

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

## Press release on propaganda about oppression of factory workers holding 5/, 8/, 9/ CSCs

1. The Ministry of Labour has learnt the CTUM Myanmar page on 25-8-2022 posted “three members – two males and one female – of the Youths Union Centre Labour Alliance and CTUM wearing T-shirts bearing 5/, 8/ and 9/ staged a strike in front of the Zhejiang Tongi Clothing Myanmar Co Ltd (garment factory) at No 25 on Nawaday Mingyi road in the Shwelinpan Industrial Zone in Hlinethaya (West) Township to show that they are standing with the oppressed workers who hold citizenship scrutiny cards that begin with the numbers 5/, 8/, and 9/.
2. Officials conducted a field study regarding the news that the workers who hold CSC cards 5/ Sagaing Region, 8/ Magway Region and 9/ Mandalay Region are being oppressed at the factory, and the findings are as follows: —
  - (a) The owner of the factory is Mr Gong Song Lin (Korean) and it employs 1,496 workers – 108 males and 1,388 females.
  - (b) The factory has been operating for over seven years. It has never dismissed workers without any reason and managed the workers who did not follow the rules in accordance with the law. There is no unusual labour case at the factory, and three protesters are not employees of the factory.
  - (c) The factory employees are working peacefully and the factory does not dismiss, discriminate and oppress the 5/, 8/ and 9/ CSC holders.
3. Therefore, the news posted on the CTUM Myanmar page on 25-8-2022 was just incitement and propaganda to hamper workplace stability and the manufacturing sector as they are incorrect and false facts.

Ministry of Labour

## Over \$13 billion earned from overseas trade within 4 & 1/2 months



Overseas-going merchant vessels with loaded containers are pictured cruising along the Yangon River.

**T**HE Ministry of Commerce stated that the country pocketed over US\$13 billion from international trading in four and a half months of the 2022-2023 financial year.

Myanmar exported \$6537.504 million worth of goods and imported \$6,507.207 million worth of goods. The total trade

volume from 1 April to 19 August this financial year was \$13,044.711 million. The trade value of the previous year was \$10430.457 million. Comparing the same period of the previous two financial years, foreign trade income increased by \$2,614.254 million in the 2022-2023FY.

According to the MoC

statements, the State bags over \$16.079 billion of foreign trade value in the six months of the 2021-2022 Mini-Budget period and surpassed the trade income of the same duration in the previous year.

The trade income value of Myanmar from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022 was \$16.079

billion and \$15.971 billion were earned in the same period of the previous year.

The National Planning Law mentioned that over \$15.5 billion of export value and more than \$14 billion of import value were expected as per the annual price index for the 2022-2023 financial year. —TWA/GNLM

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## Those wishing to enter the legal fold can contact respective townships' Red Cross Society, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Social Welfare Office and social welfare organizations authorized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in addition to reception centres in border areas, Tatmadaw units and police stations

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council has released statements inviting CDM staff, students and youths, who are in border areas and ethnic armed groups, they can contact the nearest reception centres in border areas, Tatmadaw units and police stations if they want to enter the legal fold and the government will guarantee their lives following the rules and regulations.

In order to prevent the unnecessary loss of human resources, the State Administration Council has publicly invited the basic education staff who are absent from duty to resume their duties and those who take

part in armed resistance under various names of groups, including PDFs. Meanwhile, 3,156 education workers, who were absent from their duties, another 1,009 people, who want to withdraw the cases that were opened against them, and 231 PDF members have contacted and returned to the legal fold. Then, they were given back to their parents systematically and the numbers of people who enter the legal fold and those who wish to are rising. Therefore, the government is making efforts to accept more numbers of those people.

The government opens reception centres in bor-

der areas for those who would like to return to the legal fold. Moreover, those wishing to return home can contact respective townships' Red Cross Society, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Social Welfare Office and social welfare organizations authorized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. It is guaranteed that they will be able to lead their daily lives peacefully.

Information Team  
State Administration Council

## Urea fertilizers available at reasonable prices

AMID high agricultural input costs, the Myanmar Rice Federation imported 177,000 tonnes of urea fertilizers and distributed 115,000 tonnes of urea fertilizers at fairer prices than the prices that are sold in the market.

The Federation distributes K86,000 per bag in the Yangon region, from K87,800 to K89,400 in other regions and states depending on transport charges.

The price per bag is K10,000 cheaper than the market value because the price is from K92,000 to K95,000 per bag in

the fertilizer market. Currently, fertilizers needed for the winter and spring crops have been imported, and plans will be made to provide them for agricultural activities on time and to support sunflower farmers in October and November.

More than 34,000 tonnes of fertilizers worth US\$17.617 million were imported by sea trade during the third week of August. The importation of over 20,000 tonnes from China, 2,000 tonnes from Iran, over 120 tonnes from Israel, about 50 tonnes from Ja-

pan, 400 tonnes from South Korea, over 300 tonnes from Thailand, over 5,500 tonnes from the UAE and over 3,500 tonnes from Viet Nam.

Most of the fertilizers is imported from China. About 20,000 tonnes of fertilizers were imported last week, it is learnt. — TWA/GNLM

The picture shows bags of urea fertilizers that will be exported from China. PHOTO - CHINA DAILY



## COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

DOCTORS and nurses from public hospitals, Tatmadaw medical teams, healthcare workers and volunteers are working hard to give COVID-19 vaccines in different states and regions as the vaccination programme is one of the most important activities in the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 disease.

COVID-19 vaccine is administered daily to target groups regardless of race or religion, including Buddhist monks and nuns, local people over the age of 40, students, religious leaders, prisoners, people with disabilities, ethnic armed groups, people with chronic diseases, people in IDP camps and over 12-year-old students, respectively.

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmad-



A local in Ponnagyun Township, Rakhine State gets COVID-19 vaccine shot on 31 August.

aw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 15,330 people from twenty six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 2,317 people from six townships in Rakhine State, and 8,226 from seven districts in Mandalay Region, respectively.

Similarly on that day, healthcare officials gave the vaccines

to 1,228 students from twenty six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 1,142 students from three townships in Rakhine State and 2,993 students from seven districts in Mandalay Region.

It is reported that officials from the respective Regional Military Headquarters visited the site and coordinated the necessary work. — MNA

104 new cases of  
COVID-19 reported on  
31 August, total figure  
rises to 615,221

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **615,221** after **104** new cases — **8** imported and **96** local transmission — were reported on 31 August 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **593,615** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached **19,438** after **one** died.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 30-8-2022, a total of **30,377,985** people above 18 and a total of **6,398,728** people under 18 have been vaccinated. —MNA

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## Region and state-wise cooperative societies to enhance socioeconomic life of rural people

IF the co-operative societies are extensively formed region and state wise with those who will really do their businesses, the socioeconomic life of the rural people will improve. Likewise, the industrial businesses are also required to be encouraged and supported to enable the manufacturers to direct their effort towards the production of personal goods and construction materials to ensure domestic sufficiency.

*(Excerpts from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the third-day coordination meeting held on 10 August 2022 in regard to matters relating to the activities being carried out by the Union Government)*

## State Peace Talks Team continues its second-day meeting with RCSS delegation

THE second-day meeting of the State Peace Talks Team and the Restoration Council of Shan State-RCSS delegation was held at the meeting hall of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre on 31 August morning.

The meeting was attended by SAC Member Union Minister at the Union Government Office Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and members: SAC Member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naung and RCSS Chairman General Yawd Serk, Secretary (1) Sao

Sai Ngin and Central Executive Committee Member Sao Saung Han.

At the second-day meeting, NSPNC member Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein clarified the agreements included in Tables 1, 2 and 3 of the Union Accord along with the findings and whether they conform with the existing laws. Later, the participants exchanged their opinions and held a mutual discussion.

Afterwards, they conferred on general matters and adjourned the meeting.

The third-day meeting will be held at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre on 1 September. — MNA



The second-day meeting between the State Peace Talks Team and the RCSS delegation is in progress yesterday.

## Disaster Management Department and UNOCHA sign Letter of Agreement

THE signing ceremony for the Letter of Agreement (LoA) between the Disaster Management Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) was organized in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The event was attended by Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine, the deputy minister, the permanent secretary, directors-general, Mr David Carden, Head of the UNOCHA office and officials.

The Union minister said the LoA between the ministry and UNOCHA will accelerate the government-led disaster management activities, and emergency responses, strengthen the cooperation between Tatmadaw and ministries in emergency



responses to natural disasters, support the technical aids and cooperate in data management and preparations.

