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## The message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the ceremony to mark 67th Anniversary of Kayin State Day

7 November 2022

**Esteemed ethnic national brethren in Kayin State**

On the significant occasion of Kayin State which falls on its 67th anniversary, today, I wish all ethnic people residing in Kayin State and all national people across the nation to have physical and mental well-being.

As the Kayin State Day ceremony which is one of the significant occasions of Kayin ethnics has been held annually, this year's ceremony which falls on 7 November 2022 turns 67. The Kayin State taking a position in the southeast of Myanmar is sharing borders with the Mon State, the Bago Region, the Mandalay Region, the Kayah State and the Shan State as well as the neighbouring country Thailand.

The Kayin State located on 11,730.9 square miles of land was formed with seven townships in four districts, but Kya-In-Seikkyi Township and Thandaunggyi Township were upgraded to district level on 30 April 2022. As such, the Kayin State becomes a state constituted of six districts.

The Kayin State is endowed with natural beauties such as forests, mountains, caves, rivers, creeks, lakes, waterfalls and streams, and local ethnic people are preserving lovely traditions and customs and adorable traditional heritage. That is why the state grasps opportunities of implementing community-based tourism services and inbound and outbound tourism services.

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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.

# SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends Deepavali lighting festival, the noblest festival in Hinduism traditional festivals

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the Deepavali lighting festival which is the noblest one in Hinduism traditional festivals at Shree Maha Lakshmi Temple in Yankin Township of Yangon Region yesterday evening.

The Senior General and party offered flowers, water and oil lights to the Buddha image at Maha Bawdi banyan tree in the compound of the temple and paid homage to Shree Maha Lakshmi image in Hinduism tradition.

The ceremony of paying respect was held in accord with the Hinduism traditions. Chairman of the organizing committee vice chair of Interfaith Friendship Organization (Central) U Zaw Zaw Naing garlanded the Senior General, Indian Ambassador to

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SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the Indian Ambassador and wife and the Russian Ambassador ignite oil lamp to mark Deepavali festival at Shree Maha Lakshmi Temple in Yankin Township of Yangon Region on 6 November.

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# The message sent by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister of Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the ceremony to mark 67th Anniversary of Kayin State Day

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The abundance of underground and aboveground natural resources and water resources help local people have improvement of socioeconomy of the majority of local ethnic people. Kayin don dance which is a happy and active traditional dance of Kayin ethnic people and the sound of the traditional frog brand drum as adorable traditions are catching the attention of local and foreign travellers.

The government is striving for the socioeconomic development of ethnic national brethren from regions and states including the Kayin State in order to recover the social and economic measures triggered by the outbreak of Covid-19. Moreover, the action plan was drawn for re-surging the economy of Myanmar with the implementation of the five-year plan from the 2022-2023 financial year to the 2026-2027 financial year. The action plan consists of firmness of the legal framework which plays a key role in the State economy, improvement of financial measures, the process of enhancing the digital economy, development of transport and tourism sectors in addition to the business sectors prioritized by the State namely arrangements for the development of agriculture and livestock farms and plans for changes of technologies, manufacturing and renewable energy suitable for the environmental conservation and making efforts for achieving success in these sectors.

**Esteemed ethnic national brethren,**

Currently, the State Administration Council has been taking all responsibilities of the government in accord with the Constitution. It formed the Provisional Government and is pouring out the utmost efforts for peace and stability of the State, development and enhancement of socioeconomic lives of the ethnic people as much as it can by adopting the five-point roadmap and nine political, economic and social objectives which are basic principles of the State Administration Council.

All kinds of ethnic nationals have been residing in Myanmar since time immemorial sharing their future. As such, traditional heritage, literature, theatrical, music and fine arts have been flourishing for thousands of years. Despite flourishing amicable relations among the ethnic nationals, the national brethren faced disunity among them due to instigation in the colonialist era, causing internal armed conflicts.

The government firmly vowed to strive for the restoration of national reconciliation and peace in the Union in order to bring about sustainable and harmonious development for the fruits all ethnic national people can enjoy. Moreover, strenuous efforts are being made for the implementation of transport, electrification, agriculture, livestock, education and health sectors in all regions including the Kayin State, to be able to improve the socioeconomy so as to ensure the improvement of multiple sectors across the nation. Hence, I'd like to urge all ethnic national people to participate in conducting the counterattacking instigation and sabotage of terrorist groups opposing the peace and stability of the State and the government.

**Esteemed ethnic national brethren,**

With regard to peace, the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee which is a peace talk machinery to implement the peace process continuously holds information meetings, virtual meetings and official meetings with relevant dialogue partners. During the period from February to December 2021 when the government took the State's responsibilities, the government held talks with NCA signatory ethnic armed organizations 16 times and NCA non-signatory ethnic armed organizations nine times to coordinate the implementation of the peace process and the future peace process. This year, the Peace Talks Team of the State met the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army (KNU/KNLA-PC) and the Democratic Karen Benevolence Army (DKBA) in the peace talks during the three days from 16 to 18 September 2022 and signed the approval of both side attitudes based on negotiations.

Moreover, it is necessary to always regard provisions from the NCA and not forget them. As NCA was drawn by stakeholders in accord with the proposals of ethnic armed organizations, only when all walk on that way will the peaceful and tranquil State we all aspire to. Hence, it is necessary to leave a peaceful legacy for posterity and quickly implement the peace process. As the government pays emphasis on the restoration of perpetual peace, NCA signatory ethnic armed organizations and NCA non-signatory EAOs must walk on the way of peace for the sake of the State economy.

In restoring the peace of our country, only when all ethnic national brethren hold meetings to seek the solution without the interference of external elements will success be achieved. In this regard, I'd like to urge you all to especially take care of the danger posed by internal and external saboteurs who commit destruction against the peace process with the unwillingness to serve the interests of our country.

Only when the Union government and ethnic armed organizations harmoniously join hands to firmly build national solidarity and national reconciliation which are missions of all as part of ensuring internal peace and national reconciliation will the ethnic national people build a peaceful and tranquil Union. At present, the Kayin State is enjoying the fruits of peace and development thanks to the leadership of the State Administration Council and firm concepts and cooperation of the ethnic national people and armed organizations. I'd like to further strive for the development, peace and tranquillity of the nation.

**Esteemed ethnic national brethren,**

As the years 2022 and 2023 are important, the Diamond Jubilee Union Day which fell on the previous February was held in Nay Pyi Taw on a grand scale. As 4 January 2023 will be the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day, it is important to further strengthen the sovereign power of the State which has been for 75 years and to fully blossom the fruits of the development of the nation. Hence, a plan is underway to hold the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day on a grand scale.

As now is the time to restore peace for the whole nation essential for building the Union based on democracy and federalism the entire people wish, I'd like to deeply urge ethnic national brethren residing in the Kayin State on the occasion of significant Kayin State Day to participate in the afore-said tasks.

The active and united cooperation of all ethnic national brethren residing in the Kayin State helps ensure peace, stability and development of the region as the strength for the nation-building endeavours.

As such, I send this message to mark the 67th Anniversary of Kayin State with the wish for them to be capable of development with momentum and serve the interests of local people from the Kayin State, the country and the citizens.

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

# 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 border 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*

## Socioeconomic life of the rural people will improve

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)*

# SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends Deepavali lighting festival, the noblest festival in Hinduism traditional festivals

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivers speech as Deepavali lighting festival in Yangon on 6 November.

FROM PAGE-1

Myanmar Mr Vinay Kumar and Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Listopadov Nikolai Alexandrovich in accord with the Hinduism traditions and honoured them with shawls.

The Senior General, the Indian Ambassador and wife, the Russian Ambassador and Chair of the organizing committee lit the oil light to mark the Deepavali festival, and the organizing committee chair explained the purpose of holding the festival.

In his speech, the Senior General explained his attendance to the Deepavali lighting festival, saying that the lighting festivals of Myanmar Buddhists and Hindus are different in backgrounds but holding of lighting festival is the same. Section 362 in Chapter VIII of the 2008 Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar stipulates the Union also recognizes Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Animism as the religions existing in the Union at the day of the coming into operation of this Constitution, and Section 363 mentions the Union may assist and protect the religions it recognizes to its utmost.

As such, the Senior General continued to say that the government provides necessary assistance for holding the religious ceremonies of four major faiths in the nation whereas the Head of State and Union ministers join the relevant ceremonies. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar allows all the people to have relevant faiths in an independent manner. It is a good tradition that as the government has been assisting in all major religions including Hinduism as much as it can, all people in relevant faiths can celebrate the religious ceremonies with essence.

The Interfaith Friendship Organization was formed with those from four major religions of Myanmar on 31 January 2008 with principles: to peacefully exist among the people of all religions with mutual respects, to give a helping hand to those needy persons in religious and social conflicts and to negotiate losses related to religions under the law. The Senior General urged all Hindus to support the unity of four major faiths in accord with the noble principles.

The Senior General expressed his wishes that may all ethnic national people residing in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in different faiths upholding the four cardinal virtues and advice of relevant religions to stay away from two kinds of extremism be serving the interests of the mother land.

