

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Address delivered by State Administration Council Chairman, Prime Minister of Republic of Union of Myanmar, National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee Chairman, and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at NCA's Ninth Anniversary

Esteemed national brethren of the Union,

Today is the ninth anniversary of the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and EAOs. Leaders of the EAOs who took part in the signing ceremony, local and foreign witnesses, and all the national races of the entire Union, I wish you all good health and happiness, and may all your good wishes be fulfilled.

Since the signing of NCA, a firm determination was mutually made to jointly realize the terms of this Agreement without fail to achieve perpetual peace based on responsibility, accountability and transparency. I believe it still lives in the memories of all signatories.

To what extent could we realize the NCA with the aim of marching towards a new democratic country that is witnessing peace, stability, and progress everywhere amidst the many disturbances, and to what degree is the NCA on its track. It is common knowledge.

Esteemed national brethren,

NCA was established through many meetings and dialogues between officials of the stakeholder organizations. It is a historic Agreement of Myanmar. Talks were held thoroughly through mutual understanding and an array of compromises till a



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing speaks on the occasion of the Ninth Anniversary of the NCA yesterday.

bilateral consensus was reached. Since the signing of the Agreement, I have witnessed EAOs that respect the terms of the Agreement and stand by the interests of the country and the people, as well as the ones that break the terms of the Agreement at every opportune time for self-interest. The scope of NCA extends from nationwide ceasefire to perpetual peace and interest of the national races and democracy. The establishment of a Union based on democracy and federalism is in the

interest of the national races and democracy. It is common knowledge that Tatmadaw, with a genuine goodwill for national progress, made concessions by announcing unilateral ceasefire agreements many times three years after the signing of the NCA. It adopted policies for peace, explained them in detail, and rendered a helping hand. It also made overtures of negotiations, which is a policy for peace.

As differences in political views are the source of conflicts in

the country, invitations have been made to solve the political problems through political means. So, I would like to urge all to join the political dialogue in the interest of the country.

Esteemed national brethren,

In our march towards democracy, the entire people must genuinely enjoy the essence and culture of democracy. However, during the times when the country was under a democratic government, the essence of democ-

racy and democratic culture were still away from the people. We must bear in mind that democratic culture is the realization of the wishes or solving of the conflicts of individuals or organizations through peaceful means while avoiding any means of violence. During the second democratic government, the country lost its revenues, and its internal secrets fell victim to leakages due to overly putting trust in foreign countries as in history.

Even government authorities, who had the right to shoulder the State duties, wrongly exercised democratic practices. It is common knowledge that the vote-rigging of the then government in the 2020 election has left a black mark in history.

In all seriousness, I say that Tatmadaw regards the duty of safeguarding the country from all dangers befalling it for the long-term interest of the country and people as a responsibility shaped by historical demands. When an unexpected political change in Myanmar occurred in 2021, some EAOs, violating the terms of NCA, supported terrorist groups, NUG and CRPH, through a stratagem. They also provided aid and various support to PDF terrorist bands under those terrorist groups. Hence, peace and stability became weak in the entire country, and the people had to live in fear and a state of alarm.

SEE PAGE 3

NATIONAL

PAGE 5



Public participation key to strengthening rule of law and security

NATIONAL

PAGE 7



Silver Jubilee Performing Arts Competition continues 2nd day

NATIONAL

PAGE 12



Myanmar expresses interest in greater participation in OPCW's efforts

NATIONAL



Citizens yet to be counted in Nationwide Census to be reassessed



- The 2024 Nationwide Census activities were conducted from 1 to 15 October.
- The people who have not completed census processes due to various reasons can contact the relevant ward and village census committees and township census committees to collect census data again.
- Individuals can also contact 067 431062, 067 431359, 067 431067, 067 431339. — Central Census Commission

Youth: Balancing Self-Interest with Charity for Nation-Building

- All youths should balance self-interest with a spirit of charity.
- They must strive for personal improvement while fostering a commitment to public welfare and nation-building efforts.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony of presenting awards to out-standing students who passed the matric - ulation examination 2024 with distinctions in all subjects on 22 July 2024)

Ninth Anniversary of Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) marked

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing sent a video message to the ceremony to mark the 9th Anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Border Affairs National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Chairman Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing and members, those who participate in the peace process, chairmen, vice-chairmen, secretaries, central executive committee members and central committee members from NCA signatories Arakan Liberation Party-ALP, Democratic Kayin Benevolence Army-DKBA, Kayin National Union/Kayin National Liberation Army-Peace Council-KNU/KNLA-PC, Lahu Democratic Union-LDU, New Mon State Party-NMSP, Restoration Council of Shan State-RCSS, representatives of the working group of political parties and special



The Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) Ninth Anniversary event in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

guests.

At the ceremony, the Senior General delivered a video message.

Union Minister and NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung delivered a speech at the ninth anniversary of NCA.

A video clip on signing the NCA and holding the anniversary celebration was screened.

Those who participated in the peace process and witnesses in signing the NCA were UPWC Vice Chairman and Union Minister (Retd) U Aung Min,

Vice Chairman of UPWC Union Minister (Retd) U Thein Zaw, participants in the NCA Lt-Gen Myint Soe (Retd), Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo (Retd), U Zo Zam and U Ko Ko Gyi, JMC-U Vice Chairman-2 U Sai Myo Thant, JMC-U member U Pyae Sone and U Hla Maung Shwe from CPR gave NCA commemorative speeches.

Leaders of NCA signatory ethnic armed organizations ALP, DKBA, KNU/KNLA-PC, LDU, NMSP and RCSS also gave NCA commemorative speeches.

Gifts in commemoration of the ninth anniversary of the NCA were presented to those who strived to sign the NCA, signatory persons in NCA, NCA contributors and leaders of ethnic armed organizations and served the lunch in their honour.

In the afternoon, a workshop to mark the ninth anniversary of NCA took place, and Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung gave an opening address.

NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing explained the purpose of the workshop and its

agenda.

All participants discussed four papers submitted by the survey and paper presentation teams on the exercising the electoral system suitable for the current political landscape in the multiparty democratic general election, the power-sharing between the Union and region/state, and the appointment of chief ministers for regions and states, the strengthening of Union system and ethnic affairs, and the election of a genuine and disciplined multiparty democratic system and the role of political parties.

Moreover, those who participated in the peace process, representatives from EAOs, representatives from working groups of the political parties and guests exchanged views on current political landscape and holding the election, strengthening of democracy and federalism, ways to solve current armed conflicts, ways to accelerate peace process, and needs and ways for building the State and development measures.

Lt-Gen Min Naing clarified attitudes from the discussions.

NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung expressed his thanks to all participants for their discussions. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(Excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

Address delivered by State Administration Council Chairman, Prime Minister of Republic of Union of Myanmar, National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee Chairman, and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at NCA's Ninth Anniversary

FROM PAGE 1

The acts of the combined terrorist group, MNDAA, TNLA and AA that began in October 2023 have worsened the economic situation of the people. Before the incident, KNPP, KNDF, PNLO, KIA and KNU armed insurgents were committing destructive acts in various places. The consequence was the hardships that a large number of innocent people had to suffer. Multiple sources of support were found behind those terrorist acts. In this regard, the government is protecting the national interest through a correct view and proper arrangements.

Esteemed national brethren,

Driving forces such as politics, economy and defence must be better for the development of a country. Despite having more muscular political strength, the government should not be weak in the economic and defence industries. Leaders need to systematically manage the strengthening of the political sector, whereas all citizens have to strive for their respective industries. If so, individuals will be wealthy, and then the state economy will be boosted. Only when the country has stronger economic strength will the State have higher defence capability. Since its establishment, Tatmadaw was purposed to defend external enemies, not for internal security. Depending on the internal security situations of the State, when the government assigns, Tatmadaw has to serve the internal security duties.

Myanmar Tatmadaw, on its part, has been serving defence and internal security duties from the time of the AFPFL government in the post-independence era to date, in accordance with the assign-

ments. It has been proved that Tatmadaw, in successive eras, has dutifully served the assigned duties for the defence, peace and stability of the State. I would like to point out that it should not be assumed that Tatmadaw alone is responsible for the defence duty of the State, and it is necessary for all people to participate in national defence through their strength. According to the geographical and political conditions of the country, our country needs to prepare to serve the defence duties of the State carefully.