The ministry is working hard to establish national region/state/district/township level disaster management

committees.

It focuses on All-Inclusive and provides humanitarian assistance and social development

programmes for all people regardless of race or religion.

The partner organizations that emphasize the long-term interests of people should communicate under the existing law, rules and regulations and policies of the ministry.

Then, UNOCHA (Myanmar) Head Mr David Carden explained the work plans under the agreement, humanitarian assistance and further work procedures.

Director-General Dr Ko Ko Naing and Mr David Carden signed the agreement and exchanged it.

Under the LoA, the UNOCHA will cooperate with the Disaster Management Department to conduct disaster management activities, emergency responses, capacity building and technical assistance. — MNA

### 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](http://www.moi.gov.mm/mal), [www.moi.gov.mm/km](http://www.moi.gov.mm/km), [www.moi.gov.mm/nlm](http://www.moi.gov.mm/nlm) and [www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper](http://www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper).

# National Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) launches two new art galleries

THE National Museum in Nay Pyi Taw opened two new art galleries- the Buddha images gallery and the gallery of vehicles belonging to former Myanmar presidents yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs U Aye Tun, Deputy Minister Culture Dr Moe Zaw Tun, the permanent secretary, directors-general, guests and departmental staff.

Speaking at the event, the Union Minister said the people can study the changing artworks of Buddha images of Myanmar people from the Pyu era to date and pay homage to the images, and they can improve their knowledge regarding the



The MoRAC Union Minister and dignitaries look into the vehicles that were belong to ex-presidents of Myanmar.

vehicles of former presidents of Myanmar at the two new galleries. The museum staff

should try to for the emergence of Digital Museum using IT as per the trend and it also should

conduct capacity building to ensure human resources. Then, Director-General

Dr Kyaw Oo Lwin of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum presented the aims of launching new galleries while Director Dr Aye Aye Thin of the National Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) about the setting of new galleries.

The Union Minister cut the ribbon to open the two new galleries together with deputy ministers and director-general.

The Union minister and party visited the galleries.

During the paper reading session marking the opening of new galleries, three authors read out their papers, and the presiding person discussed overall assessments of the papers and concluded the session. — MNA

## Public Notice

1. The Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to effectively curb corruption.
2. The ACC used SMS on the mobile phone to ask the public who seek services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via Short Code No “1111” for feedbacks, including the Public Feedback Programme-PFP.
3. According to the PFP, the right replies of the citizens via Short Code No “1111” will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.
4. Therefore, the public should make a reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at Short Code No “1111” and such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

*Anti-Corruption Commission  
Answer “1111” to fight against corruption  
Answer “1111” to improve services  
Let’s work together to eliminate corruption towards prosperity*

## MNA set K3,000 for dollar exchange rate in booking flights with deposit

MYANMAR National Airlines set a US dollar exchange rate at K3,000 in booking flights with a deposit from 4 pm on 30 August, according to a statement released by MNA.

Consequently, agents have to pay K3,000 for a dollar in booking flights with a deposit. They have to pay cash upfront or digital currency which is equivalent to K3,000 to the liability account through mobile banking/iBanking.

Similarly, Air KBZ also charged K3,050 for a dollar from 31 August. The exchange rate was raised from K2,750 set on 26 August.

The statement mentioned that MNA will make further notice to the agents if there are any changes to be made in the foreign exchange rate.

According to the provisions stipulated in section 11, 12 and 13 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, all the foreign cur-



An MNA flight attendant is pictured serving the passengers.

rency earned by locals have to be exchanged for local currency at the Central Bank of Myanmar’s reference rate of K1,850 by opening the accounts at the authorized dealers in the country within one working day, according to the notification released on 3 April.

On 5 August, CBM raised the exchange rate to K2,100.

As a result of this, there is a K900 gap between the CBM’s reference rate and airlines’ rate.

To stabilize the exchange rate, the CBM set the currency

trading band at 0.3 per cent for Kyat to fluctuate between these two specified upper and lower exchange rates for the transaction, selling or buying, according to a notification issued by the CBM on 9 November 2021.

Therefore, financial institutions including banks and money exchangers set a dollar value at K2,100 for buying and K2,106 for selling.

Despite the reference exchange rate, a dollar is traded at over K4,000 in the grey market on 31 August.— NN/GNLM

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## Rice export via maritime trade accumulates \$2.619 mln within week ending 19 Aug

MYANMAR shipped 6,310 tonnes of rice to foreign trade partners via the maritime trade in the week ending on 19 August, generating a revenue of US\$2.619 million.

The country exported 2,950 tonnes of rice to European Union countries and about 3,360 tonnes to Asian countries.

The export volume stood at approximately 3,110 tonnes to China, 250 to Malaysia, 1,016 to Poland, 500 to the Netherlands, 200 to Germany, 200 to Croatia, 260 to Slovenia, 225 to Czech, 250 to the UK, 125 to Italy, 125 to Libya and 50 to Estonia respectively.

Meanwhile, Myanmar conveyed more than 3,680 tonnes of rice to China via cross-border posts with an estimated value of over \$1.359 million.

Myanmar's rice export through border routes and sea trade channels totalled 9,990 tonnes and bagged \$3.978 million.

Furthermore, Myanmar exported \$0.808 million worth of 2,320 tonnes of broken rice to external markets by the sea in the week ending on 19 August. Exports of broken rice went to China (1,820 tonnes) and the Netherlands (500 tonnes).

Additionally, broken rice exports were estimated at over 5,970 tonnes on the Sino-Myanmar border and 320 tonnes on the Myanmar-Thailand border, totalling 6,300 tonnes in cross-border trade. Therefore, the export value of broken rice by sea or across borders amounted to 8,620 tonnes worth \$2.917 million.

Between 13 and 19 August,



Export rice is loaded onto the overseas-going cargo vessel.

Myanmar earned \$6.895 million from 18,610 tonnes of rice and broken rice exports. The

export volume was down by over 1,900 tonnes compared to that of the previous week,

while the export value fell by \$0.42 million. — TWA/GNLM

## Palm oil reference price increases upon Kyat depreciation



THE wholesale reference price of palm oil for a week (29 August to 4 September) is set at K4,910 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) calculated on the exchange rate of K2,550 against a US dollar, as per the official statement.

For the week ending on 7 August, the wholesale reference price of palm oil in Yangon was K3,525 per viss, calculated on the exchange rate of K1,853.

Until now, the Central Bank of Myanmar set the reference exchange rate against a US dollar at K2,100, raised from K1,850 recorded in early August. If the price is fixed according to the CBM's rate, palm oil reference

price is estimated at only K3,700 per viss. When it is calculated with K2,550, the palm oil reference price rises to approximately K4,500 per viss.

This week, palm oil is priced at US\$1,080 per tonne (1000 kilogrammes) in international markets.

"The palm oil reference price is up by K800 per viss upon the exchange rate hike," Ko Lin Htut told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

If Yangon's wholesale reference price had been calculated on the exchange rate of K2,100, it would have been K4,800 per viss. At present, the reference price (K4,910 per viss) for this

week was calculated on the exchange rate of K2,550, he added.

The palm oil was sold at K8,800 per viss in the wholesale markets in Yangon last week. The prices stood at K9,000 per viss on 29 August, K9,200 on 30 August, and K9,400-9,500 on 31 August respectively, the GNLM quoted Ko Aung Ko, an edible oil seller at the Nyaungpinlay market, as saying.

The palm oil wholesale prices in regions and states reached K9,500 per viss on 30 August and K9,800 per viss on 31 August.

Amid the volatile foreign exchange rate, the millers of palm oil with jerry can suspend the sales in the Ponyin area. So, I have to order it from Myingyan town, Daw Kyin said.

The prices of sesame in Myingyan town are K70,000-80,000 per basket. As a result of this, the sesame oil price has also risen.

On 31 August, edible oil wholesale prices were K13,500-14,500 per viss for peanut, K10,000-11,000 for sesame and K12,000-13,000 for sunflower, Ko Htay Aung, a sesame oil miller, told the GNLM. — TWA/GNLM

## MoFA eases entry restrictions on 8 ASEAN countries effective 1 Sept

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs released a notification regarding the re-authorization of entry visa exemption for eight ASEAN member countries. The diplomats and those who hold regular passports or special passports would be exempted from entry visas, in accordance with the Bilateral Visa Exemption Agreements.

Among ASEAN countries, the Philippines, Cambodia, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Laos, Viet Nam and Brunei

have been allowed to be free from entry restrictions. In such doing, tourists who will enter the country with the exemption of entry visas must follow rules and regulations of the Ministry of Health established for the prevention of COVID-19.

