

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IX, No. 115, 13<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Wagaung 1384 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Tuesday, 9 August 2022

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

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

## Citizenship scrutiny cards are issued to all ethnic people and those who have the right to citizenship as quickly as possible: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the coordination meeting on undertakings of the Union government in Nay Pyi Taw on 8 August 2022.

**I**t is necessary to take care of doing misconduct in issuing the CSC to non-citizenship persons, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the coordination meeting on undertakings of the Union government at the meeting hall of the SAC Chair-

man Office yesterday morning. In his speech, the Senior General said that Union-level organizations, ministries and local authorities at different levels are implementing the policies politically adopted by the SAC. Since its assumption, the SAC has been checking voter lists and it took deserved

action against officials in causing the vote rigging process. Re-checking the voter list aimed to emerge the correct voter list. Currently, relevant organizations have scrutinized the necessities of the voter lists and the majority of the lists have been checked. Citizenship scrutiny cards are issued to all ethnic

people and those who have the right to citizenship as quickly as possible. On the other hand, it is necessary to take care of misconduct in issuing the CSC to non-citizenship persons.

Although there are some 55 million of total population across the nation, some four million people are abroad.

Hence, it is necessary to know the actual socio-economic status of the people. The Senior General pledged to implement the plan of the Ministry of Immigration and Population of the previous government to continue the enumeration of the census across the nation.

**SEE PAGE-3**

### INSIDE TODAY

**NATIONAL**  
MoNREC designates Kayat protected public forest in Paletwa Township  
**PAGE-2**

**NATIONAL**  
COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions  
**PAGE-3**

**NATIONAL**  
Palm oil wholesale reference rate remains unchanged at K3,525 per viss  
**PAGE-4**

**CURRENT AFFAIRS**  
Myanmar's fish export earns US\$91.584 mln within four months  
**PAGE-5**



## Announcement for opening reception centres to receive CDM staff, students and youths

THE State Administration Council has been striving for the all-round development of the country including economic, social, education and health sectors. In addition, security forces are performing their duties day and night so that the entire mass of national people in various regions across the Union should be able to lead their lives and earn their living in the peace of mind. The State Administration Council gives priority to achieving genuine and perpetual peace, building up the united strength of the national brethren.

In order to prevent the unnecessary loss of human resources, the State Administration Council has publicly invited the basic education staff who are absent from duty to resume their duties and those who take part in armed resistance under various names of groups,

including PDFs, to return to the legal fold if they wish to, and is systematically receiving the returnees.

It is found that, due to the persuasion, instigation and coercion of CRPH and NUG terrorist groups, some CDM staff, students and youths went to the strongholds of some ethnic armed organizations and received training in arms, ammunition and explosives.

It is known that some of those who have completed the training no longer want to be involved in terrorist attacks and so they fled to the regions within and without the country and are working there for their living. When they see terrorist attacks with their own eyes, they cannot accept such terrible acts at all. On the other hand, they have come to believe in the government's five-point roadmap and its endeavour for

endurable peace. Moreover, they want to live peacefully in their hometowns again with their parents and relatives. Nevertheless, they cannot do so because of the coercion and intimidation by CRPH and NUG terrorist groups and their subordinates, it is learnt.

Therefore, the government is taking measures to be able to open reception centres in border areas for those who would like to return homes to their respective regions. Moreover, those wishing to return home can contact Tatmadaw units and police stations. It is guaranteed that they will be able to lead their daily lives peacefully.

*Information Team  
State Administration Council*

## MoNREC designates Kayat protected public forest in Paletwa Township



The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has designated the area of 4,988 acres in Paletwa Township, Matupi District in Chin State, as "Kayat protected public forest" as of 8 August 2022.

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has designated the area of 4,988 acres in Paletwa Township, Matupi District in Chin State, as "Kayat protected public forest" as of 8 August 2022, under Notification No 119/2022 by exercising the authority conferred under Sub-section (e) of Section (6) of the Forest Law promulgated in September 2018.

The Kayat protected public

forest is intended to conserve the watershed area of Samee creek, Wamauk creek, and Wami creek, mitigate climate change, protect biodiversity and ensure soil conservation.