Nowadays, power struggles among powerful countries and their interference in political, economic and military affairs of small countries, territorial disputes among countries, terror attacks and internal instability can be seen across the world. In solving these problems, some try to cause internal conflicts to the regional conflicts. The majority of global countries form regional organizations to have country-wise strength and cooperate with one another in all sectors, including political and economic sectors. However, it is necessary to note that all countries prioritize taking a firm stand for their interests. I would like to urge all national brethren to notice which countries mastermind internal conflicts of neighbouring countries and global countries with attempts to recreate neocolonialism.

In order to influence small countries, it can be seen that the world's powerful countries are making attempts to control the economic sector, which is playing a pivotal role in the development of countries. They provoke internal conflicts and crises so as to cause impacts on the economic sector of small countries with manipulation as they like. At this juncture, small countries need to utilize

their own natural resources to overcome these challenges. Limited resources will affect the economy as well as weaken other sectors. Our country possesses good resources for the development of agriculture and livestock breeding sectors. Our country has been recognized as a country that contributes to the world's food security. Moreover, our country produces oil, natural gas and various minerals such as copper, iron and tin. So, we have to utilize these natural resources and sound foundations of agriculture and livestock breeding sectors in order to boost the economy and overcome the challenges that harm the economy.

In the past, the country suffered the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis unavoidably. Due to global political frictions in the post-COVID period, the world faced energy and fuel problems. Now, some countries are facing political instability. As the political instability finally lead to an economic crisis, powerful countries create such situations in advance to serve their interests. As such, only when our country strives to possess reliable human resources without reliance on foreign countries will the country stand tall with its own natural resources proudly. In order to emerge as the future State, efforts were made to accomplish the NCA treaty with the aim of resolving diversity measures at the peace table through negotiations and coordination. So, we all are now on the track of peace. The State Administration Council could manage to boost the State economy from the downtrends and development of other sectors, including education, health and agricultural production, amid the internal and external attacks and disturbances.

Esteemed national brethren,

Since the assumption of the State responsibilities, the State Administration Council has adopted the Roadmap. The government has clearly declared that the country will lead to the NCA route to initiate the peace process, emphasizing agreements of NCA as much as possible. Amid many difficulties since its assumption, the government has adopted prioritized tasks and implemented them. At present, the nationwide population and household census is being enumerated. Arrangements are being made to hold the multiparty democratic general election successfully as the final point of the Five-Point Roadmap we have guaranteed. Emphasis is being placed on the participation of all political parties in the election, and efforts are being made to maintain security conditions to be able to hold the election in relevant regions. Considering the possible conditions in the election period, the government will leverage the security measures, and relevant EAOs will have to cooperate with the government in these measures. The State Administration Council will go forward in harmony with relevant sectors included in the Five-Point Roadmap. Only when the country forges peace and stability will the government initiate the strengthening of the multiparty democratic system and correct reform processes as quickly as possible.

The State Administration Council is placing particular emphasis on achieving two political goals and two national goals. Development can only take place when the country is stable and peaceful. Achieving domestic stability and peace should not be Tatmadaw's sole responsibility.

SEE PAGE 4

NATIONAL

Address delivered by State Administration Council Chairman, Prime Minister of Republic of Union of Myanmar, National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee Chairman, and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at NCA's Ninth Anniversary

FROM PAGE 3

Only when all ethnic armed organizations fully understand the essence of the NCA and cooperate with a strong sense of responsibility towards the State and their commitments to the nation will we be able to reach the shared goals we aspire to.

Undesirable armed conflicts have caused unrest and violence throughout the country. The deaths of innocent people, children and monks are the considerable loss the country. It is only our own citizens who are unfaithful to the country and weak in consciousness that are destroying the country by the incitement and support from abroad. In order to strengthen the defence forces of the country and to reduce the violence that is dominated by the instigation from abroad, we have put into force the People's Military Service Law that has been enacted since 2010 and has been able to strengthen the national security sector. In addition, a public security system involving all citizens is also being organized. By being able to do these things, all the people will be aware that they are individually responsible for national defence and security.

Armed attacks of terrorist insurgents throughout the ages are only

doing armed terrorist acts under the pretext of politics. It can be seen that they are putting forward their desire to stand separately rather than walking on the path of multiparty democracy and building a great Union together. Young people were lured with narcotic drugs and forced to join the war. We all know not only the lives of innocent people but also road and bridge structures, hospitals and schools, and religious buildings were destroyed. Because of such anarchic acts, the public hates terrorists and actively cooperates with Tatmadaw in counter-terrorist operations. In the future, Tatmadaw will continue to do what is necessary to suppress terrorist insurgents. I also want to inform the public to be careful of being tricked by terrorists.

Esteemed national brethren,

For our Union to achieve eternal peace, meetings and discussions with political parties and ethnic armed groups are underway. The opinions obtained from such meetings were recorded as the Union Accord. Only when the armed conflict ends through the NCA will we be able to reach our desired goal. We all need to move forward with the spirit of Myanmar together. Otherwise, if we continue to believe

in the instigation of foreign countries that are encouraging and supporting armed terrorist acts and plotting the bloodshed of our own citizens, then the future journey we want to take as a nation will be a long way off.

Today, the current situation in our country is due to the influence and control of geopolitically powerful countries, which is creating internal instability. They are causing dissension in various ways so that there is no unity among the different ethnic groups in our country. We see that they are creating political and economic instability to reduce our country's defence power. What I want to say is that all the ethnic groups living in Myanmar are brothers and sisters who have lived in the same land and drunk the same water for many years. They are the ones who have weathered difficulties and crises they have faced at different times in history. Today, instead of destroying the area where we live for the benefit of the powerful countries, we all need to think long-term and cooperate for the benefit of the nation. If we are divided and quarrel with each other, the power of the State will decrease, and we may go down in history as a people who follow and obey the will of others. Therefore, today, I would like

to urge the ethnic armed groups to join together in the process of national stability and peace being carried out by Tatmadaw and to negotiate their wishes through dialogues.

Esteemed national brethren,

In conclusion, we can't ask for our wants through armed violence. We can only come to a political dialogue and solve the conflicts peacefully. I would like to say that we will not compromise on the demands of armed terrorists. According to the motto of our government, "Moving forward to the goal", we must all respect and cooperate with the NCA as we move forward with the spirit of "Myanmar". In cooperation, we need to follow through on the transparency, responsibilities and commitments that have already been made with a genuine desire for durable peace. I would like to encourage the EAOs and the entire ethnic population to have a security awareness and security perspective and to show the spirit of good citizens by participating in the aspects of the pre-election process that will take place after the census. In conclusion, I would like to urge all to work together with the government to put an end to the terrorists who are disrupting the peace and stability of the country.

Mid-priced homage baskets for elders sell quickly at Thadingyut market

SALES of mid-priced gifts are brisk in the homage basket market of Thadingyut, which is an occasion of Myanmar's tradition to pay homage to parents and respectful elders, according to market inquiries.

Myanmar people give present baskets to elders and parents during Thadingyut, and gift baskets worth around K50,000 are more popular among others in the market.

"There are still two days left to the full moon day. There are orders and sales. Prices

range from K50,000, K60,000, K70,000, and K80,000 to over K100,000. Among the gifts, the baskets worth around K50,000 are selling faster. The purchasing power of each buyer is different," said an official at Infinity Mart in Dagon Myothit (North) Township.

Homage and gift baskets typically include cake and confectionery packs, fruit cases and medicine boxes, and their demand is predicted to increase.

"Orders are coming in. It's

only 15 October. The holiday period will start only tomorrow, and we can tell you the exact demand for tomorrow and the day after it. Sales in other places, such as City Mart and Ruby Mart, will increase. Some people prefer physical shopping. During these office holidays, there will be more demand. I think that during our traditional Thadingyut, there will be more orders," said an official from Golden Delivery in PyinOoLwin. — Thit Taw/ZN



Some traditional homage baskets that sell briskly during Thadingyut.

NATIONAL

Public participation key to strengthening rule of law and security

Surveillance needs to prevent the infiltration of terrorists into the wards and villages.

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win met officials of the Sagaing Region government at the regional government office on 14 October to talk about peace and stability of the region and security measures.

Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Myat Kyaw and officials reported on the disbursement of loans from the State Economic Promotion Fund to agriculture, livestock and MSME industries in the region, formation of people's security and counter-terrorism troops for ensuring peace and stability and security of the region, participation of departmental personnel in the population and household census enumeration, and cooperative efforts of officials in peace and stability of the region.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General explained the importance of security awareness and knowledge for people's service personnel not to break security measures, formation of people's security and counter-terrorism troops



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win inspects Tatmadaw mess at Wuntho Station yesterday.

in wards and villages, efforts for public participation in the aforesaid measures, surveillance to prevent infiltration of terrorists into the wards and villages, public participation to ensure strengthening of security measures, and correct supervision of officials to forge rule of law and

security of the people.

