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

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Heads of foreign embassies to Myanmar and diplomats alongside with Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing visit houses and land plots of the Taungpyoletwal Reception Centre in Maungtaw, Rakhine State, on 2 September 2023.

Myanmar bags US$166 mln from rice exports in past five months

The value of Myanmar's rice and broken rice exports crossed US$166 million from over 380,000 tonnes in the past five months (April-August) of the current financial year 2023-2024, comprising 350,070 tonnes in maritime trade and 29,314 tonnes in border, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

The export volumes were registered at 87,648 tonnes worth $36 million in April, 110,706 tonnes worth $48 million in May, 62,725 tonnes worth $28 million in June, 58,334 tonnes worth $26 million in July and 59,971 tonnes worth $28 million in August respectively.

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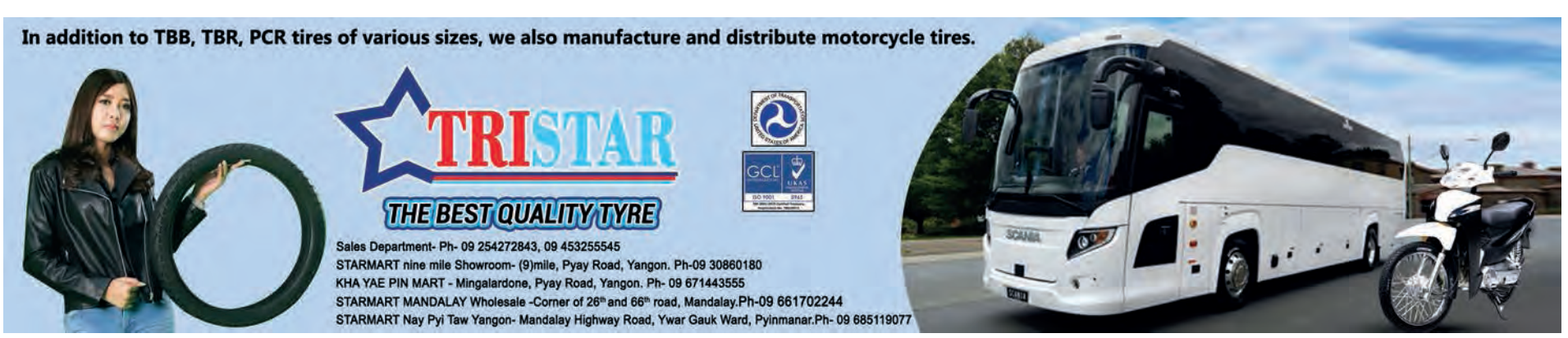
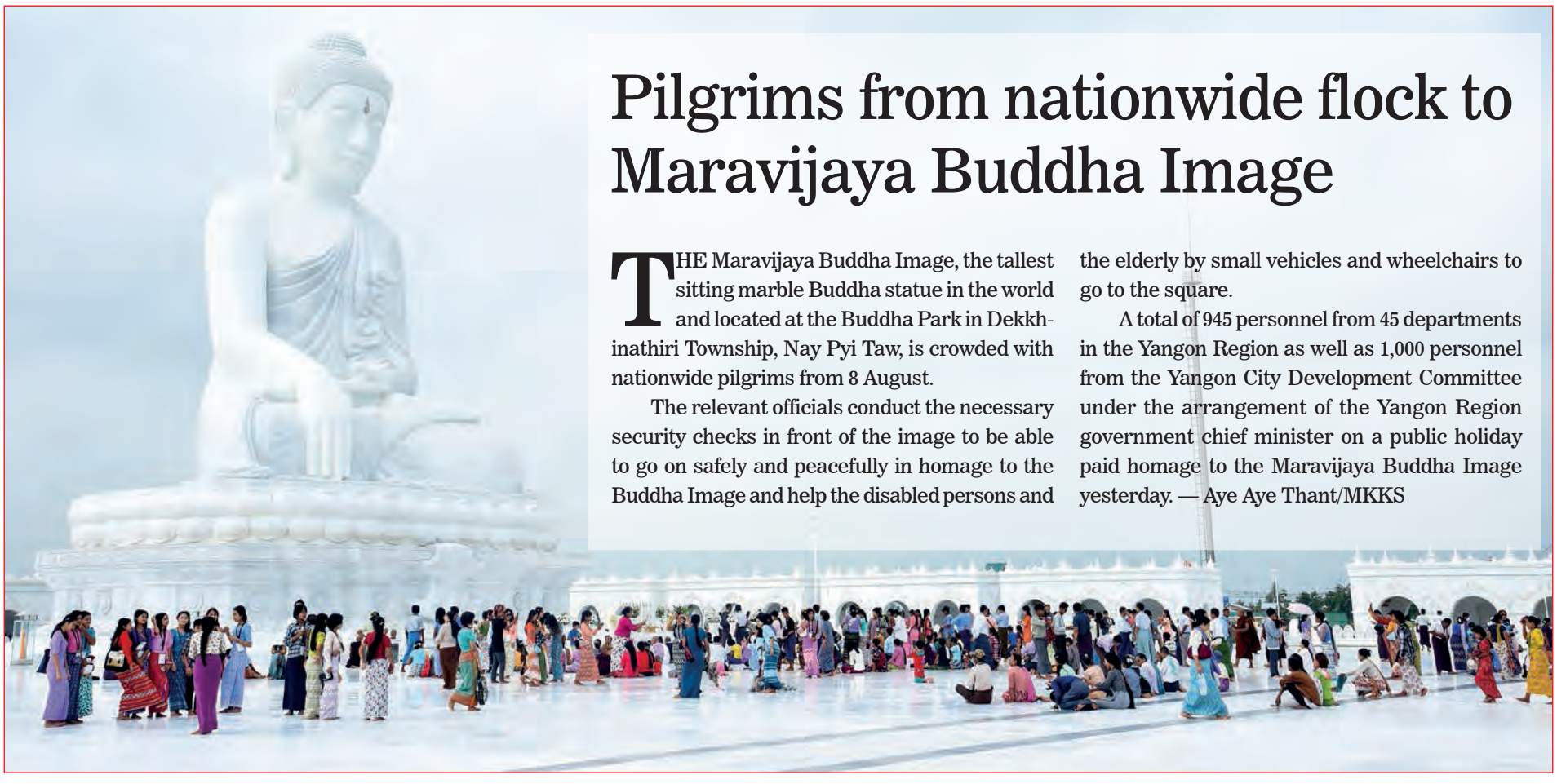


NATIONAL



Pilgrims from nationwide flock to Maravijaya Buddha Image

THE Maravijaya Buddha Image, the tallest sitting marble Buddha statue in the world and located at the Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, is crowded with nationwide pilgrims from 8 August.

The relevant officials conduct the necessary security checks in front of the image to be able to go on safely and peacefully in homage to the Buddha Image and help the disabled persons and the elderly by small vehicles and wheelchairs to go to the square.

A total of 945 personnel from 45 departments in the Yangon Region as well as 1,000 personnel from the Yangon City Development Committee under the arrangement of the Yangon Region government chief minister on a public holiday paid homage to the Maravijaya Buddha Image yesterday. — Aye Aye Thant/MKKS

Photo shows devotees embarking on pilgrimage to the Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO : KO AYE THAN**

18 more equal-sized votive tablets found at No 4 BEHS in Thaton township, Mon State

THE sacred tablets were found when the workers doing their soil work to construct a new building in the school compound located at Theingon Ward on 30 August. The tablets are currently placed on the shrine of the school, according to the General Administration Department, Thaton township.

"We had found such kind of votive tablets in Thaton four times in the past. In one of the events, we found more than 1,000 tablets," an official from Thaton Township GAD said.

A similar event happened in a Baptist Church compound next to the above high school where a total of 240 votive tablets in different mudras (gesture or attitude) including damaged ones were found on 14 March 2019 while digging the soil to construct a new building, according to the official.

More than 650 votive tablets together with over 900 damaged pieces were found within a monestry precinct in the same ward of Theingon on 15 June, 15 July, 8 August and 15 September of 2015. Again, more than 1,000 votive tablets had been discovered in the compound of No 2 BEHS in Theingon Ward forty years ago, the official said.

The votive tablets found in different years carry the same design and size and are believed to have been crafted before the Bagan era while they are similar to the tablets made during the Pala-Sena era of South East India, now Bangladesh, archaeologists commented. — ASH/TH

Some votive tablets are discovered at No 4 BEHS in Thaton township, Mon State on 30 August 2023.

WEATHER REPORT

Bay of Bengal Condition

Issued at 14:00 hours MST on 2-9-2023

ACCORDING to the observations at 13:30 hrs MST today, a low pressure area may form over the North Bay of Bengal during next 72 hrs.

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 13:00 hrs M.S.T on 2-9-2023)

Flood Condition of Chindwin River

ACCORDING to the (12:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Phaungpyin has exceeded by about (1½) feet above its danger level. It may fall the present water level by about (½) foot during the next (1) day and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Phaungpyin Township, to take precaution measure.

COVID-19 report, 2 September 2023

NEW TESTS	3,609
NEW CASES	4
CASUALTIES	0

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NATIONAL

Foreign diplomats visit Taungpyoletwal Reception Centre, Hlaphoekhaung Transit Camp in Rakhine State

A mission including heads of foreign embassies to Myanmar and diplomats led by Union Minister at the Union Government Office 2 U Ko Ko Hlaing who is also Vice-Chair 1 of the Rakhine State Stability, Peace and Development Work Coordination Committee visited Taungpyoletwal Reception Centre where they toured the repatriation facilities in Rakhine State's Maungtaw Township yesterday.

They also proceeded to South Kyeinchaung village, where the returnees will be resettled, to inspect the constructed homes and land plots.

On arrival at the Hlaphoekhaung Transit Camp, they heard the report on preparations for the returnees regarding their temporary stays and humanitarian assistance. — MNA/KTZH

The diplomatic mission receives briefing on returnee preparations, temporary stays and humanitarian aid at the Hlaphoekhaung Transit Camp in Rakhine State on 2 September 2023.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Chair attends International Tourism Alliance of Silk Road Cities in China

NAY Pyi Taw Council Chair Mayor U Than Tun Oo delivered a speech at the inauguration ceremony of the International Tourism Alliance of Silk Road Cities in China yesterday.

He emphasized that the newly formed alliance holds significant potential for boosting the global economy. Besides tourism, Myanmar and China share numerous other areas of cooperation. He extended an invitation to member countries and capitals within the group to enhance collaboration in both tourism and other developmental endeavours with Myanmar. Furthermore, he encouraged them to explore Myanmar's cultural and natural treasures, including Bagan's World Heritage Site, Inlay Lake, Nay Pyi Taw's Gems Emporium, and Maravijaya Buddha Image. As member cities, he stressed the importance of environmental protection alongside tourism promotion. He also underscored the need to preserve and safeguard their respective traditional cultural heritages to foster a sustainable tourism industry that will benefit future generations.

The alliance was formed with 58 member cities, including 36 capital cities from 25 countries in Europe, Africa and America, 22 cities from China and Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA/KZW

Nay Pyi Taw Council Chair Mayor U Than Tun Oo speaks on the event yesterday in China.

Union Minister U Min Thein Zan is pictured on his arrival yesterday.

MoSYA UM arrives back after attending AMMS-7 in Thailand

UNION Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan arrived back in Yangon yesterday evening after attending the 7th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports (AMMS-7) and related meetings held in Chiang Mai, Thailand from 30 August to 2 September.

Alongside the Union Minister, the Myanmar delegation led by Director-General U Tun Myint Oo of the Sports and Physical Education Department participated in the 14th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Sports (SOMS-14) and related meetings from 27 August to 2 September also came back to Yangon yesterday evening. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

MoH Union Minister comforts patient of 58th kidney transplant at Yangon Speciality Hospital (500-bed)

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win visited, yesterday, a kidney donor and acceptor (patient) involved in the 58th kidney transplant operation that was successfully performed on 23 August at Yangon Speciality Hospital (500-bed).

The Union minister said words of encouragement and provided cash assistance to both Daw Khine Nandar Aung, the donor and U Tin Min Htike, the patient who received a kidney transplant.

The Union minister then met the medical superintendent and kidney and liver transplant specialists of the Yangon Speciality Hospital (500-bed) to discuss the matters relating to easing barriers for transplant patients, conducting transplant treatments broader than before, making arrangements for a smoother donation process between the donors and the patients, to resume liver transplant treatments and to transfer transplant treatment technologies to new generation doctors. Under the close supervision of professors and specialists, the patient who received a kidney transplant is making progress, and the kidney donor, who became healthy after his donation, was released from the hospital on 30 August.

Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win encourages the patient who received a kidney transplant at the Yangon Speciality Hospital (500-bed) yesterday.

The Union minister's visit to the Department of Medical Research in Yangon included discussions with the Myanmar Dental Council about upholding ethical standards among dentists. Myanmar Medical Council officials also talked about preparations for the upcoming Myanmar Dental Conference 2023, with input from various healthcare leaders, including Chairman Prof Dr Khin Maung Aye, President Prof Dr Ne Win, and Chairman Prof Dr Paing Soe. Several departmental heads, such as Dr Myat Wunna Soe, Dr Tin Tun, Prof Dr Zaw Than Tun, Dr Su Su Dwe, and Prof Dr Khin Zaw, presented updates on their committees' progress. Rectors from the University of Dental Medicine (Yangon) and the University of Dental Medicine (Mandalay), as well as professors and Medical Services Department directors, discussed relevant topics before the Union minister concluded the meeting.

The Myanmar Dental Conference 2023 is set for 3-4 November, with dentists and medical professionals at home and abroad presenting papers. Attendees will include dental staff, practitioners in private clinics, dental nurses, dental technicians, and specialists from partner organizations, fostering valuable discussions. — MNA/TH

Unity, cooperation amongst government, military, public essential for local development

Member of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Col Min Naung meets local people from the hilly villages of Pyinmana Township for local development yesterday.

AS local stability and security are also important for carrying out local development activities, Col Min Naung, a member of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, stated that it is necessary for the Tatmadaw and the people to be united and cooperate.

He also mentioned that his visit is in response to the directive from the State Administration Council to promote regional development in Pyinmana Township, particularly in the mountain villages. He expressed the importance of local ethnic communities openly sharing their development needs for the region. By facilitating such discussions, the council can address the region's requirements more efficiently.

During his stay, he pledged to prioritize initiatives such as education, healthcare, transportation, and the provision of clean water and electricity for the village.

Col Min Naung and his team donated Waso robes and gifts to the monks from the monasteries in Bangbar village-tract. Next, they donated consumer goods, foodstuffs, stationaries, books, mosquito nets, medicines, natural fertilizer and toys to the monasteries, households, people's militia troop members, teachers and students from the basic education schools from villages in Bangbar village-tract.

Afterwards, an official from the Ministry of Immigration and Population visited the villages within the Bangbar village-tract. During the visit, villagers and students received their citizenship securitization cards and household registration forms 66/6 as part of the Pankhinn Project 2. — MNA/KZW

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NATIONAL

Central Bank Governor calls for financial support to boost local manufacturing, MSMEs

CBM's urgent call for banks to adhere to regulations to strengthen the banking system

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) governor said on Monday in the recent meeting that it is necessary to make solid efforts to provide the local manufacturing industries including MSMEs with financial support.

The governor emphasized that the CBM urged the banks to follow the rules and regulations to ensure a solid banking system, saying the relevant departments of CBM keep watching the banks whether they comply with the instructions. The CBM also considers the internal control and risk management regarding the risk-taking level of the banks, the macro-economy of the country, external impacts and credit risk.

The Central Bank of Myanmar meeting in progress and CBM Governor delivers a remark.

There should be economic growth and it should provide the public with true information. It should also carry out the work procedures properly and follow the rules and regulations.

Moreover, the governor urged all to make business strategy depending on the market condition, follow the rules for foreign currency, focus on monitoring anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing and comply with the rules and regulations of the CBM. – MNA/KTZH

Myanmar plans to export 24 containers of brooms to South Korea

Workers make brooms that are exported to the Republic of Korea at a workplace in Yangon Region.

MYANMAR will export 24 containers of brooms to South Korea this financial year, according to an official from Yangon Region General Trading Co-operative Union.

The organization also exported brooms that carry the note "Made in Myanmar" to the ROK since the 2022-2023 financial year and nearly two containers are being exported every month. A 40-feet container can carry nearly 35,000 brooms and about 840,000 are scheduled to be exported in 24 containers.

"The brooms are made with traditional methods using raw materials from broom grass (Thysanolaena) that naturally grow in forests. They win the foreign market because they can attract overseas buyers more than plastic brooms manufactured employing modern technologies," said U Tin Myint, General Secretary of the Yangon Region General Trading Co-operative Union on 30 August.

Most of the brooms exported to ROK are manufactured by a cooperative in Shwepyitha township, Yangon Region. More cooperative firms will be formed in Hmawby and Taikkyi townships where most raw materials are available, to extend the business.

The brooms are currently exported to Malaysia, India and Thailand other than South Korea. The raw materials to make brooms are bought from Hmawby, Taikkyi townships in Yangon Region, Bago Region, Nay Pyi Taw and Rakhine State. — ASH/TH

Illegal medications, consumer goods, foodstuffs, motorbikes and vehicles confiscated

THE Customs on-duty teams conducted inspections on 29 and 30 August and captured nine kinds of goods worth K1,053,604,959 including 34,328 boxes of Metpure-XL without Import Licence and two kinds of goods worth K15,443,400 including 1,220 kilogrammes of Party Hat that were different from Import Declaration (ID) from containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port and 398 bicycle baskets that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 30 August, the combined on-duty teams under the supervision of Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections and nabbed a Higer bus (approximately K20 million), headed to Muse from Mandalay, carrying 1,140 kilogrammes of dried beef without official documents at the 16th-Mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint, a Mitsubishi Fuso truck (estimated value of K35 million), travelling from Muse to Mandalay, carrying four kinds of goods worth K8.3 million including 1,250 wallets that were not declared in the ID at the Milepost 21/4 on Muse- Mandalay road and a Nissan UD truck carrying 1,350 Peanut bags and 2,847 black sesame bags worth K196.35 million without official documents at the Than village police checkpoint on Mandalay-Hanmyintmo-Aungban-Taunggyi route. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

An unregistered Toyota ToyoAce Box truck (approximately K25 million) was seized near the No 2 market bus station on Thudhamma road in North Oakkalapa township on 30 August. The action was taken under the respective Law.

The combined team confiscated a Higer bus (approximately K35 million), headed to Mandalay from Myawlamyine, carrying 15 kinds of goods worth K21,807,686 including 49.5 kilogrammes of Wai Wai instant rice vermicelli, 240 packages of M&D Cake and a Honda click 150 without official documents near Shwethanlwin Tollgate in Phayagyi on 30 August. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The Myawady District Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force made a surprise check to a convenience store in Myawady on 31 August and confiscated two kinds of goods (estimated value of K950,000) including 1,000 M-150 energy drinks without official documents. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

A total of 20 arrests were made on three consecutive days from 29 to 31 August, with an estimated value of K1,461,052,045, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/ MKKS

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Aquatic product exports surge past US$214 mln in just five months

ACCORDING to statistics provided by the Ministry of Commerce, the export of aquatic products to foreign countries generated US$214.42 million between April and August this financial year.

During this period, approximately 70 per cent of foreign trade was conducted through sea exports. Simultaneously, it has been reported that exports to China, Thailand, Bangladesh and India occurred via border trade.

In the same period of the previous financial year (2022-2023), the export of aquatic products earned US$239.21 million.

Myanmar's aquatic products are exported to foreign countries through both normal trade and border trade channels. These exports adhere to the rules established by the respective countries, and the production and export processes for aquatic products are systematically planned and executed to ensure they are free from pathogens.

Myanmar's aquatic products are exported to various foreign countries, including Japan and European nations, through regular trade channels. Aquatic products such as shrimp and fish are regularly exported through the Muse, Myawady, Kawthoung, Sittway, Myeik, and Maungtaw land borders to China, Thailand and neighbouring countries. — TWA/KZW

Consumers have now access to reference prices of palm oil

The photo shows a mobile market arranged by Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association to offer fairer prices for palm oil.

SOME edible oil shops at Bayintnaung, and Nyaungpinlay wholesale markets in Yangon and wholesale markets in other regions are crowded with buyers as they started offering palm oil at reference prices from the last week of August 2023, the sellers involved at Bayintnaung and Nyaungpinlay markets said.

The oil importing companies distributed over three million visses of palm oil to the domestic markets at the wholesale reference price of K4,155 per viss on 28-30 August.

Even one leading palm oil importing company sold over 1.7 million visses of palm oil those days.

The consumers get access to a reference price of K4,400 per viss at certain shops in the wholesale market, and photos are posted daily on social media.

An individual can buy up to 10 visses of palm oil if they can present a copy of the national scrutiny card and provide a contact number.

Approximately 8,000 tonnes of palm oil were imported in the country on 30 August and around 9,000 tonnes of oil were scheduled to arrive in the Port, citing the edible oil market reports. A tonne of palm oil is equivalent to around 600 visses.

The authorities have already notified the public of lodging complaints for overcharging. The wholesalers are entitled to make a two-per-cent profit margin.

For the week ending 3 September, the CIF prices stood at US$934 per tonne of palm oil. The original price of palm oil was K4,076 per viss when it was calculated at an exchange rate of K2,513. The wholesale reference price is set at K4,155 this week.

"We could buy two 10-viss containers of palm oil at wholesale reference price at Nyaungpinlay market," a trader who resells the palm oil in regions outside Yangon said.

The Union minister for Commerce attended the coordination meeting on the stability of the palm oil price held on the morning of 30 August and he gave a remark that it is necessary to strive to cut the palm oil price remarkably these days.

With oil shops selling palm oil at a fairer price, the market does not witness the price hike that occurred in mid-August. Consumers can enjoy the benefits of the price decline at present. — TWA/EM

Black gram price hits record high of over K2.5 mln per tonne

The high price of pulses raises export earnings in the 2023-2024 Financial Year.

OUT of the pulses and beans, one of the major agricultural products contributing to GDP, black gram price hit a fresh new peak above K2.5 million per tonne, whereas pigeon pea price peaked at nearly K3.9 million per tonne on 2 September.

The prices stood at K2.515 tonne of black gram (FAQ/RC), K2.725 million for black gram (SQ/RC) and K3.875 million for pigeon pea (red gram) on that day.

A total of 375 containers of black gram with loads of 9,000 tonnes were traded in the 20 days of market opening days in August, commodity depot data showed.

The prices of black grams and pigeon peas hit an all-time high on 1 September 2023.

The photo shows a buyer checking the quality of black grams.

With the prices of pulses rocketing, the export earnings significantly rose in the 2023-2024 financial year.

The domestic consumption of black grams and pigeon peas is pretty low. The authorities concerned are focusing on commodity price stability. The figures indicated an increase of over K400,000 per tonne of black grams and K1.7 million for pigeon peas this year compared to last year's prices.

Black gram accounts for 7.37 million acres of plantations. The yield of various pulses is estimated at 96.22 million baskets per year.

Myanmar conveyed 1.75 million tonnes of various pulses worth US$1.324 billion to foreign trade partners in FY 2021-2022.

Rice, the staple food in Myanmar, covers 1.7 million acres of plantation across the country. That year, Myanmar shipped 1.66 million tonnes of rice and broken rice worth $578.94 million to external markets. — TWA/EM

LOCAL BUSINESS

YRIC nods 45 domestic, foreign enterprises in eight months

The garment industry working on a Cutting, Making and Packaging basis plays a key investment attractor in Yangon Region.

Employees are working at footwear factories.

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC) endorsed 45 domestic and foreign enterprises in the past eight months (January-August) and the manufacturing sector topped the investment lineups, U Myo Khaing Oo, director of Yangon Region DICA said.

Those enterprises include manufacturing businesses, garment businesses, hotel businesses and service businesses. The majority of them are CMP businesses.

"YRIC gives the go-ahead to 45 wholly domestic and foreign businesses. The CMP garment businesses played a key player among those endorsed businesses in February-August, creating 18,603 jobs for residents," U Myo Khaing Oo shared information.

China is the leading investor in Myanmar's CMP garment factories, followed by Chinese Taipei, Thailand, the Republic of Korea and Japan. The clothes and apparel are sent to Thailand, China, Singapore and European countries.

There are 505 garment factories, 48 footwear manufacturing enterprises, eight wig factories and 177 factories engaged in the production of bags, sportswear, sports shoes and socks on a CMP basis in the Yangon Region, in line with the existing rules and regulations. — ASH/EM

Online registration platform for rice storage to commence in mid-September

The photo shows newly supplied rice bags stockpiled at the Wahdan Rice Wholesale Centre in Yangon.