The Kayat protected public forest is not only a place where various kinds of wood and valuable trees such as yellow champac, teak, ironwood, and gum-kino grow as well as a habitat for wild animals such as bears, wild goats, mountain

goats, wild boars, monkeys, barking deer, sambar deer, caprinae, pangolin, porcupine, including birds such as parrot, quail, Burmese francolin, dove and reptile animals like monitor lizards, tortoises and snakes. It is necessary to manage forest resources systematically, and it is also a watershed area of three creeks. Thus, the area is declared a protected public forest area. —MoNREC/GNLM

### Public Notification

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

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

Auto telephone number - 067 409 883  
Mobile phone - 09 404339969  
Fax - 067 409 886  
Email address - antiillegaltradeinfo@gmail.com

*Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee*

### Public Notification

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

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

Auto telephone number - 067 409 881  
Mobile phone - 09 699611116  
Fax - 067 409 887  
Email address - antiillegaltradeoffice@gmail.com

*Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee*

### 15 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 8 August, total figure rises to 614,213

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **614,213** after **15** new cases were reported on 8 August 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **593,018** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,434** without more casualties.—MNA

### Flood Warning

(Issued at 17:30 hrs M.S.T on 8-8-2022)

ACCORDING to the (17:00) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Mae Sai River at Tachilek (Loitawkham) is observed as about (1) foot below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (1) day.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the Mae Sai river banks and low-lying areas at Tachilek Township to take precaution measure.—DMH

## I would seriously urge the entire nation to join hands with the Tatmadaw for the successful realization of democracy

OUR Three Main National Causes – non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty – is the most important task of the democratization process. As the task of safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes is the main duty of the Tatmadaw, all the sectors of the State duty have already been transferred to the Tatmadaw. So, I would seriously urge the entire nation to join hands with the Tatmadaw for the successful realization of democracy, while adhering to Our Three Main National Causes.

*(Excerpt from the message sent by Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing on the occasion of 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Union Day which fell on 12 February 2021)*

## Citizenship scrutiny cards are issued to all ethnic people ...

### FROM PAGE-1

Upon completion, the number of populations can be secured as correctly as possible.

The government is directly responsible for the implementation of the economic objectives. The economic measures comprise agriculture and livestock farms related to small and medium-scale enterprises. At present, it is necessary to utilize the workable human resources and improve the capacity of the youths who will be a workforce in the future generations. Hence, it is necessary to encourage the education sector with the implementation of the KG+9 plan. Moreover, technologies will be taught at universities and colleges for the improvement of technologies.

The government is striving for creating chances for youths to have access to learning middle school education and above

level. Depending on the qualification of the youths, it is necessary to turn out technicians capable of operating agriculture and livestock farms. As such, it is necessary to emphasize the businesses.

The Senior General urged all to focus on reopening schools in June 2023 and arranging for school-age children to go to school, adding that although the Constitution stipulates primary education as the compulsory one for all, the current government creates learning opportunities for students to pursue KG+9 education free of charge.

The number of district offices has been increased to be able to carry out administrative work efficiently. It is necessary for region and state chief ministers to supervise the running of newly-formed district offices. If district-level responsible personnel give

close supervision for agriculture and livestock farming, education and health sectors, there will be more progress in these sectors. Arrangements are being made to be able to affiliate technical high schools and agriculture and livestock farming high schools with basic education high schools in 50 districts with a view to turning out required human resources for agriculture and livestock farming sectors.

Regarding food sufficiency, there is much we can do about it. The production of rice, beans and pulses, corn and oil crops is enough not only for local consumption but also for export. However, edible oil has to be imported because the yield of palm oil in the country is very low compared with that of other countries. If effective measures are taken for the cultivation and production of oil crops, it

is expected that there will be sufficiency in edible oil and its import will be reduced in 2023. It is necessary to make sure that the production of edible oil in the Taninthayi Region is enough not only for itself but also for Mon State.

As regards the production of rice, there are 15 million acres of monsoon rice cultivation and three million acres of summer rice cultivation but it is found that it cannot meet the production target. If the production of monsoon rice can be increased from 75 to 80 baskets per acre and the production of summer rice from 90 to 95 baskets, there will be a total increase of 90 million baskets of rice, resulting in a rise in the national income. The government is also required to provide necessary agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides and irrigation water.

Touching on the energy sector, the Senior General said that the import of petroleum and petroleum products has to be reduced and systematic production of petroleum in some regions has to be made for the benefit of the country.

As electric power is vital to improving the socio-economic status of local people, electric power generation projects have to be implemented region-wise and measures have to be taken to make sure that electric power is generated through various ways and means.

Then, the Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, chief ministers of regions and states reported on the work on administration, security, law and order, education and health being carried out in the respective areas and the Senior General gave necessary advice and instructions.—MNA

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

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

COVID-19 vaccine is administered daily to target groups regardless of race or religion, including Buddhist monks and nuns, local people over the age of 40, students,

religious leaders, prisoners, people with disabilities, ethnic armed groups, people with chronic diseases, people in IDP camps and over 12-year-old students, respectively.

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 161 people from Yankin Township in Yangon Region, 710 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 2,204 people from ten

townships in Rakhine and Chin States, 5,200 from seven districts in Mandalay Region, and 207 local people in Toungoo, Bago Region respectively.

Similarly on that day, healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 7,010 students from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, and 1,363 students from five townships in Rakhine State.

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



A local in Kyaiklat Township, Ayeyawady Region gets COVID-19 vaccine shot on 8 August.