The MoH rules includes wearing on face masks and receiving full COVID-19 vaccination plus booster shots as a few genetic mutations of COVID-19 have been found in Myanmar. — TWA/GNLM



Officials are seen processing immigration procedures for international travellers at the Mandalay International Airport.

# Pure gold price hit all-time high of K3.5 mln per tical in domestic markets

THE pure gold price reached a fresh new peak of K3.5 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) in the markets, said gold traders.

Kyat's weakening against the safe-haven US dollar pushed up the pure gold price. The exchange rate against a US dollar was worth K4,000 in the unofficial forex market.

Despite the record price in the markets, Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association set the pure gold price at K2,025,000 per tical on 31 August.

The association calculated the price depending on the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference exchange rate against a dollar at K2,100, YGEA Chair U Myo Myint told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

The difference between the market price and the YGEA's set price was to K1,500,000. The black market might arise again following the soaring dollar, resulting in the suspension of gold bar transactions, he explained.

Nonetheless, YGEA decided to make a sales report according to the actual market price on 29 August 2022.

The decision was made following the meeting of the Monitoring and Steering Committee on the Gold and Currency Market and also with the officials involved in gold smelting and refining businesses in Yangon, Mandalay and Mawlamyine cities on 27 August 2022. YGEA settled this under the guidance of the officials concerned, U Myo Myint elaborated.

There is a large gap of

K1.5 million between the market price and YGEA's set price. Consequently, a market report to the related department must be done as per the actual market price.

At the end of September 2021, a dollar value hit an all-time high of over K3,000 in the gold exchanges and consequently, the pure gold reached a high of K2.22 million per tical.

Under the guidance of the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods, the Monitoring and Steering Committee on the Gold and Currency Market was formed on 17 December 2021 as gold and currency market stability play a crucial role in trade facilitation.

The objectives of the committee are inspecting and pros-



The pure gold price reached a fresh new peak of K3.5 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) in the markets, said gold traders.

ecuting market manipulation, checking if there is compliance with payment rules in the domestic market, and proceeding against those unscrupulous traders who intend to interfere with the free and fair operation

of the market under the existing laws, by-laws and regulations in line with the official directives, illegal foreign currency holding, illegal trade and taking legal actions against price manipulators. — NN/GNLM

## Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council's Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

Regarding the "request for money from departmental organizations in conducting trade", the following numbers can be reached to safely report such information.

Auto telephone number - 067 409 881  
Mobile phone - 09 699611116  
Fax - 067 409 887  
Email address - antiillegaltradeoffice@gmail.com  
*Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee*

## Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council's Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

The following telephone numbers, fax and email address can be reached to safely report information in connection with illegal trade.

Auto telephone number - 067 409 883  
Mobile phone - 09 404339969  
Fax - 067 409 886  
Email address - antiillegaltradeinfo@gmail.com  
*Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee*

## CRIME NEWS

### Illegal timbers, consumer goods, foodstuffs, raw industrial materials and vehicles confiscated



Officials check seized illegal timbers.

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

A combined inspection team led by the Myanmar Police Force under the instructions of the Chin State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted inspections on 29 August.

Officials nabbed K3,528,000 worth of illegally carried liquor from two vehicles heading from Falam to Haka at the bus stop on the Haka-Gangaw Road. The action was taken under the Chin Special Division Act.

Similarly, on 30 August, an on-duty team at the Mawmyathazi Permanent Checkpoint confiscated K28,023,532

worth of consumer goods, raw industrial materials that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) from three trucks (approximately K270 million) with three trailers (approximately K75 million). The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, an unregistered Pajero car (approximately K3 million) at the Myoma Market in Butalin township was captured under the Sagaing Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

Afterwards, an inspection team led by the Thandwe District Forest Department conducted inspections and seized a total of 13.9044 tonnes of illegal timbers in Taungup and Thandwe town-

ships. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

In addition, a combined team led by the Lewe Township Forest Department made unexpected inspections on the arrival of the Taungdwingyi-Pyinmana down mail train. They confiscated a total of 0.2400 tonne of illegally carried teak worth K35,000. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

A combined team led by the Mandalay Region Customs Department under the supervision of the Mandalay Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force carried out patrol inspections on 31 August.

They captured 538 ownerless cartons of playing cards worth K16,140,000 at the side of the 18/6-Milepost on the Mandalay-PyinOoLwin Road. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, a total of 7.3076 tonnes of illegal teak worth K2,241,716 were seized in Minhla township of Toungoo district and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 17 arrests (approximately K399,946,532) were made on three consecutive days from 29 to 31 August, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

## LOCAL BUSINESS

# Myanmar bags \$7.785 mln from 6,132.40 MT of fishery exports to Bangladesh as of 26 Aug

MYANMAR is stepping up the agriculture and livestock sector as it plays a pivotal role in the country's economy. Myanmar has conveyed 6,132.4 metric tons of fishery products to Bangladesh between 1 April and 26 August in the current financial year 2022-2023, with estimated earnings of US\$7.785 million.

Myanmar delivered 362.97 MT of fishery products worth \$23.387 million via two border posts (Sittway and Maungtau) in the previous mini-budget period. As of 26 August, Myanmar exported 823.4 MT of fishery products valued at \$1.18 million via the Sittway border and \$6.605 million worth of 5,309 MT of fishery products via Maungtau. The fishery exports to Bangladesh accumulated \$7.785 million in nearly five months.



Myanmar has conveyed 6,132.4 metric tons of fishery products to Bangladesh between 1 April and 26 August in the current financial year 2022-2023, with estimated earnings of US\$7.785 million. PHOTO: KANU

Among the fishery products from Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Rakhine State, rohu is the main export item to Bangladesh. Anchovy and other dried fish are also exported.

Rohu is transported by ship from Yangon to Sittway, Rakhine State. In road transport, 100-150

trucks flow into the border area per month. The export volume in five months is estimated to be over 6,000 tonnes.

In the previous mini-budget, the monthly export volume was 1,500-1,700 tonnes. The volume slightly decreased to 1,200 tonnes this FY.

Some entrepreneurs commenced farming freshwater rohu under the support of the Department of Fisheries in Rakhine State in the first half of this year to cut transport costs and maintain export quality. They expect to export the farmed rohu in Rakhine State to the neigh-

bouring country in 2023.

"Rohu larvae are added this year and they can be harvested next year. Freshwater rohu farming will increase the income of the farmers as a local product. Rakhine State government put into vigorous action to boost exports of Rakhine State and bring about the economic benefits of the state," said U Thet Oo, head of the Rakhine State Fisheries Department.

Normally, Myanmar's exports surpass imports in the cross-border trade with Bangladesh, which is also an important market for freshwater fish farmers. The border post with Bangladesh is expected to become a fishery hub in future, generating revenue for the State. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

## Corn price breaks above K1,000 per viss



At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons - winter, summer and monsoon. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year.

CORN price has risen to over K1,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes), according to the Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Commodity Wholesale Centre).

Between the third week of July and the second week of

August, the price stayed below K900 per viss. On 30 August, the price soared back to K1,000-1,020 per viss.

Kyat depreciation against the US dollar in the local forex market is a contributing factor to the price rise. The Central Bank of Myanmar raised the

reference exchange rate from K1,850 to K2,100 on 5 August.

Transactions for the exports of agricultural products including corn, rice, bean and oil crops are to be made in dollars instead of Yuan-Kyat/Baht-Kyat cross-currency settlement in border transactions like the

dollar payment method practised in trade by sea, according to the directive released on 30 June.

Additionally, foreign currency earnings have to be converted to the local currency according to the reference rate of the CBM.

As a result of this, there is a large gap between the regulated rate and the unofficial rate, while a US dollar is worth over K4,000 in the grey market. This action affected exports of agricultural products, so export has fallen, traders stressed.

Thailand gives green light to corn imports under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand imposed a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn imports to protect the rights of their growers if the corn is imported during the corn season of Thailand. The tax exemption period for corn has expired.

Out of the companies that have submitted the Express of Interests, 86 have been forward-

ed to the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) to seek permits for legitimate corn exports to China. Those companies are left to receive a registration code at the final stage, said Chair U Aye Chan Aung of the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

Upon issuing the registration code this month, the corn export to China is expected to commence in September, the association expected.

Myanmar exported 2.3 million tonnes of corn to foreign trade partners in the 2020-2021 financial year. The majority of them were sent to Thailand and the remaining went to China, India and Viet Nam.

