Embrace the Future: Unfolding a New Chapter with a Fresh Vision

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

Vol. X, No. 113, 7th Waning of Second Waso 1385 ME | www.gnlm.com.mm | Tuesday, 8 August 2023

## Message from Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the Occasion of the 56th Anniversary of the Association of the South East Asian Nations

**Esteemed Citizens and the Peoples of ASEAN,**

On this occasion of the 56th ASEAN Day, I have the pleasure to extend my warmest greetings and best wishes to the people of Myanmar and the peoples of the Member States of ASEAN. I also want to extend my best wishes for the success of the Association, in this ever-changing global arena, for the betterment of the people of the ASEAN Member States.

The Association was born fifty-six years ago, on 8 August 1967, by the wisdom of five founding nations: Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore

SEE PAGE-2

# SAC facilitates smooth transition to elected govt

State Administration Council will execute further stages of the roadmap by ensuring a seamless transfer of state responsibilities to the forthcoming elected government



State Administration Council Chair Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing chairs the meeting with reestablished Council Members in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

ALTHOUGH it is difficult to successfully hold the election by a cent per cent, the government will try hard to hold the election as much as possible so that the people do not lose the right of voting, said State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with members of the newly-formed State Administration Council at the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General highlighted that as some ethnic armed organizations are involved in

SEE PAGE-3

**NATIONAL** PAGE-4



Myanmar's teak dominates luxury yacht building market

**CURRENT AFFAIRS** PAGE-6



Expanding EV options, yet to ignite comparable public interest

**LOCAL BUSINESS** PAGE-7



YR palm oil wholesale reference price slides this week

# NATIONAL

## Message from Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the Occasion of the 56th Anniversary of the Association of the South East Asian Nations

FROM PAGE-1

and Thailand, during the peak of the Cold War era. The five leaders of the peace-loving nations from the region signed the document "Bangkok Declaration", later known as "The ASEAN Declaration".

Despite the doubt and the challenges during the evolution of the Association, nowadays, ASEAN has become one of the most successful inter-governmental organizations in the developing world. Member countries were resolved to maintain peace and stability, to promote growth and prosperity and identity of the region. The Association's success and longevity have shown, without a doubt, by expanding to ten member nations and preparing to welcome an additional member to the family.

A growing number of countries eager to engage with the ASEAN by acceding to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) and an increasing number of external parties with various statuses of partnership also show the continued relevance of ASEAN's fundamental principles at the international level. It is encouraged to note that 51 countries have acceded to TAC and that ASEAN is engaging with eleven dialogue partners and four out of nine Strategic Dialogue Partners have been elevated to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Moreover, ASEAN has been engaging with ten countries from Asia, Europe, Middle-East and Latin America as the Sectoral or Development Partners. Therefore, ASEAN has set another example of successful regionalism in maintaining peace, security and stability on the global stage.

Nevertheless, ASEAN is no exception as countries in the world continue to face serious global challenges. The Association needs to be more forward-looking and finely united in solving common traditional and non-traditional challenges such as natural disasters, emerging infectious diseases, transnational crimes, terrorism and food and energy security. Those challenges require unified regional approaches designed to be ASEAN-led mechanisms. The theme of the Chair of ASEAN for the year 2023, "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth", righteously paves the way for how ASEAN must prepare for future regional and global challenges while maintaining ASEAN Unity and Centrality as well as regional strength as the international driver of economic growth. To successfully attain the goals set out, we all need to be mindful that ASEAN's centrality, unity and solidarity must be upheld based on the fundamental principles and norms of the Association as stipulated in the ASEAN Charter. Moreover, the Association must unite against the pressure and challenges of rising geo-political rivalries. The Association must also be more transparent, inclusive and rules-based regional architecture to avoid the turbulences which could threaten its centrality and steering roles in the ASEAN-led mechanisms.

As we are working to realize the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and regional commitments, we all need to fulfil the aspirations of our peoples while also preparing the Association's future direction and vision for post-2025 to maintain, promote and enhance the well-being of the peoples of a resilient, innovative, dynamic and people-centred ASEAN.

As a responsible member of the Association, Myanmar has been fully cooperating with the ASEAN Member States in implementing ASEAN Community Blueprints, regional integration and community building. Moreover, Myanmar never fails to fulfil its legal, financial and functional obligations, especially actively coordinating for the success of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations and contributing to ASEAN Community building efforts across all pillars and sectors.

We, the peoples of the Member States, should unite our strengths in implementing the tasks to build a brighter future for all. On this auspicious occasion of the 56th anniversary of the Association, I wish to reaffirm our dedication to realizing the purposes and principles enshrined in the ASEAN charter and reiterate our determination to cooperate with other ASEAN member States in support of constructive efforts of the organization for peace and prosperity of the peoples in the region. ■

Myanmar Gazette

## Heads of Service Organizations confirmed and appointed

1. The State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

| Name | Appointment |
|---|---|
| (A) Dr Win Myint | Managing Director<br>Electricity Generation Enterprise<br>Ministry of Electric Power |
| (B) Dr Aung Khaing | Managing Director<br>Myanmar Pharmaceutical Enterprise<br>Ministry of Industry |
| (C) U Min Thu | Managing Director<br>No 1 Heavy Industries Enterprise<br>Ministry of Industry |

2. The State Administration Council confirmed the appointment of Dr Thida San as Director-General of the Legislative Draft Vetting Department on 7 August 2023.

## 4 special civil appeal cases heard

A special appeal tribunal consisting of Chief Justice of the Union U Thar Htay and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union U Myo Tint, U Khin Maung Gyi, U Thein Ko Ko and Daw Thin Thin Nwet was convened yesterday morning at the Supreme Court of the Union and it heard a total of four special civil appeal cases: No 37/2022 (Yangon), 38/2022 (Yangon), 39/2022 (Yangon), and 57/2022 (Shan) following COVID-19 prevention and control guidelines. — MNA

## Seven new cases of COVID-19 reported on 7 August, total figure registers 641,097

MYANMAR'S COVID-19-positive cases rose to **641,097** after **seven** new cases were reported on 7 August 2023 according to the Ministry of Health. Therefore, a total of **11,057,717** laboratory samples were examined to date and the confirmed COVID-19 cases reached **641,097**. The total number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country reached **619,890** including **10** new recoveries. The death toll from COVID-19 in the country registered **19,494** on 7-8-2023 with no new death reported from the pandemic. COVID-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health. — GNLM

Advertise with us / Hot Line : 09974424848

# NATIONAL

## SAC facilitates smooth transition to elected govt

FROM PAGE-1

terror acts without following the agreements of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA, terror acts of PDF terrorists became worse. These terror acts cause delays in restoring peace and stability, the rule of law and development undertakings in some areas, he added.

The Senior General noted that destructive acts of PDF terrorists and some EAOs harm peace and stability, the rule of law and development measures in ethnic areas and cause loss of learning for students. Moreover, people lose employment opportunities and socioeconomic life whereas the country faces loss for its future.

As such, the Senior General stressed the need to restore peace and stability of the nation in order to successfully hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general elections.

In the ethnic sector, the Senior General underscored that the government places an emphasis on the development of the ethnic areas as well as those ethnicities have been granted equal rights aligned with the Constitution. Tatmadaw has been focusing on peace and stability of ethnic regions under the agreements mentioned in the NCA whereas EAOs have to deeply follow the NCA, he added.

> Ensuring the lasting peace and rule of law, our foremost commitment lies in guaranteeing enduring peace and stability across the Union. This will create the ideal environment for the full realization of rule of Law, thereby paving the way for successful, transparent, and inclusive multiparty democratic general elections.

In the democratic system, the Senior General said that concepts and attitudes of political parties will not be equal but can be different. So, they have to follow the wish of the majority without emphasizing the personal cult and races but focus on the attitudes of the minority. Hence, all have to strive for the implementation of future processes in order to strengthen the multiparty democratic system and build the Union based on democratic and federal systems.