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing cordially greets attendees at Deepavali lighting festival on 6 November.

Moreover, the Senior General made wishes that may all Hindus disperse mutual loving-kindness, compassion and empathy to all humans based on the occasion of Deepavali lighting ceremony with auspiciousness and may the people in all religions disperse loving-kindness to each other and join the undertaking of peaceful, prosperous and modernization processes of the nation with loyal and dutiful spirit.

Next, the Indian ambassadors to Myanmar said Myanmar and Indian governments and peoples have been maintaining the good relations and they have to further cement the friendly relations. The Russian ambassador expressed his wish in Myanmar language, saying that he dispersed loving-kindness to the peoples in Myanmar and India in all faiths to be peaceful and tranquil and may all be strengthen the good relations and halt the hatred measures as a gesture of honouring the festival. Missionary Ven Dr Hla Tun of Thanantana Dhammapala Federation prayed for all of various religions to be physical and mental wellbeing.

The Senior General and attendances were entertained with Hinduism traditional dances and songs. The Senior General presented a flower basket to the Hinduism cultural troupe.—MNA

# SAC members, Union ministers join fingerling releasing ceremony, hot-air balloon releasing ceremony in Hpa-an

SAC members Mahn Nyein Maung and Saw Daniel and Union Ministers seen at hot-air balloon releasing ceremony in Hpa-an on 6 November.

A ceremony to set on fingerlings free into the Thanlwin River at Tayokhla river water pumping station in Hpa-an Township of Kayin State yesterday morning.

Chief Minister of Kayin State U Saw Myint Oo explained releasing of more than 150,000 two-inch fingerlings produced from Hpa-an and Kyondoe fishery stations into the Thanlwin River.

Members of the State Administration Council Mahn Nyein Maung and Saw Daniel, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, U Myint Kyaing, Dr Pwint San, U Min Thein Zan, Dr Thet Thet Khaing and U Saw Tun Aung Myint and the Chief Minister, officials and local people participated in the fingerling releasing ceremony.

They also joined the ceremony to release hot-air balloons of Tazaungdine festival organized by the Kayin State government at Myoma football ground in Ward 3 of Hpa-an. They then presented awards to 11 departments which released hot-air balloons and the Kayin traditional cultural don dance troupes.

They also paid homage to Shweyinhmyaw Pyidawaye pagoda in Hpa-an. Afterwards, they donated alms to Kyaukkalat Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vimala and paid homage to Kyaukkalat Pagoda in Hpa-an.—MNA

# SAC members enjoy Kayin traditional Don dance competition in Hpa-an

THE Kayin traditional Don dance competition in commemoration of 67th Anniversary of Kayin State Day, was held at the Don dance ground in Hpa-an on 5 November 2022.

State Administration Council members Mahn Nyein Maung and Saw Daniel, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, U Myint Kyaing, Dr Pwint San, U Min Thein Zan, Dr Thet Thet Khaing and U Saw Tun Aung Myint and Kayin State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo enjoyed the competition.

SAC members Mahn Nyein Maung and Saw Daniel and Union Ministers enjoy Kayin traditional Don dance contest to mark 67th Anniversary of Kayin State Day in Hpa-an on 5 November.

Next, the SAC members and the Union ministers presented K2 million to 20 Don dance troupes. The Kayin State Chief Minister and state cabinet members also presented cash awards to them.

A total of 20 Don dance troupes from townships and villages in Kayin State will compete the competition from 5 to 9 November and the awarding ceremony will be held on 10 November.—MNA

# Myanmar delegation to attend seminar on cooperation in medical science at Far Eastern Federal University in Russian Federation

ACCORDING to the meetings and discussions during the working visit of the Prime Minister to the Russian Federation, the Russia-Myanmar friendship and health cooperation are underway.

Five representatives of the Myanmar delegation led by Director General Dr Tin Tun from Department of Human Resource for Health, Ministry of Health, left for Bangkok, Thailand by air to attend the Medical Science Cooperation Programme to be held at the Far Eastern Federal University, Vladivostok, Russian Federation on 9 and 10 November.

During the meeting, they will discuss development of medical health human resources between Department of Human Resource for Health of Myanmar and the Far Eastern Federal University in Vladivostok the Russian Federation, issues of being able to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in medical surgery and providing training, to send medical professionals from Myanmar to learn cardiac surgery courses, atomic radiation diagnostic and treatment courses, and children's surgery courses in the Russian Federation, and discussion and negotiation regarding cooperation in medical education in the Ministry.

It will assist in the development of Myanmar's health human resource development and medical surgical treatment techniques, and the two countries will be able to carry out wider and deeper medical cooperation.—MNA

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# Union Minister for Border Affairs inspects development activities, human resources in Kayin State

UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung visited Kayin State Development Supervision Office in Hpa-an on 3 November.

The Union Minister instructed staff to complete the construction works meeting set standards on time, to try to become a good citizen with a strong union spirit and outstanding talent, and pay attention to the staff matters.

In the afternoon on 4 November, the Union Minister arrived at the border area ethnic youth mechanical training school, and inspected the training hall, practical workshops, dormitories and mess.

Then, the Union Minister visited Kayin State Department of Education and Training, Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department, and Hpa-an Township Development Supervision Office and clarified the agriculture, livestock and welfare issues.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister met trainees, employees and officials from Women's Vocational Training School of Department of Education and Training in Hpa-an, provided school uniforms and stationery, books for libraries, sports equipment for the trainees, and inspected training campus, library dormitory, and restaurants.

At the Border Ethnic Youth Development Training School in Hap-an, he inspected student dormitory, mess, and library, and progress of building the 100 KVA transformer sub-power station.—MNA

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung cordially converses with youths at youth training school in Hpa-an on 4 November.

# Mandalay market sees brisk sales of peanuts in Tazaungdaing

REGIONAL peanuts are being sold fast in the Mandalay market during the Tazaungdaing festival season (Tazaungmone), according to peanut dealers in Mandalay.

Those peanuts were originated from Myinmu, Myaung, Kyaukpadaung, Magway, Nay Pyi Taw, Pyinmana and Tatkon regions, and it entered into the Mandalay market. Though peanuts priced at K3,300 per viss in the previous season, the current market price of peanuts stand at K5,400 per viss along with the great sales.

"Now is the season for late monsoon peanuts in upper regions, and peanuts from Shan State are entering the Mandalay market as well. Massive peanuts are entering the Mandalay market for it is the harvest season of peanuts. Oil mills are running for domestic use and getting great sales. China is purchasing all the peanuts and now is the busiest time for farmers. Cultivators can make donations and celebrate Kathina festivals at present owing to the better peanut prices rather than the previous year," said U Soe Win Myint, an owner of the Soe Win Myint depot in Mandalay.

All kinds of peanuts were mainly cultivated in Mandalay, Sagaing, Magway and Ayeyawady regions for the domestic consumption and the exportation. It is known that Magway region is called "the Big Oil Pot of Myanmar" for its high output rate. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

Merchants check samples of groundnuts at Mandalay market. **PHOTO : MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)**

## 45 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 6 November, total figure rises to 632,274

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 632,274 after 45 new cases were reported on 6 November 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 606,485 have recovered from disease. Death toll registers 19,485 without more casulties.

Up to 5-11-2022, 30,724,032 people aged 18 and above and 6,702,483 people aged 18 and under were vaccinated. According to the study of people who had COVID-19 and people who died of COVID-19 from 28-1-2022 to 15-10-2022, it has been found that 90.4 per cent of Covid patients and 80.9 per cent of Covid deaths are not vaccinated at all or fully vaccinated, respectively.

| Status of COVID-19 injection | COVID-19 Patient | Death with COVID-19 |
|---|---|---|
| People have no vaccination and have not been fully inoculated. | 90.4% | 80.9% |

According to the international study, it is found that people who have been vaccinated do not suffer severely from the disease, need not to be hospitalized and are unlikely to die. If they have received booster shots, the death rates can be reduced more. Therefore, it is a must for people aged five and above to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

The Ministry of Health is giving free vaccinations to all people aged five and above. Booster shots of vaccine are being given to students between the ages of 12 and 18 and people aged 18 and over. Therefore, people should contact local health centres and village/ward administration offices to receive vaccinations. The information about COVID-19 disease can be seen on the Ministry of Health official website www.moh.gov.mm. —MNA

## CRIME NEWS

# Illegal timbers, feedstuff, consumer goods, vehicles confiscated

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

An on-duty team under the supervision of the Customs Department seized 4,000 kilogrammes of animal feedstuff exceed the import declaration (ID) licences and 10,370 kilogrammes of detergent powder without ID from a vehicle worth estimated K62,070,800 on Myawady-Hpa-an-Yangon road on 2 November. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, under the management of Shan State Anti-Illegal Task Force, a combined team at Naungnun check point in Kengtung Township confiscated 1,000 kilos of Thai-made snow towel, 200 cartons Imperial Leather soap cakes and a vehicle carrying that towel and soap cakes (estimated at K60.75 million) on 5 November. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

On 6 November, a total of 2.1890 tonnes of illegal sawn teak and ironwood worth K1,335,748 was captured in the Yenwe forest reserve of Nyaunglebin District and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, six arrests (estimated value of K124,156,548) were made on 2, 5 and 6 November, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

Photo shows fish farm on a manageable scale.