At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons - winter, summer and monsoon. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year. — NN/GNLM

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

# OPINION

## Efficiently use water for consumption and cultivation purposes

**M**YANMAR'S farmers themselves need to participate in the implementation of participatory irrigation management so as to efficiently utilize the agricultural water provided by dams to farmlands when the climate change effects gradually inch year by year.

The human resources which studied efficient water utilization in Israel which is the best capacity in efficient water utilization across the world should be applied in Myanmar's agriculture sector. Moreover, it is necessary to teach agricultural engineering subjects to students at schools at different levels to have a wider knowledge of efficient water utilization.

Currently, as the supply of irrigation water is crucial for ensuring the successful thriving of crops and the development of rural areas, the government is putting investments in irrigation projects with farsightedness to improve the life of farmers.

Farmers need to systematically utilize water for the cultivation of crops under the triple cropping pattern such as paddy-bean-paddy, paddy-sunflower-paddy, paddy-sesame-paddy and paddy and other two crops on more than six million acres of irrigated farmlands. If so, farmers will have great changes in their life.

There are some 33.2 million acres of farmlands under various kinds of crops. A total of 25.517 acres of farmlands are rainfed and irrigated lands whereas monsoon paddy is placed on some 15 million acres of farmlands and summer paddy on some three million acres. Now, more than 20 per cent of 33.2 million acres of net cultivable lands are being irrigated by dams.

This being so, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is implementing the projects for the construction of dams and reservoirs, diversion weirs, sluice gates, canals and underground water tapping while supplying water through solar power and hydropower. As such, all need to efficiently use irrigation sources so as to improve the agriculture and livestock sectors.

At present, climate change affects the reduction of water sources across the nation. Hence, all need to save water sources for future generations and efficiently use them. In doing so, the entire people should make collaborative efforts to the prevention of wasting water and for ensuring the sufficiency of water in society.

Nobody can stay away from water. Efficient utilization of water both for consumption and cultivation purposes can be dubbed as saving the water sources as well as conserving the natural environment to shape the country lush and green forever. Consequently, the people will have a chance to enjoy the fruits of the food supplies and accommodation through a good natural environment based on thriving crop plantations and water supply.

**A**LTHOUGH corruption cases should no longer exist throughout today's world, they will never fade out from the global community whenever anyone intentionally or unintentionally commits corruption cases against others or anything.

As everybody residing in the global countries including Myanmar does not have genuine knowledge which can be applied to analyze what are dos and don'ts in the society, they may commit cases of corruption or taking bribes. Sometimes, somebody may commit corruption cases due to pressures posed by somebody or someone for various reasons. Whenever they do not have genuine knowledge and genuine courage to avoid or refuse to avoid corruption cases, they intentionally commit corruption cases.

### Create a corruption-free environment

So, it is necessary to analyze the root causes of corruption cases. First, authorities concerned need to create corruption-free environments in the country. It is not impossible but such an act cannot totally fade out the corruption but it is sure to remarkably reduce corruption cases. Even if the creation of such an environment is not useful for the current generation, it will be surely useful for new generations to control themselves for avoiding corruption based on rationality.

Everybody is trying to fulfil the basic needs of their families. To do so, they use various ways and means to meet their goals. If so, they may intentionally or unintentionally do acts outside the framework of the law. It may be corruption. If their families are generally fulfilled, they do not need to commit any illegal acts. Only then may somebody

# Shape a corruption-free society for new generations

with great ambition intentionally commit corruption cases without avoiding acts outside the framework of the law.

### Raising public awareness

Second, if so, the government is responsible for raising public awareness of the disadvantages of corruption not only in the current era but in the vicious circle for the people to have genuine knowledge and courage to analyze the correct ways of lifestyle without committing any illegal acts. Moreover, a corruption-free environment will contribute to the people to avoid the situation of avoiding corruption cases.

In Myanmar, the Anti-Corruption Law was enacted on 7 August 2013 for ensuring the emergence of a clean government and good governance in Myanmar and the Anti-Corruption Commission was formed in 2014 in order to fight corruption cases and take action against those who commit bribes and losses to the State.

Only when a society which is free from corruption emerges, will the people have a safe life not face losses in corruption and not become victims of corruption cases. If so, the people will have the knowledge to avoid corruption cases they may commit in a specific situation or to overcome challenges of corruption they may be committed. Actually, knowledge leads everything to how to do and how to avoid something.

In the fourth amendment to the law on 21 June 2018, a definition mentioned anyone who is



Only when a society which is free from corruption emerges, will the people have a safe life not face losses in corruption and not become victims of corruption cases. ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF FREEPIK

handling procedures of the public finance of relevant government departments or government organizations or public organizations or other organizations or demanding, taking, managing and liquidating their property or participating in or managing the agreements related to these organizations commits acts of making losses to currency, materials and property of the State. If cases of losses occur, action was taken against the offenders under Section 3 (a) (2) of the Anti-Corruption Law.

Governments in successive eras have been striving to prevent corruption and bribes as

much as they can. Lawbreakers committed corruption cases and bribes taking advantage of weak points in the relevant laws. Indeed, the lawbreakers who committed corruption cases and bribes can be identified as persons with selfishness. They ignored the disadvantages which came of the corruption cases over other persons but kept their self-interests at the fore. Hence, they should be identified as dangerous persons to the world.

During the term of the previous government, some persons were notorious for corruption but scrutiny and taking action against them were weak. Amongst the

various kinds of difficulties and challenges, the Anti-Corruption Commission exposed some major corruption cases. In this regard, just three cases were related to prosecuting the law breakers for the loss of the State from 2019 to 31 January 2021, unveiling the losses worth K20 million and 255,930.69 euros.

### Accepting complaints for corruption cases

Starting from 1 February 2021 when the State Administration Council assumed State responsibilities to 31 July 2022, the Anti-Corruption Commission accepted complaints for the

By Aung Kyaw Thant

cases. After scrutinizing these complaints, the commission prosecuted 186 criminal cases and 45 general criminal cases. In that regard, the persons with political status from previous Union ministries and region and state governments and those holding the authority broke disciplines of financial rules related to government projects, construction tasks and region and state development tasks. They also did not follow the disciplines mentioned in the agreements signed with the State. Moreover, they breached existing laws and disciplines, did not abide by orders and directives, sought self-interests and abused the ownership of property. As a result, 108 cases of corruption made losses to State finance. Hence, the State lost K259,670 million and US\$13,326,746 in the cases.

Due to corruption cases, cases of incorrectness in allotting the fund for the public interests, loss of natural resources, lack of efficient using the land plots reclaimed, loss of basic rights for the people, and hindrances to foreign investment and Myanmar citizens' investments happened in the administration, economic and social sectors, according to the Anti-Corruption Commission.

In fact, any kinds of corruption and malpractices based on bribes never benefit society as well as the persons themselves who committed. Practically, the persons who are corrupt for taking bribes or offending

illegal acts or malpractices in their respective arenas or workplaces abuse their authority or financial power or social power but their minds will never be peaceful. Surely, their souls are always fighting against the actual minds of honesty. The eagerness of breaching the prescribed disciplines or laws of corruption is always wrestling with the sinless soul.

### Pretended feature of the mind

In an exceptional case, some persons intentionally forge corruption kept in mind. They are satisfactory to commit corruption in which value and volume might be lesser so as to console their souls. It is a mind of bullying others under the pretended feature of the mind. If they have a chance to be corrupt over others in many cases, they will be satisfied with their lives and acts. Truly, it may be a disorder of the mind and they may be a patient suffering from a mental disorder. Practically, when they face legal action taken for the cases they committed, they will suffer a larger burden of punishment than they have seemed.

In Myanmar, most of the people who believe in Buddhism uphold the teachings of the Lord Buddha. They accept the Buddhism concept that the person who committed a bad deed would face a bad result and who performed a good deed would have a good reflection.

### Types of corruption

Actually, the word corruption cannot be narrowly defined as a case of committing an incorrect and unfair act against others. Wikipedia defines corruption as a form of dishonesty or a criminal offence which is undertaken by a person or an organization which is entrusted in a position of authority, in order to acquire illicit benefits or abuse power for one's personal gain. But, the word corruption is inclusive of bribe court, bribery of voters, money laundering, dirty money and so many ways of malpractices in social ethics.

### Shape a corruption-free society

In order to build a society free from corruption, it is necessary to widen the scope of people to know the advantages and disadvantages of committing cases of corruption. Indeed, any religion across the world cannot accept corruption. Corruption cannot benefit both doers and losers. The former may seem to get something from the corruption but they actually lose mental power in the current world. Losers also face losses of property and suffering. Hence, all the people from the global community should discard the act of corruption forever.