A local in Sittway Township, Rakhine State receives a vaccine for COVID-19 on 8 August.

# Palm oil wholesale reference rate remains unchanged at K3,525 per viss

THE Wholesale reference rate of palm oil in the Yangon market stayed put for this weekend at K3,525 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes), according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

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 and issuing the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil on a weekly basis.

The reference rate of palm oil in the Yangon market for a week from 8 to 14 August is set at K3,525 per viss. However, the market price is higher than the reference rate.

Therefore, mobile market trucks operated by oil importing companies, in coordination with



The Wholesale reference rate of palm oil in the Yangon market stayed put for this weekend at K3,525 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes), according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, were back to business in some townships starting from 17 July in order to offer

palm oil at the subsidized rate of K3,700 per viss to the consumers. However, there are limited sources of supply although they

directly sell the palm oil at a reference rate depending on the volume quota.

If those retailers and whole-

salers are found overcharging, storing inventory intentionally and attempting unscrupulous action to manipulate the market, they will face legal action under the Special Goods Tax Law, MoC released a statement.

The Ministry of Commerce is striving for the consumers not to worry over the supply of edible oil. The ministry is also trying to secure edible oil sufficiency, supervise the market to offer a reasonable price to the consumers, maintain price stability and prevent market manipulation.

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

— NN/GNLM

## Situations that require mandatory wearing of face masks announced

1. The Ministry of Health has been urging people to wear face masks to prevent the spread of the disease since the beginning of the outbreak of COVID-19.
2. As part of the personal protection rules for the COVID-19 disease that the public has to follow in their daily lives, they are informed that it is necessary to wear a face mask in the following situations: -
  - (a) being close to one person in a room;
  - (b) being with people in crowded places such as traveling in vehicles used by the public, railways, ships, planes; hospitals/health centres used by the public; offices, schools, markets, shopping centres, and nursing homes;
  - (c) Having any suspected symptoms of COVID-19 such as illness, cough, sneezing, stuffy nose, sore throat, physical discomfort, body pain, sudden loss of smell and taste.

Ministry of Health  
25-7-2022

## Chilli price rises to K18,000 per viss

THE whole price of chilli rose to K18,000-K18,500 per viss on 6 August in Yangon chilli market.

Chilli of Thedaw, Kyaukse and Thazi Moehtaung fetched K16,500 to K17,000 per viss and K18,000 to K18,500 per viss for the chilli taken out from the cold storage.

Panye Hmyarni cold storage chilli fetched K17,000 per viss and ordinary K16,000, deltaic long chilli from cold storage K17,500 and ordinary K16,000 to K16,500 per viss and the Netherlands long chilli K14,500.

Chilli pepper was priced at K15,500 to K17,000 per viss, Myitwa chilli pepper from cold storage at K13,500 to K14,500 per viss, Hsinbyukyun chilli pepper at K1,4500, and Kappli Kyawkon at K13,000.

Green chilli species were recently set as K7,000 per viss for Karli (Penang) and then rose to K12,000 per viss yesterday, and



Chilli and kitchen goods are seen at a shop.

Kyauksein green chilli K2,500 per viss, according to chilli wholesale of Thiri Mingala new market.

Chilli prices rose to K10,000 per viss this month. Wholesalers and businesspersons engaging in the trading of chilli earned increased income in 2022.

This year's onion, garlic, potato and tamarind prices are yet

to reach the highest prices of last year although prices of the majority of kitchen and foodstuff goods faced high prices in 2022, said Ko Hla Aung, chilli purchaser.

This year's chilli prices are higher than that of the previous year. Prices of edible oil, sugar and jaggery follow the prices of chilli.—TWA/GNLM

## Myanmar's fish export earns US\$91.584 mln within four months

ACCORDING to the Department of Fisheries, over 80,000 tonnes of fish were exported to foreign countries within the past four months (From 1 April to 31 July) and Myanmar received US\$91.584 million.

Myanmar has been exporting Ribbon fish, Rohu fish, Hilsha fish, Gold fish and eel through regular trade routes.

From 1 April to 31 July, a total of 80,334.423 tonnes of fish were shipped and the export earned

US\$91.584 million: 33,288.818 tonnes of fish worth US\$48.089 million from regular trading and 47,045.605 tonnes of fish worth US\$43.495 million from border trading.

Myanmar exports fish to Thailand, China, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Singapore, the UAE, Bangladesh and Britain mostly, stated the Department of Fisheries.

Through regular trading and border trading, Myanmar earned

US\$116.159 million and US\$142.244 million from exporting 79,828.498 tonnes and 163,701.158 tonnes of fish to foreign countries within six months of the previous financial year 2021-2022, respectively. Thus, Myanmar shipped 243,529.656 tonnes of fish and earned a total of US\$258.403 million. — TWA/GNLM

This photo shows frozen fish at the cold storage workplace as export preparation.