ONLINE registration platform for rice storage will launch in mid-September, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation. It aims to steer rice and paddy storage systematically and prevent market manipulation.

Paddy is the backbone of Myanmar's agriculture. Beyond self-sufficiency, the surplus is shipped to foreign markets. There is a sufficient supply of rice and paddy in the country this year and monsoon paddy will be harvested soon.

Additionally, Shwebo Pawsan, Ayeyawady Pawsan, Pawsan from various regions, Ayeyamin, Ayeya Padaytha, Anyatha, and Pakhan varieties that are highly consumed domestically are prioritized for the domestic market only at present.

There is no export of those rice varieties and the federation is making a concerted effort with the stakeholders in the supply chain to stabilize the rice price in the domestic market.

Next, Aemahta, Kayinma, Tunpu and Ngasein rice varieties are designated for export markets. Rice export has not been suspended. Rice exporting companies with 100 per cent cargo readiness are processed and after pre-shipment inspection, export licence will be granted.

The wholesalers were required to submit registration for rice storage for above 5,000 baskets of paddy and 1,000 rice bags (over 50 tonnes) by 26 June 2023, the Myanmar Rice Federation released announcement 1/2023 on 21 June 2023.

Under the directive of the Ministry of Commerce, MRF has been making efforts and participating in the development of the rice market, systematic registration for rice storage, fair market and price stability as the role of the private sector. MRF said in the announcement that digital registration service through Online registration (MyRO) is underway to facilitate the registration process.

While the MyRO online registration system is being constructed, trial operations of warehouse storage situations were conducted in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Bago and Mandalay regions in June and July 2023. — NN/EM

Myanmar bags US$166 mln from rice ...

FROM PAGE-1

The rice export volume recorded the highest in May and declined in June, July and August.

MRF aims to achieve 2.5 million tonnes of robust rice export in the current FY, generating an income of US$1 billion. Myanmar exported 2,261,203 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign trade partners in the past 2022-2023 FY (April-March), with an estimated value of $853.472 million.

Last FY, China was the main buyer of Myanmar's rice and broken rice with over 775,000 tonnes, followed by Belgium with 323,000 tonnes, Bangladesh with over 239,000 tonnes and the Philippines with over 202,000 tonnes.

Myanmar has been exerting concerted efforts to grow 10 per cent yearly in the rice export. To increase foreign income, it has been prioritizing the exportation of high-grade rice and boosting export volume, MRF stated.

Myanmar pocketed over $809.135 million from approximately 2.164 million tonnes of rice export in the 2021-2022 FY (April-March). — NN/EM

OPINION

Save new generation youths from the dangers of narcotic drugs

THE 8th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (AMMD) convened in Vientiane, Laos on 10 and 11 August witnessed the Myanmar delegation ardently expressing its commitment to combat the perils of narcotic drugs among the youth. Characterizing drug eradication as a solemn national responsibility, Myanmar has taken a proactive stance in collaboration with the Tatmadaw, the Myanmar Police Force, and the Department of Customs. Their joint efforts have led to the apprehension of drug traffickers, the dismantling of drug transactions, and the confiscation of substantial quantities of drug manufacturing chemicals.

Amidst global concerns, the proliferation of synthetic drug trade has emerged as a dominant threat, giving rise to ancillary crimes such as money laundering, arms trafficking, and violence. The most disconcerting facet is the escalating jeopardy posed to the youth worldwide. The perpetuation of such drug networks undermines regional stability and imperils the harmony of nations.

Myanmar is unwaveringly dedicated to implementing alternative development strategies in areas plagued by opium cultivation, while concurrently uplifting households impacted by drug-related issues. In the pursuit of securing a promising future for generations to come, the collective responsibility transcends governmental boundaries and rests squarely on the shoulders of the populace. The steadfast commitment to reducing poppy cultivation is imperative for the nation's progress and the well-being of its youth.

Myanmar's anti-narcotics drive extends beyond national borders, as it collaborates closely with international organizations, regional counterparts, and neighbouring nations, including the United Nations. This shared endeavour underscores the indispensability of collective action to address the multifaceted challenges of narcotics. A coordinated, apolitical exchange of intelligence and enhanced cooperation are deemed pivotal by the ASEAN member countries.

Embracing drug eradication as a shared national responsibility, the Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force, and Customs Department have synergized their efforts to initiate targeted anti-narcotic operations. Recent successes include the interception of 12.63 kilogrammes of synthetic drugs, colloquially known as "happy water", in Tachilek of Shan State (East) on 4 August this year, valued at over K1.38 billion. Concerted action has led to prosecutions against culprits engaged in drug-related offences and proactive measures to curtail the distribution of narcotics in venues frequented by youth, such as KTV lounges, clubs, bars, and eateries.

Similar triumphs were replicated in Mandalay Region on 17 August, with authorities seizing narcotic substances and precursor chemicals valued at more than K2.95 billion. Ongoing investigations aim to apprehend those responsible for these criminal activities. These operations serve as pivotal safeguards, shielding the youth from the insidious threats of narcotic drugs.

Myanmar is unwaveringly dedicated to implementing alternative development strategies in areas plagued by opium cultivation, while concurrently uplifting households impacted by drug-related issues. In the pursuit of securing a promising future for generations to come, the collective responsibility transcends governmental boundaries and rests squarely on the shoulders of the populace. The steadfast commitment to reducing poppy cultivation is imperative for the nation's progress and the well-being of its youth.

Western countries, in cohorts with incapable and incompetent self-absorbed people (SAPs) in the ivory towers in Geneva and New York, preach democracy.

Incapable *and* Incompetent

By Kyaw Myint Tun (Paris)

AFTER decades of being looted by the colonial powers, eight countries in Africa have taken matters into their own hands. Eight and counting!

Western countries, in cohorts with incapable and incompetent self-absorbed people (SAPs) in the ivory towers in Geneva and New York, preach democracy. But, when one family has ruled a country for 60 years (60 years!), just between a father succeeded by a son, and stole billions from the people, it is not seen as undemocratic. Successive "elections" were openly rigged. Where are these SAPs in Geneva and New York? As long as these SAPs can happily visit Geneva (many have hidden accounts!), London (let's go shopping at Bond Street), Paris (how about Les Galeries Lafayette?) they don't shout human rights. They don't shout democracy.

Everything is fine no matter who rules. It can be one family! One person! No matter how the country is rich with natural resources and the people are dire poor. As long as the alignment is with certain powers and allows military bases under the pretence of fighting extremists all's fine. In the most recent elections in Gabon, just last week, there were not even any foreign observers. Where are these usual suspects who always turn up at elections in third-world countries preaching "free and fair" elections? Oh, by the way, in the building of those SAPs in New York, there is an Electoral Assistant Division. They would elbow their way when there is an election in a third-world country they can bully. But when a third-world country is under the protection of Western powers, these SAPS are nowhere to be found. The recent election in Gabon and one back in 2017 were democratic in their minds.

These SAPS preach the advancement of women. Hundreds of ladies protested in Niamey this week. Have those SAPs done anything to advance the causes of these women, when they lived under one family's tyranny for decades?

In recent weeks, worse fighting in months has erupted in Tripoli. SAPs have been there for 10 years. Where is the situation in Libya after ten years?

Let's talk about the Sudan. Recent headlines say Sudan's civil war is spiralling out of control and about one million people have fled. SAPs have been in the Sudan for decades! What have they done to ease the pain of the Sudanese people?

Shall we address Haiti? The list of failures and incapabilities goes on and on.

■

ARTICLE
BOOKRACK

Book Ttitle	-	Bertolt Brecht, Ginsberg, Breton, Akhmatova, Szymborska Hnit Milosz
Translator	-	Nari Min
Publishing House	-	SMART
Publication Date	-	July 2023 (1st Edition)
Price	-	K5,000

Bertolt Brecht, Ginsberg, Breton, Akhmatova, Szymborska Hnit Milosz

TRANSLATOR Nari Min is also a poet. However, he also writes reviews and analyses of the poems. Concerning composing modern poems without rhyme, he was quoted as saying, "The feeling of modern poems is not attached either to the past or future. We don't like looking back to the past; we also hate looking forward to the future. We prefer to focus on the present. Future does not belong to us as in the song – Que Sera Sera".

Yes, there are different views about the modern poems. People understand differently the contemporary feelings towards the poems. Nonetheless, it is undeniable that the modern poems reflect the modern world of ours. It is impossible to express the contemporary image within the framework of the old rules of poem composition.

Saya Nari Min has introduced some international poems to Myanmar readers. This is the reason why he has chosen the names of international poets as the title of his book.

His book includes the following poems of Bertolt Brecht, a German poet: Amongst The Highly Placed; Future Generation; The Palm Tree; The Swamp; O Germany Pale Mother!; The Students of The Workers And Peasants' Faculty; and To Those Born After. Additionally, the readers will have a chance to taste the poem titled, "Howl." This poem was composed by an American poet named Allen Ginsberg (born 3 June, 1926, Newark, New Jersey, US – died 5 April 1997, New York). His epic poem HOWL (1956) is considered to be one of the most significant products of the Beat movement. Then, there are two poems composed by Andre Breton, a French poet – Vigilance and Non-lien. Moreover, the readers can enjoy the taste of two poems composed by a Russian poet called Anna Akhmatova. One poem is titled 'Requiem' which was written as a response to the imprisonment of Akhmatova's son. In addition to poetry, she wrote prose inclusive of memoirs. Another poem is titled, 'Love.'

There are also poems composed by a Polish poet named Wislawa Szymborska – Clothes; The Terrorist He Watches; Vermeer; Two Monkeys by Brueghel; The Museum; True Love; The Onion; Going Home; A Funeral; Poem In Honor Of; Some People; and Cat In An Empty Apartment.

There are also poems composed by another Polish poet called Czeslaw Milosz – Late Ripeness; Normalization; Account; and City Without Name.

Furthermore, Nari Min mentioned the brief biography of the poets in addition to his criticism and analyses of their poems. He has analysed and criticized the poem titled, 'Hope is the Thing with Feathers by Emily Dickinson. He described this poem as an extended metaphor poem. How grateful we ought to be for his criticism and analyses!

Book Title	-	Jack London Thu Bhawa Thu Sarpay
Translator	-	Bhamo Tin Aung
Publishing House	-	Seikku Cho Cho
Publication Date	-	June 2023 (4th Edition)
Price	-	K7,500

Jack London – Thu Bhawa Thu Sarpay

THIS week, I would like to present a book for review published by Seikku Cho Cho. This time, it is a fourth impression. What makes this book distinct is that both the Myanmar writer and the one about whom the biography was written have close affinities in terms of their thinking and the way they have led their life. Myanmar writer is nobody but Bhamo Tin Aung whereas the person about whom the biography was written is a great American writer known as Jack London.

There is another interesting story behind the book. According to the one who wrote the foreword, Saya Bhamo Tin Aung had struggled hard to finish this book on the biography of Jack London. No sooner had he been discharged from the hospital where he was receiving medical treatment for cancer than he went back directly to the publishing house to finish his writing instead of going back home. Saya Aung Maw, the writer of the book review, said that Saya Bhamo Tin Aung passed away just one month after finishing his writing. The readers can see his devotion to finishing his work.

In the foreword to the second impression, the publisher of Myint Myat Thu Sarpay said that Jack London and Saya Bhamo Tin Aung shared the same world outlook, embracing similar ideologies and beliefs. They both believe in materialism, advocating for the proletarians. Additionally, they are also activists for the cause of socialism. They have been undaunted in advocating for the cause of socialism and proletarians. They have brought benefits to the people of low stratum and their nation as a whole. Their literary works were generated based on good reasoning. They have been honest and loyal to the readers. Inasmuch as Jack London was loved and respected by the people of America, Saya Bhamo Tin Aung was highly cherished and respected by his people. They were both regarded as national heroes by their ardent readers.

Jack London has written about the tough life of the downtrodden workers, the unemployed as well as the underemployed, the vagabonds, the beggars, the hooligans, the thieves, the pickpockets and the jailbirds. The writer could have chosen the most proper words to depict the nature, the habits and the customs of such people. He has used all the jargon commonly used in their world. Saya Bhamo Tin Aung could also have depicted the life of Jack London vividly. At 40, Jack London committed suicide. Although he has lived a rather short life, he is still remembered by readers around the world. It is said that life begins at 40. However, for Jack London, who died at 40, the saying is not true. Nonetheless, there are some who regard him as a revolutionary. Although he died a bit early, he had produced valuable books on such sensitive issues as religion, gender, socialism and communism about which only a handful of writers would dare to touch in those days. Among the translation works of Saya Bhamo Tin Aung, those on Einstein and Jack London are the most interesting.