## Covid-19 loan repayment period extended for one more year

THE working committee to address the impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) on 4 November announced Notification 3/2022 on a one-year extension of the Covid loan repayment period from the second-year due date.

According to the priority sector, 5,990 companies and enterprises were granted loans from K200 billion of COVID-19 funds for a total of K158.4438 billion with an interest rate of one per cent and a loan period of one year from 9 April 2020.

Loans flow to businesses such as CMP, hotels and tourism, small and medium-scale enterprises, agriculture, livestock breeding and marine production, export products manufacturing industries, import-substitute products manufacturing industries, businesses that participate in the supply chain from local production to the export sector, foodstuffs manufacturing businesses, overseas employment agencies and vocational training schools.

In the notice of the working committee for loans, it stated: "If it fails to repay, action will be taken under the law," and so companies/industries that took loans from the Myanma Economic Bank fail to pay back the capital and interest, they will face legal action as per the terms and conditions of the loan contract and they must repay the outstanding loan completely within the period of extension. —TWA/GNLM

## Fertilizer, pesticide prices slightly decrease as cold market

IN the domestic market, the prices of fertilizers and pesticides dropped slightly and market is cold, it is learnt.

"The purchase of fertilizers decline as local farmers use natural fertilizers due to high prices of chemical fertilizers," Ko Khin Wan, a chemical fertilizer seller in Thanlyin Township, told the GNLM.

From 8 to 14 October, over 40,000 tonnes of fertilizer worth US$24.726 million were imported from overseas such as Oman, China, South Korea, Thailand, UAE, Viet Nam and Malaysia.

During this week, more than 25,000 tonnes of fertilizers was imported from Oman compared to the previous period's over 30,000 tonnes of fertilizer.

In addition, over 1,000 tonnes of fertilizer worth $321 million were imported from border trade. As importation, over 600 tonnes from China, over 20 tonnes from India and over 400 tonnes from Thailand.—TWA/GNLM

Fertilizers and pesticides are displayed at a shop in DaikU Township.

## Farmers gain profit from rice, onion, chilli amidst higher production cost

IN the agricultural sector, the increase in the price of soil and fuel oil, which are inputs, is much higher this year than normal years.

Rain onion, rice, and chilli prices are also higher than normal prices, and now in 2022, farmers are getting profit.

In cultivation, rain-fed cultivation is the most common, and there is also the recycling of natural fertilizers instead of high-priced soil.

In 2021, when the new monsoon rice was released, the average yield of rain rice per acre was around 70 baskets, one hundred baskets of rice were sold for around 600,000 kyats, but this year they sold more than 11,000,000 kyats.

Long time matured Pawsan rice is sold for more than K1.4 million per 100 baskets. Compared to last year, the price of 100 baskets of rice is around 500,000 kyats this year.

The new rain onions can also be available for more than 2,000 kyat per viss this year. It is reported that the new monsoon onions that started arriving in early November are fetching a high price of over 2,500 kyats per viss. Although some onions were damaged due to untimely rains, most of the undamaged ones are preparing to go to the market where prices are still high.

New rain onions can fetch around double the price compared to normal same years.

In the same way, among the peppers produced from mid-2022, the peppers produced at the end of the year can be sold at around four times the price compared to the same period of the previous year," owner of the chilli market, Ko Hla Han, told the GNLM.

Thedaw Moehtaung chilli, which entered the chilli pepper market around the end of June, went from around 4,000 kyats per viss in the same period last year to 8,000 kyats in the same period of the new release this year, and after about four months, at the beginning of November, it reached 15,500 kyats per viss.

Paddy seeds obtained from newly-harvested monsoon paddy this year.

Moehtaung peppers from Kyaukse, Pyawbwe, Yamethin, and Thazi were priced at around 10,000 kyats per viss at the beginning of the year, but this month they have increased to 15,500 kyats.

At the end of October, the newly released long Shan chilli and Shan Moehtaung chilli are sold at 17,500 kyats per viss.

The price of Shan Buesot pepper is 21,500 kyats per viss. According to the old prices, the price of these new peppers was only around K4,000 per viss in the same period last year.

In Myanmar, the prices of agricultural inputs have increased, but some of the crops produced have also increased in price, and the farmers are getting more income.

Around 90 baskets of spring rice are produced per acre, and the spring rice that will be harvested and planted as a new crop now costs around K1.2 million per hundred baskets. One tonne of black bean is around K1.7 million. The price of long pepper is around 17,000 kyats per viss this month.

The prices of these three types of crops that will be produced after this year's rainy season harvest will be higher than the price of mung bean, spring rice and delta pepper," farmer U Ye Tun, a market analyst, told the GNLM.—TWA/GNLM

# LOCAL BUSINESS

## Panamei white shrimp prepping for value added production upon strong market access

PANAMEI white shrimp produced by commercial farms in Myeik Archipelago, Taninthayi Region fetches US$5,500 per tonne. Once it captures the strong market share in external markets, the shrimp farmers will ramp up the production to meet the demand and step up the business for value added shrimp products, according to Taninthayi Region Fisheries Federation.

Panamei white shrimp farms are being operated in Myeik Archipelago. **PHOTO:KANU**

Panamei white shrimp from Meik Archipelago is primarily exported to China and the demand on Panamei shrimp is as strong as Scorpion shrimp. The farmers aim for value-added seafood production. Myanmar has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Russia on the fisheries product sector. After the farming ponds and fishery product factories pass the test, Myanmar's Panamei white shrimp will be geared up for export to Russia.

"Myanmar and Russia have signed a Government to Government pact for the fishery sector. Only the protocol on fisheries (checking fish processing) is left. Myanmar has been shipping seafood to European Union countries after an assessment protocol. Moreover, Myanmar's Fisheries Department has a plan to enter into a MoU with China. When Russia gives green light to fish processing factories and fishing farms, Myanmar will start exporting seafood. If there is a direct shrimp export from Myeik city rather than through Yangon Region, it will bring more benefits. The market plays a pivotal role in seafood production. The strong market will increase the interest of the farmers and the locals," Dr Toe Nanda Tin, senior vice chair of Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

It was over two decades that Panamei white shrimp farming businesses were found in Myeik archipelago. That breed was imported from Hawaii, the US and Myanmar adopted it. The production in the Panamei shrimp farming pond in Thailand is estimated at 25 tonnes per acre, whereas Myanmar can produce 40 tonnes per acre. Thanks to the clean Myanmar's marine environment, Myanmar's seafood is of good quality. Myanmar delivers its seafood to over 40 international markets. In addition to fish, eel and crab, five companies in the Myeik area execute shrimp farming as well.

"Panamei white shrimp is primarily sent to China. But they are not directly transported. The G to G pact will ensure trade facilitation. Thailand also exports farmed Panamei shrimp to external markets. Myanmar's shrimp is also exported to Japan after freezing. The foreign market is not that strong. Myanmar's shrimp export to Russia is likely to go with the container shipment with cold chain rather than air cargo. The direct export from Myeik city will certainly create more benefits. The farmers are prepping to expand the business on international demand and to promote them as value-added products. Panamei shrimp farming reaps a fruitful result in Myeik area," U Thet Soe, secretary of Taninthayi Region Fisheries Federation.

At present, freshwater rohu is commonly sent to Bangladesh and other countries. The Panamei shrimps farmed in the saltwater farms of Myeik archipelago are being sent to international markets with $5,500 per tonne. —Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

## Pure gold price edges up to K2.68 mln per tical tracking increase in global gold price

THE price of pure gold inched higher to K2,680,000 per tical (0.578 ounce, or 0.016 kilogramme) following the increase in global gold spot prices, according to the domestic markets.

The reference price issued by the YGEA has also risen simultaneously.

On 4 November, the YGEA's price was K1,936,000 per tical when the global gold spot price was US$1,644 per ounce.

On 5 November, the global gold price increased to $1,681 per ounce, the reference price by the YGEA also climbed up to K1,980,000 per tical.

There is a price gap of about K700,000 per tical between the price set by the YGEA and the market price.

YGEA calculated the price depending on the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference exchange rate of K2,100, with some addition. The dollar was exchanged at K3,000 in the black market.

Therefore, there is a large gap between the YGEA's price and the market price based on the black-market dollar rate.

Meanwhile, YGEA called for the gold shops in Yangon Region to sell the pure gold at K2,530,000 per tical, according to its notification released on 30 October 2022.

The soaring dollar exchanging at over K4,500 pushed up pure gold price to a record-high of K3.7 million per tical in late August.

In order for the gold price to decline, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has been selling gold ingots in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw under the auction system.