As the State Administration Council will hand over the State duties to the government elected from the free and fair multiparty democratic general elections, utmost efforts must be made for holding the free and fair election under the law and enabling the people of the entire nation to cast votes in all regions. The government has to take responsibility for all eligible voters to cast votes.

In the first two-year term, the SAC strived for peace and stability of the State, the rule of law, and the socioeconomic development of the people. In the six-month extended term, the SAC tried to adopt sound foundations for the development of the State. In further extended terms, the SAC needs to accelerate the development of the State.

If disturbances are committed over the efforts for peace and stability of the State, rule of law and socioeconomic development of the people, these will harm the development of the State and socioeconomic development of the people. The entire people have to cooperate with the government for ceasing all terror acts and strengthening peace and stability as well as a multiparty democratic system. In the current term, the Senior General expressed his belief that cooperation of the council members will have to boost the momentum in peace and stability of the State, rule of law and development undertakings. — MNA/TTA

## MMCWA celebrates 10th anniversary with notable guests

THE Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MMCWA) marked its 10th anniversary at Nay Pyi Taw's Horizon Lake View Hotel yesterday morning. The event saw the presence of Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, MMCWA's honorary patron and wife of the Chairman of the State Administration Council, alongside Daw Khin Thet Htay and Daw Than Than Nwe, honorary patrons of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation.

Dr Soe Win, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, who also chairs the Myanmar Women's Committee, highlighted MMCWA's vibrant role as a member not only at the Union level but also across regions, states, and districts. He emphasized their active involvement in forming associations aimed at enhancing the well-being of women and children.

He noted that Myanmar, as part of the UN's procedures, is committed to advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls. He highlighted MMCWA's participation in the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework (AGMSF) and its dedication to the ASEAN Community's three pillars.

With Myanmar's estimated population of 55.8 million as of 1 October 2022, comprising 26.7 million men and 29.1 million women, Union Minister Dr Soe Win urged officials to bolster women's capacity to effectively contribute to the nation's development.

MMCWA Chairperson Dr Wai Wai Tha greeted attendees and showcased the association's activities through a video presentation. Donations from well-wishers were also announced during the event.

The discussions encompassed MMCWA's plans for raising awareness and future initiatives aligned with the newly introduced association registration law by the State Administration Council on 28 October 2022. — MNA/KZL



MMCWA Honorary Patron Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the SAC Chairman, and party view the displays at the yesterday's celebration.

# NATIONAL

## Myanmar's teak dominates luxury yacht building market



Over the first four months of this financial year, Myanmar exported 2,610.1657 tonnes of teak. Captured: A stacked display of Myanmar's exquisite teak.

MYANMAR'S teak has cemented its position as a sought-after material in the world of luxury yacht construction, with purchases recorded from 20 different countries. Deputy Director-General Dr Than Naing Oo of the Forest Department emphasized the remarkable demand and impact of this trend.

Over the first four months of this financial year, Myanmar exported 2,610.1657 tonnes of teak. Its popularity remains high due to its exceptional quality and suitability for crafting luxury yachts. This demand is underscored by ongoing exports to the yacht building market.

From April to July in the 2023-2024FY, Myanmar managed to export 2,610.1657 tonnes of teak to 20 countries, yielding an impressive export revenue of US$8.137 million.

Dr Than Naing Oo offered insights into the specifics: "Between April and July of the financial year 2023-2024, Myanmar's teak found its way to 20 countries through 41 companies in 242 containers, totalling 2,610.1657 tonnes. The resulting export revenue amounted to US$8.137 million."

India, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and China stood out as key destinations for Myanmar's teak during this financial year, underscoring the global appeal of this fine timber. — ASH/KZL

## Transforming agricultural waste into commercial natural fertilizers underway

THE Department of Agricultural Mechanization under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation is actively promoting the utilization of technology for the commercial application of natural fertilizers derived from farming waste materials.

In response to the high costs associated with chemical fertilizers in the agricultural sector, farmers are increasingly turning to natural alternatives. In light of this, the department is facilitating the distribution of technology for producing natural fertilizers from agricultural waste, which not only mitigates harm to farmlands and the environment but also benefits farmers.

Beyond catering solely to farmers, plans are underway to extend the dissemination of this technology to micro, small, and medium enterprises, thereby enabling commercial production to meet regional fertilizer demands.

The production of natural fertilizers involves utilizing agricultural waste such as hay, green leaves, and cow dung as essential raw materials. Notably, the deployment of this technology has commenced in Tatkon, Lewe, Pyinmana, and Zabuthiri townships within the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

Furthermore, various ministries and experts at regional and state levels are collaboratively implementing initiatives to provide farmers with technologies encompassing processes like composting kitchen residual waste, utilizing rice and burnt paddy husks, and establishing commercial production and sales ventures. — ASH/CT

## IPRD launches pre-employment training course 1/2023

THE Department of Information and Public Relations (IPRD) commenced its pre-employment training course 1/2023 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. The event was attended by Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint, departmental heads, officials, instructors, and trainees.



The pre-employment training course 1/2023 in progress, attended by Deputy Minister U Ye Tint yesterday.

Deputy Minister U Ye Tint highlighted the course's significance in familiarizing participants with the department's ethics, policies, roles, and objectives, as well as regulations governing civil service. He emphasized the integration of practical aspects within the curriculum, aimed at enhancing trainees' capabilities in line with their job responsibilities.

The course encourages constant learning and innovation to align with the ministry's and department's goals. Participants are urged to adhere to the course's disciplines, strive for objectives, and effectively apply their learning to practical scenarios.

Running until 25 August, the training is attended by 30 trainees and covers various topics. The IPRD instructors will provide comprehensive training on policy and role, objectives, civil service regulations, office practices, financial protocols, digital library management, media ethics, media literacy, social media dynamics, printing and publishing procedures, news media regulations, and public relations techniques. — MNA/TS

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR
www.gnlm.com.mm
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**
(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 454237515
**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**
( +95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

**Write for us**

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email **aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm** with your name and title.

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

# TOURISM

## Promising Prospects for Myanmar's Upcoming Tourism Season with Thai Travellers

BY ASH

MYANMAR is expected to receive Thailand travellers in the upcoming tourism season on account of cheap flights, according to the Union of Myanmar Travel Association (UMTA).

As many airlines are flying from Myanmar to Thailand with the lowest airfares, visitors from Thailand to Myanmar will increase, the UMTA forecast.

"There are seven or eight flights daily between Myanmar and Thailand. The Thailand travellers will flock to Myanmar in the coming tourism high season," U Naung Naung Han, chair of the UMTA elaborated.

In addition to Thailand travellers, China is ranked second and Russia is placed third in tourist arrivals in Myanmar.

In the monsoon season, hotels and airlines slash their price. The round trip for the Myanmar-Thailand flight is estimated at US$150. Visitors from Thailand are mostly seen in Myanmar at present.

More than 450,000 tourist arrivals to Myanmar were registered in the H1 (January-June) 2023 and the majority of them were from China and Thailand, Daw Myo Myo Than, director of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism highlighted.

Visitors from China, Thailand, the Republic of Korea, Japan, India, Viet Nam, Malaysia and Singapore arrived in Myanmar in the H1.

"The tourist arrivals exceeded 450,000 in the first six months this year. The number of arrivals has grown compared to that of the previous year. Myanmar has resumed international flights since April 2022 and over 230,000 tourists entered Myanmar," Daw Myo Myo Than shared information.



Thai travellers are seen at Kawthoung Jetty.



Exploring coastal charm: Thai tourists flock to Kawthoung in Taninthayi Region.