That is why everybody needs to try to avoid malpractices including corruption and bribes as part of contributing towards the prosperity of the society. The positive reflection of the majority of people will shape society peaceful and pleasant. Everybody should think if the whole society can restrict the acts of corruption even without making it to be faded out, the society will have to bear pleasant and pleasurable moments in the future.

## First death linked to monkeypox reported in US

*So far, United States has seen 18,100 cases of monkeypox. The number of new infections appears to have recently slowed slightly, according to data from health authorities.*



People wait in line for the monkeypox vaccine at the Balboa Sports Centre in the Encino neighbourhood of Los Angeles, California, on 27 July 2022. PHOTO: ROBYN BECK / AFP

**T**EXAS authorities on Tuesday confirmed the first US death linked to monkeypox, but said they are still determining what role the disease played in the demise of the "severely immunocompromised" patient.

So far, there have not been

any other reports of monkeypox patient deaths in the United States during the recent outbreak, and few who have died worldwide.

"The case is under investigation to determine what role monkeypox played in the death," Texas health authorities said in a

statement.

They specified the patient was an adult whose immune system was severely weakened.

### Additional investigation

"I think that additional investigation is needed to know what

role monkeypox may or may not have played in their death," Jennifer McQuiston of the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said at a press conference.

"It's important to emphasize that deaths due to monkeypox, while possible, remain very rare,"

she said, noting that only a "handful" of people had died from among more than 40,000 cases recorded in the current outbreak.

So far, United States has seen 18,100 cases of monkeypox. The number of new infections appears to have recently slowed slightly,

according to data from health authorities.

The epidemic primarily affects gay and bisexual men, and most transmissions take place during sexual intercourse.

SOURCE: AFP



# ENVIRON WORLD

## Severe drought in Spain uncovers submerged monuments

A centuries-old church and a huge megalithic complex are among the underwater monuments that have resurfaced in Spain as a severe drought causes water levels in reservoirs to plunge.

After a prolonged dry spell, Spain's reservoirs — which supply water for cities and farms — are at just under 36 per cent capacity, according to environment ministry figures for August.

The receding waters have exposed the ruins of an 11th-century church in the usually submerged village of Sant Roma de Sau, which was flooded in the 1960s when a nearby dam was built.

Normally, the church's bell tower is the only visible sign of the village in the northeastern region of Catalonia.

Drawn by pictures on social media and television reports, crowds of tourists fill the restaurants in the nearby village of Vilanova de Sau.

"It has been years since (water levels) are as low as they



The receding waters have exposed the ruins of an 11th-century church in the usually submerged village of Sant Roma de Sau. **PHOTO: AFP**

are now," said 45-year-old Nuria Ferrerons during a recent visit to the site.

"We saw it on social media and we said 'well let's see how it is'," she added.

Two tourists on a canoe paddled through an arch of the church, which is fenced off to prevent people from getting too close due to the risk the ruins could collapse.

"Normally you can only see the bell tower," said Sergi Riera,

who came to see "something that has not been visible for years".

In Spain's western Extremadura region, the receding waters of the Valdecanas reservoir have revealed a prehistoric stone circle on an islet that is normally underwater. Dubbed the "Spanish Stonehenge", the circle of dozens of megalithic stones was discovered by archaeologists in 1926 but the area was flooded in 1963 when the reservoir was built.—AFP

## Baltic nations to boost offshore wind energy seven-fold by 2030

NATIONS bordering the Baltic Sea agreed Tuesday to increase offshore wind energy to 20 gigawatts by 2030, as Europe seeks to wean itself off Russian gas following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

"We have agreed to increase offshore wind in the Baltic Sea seven-fold by 2030," Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen told reporters after hosting a meeting between Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden.

"We are the frontline of European energy security", Frederiksen said.

Russia was the only Baltic Sea nation not in attendance at Tuesday's meeting.

"In this war Putin is using energy as a weapon and has put Europe, as we all know, on the brink of an energy crisis with skyrocketing energy prices", Frederiksen said.

Twenty gigawatts would be enough to supply electricity to 20 million households, "more than the current wind offshore capacity in the whole of the EU today", she added. By 2050, the Baltic Sea's wind energy capacity could be brought to 93 gigawatts, the countries said in a statement.—AFP

## Giant 200-year-old cactus toppled by heavy rain in US

A giant Saguaro cactus that had lived for some 200 years was toppled by heavy rain in the southwestern US state of Arizona.

"Powerful seasonal rains can quickly make an impact on the desert landscape. The loss of this huge, iconic ~200 year old Saguaro on the Romero Ruins trail overlooking the Sutherland wash at Catalina State Park in Tucson is one change regular park visitors can't miss," Arizona State Parks said on Facebook.

A photo accompanying the post showed the cactus's giant

arms splayed on the ground, its trunk shattered.

The Saguaro cactus can reach more than 10 metres (32 feet) in height and weight more than two tons when full of water. The plant, which grows in the United States and Mexico, has become a symbol of the American West and particularly of the desert landscape of Arizona.

"Thankfully this giant has fallen off the trail and will stay where it landed, providing habitat and food for many creatures as it decomposes," Arizona State Parks said.—AFP



An undated image courtesy of Arizona State Parks and Trails shows a 200-year-old Saguaro cactus at Catalina State Park after it was felled by heavy rains. **PHOTO: ARIZONA STATE PARKS AND TRAILS/AFP**

## Want to save carbon and land? Study suggests wooden cities



Wood is known to be the least carbon-intensive building material. **PHOTO: AFP**

HOUSING people in homes made from wood instead of steel and concrete could save more than 100 billion tonnes of carbon emissions while preserving enough cropland to feed a booming population, research suggested Tuesday.

More than half of people

globally currently live in cities and this proportion is set to rise markedly by 2050.

According to some estimates, the infrastructure needed to accommodate up to 10 billion people by mid-century could exceed that constructed since the dawn of the industrial era.

That places a huge emphasis on emissions from construction, one of the most polluting sectors and historically one of the trickiest to decarbonize.

Were all new construction projects carried out using steel and concrete, that could claim up to 60 per cent of Earth's remaining carbon budget for 2C of warming — that is, how much pollution the global economy can produce and still stay within the Paris Agreement temperature guardrail.

Scientists in Germany and Chinese Taipei wanted to see how much carbon could be saved if firms switched to wood to build new homes instead. They used an open-source land use model to simulate four different building scenarios: one with conventional materials like cement and steel, and three with additional demand for timber.—AFP

# HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

## Japan to increase COVID entry cap on arrivals to 50,000 from 7 September

JAPAN will raise its daily entry cap on arrivals to 50,000 from the current 20,000 from 7 Sept in a further easing of strict COVID-19 border controls, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Wednesday.

With the country lagging behind other major economies in opening its doors to inbound tourism, foreign tourists will no longer need to travel on tours with a guide, Kishida said.

“We have seen international exchanges gaining traction in various parts of the world. We are raising the daily cap on new arrivals to 50,000 from 7 Sept to join the trend and make sure the benefits of the weak yen are felt,” Kishida told a press conference.

“To make the entry of people as smooth as other Group of Seven nations, we will further ease our border control measures by taking into account the infection situation at home and abroad, the needs (of travelers) and border measures taken by other nations,” Kishida said. He did not elaborate when such eas-



Photo shows an international arrival lobby at Haneda airport in Tokyo on 23 August 2022. PHOTO: KYODO

ing may come.

Japan effectively shut its doors to non-resident foreign nationals, drawing criticism that the move was too strict, but it has been gradually easing the steps recently as vaccinations have progressed.

Starting on 7 September, incoming travellers who have been vaccinated at least three times will no longer need to show

proof of a negative pre-departure COVID-19 test result, with the government changing the existing requirement to take tests within 72 hours of departure.

Kishida has been working remotely at his official residence since testing positive for the coronavirus earlier this month. He returned to work at the prime minister’s office on Wednesday.—Kyodo

## S. Korea to extend visa waiver for visitors from Japan to October

SOUTH Korea will extend the visa waiver period for visitors from Japan, Chinese Taipei and Macau through October, the Justice Ministry said Wednesday, as health authorities have gradually started easing COVID-19 restrictions.

In an attempt to attract more foreign travellers during the COVID-19 pandemic, South Korea introduced the temporary visa-free entry programme in August ahead of Seoul Festa 2022, a major tourist festival featuring K-pop performances

and events such as the Seoul round of the Formula E electric car racing world championship.

The two-month extension comes against a backdrop of growing calls from a number of industries to end the visa requirement and revive travel, a Korea Tourism Organization official said.