With an aim at reducing gold price, the YGEA and Mandalay Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association sold gold bullion supplied by the executive members and the members as well.—NN/GNLM

## Thiri Marlar wholesale market sees bustling trade of tomatoes from Ywangan, Inlay areas

TOMATOES supplied by Ywangan and Inlay areas do a roaring trade in Thiri Marlar wholesale market, Mandalay city, according to tomato depots.

Abundant supply of tomato from Ywangan and Inlay areas is daily flowing into the Thiri Marlar market with four to five twelve-wheel trucks. The prices of tomatoes stood at K30,000-K35,000 per 18-viss-carton. The tomatoes cultivated in the lowland region will be harvested soon, said U Aung Moe Naing, an owner of Aung commodity centre in Mandalay city.

"At present, tomatoes from Shan State are abundantly seen in the market. Inlay's tomato fetches a high price as it does not spoil too fast. The prices have risen on low inventory and strong demand. The market sees a bustling trade. Fresh produce is traded regularly," he elaborated.

Those tomatoes enter the Mandalay market daily. The price also shows an uptick. In addition to tomatoes, other green vegetables such as cabbage, French bean, broccoli, mustard, eggplant and chayote are also selling well.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay sub-printing house)/GNLM

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*News and Periodicals Enterprise*

# OPINION

## Equally share the future together for Kayin State and the people

AS the Kayin State Day ceremony which is one of the significant occasions of Kayin ethnics has been held annually, this year's anniversary celebration which falls on 7 November 2022 will turn 67.

All kinds of ethnic nationals have been residing in Myanmar since time immemorial sharing outcomes of their future together. As such, traditional heritage, literature, theatrical, music and fine arts have been flourishing for thousands of years. Despite flourishing amicable relations among the ethnic nationals, the national brethren faced disunity among them due to instigation in the colonialist era, causing internal armed conflicts.

Strenuous efforts are being made for the implementation of transport, electrification, agriculture, livestock, education and health sectors in all regions including the Kayin State, to be able to improve the socioeconomy of the region and the people so as to ensure the improvement of multiple sectors across the nation.

> Only when the Union government and ethnic armed organizations harmoniously join hands to firmly build national solidarity and national reconciliation which are missions of all as part of ensuring internal peace and national reconciliation will the ethnic national people build a peaceful and tranquil Union.

With regard to peace, the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee which is a peace talk machinery to implement the peace process continuously holds information meetings, virtual meetings and official meetings with relevant dialogue partners. It is a symbol for the future nation as well as for the Kayin State.

During the period from February to December 2021 when the government took the State's responsibilities, the government held talks with NCA signatory ethnic armed organizations 16 times and NCA non-signatory ethnic armed organizations nine times to coordinate the implementation of the peace process and the future peace process.

This year, the Peace Talks Team of the State met with the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army (KNU/KNLA-PC) and the Democratic Karen Benevolence Army (DKBA) in the peace talks during the three-day period from 16 to 18 September 2022 and signed the approval of both side attitudes based on negotiations.

The active and united cooperation of all ethnic national brethren residing in the Kayin State helps ensure peace, stability and development of the region as the strength for the nation-building endeavours.

Only when the Union government and ethnic armed organizations harmoniously join hands to firmly build national solidarity and national reconciliation which are missions of all as part of ensuring internal peace and national reconciliation will the ethnic national people build a peaceful and tranquil Union.

Currently, the Kayin State is enjoying the fruits of peace and development thanks to the leadership of the State Administration Council and firm concepts and cooperation of the ethnic national people and armed organizations. All the people including ethnic national brethren should further strive for the development, peace and tranquillity of the nation.

# ARTICLE

## Infants less prone to develop severe Covid-19 symptoms than their mothers: Study

The study analyzed surveys and antibody results (taken from pin-prick blood samples) of 46 pairs of COVID-positive mothers and their infants for two months following maternal infection.

ACCORDING to a study, children whose mothers test positive for COVID-19 have lower severe symptoms than their parents, if they become infected with the virus at all.

In one of the first studies to explore how COVID-19 specifically affects older infants, researchers from the University of Washington and at institutions at four other locations in the Western and Southern U.S. found that the number of infected people in a household was the factor most closely linked with the infant's likelihood of being infected.

### The focus on infants

"The focus on infants early in the pandemic was about possible transmission risks during pregnancy, birth or through breastfeeding, but there were other questions about the risks in the household to infants and other children when caregivers are sick," said Melanie Martin, assistant professor of anthropology at the UW and the first author of the study, which published Oct 12 in Frontiers in Immunology.

"Infants are in the most contact, and very close contact, with their caregiver than with any other family members. And so we asked, how much are infants at risk, and how do you protect children when they are sick?"

The study analyzed surveys and antibody results (taken from pin-prick blood samples) of 46 pairs of COVID-positive mothers and their infants for two months following maternal infection.

Infants were at least 1 month old, and COVID-positive mothers were enrolled in the study within days, sometimes hours, of receiving their positive PCR test results.

The researchers also recruited a comparative group of 11 COVID-negative mothers, who tested negative after exposure or symptoms, and a control group of 26 mothers with no known COVID exposures or symptoms.

### COVID-positive mothers

In all, about half of the infants of COVID-positive mothers developed symptoms or antibodies indicative of COVID-19 infection. The rates of infection and symptoms in those infants were similar to those of other household children, but lower than for fathers and other household adults.

None of the COVID-negative mothers or their infants tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 antibodies, including one infant who tested PCR positive. While nearly half of the mothers in the control group had antibodies targeting SARS-CoV-2, likely signaling a previous infection they were unaware of, none of their infants did.

Infant age and maternal symptoms were not associated with risk of infection among infants of COVID-positive mothers, but families with greater numbers of infected family members were more likely to have infants who had tested positive. "Infant infection was mostly related to household infection. The risks to infants were not stemming solely from their mothers; there was just transmission in the household," Martin said.

Researchers noted that the study was limited by its overall sample size, and that data relied on participants' own reports and collection of blood samples.

With some COVID symptoms nearly impossible to assess among infants — headache, loss of smell or taste — and others, such as a runny nose, common outside of COVID, researchers noted that parental perception of symptoms could vary.

The study was conducted from June 2020 to March 2021, before vaccines were widely available, though one COVID-positive mother and some of the mothers in the control group had received a first dose during the study.

### Antibody responses following vaccination

The researchers removed the samples taken after vaccination from their analyses, but observed antibody responses following vaccination in those mothers.

Nearly all infants in the study were breastfeeding. While the researchers weren't able to directly test for protective effects of breastfeeding against infection, the breastfed infants who had been exposed to COVID did not appear to be at higher risk of infection than other children and adults in the household. In a previous paper, the researchers found that none of the milk collected from the infected mothers contained SARS-CoV-2 virus. Most milk samples contained antibodies to the virus for up to two months following infection.

"Overall, the risks to COVID-19 exposed infants in this study were minimal. The findings support recommendations for infected mothers and other caregivers to continue infant care and feeding as usual, including breastfeeding," Martin said. *SOURCE: ANI*

The number of infected people in a household was the factor most closely linked with the infant's likelihood of being infected. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE/UNICEF/UN0241753/DEJONGH**

## Ferry service between Japan, South Korea resumes after halt due to COVID

A ferry service connecting Fukuoka in southwest Japan with South Korea's Busan resumed Friday, becoming the first regular international sea route Japan has restarted since suspending ship passenger arrivals due to the coronavirus pandemic, the ferry operator said.

JR Kyushu Jet Ferry Inc.'s newly built high-speed ship the Queen Beetle, which can carry up to 502 passengers, left Hakata port in Fukuoka on Friday morning with about 130 people on board.

The resumption of ferry services between the two cities for the first time since March 2020 was in line with the easing of Japan's border restrictions last month.

Following Friday's voyage, the ship will operate only on Saturdays and Sundays in November, connecting the Japanese and South Korean cities in three hours and 40 minutes.

A one-way ticket is priced at 16,000 yen ($108) but passengers in November can board the ship for half price to commemorate the restart of services. The schedule from December onward is expected to be announced later, according to the unit of the railway firm Kyushu Railway Co. (JR Kyushu).

### Come to Japan for shopping and dining

"As more customers from South Korea are expected to come to Japan for shopping and dining, we'd like to create a timetable that accommodates their needs," said JR Kyushu Jet Ferry President Masayuki Mizuno.

About 100 to 200 seats have been reserved for each service so far in November, according to a company official.

Kahori Kurata, a 23-year-old resident of Fukuoka, boarded Friday with her mother. "I'm so happy we are now able to casually travel to South Korea. I'm looking forward to enjoying Korean food," she said.

The JR Kyushu group started the route in 1991 and a total of over 6.5 million people have used the service so far, the ferry operator said.

A special event to commemorate the resumption of the service had been planned but the company decided to cancel it after a crowd crush in Seoul late last month that left more than 150 people dead.

Japan has eased border controls with the aim of reviving the country's struggling tourism sector, while hoping that the weak yen will encourage spending by visitors.

