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

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

Vol. X, No. 162, 12nd Waxing of Tawthalin 1385 ME | www.gnlm.com.mm | Tuesday, 26 September 2023

# Cargo ship initiates direct trade link between Sittway, Rakhine State, and Kolkata, India

SITTWAY, Rakhine State, is set to establish direct trade relations with Kolkata, India, through the deployment of a cargo ship, according to U Aung Aung, General Secretary of the Rakhine State Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

A recent development permits cargo vessels traversing local coastlines to dock at the Sittway Jetty, a significant component of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project located in Sittway Township.

U Aung Aung elaborated on the current trading scenario in Rakhine State, highlighting that products from various regions within Myanmar are presently exported to Bangladesh via the Maungdaw Kanyinchaung zone and Sittway Shwemingan Port. However, there has been no avenue for exports from Rakhine State to India until now. Consequently, efforts are underway to

SEE PAGE-7

Cargo vessels are pictured docking alongside the Sittway Jetty, vital part of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project.

# Entrance fee for foreigners to be raised at Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone from 1 October

International travellers exploring a temple in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone.

THE Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch) plans to increase the entrance fee for foreigners visiting the Bagan ancient cultural zone of Mandalay Region starting from 1 October, said Director U Kyaw Myo Win of the department.

In this regard, the zone entrance fee to the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone was charged K25,000 per foreigner till the end of September this year, and it will increase to K30,000 per foreigner from 1 October.

"We allowed foreigners to stay in the zone for five days for their visits and charged K25,000 as an entrance fee per foreigner. From 1 October, the entrance

SEE PAGE-2

NATIONAL PAGE-4

Collaborative implementation of Logistics Surveillance System (E-Lock), National Single Window

NATIONAL PAGE-7

YGN palm oil wholesale reference price continues to fall

# NATIONAL

## Yunnan Information Minister urges China, Myanmar media to promote cooperation

The group documentary photo of the Yunnan media delegation and Myanmar's media personnel at the event yesterday in Yangon.

CHINESE and Myanmar media should raise cooperation in order to build a society for sharing the fortune, said Ms Zeng Yan, Information Minister of the Yunnan Provincial Government, who is currently in Myanmar.

She met media from both countries at the Chinese Culture Centre in Yangon yesterday, and urged those media to further cooperate with each other.

She continued that the duties of media are noble, adding they should prioritize the expression of bilateral relations between China and Myanmar and the progress of development undertakings.

The Yunnan Minister remarked that those who emphasize the development of new media can face both opportunities and challenges but the new media have greater opportunities rather than challenges.

She unveiled that Yunnan media have changed their positions in conformity with the current era, stressing that media need to produce the best works aligned with current situations and creations that must benefit all humans.

At the meeting, Lai Yong, Deputy Director of Special In-charge of the News Bureau of the Yunnan Provincial People's Government made a speech where officials from Myanmar media cordially discussed prospects for cooperation of media from both countries.

Yunnan Media Group and Yangon Media Group signed the memorandum of understanding while Shwe Zarmani Media, Vidya Media, and Yunnan Media Group also signed media cooperation agreements.

The Mingala Talk introductory programme, the series of reciprocal Paukphaw compassion and glittering loyalty programmes were launched. — KNL/TTA

## Entrance fee for foreigners to be raised...

FROM PAGE - 1

fee will increase to K30,000 per foreigner. They will be allowed three days for visits in the zone, and if their stay period exceeds the permission, the further zone entrance fee will be charged," said the director.

Foreigners can visit and observe four sacred tooth relic pagodas in the zone, significant religious monuments built by kings of Bagan dynasty, architectural works, mural paintings in the temples, arts and crafts, illumination on Buddhological Jataka stories, stone inscriptions, ink inscriptions, iron furnaces, Sulegon, Wuttanahtaw (aka) Pabetaw, Kheminga, Yinmana and Lawkaokshaung pagodas in the zone. — ASH/TTA

## Myanmar to present 2 films to ASEAN-Pretoria Film Festival

TWO films from Myanmar will be screened at the ASEAN-Pretoria Film Festival in South Africa, which will be held in October and November, according to U Chan Thar Kyi Soe, Information Officer of International Communications and Public Relations from the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization.

Myanmar was invited to participate in the ASEAN-Pretoria Film Festival on September 20th, and Myanmar films such as "Upadan" and "3(a)" will be screened at the festival.

"When we invited the film companies, they sent only these two films because there were not many producers who wanted to have their films screened. The film festival will be held in October and November. It is a film festival organized by ASEAN and embassies as a cultural exchange," said U Chan Thar Kyi Soe.

Myanmar films that will be screened at the ASEAN-Pretoria Film Festival have already received censor approval. The films must have English subtitles, and the screening time must not exceed two hours. — ASH/ MKKS

## Rakhine Traditional Thingyan to be submitted for UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List consideration

A historian and writer from Sittway, Rakhine State, Sittway Nyo Thant, reports preparations to submit Rakhine traditional Thingyan for inclusion on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage list.

To facilitate the submission of Rakhine Traditional Thingyan to the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage list, historical researchers and writers from Sittway, Rakhine State, including Sittway Nyo Thant, Lwan Pyay Aung and Khine Maw Kun conducted discussions with officials from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum during the second week of September.

During the discussion, it was highlighted that the Rakhine traditional Thingyan festival differs from the Thingyan festival celebrated in Myanmar and Thailand in five distinct ways. There are five notable aspects of the Rakhine Traditional Festival. The Rakhine traditional incense is offered on 12 April, a day preceding Thingyan, on the second day, 13 April, holy water is offered using perfumed water obtained from the incense, starting from the third day, from 14 to 17 April, traditional boats are used for water play, and young men travel around the town/village in bullock carts, paying drums and cymbals. The fifth day, 16 April, is the day of Thingyan, so it is often regarded as a sign of poor luck for those who fall on this day, in the morning of that day, they offered alms. In the evening, they visited the pagoda and made offerings of water to their birth corners.

Captivating images showcase Rakhine Traditional Thingyan Festival in past years.

On the sixth day, 17 April, which serves as the New Year's Day, various good deeds are performed. Paid respect to the elders, release fish, and it is reported that the traditional Rakhine rituals such as washing their heads in front of the house and placing a pot in front of the house are observed. — ASH/KZW

# NATIONAL

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar
## State Administration Council
## Order No 85/2023

11th Waxing of Tawthalin 1385 ME
25 September 2023

### Reconstitution of State Administration Council

THE State Administration Council has reconstituted itself under Section 419 of the Constitution as follows: —

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Senior General Min Aung Hlaing | Chairman |
| 2 | Vice-Senior General Soe Win | Vice-Chairman |
| 3 | Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe | Secretary |
| 4 | Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo | Joint Secretary |
| 5 | General Mya Tun Oo | member |
| 6 | Admiral Tin Aung San | member |
| 7 | General Maung Maung Aye | member |
| 8 | Lt-Gen Yar Pyae | member |
| 9 | Lt-Gen Nyo Saw | member |
| 10 | U Wunna Maung Lwin | member |
| 11 | Daw Dwe Bu | member |
| 12 | Porel Aung Thein | member |
| 13 | Mahn Nyein Maung | member |
| 14 | Dr Hmu Thang | member |
| 15 | Dr Ba Shwe | member |
| 16 | Khun San Lwin | member |
| 17 | U Shwe Kyein | member |
| 18 | U Yan Kyaw | member |

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

# State Administration Council issues seven orders on reconstitution of SAC, reshuffle of cabinet

THE State Administration Council issued seven orders under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar yesterday. Order No 85/2023 signed by SAC Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing highlighted the reconstitution of SAC. The remaining orders from 86 to 91 were signed by Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe.

According to Order No 85, the new State Administration Council was refreshed with new members General Maung Maung Aye and Lt-Gen Nyo Saw.

Order No 86/2023 mentioned that Union Minister at the Union Government Office (1) Lt-Gen Soe Htut was assigned to discharge original military duties. SAC appointed U Aung Naing Oo as Union Minister at the Union Government Office (1) in Order No 87. Moreover, Order No 88 stated the appointment of U Tun Ohn as Union Minister for Commerce. SAC issued Order No 89 to allow U Bran Shaung to take retirement from duties as a member of the Union Election Commission and U Nyunt Aung from Deputy Minister for Commerce.