He noted that management should reserve quality strains of seeds to be used in disaster-affected areas for regrowing crops in time, enumerate the census for contribution to political, economic, education, health and socioeconomic development

and fulfil the needs of relevant governments and those who will draw the plans, collection of data for the census in relevant plots to be able to benefit the people, and sharing knowledge with the people to correctly reply to the questions in the enumeration of the census.

In the morning, the Vice-Senior General, accompanied by the Chief Minister of Sagaing Region, Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Than Htaik and officials, comforted the Tatmadaw members who are receiving medical treatment at the local Tatmadaw hospital in Monywa for their injuries suffered in serving the defence and security duties of the State.

In the meeting with Tatmadaw members, members of the Myanmar Police Force, and local people's militia who were receiving medical treatments, the Vice-Senior General asked them about injuries, medical treatment, recovery from the injuries, and progress of health conditions. He fulfilled the needs of those patients and presented supplies and cash awards.

The Vice-Senior General also gave cash awards to medical staff serving at the hospital.

The Vice-Senior General also met Tatmadaw members, their wives, and their families at Wuntho Station separately. He fulfilled the needs of Tatmadaw members and families and presented foodstuffs, supplies and cash awards. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar delegation led by Union Chief Justice attends 19th APCJ Conference in Malaysia

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Chief Justice U Tha Htay attended the 19th Conference of Chief Justices of Asia and Pacific held from 11 to 13 October in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. It was invited by Rt Hon Tun Tengku Maimun Binti Tuan Mat, Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Malaysia.

The 19th Conference of Chief Justices of Asia and the Pacific has been held biennially since 1985. The meetings are attended by the Chief Justices and Heads of the Judiciary from Asia-Pacific countries, who discuss the judi-



Union Chief Justice U Tha Htay (L) participates at the 19th Conference of Chief Justices of Asia and Pacific in Malaysia on 11-13 October 2024.

cial issues.

Since Myanmar's judicial reform process requires the cooperation of Asia and Pacific countries, by attending the Conference, we could exchange views and discuss the respective issues with the chief justices and heads of the judiciary of the Asia-Pacific region.

Rt Hon Tun Tengku Maimun Binti Tuan Mat, Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Malaysia, hosted the Welcome Reception, which was held at the Shangri-La Hotel in Kuala Lumpur on the night of 11 October for the

guests of the Conference and the Union Chief Justice and the Myanmar delegation attended the Welcome Reception.

The 19th Conference of Chief Justices of Asia and the Pacific is organized by the Federal Court of Malaysia and the Judicial Section of LAWASIA, held from 11 to 13 October at the Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. The representatives, headed by chief justices and justices from 29 countries, comprised a total of 95 people who participated in the Conference.

SEE PAGE 6

NATIONAL

SAC Secretary and wife attend Silver Jubilee performing arts competition

GENERAL Aung Lin Dwe, Secretary of the State Administration Council, and his wife attended the 25th Anniversary Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition at the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee's Theatre yesterday evening.

The competition featured performances of the grand "Maha Zanaka" drama. Among those present were Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn, the Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, council members, judges, supervisors, trainers, participants representing various states and regions, government employees, their families, and



SAC Secretary General Aung Lin Dwe, his wife and dignitaries view the 25th Anniversary Performing Arts Competition in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

traditional performance enthusiasts.

The competition began with the Magway Region team's

"Phan Kha Myay" performing the original "Maha Zanaka" drama. The team impressed the audience with Myanmar's classical

theatrical arts, including drama, dialogue, singing, lamenting, and declamation, all complemented by graceful choreography.

The "Maha Zanaka" drama aimed to convey the moral teachings of perseverance, loyalty, adherence to moral discipline, and wisdom, which bring greater strength and tranquillity, whereas wrong beliefs and suspicions lead to misfortune.

The 25th Anniversary (Silver Jubilee) Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition will continue with performances from various regions, including Ayeyawady on 14 October and Magway on 15 October. It will feature teams from Mon State, Mandalay, Yangon, Bago, and Sagaing Regions from 16 to 20 October. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar delegation led by Union Chief Justice ...

FROM PAGE 5

Then, Chief Justices of the Asia-Pacific Region and the Heads of Delegates attended the Conference and discussed a variety of topics in the Conference sessions regarding maintaining confidence in and respect for the rule of law in the rapidly changing and less secure world, judicial well-being, advantages to courts offered by Technology-AI, Challenges

posed to courts by technology-AI, Regulation of the legal profession and the education of lawyers in an era of AI-what is or should the role of the courts be? International cooperation and cross-border issues, the courts and the media, including social media.

Union Chief Justice U Tha Htay attended the Conference along with the officials of the Union Supreme Court. — MNA

SAC Joint Secretary and wife attend Silver Jubilee Performing Arts Competition



SAC Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, his wife, SAC Member Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San, his wife, and officials attend the competition yesterday.

SAC Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo and his wife attended the 25th Anniversary Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions 2024 at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They observed the higher education level female dance

contest at the Plenary Hall, encouraging dancers who were performing the chorus dance. They also attended the basic education level Classical Music (Maha Gita) singing competition basic education (ages 10-15), the male singing contest, and the basic-level piano competition in other venues,

cordially greeting artistes afterwards.

The Silver Jubilee Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition aims to preserve Myanmar's traditional fine arts and involves contestants from across the country showcasing their talents to promote national cultural heritage. — MNA/TS

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

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

NATIONAL

Silver Jubilee Performing Arts Competition continues 2nd day

THE second day of the national level of the 25th Anniversary (Silver Jubilee) Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions 2024 was held at a designated in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Maha Gita (classic song) contest comprising the basic education level (aged 10 to 15) male contest and the amateur level (second class) female contest was held at the Signing Room of Myanmar International Convention Centre II.

The modern song contest,



SAC Member Daw Dwe Bu and dignitaries attends the Silver Jubilee Performing Arts Competition yesterday.



Amateur second class male dance contestant.



Union Minister General Moe Aung, his wife and dignitaries views the competition yesterday.



Hall of the National Museum (Nay Pyi Taw).

Taw Win Yoke Sone theatrical troupe of Yangon Region took part in the amateur level (first class) Vesantara Drama contest, whereas Phan Kha Myay theatrical troupe of Magway Region competed in the amateur level (first class) Maha Janaka drama contest "Maha Janaka".

The contestants' competitions at yesterday's events were attended by members of the

which included the amateur level (first class) female contest and the higher education level male contest, took place at the Banquet Hall of MICC II.

Contestants participated in the dance contest, which consisted of the amateur level (second class) male contest and the higher education level female contest at Plenary Hall of MICC II.

The song-composing contest took position at the Yinkyay Hmu Yadana Hall of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture



Singing contestant from Bago Region.



Dance contestant from Yangon.



Contestants exercising rehearsals.



Piano contestant from Kayin State.



A Myanmar traditional drum (amateur-first class) contestant from Mandalay Region.

with basic education level (aged 15-20) and amateur level (second class) contests.

The amateur level (second class) female piano contest, amateur level (second class) male piano contest and basic education level (aged 10-15) male piano contest took place at the News Briefing Room of MICC II.

The Mini Theatre of the National Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) hosted the harp contest, which consisted of the amateur level (second class) female contest, basic education level (aged 10-15) male contest, amateur level (second class) male contest

and basic education level (aged 15-20) female contest and basic education level (aged 10-15) female contest.

Contestants took part in the amateur level (first and second classes), higher education and basic education level (aged 15-20), and higher education level Dobat contests at the training theatre of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

Yesterday's competition arranged the participation of contestants in the orchestra troupe contest, amateur level (first and second class) female and male contests at Wunzin Minyarzar

State Administration Council, union-level dignitaries, deputy ministers, regional and state ministers, departmental personnel, staff families, and contestants' parents.

There were 2,306 contestants in relevant events of the 24th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. A total of 2,584 contestants are now participating in relevant events at the national level of the 25th (Silver Jubilee) Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions 2024. — MNA/ KTZH

OPINION

Lend a helping hand to all with food security

IN PREVIOUS years, Myanmar has achieved self-sufficiency in food production, with 154.33 per cent rice security, 126.2 per cent cooking oil security, and 512 per cent bean security, contributing to both regional and global food security.

In 2023, Myanmar was severely impacted by El Niño, experiencing extreme heat, rapid drying of lakes, and a decline in underground water levels. That created challenges for both agriculture and public water consumption. In response, the management of water supply systems, including dams, diversion weirs, and sluice gates, was carefully regulated to prevent harm to agricultural activities and ensure sufficient water for public use. These irrigation systems provided water for summer paddy plantations and drinking, depending on their storage capacity.