*SOURCE: Kyodo*

The Queen Beetle high-speed ferry departs from Hakata port in Fukuoka for South Korea's Busan on 4 November 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

# SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

## NASA rolls Moon rocket out to Kennedy Space Center launch pad

NASA rolled out its largest-ever rocket to a launch pad in Florida on Friday and will try again 10 days from now to blast off on a much-delayed uncrewed mission to the Moon.

After two launch attempts were scrubbed this summer because of technical problems, the rocket returned to the Vehicle Assembly Building to protect it from Hurricane Ian.

The US space agency used the time to carry out minor repairs and to recharge the batteries that power systems on the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket.

The SLS rocket's four-mile (six-kilometer) journey from the Vehicle Assembly Building to the Kennedy Space Center's Launch Pad 39B took nearly nine hours, NASA said.

The Artemis-1 rocket is rolled out from the Vehicle Assembly Building en route to Launch Pad 39B at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. **PHOTO: AFP**

The 322-foot (98-meter) rocket was rolled out slowly on a giant platform known as the crawler-transporter designed to minimize vibrations.

The next launch attempt is scheduled for 12:07 am Eastern Time (0407 GMT) on 14 November with backup dates on 16 November at 1:04 am and 19 November at 1:45 am.—AFP

## Dutch to shoot paintball pellets at wolf to scare it away

DUTCH authorities plan to shoot paintball pellets at a young wolf to teach it to stay away from people, after it got too close to visitors at a national park.

"Over the past few weeks, a wolf in the Hoge Veluwe national park had approached hikers and visitors," said Gueldre province in the centre of the country on Tuesday.

"It's probably a young animal. To prevent the wolf from being tamed and to teach the animal to keep away from people, Gueldre law enforcement officers will dissuade the wolf with paintball guns."

The aim is to teach the animal to keep at least 30 metres (yards) from people, according to local media.

Wolves are protected animals in The Netherlands, meaning that disturbing or hunting them is only possible with special authorisation.

Gueldre authorities said they had a permit and planned to start the paintball shooting shortly.

Wolves killed some 30 sheep in the northern province of Drenthe in September, according to the BIJ12 agency that keeps track of damage caused by wolves in the country.

It estimates that there are currently four packs of wolves and 11 lone wolves in the Netherlands. —AFP

## Kenya drought kills more than 200 elephants

MORE than 200 elephants and hundreds of zebras and gnus have died in Kenya's worst drought in four decades, the country's tourism minister said on Friday.

The crisis has affected nearly half of Kenya's regions and at least four million out of its 50 million people.

"The drought has caused mortality of wildlife, mostly herbivore species," Tourism Minister Peninah Malonza told a press conference in Nairobi on Friday, adding that 14 species had been identified as badly hit.

"The mortalities have arisen because of depletion of food resources as well as water shortages."

Between February and October, officials recorded the death of 205 elephants, 512 gnus, 381 zebras, 12 giraffes and 51 buffalo, she said.

"Elephants in (the) Amboseli and Laikipia-Samburu regions are worst affected by the drought, as the ecosystems (there) have recorded more than 70 elephant deaths," Malonza said.—AFP

A bull elephant roams in Kimana sanctuary Kajiado south sub county on 25 September 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Indigenous people free tourists taken in Peruvian Amazon

MEMBERS of an Indigenous group on Friday freed more than 100 tourists whom they had abducted in the Peruvian Amazon a day earlier to protest government inaction after an oil spill, officials said.

The group of detained tourists — some 27 from the United States, Spain, France, Britain, Switzerland and 80 from Peru itself — included several children.

"They are already returning to their places of origin," Tourism Minister Roberto Sanchez told reporters in Lima.

Travelling on a river boat, the tourists were kidnapped Thursday by members of the Cuninico community pressing for government intervention following a September 16 spill of 2,500 tons of crude oil into the Cuninico river.

Community leader Watson Trujillo said Thursday the community took the "radical measure" to try to convince the government to send a delegation to assess the environmental damage to a region home to about 2,500 Indigenous people.

On Friday, the office of Peru's human rights ombudsman said negotiations had led to the Cuninico "accepting our request to release" the tourists.

More than 100 foreign and local tourists were taken hostage on a riverboat in the Peruvian Amazon, and freed 28 hours later. **PHOTO: AFP**

"They are freeing us all," Angela Ramirez, a Peruvian cyclist who was among the tourists, later told AFP via WhatsApp.

She added there had been "a lot of anxiety, much fatigue" as the group awaited news on their fate and slowly started running out of water and food during the 28-hour ordeal.

The September spill was caused by a rupture in the Norperuano oil pipeline owned by state-owned Petroperu to transport crude oil from the Amazon region to the ports of Piura, on the coast.

According to Petroperu, the spill was the result of an intentional 21-centimeter cut in the pipeline pipe.—AFP

# HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

## Canada confirms 1,444 monkeypox cases

As of 1 November 2022, 525 cases of monkeypox had been reported in Québec. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP**

CANADA has confirmed 1,444 cases of monkeypox, including 42 hospitalisations, the Public Health Agency of Canada said on Friday.

Of the confirmed cases, 688 are from Ontario, 525 from Quebec, 179 from British Columbia, 41 from Alberta, six from Saskatchewan, two from the Yukon and one each from Nova Scotia, Manitoba and New Brunswick, said the health agency.

Monkeypox case increases remain low in Canada and there have been only nine new cases for the past week.

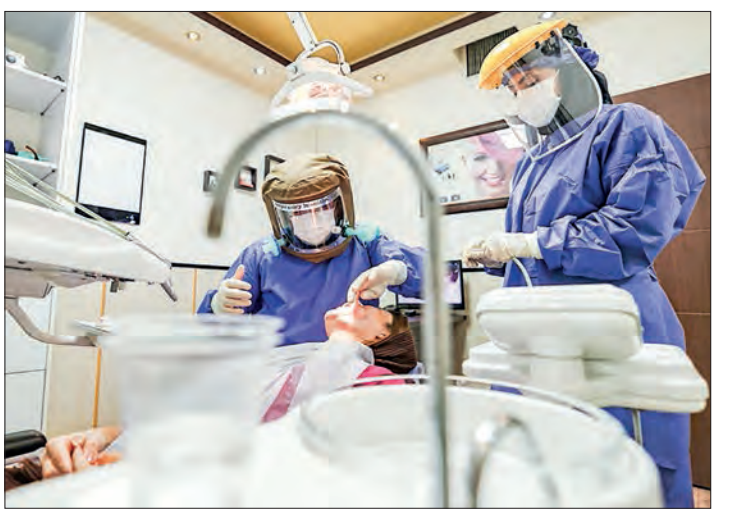
Second doses of the monkeypox vaccine are rolling out in the country. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization recommended monkeypox vaccine to be used as a preventative, two-dose vaccine for those at risk of exposure, with the second dose, only for people who do not have symptoms, to be administered 28 days after the first. —Xinhua

## Research: Flawed nutritional guidelines led to increased use of fluoride

HIGH-CARBOHYDRATE diets that rely on fluoride and food fortification to mitigate dental damage and nutritional deficiencies have been recommended instead of low-carbohydrate diets that prevent tooth decay by prominent organizations like the World Health Organization and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), a University of Washington researcher claims.

Dr. Philippe Hujoel of the UW School of Dentistry claims in a recent article in MDPI's Nutrients journal that over the course of decades in the previous century, not only these organizations but other significant professional and health associations reversed earlier positions and started recommending high-carbohydrate diets. He names the American Diabetes Association, the American Dental Association, and the American Heart Association in particular (ADA).

He claims that these organizations disregarded scientific data that contradicted their assertion that tooth caries was the only health problem associated with a high-carbohydrate diet. —ANI



A dentist and an assistant in Iran work in full personal protective equipment to treat a patient during the COVID-19 pandemic. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ATTA KENARE/AFP**

HEALTH: TOP HEADLINES

## China to stick to dynamic zero-COVID policy, optimize response measures: health official

CHINA will continue its dynamic zero-COVID policy and keep optimizing its response measures, so as to ensure the country's pandemic response is more science-based and targeted, a health official said Saturday.

COVID-19 control in China faces a complex situation, with a notable resurgence of regional outbreaks and cluster infections reported in several cities, said Hu Xiang, an official with the national administration of disease prevention and control, at a press conference held in Beijing.

However, the situation is generally under control nationwide, with Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region having made concrete progress in containing the virus, and outbreaks in other provinces such as Guangdong, Fujian, Heilongjiang, Hebei and Henan having gradually stabilized, Hu said.

Hu added that China's health department will work with medical experts to adjust prevention and control measures in accordance with the changing features of the virus.—Xinhua

## Indonesian authority approves home-made Inavac as COVID-19 vaccine

INDONESIA'S food and drug authority BPOM has approved the emergency use authorization for the Inavac COVID-19 vaccine as primary for the age group of 18 years and above.

"Considering security aspects and efficacy, the Inavac vaccine has been approved for active immunization for COVID-19 prevention in individuals aged 18 years and above," BPOM chief Penny K. Lukito told a virtual press conference on Friday.

Inavac is an inactivated virus platform vaccine researched by the campus in the second-largest city of Surabaya, Airlangga University, and produced by PT. Biotis Pharmaceutical Indonesia.

