southgate. "I've never known a player treated the way he is — not by the Scottish fans, by our own commenta-

tors, pundits, whatever it is."

The 30-year-old has struggled for playing time at United under Erik ten Hag but has re-

mained a regular for England, who have reached the latter stages at the past three major tournaments. — AFP



Harry Maguire (right) scored an own goal in England's 3-1 friendly win over Scotland. **PHOTO: AFP**



## Venezuela will send its first astronaut to moon as part of China's mission

Venezuela is set to send its first astronaut to the moon through a partnership with China, reflecting their collaboration in various fields and the beginning of a new phase in their relations, focusing on mutual development and addressing contemporary challenges.

**V**ENEZUELA will send its first astronaut to the moon as part of a Chinese mission under scientific and technological cooperation with China, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said Wednesday.

"The symbol of the work of the committee on scientific, technological, industrial and aerospace cooperation (of the China-Venezuela commission) will sooner or later be the arrival of the first Venezuelan to the moon aboard a Chinese spacecraft," Maduro told the closing event of the 17<sup>th</sup> China-Venezuela High-Level Joint Commission in Beijing.

"Yesterday, we discussed with China's aerospace authorities that Venezuelan youth will soon come here to train to become astronauts in Chinese schools."

The president added that the results of the work of the commission and the Venezuelan authorities' state visit to China allow for the beginning of a new post-COVID-19 stage in the relations between the two countries,



On 12 September, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro visited the facilities of the China Academy of Aerospace Technology (CAST) in Beijing, where the Asian nation's most modern satellites are produced. **PHOTO: X/ @NOTICIA058**

meeting modern challenges and marked by growth and joint development.

Maduro added that new agreements

on Venezuelan food exports to China, cooperation in critical communications infrastructure, digital economy

and tourism development are among key bilateral achievements between the countries. — SPUTNIK

## UK Lords hand govt defeat in homebuilding pollution vote

THE UK government was defeated in parliament late Wednesday over its plans to ease EU-era restrictions on water pollution to boost homebuilding.

The opposition Labour party led the rare rebellion in the upper chamber House of Lords in a vote on removing existing "nutrient neutrality" rules.

The government says that up to 100,000 new homes could be built before 2030 if water pollution rules are eased—a claim disputed by opposition parties. "Don't pretend it's a choice between looking after our environment and building more houses, because it isn't," Labour's Nick Thomas-Symonds told BBC radio. Defeat in the unelected Lords usually means the proposal bounces back the elected lower House of Commons for another vote. — AFP

## Dedollarization accelerating within BRICS, across globe - Netley Group

*Over the past two decades, the dominance of the US dollar in global payments has been decreasing consistently. Goddard suggests that this trend is accelerating.*

DEDOLLARIZATION is happening at a steady rate within BRICS and in the global economy, although more work needs to be done to accelerate the process, Michael Goddard, the president of the Netley Group, told Sputnik.

"It will be amazing if BRICS can come up with some gold-backed trading currency. The dedollarization is happening fast. Over the last 20 years, you see the share of global payments in the dollar has gone down at a steady rate. This is getting even faster now," Goddard said.

At the same time, to "truly dedollarize," several aspects should be taken into account, he added.

"One is the trade aspect, a currency to trade in. So that's the easier part of this



Goddard suggests that if BRICS nations collaborate and back a currency, potentially with gold reserves, they could establish an electronic trade currency. **PHOTO: CRIS FAGA/NURPHOTO/AFP**

whole equation. For example, if BRICS can get together and somewhat back the currency maybe with gold reserves of

Russia, China, India, whoever, you could come up with a trade currency, sort of the currency that you have in your pocket to spend, but this will be an electronic currency for trade. Then you can very quickly get a significant share of global trade done in that currency," Goddard stated.

"The harder part" in efforts to replace the dollar lies in the reserve aspect of the currency, the Netley Group president noted. For instance, the United States' big advantage at the moment is the breadth of its bond market, Goddard explained.

"One of the ways, I think, BRICS could develop something to compete with that would be the technology to actually link the BRICS bond markets," the entrepreneur added. — SPUTNIK