In 2024, Typhoon Yagi and other deep depressions caused heavy rains across Myanmar, leading to flash floods, inundation, river and creek overflow, landslides, and significant damage to roads and bridges. Approximately 1 million people from over 80,000 families were severely affected in nine regions and states. The typhoon resulted in 520 fatalities and numerous individuals missing, as well as the deaths of over 180,000 animals and damage to more than 700,000 acres of paddy and other crops. Unfortunately, the disaster also destroyed roads, bridges, schools, and essential utilities such as electricity and communication facilities.

Farmers must collaborate with regional and state governments to quickly replant crops in disaster-affected areas to ensure a steady supply of agricultural produce for public consumption. Many countries

worldwide are still grappling with the impacts of natural disasters, resulting in significant food shortages. Therefore, countries, including Myanmar, should offer their surplus food to help alleviate global food insecurity.

World Food Day 2024 is celebrated under the theme “Right to Food for a Better Life and a Better Future.” While the world’s farmers produce enough food to feed more than the global population, hunger still persists. Everyone must realize the vision of a world where food is shared to eliminate hunger and malnutrition. We must sustain our commitment to addressing food security, even in times of crisis.

Everyone must focus on producing healthy foods with minimal chemical residues. It’s essential to share knowledge and support sustainable, resilient food systems and livelihoods. All individuals are responsible for their survival, especially in the face of severe natural disasters, and should be prepared to provide food for one another to ensure food safety for all.

On the first Korean Nobel literature laureate and literary work in Southeast Asian languages

By Myint Zan



This undated photo released by Yonhap news agency on 10 October 2024 shows South Korean author Han Kang delivering a speech at a lecture in Gwangju. South Korean author Han Kang won the Nobel Prize in Literature 2024, it was announced on 10 October 2024. PHOTO: YONHAP/AFP

South Korea and Myanmar personages’ achievements: a brief juxtaposition

For the very first time in its 100-year-plus history, the Nobel Prize in Literature has been awarded to Han Kang, a South Korean (female) author.

Sincere congratulations to the fresh Nobel literature laureate Ms/Dr Han Kang and the

(South) Korean nation for this achievement.

Cardinals, Popes and ‘tipped Nobel literature laureates’

When a new conclave is held in recent decades to elect a new Pope of the Catholic Church, there are ‘tips’ or predictions as to who could become the new Pope. Oftentimes, those who were considered by vari-

ous sources to become the new Pope, at the end of the conclave, (merely) came out as a ‘cardinal’. Hence the saying ‘those who go into the Papal conclave as a Pope come out as a cardinal’.

The election of a new Pope occurs, on average, once in a few decades. However, the Nobel literary prize announcement is a yearly occurrence. For the past few decades, each year, pundits or even ‘bookies’ have predicted or offered ‘bets’ as to who might be the Nobel literature laureate. And most of the pundits’ predictions were wrong most of the time. They are wrong again in 2024.

The New York Times literary Editor stated that they have prepared for 2024 profiles of up to forty (40) literati ready to insert in the newspaper if any of the 40 were to be the Nobel Literature laureate for 2024. And Hang Kang was not on the list. Hence, revising the Cardinal-Pope-Cardinal analogy above, one could write: “Those who are tipped to be Nobel literature laureates came out as writers, poets, dramatists, and novelists, among others – albeit famous ones – (without the Nobel)”.

Translation of The Vegetarian into Burmese

After the Nobel Literature Prize was announced from a few Facebook posts yours truly have learned that Han Kang’s ‘The Vegetarian’ was translated into Myanmar a few years ago. I am not sure whether the translation was done directly from the Korean Language or from its English translation. It may (or may not) be that the translator is arguably proficient or at least familiar with both languages, referring to both the Korean original and the English translation. However, at least one of Han Kang’s novels has been translated into at least one Southeast language (Myanmar), and Hans Kang’s literary output has likely been translated into other Southeast Asian languages as well.

There have been no Nobel laureates in literature who predominantly write in Myanmar, Cambodian (Khmer), Malay, Indonesian, Tagalog, Laotian, Thai and Vietnamese, which are mainly the languages of Southeast Asia. Has any of the works written in those languages been even ‘long-listed’ (not quite short-listed) for the Nobel Literature Prize throughout the decades? I suppose it depends on the existence, availability and adequacy of translations into the European languages. Due to the excellence of her work, quite a few novels of Han Kang have been translated into at least four European languages, but this writer does not know which significant works of, say, promi-

Southeast Asian languages and lack of Nobel literature prizes for those who wrote in those languages

The Nobel website states that Han Kang’s work has been translated into English, French, German, and Swedish. One wonders whether any member of the

Nobel (Literature) Committee can read her works in the original Korean. Till 2023, only those who wrote in Mandarin and Japanese, which are East Asian languages, have been awarded the Nobel Literature Prizes. Korean can be designated, like Mandarin and Japanese, as an East Asian language. Nobel literary history has been made with the award going for the first time to a literati who wrote in Korean.

There have been no Nobel laureates in literature who predominantly write in Myanmar, Cambodian (Khmer), Malay, Indonesian, Tagalog, Laotian, Thai and Vietnamese, which are mainly the languages of Southeast Asia. Has any of the works written in those languages been even ‘long-listed’ (not quite short-listed) for the Nobel Literature Prize throughout the decades? I suppose it depends on the existence, availability and adequacy of translations into the European languages. Due to the excellence of her work, quite a few novels of Han Kang have been translated into at least four European languages, but this writer does not know which significant works of, say, promi-

nent authors who mainly wrote in the Southeast Asian languages would be available for review by the past and future Swedish Nobel (literature) Academy.

It might be said that how could these language barriers be overcome? In the ‘case’ of Han Kang, the translations into European languages may well have captured the themes of Han Kang’s literary flair and helped the committee overcome the language barrier. In the words of the Nobel Literature Committee, Han Kang’s ‘intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life’ must have come through both in the original and in translations to European languages. Accordingly, the committee took note of it, was impressed by it and decided to honour the author.

One wishes that there would be excellent or at the least adequate translations of a few of the works of major writers who mainly write in a few of the Southeast Asian languages for the purpose of review by the Swedish Nobel Literary Committee.

range from university faculty to those in the medical, welfare and performing arts fields.

At the commemorative conference in August, monks and “kyogen” performers presented research. In addition to health and medicine, they discussed the relationship of laughter to diverse topics such as child rearing, education and sex.

The society’s annual journal includes papers on such themes as “Nonsense in Rakugo”, “Laughter and Infants” and “Do Animals Laugh?”

Inoue vividly recalled the experience that determined the direction his research would take — the time he saw his four-month-old grandchild smile. “The phenomenon of newborns smiling without stimulation from the outside world must be evidence that laughter is built in as an instinct even before birth,” he said.

SOURCE: Kyodo

Japanese research society probes mysteries of laughter

For 30 years, the Japan Society for Laughter and Humour Studies has explored the science and culture of laughter. Open to all, the society promotes interdisciplinary research involving medicine, psychology, and the arts. Despite the challenges, it continues to foster the study of laughter’s importance in human relationships, health, and society.

FOR a group of Japanese researchers, the phenomenon of humour is no laughing matter.

For three decades, the Japan Society for Laughter and Humour Studies based in Osaka, western Japan, has been probing what it calls the “mysteries” of the human laugh, going so far as to publish a peer-reviewed academic journal.

Members of the society are not limited to academic specialists but include

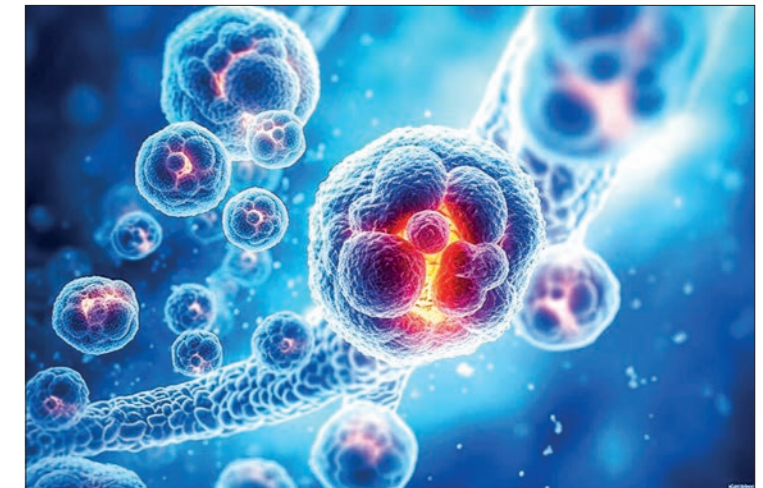
monks and traditional Japanese “kyogen” comedic performers among others.