ENVIRONMENT

Recognition of Nanyok Protected Public Forest

By exercising the powers granted under Subsection (e) of Section 6 of the Forestry Law of 2018, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has designated an area of 40,511 acres within Homalin Township, Homalin District, Sagaing Region as "Nanyok Protected Public Forest" as per Notification No 99/2023 released as of 30 August 2023.

The Ministry is establishing the protection forest to preserve the water resources and watershed areas such as rivers, creeks and lakes, and ensure the stability of the ecological system.

By establishing the protection forest, the valuable tree species including teaks and local species growing in the area can be preserved.

It is protecting endangered plant species and wild animals and increasing their habitats.

The catchment area of the Nanyok Creek, which flows into the Uru River, will also be preserved and forest resources will be properly managed.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

An aerial view of the Nanyok Protected Public Forest in Homalin, Sagaing Region.

Bengal tigers conserved at Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary

The Environment and Wildlife Conservation Branch of the Forest Department converses the world's endangered tiger species: Bengal tigers at the Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary in Sagaing Region.

Myanmar has eight ASEAN Heritage Parks. The Bengal tigers mostly inhabit in the Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary in the northern part of the country and Taninthayi Natural Reserve in the southern part of the country. The Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary located in Khamti and Homalin townships covers 830.4 square miles (531,456 acres). It was designated as Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary in May 1974 and the wildlife sanctuary warden office was established in Homalin on 1 September 1994. The Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary was declared an ASEAN Heritage Park on 8 October 2019.

It also attracts local and foreign travellers who love nature-based tourism as they can study the rare bird species, wild animals, biodiversity, forests, and waterfalls, and enjoy nature rowing boats, jungle adventures, culture and living style of resident Shanni and Naga ethnic people, and can also visit Htamathi research centre.

"In Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary, we conduct patrol in 20-unit areas with three staff and one worker per unit. Three patrol units patrol daily from three statins. The rare tiger is only can be seen in northern and southern parts of Myanmar. In the north, there is the Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary and Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary. We installed cameras at Htamathi last year and we got the movements and images of tigers. We set up camera traps in four kilometres containing 15 points with two cameras per point. The experts of WCF estimated that there would be 15-20 tigers there. We need technical tools to get exact estimation. Then, public participation plays a key role in conserving the natural environment and wildlife animals. Being the 8th ASEAN Heritage Park, all should protect the Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary as national heritage of the country," said U Win Hlaing, warden of the Htamathi Wildlife Sanctuary.

Captured Moment : Bengal tiger at the Htamathi Wildlife Santuary in Sagaing Region.
PHOTO : KANU

The wild animals and birds that help the environment die yearly due to human beings and natural disasters. Some of the wild animals are likely to disappear and the developed countries conserve the tigers and elephants while Myanmar conserves rare tiger species. The wildlife parts, bones and skins are marketable in the illegal wildlife trade and the populations of elephants and tigers are decreasing year by year. The WCF works with 13 countries where tigers live to launch the conservation of rare animal and bird species. A tiger has a home range of its own, which averages between 250 and 300 square kilometres. The Bengal tigers live in the northern part of Myanmar while the Indochinese tigers in the Taninthayi Natural Reserve in the southern of Myanmar. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

WORLD

Gabon's strongman vows more democracy after coup

The political changes and the new leader's efforts to address issues of democracy, corruption, and engagement with both domestic and international stakeholders in Gabon following the coup

A torn campaign billboard of ousted President Ali Bongo Ondimba lines a street in Libreville, Gabon on 1 September 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

GABON'S new strongman General Brice Oligui Nguema on Friday vowed the country's institutions would be more democratic, two days after heading a coup that ended 55 years of rule by the Bongo family.

"The dissolution of the institutions" decreed on Wednesday during the coup "is temporary", he said in a speech. "It is a question of reorganizing them in order to make them more democratic."

Oligui also stepped up contacts with national groups and foreign interests, meeting members of civil society a day after a speech to 200 businessmen, whom he lectured on corruption.

Broadcast on state tetlevision earlier Friday, he sternly warned business leaders in the oil-rich state against "over-billing" and told them to commit to the "development of the country.

"It is difficult to perceive, at this stage, your commitment or patriotism when it comes to the development expected by our compatriots," Oligui said.

He vowed to make sure the overcharged money "comes back to the state.

"This situation, for me, cannot continue, and I will not tolerate it".

He also invited foreign donors, diplomats and members of international organisations to meet with him. Details of that meeting remained unclear.

Embassies of countries or organisations that have condemned the coup told AFP that they did not send their seniormost representatives, but rather officials of a lesser rank.

Bongo overthrown

Oligui, the head of the elite Republican Guard, on Wednesday led officers in a coup against President Ali Bongo Ondimba, scion of a family that had ruled for 55 years.

The ouster came just moments after Bongo, 64, was proclaimed victor in presidential elections at the weekend — a result branded a fraud by the opposition. — AFP

More Brazil Supreme Court judges vote on Indigenous land rights case

BRAZIL'S Supreme Court on Thursday ended its latest deliberations on whether to restrict native peoples' rights to claim their ancestral lands — seen as key buffers against climate change — with four votes against and two in favour.

There are 11 judges in total, which left five still to vote in the case that the Supreme Court began hearing in 2021, but which has been adjourned several times.

The court, meeting in the capital Brasilia, is weighing the legality of the so-called "time-frame argument," which holds that native peoples should not have the right to lands where they were not present in 1988, when the current constitution was ratified.

Indigenous groups say that violates their rights, given that many were forced from their ancestral lands, including during the military dictatorship that ruled Brazil from the 1960s to 1980s.

One of the judges who voted against the measure, Cristiano Zann, said that "no type of 'time-frame' can be imposed to the detriment of the Indigenous people." — AFP

TOP HEADLINE

N Korea fires cruise missiles into Yellow Sea: S Korea

NORTH KOREA fired several cruise missiles towards the Yellow Sea on Saturday, the South Korean military said, just days after the end of joint US-South Korea military drills.

The missile launches began at around 4 am, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said, adding that "while strengthening our monitoring and vigilance, our military is maintaining a full readiness posture in close cooperation with the United States."

North Korea launched two ballistic missiles toward the Sea of Japan on Wednesday as part of a tactical nuclear strike drill in response to the deployment of US strategic bombers to the Korean Peninsula, according to the North's state media. – Kyodo

Iceland is one of just three countries that allow commercial whaling, along with Norway and Japan, in the face of fierce criticism from environmentalists and animal rights' defenders. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Iceland to resume whaling under stricter conditions

ICELAND'S government said that whaling could resume Friday with stricter conditions and monitoring, after it decided not to extend a temporary two-month ban imposed amid animal welfare concerns. Iceland is one of just three countries that allow commercial whaling, along with Norway and Japan, in the face of fierce criticism from environmentalists and animal rights' defenders. "Whaling can resume tomorrow... (with) detailed and stricter requirements for hunting equipment and hunting methods, as well as increased supervision," the fisheries ministry said in a statement to AFP on Thursday.

Animal protection charity Humane Society International called it "a devastating and inexplicable decision".

Iceland suspended its whale hunt on 20 June after a government-commissioned report concluded the hunt does not comply with the country's Animal Welfare Act. Recent monitoring by Iceland's Food and Veterinary Authority on the fin whale hunt, in which explosive harpoons are used, found that the killing of the animals took too long based on the main objectives of the Animal Welfare Act. — AFP

ECONOMY
WORLD

Swedish bankruptcies reach highest level in decade

People visit a mall in Stockholm, Sweden, on 28 February 2023. **PHOTO: WEI XUECHAO/XINHUA**

The widespread impact of bankruptcies across various sectors in Sweden, with particular emphasis on the challenges faced by the building and construction industry due to changes in interest rates

THE number of bankruptcies in Sweden has reached the highest level in a decade, according to statistics released here on Friday. Nearly 5,500 businesses went bankrupt between January and August, an increase of 35 per cent year-on-year, the business and credit reference agency UC said in a press release.

Bankruptcies were recorded across all business sectors, with their number increasing by 49 per cent among companies selling and servicing motor vehicles; by 40 per cent in the transportation sector; and by 39 per cent in the retail, hotel and restaurant sectors.

Building and construction was the sector with the highest number of bankruptcies — just over 1,000, up 35 per cent year-on-year, the UC said in the press release.

In August, the number of bankruptcies in the building and construction sector increased even more, by 48 per cent year-on-year. The slump in the building and construction sector came after Sweden's central bank Riksbank raised its key interest rate to 3.75 per cent after keeping it at zero or sub-zero level for more than seven years, which had a cooling effect on the housing market. — Xinhua

SIGNIFICANT NEWS REPORT

Japan business leaders to make 1st China visit after COVID in Jan

JAPANESE business leaders will visit China in January for the first time since 2019 following disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, with preparations underway for a meeting with President Xi Jinping's leadership, sources familiar with the bilateral relationship said Friday.

Despite ongoing tensions stemming from various issues, such as the release of treated radioactive water from the Fukushima nuclear power plant into the sea, the business group aims to emphasize the significance of economic cooperation between the two Asian neighbours.— Kyodo

Pakistan shopkeepers strike nationwide over inflation

THOUSANDS of Pakistan traders shuttered their shops on Saturday, striking over soaring energy and fuel bills stirring widespread discontent ahead of national elections.

Decades of mismanagement and instability have hobbled Pakistan's economy, and this summer Islamabad was forced into a deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to avert default.

However, the global lender demanded that popular subsidies cushioning living costs be slashed. Petrol and electricity prices have rocketed.

There were widespread market closures on Saturday in Lahore, Karachi and Peshawar, where abandoned bazaars were posted with placards decrying "the unreasonable increase in electricity bills and taxes". — AFP

African climate summit seeks to showcase green power potential

KENYA next week hosts a flagship climate conference designed to showcase Africa as a potential powerhouse for green energy, in the first of a flurry of big meetings ahead of crunch UN talks.

With the world far adrift of its goal of slashing carbon emissions and communities battered by extreme weather events, the November climate summit in oil-rich United Arab Emirates will be dominated by clashing visions for energy.

Kenyan President William Ruto says he wants the first African Climate Summit, running in Nairobi from Monday to Wednesday, to help "deliver African solutions".

The goal is to transform the continent into the source of the world's revolution in green power —but to achieve this, it needs an influx of funding and help for its debt burden. Ruto and other African leaders have sought to show that "Africa is not a victim but a critical player in solving the world's climate crisis," said Mavis Owusu-Gyamfi of the African Centre for Economic Transformation (ACET). Africa, home to 1.2 billion people spread across 54 nations, is famously diverse, politically and economically.

Despite this, said Owusu-Gyamfi, its leaders have homed in on a set of climate priorities, from debt relief and low-carbon development to overhaul of the global financial architecture.

The hope is to generate momentum for a series of key international meetings leading up to COP28. These include G20 negotiations in India, the UN General Assembly, and the World Bank and International Monetary Fund annual meeting in Marrakesh. — AFP

Democratic Republic of Congo is rich in the critical minerals needed for the energy transition. **PHOTO: EMMET LIVINGSTONE / AFP/FILE**

UK rail workers strike again in pay dispute

A fresh round of widespread strikes was set to disrupt rail services in the United Kingdom (UK) on Friday and Saturday amid an ongoing dispute over pay and working conditions, once again affecting families' travel plans.

ASLEF, the train drivers' union, has announced a one-day industrial action on Friday and a ban on working overtime across the UK rail network on Saturday.

The strike will force companies to cancel all services in the country and the ban will seriously disrupt the network, it said.

"We don't want to take this action but the train companies and the government, which stands behind them, have forced us into this place because they refuse to sit down and talk to us and have not made a fair and sensible pay offer to train drivers, who have not had one for four years," Mick Whelan, ASLEF's general secretary, said.

ASLEF has so far called 11 one-day strikes during this 15-month dispute.