COVID-19 transmission in the archipelagic country has risen in recent weeks, with the latest cases on Friday at 5,303, bringing the total to 6,512,913. —Xinhua

## Sri Lanka detects 1st case of monkeypox

SRI Lanka's Health Ministry on Friday said the country has detected its first case of monkeypox after an infected patient arrived from Dubai recently.

The ministry said that the first patient was identified as a 20-year-old youth who arrived from Dubai on 1 November.

He is presently admitted at the Infectious Disease Hospital (IDH) on the outskirts of the capital Colombo, local media reported.

The ministry said it would continue to monitor the arrival of tourists and local citizens from overseas and would step up efforts to detect any possible infected cases. —Xinhua

## WHO calls for 10.2 mln USD for response to cholera outbreak in Lebanon

THE World Health Organization (WHO) said on Saturday that 10.2 million US dollars are required for public health-related response to the ongoing cholera outbreak in Lebanon.

"Lebanon is vulnerable to cholera, and this is being aggravated by prolonged economic conditions and scarce access to clean water and proper sanitation services across the country," Abdinasir Abubakar, WHO representative in Lebanon, was quoted by the statement as saying.

"We need to concert efforts to ensure that people have just access to health services, clean water, and sanitation and educate them on how to deal with cholera if any gets infected," he added.

Cholera is preventable through vaccination and access to safe water and sanitation, and can be easily treated with timely oral rehydration or antibiotics for more severe cases, Abubakar said recently.

Lebanon has so far reported 2,524 cholera cases, including 416 lab-confirmed cases and 18 deaths, since the first cases were detected in early October, according to the latest figures by the health ministry. This is Lebanon's first cholera outbreak since 1993.—AFP

# ECONOMY
## WORLD

# China, Germany eye further cooperation on economy, trade

CHINESE Premier Li Keqiang and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz jointly met with representatives of the Chinese and German business community at the Great Hall of the People on Friday evening.

The two leaders listened to the ideas of the business leaders on deepening China-Germany business cooperation, and exchanged views with them.

Recognizing China and Germany as major economies in the world and each other's important partners, Li said that businesses of the two countries enjoy longstanding cooperation, the bilateral economic and trade ties have long been deeply integrated, and severing these ties and decoupling is simply impossible.

The growth of economic and trade ties is ultimately driven by businesses through their cooperation in production and operation, said Li, adding that given the complexities in the world economy, economic and trade interactions between market players are crucial for buttressing the economic development of both countries.

Li pointed out that China, as a developing country with more than 1.4 billion people, is a big market. The Port of Xiamen is an important deep water port located on Xiamen Island, the adjacent mainland coast, and along the estuary of the Jiulongjiang River in southern Fujian, China. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

The premier stressed that China wishes to work with Germany to make a bigger pie of cooperation, foster a favorable environment for the development of businesses, and support businesses of the two countries in working with each other to grow together amid cooperation.

"This is not only good for China and Germany, but also conducive to the stability and smooth functioning of global industrial and supply chains." —Xinhua

# Italy raises public deficit forecast for 2023

ITALIAN far-right Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on Friday raised next year's public deficit forecast in order to finance measures to help households and businesses confront soaring energy prices.

Like other countries in Europe, Italians will face a tough winter with energy bills increasing alongside higher interest rates and inflation.

Meloni, who came to power last month, pledged during the election campaign to control expenditure in a country long plagued by low growth and huge debt.

On Friday, after a cabinet meeting, the government agreed to increase the public deficit to 4.5 per cent of GDP. It is above the 3.4 per cent forecast by her predecessor Mario Draghi in September, but in line with what Italian media had reported she would do.

"This allows us to free up an additional 22 to 23 billion euros ($22-23 billion) that we intend to devote to the fight against rising energy prices," Meloni told reporters late Friday. The deficit is forecast to fall to 3.7 per cent in 2024 and three percent in 2025, according to an economics roadmap adopted by Rome. Meloni's government also raised the forecast for economic growth this year to 3.7 per cent, up from Draghi's prediction of 3.3 per cent.

It comes after Italy posted better-than-expected quarterly growth on Monday. "Thanks to a favourable third quarter", the government was able to free up "around 9.5 billion euros" that the government will allocate "from next week" towards measures to mitigate higher energy costs, Meloni said.—AFP

Residents of Codogno, northern Italy, at a local supermarket. **PHOTO: MIGUEL MEDINA/AFP**

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### China's transport investment up 6.3 pct in Jan-Sept

CHINA'S fixed-asset investment in the transport sector maintained steady growth in the first three quarters of 2022, official data showed.

The total investment in transport reached 2.7 trillion yuan (about 372 billion US dollars) in the first nine months of the year, rising 6.3 per cent year on year, according to the Ministry of Transport.

Specifically, investment amounting to approximately 2.06 trillion yuan was channeled into road construction, increasing 10 per cent year on year.

Investment in waterway development rose 6.4 per cent year on year to 112.4 billion yuan.—Xinhua

### Kenya's forex reserves slump to decade low

KENYA'S foreign exchange reserves declined to a decade low this week, pushed down by a rise in demand for dollars by importers and a weakening currency, the Central Bank indicated in its update on the financial markets released on Friday evening.

The forex reserves declined to 7.213 billion US dollars, which cover 4.04 months of import, from 7.286 billion dollars, 4.11 months of cover at the end of last week, said the apex bank.—Xinhua

# Sri Lanka's tourism earnings surpass 1 bln USD in first 10 months

Foreign tourists ride an elephant during a sightseeing tour in the ancient city of Sigiriya. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

SRI Lanka's tourism earnings in the first 10 months this year surpassed 1 billion US dollars, according to the latest data from the country's central bank.

The data showed that the monthly tourism earnings stood at 75.6 million dollars in October.

Official reserves of Sri Lanka were 1.7 billion dollars by the end of October, a slight decrease from the figure in September, according to the central bank.

More than 42,000 international tourists entered Sri Lanka in October, bringing the total tally of tourist arrivals so far this year in the South Asian country to over 568,000, statistics from tourism authority showed.

The Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority has said that the South Asian country, which depends on tourism as one of its top foreign exchange earners, hopes to attract at least 1 million tourists by the year end.—Xinhua

# Wheat prices up again due to tighter supplies in US: FAO

The grains and cereals sub-index rose by 3 per cent, building on a 2.2 per cent increase a month earlier. **PHOTO: AFP**

WORLD wheat prices rose by 3.2 per cent in October partially due to tighter supplies from the US following a downward production revision, the Rome-based United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Food Price Index showed on Friday.

The index was unchanged from September after six consecutive months of decline.

The grains and cereals sub-index rose by 3 per cent, building on a 2.2 per cent increase a month earlier. The FAO explained this by "continuing uncertainties" about a programme that allows Ukraine to safely export wheat from its Black Sea ports due to its conflict with Russia. Lower production levels in the United States were also a factor, it said.

Corn prices rose by 4.3 per cent, reflecting lower production expectations in the United States and the European Union combined with a dry planting season in Argentina.

The increase in grain and cereal prices was balanced by a 1.6 per cent drop in prices for vegetable oils, a decrease of 1.7 per cent for dairy prices, a reduction of 1.4 percent for meats, and a 0.6 per cent decline in prices for sugar. All four sub-indexes remained above their levels from a year ago, however, due to dramatic increases from the early months of the Ukraine crisis.

The FAO's Food Price Index is based on worldwide prices for 23 food commodity categories covering prices for 73 different products compared to a baseline year. The next FAO index is scheduled to be released on 2 December.

The FAO is headed by Director General Qu Dongyu, former vice-minister at China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. —Xinhua

# Twitter starts rolling out new paid subscription

TWITTER began rolling out a controversial new paid subscription system on Saturday that the social network's unpredictable new owner, billionaire Elon Musk, ordered staff to build after taking over last week.

Days into the Tesla boss's stewardship of one of the world's leading platforms for discourse and activism, his promises and provocations are prompting a wave of reactions — including warnings from the United Nations and an apology from Twitter's co-founder.

His plan to dial back content moderation on the site is causing such concern that UN rights chief Volker Turk on Saturday urged him to make respect for human rights central to the social network.

"Twitter has a responsibility to avoid amplifying content that results in harms to people's rights," Turk said in his open letter.

Reports of Musk laying off the platform's entire human rights team were "not, from my perspective, an encouraging start," he said.

Jack Dorsey, who co-founded Twitter in 2006 and stepped down as CEO last year, tweeted to apologize for growing the site too quickly a day after roughly half the company's 7,500 employees were fired by Musk.—AFP

# Pilot strike disrupts Kenya Airways flights

KENYA Airways pilots went on strike Saturday, grounding nearly two dozen flights and stranding thousands of passengers, exacerbating woes facing the beleaguered carrier.

The airline, part owned by the government and Air France-KLM, is one of the biggest in Africa, connecting multiple countries to Europe and Asia, but it is facing turbulent times, including years of losses.

The Kenya Airline Pilots Association (KALPA) said no Kenya Airways flight flown by its members had departed Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport from 6:00 am (0300 GMT) onwards on Saturday.