“Laughter research is not a subject that can be mastered by a single expert,” Hiroshi Inoue, 88, professor emeritus at Kansai University, the first president of the society and now an advisor, said at the JSLHS’s 30th-anniversary convention held in August at the university’s Suita campus in Osaka Prefecture.

“The society was started with citizen participation in mind in the belief

that both the experiences of citizens and the research of academics are necessary,” Inoue said.

Growing up in a merchant family in Osaka, associated in recent times with the traditional style of Japanese comedy known as “manzai” featuring a “straight man” (tsukkomi) and the “funny man” (boke), humor was in the air Inoue breathed. It made him want to know how important laughter is for human relationships and health.



Researchers at Forschungszentrum Jülich used cryo-electron microscopy to uncover how proteins Vipp1 and PspA help repair and protect cell membranes. ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY

Researchers give insights into cell’s repair system

These findings could lead to biotechnological applications and new drugs targeting cellular membrane processes.

IN LIVING organisms, the membrane that encloses the cells is incredibly delicate and flexible. Many biological activities depend on how it repairs and protects itself from harm, yet this process is still poorly understood. Researchers at Forschungszentrum Jülich have now used cryo-electron microscopy to uncover intriguing new information. Known from the photosynthetic system of plants, algae, and bacteria, the membrane protein Vipp1 may generate a variety of structures that may be used as instruments to reinforce and strengthen the cell membrane when needed.

In a follow-up investigation, the scientists also managed to get fresh perspectives on the role of the associated bacterial protein PspA. Vipp1 and PspA are two molecules that have exceptional plasticity and may take on many shapes, such as rings and tubes with various diameters.

The cell membrane has numerous important functions. For instance, it protects the inside of the cell from the environment. At the same time, nutrients are absorbed through the cell

membrane, waste products are excreted, and signals are transmitted between cells. Despite its central role, the cell membrane is also very sensitive. It consists of a thin layer of lipids which, although protective by themselves, are also susceptible to stress caused by physical pressure and stretching or chemical influences. Environmental factors such as UV radiation or toxins can also damage the membrane.

In plant cells, for example, intense light can severely stress and even damage the membranes in the chloroplasts, where photosynthesis takes place. Proteins such as Vipp1 are therefore essential for the survival of the cell, as they protect the membrane structures and repair them if necessary.

How exactly the mechanism works is not yet fully understood. However, thanks to the state-of-the-art cryo-electron microscopes at Jülich’s Ernst Ruska-Centre, the researchers have now been able to gain new insights into the interaction between Vipp1 and the cell membrane.

SOURCE: ANI

NATIONAL

Voices of Attendees at the Ninth Anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA)

THE following are the expressions of the attendees at the Ninth Anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) held at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw.

Colonel Wunna Aung Member, National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee

The NCA is not drafted by only one person or one organization but with the agreements of government and ethnic armed groups. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved it, and it was signed in the presence of international and local witnesses. It will never be eradicated, and it will be a historic agreement. The essence of NCA is to establish a Union based on democracy and federalism that guarantees self-determination in accordance with the so-called "Panglong Spirit", which is based on freedom, equality and justice while upholding Three National Causes in accordance with the discussion outcomes. The anniversary celebration of NCA is organized yearly to explore the essence of NCA and build sustainable peace.

The government always invites the ethnic armed groups that want peace and prosperity to the peace dialogue and met seven NCA signatories, three non-signatories, political parties and peacemakers for 142 times to date.

Their discussion focused on local peace, the socioeconomic development of the public, the curbing of terrorist acts and illegal trading of arms and ammunition, humanitarian assistance, and measures to establish democracy and a federal-based union. Moreover, they discussed amendments and supplements to the 2008 Constitution in accord with the stipulations and methods of Hluttaw and NCA.

In democratic nations, holding free and fair elections is vital for the emergence of a people-elected government. The eligible voters should cast their vote freely and fairly without any threats, worry, or attachment. Therefore, we received four joint agreements after discussing them with NCA signatories, non-NCA signatories and political parties. Among them, it includes cooperating to ensure law enforcement regional stability and to be able to participate in multiparty democratic elections freely and fairly.

Currently, a particular focus is put on pace. The peace process in Myanmar is just an internal affair, and so we will meet and discuss it with the focal personnel. The NCA will be focused on finding solutions in a political way. We will hold bilateral meetings with non-signatories EAOs. We will always invite EAOs, signatories, or non-signatories to participate in the peace dialogues officially.



Lt-Gen Sein Win (Retd) Member, National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee

Today marks the 9th anniversary of signing for peace. The successive governments try hard for peace. The NCA emerged during the term of President U Thein Sein. After signing the NCA, we enjoyed a taste of peace a lot. We experienced certain conditions in which we could go freely across the nation and trade freely. The unexpected cases occurred while trying to maintain such a situation. However, we will keep trying hard to lure the remaining organizations to the NCA pathway to ensure nationwide peace and to create a proper situation for people to live peacefully and happily. I want to thank all, including NCA signatories, leaders and officials of the peacemaking committee. I also hope to keep trying hard for the peace that the people desire.



U Hla Maung Shwe Chairman, CPR

What I want to present during the 9th anniversary of NCA is that we all might have challenges and different opinions. These various cases were solved with arms for many years, but it failed. It caused delays in the development of the country and lost capital investment and human resources. There might be some people who believe that terror attacks can produce a desired result. But I don't believe that. If we find solutions through negotiation, it can save losses in resources and development.



Dr Aye Maung Chairman, Arakan Front Party (Leader of the political parties' working group)

The NCA reaches its 9th anniversary. In my opinion, it is the most important agreement in Myanmar's history. We want NCA to be used with a political essence. The approach might be the same or different. Basically, the NCA is an initial step in stopping the civil war. If we can't find the political reason why the civil war broke out, the shootings will continue. We have to try to stop such occurrences. How can we organize an all-inclusive meeting in NCA if we don't meet the all-inclusive ceasefire objectives? The aim of holding arms means lacking political essence. If we look back, it is concerned with equality, freedom, fairness and self-determination. It is also related to the principle of constitution. As long as the constitutional principles that carry freedom, fairness, equality and self-administration are lacking, armed cases will continue. If we approach step by step with full of political essence, we can see pathways for the future from the anniversary day of the 9th NCA. How can we approach this? We should approach it step by step. What is happening? What is the current situation? What is the given fact? The NCA features a given fact. The second point is that the 2008 Constitution carries a given fact. How can we step based on these given facts? If we step like that, we can find a solution step by step. The relevant officials should consider it. I am glad to present my experience and vision at the 9th-anniversary occasion. I wish to see a peaceful and prosperous Republic of the Union of Myanmar emerge through the NCA. May it be successful and peaceful.



Saw Mra Yazar Lin Chairperson, ALP

I attended the ceremony as a person who signed in NCA and as a chairperson of ALP. There are many memorable facts regarding NCA. We did not get NCA easily. We faced many oppositions and challenges. But, we grabbed NCA regardless of these cases, and it is a special occasion in Myanmar. Some people said NCA is broken. The NCA is still there until the people who signed the NCA say it is demolished or useless. Solving through roundtable discussion, not through conflicts, is the main reason for the emergence of this agreement. Therefore, we value NCA. There might be weaknesses, but we might have the willingness to make it perfect and to be brave. I recognize that NCA anniversary day is a significant day.



U Ko Ko Gyi Chairman, People's Party (Leader of the political parties' working group)

Peace is essential for State stability and development. We need to pave the way for the next generation in addition to the current generation. We will discuss as much as we can to build a beautiful future. The lifeblood of the politicians who want democracy is the people. It is important to spread information among people to strengthen their expectations, saying they can solve problems in political ways, not through terrorist attacks. We will make concerted efforts to receive noticeable progress and outcomes through these political discussions. If people with different opinions work together without regarding each other as enemies, we can create a beautiful future. — Nanda Kyaw Swa/KTZH



NATIONAL

CBM Governor inspects MyanmarPay pilot testing operations ahead of Go-Live launch in December

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) conducted an inspection yesterday regarding the pilot testing operations of MyanmarPay (Digital Payment Switch), including the rules and regulations that members must follow and the plans for the Go-Live launch. The inspection took place at the CBM's Sule Branch, located at the corner of Sule Pagoda Road and Bank Road in Kyauktada Township, Yangon.