## Myanmar exports 2,900 tonnes of rubber during July's second week

MYANMAR exported 2,900 tonnes of rubber via sea and border trade routes in the second week of July.

The country shipped over 2,350 tonnes of rubber earning US\$3.602 million between 16 and 22 July. It exported over 1,350 tonnes of rubber to China while 130 tonnes to Malaysia, 630 tonnes to India and 60 tonnes to Indonesia.

This week, a total of 500 tonnes of rubber – 430 tonnes via the Myanmar-Thai border and 120 tonnes via the Myanmar-China border – was exported and it received \$0.618 million.

Moreover, it exported 2,900 tonnes of rubber via sea and border trade routes receiving \$4.22 million.

Between 2 and 8 July, the country exported over 3,500 tonnes of rubber worth \$5.104 million via the sea route.

Prices of rubber keep rising year on year in local and foreign markets and so the quality rubber plantation is

expanded across the nation during this year.

As the rubber prices become higher, the low-quality rubber and a certain variety of rubber that are not suitable for the region are replaced with quality rubber.

The people now mull over growing quality rubber and high-yielding rubber species as substitutes for them.

For this substitute, government officials will support rubber farm owners to earn foreign income.

Currently, there are over 1.6 million acres of rubber

plantation land in the country, with 850,000 acres for harvesting. The country produces over 300,000 tonnes of rubber annually.

The local consumption rate is only eight per cent and the large export volume earns foreign income for the country.

Most of the country's rubber trees are grown in Mon State as well as in Kayin State, Taninthayi, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions. The plantations have also been expanded in Shan and Kachin states and Sagaing Region. — TWA/GNLM



Rubber raw materials in Taninthayi Region.

## Pigeon pea price rises by nearly K300,000 per tonne in 2 days, onion, chilli prices on the rise

THE pigeon pea price on 6 August was higher by K172,500 per tonne than 5 August and by K105,000 per tonne on 8 August, and so it rose by K277,500 per tonne within two days, according to the Yangon Market.

The price was K1,612,500 per tonne on 5 August while K1,785,000 per tonne on 6 August and K1,890,000 per tonne on 8 August.

The price in Yangon rose by K277,500 within two days and it was such a strange case, said a bean dealer. The sale on those days were not expressed, according to the data.

The FOB price on 5 August was US\$850-US\$870 per tonne and \$865-\$880 per tonne of pigeon pea on 8 August.

The onion and chilli prices become higher: Only 90,000 visses of onion entered the Yangon market between 4 and 6 August.

On 8 August, 120,000 visses of onion entered the market and the price rose by K100 per viss and it is the highest in 2022.

On the same day, the Seikbyu onion in Yangon market was K1,450-1,750-1,950-2,000 per viss while K1,600-1,950-2,100-2,200 per viss of Monywa onion, K1,600-1,950-2,100-2,200 per viss of Myingyan onion and K1,450-1,750-1,950-2,000 per viss of Pyawbwe onion.

In the onion wholesale centre in countryside, the onion price was only K1,600 per viss and it reached K1,800-1,850 per viss on 8 August, according to the market of the countryside.

On 8 August, the chilli price kept climbing, the monsoon chilli price was K19,000 per viss and K18,000 per viss of normal chilli. Chilli merchants in the Bayintnaung market consider the chilli price will reach K20,000 pre viss. — TWA/GNLM

## People urged to report illegal holding of foreign currency

IT has been announced that complaints can be filed about the illegal holding of foreign currencies, making illegal transactions, and playing the market to the Complaint Verification Team of the Monitoring and Steering Committee on the Gold and Currency Market.

The announcement stated that activities that should be re-

ported are harming the financial market such as real estate, those who do not comply with the Central Bank's payment restrictions when selling and transferring property such as vehicles, taking a percentage of the cash deposited in banks and issuing cash, keeping cash outside the bank by taking the percentage of the kyats deposited in the bank ac-

count and exchange them for cash should be reported.

Reports can be sent via the committee's complaint verification team telephone number 067-3409463; mobile phone number 09-43006833 and e-mail address gmm.complaint@cbm.gov.mm.

The duties of the Complaint Verification Team of the Monitoring and Steering Commit-

tee on the Gold and Currency Market are to check transaction records as necessary to identify transactions with the purpose of speculation in the domestic gold market, verify following the payment rules issued by the Central Bank of Myanmar and to identify those who have done actions with the intention of undermining the stability of the domestic gold

market and taken action under existing laws and orders.