Adding to the chaos, 20,000 members of the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT) will go on strike on Saturday across 14 train operators. — Xinhua

Japan fair trade body probes scandal-hit Bigmotor over subcontracts

Bigmotor, embroiled in a scandal over excessive repair fees and auto insurance fraud, may have forced its subcontractors to lower prices and have their company vehicles undergo periodic inspections at its workshops, according to sources. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN'S Fair Trade Commission has launched an investigation into Bigmotor Co's business practices as the scandal-hit used car dealership and repair chain is suspected of infringing on the profits of subcontractors, sources familiar with the matter said Saturday.

Bigmotor, embroiled in a scandal over excessive repair fees and auto insurance fraud, may have forced its subcontractors to lower prices and have their company vehicles undergo periodic inspections at its workshops, according to the sources. The fair trade watchdog could issue an advisory if a violation of the subcontract law is confirmed. The law stipulates fair business transactions between prime contractors and subcontractors.

The transport ministry in late July conducted on-site inspections at Bigmotor dealerships across the country amid allegations that the Tokyo-based company charged excessive fees after intentionally damaging vehicles and made fraudulent insurance claims. — Kyodo

US hiring rises unexpectedly but labour market shows signs of cooling

HIRING in the United States logged a surprise jump last month, government data showed Friday, but unemployment rose to the highest level since early 2022 as the economy shows signs of cooling. The world's biggest economy added 187,000 jobs in August, according to the Labour Department, but wage growth slipped and the jobless rate climbed to 3.8 per cent.

The uptick in job gains came as employment figures for June and July were both revised downwards, and the numbers overall signal a steady pace of hiring while the labour market shows signs of easing. Policymakers have been struggling to lower demand and rein in stubborn inflation, with the Federal Reserve lifting interest rates rapidly — recently bringing them to the highest level in more than two decades.

But the central bank has also vowed to be data-dependent in its upcoming decisions.

US job gains rose in August while unemployment jumped on the back of a rise in the labour force participation rate, government data. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

A relatively strong labour market has added to hopes that the United States can bring inflation down without tipping the economy into a recession. —AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TI2 APPLE VOY.NO. (030E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TI2 APPLE VOY.NO. (030E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-9-2023** 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 TI2 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (050N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (050N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-9-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

CHANGING THE NAME OF INSECTICIDE TRADING

The foregin manufacture **ZIBO NAB AGROCHEMICALS LIMITED**, will import and distribute the following insecticide registered in Myanmar Pesticide Resgistration Board changing trading name.

Sr	Old Name	New Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Number	Registration Type
1	min Eimar	Min Halzar	Hexaconazole 10% SC	P2022-5801	Provisional

It is therefore announced to come and reject within two weeks to Joint Secretary Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of insecticide.

Address - **MYANMAR THET NAY MIN CO., LTD.**
No 90, Padamyar Hninsi Road, 27 Ward, Rose Park 3, North Dagon Township, Yangon.
Ph-092039285, 09-666894646

WORLD

From the Moon to the Sun: India launches next space mission

Aditya-L1 is equipped with scientific instruments designed to observe the outermost layers of the Sun. The mission is expected to last for four months.

THE latest mission in India's ambitious space programme blasted off Saturday on a voyage towards the centre of the solar system, a week after the country's successful unmanned Moon landing.

Aditya-L1 launched shortly before midday, with a live broadcast showing hundreds of spectators cheering wildly against the deafening noise of the rocket's ascent.

"Launch successful, all normal," an Indian Space Research Organization official announced from mission control as the vessel made its way to the upper reaches of the Earth's atmosphere.

The mission is carrying scientific instruments to observe the Sun's outermost layers in a four-month journey.

The United States and the European Space Agency (ESA) have sent numerous probes to the centre of the solar system, beginning with NASA's Pioneer programme in the 1960s.

Japan and China have both launched their own solar observatory missions into Earth's orbit.

But if successful, the latest mission from the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) will be the first by any Asian nation to be placed in orbit around the Sun.

"It's a challenging mission for India," astrophysicist Somak Raychaudhury told broadcaster NDTV on Friday.

Raychaudhury said the mission probe would study coronal mass ejections, a periodic phenomenon that sees huge discharges of plasma and magnetic energy from the Sun's atmosphere. These bursts are so powerful they can reach the Earth and potentially disrupt the operations of satellites. — AFP

This handout screen grab taken and received from the live feed of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) website on 2 September 2023, shows the Aditya-L1 spacecraft take off from Sriharikota, on a voyage to the centre of the Sun. **PHOTO: AFP**

New airborne collision avoidance system boosts Russia's tech independence

Let L-410 Turbolet. **PHOTO: MOTTLD/SPUTNIK**

RUSSIA'S unique airborne collision avoidance system (ACAS) SPSV has successfully undergone tests, lifting the nation to the next level of technological independence and dodging Western sanctions.

The proximity warning system SPSV by Russia's Navigator Company has been tested on the Let L-410 Turbolet, a twin-engine short-range transport aircraft, and is due to be installed on the Sukhoi Superjet 100 type civil planes.

Previously, Navigator Company CEO Sergei Baburov said in an interview with Sputnik that Russia had created its first domestic unique mid-air collision avoidance system for all types of aircraft: Il-96, SJ-100 (Superjet-100), Il-114-300, MS-21, etc. Prior to that, all Russian civil planes were equipped with the ACAS system by the American company Collins, which possesses a global monopoly in the field.

"The main task of the system, its functionality, [is to prevent collision]: if one plane approaches another at a dangerous distance during the flight, [the system] gives commands which aircraft to send where. One plane goes down; the other goes up to safely disperse. The uniqueness of the system lies, among other things, in the fact that for the first time in Russia such a domestic system has been created, regardless of the supplies of the American company Collins," Viktor Pryadka, aviation expert, CEO of the Alliance of Aviation Technologies Avintel, told Sputnik. — SPUTNIK

AROUND THE ASIA

Thai king endorses new cabinet led by PM Srettha

Srettha Thavisin, the prime ministerial candidate of the Pheu Thai Party, has become the 30th Prime Minister of Thailand. **PHOTO: AFP**

THAILAND'S King Maha Vajiralongkorn has endorsed the cabinet of Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin, a royal gazette said on Saturday. The gazette published on Saturday that the king appointed the ministers selected by Srettha. Srettha, the candidate of Pheu Thai Party, was elected as the Southeast Asian kingdom's new prime minister in August after winning a simple majority in a parliamentary vote.

His government consists of an 11-party coalition led by Pheu Thai Party and includes major parties in the previous administration of Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha. – Xinhua

Singapore PM's ex-deputy Tharman wins presidential election

Tharman was a prominent figure in the ruling People's Action Party but left the party in the lead-up to the election. **PHOTO: ROSLAN RAHMAN / AFP**

PRIME MINISTER Lee Hsien Loong's former deputy Tharman Shanmugaratnam has been elected the city-state's president, a largely ceremonial role, Singapore's election authorities said Saturday. Tharman, who was a heavyweight in the ruling People's Action Party before quitting it in the run-up to the election, was the frontrunner in the race to become the country's head of state. – Kyodo

SPORTS

Myanmar athletes set to grab medals in XIX Asian Games

MYANMAR sports teams are ready to participate in the XIX Asian Games to be held in Hangzhou, China.

The XIX Asian Games was originally scheduled to be held in 2022 but was postponed to this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The tournament will be held from 23 September to 8 October, featuring 481 types of competitions from 40 sports. Myanmar will vie for football, Sepak Takraw, Wushu, traditional boat race and archery categories.

The women's football team entered the competition for the first time. Myanmar teams also participated in the Wushu, Sepak Takraw and Traditional Boat Race and secured gold medals in the XXXII SEA Games in May.

The Myanmar national football team has a long tradition of success in the Asian Games, while the women's football team is the first to compete in the Asian Games, but won the silver medal in this year's SEA Games. The Myanmar sports team won two bronze medals in the last Asian Games held in 2018. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Myanmar Wushu athlete Sandi

Esports: Team Myanmar reach final foe IESF World Championship 2023

MYANMAR Dota 2 Esport Team has advanced to the final game of the International Esports Federation IESF World Championship 2023 held from 26 August to 3 September in Romania.

Team Myanmar will compete against Team Mongolia in the final for the IESF World Championship 2023 today at the sports hall in Lasi, Romania.

Team Myanmar deservedly defeated the Philippines, Ecuador, Ukraine, the United States, Jordan, and Kyrgyzstan in the IESF World Championship 2023 beginning on 26 August.

With the supervision of Coach U Yan Min Naing, Team Myanmar consists of talented players named Aung Myat Soe, Zaw Rein Seng Aung, Min Khant Maung Maung, Kaung Sett Hein and Thiha Kyaw Swa.

"Team Myanmar will compete against the team representing Mongolia in the Final. Myanmar will be able to win a gold or a silver medal. As a Myanmar fan, I would like to ask all the fans to support the Myanmar Dota 2 Team," a responsible person of the Myanmar Electronic Sports Federation said.

Dr Kaung Myat San, President of the Myanmar Electronic Sports Federation, awarded a prize of K1 million each to all members of the Myanmar national Dota 2 team which attended the finals.

The final match of Team Myanmar can be watched live at 6 pm today. The Regional Facebook page and YouTube channel. There will be fans from all over the world cheering and watching. — MNA/KZL

Team Myanmar is seen during the International Esports Federation IESF World Championship 2023.

Luciano Spalletti on Saturday urged Italy to forget the pain of failing to qualify for the past two World Cups as he takes charge of the Azzurri's Euro 2024 bid following the departure of Roberto Mancini. **PHOTO: AFP**

Spalletti urges Italy to forget World Cup heartbreak

LUCIANO Spalletti on Saturday urged Italy to forget the pain of failing to qualify for the past two World Cups as he takes charge of the Azzurri's Euro 2024 bid following the departure of Roberto Mancini.

Italy face North Macedonia and Ukraine in two matches crucial for their chances of qualifying from Group C for next summer's tournament in Germany.

Spalletti took charge of the European champions last month after the shock resignation of Mancini, who was then hired as Saudi Arabia coach in a mega-money deal.

Mancini won Euro 2020 but also presided over play-off defeat to North Macedonia which kept them out of last year's World Cup in Qatar. "We need to forget the bitterness of two results which left scars on us and play a style of football that people like, a style of play that brings together an important footballing nation," Spalletti told reporters at Italy's Coverciano training centre. "To be here as the national team coach is a special feeling, a long-held dream of mine. I was 11 years old for the 1970 Mexico World Cup, when I asked my mother to make me flag as big as possible after the 4-3 (semi-final) win over Germany."

Italy lost that final 4-1 to Brazil.

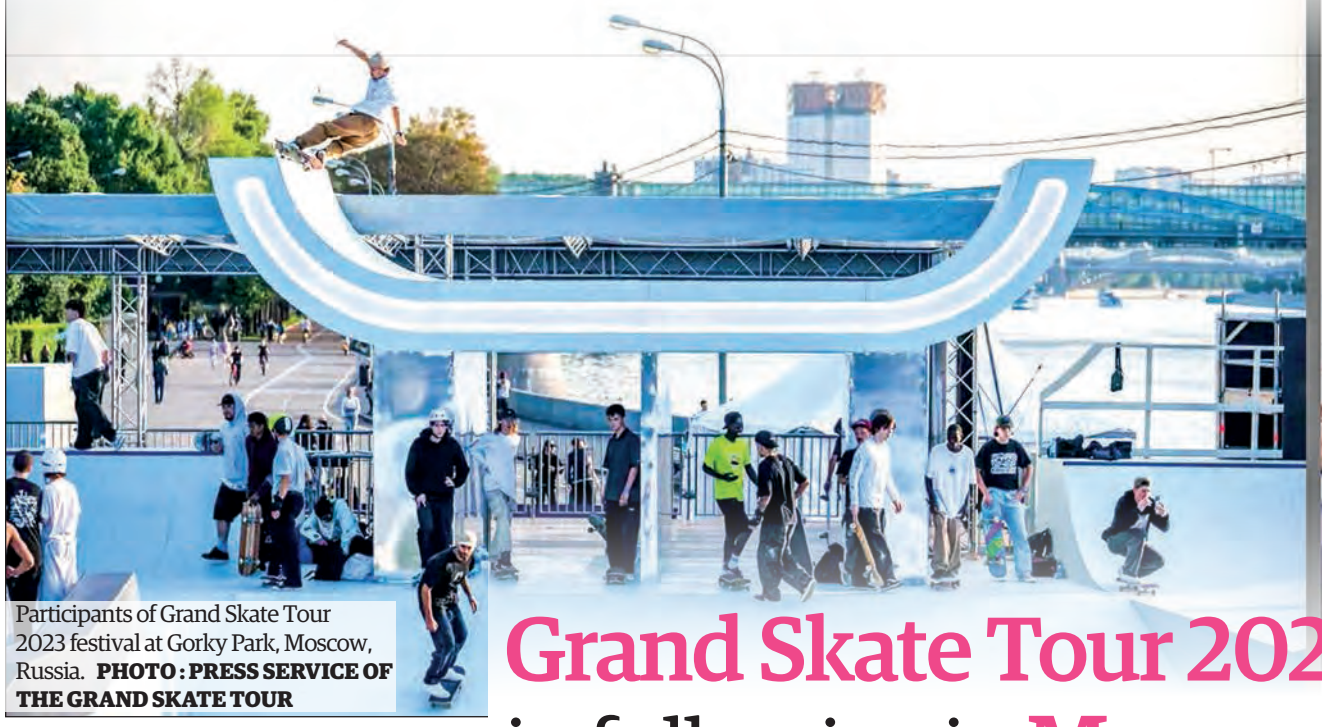
Italy are third in Group C with three points after a 2-0 win over Malta and a 2-1 loss to England, who are top with 12 points from four games. — AFP

PSG complete Kolo Muani deal on transfer deadline day in Europe

PARIS Saint-Germain completed the signing of France striker Randal Kolo Muani from Eintracht Frankfurt in the biggest deal to go through on transfer deadline day in Europe on Friday.