Myanmar has been granting ordinary passport holders from 100 countries and China Taipei, Hong Kong SAR and Macao SAR e-Visas for tourist purposes, and from 54 countries and China Taipei, Hong Kong SAR and Macao SAR e-Visas for business. Tourists from some regional countries are granted visa exemption for certain periods. Myanmar has implemented and developed community-based tourism and eco-tourism sites in regions and states and more tourism destinations will be explored. The Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, the UMTA and the Myanmar Hoteliers Association are exerting concerted efforts to enhance Myanmar's tourism sector.

*Translated/EM*

# CRIME NEWS

## Illegal timbers, industrial machinery, foodstuffs and vehicles confiscated

THE on-duty team under the management of the Kachin State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force at the Nantsiaung combined checkpoint captured an unregistered JCB wheel loader worth K308 million and an unregistered Bull wheel loader (worth K450 million) near Pinlong village on 4 August. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Additionally, a Toyota Caldina worth about K3 million without an official document was seized near the junction of Waizayanta Street and Thanthuma Street in Thingangyun township on 4 August. The action was taken as per relevant rules and regulations.

On 6 August, a combined team led by the District Forest Department confiscated a total of 11.024 tonnes of illegal teak worth K5,150,640 in Bago district and action was taken under the Forest Law.

Similarly, the Myawady District Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force impounded two Mitsubishi Canter box trucks (estimated value of K40 million) carrying 10,000 bottles of M-150 energy drink and 4,800 packs of Oishi green tea worth K5.9 million without official documents near Myaynigon junction in Myawady township. The action was taken under the Customs procedures.

A combined team led by the Township Forest Department conducted inspections in Myeik township on 7 August and seized a total of 9.021 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K1,353,270 in Kanthaya village and Boke Creek. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

A total of nine arrests were made on 4, 6 and 7 August, with an estimated value of K813,403,910, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee.
— MNA/ MKKS

# CURRENT AFFAIRS



The photo shows shrimp being processed for export markets.

## Myanmar ships 3,000+ MTs of shrimp to international markets in last four months

MYANMAR exported over 3,000 metric tons of shrimp to global markets in the past four months, according to the Department of Fisheries.

Myanmar's seaborne shrimp export was estimated at 2,859.032 tonnes worth US$10.847 million and border saw exports of 353.297 tonnes worth $1.866 million between 1 April and 31 July of the current financial year 2023-2024, totalling 3,212.329 tonnes worth $12. 713 million.

The shrimp exports dropped compared to that of the year-ago period. Myanmar sent 4,545.728 tonnes worth $16.556 million by sea and 340.924 tonnes worth $1.555 tonnes via border in the corresponding period last FY, reaching 4,886.652 tonnes worth $18.111 million.

Myanmar delivers fishery products including fish and shrimps to neighbouring countries (China and Thailand) through Muse, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Mawtaung, Maungtaw and Kenglek border posts. Myanmar ships them to Japan and European countries via maritime trade.

There are 480,000 fish and shrimp farms and over 120 cold storage facilities across Myanmar, fish breeders said.

Myanmar's fishery export has returned to normalcy. Yet the export volume still declines compared to that in the pre-coronavirus period. — TWA/EM

## Expanding EV options, yet to ignite comparable public interest

ALTHOUGH electric vehicles (EVs) lure the interest of car buyers, the transactions are slack for reaching high prices, according to automobile brokers.

"The prices of EVs that entered the market last two or three months are not that high. At that time, we heard that the EV prices will be lower than the gasoline-powered cars or the prices will be the same. Some thought it will be priced around a million. But in reality, it is about K70 million," U Min Nyunt, an auto broker told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The EV prices were between K70-K80 million in March and they reached over K100 million at the end of June. Currently, it is between K150-170 million in the market. EVs displayed at the 2023 Monosoon Market Fair, Industrial Product Exhibition and Electric Vehicle Exhibition, organized by the Yangon Region government, were on sale at prices from K70 million to over K100 million.

The battery three-wheelers that arrived at Asia World jetty in Ahlon Township on 2 August were priced at between K7 million and 10 million at the event, according to the in-charge of the event.

"It can be said that people mainly make sales depending on the prices of dollars. The market hosts various brands and the sales are made depending on the length of battery, kilos and capacity and the prices are between K70-K180 million. The public interest is high due to the interior design, dashboard style and door handles. Some expect an instalment system," a visitor to the event U Hla Aung from Kyimyindine Township told the GNLM.

Imported electric vehicles boast unique designs and body structures like the ICE cars. So, some well-to-do people make orders for luxury purposes.

In the EV market, the public interest is high for BYD Dolphin, MG, Neta and U Pro brands. The committee on the development of importation, installation and investment of electric vehicles and associated businesses notified the EV Show Room not to make more than 20 per cent profit on CIF price.

"I've travelled Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw in EV consuming 80 units and it costs K16,000 for charging fee. It will cost about K70,000 for such a trip if we go by fuel-powered cars," said Ko Myo who travelled in EV.

The battery capacity is key to EVs. Although it can offer full capacity initially, there would be difficulties with maintenance charges, scarcity of spare parts and workshops. Therefore, the country is more suitable for internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles, brokers cited.

With the approval of the Steering Committee on National-level Development of Electric Vehicles and Related Industries, four pairs of EV chargers 200 kW imported by Earth Renewable Energy Co Ltd arrived at Yangon Port yesterday. The vehicles were allowed to be claimed according to the procedures, and the import of these electric vehicles is exempted from customs duties. — TWA/KTZH



Arrival of 200kW imported EV chargers at Yangon Port captured.



Photos show the collapsed segment of the Asian Highway.



## Section of Asian Highway collapses amid torrential rain near Tawnaw Waterfall

A section of the Myawady-Kawkareik Asian Highway near the Tawnaw Waterfall has collapsed as a result of a torrential rain in Myawady Township, located in Kayin State. U Aung Lin, a truck driver, conveyed this information to the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

On the afternoon of 7 August, a road collapse occurred, leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded and raising concerns about potential disruptions in the movement of goods for an extended period. The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology has issued a warning about the likelihood of floods in Rakhine, Mon, and Kayin States due to strong winds prevailing from the present time until 10 August.

Mon and Kayin States are currently grappling with heavy rainfall and flooding, with similar conditions beginning to emerge in Rakhine State. Reports also indicate that the winds in the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal have reached extremely severe levels. Officials from the relevant road department are currently conducting assessments to initiate repairs on the damaged road segment. The affected area of the road has been eroded to a width of approximately 100 feet, and water is overflowing onto the Asian Highway. — TWA/CT

# LOCAL BUSINESS

## Sino-Myanmar border trade surpasses US$1.3 bln in past four months

THE border trade value between Myanmar and China swelled up over US$1.3 billion in the past four months of the current financial year 2023-2024, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

The figures indicated a sharp rise of $511.327 million this FY from $800.157 million recorded in the corresponding period of FY2022-2023.

Myanmar conducts cross-border trade with the neighbouring country China via Muse, Lweje, Chinshwehaw, Kampaiti and Kengtung. The Muse border saw a majority of the trade worth $843.094 million.

The trade value stood at $385.063 million via Chinshwehaw, $53.730 million via Kampaiti, $26.775 million via Lweje and $2.822 million via Kengtung.

Myanmar has been conducting border trade with the four neighbouring countries China, Thailand, Bangladesh and India via land borders.

Export items are agricultural produce, livestock products, fisheries products, minerals, forest products, manufacturing goods and other goods, while capital goods, intermediate goods, manufacturing goods and raw materials for CMP enterprises are imported.

Sino-Myanmar trade is steadily going presently, with approximately 200 trucks flowing in and out of the Muse trade zone.

Myanmar daily delivers rice, broken rice, pulses, rubber, watermelon, mango, onion, fishery products, chili pepper and other food commodities to China and building materials, electrical appliances, pharmaceuticals, equipment and food products are imported into the country. — NN/EM

## MRF to sell off 170,000 rice sacks under subsidy scheme



Rice bags are organized onto lorries for sale.