A State-owned bank has the right to sell or buy foreign currency. Foreign currency in and out of accounts of private banks and money changers are governed under the Foreign Exchange Management Law of the Central Bank of Myanmar. —TWA/GNLM

## ASEAN-Myanmar SOM Leader ASEAN Political-Security Community Pillar

**Q: How do you think of Myanmar's role in ASEAN?**

**A:** Myanmar was admitted as the ninth member of ASEAN at the 30<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Malaysia on 23 July 1997. In fact, Myanmar was firstly invited to join ASEAN after its inception in 1967, but at that time, Myanmar was one of the founding members of the Non-Aligned Movement and ASEAN was viewed by other Southeast Asian countries as the creation of another Western-backed initiative during the Cold War. Therefore, Myanmar did not accept the invitation to join ASEAN.

Since Myanmar joined the ASEAN, Myanmar has been respecting and complying with the principles and procedures enshrined in the ASEAN Charter. After 17 years of its membership in ASEAN, Myanmar assumed the Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2014 under the leadership of President U Thein Sein's Administration. Myanmar successfully hosted over 250 ASEAN-related meetings throughout 2014, including the 24<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit, the 25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit and the 9<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit. It was also a significant year when the ASEAN Community was established through two declarations: the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on Realization of the ASEAN Community by 2015 and the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision.

Myanmar's success is also the ASEAN's success. The successful hosting of ASEAN Summits and other meetings showed that Myanmar could manage and conduct international events very well. It is also proving that Myanmar is a responsible, proactive and constructive member of ASEAN. Besides, it is an undeniable fact that Myanmar has the capacity, capabilities, and motivations to assume a greater role in ASEAN.

As one of the member states of ASEAN, Myanmar continues to fulfil its duties and obligations, including actively coordinating for ASEAN-China dialogue relations, and will effectively promote ASEAN's external relations. Moreover, Myanmar is committed to advancing the ASEAN Community building process and its key initiatives under the three ASEAN Community Blueprints 2025.

Under Myanmar's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014, negotiations on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) had been able to resume between ASEAN and China, and as the ASEAN Chair, Myanmar skillfully negotiated in issuing Joint Statements which are fair and acceptable for all parties concerned.

**Q: Why should the principles of consensus and consultation be maintained in ASEAN?**

**A:** Consensus and consultation are the long-held fundamental principles of



U Chan Aye, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

ASEAN. These principles are officially enshrined in Article 20 (1) of the ASEAN Charter which clearly mentions that "As a basic principle, decision-making in ASEAN shall be based on consultation and consensus". Due to our diverse national backgrounds, ASEAN member states adopt consultation and consensus as key principles to ensure equality among member states and prevent the marginalization of any member in major decisions.

The process of reaching consensus involves intensive dialogue, reasoning on matters of common interest, and mutual accommodation. We also call it "The ASEAN Way", a unique way of problem-solving of ASEAN which includes informality, consultation and consensus-building in decision-making processes. We all can see ASEAN's consensus principle has largely facilitated ASEAN Unity and brought about relative peace and stability in the region since the end of the Cold War.

Recently, some western scholars and some ASEAN members argue that ASEAN is unable to address emerging challenges effectively and urgently due to its practice of the consensus principle. There are proposals to adopt a majority-vote decision-making mechanism like in the European Union. However, ASEAN's decision-making practices and its unique integration model are quite different from that of the European Union. Taking a vote or having a majority rule will not mean we can get a better outcome. The majority voting system will only cause division and discord within ASEAN.

It is worth noting that the consensus principle not only helps ASEAN maintain unity but also makes ASEAN's Dialogue Partners feel comfortable about their participation in the ASEAN-led mechanisms, such as the East Asia Summit,

ASEAN-Plus one Summits, ASEAN Regional Forum, etc. We all need to be reminded that among ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, there are also major powers which hold different views on many important issues. Consensus principle guarantees that all parties involved in various ASEAN-led platforms, big or small, could be able to discuss contentious issues through consultation and dialogue and in an equal manner. That said, it is still in ASEAN's best interest to maintain the consensus principle on as many important issues as possible.

However, it is regrettable to have seen that some member states are trying to make decisions and take actions against the consensus principle by creating their own groups within ASEAN to exert undue pressure on other members which are not on their side. These actions have adversely affected ASEAN's credibility, unity and integrity.

**Q: How is the ASEAN unity being challenged without the full participation of all Member States at the ASEAN Summits and Summits with Dialogue Partners?**

**A:** ASEAN Charter is the basic law of ASEAN. ASEAN Summit Meetings are held twice annually, and the Member State holding the ASEAN Chairmanship hosts them. Article 7 of the ASEAN Charter states that "The ASEAN Summit shall comprise the Heads of State or Government of the Member States". Therefore, it should not be entitled to an "ASEAN Summit" if not all Heads of State or Government of the Member States attend the Summit Meetings or if the seat of one Member State is empty.