The 24-year-old forward, who hails from the Paris suburbs, had been a target for PSG all summer and the club confirmed shortly after the transfer window closed that he had signed a five-year contract at the Parc des Princes. Media reports in France said the Ligue 1 champions had agreed a fee totalling 90 million euros ($97m) to complete the signing.

He missed training with Frankfurt this week, with the German side confirming "his desire to be transferred to another club before the transfer window ends on Friday evening". — AFP



Participants of Grand Skate Tour 2023 festival at Gorky Park, Moscow, Russia. **PHOTO : PRESS SERVICE OF THE GRAND SKATE TOUR**

Grand Skate Tour 2023 in full swing in Moscow

The event highlights the cultural significance of skateboarding as a socio-cultural phenomenon rather than just a sport, operating in a realm without a unified international body like traditional sports governed by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

GORKY Park is hosting the world-famous Grand Skate Tour (GST) 2023 which started on 26 August and is running till 2 September. A large number of skateboarding events has already taken place at Moscow's most famous park and the tournament finals are to be held on the last day of the festival.

By 1 September, the GST has hosted a series of masterclasses, lectures and seminars delivered by foreign guests at the educational centre. The GST has arranged exhibitions dedicated to skate culture, as well as demo performances in the ramp by the national teams of Argentina, Brazil and Mexico and a forum as part of the Third International Forum-Festival of New Olympic Sports and Positive Youth Subcultures.

At the moment, more than a thousand skaters from 41 countries of the world have taken part in sports, cultural and educational events of GST. Skaters from 13 countries (Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Brazil, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Colombia, Madagascar, Russia, US, Uzbekistan) made it to the men's and women's semi-finals.

"It is amazing that now we are hosting foreign athletes from 41 countries in Moscow. Looking at the scale of GST and its programme, we can say that skateboarding is still a socio-cultural phenomenon, rather than a sports one, because in sports there is the International Olympic Committee (IOC), which conducts its own policy and forces it upon national sports federations, whereas there is no such unified international body in the realm of culture. Threfore, the Grand Skate Tour is so successfully held at Gorky Park, thanks to the Department of Culture of Moscow. All GST events and activities are covered not only in Russian but also in foreign media. — SPUTNIK

Kenya unveils plans for nationwide e-bike scheme

Kenya has 1,000 e-bikes, and Spiro, an African startup, can produce 1,000 e-vehicles daily, with 10,000 more e-bikes en route.

KENYA unveiled Friday plans to roll out electric motorbikes across the country under a green transport scheme to reduce carbon emissions and pollution.

President William Ruto announced the initiative with African startup Spiro just days before he hosts the first Africa Climate Summit in the Kenyan capital Nairobi next week.

"We are committed to enhancing our climate action by adopting low-carbon and efficient transportation systems through the application of innovations including clean, efficient, and sustainable energy technologies," Ruto said at the launch ceremony in the Indian Ocean port city of Mombasa.

The adoption of electric mobility is a priority to address pollution, health impacts, and fuel costs. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ruto said Kenya currently had 1,000 of the new e-bikes, with another 10,000 on their way, and that Spiro had established a plant with the capacity to assemble 1,000 of the vehicles daily.

About two million motorbikes are on the roads in Kenya, he said, mostly "boda bodas" or two-wheeled taxis that are commonly used across the continent.

"The adoption of electric mobility is a high-priority intervention to address the challenges of pollution, adverse health effects, and fuel costs," Ruto said.

Kenya, he said, aimed to eventually phase out the combustion engine-powered motorbikes, warning that the increasing use of such vehicles across the continent had "serious implications" for climate change and air quality.—AFP

Burna Boy breaks UK record by topping albums chart

NIGERIA's Burna Boy has become the first international Afrobeats artist to secure a number one album in Britain with "I Told Them...", the UK's Official Charts Company said on Friday.

The Nigerian-born global star, whose real name is Damini Ebunoluwa Ogulu, shot straight to top spot in the British charts with his fifth full-length release.

He had come close to earning the accolade with last year's "Love, Damini", which climbed to second in the UK album rankings. Homegrown British talents making Afrobeats music, such as J Hus, have enjoyed chart-topping success but Burna Boy is the first foreign artist to do so.The feat marks the continued rise of the Afrobeats genre in Britain and around the world, as artists like Wizkid and Davido also enjoy mainstream success and increasingly shape segments of popular culture.—AFP

Nigeria's Burna Boy has become the first international Afrobeats artist to secure a number one album in Britain. **PHOTO: TOLGA AKMEN/AFP**

SPECIAL

SUNDAY,
3 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Global New Light of Myanmar

Gilded Artistry: Yangon's Gold Embroidery Industry Embraces a New Normal

The gold embroidery industry is still running normally in the Yangon Region and the sales of tapestries are on the rise currently, according to U Thura, an owner of the Kumudra Gold Embroidery in Tamway Township.

There are two types of embroidery such as decoration on paintings and clothes. Currently, the sales of clothes decorated with gold embroidery are in better condition than the paintings.

"We call it the old category which means golden-embroidered paintings. It is just in normal condition currently. The sales of the new category, golden-embroidered clothing are rising. That sector grabbed good profits last month as there were ceremonial occasions. Now, we receive large number of orders for the coming Thadingyut festival. As you know, it takes time for golden-embroidered clothing as it is a real handmade artwork. The demand for clothes for traditional Nat statues including Bodaw and Meldaw, and also pillows," he added.

In Yangon Region, the market share of the new category is larger than the old one. The golden-embroidered clothing and other materials for Nat statues including Bodaw and Meldaw are in good sales. — ASH/KTZH

Empowering Artistry: Exploring Exquisite Bamboo Handicrafts in Kawhmu's One Region-One Product Initiative

The Yangon Region Union of General Co-operative Syndicates Ltd implements the "One Region-One Product" (OROP) project to emerge villages that produce bamboo products in Kawhmu Township.

Many villages are now producing bamboo products in Kawhmu Township and the co-operative syndicates comprising of businesspeople are organized to help villages produce bamboo-based and value-added products.

"The bamboo product manufacturing industries in Kawhmu Township are developing and also have proper market shares. We will provide these industries to expand production and market. Currently, we conduct training courses and support to establish co-operative societies comprising of same businesses. Currently, it is already organized in Latkhite, Paukchaung, Myauk-chaung, Kanyinoh villages and Phayalan Ward. We will keep carrying out this operation under the OROP project," said U Tin Myint, secretary of Yangon Region Union of Co-operative Syndicates Ltd.

Myanmar Bamboo Entrepreneurs Association and bamboo product creators of the Yangon Region also provide training courses for the production of bamboo products and handicrafts. — ASH/KTZH

Featuring MSMEs

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Catalysts of Growth:

Exploring MSME Trade Fairs' Role in Nurturing Local Development

By TWA

The government should organize MSME trade fairs to provide the local Micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSME), said the businessmen.

The government currently provides sector-wise activities including loans to promote the sector of MSMEs.

On the other hand, the entrepreneurs face certain obstacles regarding capital, local market shares and penetration of the international market. It also needs to provide technical assistance to those who run small-sized businesses hardly applying modern techniques to ensure market shares, advertising and market penetration on social networks.

"When the technologies are developing, the authorities should provide the MSME business people with the innovative and quality technologies to manufacture, distribute and promote the market in the local," Ma Khin Mar Win, who sells organic shampoo and cosmetics online told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

When it comes to the development of MSMEs, the government organizes trade fairs to showcase the local products of respective regions including foodstuffs, commodities and materials of SMEs.

When business people participate in trade fairs and introduce their products, they can grab proper market shares and the customers can buy the things they want in one place. Therefore, the MSME trade fair is such as win-win situation.

"I visit the SME trade fairs and consider what benefits I did get from that. I meet the entrepreneurs and receive proper advice like what kind of manageable scale business should I run," Ko Lwin Ko Oo from Tamway Township told The GNLM.

Most of the SMEs running on social networks are foodstuffs and commodities such as shampoo, soap and handmade products and most of them are export outlets and used household items. "The people are interested in online sales of local products and food, especially fish paste, dried fish and seasonal fruits. The sale rate of handmade products is low as well as the textiles from looms. The live sales of foreign products and garments are on the rise. The people buy used bed sheets, blankets, clothes, kitchen utensils and shoes knowing that they can get them at cheap prices. The locally-produced Mutra mat, blanket, handkerchief and aluminium pots do not have market shares. The influence of foreign-made products becomes wider and the people might not know to value the products of their country. Therefore, the fairs to display local products from various regions should be held frequently. The pagoda festival in countryside areas offers different products of different regions and it is just a kind of festival concentrated on SMEs," he added. Those run SMEs should make a fine packaging system before distributing in the market, as it can guarantee market share and public interest besides the market penetration locally and internationally, a businessman considered.

"Product's packaging should be unique to penetrate the domestic market. If the product is cheap but the quality is better than the existing products in the market, the people will mostly choose the local product instead of imported products. If so, it can penetrate the market soon," Ko Aung Naing Thu, an MSME analyst told the GNLM. *Translated/KTZH*

Pioneering Progress: Focusing on Five Key Methods to Enhance Local Rice Production

Five ways are currently being prioritized to improve domestic rice production, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation.

In carrying out this priority, MSME Engagement and Integration have been developed by linking the market and credit to enable rice trading MSMEs to survive.

Enhancing the productivity of Big Farmers as Micro Entrepreneurs is also being implemented with the participation of farmers who own 10 acres of land or more.They also discussed the Inter-Private Sector – Institutional Developments and Coordination of sub-associations related to rice by region, state, district and township. The methods of implementing the 43 points identified by the rice conference were also carefully discussed. The private sector should consider more emphasis on "market and money and prices and fertilizers and policies" and establish plans to carry out PPD, PPP methods (Market and Price Stabilization, Policy Advocacy, Easier access to Farm Inputs, Fertilizers) etc.

In addition to domestically, the dollar exchange rate and gold prices are also rising exponentially, as well as commodity prices, including rice prices, continue to rise. — TWA/KZL

In pursuit of its economic policies, the government has embraced three key objectives: to enhance agriculture and livestock production with modern technologies, to invigorate Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) for elevating the export sector, leveraging the momentum for sustained economic growth, and to spur the cultivation of oil crops to meet targeted production levels, thereby achieving domestic self-sufficiency in edible oil while striving towards the export of surplus oil. The cornerstone of this effort lies in the early-stage small- and medium-scale enterprises that underpin MSME businesses.

Diverse MSME Categories

Government intervention in various sectors of economies worldwide is a common phenomenon, varying based on each country's unique circumstances. MSMEs manifest in four primary categories: productivity, trading, services, and others. Among these, manufacturing businesses serve as the practical foundation, as trading and service enterprises depend on manufacturing for operation. Myanmar passed the SME law rooted in MSMEs in 2015, adopting policies and regulations to facilitate effective task execution and business operation.