MYANMAR Rice Federation (MRF) notified on 7 August that it will sell off 170,000 rice sacks in August, comprising 50,000 rice sacks of Aemahta variety, 20,000 sacks of Pawsan rice and 100,000 sacks of short matured rice Aemahta variety (90 days). The federation will increase the sales quota when necessary.

The MRF has opened a rice shop at the Monsoon Market Fair at People's Square in Yangon, winning public interest more than expected, MRF stated.

Furthermor, MRF launched a subsidy scheme for Pawsan and Aemahta rice varieties on 7 August at Wahdan and Bayintnaung Commodity Wholesale Centres.

Acting on public suggestions, MRF is preparing to designate shops in some townships such as Hlinethaya, Shwepyitha, Insein, South Dagon, North Dagon, South Okkalapa, North Okkalapa, Dala, Twantay, Hmawby and Mingaladon and operate mobile market trucks. MRF will keep the consumers apprised of that scheme.

MRF will systematically distribute 50 sacks of Aemahta rice per retail shop in Yangon Region every two weeks. The retail shops can register with the MRF for that and door-to-door service will be included after making payment with KPay.

MRF has notified that it will make concerted efforts to stabilize the rice price and offer the rice at fairer prices to consumers in August and September, along with affiliated associations, rice exporting companies, rice millers and traders. — NN/EM

## YR palm oil wholesale reference price slides this week

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market registered a small decline for the week ending 13 August, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The reference price was set at K4,295 per viss from 31 July to 6 August. For the week ending 13 August, the price was set lower at K4,150 per viss. The figures showed a decrease of K145 per viss compared to that of the previous week.

The Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia including transportation cost, tariff and banking service, and issuing the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil every week.



An edible oil mill is seen in Taninthayi Region.

Yet, the palm oil market price is exorbitantly high compared to the reference price.

If those edible oil retailers and wholesalers are found overcharging, storing inventory intentionally and attempting unscrupulous action to manipulate the market, they will face legal action under the Essential Supplies and Service Act, MoC released a statement.

The Ministry of Commerce is also trying to secure edible oil sufficiency, supervise the market to offer a reasonable price to the consumers and maintain price stability and mitigate the consumers' concern over the possible shortage of palm oil.

At present, mobile market trucks operated by oil importing companies, in coordination with Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, were back to business in some townships on 17 July 2022 to offer palm oil at a subsidized rate. They offer palm oil at a fairer price to the consumers directly depending on the reference price. However, there are limited sources of supply although they directly sell the palm oil at reference rate depending on the volume quota.

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at 1 million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the oil sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/EM

# OPINION

## Polish ASEAN's image for the emergence of a better community

AS the world faces an array of serious global challenges, ASEAN is no exception. The Association must adopt a more forward-looking and cohesive approach to address common traditional and non-traditional issues like natural disasters, emerging infectious diseases, transnational crimes, terrorism, and food and energy security.

Despite initial doubts and challenges during its evolution, ASEAN has now emerged as one of the most successful inter-governmental organizations in the developing world. Member countries have shown unwavering resolve in maintaining peace, and stability and promoting growth, prosperity, and the identity of the region. The Association's success and longevity are evident in its expansion to ten member nations, with preparations underway to welcome an additional member to the ASEAN family.

Together, all ASEAN member states must march towards a common goal of enabling everyone to enjoy the fruits of peace, stability, and prosperity. Since its establishment on 8 August 1967, the Association has exemplified the spirit of solidarity by extending a helping hand to one another in overcoming challenges and crises across all aspects, ultimately building a stronger and more resilient ASEAN Community.

Tackling these challenges demands unified regional approaches, all firmly rooted in ASEAN-led mechanisms. The theme for ASEAN's Chair in 2023, "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth," aptly sets the direction for how ASEAN must prepare itself to face future regional and global challenges while upholding its unity, centrality, and regional strength as a driver of economic growth on the international stage.

To achieve these goals successfully, it is essential to uphold ASEAN's centrality, unity, and solidarity based on the fundamental principles and norms stipulated in the ASEAN Charter. Furthermore, the Association must stand united against the pressures and challenges of rising geopolitical rivalries. Embracing transparency, inclusivity, and a rules-based regional architecture is crucial to avoiding turbulence that could undermine its centrality and leading roles in ASEAN-led mechanisms.

As a responsible member of the Association, Myanmar has been wholeheartedly cooperating with other ASEAN member states in implementing ASEAN Community Blueprints, regional integration, and community-building efforts. Myanmar consistently fulfils its legal, financial, and functional obligations, actively contributing to the success of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations and bolstering efforts across all pillars and sectors to build a stronger ASEAN Community.

On the occasion of the 56th anniversary of ASEAN, Myanmar reaffirms its dedication to realizing the purposes and principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter. The nation also reiterates its commitment to collaborate with other ASEAN member States to support constructive efforts for peace and prosperity in the region.

Together, all ASEAN member states must march towards a common goal of enabling everyone to enjoy the fruits of peace, stability, and prosperity. Since its establishment on 8 August 1967, the Association has exemplified the spirit of solidarity by extending a helping hand to one another in overcoming challenges and crises across all aspects, ultimately building a stronger and more resilient ASEAN Community.

# ARTICLE



Relief measures are underway in Taungup.

## One ASEAN One Response

**By Wai Wai Lin**

THE Republic of the Union of Myanmar is one of the largest countries in Southeast Asia, with a land area of 676,578 square kilometres. Due to its geographical location, Myanmar is at risk of natural disasters, including cyclones, earthquakes, floods, landslides, etc. Being one of the most natural disaster-prone countries in the region, it is fundamental for Myanmar to strengthen her capacity of disaster preparedness and management to build a safer and more resilient community where people thrive and can withstand the onslaught of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change.

Myanmar often experiences the rising frequency and intensity of disasters, including major disasters such as the 2008 Cyclone Nargis, nationwide floods in 2015, and flood and landslide in 2019. On 14 and 15 May 2023, Myanmar was affected by extremely severe Cyclone Mocha that claimed the lives of 148 people, injured 132 people, and caused 277,011[1] buildings, including homes, schools, hospitals, and religious places. The calamity had struck mainly the Rakhine State and had a lesser impact in Chin State, Magway, and Sagaing regions.

### National Response to Cyclone Mocha

In view of preparedness measures, the Myanmar Government has taken disaster preparedness measures and managed to mitigate the impacts of cyclones quite dramatically due to systematic preparation before a disaster occurs. On 6 May 2023, the National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC) called for an emergency meeting. It tasked the 12 working committees and Tatmadaw for all-of-government disaster response in coordination with the Region and State Disaster Management Bodies. the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) also has been activated and operationalized for preparedness, emergency responses and rehabilitation since 8 May 2023.



Yanbye Township.

The government's solid commitments to achieve faster response, mobilize more resources, recovery, and rehabilitation is leading towards recovery with the "Build Back Better" principle, resulting in progress in the reconstruction of health sector facilities (now at 90 per cent), basic education facilities (now at 95 per cent) and higher education facilities (now at 95 per cent). The telecommunication network coverage in Rakhine has also restored 99.92 per cent of its services, and recovery of electricity is now 100 per cent completed in the urban areas in Sittway, Ponnagyun, Rathedaung, Pauktaw, Minpya, and Kyauttaw townships as of 31 July 2023.

### One ASEAN, One Response

Given the priority of the "One ASEAN, One Response" principle, two days before the cyclone made landfall on 12 May 2023, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement coordinated a meeting between the Department of Disaster Management (DDM) and ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre).

As reducing disaster risks is one of the top priorities of ASEAN, the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) sets as a policy backbone for the ASEAN Member States to enhance their collective efforts in reducing disaster risks and responding to disasters in the region.