In addition, U Khin Zaw was appointed as a member of the Union Election Commission mentioned in Order No 90. Furthermore, SAC appointed U Lwin Oo as Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and U Min Min as Deputy Minister for Commerce in Order No 91. — GNLM/TTA

# Steering Committee gathers for NCA 8th anniversary celebration planning

THE National Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) 8th Anniversary Celebration Steering Committee convened a meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The coordination meeting brought together high-ranking officials, including Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Chairman of the NCA Annual Ceremony Steering Committee and Union Minister for Home Affairs, Lt-Gen Min Naing, Secretary of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee, committee members, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries from ministries involved in the steering committee, directors-general, and responsible officials.

During the meeting, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, as the Chairman of the Steering Committee, elucidated the policy surrounding the forthcoming NCA 8th anniversary celebration. He emphasized the importance of planning and executing the event in a practical and meaningful manner.

Following this, Lt-Gen Min Naing, Secretary of the Steering Committee for the NCA Anniversary Celebration, presented the event's procedural aspects. Lt-Gen Aye Win, Chairman of the Coordinating Work Committee, invited participants to engage in coordinating recording and photographic activities. Additionally, Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein, Chairman of the Working Committee, outlined the necessary procedures for making the event a success.

Deputy ministers from various ministries shared insights into the processes to be undertaken by their respective work committees, fostering an open discussion on essential matters.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae addresses the NCA Eighth Anniversary Celebration Steering Committee meeting yesterday.

In conclusion, Committee Chair Lt-Gen Yar Pyae summarized the discussions and presentations. The meeting was adjourned with plans in motion for a grand and meaningful NCA 8th anniversary celebration scheduled for 15 October 2023. — MNA/TS

# NATIONAL

## Collaborative implementation of Logistics Surveillance System (E-Lock), National Single Window (NSW)

THE Logistics Surveillance System- E-Lock and National Single Window are being implemented, according to the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

The Logistics Surveillance System, known as E-Lock, is currently under implementation. In this system, product inspections at the starting point and the end of the journey are essential for direct monitoring by CCTV cameras in the E-Lock Control Room. Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister of Planning and Finance U Win Shein made this announcement during a meeting with Customs Department officials at the Zeya Thiha meeting hall on the morning of 25 September.

Deputy Prime Minister MoPF Union Minister U Win Shein hears the report by a customs official.

E-Lock and the National Single Window System are crucial projects that must be successfully implemented. When inspecting products, it is essential to conduct thorough checks in collaboration with relevant departments. It is also necessary to plan product inspections at both the starting point and the end of the journey in a way that allows direct viewing from the E-Lock Control Room through CCTV cameras. In addition to this, the Union minister also said that the National Single Window System needs to be jointly implemented.

The Logistic Surveillance System (E-Lock) has been implemented since 19 September in cooperation with the Customs Department and the Thilawa Special Economic Zone Management Committee.

The Logistic Surveillance System, known as E-Lock, has already been implemented in Phase I of the Yangon Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) to the Myawady Economic Zone. It has also been reported that the system will continue to be used for roundtrip routes from Mandalay to Muse and the Yangon to Mandalay return route. — ASH/KZW

## China-Myanmar Twin City Media Forum to take place in Nov

CHINA-MYANMAR Twin City Media Forum will take place on a grand scale in Mandalay in the third week of November this year with some 30 Chinese participants and some 70 Myanmar participants, said Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn at a meeting with Executive Chief Editor Mr Zhang Ruogu and party from Yunnan International Communication Centre for South and Southeast Asia.

The meeting held at the Myanma Radio and Television on Pyay Road of Yangon yesterday focused on holding the China-Myanmar Twin City Media Forum.

The Union minister underscored that the enhancement of the Myanmar-China Pauk-Phaw relationship helps further promote friendly relations between peoples from both countries.

The Union minister unveiled that the China-Myanmar Twin City Media Forum will take place on a grand scale in Mandalay in the third week of November this year with some 30 Chinese participants and some 70 Myanmar participants, urging them to arrange visits to Nay Pyi Taw after the forum.

The Yunnan representative expressed his agreement to hold the forum in the cultural city Mandalay with his wish to insert the cultural entertainment of both countries in the forum programme.

The Union minister and the Yunnan guests viewed the screening of the weekly Quiz Time Programme in English with the participation of two students for the Myanmar International (MI) channel at MRTV.

The Union minister watched the news within the news programme of MRTV-HD channel and gave instructions on the choice of news, presentation, dressing and creativities.

In the afternoon, the Union minister talked about cooperation with foreign countries in the media sector at the meeting with officials from the Myanmar Press Council Office in Botahtaung Township. — MNA/TTA

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn views the news programme of MRTV-HD channel at MRTV in Yangon.

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

**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**
(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511
**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**
( +95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

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

**Write for us**

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

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

# NATIONAL

## Myanmar delegation led by MoI UM returns after attending 16th ASEAN Information Ministers' meeting

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister of Information U Maung Maung Ohn returned to Yangon on the evening of 24 September after attending the 16th Conference of ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI), the 20th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting Responsible for Information (SOMRI) and related meeting (AMRI+3) held in Da Nang, Viet Nam, on 22 and 23 September.

During the 16th AMRI, AMRI's ASEAN 2030 Vision Statement, Da Nang Declaration, Guideline on Countering Fake News and False News, action plans of the ASEAN Task Force on Fake News (TFFN), renewal of the 2018-2024 ASEAN-China Information and Media Cooperation working plan and ASEAN Plus Three Work Plan for Enhancing Cooperation through Information and Media 2018-2023 Renewal were approved and issued.

Myanmar is acting as the Country Coordinator on behalf of ASEAN member countries in the process of cooperation with ASEAN-China information and media.

Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn separately met with a Chinese delegation led by Deputy Head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee Mr Sun Yeli and a delegation led by Minister for the Information and Communications of Viet Nam Nguyen Manh Hung.

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information U Myo Myint Maung and party attended the 20th ASEAN Senior Officials Responsible for Information (SOMRI), 7th Meeting of the ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Responsible for Information (7th SOMRI+3) and the 4th Meeting of the ASEAN Plus Japan Senior Officials Responsible for Information (4th SOMRI+J), which were held on 20 and 21 September. The permanent secretary also met with Mr Jose A Torres Jr, Director-General of the Philippines Information Agency, and they discussed mutual cooperation issues in the media and information sectors between the two countries. — MNA/KZW

The documentary group photo of the 16th Conference of ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information on 20-23 September 2023 in Viet Nam.

## Deadline set for 2nd round of oil mill loan applications

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Industry (MoI), applications for the second round of oil mill loans will close on 23 October.

The Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection under the MoI has announced that they will provide additional loans to oil mill entrepreneurs who did not receive loans during the first batch of oil mill loans.

Oil mill operators wishing to apply for a loan can obtain oil mill loan proposal forms for free on the websites of the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation. The criteria to be considered and prepared when applying for a loan can also be found on these websites.

Loan proposals and required documents can be submitted in person or placed in sealed envelopes and sent to Office No 37, Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection, Ministry of Industry, by 23 October.

Regarding the first round of oil mill loans, K50 billion has been approved by the State Economic Promotion Fund, and the loans have already been disbursed to oil mill operators. — TWA/CT

An oil production machine part from an oil mill.

## Central Bank of Myanmar, Bank of China (Hong Kong) (Yangon Branch) co-organize 2023 Golden Autumn RMB Forum

TO enhance China-Myanmar bilateral trade, the Bank of China (Hong Kong) held the 2023 Yangon Branch Golden Autumn RMB Forum at the Wyndham Grand Yangon Hotel yesterday afternoon. The forum aims to develop the Yuan-Kyat direct payment system, accelerate trade and commodity flows, and facilitate bilateral payments and account clearing.

Daw Than Than Swe, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, attended the ceremony via video conferencing and delivered an opening speech.

Mr Ying Jian from the Bank of China (Hong Kong) discussed the step-by-step process of establishing the Chinese yuan as a global currency and the implementation of cross-border Chinese yuan trade payments. The Bank of China (Hong Kong) holds the distinction of being the first Chinese Yuan Clearing Bank to manage Yuan accounts outside of China. The discussion covered various aspects of its global and Southeast Asia operations as a Chinese Yuan Clearing Bank, including the capital market and transactions denominated in Chinese yuan in the financial market. Furthermore, the conversation encompassed the Chinese Yuan's inclusion in the IMF's SDR Currency Basket and the emergence of global reserve currencies.