Moreover, Articles 2 (a), (e) and (f) of the ASEAN Charter clearly underpin "respect for the independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity and national identity of all ASEAN

Member States;" and "non-interference in the internal affairs of ASEAN Member States;" and "respect for the right of every Member State to lead its national existence free from external interference, subversion and coercion;" respectively. In this regard, downgrading the level of a participant from any ASEAN Member State and limiting the role of a participant in discussions and decision-making at the Summits are contrary to the principles, procedures of the ASEAN Charter and the precedent of ASEAN.

However, it is regrettable to have seen that ASEAN's long-preserved principles have been weakened due to external pressures, foreign interventions and some ASEAN members' irresponsible actions. Some ASEAN Member States have blatantly breached ASEAN's basic principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter because they cannot resist external pressures. Such irresponsible decisions and actions to marginalize any Member State at the Summit level put forward by some member states have already affected ASEAN's efficiency and day-to-day modus operandi.

Nowadays, there have been suggestions from both within and outside of ASEAN that ASEAN is becoming increasingly disunited and there have been obvious implications on the ASEAN Centrality. ASEAN has set many crucial goals and targets that could strengthen ASEAN-led mechanisms, ASEAN-centred regional architecture and community-building efforts. Each of the ASEAN Member States cannot accomplish these objectives alone, but by joining together and cooperating with each other; and thus these goals become easier to attain.

Towards this end, we should promote more trust building, cooperation and dialogue among ourselves with political will. Instead of regionalization and internationalizing the internal affairs with political motivation, finger-pointing and unconstructively criticising one another at ASEAN meetings, we must respect the principle of non-interference and resolve differences through consultation, ASEAN Way and ASEAN Spirit to reach consensus and maintain the ASEAN solidarity and unity.

**Q: In the context of evolving geopolitical competitions, how should ASEAN sustain its resilience to external pressures and influence?**

**A:** Geo-strategic uncertainty is another important challenge facing our region. The trend of security alliance building and armaments is concerning to us. The increasing great power competition has raised concerns that some ASEAN Member States might have to take a side.

**SEE PAGE-7**

## Myanmar SEOM Leader, ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Pillar

**Q: Since the MSMEs play a critical role in ASEAN countries, what would you like to suggest to policymakers in order to keep the MSMEs sector abreast with the emerging trends of digitalization?**

**A:** Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are the backbone of ASEAN economies, constituting up to 97 per cent of enterprises in ASEAN countries, and accounting for 85 per cent of total employment in the region.

Strengthening the role of MSMEs is one of the key elements under the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025. For enhancing the competitiveness of MSMEs, ASEAN has done several good initiatives in terms of implementing strategic measures on promoting productivity, increasing access to finance, enhancing market access, enhancing MSME policy and regulatory environment and promoting entrepreneurship and human capital development. ASEAN Coordinating Committee on MSMEs (ACCMSME) was established to supervise and monitor these initiatives.

Since the MSMEs sector has been heavily affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, ASEAN sets key priorities to mitigate the impacts of the health crisis on the MSMEs sector under the implementation plan of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) which is an exit strategy from the pandemic.

Under ACRF, the priority areas of providing the digital platform and related policy including promoting MSME digital upskilling and providing digital technology and fintech to access markets have been implemented. ASEAN has undertaken an in-depth assessment to identify challenges and recommendations to support the awareness and adoption of relevant technology and digital tools among MSMEs. Moreover, to increase technology adoption among MSMEs, the Action Agenda on Digitalization of ASEAN MSMEs has been implemented through Capacity Building Initiatives. Since the digital readiness of the MSMEs sector is different from one country to another, ASEAN has planned to develop a diagnostic tool for MSMEs to access their digital readiness.

As we all know, the rate of digital adoption in the ASEAN Business sector and Society has accelerated during the



Dr Wah Wah Maung, Permanent Secretary,  
Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

pandemic period. Therefore, ASEAN has set two key initiatives to ensure its digital transformation process in 2022 namely the Bandar Seri Begawan Roadmap and the Consolidated Strategy on the 4IR for ASEAN. These initiatives include specific targets and actions to provide relevant skills for MSME.

In addition, ASEAN has developed ASEAN SME Academy since 2016. The Academy is an online training platform and provides training courses to develop the digital skills of ASEAN MSMEs. In 2022, the Academy is upgrading to reach more MSMEs and help accelerate their business recoveries from the pandemic.

In this connection, the inclusion of digital-related content under ASEAN SME Academy training courses will surely help the digital development of MSMEs.

In addition, if the policy makers use incentive schemes to support MSMEs such as providing financial support, reducing regulatory burdens and providing awards in recognition of their excellent leadership in digital transformation, the innovative entrepreneurial spirit of MSMEs will be enhanced.