Myanmar's ample raw materials enable prioritization of desired products, yet investments and technology infusion are needed for chemical and similar production. With more than 40,000 MSMEs within the country, achieving success demands market access and provision of services through trade. This underscores the significance of collaborating with the international community and ensuring a seamless flow of information and commodities.

Supporting MSME Growth

The relevant ministry must facilitate adequate electricity supply to MSME industries in respective regions, employing small-scale power generation to avoid straining the national grid. Additionally, cultivating technicians and skilled workers across different levels is crucial for the advancement of MSMEs. Initiatives like vocational courses conducted by the Labour Ministry and the Small-scale Industries Department under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development should effectively equip youths in relevant regions and states to secure livelihoods through gainful employment.

Central to this endeavour is the acquisition of human resources. Standardization of domestic MSME products and adherence to international quality standards for export products are imperative. Scaling up manufacturing contributes significantly to the national economy, with emphasis on agriculturally-based, livestock-related, and natural resource-driven production.

Key Aspects of SME Business

Salient features of SME businesses centre on the 2015 SME Development Law, providing businesspersons with

A file photo mentioned in the GNLM on 3 March 2023 depicts skilled workers operating machines in an industry.

Optimal Timing for Enhancing Manufacturing Quality in MSME Businesses

By Aung Kyaw Thant

guidelines for entity establishment and liabilities. A comprehensive understanding of this law empowers entrepreneurs to navigate business operations successfully.

Defining Small and Medium Enterprises

The Small Enterprise encompasses the following categories: manufacturing enterprises with fewer than 50 permanent employees or a capital investment not exceeding K500 million; labour-intensive or piecework enterprises with under 300 permanent employees or a capital investment within K500 million; wholesale enterprises with under 30 employees or the previous year's annual income not exceeding K100 million; retail businesses with less than 30 employees or annual income not surpassing K50 million; service enterprises with under 30 employees or previous year's annual income below K100 million.

Similarly, the Medium Enterprise includes manufacturing operations with fewer than 300 permanent employees or a capital investment between K500 million and K1,000 million; labour-intensive or piecework businesses with fewer than 600 permanent employees or a capital investment ranging from K500 million to K1,000 million; wholesale enterprises with fewer than 60 employees or previous year's annual income between K100 million and K300 million; retail businesses with under 60 employees or annual income within K50 million to K100 million; service enterprises with fewer than 100 employees or previous year's annual income ranging from K100 million to K200 million.

Driving Economic Imperatives

Sustainable socioeconomic development hinges on robust economic, political, and defence drives in any nation. A strong economic drive positively impacts political and defence agendas. Myanmar's core economic driver is its agri-based sector, particularly agriculture and livestock. Thus, promoting MSMEs anchored in these domains to produce value-added products becomes crucial for generating state revenue.

Illustrative MSME Ventures

Entrepreneurs invest resources in micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises across the nation. More than 40,000 MSMEs are operating their businesses, most of which manufacture products for domestic consumption. So, these products cannot compete with imported goods due to a lack of standardized quality, packaging process and advertisement techniques. As such, the majority of Myanmar's MSME industries need to expedite their efforts towards the goal of the industrial sector, from their startup of the manageable scale industries. For instance, Ywathit Kaingtar village in Bago Township operates 18 iron melting industries, producing ironware for domestic use, raw metals, and export products. Similarly, Thabyu Smart Village in Kawa Township manufactures auto parts, electronic machinery, vessel fans, sewing machines, and personal goods. These small-scale industries follow the 4R principles namely 'reduce', 'reuse', 'recycle', and 'recover' in their production processes.

In terms of industrial techniques, many Myanmar foundries rely on conventional processes using coarse sand moulds, resulting in lower product quality. Collaboration between relevant departments and local businesses involves training in modern iron casting techniques, leading to improved product quality. This also creates opportunities for local youths to access advanced technologies and employment prospects.

Following the instruction of the Central Committee for Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, the MSME Development Agencies have been established in various regions and states, contributing to a conducive environment for MSME growth. Currently, the government disburses loans to MSME businesses from the State economic promotion fund whereas the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank issues loans to farmers through the JICA two-step loan.

Presently, MSME processes have evolved from SMEs due to their pivotal role in national development. These enterprises can reduce import volumes and foreign exchange outflows by domestically manufacturing essential products, thereby contributing to the overall economic growth of the nation.

for the production of quality goods for the purpose of domestic consumption with a plan to export the surplus ones. Whatever it may be, running these MSMEs will be an initiative for handling the heavy industries on which the State can rely by creating job opportunities for local people and relevant technicians. As such, they have to march

Foreign Assistance and Institutional Support

International organizations contribute significantly to Myanmar's MSME sector. Denmark's commitment of K2 billion and the Responsible Business Fund's support through calls for proposals address challenges such as power supply, energy costs, and production drops. Over the past five years, Denmark has provided K19.576 billion to 609 MSMEs across regions. Likewise, the European Union's ARISE Plus programme aids sustainable trade and global opportunities for SMEs.

Following the instruction of the Central Committee for Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, the MSME Development Agencies have been established in various regions and states, contributing to a conducive environment for MSME growth. Currently, the government disburses loans to MSME businesses from the State economic promotion fund whereas the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank issues loans to farmers through the JICA two-step loan.

Optimal Timing for Collective Progress

The present juncture is opportune for reopening closed industries and enhancing existing ones to accelerate production capacity. Private industries, if nurtured, can swiftly flourish and help transition the nation into an industrialized powerhouse through collaborative efforts and the innovative spirit of young industrialists. Fostering diverse technician levels within technical institutes and technological universities is essential. Passing down techniques to the younger generation ensures the nation benefits from the expertise of technicians, industrialists, and entrepreneurs.

The path forward beckons for Myanmar to seize the moment, revitalizing industries and capitalizing on youthful creativity to drive transformative industrial growth.

■

3 SEPTEMBER 2023
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Fuelling Entrepreneurial Dreams:
Unveiling Domestic MSME Loans as a Catalyst for Success

BY TWA

Local MSMEs and entrepreneurship are interdependent as entrepreneurs need decent support to progress MSME businesses.

MSMEs, which are the backbone of private businesses, have the ability to innovate and create employment opportunities, reduce poverty and meet market needs through entrepreneurship.

MSME also has a direct impact on the country's GDP growth. Obtaining the necessary loans for entrepreneurs also plays an important role in the development and long-term sustainability of these businesses.

A programme was implemented by the MSME development committee of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry-UMFCCI in August to improve domestic MSME-specific production and value-added import substitution.

AYA Bank introduced a new type of loan to local entrepreneurs at UMFCCI last June that allows MSMEs to borrow for one year with a small amount of collateral.

"With the aim of bringing MSME and SME businesses into the banking system, as our first step, we started issuing MSME Micro Loans in 2022 in consultation with UMFCCI. By getting different types of loans, you will be able to connect to the banking system and access the market for additional opportunities.

"We have earmarked a large amount of loans in the coming year. Since the interest rate has been reduced and the documents have been relaxed, I admit that it will be the best, fastest and most effective loan," U Toe Lin Nyunt, SME Banking and Bancassurance Director of AYA Bank commented.

Intending to promote local small businesses, AYA Bank introduced the AYA Micro Loan to provide loans with little (or) no collateral. If MSME entrepreneurs apply for an AYA Micro Loan with collateral, the maximum loan amount is K30 million and the interest rate is 9.5 per cent per annum and 0.79 per cent per month. When presenting collateral, it must be a deeded car, apartment, or deeded shop, and the loan term is at most one year and the loan repayment system is monthly.

If someone applies through the CGI (loan guarantee) system without collateral, the loan amount is K1 million, the interest rate is 10.5 per cent per year and 0.87 per cent per month, and the premium paid to the Myanmar insurance company is three per cent of the approved loan amount. The loan term is a maximum of one year and the loan repayment system is monthly.

"Like AYA Bank, UMFCCI has notified MSMEs of applying for loans from 1 to 31 August. There are also rules. Venture capitalists including UMFCCI and Chambers of Commerce and Industry from Mandalay, Shan, and Mon states and Ayeyawady Region have been asked to submit applications," a businessman from Bayintnaung Commodity Warehouse told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

If MSMEs can produce enough domestically needed goods and consumables, they will save foreign currency and contribute to national development.

MSMEs, which are the pillars of private businesses, can create employment opportunities with entrepreneurship and innovation, reduce poverty, meet market needs, and have a direct impact on the country's GDP growth.

The progress of MSME businesses is important, said Daw Than Than Lin, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance, at the (1/2023) coordination meeting of the MSME Development Reporting Group.

Currently, there are more than 40,000 MSME enterprises in Myanmar, according to the ministry's statistics.

Translated/KZL

Sculpting Creativity:
Unveiling Bago Region's Latest Artworks Destined for National Sculpture Market

For distribution to the nationwide market, new statues are sculpted every week in the Bago Sculpture Market, said Daw Aye Aye Maw, the owner of Shwe Yamin Myanmar Sculpture Industry, in the sculpture market of Shwethalyaung Buddha Image in Bago.

Sculptors create new works every week in the Bago Sculpture Market to distribute to souvenir shops throughout the country, where the sculpture market is flourishing. As domestic tourists are entering destinations in Bago region, the sale of sculptures is also reported to be normal.

"A new design is released every week from our workshop. We got a pair of dolphins last week. A Mingala versatile elephant design came out this week, and another design will be expected next week. We delivered them to Yangon, Mandalay, Mawlamyine, Pathein, Lashio, Tachilek, Myawady, and Maungtaw once they came out. We used to carve hundreds of statues in a new design before, but only around 40 to 50 nowadays due to market demand. Some customers order online, and some visit the shop to buy them. The market is stable," she continued.

A new Mingala versatile elephant design that came out this week is 11 inches long, six inches wide, and nine inches high. It is carved from hardwood and painted. The release price is K110,000 per pair. — ASH/CT

UMFCCI to allocate initial K2 bln loan to support value-added production by MSMEs

The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry's MSME Development Committee will offer a K2 billion initial loan to the Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) contributing to value-added production activities, in cooperation with the AYA Bank.

The committee is assisting in enhancing the MSME production and value-added import substitution businesses. Those MSMEs that meet domestic needs and are engaged in import substitution production and export production are eligible for this loan.

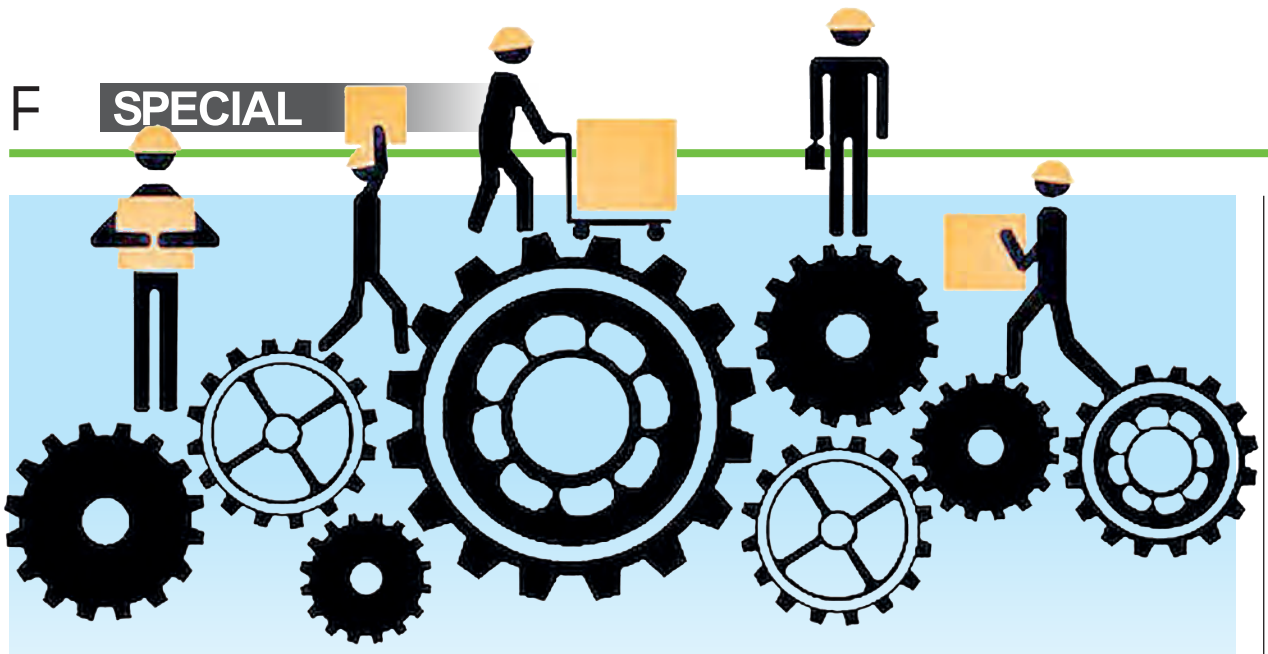
Those businesses to take out loans must be solvent firms to be capable of repaying loans, businesses to keep it running with loans, companies or businesses that were not suspended or struck off by the registrar or from government departments, companies or businesses that have paid income tax/ commercial tax/ special goods tax, presenting guarantee that board of directors of the company or business owner are liable to repay the debt, businesses holding licences or permits from the related department before 31 March 2021, businesses with annual income in the past two years and businesses or companies that were not sued for failure to repay the loan.