The meeting was attended by the CBM Governor, along with the directors-general, officials from the CBM, representatives from banks, mobile financial service providers, merchant payment service providers, the system operator PayPlus Co Ltd, the technical provider Andaman Capital Partners, and members of the technical committee.

First, the CBM Governor inspected the office setup of PayPlus Co Ltd., the operator of MyanmarPay, at the Central Bank's Sule Branch office. Following that, the CBM Governor explained that the MyanmarPay (Digital Payment Switch) project had been in preparation since 2021, with adjustments made to the necessary business models and infrastructure. The implementation phase only began in



CBM Governor Daw Than Than Swe leads the inspection session of the pilot testing operations of MyanmarPay yesterday in Yangon.

2023. PayPlus Co., Ltd. was appointed as the operator, while Andaman Capital Partners was assigned responsibility for the technical aspects.

As MyanmarPay is a national-level project, it will connect QR payments not only domestically but also internationally. She emphasized the need for all parties to collaborate to ensure the project's success and to maintain a positive reputation from the start. She noted that constructing a system requires the coordination of time, financial resources, and expertise. The project has progressed to this pilot phase due to adherence to the Central Bank's payment

strategy and the alignment of participants' technologies. She expressed gratitude to everyone involved for reaching this point.

Once MyanmarPay QR is implemented, it will enable payments between banks, mobile financial service providers, and merchant payment service providers by building a switching system that connects different payment platforms and models. This will facilitate mutual payments across these platforms. It is essential to ensure strong security, effective monitoring, and efficient settlement processes.

As part of the practical implementation, pilot testing is being carried out with KBZ Pay,

AYA Pay, OK\$, and Wave Money. These platforms are being integrated with the Digital Payment Switch, and their operations are being observed and studied to identify any necessary improvements.

A practical demonstration of how to use the MyanmarPay (Digital Payment Switch) service was conducted by representatives from the pilot participants of the MyanmarPay Project, including KBZ Pay, AYA Pay, OK\$, Wave Money, and PayPlus Co Ltd. Officials demonstrated real-time transactions, showing how payments made by a customer to a merchant were immediately processed and dis-

played live in the system. They also demonstrated the settlement processes between the banks, the merchant registration procedures, and other functions using nine different test scenarios to illustrate how the system operates.

The presentation continued with an explanation of the daily transaction settlement processes. A production testing plan will be carried out in three phases to launch the MyanmarPay service. In the first phase, tests will be conducted with dummy merchants. In the second phase, friendly merchants will be involved in the trial. In the third phase, the system will be made available for public use, marking the Go-Live stage. It was also announced that the Go-Live launch is scheduled for December of this year.

Following this, the CBM Governor instructed officials from the Central Bank, PayPlus Co Ltd., and the technical consultants to ensure the MyanmarPay (Digital Payment Switch) Project is ready for implementation within the scheduled Go-Live period. She also emphasized the need for the swift release of the code of conduct and policy guidelines. — MNA/TMT

Counter-argument to false information

Khit Thit Media spreads false news about Sittway prison political prisoners

THE Khit Thit Media Facebook page published false and misleading news under the headline "351 prisoners, including political prisoners, transferred from Sittway prison to Patheingyi prison, facing difficulties; calls for international action over Dr Zaw Myint Maung's death in Magway prison" at 2:36 pm on 12 October.

It was verified that these reports were fabricated. The false news spread by the Khit Thit Media Facebook page was intended to mislead the public with inaccurate information. — Thitsa/KZL

False arrest claims denied; Only routine inspections confirmed



This screenshot validates fake news.

CERTAIN malicious media outlets falsely reported that returnees from abroad, like seafarers and those who faced difficulties while working overseas, were arrested at Yangon International Airport, with no communication allowed between them and their families.

However, according to an airport official, these claims are untrue. Only routine inspections carried out in line with established procedures take place for individuals returning from abroad, and no arbitrary arrests have been made recently. Misinformation spread by subversive media aims to instil fear and misrepresent both the State and Tatmadaw. — MNA/TRKM

Claims of restricting family visits to political prisoners denied

KHIT Thit Media has accused Col Aung Aung of issuing orders at Shwebo Prison to block political prisoners from receiving family members. These allegations were made in a post on the Khit Thit Media Facebook page at 7:07 am on 9 October.

However, after an investigation, it was revealed that there were no political prisoners held at Shwebo Prison. All inmates are individuals who have been convicted by courts for violating existing laws.

Starting from 24 October 2023, prisoners and their families have been granted visitation rights according to legal protocols. The only exceptions have been five inmates who violated prison rules and had their visitation rights temporarily suspended. The authorities emphasize that visitation rights are being processed fairly for all inmates, without discrimination.

The claim that Col Aung Aung ordered a blanket restriction on visitation has been found to be false. The post from Khit Thit Media is thus considered misleading, designed to spread falsehoods and cause public misunderstanding about the operations at Shwebo Prison. — Thitsa/KZL

NATIONAL

Myanmar expresses interest in greater participation in OPCW's efforts



Myanmar Ambassador U Soe Lynn Han (right in display screen) is seen attending the 107th Session of the Executive Council Meeting of the OPCW.

AMBASSADOR U Soe Lynn Han of Myanmar to Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and the EU, as well as the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), expressed Myanmar's interest in greater participation in the organization's international coop-

eration and assistance programs, as well as training courses implemented under Article XI of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), during the 107th Session of the Executive Council Meeting of the OPCW (EC-107) on 11 October.

In his statement delivered at the event held at the OPCW Headquarters

in The Hague, the Netherlands, from 8 to 11 October 2024, the Ambassador of Myanmar reiterated the country's full commitment to the principles and objectives of the CWC, expressing support for the OPCW's efforts to create a world free of chemical weapons.

He emphasized Myanmar's belief in the importance of effectively implementing the CWC for global peace and security while also welcoming the OPCW Technical Secretariat's ongoing research into AI challenges.

In the meeting, participants discussed the progress of the OPCW's efforts to eliminate chemical weapons in coordination with relevant state parties, measures to prevent the threats posed by chemical weapons, the implementation of Articles VII and XI of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), counter-terrorism initiatives involving the use of chemical weapons, and the progress of research undertaken by the OPCW Technical Secretariat on the potential and challenges of using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in enforcing the CWC. — ASH/TH

Aung Htet, Ni Ni Khin Zaw to perform at Thadingyut Night Show

SINGER Aung Htet has announced that Ni Ni Khin Zaw and he will perform at the Full Moon Night Show during the Thadingyut Festival. The event is set to take place at 6:30 pm on 17 October at the Excellent Bar & Restaurant in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw.

"The Excellent Band will be giving their best performance to accompany us. I'd like to invite everyone to spend the Thadingyut Full Moon Day with our songs," Aung Htet shared. — ASH/TRKM



This image showcases a poster of the Full Moon Night Show.

Myanmar youth representatives participate in Yunnan International Youth Exchange Week 2024



This photo depicts two Myanmar youth representatives.

ACCORDING to the Myanmar-China Friendship Association (Central), two youth representatives from Myanmar are attending the Yunnan International Sister Provinces/Cities Youth Exchange Week 2024, held in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China, from 14 to 19 October.

MCFA (Central) has sent

two female youths, Ma May Thu Win and Ma Tin Tin, through the contact of the Yunnan Province People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (YN-PAFFC).

In addition to youth representatives from ASEAN countries, delegates from Japan, South Korea, the United States, Russia, France, Romania, the Czech Republic, Australia, Nepal, and Mongolia are also participating in the Yunnan International Sister Provinces/Cities Youth Exchange Week 2024.

MCFA (Central) has been organizing and sending youth representatives to ASEAN-China youth exchange meetings and discussions since 2013. To date, they have sent a total of 272. — ASH/TMT

Nationwide illegal trade crackdown yields K645M in seizure of goods



Confiscated illegal items in Shan State.

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to combat the illicit trade continue effectively in accordance with the law.

On 11 and 14 October, the combined teams managed by the Customs Department nabbed a kind of industrial materials worth K182.62 million without official documents from four containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port and industrial materials and consumer goods valued at K46.92 million without official documents at the Yangon

International Port. The action was conducted as per Customs procedures.