The pilots announced the strike in defiance of a court order against industrial action and gave no indication of how long it will last.

The airline's managing director and CEO, Allan Kilavuka, said 23 flights had been cancelled as of 11:00 am due to "the unlawful strike", affecting over 9,000 passengers.

He urged the protesting pilots, who make up 10 per cent of the workforce, to return to work by 10:30 am on Sunday.

"Failure to do so will lead to immediate disciplinary action," he warned.

The Kenya Aviation Workers Union (KAWU) subsequently announced that ground staff would also strike from 2:00 pm onwards in a separate, long-running dispute with the Kenya Airports Authority (KAA) over salary increases.

"The Union has no option but to commence the industrial action," it said on Twitter, citing a court order supporting its members' right to strike until negotiations with the KAA are concluded.—AFP

# Japanese firms promote sake, EV, camping goods at Shanghai expo

JAPANESE firms are promoting various items such as sake, an electric vehicle and camping goods at the annual China International Import Expo in Shanghai, which opened Saturday despite the country's radical "zero-COVID" policy.

Although the strict anti-virus restrictions prevented some people from joining the event, visitors to a booth of the government-linked Japan External Trade Organization were able to sample sake and shochu distilled spirit flowing from 50 taps installed there.

At the JETRO booth, where some 280 Japanese companies exhibited their products including food, cosmetics and medical devices, a section was dedicated to tents and other camping goods against the background of increasing demand in China for such outdoor items.

Honda Motor Co. unveiled the concept model for the second edition of its EV series models to the Chinese market at the event Saturday. The exterior design of the e:N2 concept, which follows the April launch of the e:N1 EVs, features characteristics of sedan, coupe and sport utility vehicles, according to a Honda official.—Kyodo

Japanese firms are promoting various items such as sake, an electric vehicle and camping goods at the annual China International Import Expo in Shanghai. **PHOTO: KYODO**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SINAR POMALAA VOY.NO. (096N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR POMALAA VOY.NO. (096N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-11-2022** 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.

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# GLOBAL AFFAIRS

## Tutankhamun: Egyptians bid to reclaim their history

IT'S one of the 20th century's most iconic photos: British archaeologist Howard Carter inspecting the sarcophagus of Tutankhamun in 1922 as an Egyptian member of his team crouches nearby shrouded in shadow.

It is also an apt metaphor for two centuries of Egyptology, flush with tales of brilliant foreign explorers uncovering the secrets of the Pharaohs, with Egyptians relegated to the background.

"Egyptians have been written out of the historical narrative," leading archaeologist Monica Hanna told AFP.

Now with this weekend's 100th anniversary of Carter's earth-shattering discovery — and the 200th this year of the deciphering of the Rosetta Stone which unlocked the ancient hieroglyphs — they are demanding that their contributions be recognized.

Egyptians "did all the work" but "were forgotten," said chief excavator Abdel Hamid Daramalli, who was born "on top" of the tombs at Qurna near Luxor that he is now in charge of digging.

Even Egyptology's colonial-era birth — set neatly at Frenchman Jean-François Champollion cracking the Rosetta Stone's code in 1822 — "whitewashes history," according to specialist researcher Heba Abdel Gawad, "as if there were no attempts to understand Ancient Egypt until the Europeans came."

The "unnamed Egyptian" in the famous picture of Carter is "perhaps Hussein Abu Awad or Hussein Ahmed Said," according to art historian Christina Riggs, a Middle East specialist at Britain's Durham University.—AFP

The golden sarcophagus of the Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamun in a restoration lab at the newly-built Grand Egyptian Museum in Giza. **PHOTO:KHALED DESOUKI/AFP/FILE**

## In UK first, nurses vote to strike: media

NURSES across the UK have voted to strike in their first national action over a pay dispute, a media report said on Sunday.

The strike ballot among more than 300,000 members of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) was the biggest in the union's 106-year history.

"Our strike action will be as much for patients as it is for nurses — we have their support in doing this," secretary Pat Cullen said.

Although counting is still underway, the domestic PA news agency reported that RCN officials believed enough members had voted for winter industrial action, which is set to take place within a few weeks, possibly before Christmas.

The RCN is campaigning for a pay rise of five percent above the soaring inflation.

The exact nature of the strike is yet to be determined, but is likely to disrupt operations and appointments even as patients are already facing record waiting lists.—AFP

## Japan hosts int'l fleet review amid North Korea concerns, South Korea joins

JAPAN'S Maritime Self-Defence Force held an international naval fleet review Sunday in the wake of North Korea firing off ballistic missiles at an unprecedented pace, with South Korea's navy participating amid efforts by the two East Asian neighbours to thaw their icy relations.

The MSDF said that 18 vessels from 12 nations, including Australia, Canada, India and the United States, as well as a total of six French and U.S. warplanes, joined the review.

A mass of vessels and aircraft gathered at Sagami Bay off Kanagawa Prefecture, with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida inspecting the fleets.

On board the MSDF carrier Izumo, Kishida said North Korea has been launching ballistic missiles, including intercontinental ballistic missiles, more frequently than ever since earlier this year.—Kyodo

Photo taken by a Kyodo News reporter aboard a Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force helicopter shows vessels taking part in an international fleet review in Sagami Bay off Kanagawa Prefecture near Tokyo on 6 November 2022, including the MSDF destroyer Izumo (front). **PHOTO: KYODO**

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

## Scholz defends China trip with accord on anti-nuke message

GERMAN Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Saturday defended a controversial trip to China as "worth it" due to an agreement to oppose the use of nuclear weapons in the war in Ukraine.

Speaking to a meeting of his Social Democrats a day after his 12-hour visit to Beijing, Scholz hailed an accord with Chinese President Xi Jinping that a nuclear escalation of Russia's invasion of Ukraine must be avoided.

"I think that in light of all the debate about whether it was the right thing to travel there or not — the fact that the Chinese government, the president and I could state that there must not be any nuclear weapons used in this war — for that alone, this trip was worth it," he said.

Scholz said after talks with Xi on Friday that he had insisted "the Russia war in Ukraine is a dangerous situation for the whole world" and urged Russia's ally Beijing to use its "influence" on Moscow to avert an escalation and stop the invasion.

"Xi underscored the need for China and Germany, two major countries with great influence, to work together in times of change and instability and contribute more to global peace and development," Beijing's Xinhua News Agency reported on Friday.—AFP

## Iranian acknowledges sending drones to Russia before Ukraine conflict

IRANIAN Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said on Saturday that Iran had given "a limited number" of drones to Russia months before the start of the Ukraine conflict.

"The drones we gave Russia are from months before the war in Ukraine, and if it is proven to us that Russia has used Iranian drones in the war against Ukraine, we will not be indifferent to it," Iran's official news agency IRNA quoted Amir-Abdollahian as saying on the sidelines of the first meeting of the national coordinators of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations, which kicked off in the Iranian capital Tehran on Saturday.

"We have agreed with the Ukrainian foreign minister that if they have any documents showing Russia has used Iranian drones in Ukraine, they should provide it to us," said the Iranian top diplomat.

He also rejected the Western "media hype" over the delivery of Iranian missiles to Russia, saying that "what they have said about the missiles is completely wrong."—Xinhua

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

# Singaporean wanted by US over N Korea is in Singapore: police

A Singaporean businessman wanted by the United States for violating sanctions on North Korea is currently in the city-state where he is under investigation, the Singapore police said.

In a statement issued late Saturday, the Singapore Police Force (SPF) said they have sought clarification from their US counterparts over the reward as they have kept them informed about the ongoing probe by local authorities.

The US State Department on Thursday offered $5 million for information on businessman Kwek Kee Seng, blaming him for numerous fuel deliveries to North Korea and ship-to-ship transfers as well as money laundering through front companies.

Federal prosecutors in New York in 2021 issued an arrest warrant for Kwek, a year after one of his oil tankers, the M/T Courageous, was seized by Cambodia on a US request over purported sanctions violations.

Kwek, 62, owns the Swanseas Port Services shipping company based in the city-state.

The State Department's Rewards for Justice program had said his exact location was not known and that he has also been identified as being in North Korea, Cambodia, Taiwan and Thailand as well as Cameroon and the tiny Caribbean nation of Saint Kitts and Nevis.—AFP

The oil tanker M/T Courageous was seized over sanctions-violating transfers to North Korea. **PHOTO: US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE/ AFP/FILE**

# Pakistan in 'perilous situation' after Khan assassination bid

Supporters of former Pakistani prime minister Imran Khan, take part in a protest near the container truck a day after the assassination attempt on Khan, at the cordoned-off site of a gun attack in Wazirabad 4 November 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE assassination attempt on former prime minister Imran Khan and his accusation it was a plot involving a senior intelligence officer has pushed Pakistan into a "dangerous phase", analysts say.

Khan escaped with bullet wounds to his legs from an assassination attempt Thursday as he led supporters on a highly publicised march to the capital to press for early elections.