Subsequently, Mr Nathan Yeung discussed the trend of the Chinese Yuan exchange rate and provided an analysis of China's economy. He noted that while the leading role of the US dollar has declined, it still plays an important role. China's economic indicators are improving, and both the US dollar and Chinese Yuan spot rates are rising. These developments suggest that the strength of the Chinese Yuan is increasing.

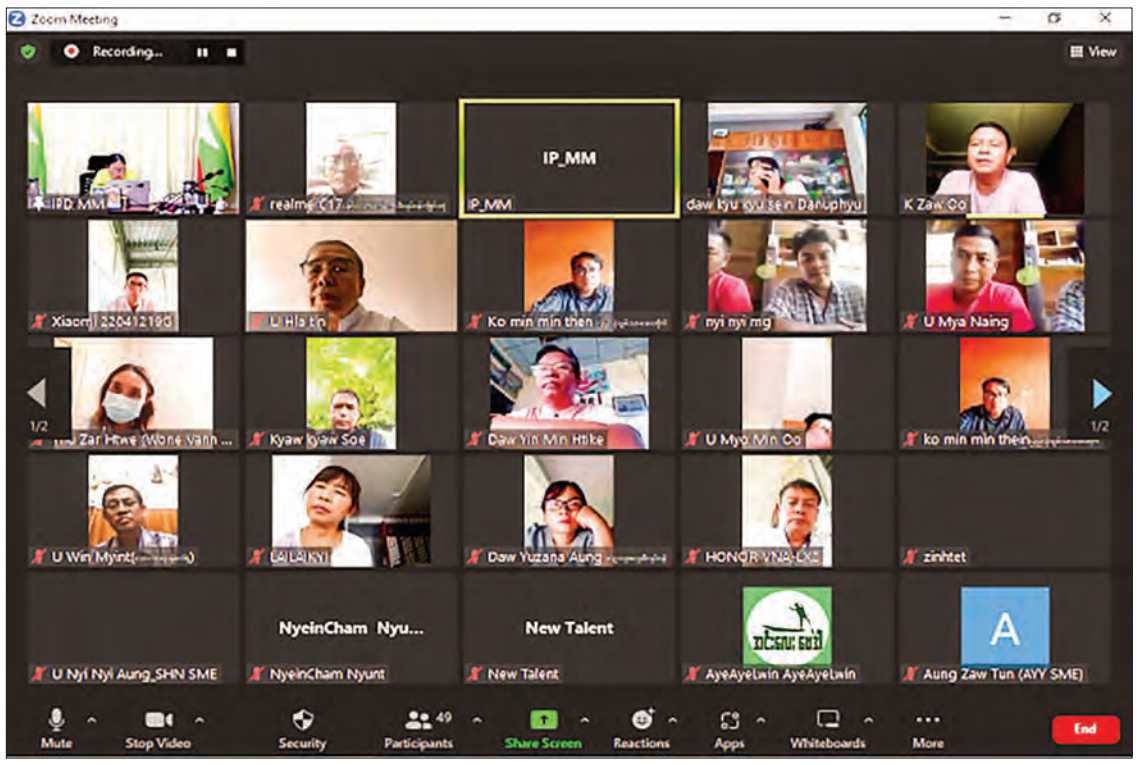
Next, Mr Zhao Yidi discussed investment methods in the Chinese Yuan financial market, the issuance and sale of treasury bonds in Chinese Yuan, and the FX rate and interest rate of the Chinese Yuan. Following that, Mr Yue Jiacheng provided an introduction and discussion on the Cross-Border Bank Payment System (CIPS). — MNA/KZW

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

# NATIONAL

## Businesses urged to recognize significance of Industrial Design Law for enhanced business protection

UNDERSTANDING the provisions of the Industrial Design Law will enable businessmen to protect their own creations and products from being copied, counterfeited, and subjected to deceptive sales practices under the law. This statement was made by the Deputy Director-General of the Copyright Department of the Ministry of Commerce during a virtual educational session on industrial design patents, which was attended by about 90 small and medium-sized businessmen from Ayeyawady Region and Shan State on 21 September.



About 90 small and medium-sized businessmen are seen educating and discussing through a virtual system to learn about industrial design patents.

Industrial design refers to the outward appearance of a product, handicraft item, or its components resulting from the appearance and decoration of lines, contours, colours, shapes, surfaces, textiles, or products, as well as their appearances or decorations.

All designs that are visible and appealing to consumers, such as customized clothing patterns, jewellery designs, accessories, watches, vehicles, luxury items, home interior designs, and packaging designs, as well as any items created for competitive sale in the market, are considered industrial products.

Innovation in design plays a crucial role since customers often base their purchasing decisions on the product's appearance. Outstanding industrial designs provide a competitive advantage and greater profits for manufacturers and companies that invest in industrial design.

When an industrial design is protected, it prevents the unauthorized copying, imitation, and commercial reproduction of the design, whether in part or in whole, without the permission of the design's owner or rights holders. This protection allows the owner to benefit from the copyrighted industrial design.

Industrial design can be protected if it is new and created without limitation. Typically, industrial design protection lasts for five years from the date of filing the registration application and can be extended twice, each for five years. Protection is limited to the country where it is registered.

The Industrial Design Law, enacted as Law No 2 in Myanmar on 30 January 2019, by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, is currently in the process of having the necessary rules established by the Copyright Department under the Ministry of Commerce for the law to take effect. — TWA/CT

## Warning issued not to catch hilsa species for one month

Yway River from which catching hilsa was banned for one month.

IT is known that a warning has been issued not to catch hilsa species that come from the sea to spawn for exactly one month.

Four riverine routes—Yway riverine route, Pyanmalot-Ayeyawady riverine route, Bogale-Yazutine-Ayeyawady riverine route, and Toe riverine route—which are prohibited by the Ayeyawady Region Government, have been designated as conservation areas for hilsa species. It is warned not to catch hilsas for exactly one month, from 15 September to 15 October 2023.

Hilsa is found in abundance only in the three countries in the Bay of Bengal (BOB)—Bangladesh, India, and Myanmar. Only a small number of hilsa can be caught in countries such as Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, and Bahrain.

The Ayeyawady Region Government's Notification No 6/2022, dated 22 March 2022, also designated 11 areas as safe zones for the growth of hilsas and prohibited the capture of any type of fish. The areas are Phaungsaik sandbank in Hinthada Township, Nantawkyun sandbank in Zalun Township, Zakagyi sandbank in Danubyu Township, Wegyi sandbank in Nyaungdon Township, Kazintaw sandbank in Pantanaw Township, Ngapheoh sandbank in Maubin Township, East Talokhla sandbank and the mouth of Panhlaing Creek.

Under Section 62 of the Fisheries Law, if the prohibition is not followed, they will be punished with both two years' imprisonment or a fine or both. — TWA/CT

Cargo trucks are seen parking in the compound of the Tachilek border trade post.

## Tachilek border trade with China and Thailand valued at US$77.698 mln

ACCORDING to statistics from the Ministry of Commerce, a trading volume worth US$77.698 million with China and Thailand has been recorded through the Tachilek border in the first five and a half months of the 2023–2024 financial year.

From 1 April to 19 September, the border trade post exported $30.581 million and imported $47.117 million worth of goods.

It is reported that garlic, lead sulphide, cardboard paper scraps, and plastic scraps were exported to neighbouring countries. — TWA/CT

# NATIONAL BUSINESS

## Myanmar's pulses exports surge, garnering US$650 mln in 5.5 months

MYANMAR shipped more than 790,000 tonnes of pulses, with an estimated value of over $650 million, to foreign countries over the past five and half months of the current 2023-2024 financial year beginning 1 April, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The pulses exports by seaborne trade amounted to $542.625 million (over 667,441.386 tonnes), whereas over 123,446 tonnes of pulses worth $106.089 million were sent to the neighbouring countries through land borders between 1 April and 15 September 2023, totalling $648.714 million from exports of over 790,888 tonnes.

Myanmar's pulses exports earned over US$1.47 billion from over 1.9 million tonnes in the previous FY 2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

India has growing demand and consumption requirements for black gram and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2021, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black gram and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses' annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are also entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that annual quota.

The current market prices are K2.584 million per tonne of black gram (urad) and K4.05 million per tonne of pigeon pea (tur). — NN/EM

Myanmar shipped more than 790,000 tonnes of pulses, with an estimated value of over $650 million, to foreign countries over the past five and half months of the current 2023-2024 financial year beginning 1 April.