**Q: The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has caused severe impacts on the socio-economic lives of people in the region and beyond. In this regard, how should the ASEAN Member States**

**strive for strong economic, financial and monetary policies in order to prevent economic and financial crises in future?**

**A:** As we all know, one of the obvious impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic is the supply chain problem. Taking lockdown measures to prevent the spread of the Pandemic caused the supply-chain disruption and shortage of essential goods such as medical supplies and foods. Inflation in the Member States continues to be raised on surging global commodity prices resulting from the impact of COVID-19 and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

In order to strengthen the ASEAN Economic Cooperation and Supply Chain Connectivity in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, ASEAN signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2020 which committed to ensuring the smooth flow of essential goods, including food, medicines, and medical and other essential supplies. MOU is also undertaking to phase out or eliminate non-tariff measures which would unnecessarily impede intra-ASEAN trade flows of essential goods.

Although supply constraints for agricultural products may raise the global food prices, threatening global economic recovery from COVID-19, the ASEAN region is a net importer of grains – corn, wheat, and barley. Among the AMS, only

Lao PDR and Myanmar, produce corn which is more than they can consume. Myanmar can contribute to securing regional food security.

In consideration of lessons learned from the current crisis, for preventing the economic and financial crisis in the future, ASEAN's economic policies should focus on issues relating to food security, energy security, safe travel, macroeconomic and financial stability, broader economic security, prevention of supply chain disruptions and keeping market open for trade and investment.

Since the opportunity of the pandemic is the acceleration of the pace of digital adoption, ASEAN will continue its efforts for improving the region's digital infrastructure and digital connectivity. The future financial and monetary policies will surely focus on improving digital payment infrastructure.

For achieving environmentally-friendly economic growth, ASEAN will pursue economic policies that protect the region's environment and promote sustainable investment. ASEAN countries should formulate policies that are not only suitable and relevant to the national agenda but also in line with the regional integration process.

**Q: Do you see the diversity of ASEAN Member States in political, economic and socio-cultural backgrounds as an asset or a cost in ASEAN integration efforts? And why?**

**A:** From my perspective, the diversity of ASEAN Member States in political, economic and socio-cultural backgrounds is not a cost. It is an asset of unity in diversity in ASEAN integration. ASEAN has been a bright spot in the global economy in the last fifty-five years. Due to that reason, ASEAN could expand its relations with global political and economic powers.

ASEAN's common desire and collective will are guided by ASEAN Charter as a legal status and institutional framework for ASEAN. The Charter has shaped ASEAN to be stronger and more united.

In addition, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) acts as the key code of conduct governing relations between member states.

**SEE PAGE-10**

## ASEAN-Myanmar SOM Leader ASEAN Political-Security Community Pillar

**FROM PAGE-6**

ASEAN cannot afford to be a main zone of contention among major powers, and thus, member states must avoid being manipulated at the expense of ASEAN Centrality and unity. In this respect, ASEAN needs to exert more efforts to promote ASEAN norms and principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast

Asia, Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone, and ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific.

We need to practise more practically ASEAN Centrality and neutrality, not just as rhetoric or on paper, in its external engagement by strengthening ASEAN-led mechanisms. Most importantly, ASEAN must stick to the consensus decision-making and policy-making principle instead of

trying to propose some disadvantageous principles such as marginalization of an ASEAN member state or the "ASEAN Minus X" formula in political issues.

It hardly sees any gain from foreign interventions by powerful states and organizations. Instead, it used to end up prolonging armed conflicts and disunity among the people of the concerned countries with no hope for peace and stability.

The earlier precedents have proven it affirmatively.

As ASEAN has very good relations with all major powers who are contributing to the ASEAN-led mechanisms, ASEAN is in a prime position to turn the trends of competition into the spirit of cooperation while firmly holding ASEAN's principles, ASEAN Spirit and ASEAN Way.



## OPINION

### Expect a heaven life for people with electrification

**E**LECTRICITY is essential for global peoples in their daily routines. The supply of electricity helps operations of production in the manufacturing sector and daily household chores of the people in order to ease their work processes.

The people passing their lives with the use of oil lamps prefer to use electricity for enjoying a higher living standard. Electricity contributes to building a better society with smooth processes in various sectors such as education, health, economy, agriculture, livestock and so on.

The government is striving for electrifying the whole nation in 2030 under the national electrification plan. Hence, it is necessary to

apply renewable energy such as hydropower, wind power and solar power to cut the cost of generating electricity without harming the environment.

In so doing, solar power needs to take the shortest time for generating electricity among other types of renewable energy. Hydropower plants cannot generate electricity quickly, as these projects need at least five years for completion. The quickest generation of electricity is from solar power plants, and even these take about one and a half years to complete. Whatever it may be, it is necessary to search for the best way of generating electricity in time for the people.

According to the current political situation, CNG prices have increased sharply. But Myanmar lacks sufficient natural gas for consumption. The country has to repair gas-fired power stations to electrify the

people. Up to now, people do not have a sufficient supply of electricity.