In a related development, South Korea said it will no longer require that visitors to the country take PCR tests before departure and show a negative result.—Kyodo



Photo taken on 2 November 2019 shows a tourist wearing a traditional Hanbok dress visiting the Gyeongbokgung Palace in Seoul, South Korea. PHOTO: XINHUA/WANG JINGQIANG/FILE

## Half world’s health facilities lack basic hygiene: UN



A cleaner wearing a personal protective equipment (PPE) suit disinfects a hospital bed. PHOTO: SIA KAMBOU/AFP/FILE

HALF of the world’s healthcare facilities lack basic hygiene services, putting nearly four billion people at greater risk of infection, the United Nations said Tuesday.

These facilities do not have water and soap or alcohol-based hand rub where patients receive care, and in their toilets, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UNICEF children’s agency.

Around 3.85 billion people use these facilities, putting them at greater risk of infection, including 688 million people who receive care at facilities with no hygiene services at all, the UN agencies said in their Joint Monitoring Programme report.

“Hygiene facilities and practices in healthcare settings are non-negotiable,” said the WHO’s Maria Neira.

“Their improvement is essential to pandemic recovery, prevention and preparedness.

“Hygiene in healthcare facilities cannot be secured without increasing investments in basic measures, which include safe water, clean toilets, and safely managed healthcare waste.”

The newly established global estimate, based on data from 40 countries, presents an “alarming picture” of the state of hygiene in health facilities, the report said.

It said 68 per cent of healthcare facilities had hygiene facilities at points of care, and 65 per cent had handwashing facilities with water and soap at toilets.

However, only 51 per cent had both, and therefore met the criteria for basic hygiene services.

Furthermore, nine per cent of health care facilities globally have neither.—AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Poland to request withheld EU funds by November

POLAND’S premier said Tuesday he would lodge a request by November for payment of EU Covid recovery funds withheld in a row over Warsaw’s interference in its own judiciary.

“Between now and the end of October or the beginning of November such a request will be filed,” Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki told journalists. He was waiting for the response from Brussels “with scepticism”, he added. Warsaw is due 35.4 billion euros, including 23.9 billion euros in direct subsidies to finance its recovery from the Covid pandemic.—AFP

#### US study shows older homeless at greater risk of dying

OLDER homeless people are more likely to die than those who had become homeless earlier, according to a study published on Monday by University of California San Francisco (UCSF).

People who first became homeless at age 50 or later were about 60 per cent more likely to die, and their risk of dying was three times higher for men and five times higher for women, compared to general population of the same age and sex, said the study.

By interviewing people every six months about their health and housing status, researchers were able to examine how things like regaining housing, using drugs, and having various chronic conditions, such as diabetes, affected their risk of dying.—Xinhua

# GLOBAL AFFAIRS

## Canada to challenge US softwood lumber duties

THE Canadian federal government said on Monday that it will challenge the United States' duties on softwood lumber.

Canada will challenge, under Chapter 10 of the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA), the final results of the US Department of Commerce's third administrative reviews of its anti-dumping and countervailing duty orders on softwood lumber from Canada, said Mary Ng, the Canadian minister of international trade, in a statement.

Canada is disappointed that

the United States continues to impose "unwarranted and unfair" duties on softwood lumber from Canada, Ng said, adding that the only fair outcome would be for the United States to meet its CUSMA obligations and cease applying unjustified duties on all Canadian softwood lumber products.

"These unjustified duties on softwood products from Canada not only harm Canadian communities, businesses, and workers, but they amount to a tax on US consumers, affecting housing affordability at a time of supply

challenges and inflationary pressures," she said.

The minister said taking legal action under CUSMA represents another step in Canada's ongoing defence of its forestry sector. The softwood lumber industry is a key driver of economic activity across Canada and an essential component of the country's forestry sector, which contributed more than 34.8 billion Canadian dollars (28 billion US dollars) to its GDP in 2021 and employs some 205,000 workers, according to the statement.—Xinhua



Log driving in Vancouver. PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA/FILE

## Sri Lanka says IMF bailout talks in 'final stage'



People buy vegetables from a market after the authorities relaxed the curfew for a few hours in Colombo, Sri Lanka, 12 May 2022. Sri Lanka imposed a nationwide curfew following violent clashes in the capital Colombo on 9 May. PHOTO: AJITH PERERA/XINHUA

SRI Lanka's president announced further tax hikes and sweeping reforms on Tuesday, saying that bailout talks with the International Monetary Fund

were in the "final stage".

The country of 22 million people has suffered months of dire shortages and protests culminating in the ouster of

Gotabaya Rajapaksa last month.

Presenting a new budget, his successor Ranil Wickremesinghe said Tuesday that Value Added Tax (VAT) would rise from 12 to 15 per cent for all goods and services from Thursday.

He said a dedicated debt management agency was being set up to restructure borrowings. In April, Colombo defaulted on its \$51 billion external debt. "Negotiations with the International Monetary Fund have successfully reached its final stage," Wickremesinghe told parliament.

"Discussions on debt restructuring will be held with the main countries that provide loan assistance to our country," he said referring to China, Japan and India, the top three creditors of the island.—AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### EU plans emergency action to halt energy price rise

THE European Union is preparing to take emergency action to reform the electricity market and get a grip on energy prices that have soared since Russia invaded Ukraine, senior officials said Monday.

Energy ministers from EU member states will hold urgent talks in Brussels on 9 September.

High gas prices have been followed by disruptions in the nuclear and hydroelectric sectors amid a heatwave blamed on climate change – threatening businesses and households with massive bills.—AFP

#### Spanish inflation slows as fuel prices ease

SPAIN'S inflation rate slowed in August as fuel prices eased but it remained elevated due to rising electricity and food prices, official data showed on Tuesday.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has sent inflation soaring worldwide, prompting central banks to hike interest rates in an effort to rein in consumer prices.

Spain's annual rate hit 10.4 per cent, compared to 10.8 per cent in July, according to the National Statistics Institute.

Inflation has remained in double digits in the eurozone country since June, a level not seen since the mid-1980s.—AFP

## Ancient Iranian rug tradition gets makeover as sales sink

STRIKING geometric shapes that recall 20th century abstract art are not what you would expect to see adorning a handmade Iranian rug. But changing tastes and increased competition from Asia have forced some in the trade to redesign and resize a tradition dating back more than 2,000 years.

"A revolution is underway," said Ahad Azimzadeh, 65, who calls himself "the biggest exporter of Persian carpets in the world". Rugs traditionally woven in the Islamic republic are known for dense, curving floral designs in rich colours.

Their beauty and quality have long been recognized world-

wide, yet sales have collapsed over the past 30 years.

"In 1994 the value of Iranian carpets sold abroad reached \$1.7 billion and represented 40 per cent of our non-petroleum exports," Ahmad Karimi, chief of the Handmade Carpet Manufacturers' and Exporters' Union, told AFP.—AFP



Geometric shapes have started to appear on Iranian carpets. PHOTO: AFP

## Welcome: Palestinians with disabilities out front at Bethlehem hotel

IN the heart of Bethlehem, in the occupied West Bank, Palestinians with learning disabilities are front and centre at a new boutique hotel welcoming guests from across the globe.

Showcasing their skills at the hotel is intended to make Palestinians with disabilities more visible and overhaul perceptions within the community.

The hotel is located near the Church of the Nativity, one of the most important sites in the

Holy Land, where Christians believe Jesus was born and crowds of pilgrims stroll early on a hot summer morning.

“Slowly, slowly, we (can) change the idea in the whole society, in the whole world, because here in Bethlehem we receive guests from the whole world,” said Mahera Nassar Ghareeb, the community leader of Maan lil-Hayat, an organization which supports Palestinians with intellectual disabilities. —AFP



Mariam Kansan, 27, is one of a handful of Palestinians with learning difficulties working at a boutique hotel run by the Maan lil-Hayat organization. PHOTO: AFP

## Chinese electric carmaker BYD plummets after Buffett sale

SHARES in Chinese electric carmaker BYD plunged on Wednesday after its largest backer, Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway, reduced its stake amid speculation of a potential exit.

Hong Kong-listed shares of the EV manufacturer fell by as much as 13 per cent, a day after a regulatory filing showed Berkshire reducing its holdings from 20.04 per cent to 19.92 per cent.

It ended the day 7.9 per cent lower, while its Shenzhen-listed stock finished 7.4 per cent down.—AFP

## Amazon to unveil its \$1 bln bet with 'Lord of the Rings' prequel launch

STANLEY Kubrick once famously said J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy of novels was unfilmable.