## Yangon rice market prepares for sluggish demand ahead

AS the new monsoon low-grade paddy is being piled up and new high-grade Pawsan paddy will be harvested in two months, rice demand is set to slow in Yangon's depot, U Kyaw, a rice warehouse owner in Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre, told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The new monsoon low-grade rice starts flowing into the market. The price is down by K500-1,000 per sack these days. The price of high-grade Pawsan rice indicated a decrease of K3,000 per sack, while broken rice prices dropped below K50,000 per sack.

As the paddy can be purchased at the reference price soon, the price is likely to drop further, a rice trader forecast.

There is a high potential for a price decrease rather than a price rise. The demand is sluggish in the market. The market sees sellers outperforming buyers as a new supply of rice nears.

Consumers can buy the rice at a fairer price as there is less chance for the price to hit fresh peaks this year.

Of 2.6 million acres of paddy plantation in the second-largest rice-producing Bago Region, over 83,000 acres of paddy have been harvested so far since the last week of September. — TWA/EM

## YGN palm oil wholesale reference price continues to fall

The reference price was registered at K4,440 per viss last week ending 24 September. This week's price showed a decrease of K65 per viss compared to that of the previous week.

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market was set lower for a week ending 1 October at K4,375 per viss, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The reference price was registered at K4,440 per viss last week ending 24 September. This week's price showed a decrease of K65 per viss compared to that of the previous week.

The Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia including transport costs, tariffs and banking services to issue the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly.

Yet, the market price was higher than the reference price.

The Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce notified the consumers of lodging the complaints for overcharging through the Call Centre's Hotline in late August. The Department urged consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices while the ministry is making efforts to bring down the palm oil prices.

The Department is making concerted efforts to steer the high volatility in palm oil prices in the retail market and offer fairer prices to the consumers, in coordination with the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association and oil importing companies. The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over Hot Line: 1535 of the Call Center of the Consumers Affairs Department or sent to the Facebook Page of the Department and the Facebook pages of the region and state departments concerned.

A task force for edible oil price stability organized by the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association has started issuing the lists of wholesale/retail shops of each company from 28 August, including the address of the shops in the respective townships and the number of available barrels.

The task force will govern the market to meet the satisfaction of the end-users in the supply chain and get easy access to the consumers.

It will also supervise the market to ensure the palm oil sales at wholesale prices are not higher than two per cent of the net profit margin and retail prices not higher than 10 per cent margin.

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

## Cargo ship initiates direct trade link ...

FROM PAGE-1

facilitate the transportation of goods from Sittway to Paletwa via maritime routes as part of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project. Subsequently, goods will be transported from Paletwa to Mizoram, situated on the Myanmar-India border, via land routes.

In order to streamline trade between Rakhine State and Mizoram State, dedicated jetties have been constructed in both Sittway and Paletwa for maritime transport. Furthermore, reports indicate that the construction of the road connecting Mizoram to Chin State has been successfully completed.

The inauguration of the Sittway Jetty within the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project took place on 9 May 2023, with the presence of officials from both India and Myanmar. The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, initiated in 2018 as part of the India-Myanmar Friendship Programme, entails an investment of US$484 million by India. — ASH/MKKS

OPINION

# Post milestones in enumeration of census population

THE enumeration of the census population plays a pivotal role in shaping government policies and strategic plans across various sectors such as social, economic, and management within a nation. It provides invaluable insights into the demographic landscape, enabling informed decision-making. As Myanmar moves forward, it's essential to acknowledge the historical milestones in its census-taking journey.

Looking back, Myanmar has conducted eight census enumerations, primarily during the British colonial era in 1872, 1891, 1901, 1911, 1921, 1931, and 1941. After gaining independence, Myanmar's government continued this practice, conducting censuses in 1953-54, 1973, 1983, and most recently in 2014. Additionally, interim censuses have been successfully executed throughout the nation, contributing significantly to the country's population and socioeconomic data.

A new milestone on the horizon is the forthcoming enumeration of census and household registration data scheduled for 1 to 15 October 2024, marking a decade since the last census in 2014. Recognizing the gravity of this task and its implications for the nation's future, government officials and departmental personnel must make thorough preparations to navigate the challenges it presents. The Ministry of Immigration and Population plans to conduct a test census in 100 selected areas across 20 townships in October as part of the preparations.

Enumerating the census and household data accurately is a national duty that each citizen should embrace with participation, as it is a critical step toward achieving a significant milestone in the nation's history. It lays the foundation for a brighter and more informed future for the State, allowing Myanmar to navigate its path toward progress and development for the entire people and the whole country with confidence.

The data collected through this census enumeration will have direct implications for government departments and the entire population. This data will serve as a cornerstone for policymaking in politics, economics, defence, social services, management, and disaster preparedness and relief efforts. Every citizen should grasp the essential role that population census plays in nation-building endeavours.

Therefore, it is not only the residents of the 20 test plot townships but also government personnel and relevant organizations who must collaborate with the Ministry of Immigration and Population and other authorities to ensure a seamless enumeration process. Furthermore, citizens are encouraged to cooperate with enumeration teams by providing accurate information during data collection. Only with accurate population data can the country effectively implement projects aimed at modernization.

Enumerating the census and household data accurately is a national duty that each citizen should embrace with participation, as it is a critical step toward achieving a significant milestone in the nation's history. It lays the foundation for a brighter and more informed future for the State, allowing Myanmar to navigate its path toward progress and development for the entire people and the whole country with confidence.

ARTICLE

# Lancang-Mekong Cooperation: A glimpse into the innovative media

By KZL

REPRESENTATIVES from the six Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) member countries, including Myanmar, attended the 2023 Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Media Summit and Workshop from 27 June to 4 July 2023 in three major cities in China, aiming for a better future plus innovative media.

China's media sector is booming. Myanmar also has kinship relations with China, so we should have frequent media exchanges with China. The Myanmar media representatives also witnessed the digital media development and expertise of mainland China during the LMC tour.

We have seen the good use of the media sector and the promotion of public interests in China and the Chinese government's dedication to the people during the trip to the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Media Conference and related workshops, which were organized by the People's Daily of China.

Yunnan University. **PHOTO: PEOPLE'S DAILY**

The media representatives observed that the People's Daily and Yunnan Daily have strong reputations in China and that they are working hard to inform the people of mainland China's complete and accurate news both online and as hand-held newspapers in real-time.

The People's Daily is the official newspaper of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, releasing updated and effective daily news in Chinese and English versions. It is the largest and most influential newspaper in China and was ranked among the world's top 10 newspapers in 1992 by UNESCO.

The People's Daily is also responsible for the publication of the nationalistic tabloid Global Times.

The newspaper team launched a commercial software service called People's Proofreader that provides outsourced content censorship in 2022.

The People's Daily in recent years has been expanding on overseas social media platforms, occupying millions of followers on its Facebook page and its accounts on Instagram, Twitter and YouTube channels. The People's Daily also maintains agreements with foreign newspapers to republish its content.

The People's Daily publishes 20 pages on weekdays and eight pages on weekends and holidays, all in colour consisting of important news, comments, theories, weeklies and supplements. In 2023, the daily circulation of the People's Daily reached 3.52 million, according to the statistics of the newspaper team.

It has become a new mainstream media group with more than 10 media outlets including printed newspapers, websites, applications, social media accounts and digital screens. People's Daily Online (People.cn) is one of the world's largest comprehensive online media. The www.cpcnews.cn (cpc.people.com.cn), run by People's Daily Online, has become the official website for introducing and delivering information, theories and policies.

The user activity of the People's Daily Chinese App takes the lead among mainstream media applications. Both the Weibo account and WeChat account of the People's Daily are ranking first among counterparts, and the Douyin account attracts the largest number of followers on the platform.

People's Daily English language App is one of the leading mainstream media outlets in China. In addition, "Renminhao", the new media hub, as well as the National Party Media Information Hub (www.hubpd.com) provides news for many mainstream media outlets, party and government agencies, colleges and universities and high-quality owned media. The electronic People's Daily on digital screens in buildings and streets serves as an important integrated medium delivering information to the masses.

People's Daily takes on responsibilities for operating the Belt and Road News Network (BRNN) Secretariat, organizing Silk Road Global News Awards, pioneering custom-tailored news services, and establishing content cooperation with mainstream media from more than 80 countries.

Media personnel also visited the Communication University of China in Beijing on 28 June 2023 and had a dialogue and discussion with experts on media convergence.