Similarly, on 12 and 14 October, the combined teams conducted inspections. They seized two kinds of motorbikes, four types of foodstuffs and 63 barrels of fuel oil valued at K108.5 million without official documents in Gwa Township, four unregistered vehicles (estimated value of K64 million) in Kyaikto Township, an Isuzu D-Max Pickup (estimated value of K12 million) carrying four kinds of foodstuffs worth K4.075 million without official documents at the Kyaikmaraw combined checkpoint in Kyaikmaraw Township and four vehicles (worth approximately K67 million) carrying foodstuffs worth K52.14 million in Mawlamyine Township. The action was carried out according to Customs procedures and the Export-Import Law.

Additionally, on 14 and 15 October, the joint on-duty teams impounded a kind of industrial material and a kind of industrial materials worth K23.6 million that were smuggled and piled up on the detour of Kengtung Township, foodstuffs valued at K1.58 million without official documents in Ngaputaw Township, three vehicles (estimated value of K70 million) carrying four kinds of food worth K5.59 million at the Nyaungkhashay x-ray station, and illegal hardwood weighing 11.305 tonnes valued at K7.68 million in Toungoo District. The action was taken under Customs procedures, the Excise Law and the Forest Law. The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 28 arrests on 11, 12, 14 and 15 October, resulting in the seizure of illegal goods worth approximately K645 million. — MNA/MKKS

ME warns: Falsification of passport subjected to legal action

Those who conduct illegal acts will get their passport revoked and added to the block list.

THE Myanmar Embassy in Seoul, Republic of Korea, warned Myanmar citizens of strict legal action for illegal conduct during the passport extension process. Consequently, they will get their passport deleted and listed on the denylist, the embassy announced on 15 October.

The statement revealed that the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul has been providing passport renewal services and con-

sular procedures in a real time manner. The altered passport with fraud stamp and falsification of passport are reported.

Passport is not entitled to alter or fabricate documents. Anyone excluding Myanmar consular officials or officials from foreign countries is prohibited from sticking a postal stamp or being involved in the alteration, addition or destruction of contents.

An altered passport

with unauthorized change will make it illegal, according to the notice on the back of the passport cover.

Those involved in passport extension with illegal conduct with or without consent of the passport holders are indicted for violation of rules. The passport shall be cancelled. It will be invalid as an official document for international journeys and will be objected to by the relevant immigration authorities of

foreign countries.

Earlier, the embassy made a passport extension by posting an 'Observation' stamp on the passport and a handwritten statement. Effective 2024, a new passport will be issued for Myanmar citizens during renewal service. That information has been sent to the relevant ministries and institutions in the Republic of Korea.

Therefore, offences related to alteration, im-



An entrance view of the Myanmar Embassy to South Korea.

proper use of passports, mutilation and forgery with the use of illegal stamps will be investigated for passport fraud and subjected to legal actions by home countries and the relevant countries. Thus, the embassy stat-

ed that Myanmar citizens are warned that brokers are persuading them with false information to give them passport renewal services, which can result in passport cancellation and delistation. — NN/KK

MRF announces 18,000+ rice sales at fair prices in Sept

MYANMAR Rice Federation (MRF) sold 18,117 rice sacks (108-pound) and 41,578 small 10-kilogramme sacks at fair prices in September, as per the reference prices issued by the Consumer Affairs Department for September.

The distribution includes door-to-door delivery in Yangon and Mandalay cities, sales at

supermarkets, 111 civil servant households, factories and 58 retail shops.

The ministry determined reasonable market prices by considering the following factors: fair profit for the farmers, millers and distributors, reasonable prices for consumers, last year's market price, global market prices and other commodities pric-

es. There are separate prices for modern trade with consumer packaging at mini-marts and supermarkets.

If individuals have difficulty buying rice, they are urged to contact the Myanmar Rice Federation. The buyers can complain about overpricing to the Consumer Affairs Department and MRF.

MRF warned that

overpricing, sales with inaccurate measurement and quality and non-compliance with directives are subjected to fines, taxation and prosecution under Section 5 of the Essential Supplies and Services Law. Thus, rice millers, rice shops, traders and merchants are encouraged to strictly adhere to the rules — NN/KK

MMFA to offer Customer Engagement Strategy Course on 26 Oct

MYANMAR Microfinance Association (MMFA) will open a Customer Engagement Strategy and Methods for Leader intensive course from 9 am to 4 pm on 26-27 October 2024.

The course is tailored to senior, supervisor-level individuals

from a microfinance company and those who are interested in exploring a career in the microfinance sector.

Customer Engagement Strategy and Methods for Leader courses will cover Mindset, Skillset, and Action, SMART Planning, Client Pipeline Manage-

ment, How sustainability can drive client engagement, REACH Methods and Continuous Development, with trainer Daw Swe Nu Tun (Certified Trainer of MMFA, Training Manager Hana Microfinance).

The fee is K100,000 for non-members. Mem-

bers can enjoy a K20,000 discount. Trainees will receive a completion certificate. Those enthusiastic can enrol in the course by 20 October through <https://shorturl.at/fJME7>. For further details, individuals can contact 09 965209010 within office hours. — NN/KK

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC CHANGMING VOY.NO. (2412S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC CHANGMING VOY.NO. (2412S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-10-2024** 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.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (189N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (189N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-10-2024** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Campaigning kicks off in Japan for 27 October general election

OFFICIAL campaigning began across Japan on Tuesday for the 27 October general election as Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba seeks a fresh mandate and aims to restore public trust in politics undermined by a slush funds scandal engulfing his ruling party.

During the 12-day campaign, 1,344 candidates will vie for a total of 465 seats in the House of Representatives in the first contest since 2021. The lower chamber was dissolved last week, only eight days after Ishiba took office.

The Liberal Democratic Party and its junior coalition partner Komeito are aiming to retain a combined majority in the lower house, or at least 233 seats, a relatively low hurdle given that the coalition had 288 seats before the race.

The main opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan is hoping to realize a rare change of government in a country that has seen uninterrupted LDP rule for most of the postwar era. Its leader Yoshihiko Noda



People listen to a stump speech by a House of Representatives election candidate in Hyogo Prefecture on 15 October 2024, as official campaigning for the 27 October general election kicked off the same day.

PHOTO: KYODO

has criticized Ishiba for using the election to deflect public attention from the money scandal.

“We are heading into the election with deep remorse (over the scandal). This is going to be an election to revive Japan.

I will create a new Japan,” Ishiba said in Fukushima Prefecture, northeastern Japan.

Ishiba has faced criticism from opposition leaders who see the 67-year-old premier as having reneged on his promise

to spare enough time for parliamentary debate in the recently held extraordinary session without rushing to an election. The opposition had hoped for time to grill the LDP on the scandal. — Kyodo

US launches new mission to study Jupiter's moon Europa

NASA and SpaceX launched a new mission to Jupiter on Monday to explore the mysteries of Europa, Jupiter's ocean moon.

The Europa Clipper spacecraft, which is NASA's largest planetary spacecraft, launched on a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket at 12:06 pm Eastern Time from NASA's Kennedy Space Centre in the US state of Florida.

NASA later confirmed the spacecraft separated from the rocket, and is now sailing through space on its own, bound for the Jupiter system.

The Deep Space Network in Canberra, Australia, has acquired signal from Europa Clipper after its launch, marking the first indicator that the spacecraft is communicating with Earth, according to NASA. “Today, we embark on a new journey across the solar system in search of the ingredients for life within Jupiter's icy moon. Our next chapter in space exploration has begun,” NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said on social media platform X. — Xinhua

Global media leaders highlight AI opportunities, risks at World Media Summit

GLOBAL media leaders highlighted the opportunities and challenges faced by news media outlets worldwide in the era of

artificial intelligence (AI) after a report on AI was released on Monday by a think tank affiliated with Xinhua, China's national

news agency.

With the title “Responsibility and Mission of News Media in AI Era,” the report, based on interviews with global media, tech organizations and multi-language questionnaires, was released during the ongoing sixth World Media Summit in Urumqi, the capital city of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

“This is a very important document,” said Waref Kumayha, president of the Silk Road Institute for Studies and Research in Lebanon, noting that the world has entered a new era as a result of generative AI technology, which has brought great changes to many industries, including news media. — Xinhua



The 6th World Media Summit opens in Urumqi, capital city of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, 14 October 2024.

PHOTO: XINHUA

Kenya confirms first Mpox death as cases rise to 13

KENYA on Monday confirmed its first Mpox death, as cases of the disease in the country continue to rise.

Mary Muthoni, principal secretary in the Ministry of Health, said in an update released in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, that the number of confirmed cases of Mpox in the country now stood at 13.

Muthoni said eight of the patients had fully recovered and been discharged, while four others were still recovering in different hospitals.

She revealed the patient who died had a co-existing health condition.