They will face legal action under the existing laws if they fail to repay the loan.

The applicants must verify compliance with the details contained within the loan application form. The applications must be submitted to the UMFCCI and its affiliated associations within office hours by 30 September.

Those applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered, the UMFCCI's MSME Development Committee highlighted.

For further details, please contact the UMFCCI, Myanmar Industries Association (Phone: 01 2314830-31), Myanmar Plastic Industries Association (01 2314835, 09 428821182), Myanmar Food Processors and Exporters Association (09 263213270), Myanmar Oil Millers Association (09 454755297), MSMEs Association (09 773799895, 01 2314344- Ext 452), Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association (01 389380, 01 254566), Myanmar Young Entrepreneur Association (09 765000649), Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association (01 2314295-96), Myanmar Cosmetics Association (09 780088345), Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Network (09 421012154), region and state chambers of commerce and industry (Mandalay Region 909 697050227), Shan State (09 5108580, 09 258325277), Mon State (09 451474720, 09 262291177) and Ayeyawady Region(09 250236643, 09 781837307). — NN/EM



The Role of Micro-, Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises

By Koung Aung

"The strength of a country lies within and I always encourage just to rely on foreign countries as a last resort out of my experiences through various regimes. In our tenure, we are striving for the economic development of the country and our main focus is on production businesses of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSME), agricultural and livestock businesses."

Excerpt from the speech of Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, at the Union Government Meeting 7/2022

In striving for economic development and bringing better socioeconomic life for the people, small- and medium-sized enterprises are among the major driving forces. Therefore, the MSME Development Centre under the Ministry of Industry has been operating since 4 April 2012 to be able to provide SMEs with long-term and short-term support. The proposal to operate the SME Development Centre was confirmed at the Union Government meeting 13/2012 on 29 March 2012 and the centre was first opened at No 35B/15, New University Avenue, Bahan Township, Yangon Region.

Then the centre was placed under the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection under the Ministry of Industry on 1 April 2014 and branches were formed in Union Territories, Nay Pyi Taw, 14 States and Regions, 38 districts totalling 53 that are providing services to SMEs.

To support SMEs in their efforts to ease difficulties and enhance their competency, the SMEs Development Law was enacted in April 2015 and the SMEs Development Policy was adopted in December 2015. The by-law of the SMEs Development Law entered into force in October 2016.

SME
(Small and Medium Enterprise)

Small and Medium Enterprises Development Law (2015) divides enterprises into six categories.

- Production
- Cutting, Making and Packing
- Wholesales
- Retails
- Services
- any other businesses

SME Development Agency was formed to carry out necessary measures for the development of small and medium enterprise development. Any business involved in one of the above six business categories can be registered as an SME business and entitled to receive an SME member card and support from the agency.

MSME refers to micro, small and medium enterprises and the term microenterprise means businesses that are in smaller capacity than that of small business by definition. A law for small and medium enterprises has already been enacted, however, no similar legal instrument has been in place for micro businesses.

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

SME Development Centre was formed to support SMEs in their efforts to develop their businesses to be able to transform into heavy industries in the future.

The Directorate of Industrial Supervision & Inspection under the Ministry of Industry has developed a database of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to be able to provide information, registration process, necessary things for getting loans, general consultation and information for those who are trying to start a business and training in collaboration with local and international organizations. The department is also responsible for online servicing of connecting local SMEs to the ASEAN SMEs Portal, conducting business matching to establish connections between local SMEs and their overseas counterparts and forming export consortia teams and clusters to win overseas markets.

Implementation stage

Central Committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development and Work Committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development have been formed to step up the implementation measures for the development of MSMEs. Under the management of the two committees, working bodies including regional MSME development agencies, fund management and evaluation teams were formed across the country.

SME Development Agency is carrying out the development of MSMEs by organizing trade fairs for MSMEs, honouring MSMEs with the National MSMEs Award, disseminating technology, conducting business matching meetings, arranging capacity building training courses for MSME staff, providing financial aids, assisting in registration of MSMEs and offering consultation.

Translated/TH

Empowering Growth: MoST's Initiative to Support MSMEs in Food Production Sector

Research, technologies, and the knowledge of standards needed by micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the food manufacturing sector will be provided by the Ministry of Science and Technology, the ministry stated.

Through the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund Project 2020, food production technologies are being shared with MSME enterprises. The MoST stated that technologies are being used to assist MSME enterprises in producing food products as per the standards, including not only traditional products but also new products using new technologies.

It is said that further assistance on research, technologies, and knowledge of standards necessary to ensure the continuous improvement of the MSME sector, the development of people's socio-economic lives, and the promotion of the

export sector of MSMEs will also be provided.

The Food Production Technology Dissemination Programme was activated to use international-level technologies to produce food products with high quality and standards following the guidelines of the Central Committee for Development of Micro-, Small-, and Medium-sized Enterprises.

It is also known that 100 MSME entrepreneurs from Yangon Region, Bago Region, Ayeyawady Region, Kayin State, Mon State, and Taninthayi Region will be provided with knowledge on six new food production technologies and standards. — ASH/CT

Top and above photos show workers on food processing lines.

Empowering Myanmar's Heritage: Bagan Lacquerware and the MSME Sector

By WW

Introduction

Myanmar is a nation steeped in history, culture, and tradition. Among its many treasures, Bagan stands out as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, famed for its stunning temples and pagodas that dot the landscape. However, Bagan's cultural richness isn't limited to its architectural marvels; it also encompasses an ancient art form known as Bagan lacquerware.

This intricate craft not only preserves Myanmar's heritage but also plays a pivotal role in the country's Micro-, Small-, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) sectors. In this article, I would like to explore the rich history of Bagan lacquerware and its significance in promoting MSMEs in Myanmar.

The Making of Bagan Lacquerware

The process of creating Bagan lacquerware is incredibly labour-intensive and involves multiple stages. It typically begins with crafting a bamboo or horsehair frame to form the desired shape of the object, such as a bowl, box or vase. Layers of lacquer are then meticulously applied and left to dry. This process is repeated several times, with each layer being smoothed and polished to perfection. Intricate designs, often featuring mythological figures and scenes from Myanmar's history and culture, are meticulously painted by skilled artisans. Finally, the lacquerware is adorned with gold or silver leaf, adding a touch of luxury to the finished product.

The Role of MSMEs in Bagan Lacquerware

Myanmar's MSME sector plays a vital role in the preservation and promotion of Bagan lacquerware. Most lacquerware production is carried out by small family-run workshops or artisan cooperative societies. These businesses employ local artisans, providing them with sustainable livelihoods and preserving their traditional craftsmanship.

Empowering Local Communities: Bagan lacquerware production supports local communities by providing employment opportunities in rural areas where alternative job options may be limited. This empowers individuals and families to generate income while staying connected to their cultural heritage.

Preserving Tradition: MSMEs in the Bagan lacquerware industry prioritize the preservation of traditional techniques and designs. Artisans learn their craft from experienced masters, ensuring that ancient skills are passed down to future generations.

Boosting Tourism: Bagan's lacquerware is a significant attraction for tourists seeking authentic souvenirs and cultural experiences. MSMEs contribute to the region's tourism industry by offering workshops and demonstrations of services that educate visitors about the intricate process of lacquerware production.

Export Potential: With growing interest in authentic, handcrafted products worldwide, Bagan lacquerware holds export potential. Small enterprises can tap into international markets, bringing in foreign revenue and increasing the global recognition of Myanmar's cultural heritage.

Challenges and Opportunities

While Bagan lacquerware holds immense promise for Myanmar's MSME sector, it also faces challenges. Limited access to modern technology, capital, and international markets can hinder the growth of these small businesses. Additionally, ensuring the sustainability of lacquerware materials, including the lacquer tree itself, is crucial for the long-term viability of this industry.

However, the government and various non-governmental organizations are working together to address these challenges. Initiatives aimed at providing training, access to finance, and market linkages are helping MSMEs in the Bagan lacquerware sector thrive. Moreover, sustainable harvesting practices and reforestation efforts are being implemented to protect the lacquer tree and its ecosystem.

Bagan lacquerware is more than just a traditional art form; it is a symbol of Myanmar's rich cultural heritage and a source of livelihood for countless artisans. The MSME sector, through its small family workshops and cooperative societies, is a driving force behind the preservation and promotion of this ancient craft. As Myanmar continues to open up to the world, Bagan lacquerware creates an opportunity to showcase the country's cultural depth and craftsmanship on the global stage. By supporting these small enterprises, it is ensure that this remarkable art form remains an integral part of Myanmar's identity for generations to come.

ENTERTAINMENT

Original owners to gain authorization for music copyrights

ACCORDING to the Myanmar National Music Copyright Owners Association of the Myanmar Music Association (Central), official permission must be obtained from the copyright holders for the music to be performed on stage, broadcast on television, and online.

Regarding the unauthorized use of music, permission must be obtained from the copyright holders, such as the producer, the organizations and individuals to whom the song and band was recorded (or have been legally assigned).

When bands and singing performances are done including cover songs, there is a sense of disrespect for copyright. The composer's permission is required. In addition, performers who play music-only tunes must obtain permission from copyright holders. If these songs are used in stage performances, you must obtain official permission from the concert organizers and copyright holders," said U Lwin Myint, Chairman of the Myanmar Music Association (Central).

The user shall be responsible for any issues arising from such unauthorized access and use, and if there is no solution, the relevant organizations will continue to act according to the rules and regulations set by the existing law. — ASH/KZL

Celebrity Brief

Chit Oo Nyo

WRITER Saya Chit Oo Nyo, who is considered a gifted author of Myanmar literature, created the Lingadipa page on a social network presenting arts-related programmes in person. On 27 August, he broadcast a talk show on basic dance (Kabyalut and Kabyathwin) via the Facebook page and it received interest from theatre experts and those interested in dance.

Kyi Soe Tun

U KYI SOE TUN, Chairman of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization paid respect to veteran actor U Aung Lwin, patron of the organization on the full moon of Wagaung. He also posted "Guna Wuddhi Vaya Wuddhi Garavoca, Nivatoca. He is 88 years old and I am 78 years old. Be happy and healthy" on his Facebook.

Daw Myint Myint Khin

A 90-year-old great veteran actress Daw Myint Myint Khin donated K300,000 for the 46th respect-paying ceremony of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization on 31 August.

She talked about the emergence of rising stars and the need to encourage and support them. Sithu Daw Myint Myint Khin who is also a patron of the organization won the Lifetime Achievement Academy Award.

Hsaung Wutyee May

HSAUNG Wutyee May is an actress who is best known for her roles in several MRTV-4 series and become popular among the audience. She now acts in the role of musician "Shin Thant" in "Love Like Poison" broadcasting on the MRTV-4 channel. Regarding her character, she shares her thoughts like" it should be thinking to make break up with women beaters. If not, the situation will become worse after getting married" on media representing the girls.

Shan Htun (Myanmar Sar)

SONG composer Shan Htun (Myanmar Sar) once said, "Theatrical performer Phoe Chit will appear in front of the audience soon" and now he revokes his words. He said it depends on Phoe Chit who wants to pave ways but doesn't want to be just a walker. Phoe Chit has many things that he wants to learn and look up.

May Kha Lar

"GOAL Thwin Kaung Tae Ko Ko" song is one of Myanmar's famous songs sung by singer May Kha Lar. The song composer is Zaw Tin. Currently, song composer Zaw Tin has broken his leg and so May Kha Lar visited his house and provided K1 million (K500,000 from her and K500,000 from her friend living in the US).

Htun Htun / KTZH