The Communication University, located in the eastern part of Beijing near the ancient canal, occupying 463,700 square metres of land, is specializing in cultivating talented people with comprehensive ability to work in the field of media.

The China Media Museum is situated in the basement of the library of the university, providing a general overview of the development of the media industry in China including transmission, broadcasting, television, filming, and media exchanges with foreign countries by showcasing old recorders, gramophones, music boxes, cameras, film projectors, black and white TVs, typewriters and wireless installations.

Next, journalists visited the School of Journalism of Yunnan University on 3 July 2023. The school was founded in 2014 and joined hands with China Radio International to set up the South Asia & Southeast Asia International Communication School in 2016.

The school attempts to boost ties with colleges and universities in South and Southeast Asia. It also expects to organize diversified activities, including students' joint training, news workers' training and production and awards for documentaries and microfilms, based on the school's powerful faculty and Yunnan's rich and colourful environment and human resources.

The Yunnan University is welcoming students from all over the world, according to the statement of the university.

Likewise, journalists had a chance to observe Yunnan Daily, an organ of the Yunnan Provincial Party Committee of the Communist Party of China, founded on 4 March 1950 after meeting with media experts of Yunnan Daily Press Group in Kunming on 3 July 2023.

Yunnan Daily Network, based in Kunming is an online newspaper that provides the latest news about politics, health, education, sports, and current affairs.

Founded in 2012, Yunnan Gateway is part of Mekong News Network, Yunnan International Communication Centre for South and Southeast Asia. As a professional news web portal, it is sponsored by the State Council Information Office of the PRC, owned by the Yunnan Government Information Office and run by Yunnan Daily Press Group.

The news stories are available in seven languages including Chinese, English, Thai, Myanmar, Lao, Cambodian and Vietnamese and were born to be China's sole news website for international communication in the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation. The Yunnan Daily offer the latest news updates on China and Yunnan, covering politics, business, culture, travel and more.

Yunnan Gateway has formed a news release system that is not only multi-lingual but also multi-channel, spreading information and the most updated news in words, pictures, videos, magazines and newspapers. By joining hands with the four monthlies of Mekong (Thai), Champa (Lao), Khmer (Cambodian), and Mingala (Myanmar), Yunnan Daily rolled out their digital and audio versions. Yunnan Gateway also has a presence on Facebook and Twitter, in the names of Amazing Yunnan (English), Mekong (Thai), Champa (Lao), Khmer (Cambodian), and Mingala (Myanmar).

Over the years, the Yunnan Daily Press Group has been making more and more international exchanges including the "China-Myanmar Media Spring Festival Party" in Myanmar to mark the Pauk-Phaw Relations.

China's modern and innovative media can catch up with everything happening in the world, so Myanmar needs to be well aware of that fact and try to emulate it.

More media cooperation between the two countries should be done. Journalists should also regularly attend Mainland Chinese media events and regularly exchange media and cultural information.

Yunnan University School of Journalism Broadcasting Faculty Studio. **PHOTO: PEOPLE'S DAILY**

We @ Yunnan Daily (For Article). **PHOTO: KZL**

# NATIONAL

## UMFCCI General Secretary talks about capacity-building for employees at Asia Employers' Summit in Japan

UMFCCI General Secretary Daw Khine Khine Nwe participates in the Asia Employers' Summit held in Japan on 21-22 September 2023.

DAW Khine Khine Nwe, General Secretary of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, as Myanmar employer representative, joined the Asia Employers' Summit held at the head office of Keidanren Kaikan in Japan.

The summit was jointly organized by the International Organization of Employers-OIE, the Japan Business Federation (Keidanren) and the European Union-EU on 21 and 22 September.

The summit aimed to promote cooperation among IOE member countries, enhance the best practices for the uplift of skills and capacity in the digital era, strengthen the internationally competitive capacity of companies in Asia-Pacific and Arab countries, follow sustainable business behaviours, and build trust among national-level social partners.

In her discussions, Daw Khine Khine Nwe clarified the participation of UMFCCI representing the private sector in adopting skill policies of the State, training courses conducted by UMFCCI, pre-skill, up-skill and re-skill courses on garment industries being conducted by Myanmar Garment Human Resource Development training school, and good results on linking two out of four levels of National Skills Standards Authority-NSSA.

Speakers of dialogue partner countries expressed their perspectives on enhancing the leading role of Employer and Business Membership Organization-EBMOs with prospects to boost the future economy, salaries and wages, skills, challenges in all aspects, opportunities, economic and human rights, building sustainable and competitive supply chains in Asia, organizing MSME businesspersons to become EBMO members, exchange of significant success of MSME businesspersons in Asia, digital transformation in the world economic landscape and the important role of the Classbox Economy.

The summit was also joined by EBMOs and companies from Asia-Pacific and Arab countries, and heads of state, delegates and officials from Southeast Asia and island countries. — ASH/TTA

## Delhi Declaration approved

MYANMAR National Human Rights Commission Vice-Chair Dr Nanda Hmun, and Deputy Director-General Dr Khine Khine Win attended the 28th Annual General Meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum and Biennial Conference in New Delhi, India, on 20-21 September 2023.

During this gathering, India's President Smt Droupadi Murmu delivered a noteworthy address. The event drew representatives from 26 member countries, including India's Human Rights Commission leadership, government officials, UN agencies, and delegates from Cook Islands, Chinese Taipei, Turkmenistan, and the United Arab Emirates.

Discussions at the meeting revolved around collaboration among Asia Pacific National Human Rights Organizations and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs). They also addressed administrative and financial matters of the Forum and explored future work programmes, leading to the issuance of the "Delhi Declaration".

On 21 September, the forum convened discussions on two pivotal topics: "30 years of Promoting and Protecting Human Rights Across Asia and the Pacific" and "The Role of NHRIs in Responding to and Mitigating Human Rights Impacts of Climate Change at National, Regional, and International Levels." Subsequently, the conference concluded with the approval and release of the Delhi Declaration.

Dr Nanda Hmun and Dr Khine Khine Win of MNHRC returned to Yangon on 23 September. — MNA/MKKS

## DSAC's verdicts must be worth enough to reference

THE verdicts passed by the Dispute Settlement Arbitration Council (DSAC) must be worth enough for State and Region Dispute Settlement Arbitration Councils to take as references in settling disputes, the deputy minister for Labour said in a meeting with council members, Yangon Region arbitration council members, representatives of employers and workers on 21 September.

He also said the council should continue to strive to become a reliable organization for employers and employees.

Many of the disputes that arise between employers and employees are settled satisfactorily at the Workplace Coordinating Committee (WCC), contributing to workplace stability, he said. The disputes failed to reach agreements at WCC are referred to township level arbitration teams or special arbitration teams for reaching settlements.

The township level arbitration teams are supposed to solve the disputes of interests while disputes relating to rights are to be solved by relevant departments.

The Dispute Settlement Arbitration Council is to investigate and decide the cases that do not reach agreements at township level arbitration process and to reach fair settlements that benefit both employers and employees without abusing the authority of the council.

The disputes not relevant to settle under the Settlement of Labour Dispute Law are subjected to other relevant laws and the employers and employees are needed to be informed about it, the deputy minister said.

He also said the ministry is working to form WCCs in every factory and workplace as good coordination at WCC level could reduce the number of disputes. The officials responsible for arbitration are educating employers and employees about causes of disputes, practices of factories and workplaces that maintain good workplace relation while exchanging experience between them to boost their arbitration capacity. — TWA/TH

The office of Dispute Settlement Arbitration Council.

# The 'tyranny of thinness' still dominates fashion

DESPITE claims that the fashion industry is embracing curvier bodies, the data suggests it could be guilty of what one expert calls "fat-washing".

While a handful of plus-size models such as Paloma Elsesser have grabbed media attention in recent years, the figures shows they remain a vanishingly small minority.

Vogue Business looked at 9,137 outfits unveiled during 219 shows in New York, London, Milan and Paris last season and found that 0.6 per cent were plus-size — defined as US size 14 or above, which is actually the average size for a woman in the United States — and only 3.8 per cent were size 6-12.

This means 95.6 per cent of outfits presented were in US size 0-4.

Models walk the runway of the Bottega Veneta show during the Milan Fashion Week Womenswear Spring/Summer 2024 on 23 September 2023 in Milan. **PHOTO: AFP**

Paolo Volonte, who teaches sociology of fashion in Milan, says brands use a few curvy models to deflect criticism.