Muthoni said since the disease was detected in the country, some 238 samples have been received, of which

13 tested positive while 225 tested negative, adding that some 1.33 million travellers have been screened at 26 points of entry so far.

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Monday also donated mpox diagnostic kits to Kenya's Ministry of Health as part of efforts to boost the fight against the disease.

WHO Representative in Kenya Abdourahmane Diallo said the laboratory diagnostic kits will strengthen Kenya's capacity to respond to the Mpox outbreak.

The WHO declared Mpox a public health emergency of international concern on 14 August and called for a coordinated global response. — Xinhua

GERMANY secured a place in the UEFA Nations League quarter-finals with a 1-0 win over old rivals the Netherlands on Monday, while France won in Belgium and Italy continued their recent revival.

Jamie Leweling of Stuttgart scored on his debut to give Germany victory over the Netherlands in Munich and guarantee them one of the top two spots in Group 3 of League A.

It was the eighth meeting of the teams in the last six years but, for the Dutch, there was nothing familiar about Leweling.

The 23-year-old was an addition to the Germany squad for this month's games following an injury to Jamal Musiala.

He was then called off the bench to start the game after an injury to club teammate Deniz Undav in the warm-up.

Leweling found the net after just two minutes only for that effort to be ruled out for an offside in the build-up, but he then blasted in the winner on 64 minutes.

"Jamie had an outstanding

Germany into Nations League quarters, France and Italy win



Germany's midfielder (7) Jamie Leweling (3rd L) celebrates scoring the opening goal with his teammates during the UEFA Nations League, League A Group A3 football match between Germany and the Netherlands in Munich, southern Germany on 14 October 2024. PHOTO: AFP

debut -- it's not often the Allianz Arena gives you a reception like that -- he did well," said captain Joshua Kimmich.

Germany have 10 points from four games and will definitely take part in the quarter-finals next March.

The Netherlands, who were without the suspended Virgil van Dijk, are level on five points with Hungary.

The Hungarians won 2-0 on Monday away in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with captain Dominik Szoboszlai, of Liverpool, opening the scoring late in the first half and adding a penalty after the break.

Italy remain top of Group A2 after easing to a 4-1 win at home to Israel in Udine.

Mateo Retegui opened the scoring with a penalty shortly before half-time and captain Giovanni Di Lorenzo netted twice in the second half.

Daide Frattesi also scored for Italy, with Mohammad Abu Fani pulling one back for Israel. — AFP

Former world No 1 Osaka confirmed to play Hong Kong Open

FOUR-TIME Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka has been confirmed to compete in the Hong Kong Open tennis championships, organizers announced here on Tuesday.

Osaka, who won the Australian Open in 2019 and 2021 and the US Open in 2018 and 2020, is the first Japanese player to win a Grand Slam and the first player from Asia to hold

who is ranked 37th in the world.

Twenty-year-old Shnaider is the youngest player currently ranked in the world's top 16, and has won three titles this year. At the 2024 Olympic Games, she partnered with Mirra Andreeva to capture the silver medal in the women's doubles.

Other international stars already confirmed to compete in the event include defending champion Leylah Fernandez of Canada, two-time Grand Slam champion and former world No 1 Simona Halep of Romania and Britain's highest-ranked player Katie Boulter. — Xinhua

the singles' top ranking, claiming No 1 spot in January 2019, which she held for 21 weeks.

She will be joined by Russia's Diana Shnaider and Anastasia Potapova,

Osaka Naomi of Japan greets the spectators after the women's singles first round match against Lucia Bronzetti of Italy at the 2024 China Open tennis tournament in Beijing, capital of China, 25 September 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

Ex-Olympian Kotani staying young at heart with new artistic swim goal

FORMER Olympic synchronized swimmer Mikako Kotani has rekindled her love of the pool via the World Aquatics Masters Championships, where she aims to win gold every time she competes in the sport now known as artistic swimming.

The 58-year-old began training in September for next summer's Masters in Singapore, having claimed gold in 2023 and 2024.

Kotani decided to return to competition when the Kyushu region in southwestern Japan was chosen to host the 2023 Masters. Seeing people in their 80s enjoying the sport she loves, she set herself the goal of competing, and winning, for as long as she can.

"I'm in my late 50s, so I used to feel old, as I've passed the halfway point in my life," Kotani said. "But my Masters participation made me think I still have a long way to go."

Kotani has been training in the pool while serving as an Executive Board member of the



Former Olympian Mikako Kotani (2nd from R) poses for a photo in Tokyo on 27 September 2024 with her artistic swimming teammates for the World Aquatics Masters Championships. PHOTO: KYODO

Japanese Olympic Committee, among other high-level roles.

Her efforts paid off at this year's Masters held in Doha from late February to early March, where she captured gold in her mixed duet debut.

The Olympic bronze medalist in both the solo and duet events at the 1988 Seoul Games says she tries hard to keep up with her current teammates, all of whom are younger than her.

Kotani's teammates are in turn awed by the former Olympian's dedication. "It's amazing how she has improved her stamina," said Michiyo Fujimaru, 45, who competed alongside Kotani at the 2023 championships. For the 2025 Masters, Kotani plans to contest more events than at the two previous championships as she tries to eclipse her haul of three gold medals in 2023. — Kyodo



WORLD



Soldiers of the "Hard-boned Sixth Company" of the 74th Army Group of the People's Liberation Army take part in a battle drill in a coastal area of Guangdong province on 1 June 2020.
PHOTO: XINHUA

UN officials call for urgent ceasefire in Lebanon

Two senior UN officials on Tuesday urged a ceasefire in Lebanon after witnessing the dire circumstances facing families and children due to the Hezbollah-Israeli conflict, according to a statement by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

"The children and families of Lebanon need this war to end. To protect them from violence, ensure they can receive essential supplies and services, and prevent further deterioration of the situation, a ceasefire is urgent," said UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Ted Chaiban and the UN World Food Programme's Deputy Executive Director Carl Skau after a three-day visit to Lebanon.

The two officials said they visited shelters and informal tented settlements and engaged with affected communities to notice that each person has a story of forced displacement and multiple struggles.

"Around 1.2 million people have been affected ... Nearly 190,000 displaced individuals are currently sheltered in over 1,000 facilities, while hundreds of thousands more are seeking safety among family and friends," said the statement. — Xinhua

Xi urges developing system of modern military theory

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping has urged efforts to comprehensively strengthen work related to military theory on the new journey in the new era, and develop a system of modern military theory with Chinese characteristics.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), made the remarks in an instruction to a meeting on work related to military theory, which was held in Beijing on Monday and Tuesday.

Xi emphasized that modernizing military theory is an important part of the efforts to modernize national defence and the armed forces, and paves the way for the building of a strong military.

Noting that the new global military revolution is unfolding rapidly and China's security and development needs are undergoing profound changes, Xi stressed that it is a matter of greater urgency to achieve the goal of building a strong military, and work related to military theory must be comprehensively strengthened.

He stressed the importance of integrating the basic tenets of Marxism with the practice of developing the people's armed forces, and absorbing the essence of fine traditional Chinese culture in the military domain.

Xi urged efforts to optimize top-level design for military theory innovations, improve the model of relevant research and enhance the application of military theory, thus providing scientific support and guidance for elevating the country's armed forces to world-class standards more quickly. — Xinhua

OPEC further cuts 2024, 2025 global oil demand forecast

THE Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) on Monday further trimmed forecasts for global oil demand growth this year and next, marking the organization's downward revision for the third consecutive month.

In its monthly oil market report for October, OPEC projected a global oil demand growth of 1.93 million barrels per day (bpd) for 2024, down 106,000 bpd from the growth of 2.03 million bpd expected last month.

OPEC attributed the adjust-

ment to "actual data received combined with slightly lower expectations for the oil demand performance in some regions."

Despite the third successive downward revision, OPEC said this year's world oil demand growth is "still well above the historical average of 1.4 million bpd seen before the COVID-19 pandemic." For next year, the oil-producer group cut its 2025 global oil demand growth estimate to 1.64 million bpd from last month's assessment of 1.74 million bpd. OPEC twice lowered its forecasts

for global oil demand growth in 2024 and 2025 in its monthly market reports published in August and September. Until August, OPEC had maintained its global oil demand growth forecasts of 2.25 million bpd this year and 1.85 million bpd next year since they were first made in July last year.

Last month, eight member countries of OPEC+, a group comprising OPEC and its allies, announced an extension of their voluntary oil production cuts by two months until November. — Xinhua



Photo taken on 30 November 2023 shows the headquarters of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna, Austria. PHOTO: XINHUA