He claimed Friday that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, and Major-General Faisal Nasir — an intelligence officer — plotted to have him killed and have it blamed on "a religious fanatic".

"The political situation in Pakistan has entered into a dangerous phase," said academic and political analyst Tauseef Ahmed Khan, who is also a board member of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan.

"In a country with a history of political chaos, the sounds echo."

Despite being ousted by a vote of no-confidence in April, Khan retains mass public support — winning a string of by-elections even as he battles a slew of legal cases brought by the current government. —AFP

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Britain to hold public holiday for King Charles coronation

A public holiday will be held to mark the coronation of King Charles III in May, eight months after the death of his mother Queen Elizabeth II, the British government said Sunday.

The national holiday will be held on Monday May 8, two days after the ceremony at Westminster Abbey, Downing Street said in a statement. The government said that as with the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953, the royal event would be an opportunity for "families and communities across the country to come together and celebrate." —AFP

### Thousands march in Peru calling for president's removal

THOUSANDS of demonstrators marched through the streets of Lima on Saturday to call for the removal of President Pedro Castillo, the subject of an unprecedented six investigations for corruption.

Opponents of Castillo's government marched through the capital's center until dozens of riot police used tear gas to prevent them from reaching Parliament and the government palace.

"I come to the march to get that corrupt man out. Castillo must leave, that's what this march is for, to get him out," protester Nancy Huarcaya told AFP.—AFP

# Child migrants need safe port as tensions rise: rescue charities

CHILDREN rescued in the Mediterranean must be allowed to disembark in a safe port, charities said Saturday, as a stand-off with Italy over migrant arrivals intensified.

There are four humanitarian ships carrying rescued migrants currently requesting permission to dock safely in Italy as conditions at sea worsen in bad weather.

"We have a lot of babies on board, as well as women with children. We urgently need to be assigned a port," Hermione Poschmann from German charity Mission Lifeline, which runs the Rise Above rescue vessel, told AFP.

Italy's new far-right government, which was sworn in last month, has vowed to crack down on boat migrants fleeing North Africa for Europe.

The German vessel Rise Above, which rescued 95 people in three operations Thursday, is carrying 42 minors including eight babies, the smallest of which are just seven and 10-months old.

"The situation will continue to worsen due to the enormous psychological strain on the people on board," mission head Clemens Ledwa said.—AFP

File photo of a child looking at messages written during vigil and protest held by migrants and advocates to remember the migrants who died on their travel to the United States, during the Day of the Dead celebrations in Tijuana, Baja California state, Mexico, on 2 November 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

# SPORT

**GLOBAL AFFAIRS**

Japan hosts int'l fleet review amid North Korea concerns, South Korea joins

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## 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.

GFA player passes over Shan United defender during their Week-12 match of the Myanmar National League played at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 6 November 2022. **PHOTO : THAW GYI**

## Shan United grabs another win for undefeated record

THE match between GFA team and Shan United team, which was postponed from the 2022 season MNL championship match (12), was held at Thuwunna Stadium on 6 November, and Shan United team secured a 2-0 win record. Since Shan United have already won the championship title before this match, the GFA players clapped their hands and congratulated Shan United when they entered the field.

Shan United have already won the championship since the last match, but they won again for their undefeated record.

Shan United has only one game left to play and if they can go undefeated, they will win the Myanmar National League with an undefeated record.

The GFA team tried to avoid relegation if they won this match, but faced with a loss and have been relegated from MNL.

The Shan United team made some changes to the starting lineup, and the GFA team also competed with local players without foreign players.

The Shan United team started attacking from the start of the game, and in the eighth minute, Si Thu Aung scored the opening goal. After that, the Shan United team controlled the game and the GFA team regained some chances, but they were unable to use it. At the end of the first half, the Shan United team was leading with one goal to nil. In the second half, the Shan United team made changes by adding some core players, and in the 73rd minute, Si Thu Aung scored the second goal through a penalty kick.

After this match, Shan United team has scored 45 points in 17 games and GFA team has been relegated with Rakhine United team with 10 points in 18 games. Yadanabon FC will take on Yangon United in the second match of the MNL Week-12 today.—Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

## Gabriel sends Arsenal top as Chelsea crash again

MIKEL Arteta hailed Arsenal's gritty 1-0 win against Chelsea as a significant step in their Premier League title challenge after Gabriel Magalhaes sent the Gunners back to the top of the table on Sunday. Arteta's side made it 11 wins from 13 league games thanks to a close-range finish from Brazilian defender Gabriel in the second half at Stamford Bridge.

The Gunners are two points clear of second-placed Manchester City after the champions briefly took pole position with a win against Fulham on Saturday.

After beating Tottenham and Liverpool at home earlier this season, winning in west London was another major statement from Arsenal as their unexpected title challenge gathers pace.

"Big win for us, another step as a team. To come here against a top team and perform and actually win will give the boys even more belief," Arteta said.

"We are a really young team but we showed a lot of composure and courage to play in this stadium. I was really impressed.

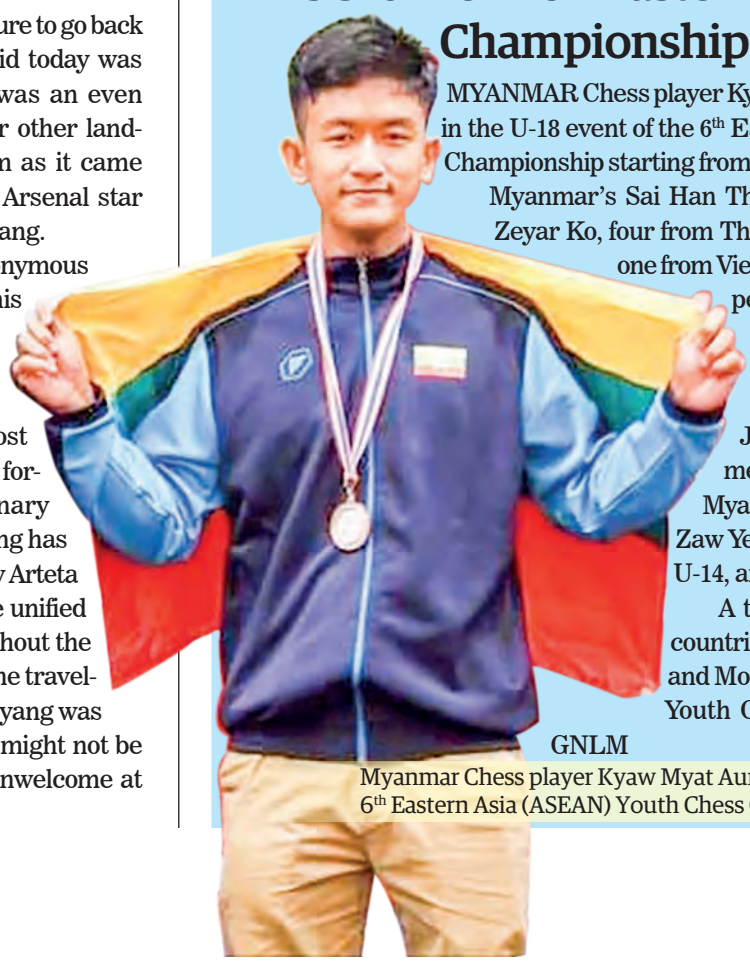
"We were under pressure to go back to the top and what we did today was just phenomenal." This was an even sweeter victory than their other landmark successes this term as it came at the expense of former Arsenal star Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

Aubameyang was anonymous in his first meeting with his old team since he was stripped of the captaincy and sold to Barcelona in January after Arteta lost patience with the Gabon forward's repeated disciplinary issues. Exiling Aubameyang has proved an inspired move by Arteta as Arsenal look a far more unified and determined group without the sulking striker. Booed by the travelling Arsenal fans, Aubameyang was so underwhelming that it might not be long before he becomes unwelcome at Chelsea as well.—AFP

## Myanmar Chess player Kyaw Myat Aung wins bronze in 6th Eastern Asia Youth Chess Championship

MYANMAR Chess player Kyaw Myat Aung won a bronze medal in the U-18 event of the 6th Eastern Asia (ASEAN) Youth Chess Championship starting from 4 November in Bangkok, Thailand. Myanmar's Sai Han Thiha, Kyaw Myat Aung, and Paing Zeyar Ko, four from Thailand, three from the Philippines, one from Viet Nam, and one from Mongolia competed in seven games of the under 18 event. Kyaw Myat Aung and Sai Han Thiha from Myanmar, Lai Duc Minh from Viet Nam, and Tisado Janmyl Dilan from the Philippines met in the finals. It is reported that the Myanmar sports team is competing with Zaw Ye Htut in the U-16, Thiha Zaw in the U-14, and Hein Thant in the U-10 events.

A total of 80 players from 10 ASEAN countries and Korea, Taipei, Hong Kong, and Mongolia take part in the 6th East Asia Youth Chess Championship.—Bala Soe/GNLM



Myanmar Chess player Kyaw Myat Aung seen with bronze medal at the 6th Eastern Asia (ASEAN) Youth Chess Championship in Bangkok, Thailand.