"It's 'fat-washing'," he told AFP, comparing it to criticisms of cynical "green-washing" by which the industry is accused of making empty climate pledges. — AFP

# 'Break down walls': Tunisia dance show celebrates diversity

A performer on a wheelchair, another who is blind and a third with Down syndrome share the stage for a pioneering new dance show seeking to push the boundaries in Tunisia.

Choreographer Andrew Graham says "the show is not about disability at all" but rather a celebration of diversity and inclusion that also involves migrants and LGBTQ artists.

"The idea is to break down all the walls," said Graham, 35, whose production "Lines" premiered this weekend and runs until 8 October at the Dream City Festival in Tunis.

The performance brings together 15 dancers from different segments of society in the north African country.

It offers an opportunity for "sharing and mutual aid", said Gabonese dancer Cedric Mbourou, 29.

The performance comes at a difficult time for Tunisia, which recently saw a wave of racial violence mainly targeting migrants from sub-Saharan Africa. — AFP

People attend a music parade, aimed at raising awareness of children with disabilities, in Tunis on 21 September 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

# "The Nun II" tops North American box office for 3rd straight weekend

WARNER Bros and New Line Cinema's horror thriller "The Nun II" topped the North American box office for the third weekend in a row with an estimated 8.4 million US dollars, data from the measurement firm Comscore showed on Sunday.

The film has earned 69.2 million dollars so far in North America for a worldwide total of 204.2 million dollars.

The film is a sequel to 2018's "The Nun," the highest grossing entry in the "The Conjuring" Universe. "The Conjuring" Universe, centred on a series of supernatural horror films, is the highest grossing horror franchise in history with over 2 billion dollars worldwide.

Directed by Michael Chaves, "The Nun II" stars Taissa Farmiga, Jonas Bloquet and Bonnie Aarons, returning from the first film.

Lionsgate's action film "Expend4bles," starring Sylvester Stallone and Jason Statham, opened in second place with 8.3 million dollars this weekend. — Xinhua

Actors dressed as nuns pose on the red carpet for a special screening of "The Nun II" at the Regal LA Live in Los Angeles, California, on 30 August 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

# Taylor Swift turns out for Chiefs game stoking Kelce romance rumours

POP star Taylor Swift added fuel to the rumours around her possible relationship with NFL star Travis Kelce when she was seen watching him in action alongside the Super Bowl winner's mother on Sunday.

Swift attended the Kansas City Chiefs' home game against the Chicago Bears on Sunday and was seen in the Kelce family box with the tight end's mother, Donna.

The 12-time Grammy award-winning singer was filmed wearing a red and white Chiefs jacket and cheering alongside Donna Kelce — who gained nationwide attention when both her sons featured in last season's Super Bowl.

Travis Kelce won his second Super Bowl ring with the Chiefs in February while older sibling Jason ended up on the losing side with the Philadelphia Eagles.

Travis Kelce said this week on ESPN's Pat McAfee Show that he had invited Swift to attend a game.

"I threw it out there. I threw the ball in her court. You know, I told her, 'I've seen you rock the stage in Arrowhead, you might have to come see me rock the stage in Arrowhead and see which one's a little more lit,'" he said. — AFP

# ECONOMY
## WORLD

# Malaysia boosts China palm oil exports under EU pressure

MALAYSIA will increase palm oil exports to China by 500,000 tonnes a year as it faces pressure from new European Union restrictions targeting deforestation, a senior minister told AFP on Monday.

The trading bloc introduced new rules this year that ban goods from land that has been deforested, throwing its muscle into the fight against climate change and environmental destruction.

Palm oil is blamed by environmentalists for fuelling the destruction of rainforests in Malaysia and Indonesia, which together produce 85 per cent of global output.

But the EU rules have been highly controversial in producer countries, with both Malaysia and Indonesia protesting the move.

Malaysia's Plantation and Commodities Minister Fadillah Yusof told AFP that his country was now upping exports to China, a major importer of the commodity.

"China's import of palm oil and palm-based products from Malaysia was 3.14 million tonnes in 2022," he said.

That will grow by the end of the year or early next year with "additional uptakes of 500,000 tonnes of palm oil" by Beijing, he said.

The increase is the result of a deal between Malaysian-headquarted palm oil product firm Sime Darby Oils International and Chinese state-owned Guangxi Beibu Gulf International Port Group.

It will "definitely" help Malaysia counter European curbs, he added. — AFP

This picture taken on 30 June 2022 shows a foreign worker collecting palm oil fruits in Ijok, in Malaysia's Selangor state. Overripe palm oil fruits hang untouched in trees while others lie rotting scattered around a plantation, as Malaysian farmers reap the bitter harvest of a severe labour shortage. **PHOTO: AFP**

Chinese tourists are greeted by Thai dancers at the arrivals gate at Suvarnabhumi International Airport in Bangkok on 25 September 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

# Thai PM greets arrival of Chinese tourists on inaugural visa-free day

THAILAND extended a warm welcome to the first batch of visa-exempt flights from China on Monday, marking the launch of the nation's fresh initiative to reinvigorate its Chinese tourist market.

Approximately 341 visitors from Shanghai landed at Suvarnabhumi airport on Monday morning, greeted with flowers and applause by the newly appointed Prime Minister (PM) Srettha Thavisin and several senior Thai officials.

"This marks a promising first day for Thailand as we welcome Chinese tourists under the new visa-free entry policy," Srettha said at the airport's welcoming ceremony.

The Southeast Asian country recently announced its decision to allow visa-free entry for Chinese tourists from 25 September until the end of February 2024, in alignment with the PM's commitment to enhancing Thailand's economy through tourism.

"We are confident that this scheme will significantly boost the economy," he said.

According to the latest data from the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), from 1 January to 17 September this year, Thailand recorded over 2.34 million Chinese tourists, approximately 37 per cent of the same period in 2019.

With the help of the scheme, authorities hope to double the current number, anticipating between 4.01 to 4.4 million Chinese visitors for the entire year.

"Knowing that Thailand has lifted visa requirements for Chinese visitors, my mother and I made a quick decision to visit Thailand for a few days," 25-year-old Tian Yumeng told Xinhua. "Our entry went smoothly, and the warm welcome we received, both on the plane and upon landing, has been delightful. I am eagerly anticipating our time here," said Tian.

Srettha noted that ensuring tourist safety is their top priority, right from the moment visitors set foot in the country until they depart with a memorable experience. — Xinhua

# Osaka World Expo organizer to raise construction cost estimate again

THE organizer of the 2025 World Exposition in Osaka is raising its estimate of the venue's construction cost for the second time to about 230 billion yen ($1.5 billion) due to rising material and labour costs, its officials said Monday.

The new estimate will come after the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition said in December 2020 that it expects the cost of building the venue to reach 185 billion yen, exceeding the initial estimate of 125 billion yen, due partly to changes in construction plans. Inflation, coupled with a labour shortage, has led to a delay in participating countries and regions beginning the construction of their pavilions at the site.

The association made the new estimate after the central government instructed it to do so, the officials said. The central government will shoulder part of the cost increase, with plans to earmark the spending in the supplementary budget for fiscal 2023.

The central government, local governments in Osaka and a group of private companies have agreed to bear the cost of setting up the venue by splitting it equally.

The event, to be held from 13 April to 13 October 2025 on the man-made island of Yumeshima in Osaka Bay, is set to showcase technological and cultural exhibitions by around 150 countries and regions, with the number of visitors expected to reach around 28 million. — Kyodo

File photo taken in July 2023 shows the artificial Yumeshima island in Osaka Bay, western Japan, where the 2025 World Exposition is scheduled to be held. **PHOTO; KYODO**

# Amazon steps up AI race with $4 bln Anthropic investment

AMAZON said on Monday it would invest up to $4 billion in AI firm Anthropic, as the online retail giant steps into an AI race dominated by Microsoft, Google and OpenAI.

The success of OpenAI's ChatGPT, a chatbot released last year that is able to generate poems, essays and other works with just a short prompt, has led to billions being invested in the field.

Amazon had already announced it aimed to soup up its Alexa voice assistant with generative AI, which the firm said would allow users to have smoother conversations.

San Francisco-based Anthropic is seen as a leader in the field and has its own chatbot, Claude, a competitor to ChatGPT.

"We have tremendous respect for Anthropic's team and foundation models, and believe we can help improve many customer experiences, short and long-term, through our deeper collaboration," said Amazon CEO Andy Jassy.

As part of the deal, Anthropic will use Amazon's chips and its cloud services — the data centres that store and process data on a vast scale — for "mission critical workloads".