Myanmar government has welcomed ASEAN's assistance for the cyclone-affected communities. ASEAN has facilitated the assistance from ASEAN people to the people in the region affected by the cyclone at an early date. The AHA Centre has prepared to deliver relief items from the Disaster Emergency Logistic System for ASEAN (DELSA) Regional Warehouse in Malaysia by air and sea.

ASEAN has mobilized ten batches of humanitarian support for Myanmar worth more than 1.6 million US dollars through the AHA Centre. The relief items mobilized to Myanmar from the AHA Centre include non-food items such as shelters, shelter toolkits, water filtration systems, family kits and hygiene kits, and these items have been distributed to the cyclone-affected communities.

The AHA Centre also sent out an In-Country Liaison Team with four members to support the National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC) in conducting needs and damage assessments. AHA Centre had activated an online information-sharing platform to open a communication channel between Jakarta's Emergency Operations Centre and Myanmar's in-country liaison team. It is happy to note that the ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN ERAT) successfully conducted needs assessments in Sittway, Rathedaung, Ponnagyun and Kyautaw townships in Rakhine State, which was mainly affected by cyclone Mocha from 21 to 26 May 2023.

To ensure an effective, timely response, the role of the ASEAN Secretary-General as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator (SG-AHAC) was activated in early June to mobilize funding resources and promote strategic level coordination.

Mocha is the second devastating impact on Myanmar after the 2008 Cyclone Nargis. During Cyclone Nargis, ASEAN supported disaster relief efforts and delivery of humanitarian assistance as a large-skill operation. Based on the collective efforts of Nargis lessons, ASEAN has operationalized the ASEAN-led coordinating mechanism and established the AHA Centre in November 2011 to facilitate cooperation and disaster management coordination amongst ASEAN Member States. The AHA Centre has built upon ASEAN's pivotal role during the response to Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar in 2008; since then, ASEAN mechanisms have consistently facilitated and catalyzed significant regional initiatives in disaster management and humanitarian assistance.



Kyaukpyu.



Thandwe Township.



Gwa Township.

Establishing the AHA Centre is a remarkable achievement and an important milestone in the history of ASEAN over the past 56 years.

Our region has a high risk of disaster; at the same time, these unfortunate events have also advanced our collective efforts, disaster-resilient, expanded our preparedness to save lives and bound us together under the spirit of One ASEAN One Response.

As a citizen of Myanmar, it is an honour to express our heartfelt gratitude to the peoples of ASEAN by this article on this auspicious anniversary day. The timely assistance from the ASEAN through AHA Centre is a heartwarming gesture from the community which cares for and shares with one other.

■

[1] *As of 12 July 2023 of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement*

# SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

## Russia to launch lunar mission Friday, first in nearly 50 years



This handout photograph taken and released by the Russian Space Agency Roscosmos on 7 August 2023, shows technicians finishing to assemble a Soyuz 2.1b rocket carrying the Luna-25 lander ahead of its launch scheduled for 11 August 2023, at the Vostochny cosmodrome, some 180 kilometres north of Blagoveschensk, in the Amur region. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / RUSSIAN SPACE AGENCY ROSCOSMOS / AFP**

RUSSIA said Monday it plans to launch a lunar lander this week after multiple delays, hoping to return to the Moon for the first time in nearly fifty years.

The launch, which is scheduled for the early hours of Friday, comes as Russia's Ukraine offensive stretches into a second year, sparking huge tensions with the West.

With the Luna-25 lander, Russia's first since 1976, Moscow is keen to restart and build upon a pioneering Soviet-era lunar programme.

The Russian space agency said that a Soyuz rocket had been assembled at the Vostochny cosmodrome in the Russian Far East for the launch of the Luna-25.

"The launch is on 11 August," Roscosmos said in a statement.

"The Luna-25 will have to practise soft landing, take and analyze soil samples and conduct long-term scientific research," the statement added.

The four-legged lander, which weighs around 800 kilogrammes, is expected to touch down in the region of the lunar south pole. By contrast, most Moon landings occur near the lunar equator.

The launch is the first mission of Moscow's new lunar programme and comes as Russia looks to strengthen cooperation in space with China amid ruptured ties with the West.

After President Vladimir Putin sent troops to Ukraine last year, the European Space Agency (ESA) said it would not cooperate with Moscow on the upcoming Luna-25 launch as well as future 26 and 27 missions.

Despite the pullout, Moscow said at the time it would go ahead with its lunar plans and replace ESA equipment with Russian-made scientific instruments. — AFP

## Huge blue whale washes ashore in southern Chile

AN enormous blue whale, considered the largest animal on Earth, has washed up onto a beach in southern Chile, probably after dying at sea, local authorities said Sunday.

Residents of the city of Ancud, on Chiloe island, first spotted the giant marine mammal Saturday on a Pacific ocean beach some 1,000 kilometres (620 miles) south of the capital Santiago.

Agents of the Chilean national fishing agency Sernapesca, sent to investigate, confirmed the carcass was that of "a large cetacean of the family of Balaenopteridae", they posted on the X platform formerly known as Twitter.

"We helped identify the specimen and, based on preliminary evidence, it is a blue whale," the agency added.

Sernapesca's regional director Cristian Hudson told local media that "given its condition, the whale must have died at sea some time ago and drifted in that state."

Environmental groups noted that the area's waters are heavily used by the fishing industry and maritime traffic, and they called for an investigation to determine whether the creature was the victim of a collision.

According to the non-governmental Cetacean Conservation Centre (CCC) of Chile, the family of Balaenopteridae, or rorquals, includes a variety of species, ranging from the nine-metre (30-foot) minke whale to the blue whale — which at up to 30 metres is considered the largest animal on Earth. — AFP



Handout picture released by Defendamos Chiloe environmentalist organization showing a Blue Whale (Balaenoptera musculus) stranded on the beach of Ancud, on Chiloe island, Los Lagos region, Chile, on 5 August 2023. **PHOTO: CLAUDIO KOMPATZKI / DEFENDAMOS CHILOE / AFP**

## Water-stressed Iraq dries up fish farms

IRAQI villager Omar Ziad gazes at the cracked and barren earth where his fish farm once stood, lost to water conservation efforts during a devastating four-year drought.

As the alarming water crisis blamed mostly on climate change drags on, officials see the need for trade-offs in an effort to meet the country's demands.

Drastic government measures have restricted water use for some purposes, including crop irrigation, and authorities have cracked down on illegal practices they long ignored.



This aerial view shows dry fish farms in the village of Albu Mustafa in Hilla, about 100 km (62 miles) south of Baghdad on 6 July 2023, following a crack down by the Iraqi government on unauthorized ponds in an effort to meet the country's water demands. **PHOTO: AFP**

Since late May, unauthorized fish farms like Ziad's have become a target.

"I've worked in this industry since 2003," the 33-year-old said at his village of Al-Bu Mustafa in Iraq's central Babylon province.

He had watched helplessly as officials from the water resources ministry sealed his family's seven fish ponds.

Surrounded by fields and majestic palm trees, this was where Ziad, his father and seven brothers would rear carp, which Iraqis use to make their beloved grilled fish dish known as masguf.

At full capacity, the farm held about 50,000 fish and earned the family the equivalent of $1,300-2,600 a month, far more than many in the country.

"We would share the revenues", said Ziad, who also works as a teacher.

He added that they sold their fish "cheaply", but since all but five of the village's 80 fish ponds shut down, the price of carp has almost doubled, now selling at more than 8,000 dinars (around $6) per kilogramme, he said. — AFP

# British cathedral commemorates Hiroshima, Nagasaki A-bomb victims

A memorial service has been held at a major cathedral in Coventry, central Britain, to mark the 78th anniversaries of the atomic bombings of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

At the Hiroshima Day Remembrance Service at Coventry Cathedral on Sunday, about 150 attendees mourned the victims of the two cities, estimated to have totalled 214,000 by the end of 1945, and prayed that nuclear weapons will never be used again.