It is hard to imagine what the great director would have made of Amazon's \$1 billion gamble on "The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power," a 50-hour television series based on the dry historical footnotes published at the end of book three.—AFP

## Toyota to boost auto battery output capacity 7-fold at \$5.6 bln cost

TOYOTA Motor Corp. said Wednesday it will spend up to 730 billion yen (\$5.6 billion) to raise auto battery output in Japan and the United States to boost its global capacity more than seven-fold as it focuses more on battery-powered electric vehicles.

Toyota will ramp up its annual battery production capacity to up to 46 gigawatt-hours worldwide from the current six gigawatt-hours, which includes batteries for hybrid vehicles, by adding capacity in the two key markets.

The increased capacity will be the equivalent of battery packs for 560,000 of Toyota's bZ4X electric crossover sport-utility vehicle that was recently launched.

The outlay of 730 bil-



The increased capacity will be the equivalent of battery packs for 560,000 of Toyota's bZ4X electric crossover sport-utility vehicle that was recently launched. PHOTO: TOYOTA

lion yen is part of the four trillion yen that Toyota plans to spend to help meet a goal of selling 3.5 million EVs worldwide and raising battery output capacity to 280 gigawatt-hours by 2030.

Of the 730 billion yen, Toyota will spend about 400 billion yen to increase

output capacity at Prime Planet Energy & Solutions Co. and other domestic plants and about 325 billion yen at a new battery plant in North Carolina, slated to begin production between 2024 and 2026.

Prime Planet Energy & Solutions is a joint

battery production venture set up by Toyota and Panasonic Corp.

Toyota has led the global electrified vehicle market with its hybrid models but is viewed as being less aggressive in introducing fully battery-powered vehicles.—Kyodo

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR  
MINISTRY OF ENERGY  
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE  
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)  
(27/2022-2023)

- Open tenders are invited for supply of the following item in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(1)	DMP/L-031(22-23) (Retender)	Mud Chemical (6) Items	Ks

- The open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from 1 September 2022 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
- The interested bidder should submit the Technical Specifications and Commercial Quotation with Original Bid Bond in each separate sealed envelopes on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than 12:00 pm on 15, September 2022.
- Tender Closing Date & Time- 15-9-2022, 12:00 pm

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise  
Ph No. +95 67 - 411206

Ads

TradeMark

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### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK NORBERG VOY.NO. (232W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAERSK NORBERG VOY.NO. (232W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (202W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (202W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-9-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES**

# GLOBAL AFFAIRS

## China Communist Party to convene once-in-5-yrs congress on 16 October



CHINA'S ruling Communist Party will convene on 16 October its once-in-five-years congress, the official Xinhua News Agency said Tuesday, at which leader Xi Jinping is likely to secure a controversial third five-year term through 2027.

The congress, the most important political event in China this year, is expected to run for a week and be attended by about 2,300 delegates from across the country.

The 20th National Congress of the party will decide on a key leadership shake-up, with Premier Li Keqiang, 67, set to retire

next spring after serving two five-year terms.

A report from China's state-run media did not say how long the forthcoming congress will run. It said the gathering will be of "great significance to be convened at a crucial moment" as the party and the entire nation "embark on a new journey toward building a modern socialist country in all respects".

Xi will present policies as well as development goals of the party and the nation for the next five years in an activity report to be released at the congress.—Kyodo

File photo shows China's Communist Party opening the 19th National Congress at Beijing's Great Hall of the People on Oct. 18, 2017. **PHOTO: KYODO**

### RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

#### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

#### IAEA inspectors set off for Russian-held Ukrainian nuclear plant

A team led by the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency set off from Kyiv on Wednesday for a Russian-held nuclear power plant in southern Ukraine that has sparked global concern.

The Zaporizhzhia plant, Europe's biggest, is on the front line between Russian and Ukrainian forces, and the area has been shelled repeatedly in recent days, with the two sides accusing each other. "We are now finally moving," IAEA chief Rafael Grossi, who arrived in Kyiv on Monday with a 13-strong team, told reporters before heading off.

Grossi said the inspectors planned to spend "a few days" at the plant and would report back afterwards.

The plant has been occupied by Russian troops since March and Ukraine has accused Russia of deploying hundreds of soldiers and storing ammunition there.—AFP

#### Swiss police detain Pussy Riot members over anti-war tags

SWISS police briefly detained three members of the Russian punk protest band Pussy Riot after they spray-painted a slogan against the war in Ukraine, the force said Tuesday.

Police in Bern canton identified them only as Russian nationals, but the Blick newspaper said they were Masha Alekhina, Lucy Stein and Taso Pletner. Pussy Riot, famous for their opposition to Russian President Vladimir Putin and their provocative concerts, are currently on a European tour.

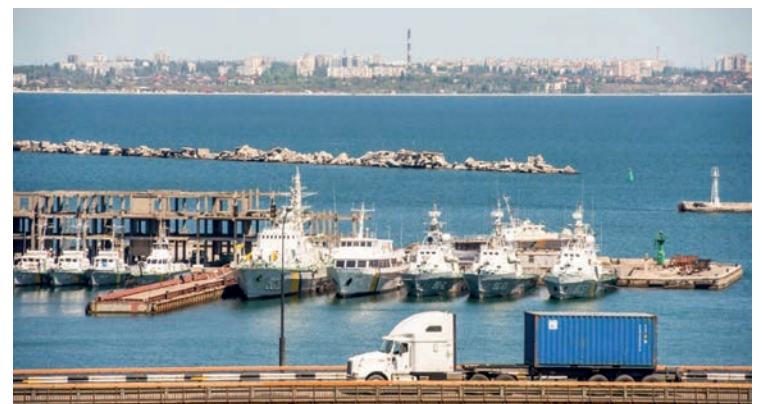
On Monday, "just before 11:00 pm, we were alerted that three people were 'tagging' a wall in Wabern," a village on the outskirts of the Swiss capital, Bern police spokesman Joel Regli told AFP.

"On site, we arrested three women who were carrying spray-paint canisters," he added. They were released overnight and whether or not they will be charged depends on whether the owner of the property files a complaint, he said.—AFP

## Ukraine seeks UNESCO cultural protection for Odessa

UKRAINE'S government will ask the UN's cultural watchdog to add the historic port of Odessa to its World Heritage List of protected sites as Russia's invasion continues, the agency said Tuesday.

Russian forces have advanced to within several dozen kilometres (miles) of the city, which blossomed after empress Catherine the Great decreed in the late 18th century that it would be Russia's modern gateway to the Black Sea. Analysts say Russian President Vladimir Putin could soon target Odessa to completely block Ukraine's Black Sea



Kyiv wants UNESCO to afford Odessa's port protected status in case Russia targets it. **PHOTO: DMITRY SEREBRYAKOV /AFP/FILE**

access, potentially with heavy bombardments like those that razed the port of Mariupol.

In late July, the city was

struck by missiles just hours after Russia agreed to allow a shipment of Ukrainian grain exports from the port.—AFP

## US says Russia receives Iranian combat drones

RUSSIA has begun receiving Iranian combat drones to be used in the Ukraine war, but many of

them have already proven faulty, the US military said Tuesday.

"Russian transport aircraft



Iranian drones during a military exercise, of which Russia is importing "hundreds" of, according to the US military. **PHOTO: IRANIAN ARMY OFFICE/AFP/FILE**

loaded the UAV equipment at an airfield in Iran and subsequently flew from Iran to Russia over several days in August," said Pentagon spokesman Brigadier-General Pat Ryder, using the initials for unmanned aerial vehicle. "It's likely part of Russia's plans to import hundreds of Iranian UAVs of various types," he said. However, Ryder said, "our information indicates that UAVs associated with this transfer have already experienced numerous failures."—AFP

# Mikhail Gorbachev, last Soviet leader, dies at 91

MIKHAIL Gorbachev, who changed the course of history by triggering the demise of the Soviet Union and was one of the great figures of the 20th century, has died in Moscow aged 91.

His death was announced on Tuesday by Russian news agencies, which said Gorbachev had died at a central hospital in Moscow “after a serious and long illness”. Gorbachev, in power between 1985 and 1991, helped bring US-Soviet relations out of a deep freeze and was the last surviving Cold War leader.

His life was one of the most influential of his times, and his



Mikhail Gorbachev, who helped bring US-Soviet relations out of a deep freeze, was the last surviving Cold War leader. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

reforms as Soviet leader trans-

formed his country and allowed Eastern Europe to free itself from Soviet rule.