Amazon said it would take a "minority ownership position" in the AI firm, which has already raised hundreds of millions since it was set up in 2021.

The deal intensifies competition between Amazon and Google, which had earlier opened its cloud services to Anthropic and invested $300 million to acquire 10 per cent of the company.

The models used by AI firms require huge computing power and Amazon Web Services and Google Cloud are among the biggest providers. — AFP

# Indonesia to regulate social media sales soon: leader

INDONESIAN President Joko Widodo said new regulation on social media commerce could be passed as soon as Tuesday, as Jakarta aims to rein in sales on tech platforms it says are harming local businesses.

Indonesian users spent more money on TikTok than anywhere else in Southeast Asia over the past year, as the app's e-commerce arm rapidly grew to gain a substantial regional market share and millions of sellers since its 2021 launch.

Several government officials in recent weeks have called for social media and e-commerce to be separated, taking aim at sales platforms they say engage in monopolistic practices that threaten small businesses. — AFP

Ads
TradeMark
Call
09251022355

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

**M.V CONTSHIP ERA VOY.NO. (092N/S)**

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CONTSHIP ERA VOY.NO. (092N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-9-2023** 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:

**(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE**

MCB Myanmar Citizens Bank

## Announcement to Shareholders

1. We are pleased to announce that 31st Annual General Meeting (2022-2023 FY) of Myanmar Citizens Bank Ltd. is soon to be held. The meeting will be arranged in accord with the bank's Articles of Association and Memorandum of Association. Thus, some directors shall terminate at the end of their terms and new directors shall be elected for their places as per existing Articles of Association.
2. Candidates shall have to submit their applications to the Central Bank of Myanmar in advance before the Meeting. Accordingly any Special Account Holders at Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB) and Security Account Holders at Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) willing to be elected as the directors, among individuals with the shares of MMK 5,000,000 (Five Million Kyats) and above, and companies/associations with MMK 10,000,000 (Ten Million Kyats) and above at the closing on 04.10.2022 as set by MCB Board of Directors, may visit MCB at No-383, Maharbandula Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon and submit your applications by 16:30 on 09.10.2023.
3. Candidates must meet the qualifications stated in sub-clause 1 to 8 of Clause 76 (b) of Section 10, the Financial Institutions Law.
4. Please note to bring NRC (original), 1 photo (license photo size) and proof documents for the ownership of shares along with you at the time of application. We shall announce the time and venue of Annual General Meeting later. For More information, please contact our Administration Department at 01-8386023 and 01-8386029.

Myanmar Citizens Bank Ltd

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

**M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0304-753N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0304-753N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-9-2023** 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:

**M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD.**

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

**M.V SITC HUIMING VOY.NO. (2318S)**

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC HUIMING VOY.NO. (2318S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-9-2023** 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:

**M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD**

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

**M.V DIRECTION SW VOY.NO. (V.104262)**

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V DIRECTION SW VOY.NO. (V.104252)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-9-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AIPT-3** 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: **2301928**

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

Agent For:

**M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO LTD**

# ROLLING UPDATES
## WORLD

# From K-pop to sales girls: AI goes mainstream in South Korea

This picture taken on 24 April 2023 shows an engineer from artificial intelligence company Pulse9 conducting a demonstration as a live actor for virtual human Zaein, seen on-screen, during an interview with AFP at the company in Seoul. **PHOTO: AFP**

HER face is a deepfake. Her body belongs to a team of similar-sized actors. But she sings, reads the news, and sells luxury clothes on TV as AI humans go mainstream in South Korea.

Meet Zaein, one of South Korea's most active virtual humans, who was created by Pulse9, an artificial intelligence company that is working to bring corporate dreams of the perfect employee to life.

Pulse9 has created digital humans for some of South Korea's largest conglomerates, including Shinsegae, with research indicating the global market for such life-like creations could reach $527 billion by 2030.

In South Korea, AI humans have enrolled as students at universities, interned at major companies, and appear regularly on live television driving sellouts of products from food to luxury handbags.

But Pulse9 says this is only the beginning. They are "working on developing the technology to broaden AI human use", Park Ji-eun, the company's CEO, told AFP.

"Virtual humans are basically capable of carrying out much of what real people do," she said, adding that the current level of AI technology means humans are still needed — for now.

The demand for AI humans in South Korea was initially driven by the K-pop industry, with the idea of a virtual idol — not prone to scandals and able to work 24/7 — proving popular with the country's notoriously hard-driving music agencies.

But now, Pulse9 is "expanding their roles in society to show that these virtual humans aren't just fantasy idols but can coexist with humans as colleagues and friends", Park said. — AFP

# British PM's trade envoy visits Cambodia to boost ties

HEATHER Wheeler, trade envoy of the British Prime Minister is on a visit to Cambodia to explore trade opportunities and green investments, said a press statement from the British Embassy in Cambodia on Monday.

Wheeler, who is also the trade envoy to Laos, is in Phnom Penh from 24 to 26 September, and during her visit, she is scheduled to meet with Cambodian ministers and British and Cambodian businesses to explore opportunities to strengthen commercial relationship and support Cambodia's sustainable development and transition from the least developed countries (LDC) status.

Britain sees a huge potential to deploy green investment and encourage Cambodian exports, the statement said. — Xinhua

# Egypt announces presidential vote on 10-12 December

EGYPT will hold a presidential vote on 10-12 December, the election authority said Monday, with the winner to be announced by 18 December.

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, a former army chief, has ruled for nearly a decade in the Arab world's most populous country, which is now mired in a deep economic crisis.

Experts had predicted Sisi would move forward the 2024 election, ahead of a possible switch to a flexible exchange rate that could exacerbate social tensions.

Sisi was first elected in 2014 after leading the ouster of elected Islamist president Mohamed Morsi, and then won a 2018 vote in a landslide against one of his own political allies.

Presidential hopefuls can apply from October, and the list of candidates is to be finalized by 9 November, said Walid Hassan Hamza, chairman of Egypt's National Election Authority.

The vote comes at a time Egypt's currency has lost half its value since March 2022 and inflation reached an all-time high of 39.7 per cent in August.

The government has kept the exchange rate pegged since early this year. — AFP

# Libya orders 8 officials arrested after flood: prosecutor

LIBYA'S prosecutor general on Monday ordered the arrest of eight officials as part of his inquiry into the recent flood disaster which killed thousands, his office said.

The flash flood, which witnesses likened to a tsunami, broke through two ageing dams on 10 September after a hurricane-strength storm lashed the area around Derna, a port city in Libya's east.

The officials are suspected of "bad management" and negligence, a statement from the prosecutor-general's office said, adding that they served currently or previously in offices responsible for water resources and dam management.

On Saturday the official death toll passed 3,800, and international aid groups have said 10,000 or more people may be missing.

People look at the damage caused by freak floods in Derna, eastern Libya, on 11 September 2023. Flash floods in eastern Libya killed more than 2,300 people in the Mediterranean coastal city of Derna alone, the emergency services of the Tripoli-based government said on 12 September. **PHOTO: AFP**

After opening a probe, Libya's prosecutor general Al-Seddik al-Sur said more than a week ago that the two dams upstream from Derna dad been cracked since 1998. — AFP

# SPORTS

## Myanmar beat Hong Kong in Asian Games women's football event

MYANMAR beat Hong Kong 1-0 in the Group E match of the Hangzhou Asian Games women's football competition in Hangzhou, China yesterday.

Myanmar and Hong Kong played the second match of Group E. Due to the winning of this match, Myanmar, which was beaten by South Korea in the first match of this group, is expected to reach the quarter-finals.

As Myanmar and Hong Kong were defeated in the opening matches, the two teams tried to win in the hope of advancing to the next stage. In the first half, both teams could not score the winning goal. In the second half, Myanmar scored the only goal of the match in the 69th minute by Myat Noe Khin.

South Korea and the Philippines played another match of this group in which the Philippines were thrashed 5-1 by South Korea. After playing two games for each of the teams, South Korea has six points. Both Myanmar and the Philippines have three points each, while Hong Kong has lost both matches and has yet to score.

The final matches of Group E, South Korea versus Hong Kong, and the Philippines versus Myanmar will be played at 6 pm Myanmar Standard Time on 28 September. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

## Myanmar U-24 Football Team receives cash awards in recognition of advancing to second stage at XIX Asian Games

THE State Administration Council has awarded US$5,000 to the Myanmar U-24 men's football team in its honour and owners of football clubs from the Myanmar National League, K50 million, for an excellent performance of the team advancing to the second stage of 16 teams from the best third position of the group in the men's football tournament of the XIX Asian Games. This year's Asian Games is being hosted by China in Hangzhou from 23 September to 8 October.