The service has been held almost annually since its creation in 1987 by the city council-endorsed Lord Mayor's Committee for Peace and Reconciliation, with the city building ties with other cities devastated in World War II.

The committee, whose founding members have backgrounds in the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament movement, hopes not only to pass on the lessons of the tragedies but also to promote the messages of peace and reconciliation.



Photo taken on 6 August 2023 shows paper cranes folded by attendees at a memorial service at Coventry Cathedral in Coventry, England, to mark the 78th anniversaries of the atomic bombings of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The historic city in the West Midlands was devastated by air raids in 1940, at the height of Nazi Germany's Blitz bombing campaign against Britain during World War II. They killed more than 500 people, left over 1,000 injured and 43,000 homes destroyed.

The medieval cathedral was ravaged in the attack, but out of its ruins, the city's current ethos of peace and reconciliation grew, with the cathedral's then Provost Richard Howard having the words "Father Forgive" inscribed on the building's sanctuary wall.

As a reminder of the devastation, the new cathedral, adjoining the ruins, houses the symbolic "Charred Cross" made from two burnt wooden beams from the original structure.

This past inspired the city authorities to build relationships with other cities devastated in the war, such as Dresden in Germany, which the British bombed in retaliation for Coventry, and in particular, Hiroshima, which was hit by the US atomic bomb on 6 August 1945.

Funded in part by the British city's council, the committee organizes Coventry Cathedral's annual Hiroshima Day memorial service, during which letters of greeting and hope for a more peaceful world are exchanged between the mayors of Hiroshima and Coventry. — Kyodo

# Swiss paper cutting artist takes the scissors to old ways



Swiss paper cutting artist Marianne Dubuis works on a piece at her home, in Chateau d'Oex, in the Prealps in western Switzerland on 25 July 2023. Marianne Dubuis stares intently through a magnifying glass, using a slim cutter to make tiny incisions in the paper below, as she carves out delicate tableaux of life and human emotions. The 64-year-old designer is reinventing the Swiss traditional art of paper cutting, which typically shows Alpine landscapes and cows heading to mountain pastures, infusing a large dose of poetry and modernity. **PHOTO: AFP**

MARIANNE Dubuis stared intently through a magnifying glass, using a slim cutter to make tiny incisions in paper as she carved out delicate tableaux of life and human emotions.

The 64-year-old designer is reinventing the Swiss traditional art of paper cutting, which typically shows Alpine landscapes and cows heading to mountain pastures, by infusing a large dose of poetry and modernity.

Dubuis, a florist by training, told AFP that she has devoted herself to paper cutting since childhood and now spends around six hours a day on her passion.

At her home studio in Chateau d'Oex, in the Pays-d'Enhaut area where the Swiss tradition was born around 200 years ago, she showed off her craft, using scissors or a cutter to carve out intricate scenes inspired by the surrounding woods and the people she meets.

The works, either in black and white or in colour, have been shown in Switzerland, France, Germany and Japan.

Some of them, more than a metre (three feet) high, are on display until 6 September at the new Swiss Paper Cutting Centre in Chateau d'Oex, a picturesque village in the pre-Alps of western Switzerland. — AFP

# Mystery in Dubai as mega-wheel stops turning

TWO years ago, Dubai's skyscraper-studded skyline welcomed a Ferris wheel touted as the world's largest, but it mysteriously stopped turning just months after opening.

The much-touted Ain Dubai (Dubai Eye) was designed as a tourist-luring landmark in the United Arab Emirates' glam-hub, which is home to the world's tallest building.

But now it stands idle for undisclosed reasons, its extravagant light fixtures the only parts seemingly still working.

"Ain Dubai remains closed until further notice," says an official website for the attraction. — AFP



Boats cruise in the gulf waters near the Ain Dubai (Dubai Eye) observation wheel in Dubai on 27 July 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

# ECONOMY
## WORLD

# Indonesia economy grows faster than expected despite lagging exports

INDONESIA'S economic growth accelerated faster than expected in the second quarter of the year, official data showed Monday, the strongest rate in three quarters despite lagging exports.

Southeast Asia's largest economy grew 5.17 per cent on-year between April and June, according to Statistics Indonesia, beating analysts' expectations.

The continued growth was driven by household spending, foreign and domestic investment and increased government spending, Statistics Indonesia official Edy Mahmud told reporters.

"During the second quarter of 2023, Indonesia's economic performance was supported by the increase of people's mobility and religious holidays that drive up people's consumption and production activities," Mahmud said.

He emphasized the resilience of Indonesia's economy emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic despite exports contracting for the first time since the last quarter of 2020, owing in part to declining palm oil prices.



Workers load a basket of fish onto a rickshaw at a fishing port in Banda Aceh on 20 July 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Exports fell 2.75 per cent compared to the same quarter last year, figures showed.

Indonesia posted growth last year of 5.3 per cent — the highest for nine years — on the back of soaring export prices and the lifting travel restrictions.

Jakarta is targeting the same figure again this year.

But analysts expect a slowdown in the coming months as record global commodity prices stoked by the Ukraine war start to ease.

"Lower commodity prices and weaker global demand weighed heavily on exports last quarter," said Gareth Leather, senior Asia economist at Capital Economics.

"Our forecast that global growth will struggle and that commodity prices will remain subdued suggests that exports will stay weak."

Leather predicted Indonesia's quarterly growth would fall to around 4.5 per cent in the coming months while official figures indicate it will remain at around five per cent. — AFP

# Japan's FY 2022 food self-sufficiency at 38%, still near record low

JAPAN'S food self-sufficiency rate on a caloric intake basis stood at 38 per cent in fiscal 2022, unchanged from the previous year but still near a record low, the farm ministry said Monday, adding pressure on the country to enhance food security.

When measured by production value, the rate was 58 per cent, down five percentage points from fiscal 2021, the lowest among comparable data available since 1965, as an increase in global grain prices and the yen's downtrend have raised the value of imports, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said.

The dwindling rate on a caloric intake basis, which is one of the lowest among major economies, underscores the government's struggle to reach 45 per cent by fiscal 2030, at a time Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a major producer of grains, and the COVID-19 pandemic are posing risks to a secure food supply.



A farmer harvests rice in Ageo in Saitama Prefecture, eastern Japan, on 22 September 2020. **PHOTO: KYODO**

On a production value basis, the government targets 75 per cent by fiscal 2030.

The rate of 38 per cent for fiscal 2022 on caloric intake basis remains close to a record low of 37 per cent, which was most recently logged in fiscal 2020.

For fiscal 2022, not only did the number of shellfish and fish caught and the amount of wheat harvested decrease, but the consumption of oils and fats, which Japan largely imports, also fell, resulting in the same rate as the previous year, the ministry said. — Kyodo

# European stock markets drop on weak data

EUROPEAN stock markets retreated Monday on further poor economic data for the region and following a mixed showing by major Asian indices.

Germany's industrial output plunged in June, official figures showed, with the economy ministry warning of a gloomy outlook as high energy prices and interest rates continue to take their toll in Europe's biggest economy.

"Early economic data has done little to help lift the outlook for growth in Europe," said Joshua Mahony, chief market analyst at Scope Markets, adding that sentiment was hit also by weak UK housing numbers.

Average UK property prices fell 0.3 per cent in July from June, major mortgage provider Halifax said, as homeowners struggle with surging interest rates.

Global stock markets saw volatile trading last week, with traders spooked by a range of issues including a US credit rating downgrade, rising Treasury yields and a lack of concrete measures to bolster Chinese growth.

While inflation continues to come down in the United States and parts of the economy are showing signs of slowing, there is plenty of speculation that the Federal Reserve will lift rates at least once more this year -- expectations that boosted the dollar Monday.