The changes he set in motion saw him lionized in the West — he won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1990 — but also earned him the scorn of many Russians who lamented the end of their country’s role as a global superpower.

He spent much of the past two decades on the political periphery, intermittently calling for the Kremlin and the White House to mend ties as tensions soared to Cold War levels after Russia annexed Crimea in 2014 and launched an offensive in Ukraine earlier this year.

## ‘One-of-a-kind’

His relationship with President Vladimir Putin was difficult at times, but the Russian leader nonetheless expressed his “deep sympathies” after Gorbachev’s death. “In the morning, (Putin) will send a telegram of condolences to his family and friends,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told Russian news agencies. Gorbachev spent the twilight years of his life in and out of hospital with increasingly fragile health and observed self-quarantine during the pandemic as a precaution against the coronavirus.— AFP

## Iran seizes, then releases US Navy drone vessel: Pentagon

AN Iranian ship seized an American military unmanned research vessel in the Gulf but released it after a US Navy patrol boat and helicopter were deployed to the location, the Pentagon said Tuesday.

The US Central Command’s 5th Fleet said a support ship from Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy, the Shahid Baziar, was spotted towing the seven-metre (23-foot) Sairdrone Explorer unmanned surface vessel (USV) late Monday.

The US naval drone, equipped with an array of sensors, radars and cameras, was in international waters collecting navigation and other unspecified data, the 5th Fleet said in a statement. When the

Iranian vessel was seen towing the unmanned boat, US forces sent the USS Thunderbolt coastal patrol ship, which was operating nearby, to the scene.

In addition, an MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter based in Bahrain flew to the location.

Those actions “resulted in the IRGCN vessel disconnecting the towing line to the USV and departing the area approximately four hours later” without further incident, the 5th Fleet said.

“IRGCN’s actions were flagrant, unwarranted and inconsistent with the behaviour of a professional maritime force,” said Vice-Admiral Brad Cooper, commander of US Naval Forces Central Command, in a statement.—AFP



The US Central Command’s 5th Fleet said a support ship from Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy, the Shahid Baziar, was spotted towing the seven-metre (23-foot) Sairdrone Explorer unmanned surface vessel (USV) late Monday. The US Navy’s Sairdrone Explorer unmanned surface vessel in the waters of the Arabian Gulf on 27 January 2022. PHOTO: US NAVY/AFP/FILE

## Taliban celebrate anniversary of foreign troop withdrawal

THE Taliban declared Wednesday a national holiday and lit up the capital with coloured lights to celebrate the first anniversary of the withdrawal of US-led troops from Afghanistan after a brutal 20-year war.

The country’s new rulers — not formally recognized by any other nation — have reimposed their harsh version of Islamic law on the impoverished country, with women squeezed out of public life.

But despite the restrictions, and a deepening humanitarian crisis, many Afghans say they are glad the foreign force that prompted the Taliban insurgency has gone.

“We are happy that Allah got rid of the infidels from our country, and the Islamic Emirate has been established,” said Zalmi, a resident of Kabul.

The withdrawal of troops at midnight as 31 August began last

year ended America’s longest war — a military intervention that began in the wake of the 11 September, 2001 attacks in New York.

Some 66,000 Afghan troops and 48,000 civilians were killed in the conflict, but it was the deaths of US service members — 2,461 in total — that became too much for the American public to bear.

More than 3,500 troops from other NATO countries were also killed.

“The burden of the war in Afghanistan, however, went beyond Americans,” the US military said Tuesday. Two weeks before the end of last year’s withdrawal, the Taliban seized power following a lightning offensive against government forces.—AFP



A Taliban fighter stands guard in Kabul on the eve of the first anniversary of the end of the war with US-led foreign forces. PHOTO: AFP

## Disapproval rate of Japanese gov’t hits record high: new poll

THE latest opinion poll has shown that the disapproval rate of the Japanese government headed by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida jumped to 39 per cent, a record high since Kishida took office in October 2021, Japan’s Asahi Shimbun newspaper reported on Monday.

The telephone survey, conducted by Asahi Shimbun from 27 to 28 Aug, received 998 valid responses nationwide. While the disapproval rate surged to 39 per cent from 25 per cent in the previous survey in July, the approval rate of Kishida’s cabinet dropped significantly to 47 per

cent from 57 per cent, according to the newspaper.

When asked about Kishida’s handling of issues of Japanese politicians’ ties to the Unification Church, 65 per cent of respondents said they “do not approve,” while only 21 per cent said they did.—Kyodo

Mikhail Gorbachev, last Soviet leader, dies at 91  
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# SPORT

## Golf Open Junior and Professional Tournament held

THE second day of the Golf Open Junior and Professional Tournament was organized by the Myanmar Golf Federation and the award ceremony was held at the Yangon Golf Course (Danyingon) in Yangon yesterday.

After the competitions, the awarding ceremony was held, and Myanmar Golf Federation Chairman U Ko Ko Aye gave a farewell speech.

Next, awarding ceremony for those under 12-year-old age was held and U Ye Lwin gave prizes to the third-place winner Phone Myint Hein (Taungoo) who hit 173 shots, second place winner Chwel Wann (Yangon) who made 172 shots, and champion Htoo Myat Aung (Myeik) who has hit 171 shots in total.

Then, U Aung Ko Zaw presented awards to U-14 golfers and Kaung Htet (Yangon) who hit 160 shots got the third prize, while Aung Hein Zaw (Sittway) who struck another 160 won the second prize and Pyae Sone Aung (PyinOoLwin) won the first prize respectively.



Professional golfers pose for a group photo after receiving trophies at the Golf Open Junior and Professional Tournament awarding ceremony. PHOTO: MGF

Likewise, Daw Myint Myint Than gave medals to the under 18-year-old women golfers and Aye Su Aung (Yangon) got the third prize while Su Nhin Phyu (Yangon) grabbed the second and Moe Pyae Sone Khin (Yangon) won the first prize.

Next, officials presented awards to the under 18-year-old men's golfers and Hein Naing Zin (Yangon) won the third prize, while Kaung Pyae Sone Kyaw (Taungoo) earned the second and Aung Min Thant (Mawlamyine)

achieved the first prize.

After that, Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA Chairman U Ko Ko Aye presented an award to Kyaw Thet Oo who won the first prize with a total of 141 shots, three shots less than the standard in the Professional level tournament.

Young golfers from various Regions and States including Taungoo, Magway, PyinOoLwin, Myeik, Dawei, Shwebo, Sittway, and Mandalay participated in the tourney. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

#### 1. Political affairs

- (a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
- (b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
- (c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

#### 2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

#### 3. Social affairs

- (a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- (b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.
- (c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

## Myanmar U-19 team wins both friendly matches against domestic team

THE Myanmar U-19 team, which is preparing for the Asian Cup U-20 qualifiers, and the State & Region U-19 team, which is made up of talented players from the completed 2022 State & Region U-19 football tournament, held the second friendly match at Thuwunna Football Stadium in Yangon on 31 August.

They played the second match yesterday after the first match on 29 August, and the Myanmar U-19 team won both matches. The Myanmar U-19 team competed with a new starting lineup. The first half ended with a 1-1 score but the Myanmar U-19 team won the game after scoring more goals in the second half.

The winning goals for Myanmar national team were scored by Moe Swe at the 30-minute mark and Okkar Naing at 50 minutes.

The lone goal for State & Region team was scored by Saw Sira Phoe at the 45+1-minute mark. The Myanmar U-19 team is playing the friendly matches as a preliminary preparation for the 2023 Asian Cup U-20 qualifiers and won the first friendly match 2-0 as well. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

## British Open champion Smith joins LIV Golf — official



Cameron Smith with his British Open jug. PHOTO: AFP

BRITISH Open champion Cameron Smith has become the latest leading player to sign up to the breakaway LIV Golf Series, which on Tuesday announced that he was in the field for its next event.

The Australian was one of six new recruits for the Saudi-backed tour for the LIV Golf Invitational Boston, from 2-4 September.

As the world's number two, the 29-year-old Smith will become the highest-ranked player to compete in a LIV Golf event.

Smith was linked repeatedly to LIV Golf shortly after winning the 150th British Open, at St Andrews, last month, but avoided discussion of the subject while playing in this month's PGA FedEx Cup playoffs.

A LIV statement issued Tuesday said Smith would be among five other players making their debuts among a field of 48 at the International in Massachusetts, including compatriot Marc Leishman, leading Chilean golfer Joaquin Niemann, Harold Varner III (world no 46), Cameron Tringale (55) and India's top-ranked pro Anirban Lahiri (92). —AFP