Myanmar fell into Group A together with host China, India and Bangladesh. After the group matches, Myanmar sailed into the second stage of the tournament from the best third position of the group with four points in one win, one draw and one loss.

Players of Myanmar men's U-24 team celebrating their success in a 1-1 draw with India for advancing to the next stage. **PHOTO: MFF**

In the records of the Asian Games, Myanmar claimed champions twice and secured the third prize once. Since 1974, Myanmar has not been able to step up next stage of the group matches. Recently, the team Myanmar showed off its skills again competing in this year's games with advancing to the last 16. According to the fixture, the Myanmar U-24 team will face the Asian powerhouse Japanese team in the second stage match on 28 September. — KNL/TTA

## Japan, S Korea extend winning streak in Asiad women's football

JAPAN and South Korea both won their second straight group matches in the women's football competition of the Hangzhou Asian Games on Monday, moving a step closer to the last 16.

Haruka Osawa had a brace as Japan thrashed Nepal 8-0 in Group D with seven players on the scoresheet. Viet Nam also bagged their second win in the same group after routing Bangladesh 6-1.

In Group E, Son Hwa-yeon completed a hat-trick as South Korea beat the Philippines 5-1, while Myanmar upset Hong Kong, China 1-0. In Group A, Diyorakhon Khabibullaeva scored twice as Uzbekistan swept past Mongolia 6-0.

At the final two group matches in the men's competition, Uzbekistan edged Hong Kong, China 2-1 in Group C, while Japan beat Palestine 1-0 in Group D.

In the men's round of 16, China takes on Qatar, South Korea faces Kyrgyzstan, Japan plays against Myanmar, and Iran meets Thailand. — Xinhua

## China grabs two golds in men's 25m rapid fire pistol with new team world record at Hangzhou Asiad

CHINESE sharpshooters Wang Xinjie, Liu Yangpan and Li Yuehong clinched the men's 25-metre rapid fire pistol team title with a recording-breaking 1,765 points at the Hangzhou Asian Games here on Monday.

"This record represents the result of the team's efforts. Each of us works hard every day for the World Championships, the Asian Games, and the Olympic Games. Many thanks to the coach and the team," Li said after they renewed the Chinese team's own world record set in 2018. According to the rules of the Hangzhou Asiad, only two shooters from each team can advance into the individual final.

Li and Liu tied at fourth with seven hits out of 10 shots after two rounds in the individual final. The 34-year-old Li reached the top after the sixth round and claimed the gold with 33 hits.

Liu seized the silver with 31 hits, while Kazakhstan's Nikita Chiryukin took the bronze.

"At the beginning of the individual final, I was a little nervous and had some technical problems. As my teammate performed better and better, I was greatly inspired to improve myself," Liu said. — Xinhua

Li Yuehong of China competes during the Men's Team 25m Rapid Fire Pistol of Shooting at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, 25 September 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA.**

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

From K-pop to sales girls: AI goes mainstream in South Korea

PAGE-14

# BRICS expansion crucial with over 80% of world's oil reserves to be included - Venezuelan FM

THE expansion of BRICS is very important especially for energy sector, as after the inclusion of new members the bloc will account for over 80 per cent of global oil reserves and production, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Yvan Gil told Sputnik on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly High-Level Week in New York.

"The expansion of BRICS is extremely important, particularly in the energy sector, since we are talking about the fact that with the accession of Saudi Arabia, Iran, and countries such as Venezuela in the future, more than 80 per cent of the world's oil reserves and its production will fall within the scope of BRICS," Gil said.

Moreover, BRICS's member states will collectively be the world's key energy consumer, he added.

All in all, Venezuela's foreign minister sees BRICS's expansion as an "ideal alliance of perfect complementarity".

Venezuela hopes to become a member of the BRICS bloc soon, as it sees support for its application from all member states, including Russia, Yvan Gil said.

He said Venezuela was already working in all BRICS commissions and exchanging information with the members.

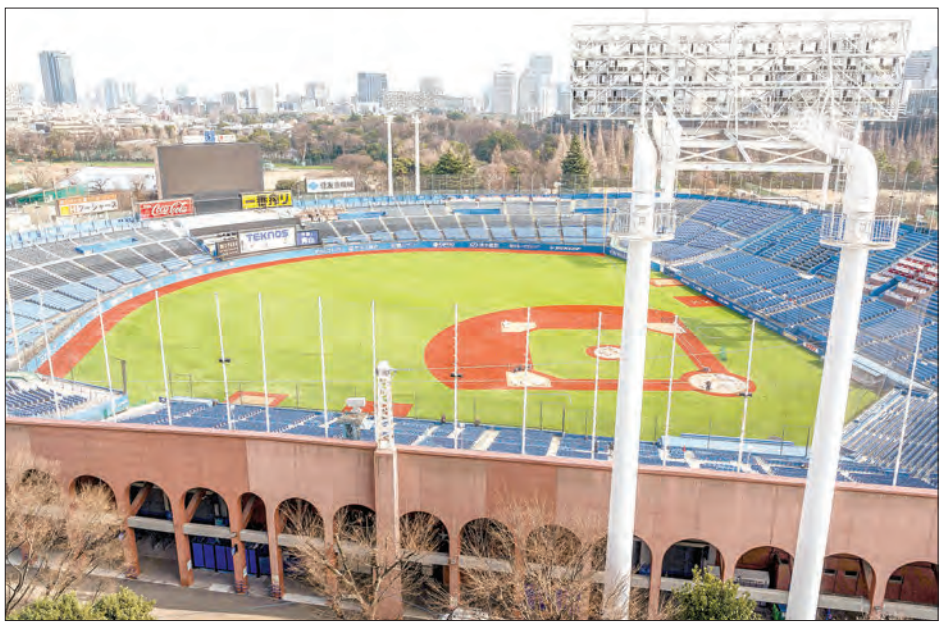
Venezuela and Russia will soon hold a meeting of the high-level intergovernmental commission and discuss military-technical cooperation, Venezuelan Foreign Minister said.

He also said that the commission has a dedicated sub-commission discussing specifically the possibility of opening a Kalashnikov plant in Venezuela.

Many European, Asian and American companies have shown interest in cooperation with Venezuela in different sectors, including energy, Yvan Gil said adding that the Latin American country is on its way to becoming the fourth-largest gas reserve soon. — Sputnik

A woman walks past a banner outside the venue for the 2023 BRICS Summit at the Sandton Convention Centre in Sandton, Johannesburg, on 20 August 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

# Petition against felling trees in historic Tokyo park area



(FILES) This photo taken on 8 February 2023 shows an overview of Meiji Jingu Stadium, where US baseball legend Babe Ruth once played during the 1934 US All-Star tour of Japan, located in a part of central Tokyo set for redevelopment which will radically change the area created over a 100 years ago. **PHOTO: AFP**

CAMPAIGNERS filed a fresh petition with almost 225,000 signatures on Monday against plans to fell large numbers of trees and tear down a historic baseball stadium in a rare green area of central Tokyo.

Lush with trees donated to honour Emperor Meiji a century ago, Meiji Jingu Gaien offers respite and shade — Japan saw its hottest recorded summer this year – in one of the world's biggest urban areas.

The park area is also home to Jingu Stadium where US baseball star Babe Ruth wowed spectators in 1934 and where celebrated Japanese author Haruki Murakami says he was inspired to become a writer.

Also on the site is a stadium dubbed the spiritual home of Japanese rugby.

But the redevelopment project, due to start this month, will see the sports facilities razed and rebuilt alongside several new high-rises to add to Tokyo's thicket of tall buildings.

According to the petition submitted on Monday to the government, 1,000 trees will be cut down.

The new baseball stadium will also endanger a boulevard of gingko trees, just six metres (20 feet) away, whose stunning autumn leaves attract huge crowds, campaigners say.

"These are all huge beautiful trees," said Rochelle Kopp, a management consultant who organized the petition — one of several — and who is also involved in a lawsuit against the project.

"The online petition numbers continue to grow because the more members of the public learn the details of the plan, the more people are unhappy about this plan to cram as many skyscrapers as possible into a small space and forever change a beloved landscape," Kopp told AFP. — AFP