A much-anticipated US jobs report Friday showed fewer-than-forecast new posts were created last month, playing into the view that the central bank could stand pat. — AFP

# Siemens Energy plunges into red as turbine woes bite




A general view shows a hall with wind turbines at the Siemens Gamesa factory in Cuxhaven, northwestern Germany, on 31 January 2023, on the sidelines of the visit of the German Economy minister at the plant. In Cuxhaven, Siemens Gamesa manufactures complete turbines for offshore wind power plants. **PHOTO: AFP**

SIEMENS Energy reported Monday a record third-quarter net loss after taking a 1.6-billion euro ($1.7 billion) hit to fix technical problems with its onshore wind turbines.

The group had warned in June that quality issues at its troubled Siemens Gamesa wind unit were worse than previously thought, sending its share plunging more than 30 per cent.

After initially estimating the repair costs at over a billion euros, Siemens Energy announced a charge of 1.6 billion euros to resolve the issues affecting "certain rotor blades and main bearings in the 4.X and 5.X platforms".

The charge weighed heavily on the company's overall performance in its fiscal third quarter, which slumped to a net loss of 2.9 billion euros. The company had booked a loss of 564 million euros in the same period a year earlier.

The latest result was also dragged lower by extra charges of 600 million euros in its offshore wind business, which has been hit by "higher product costs" and difficulties in ramping up capacity.

Siemens Energy said it was "additionally burdened" by a 700-million-euro write-down of deferred tax assets during the quarter. — AFP

# Iran to boost trade ties with Sri Lanka within Asian Clearing Union framework: central banker

IRAN'S central banker said the country is ready to boost bilateral monetary and trade ties with Sri Lanka within the framework of the Asian Clearing Union (ACU), the semi-official Tasnim News Agency reported Sunday.

Governor of the Central Bank of Iran Mohammadreza Farzin made the remarks in a meeting with visiting Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ali Sabry in the capital Tehran.

The ACU can provide a very favourable context for the development of the two countries' trade and monetary ties and can also be used for the payment of bilateral debts, Farzin noted.

He proposed to form an ad hoc working group by the two countries' central banks to facilitate the resolution of mutual banking issues, help promote bilateral monetary and banking cooperation and boost economic transactions.

Despite the US unilateral sanctions, Iran has managed to establish stable trade relations with its partners without letting the embargoes cause any problems for the other sides, he said.

For his part, the Sri Lankan foreign minister expressed his country's readiness to improve the level of trade with Iran.

He agreed that establishing a joint interbank committee for the follow-ups on bilateral issues and facilitation of trade affairs will definitely help expand cooperation between the two countries.

Sabry promised that the Central Bank of Sri Lanka will pursue the two countries' cooperation within the ACU's framework. — Xinhua

## Announcement

AMMK Investment Holdings Company Limited hereby announces its intention to give notice of an extraordinary general meeting to approve the reduction of its capital in accordance with the notice and documents filed with the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

## PESTICIDE TRADE NAME CHANGE ADVERTISING

We, OMO Family Co.Ltd is distributing the following pesticide and we would like to change the pesticide trade name. If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days.

OMO FAMILY CO.LTD 09-5029796

| Sr. | Old Trade Name | New Trade Name | Active Ingredients | Registration No. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Marga Amine | OMO Amine | 2,4-D dimethyl amine salt 720g/l SL | P2022-5933 |

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
**M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (292N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (292N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-8-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department**
**Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

**M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES**

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
**M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (201N/S)**

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (201N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-8-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department**
**Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

**M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
**M.V NITHI BHUM VOY.NO. (279N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NITHI BHUM VOY.NO. (279N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-8-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department**
**Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

**M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES**

# ROLLING UPDATES
## WORLD

## After heatwave, typhoon forces S Korea to evacuate scout jamboree



People take photos from a viewing deck overlooking the campsite of the World Scout Jamboree in Buan, North Jeolla province on 5 August 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

ORGANIZERS of the World Scout Jamboree asked host South Korea Monday to "urgently" evacuate tens of thousands of children from their campsite ahead of a typhoon, just days after a heatwave caused mass scout illnesses.

Typhoon Khanun, which killed at least two people in Japan, is due to make landfall in South Korea on Thursday, near where some 43,000 scouts have been camping in North Jeolla province for their problem-plagued jamboree.

Korean media have called the jamboree "a national disgrace" after an extreme heatwave caused hundreds of scouts to fall ill and prompted American and British scout groups to withdraw as criticism grew over conditions at the campsite.

Organizers had insisted the event would continue but on Monday the World Organization of the Scout Movement said Seoul had told them that "due to the expected impact of Typhoon Khanun, an early departure will be planned for all participants".

"We urgently call on the Government to expedite the plan for departure and provide all necessary resources and support for participants during their stay and until they return to their home countries," it said in a statement. — AFP

## Japan eyes Fukushima water release between late August and early September

JAPAN is considering beginning the release of treated radioactive water from the Fukushima nuclear power plant into the sea between late August and early September, even though local fishermen and some countries remain opposed to the plan, government sources said Monday.

The government is expected to determine the specific date to start releasing the water after Prime Minister Fumiko Kishida returns on 20 August from a trilateral summit with the United States and South Korea to be held at the Camp David presidential retreat near Washington.

The Japanese prime minister is expected to explain the water discharge plan to US President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol at the summit on 18 August, the sources said.

The government also has to take into consideration the restart of trawl fishing from September in Fukushima Prefecture after the closed season in summer, according to the sources. — Kyodo



Photo taken on 19 January 2023 shows tanks storing treated radioactive water on the premises of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Fukushima Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO**

## Cambodian king appoints Hun Manet as new PM

CAMBODIAN King Norodom Sihamoni appointed Hun Manet as the new prime minister on Monday after incumbent Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen announced he was stepping down.

The monarch signed a royal decree to designate Hun Manet, 45, as the new prime minister for a five-year term following a request from Hun Sen.

"The designated prime minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia has duties to prepare the members of the government in order to ask for the adoption of confidence from the National Assembly," Sihamoni said in the royal decree.

"This royal decree takes effect from the day of signature," he added.



Hun Manet (C), commander of the Royal Cambodian Army and eldest son of Prime Minister Hun Sen, with his wife Pich Chanmony (R) greets supporters during a campaign rally in Phnom Penh on 21 July 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Hun Manet, the eldest son of outgoing Prime Minister Hun Sen, thanked the king for appointing him as the new prime minister.

"This is the greatest honour in my life, receiving a great opportunity to serve my most-loved motherland and people in this noble position," he said in a thank-you letter to the king.

"I, along with all dignitaries in the royal government of the seventh legislature of the National Assembly, are committed to fulfilling this noble national mission with heroism, honesty and high responsibility to serve the motherland and the people of Cambodia," he added.

Hun Manet vowed to continue ensuring the protection of national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as the throne and the constitutional monarchy.

He also pledged to continue ensuring national peace and stability, promoting further development, improving the living standards of the Cambodian people, and enhancing the national prestige on the international arena.

Hun Manet, along with his new cabinet members, will need to win a vote of confidence in the National Assembly slated for 22 August in order to officially become the new prime minister, and he is expected to be sworn in on the same day.

The appointment came after the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) of Hun Sen won a landslide victory in the 23 July general election, gaining 120 out of 125 seats in the National Assembly.

Hun Manet is currently a member of the CPP's Standing Committee and a deputy commander-in-chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces.

Hun Sen announced on 26 July that he would step down as the prime minister after having held the position for more than 38 years, handing the reins of power to Hun Manet.

However, the 71-year-old leader said he will remain the CPP's president and will take the position of President of the Senate after a Senate Election on 25 February next year. — Xinhua

# SPORTS

## Aunglan Lethwei Championship for new generation set for 12 August

ORGANIZED by the Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation, the New Generation Aunglan Lethwei Championship, which consists of 12 bouts, will be held at Theinbyu Gymnasium in Yangon on 12 August.

In the 54-57 kilogrammes event, Shine Htoo (STL) will thwart Byala (Python) while Daung Thatti(Daung Myanmar) will rebel against Aung Ye Naing (Power Punch).

Likewise, Sawkedo (Hoy Power) will lock horns with Kasaw Htoo (Yoeyakyar) while Ah Marn (Yazadiriz) will battle with Htoo Saw Wah (Shwe Phoo) in the 54-57 kg event.

In the 60-63.5 kg event, Gawdo Htoo (Yoeyakyar) will object to Tamakyar (Smart Fight) while Gaydo (STL) will strive against Thar Letthee (Shwe Maubin).



The Lethwei fighters are seen showing their fighting styles.

Similarly, Saw Bilu (Power Punch) will combat Win Bo (Yazadiriz) and Lawkwadu (Tawwin Yoyar) will put up a fight against Nyi Ye Khant (YFC).

In the 67-71 kg event, Arkar Phyo (Tiger Gy) will challenge Sawke (YFC) while Aung Ko Min (Nagamarn) will face down Mike Mike (Shwe Maubin).

In the same category, Zaw Thet Naung (Knight) will engage in a contest with Kyaw Zey Latt (Tun Tun Min) while Gaw Htoo Gay (Yoeyakyar) will go against Myat Thu (Kyarbayin).

The championship will start at 2 pm. — TWA/KZL

## England survives penalty shootout, co-host Australia advances


Australia's Caitlin Foord (C) shoots to score during the round of 16 match between Australia and Denmark at the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup in Sydney, Australia, 7 August 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

TITLE contenders England reached the FIFA Women's World Cup quarterfinals after edging Nigeria in a penalty shootout on Monday, while co-host Australia advanced with a 2-0 victory over Denmark.

England survived a major challenge from Nigeria, a surprise performer at the tournament, and overcame a red card to star midfielder Lauren James in the 87th minute for a stomping.

The scores remained deadlocked at 0-0 after extra time, but European champions England kept their composure to prevail 4-2 in the penalty shootout.

Nigeria was on the back foot after Desire Oparanozie and Michelle Alozie missed their opening two shots.

Substitute Chloe Kelly sealed England's victory in front of a 50,000 crowd in Brisbane.

England will face Colombia or Jamaica in the quarterfinals on Saturday, but will be without James who was initially given a yellow card before it was changed to a red.

"I have not spoken to LJ (James) yet. I am sure she will be disappointed but we stick together as a team," said England goalkeeper Mary Earps, who was the Player of the Match.

"The odds were against us tonight but the team came together fantastically to really grind it out."

Nigeria gave England all they could handle, but squandered several opportunities, including from Alozie and Asisat Oshoala in extra-time.

While their campaign ended in heartbreak, Nigeria emerged as a breakout team marked by an eye-catching fast tempo which they spectacularly unleashed against Australia in a shock 3-2 victory. "To come in here and play the way they did tonight, I thought we were every bit as good (as England)," Nigeria coach Randy Waldrum said.

"We had every opportunity to get the result and unfortunately we didn't get it done." Elsewhere, talismanic captain Sam Kerr returned from injury as Australia powered into the quarterfinals with a 2-0 win over Denmark.

Kerr earned a deafening ovation from the 75,784 fans in Sydney when she entered in the 80th minute after goals from Caitlin Foord and Hayley Raso.— Xinhua

## Sport climbing: Mori wins Japan's first lead world championship

AI Mori became the first Japanese climber to win a lead world championship by taking the women's competition Sunday in Bern, Switzerland, where compatriot Sorato Anraku fell just short of completing a sweep for Japan after claiming silver in the men's event.

Mori, 19, beat Slovenia's Olympic combined champion Janja Garnbret to the gold medal thanks to her higher semifinal score after both topped the course in the final. The 2021 world champion, South Korea's Seo Chae Hyun, won bronze.

"More than winning the championship, I was happy to complete the climb," Mori said. "My relief turned to happiness, and after that it gradually began to sink in that I had won."

Having made a big impact in his debut season, 16-year-old sensation Anraku came within inches of the gold medal at his first world championship. — Kyodo


Ai Mori of Japan competes in the women's lead final at the climbing world championships on 6 August 2023 in Bern, Switzerland. **PHOTO: KYODO**

# WORLD

**ROLLING UPDATES WORLD**

After heatwave, typhoon forces S Korea to evacuate scout jamboree

**PAGE-14**



# Intl community makes fresh efforts to resolve Ukraine crisis in Jeddah




A handout picture provided by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) on 6 August 2023 shows representatives posing for a group picture during a National Security advisors' meeting in Jeddah. **PHOTO: SPA / AFP**

SECURITY advisors and representatives from 43 countries on Sunday concluded a two-day meeting in Jeddah, a coastal city in western Saudi Arabia, where they discussed solutions to the Ukraine crisis that has dragged on for more than a year.

The closed-door meeting was attended by quite a number of developing countries, many of which have primarily stayed neutral in the crisis. Special Representative of the Chinese Government on Eurasian Affairs Li Hui also attended the meeting.

Analysts said that China's participation reflects its role as a responsible major country in promoting peace, and the meeting represents the latest efforts by the international community in solving the crisis.

Li Xinggang, a researcher at the Institute for Studies on the Mediterranean Rim at Zhejiang International Studies University, believes that the Jeddah meeting will push for a greater international peace force to resolve the crisis, and allow more international actors to participate in it, so as to find fair, just and lasting solutions to the crisis. Abdullah Otaibi, an expert on international issues in Saudi Arabia, pointed out that although the Ukraine crisis is unlikely to end soon, the convening of the Jeddah meeting is an important step in the right direction toward resolving the crisis and an important opportunity to enhance consensus among all parties and seek a practical and feasible solution. — Xinhua

## Three-quarters of children in South Asia face extreme heat: UN

THREE-QUARTERS of children in South Asia are already facing dangerously high temperatures, the highest level worldwide, as the impact of climate change grows, the United Nations warned Monday.

About 460 million children are exposed to extreme heat in South Asia, or 76 per cent of children, compared to a third of children globally, the United Nations children's agency said.

"With the world at global boiling, the data clearly show that the lives and well-being of millions of children across South Asia are increasingly threatened by heat waves and high temperatures," said Sanjay Wijesekera, UNICEF Regional Director for South Asia.

The UN warns children in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Pakistan are at "extremely high risk" of the impacts of climate change, defining extreme high temperatures as 83 or more days in a year over 35 degree Celsius (95 degree Fahrenheit). Children cannot adapt as quickly to temperature changes, and are not able to remove excess heat from their bodies. — AFP

## Thai election runners-up agree coalition with govt-aligned party

THAILAND'S election runners-up announced a fresh coalition with a government-aligned party on Monday as lawmakers attempt to overcome resistance from military and pro-royalist senators to break a political deadlock.

The kingdom has been unable to form a government after the reformist Move Forward Party (MFP) fell short of a majority, despite winning the most seats in May's polls, and was later excluded from a progressive coalition.

The party's closest rival, Pheu Thai, announced the new partnership on Monday along with another party, Bhumjaithai, bringing together a total of 212 seats in the country's parliament.



Pheu Thai Party leader Chonlanan Srikaew (R) addresses a press conference at the Pheu Thai Party's headquarters in Bangkok on 7 August 2023 as Bhumjaithai Party leader Anutin Charnvirakul (L) looks on. **PHOTO: MANAN VATSYAYANA / AFP**

A previous eight-party coalition headed by MFP failed to get leader Pita Limjaroenrat elected PM after he was blocked by junta-appointed senators opposed to his pledge to reform Thailand's tough royal defamation laws. Pheu Thai announced last week the progressive party had been excluded from the coalition, saying support for Pita's bid had stumbled over MFP's insistence on lese-majeste reform.

Among the parties opposed to MFP's inclusion were Bhumjaithai — a member of the army-backed coalition government elected in controversial 2019 polls. — AFP