Thus, the recently-released news stated that a total of 29 hydropower stations, one coal-fired power station, 28 natural gas-fired power stations and 610 diesel generators as well as two solar-powered stations are generating 7,121 megawatts of electricity in the entire nation.

Some 50 per cent of the total generating capacity of electricity is from hydropower. It was reported that a total of 60 renewable energy projects, including hydropower, wind power and solar power projects, will be implemented to generate 6,287 megawatts of electricity.

Efforts are being made to supply the national grid with 442 megawatts of electricity from Upper Yeywa Hydropower Project, Upper Kengtung Hydropower Project and Thahtay Hydropower Project. Arrangements are also ongoing to implement other hydropower projects.

In the near future, the country enjoying fruits of peace and prosperity will have the chance to efficiently use electricity generated in various forms in the implementation of the electricity projects for the people to possess a heaven life.

## A Glimpse of Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar through the AHA Centre

### Genesis

Around the globe, humanitarian assistance programs are proliferated as conflicts become rampant. As the situation on the ground has intensified, multiple programs relating to humanitarian assistance comprising humanitarian delivery and work plan made attempts to take a foothold based on circumstantial conditions regardless of geographical scopes.

Resulting from the request for provision of humanitarian assistance to Myanmar by the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, in consideration of the rapidly growing numbers of infections and severity of COVID-19 second wave, during the course of the 54<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in August 2021, addressed to Brunei, then a rotating Chair of ASEAN, ASEAN accepted and took initiative for the introduction of humanitarian assistance through the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre).

In line with Point 4 of the Five-Point Consensus reached at the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting held on 24 April 2021, the Secretary-General of ASEAN was mandated to lead the provision of humanitarian assistance to Myanmar through the AHA Centre.

With the purpose of providing humanitarian assistance to Myanmar, Secretary-General held a pledging conference via video conference on 18 August 2021. The Pledging Conference resulted from countries' donations amounted to USD 700,000, AUD 5,000,000, EUR 370,000 in cash and other in-kind contributions.

Such donations were made through AHA Centre by the ASEAN's Dialogue Partner Countries including the ASEAN Member States and other External Partner Countries.

Humanitarian assistance in the forms of money transfer and materials was accepted and managed through the AHA Centre's special account in ASEAN Secretariat.

### On Executive Paper

In accord with the AHA's Executive Paper for ASEAN's Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar to Implement Point 4 of the Five-Point Consensus, the humanitarian assistance process was implemented in two phases: The life-Saving phase and the Life-Sustaining phase. These phases of implementation were led by the Executive Director of the AHA Centre and supervised by the Operations Director of AHA Centre in collaboration with respective officials and the team

from the ASEAN Secretariat including the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) as the primary partner in Myanmar.

### Myanmar's willingness

With the approval of the Government of Myanmar, Myanmar Task Force was established with a view to smoothly facilitate policy matters to the operations of the whole humanitarian assistance process in achieving AHA's mission goals formulated and implemented on the actual ground in coordination.

Phase one of Life-Saving works began its implementation on the ground in close cooperation with Myanmar Task Force's Working Group. The Working Group was established to facilitate AHA Centre on ground operation. The Working Group is comprised of competent departmental officials from the ministries concerned across Myanmar. Union Minister of the Ministry of International Cooperation acted as the Chair of the Myanmar Task Force supported by the Union Minister of Health and the Union Minister of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement as Co-Chairs.

Starting from September 2021 to May 2022, a total of eight times of Myanmar Task Force Meetings were held. Matters on policy guidance and policy

relating to the humanitarian assistance process were precisely coordinated and made for effective measures to smooth implementation of humanitarian assistance works on the ground coordinated by Working Group members. With a view to formulating policy guidance from Task Force, Working Group headed by Deputy Director-General of ASEAN Affairs Department held a total of eleven times of meeting with AHA Centre via video conference on a wide range of topics covered by humanitarian assistance process.

### Cambodia's Efforts

Soon after assuming rotating Chair of ASEAN, Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair, Cambodia Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation paid his first working visit to Myanmar from 21 March to 23 March 2022 accompanied by the Secretary of State responsible for the process of humanitarian assistance.

During his visit to Myanmar, the rotating Chair of ASEAN, Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation cordially discussed matters relating to the provision of humanitarian assistance to Myanmar with Myanmar's Union

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Union Minister of International Cooperation in a friendly manner.

As a step to boost the programme of the visit, Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation accompanied by ASEAN Secretary-General visited the Warehouses of Myanmar Red Cross Society located in Thanlyin, Yangon to monitor the storage of the AHA Centre's donated items for Phase 1.

### Progress & Achievement

Phase-1 of Life-Saving lasted for seven months beginning in August 2021 soon after the Pledging Conference, a video conference made between the Union Minister for Ministry of International Cooperation in his capacity as Chair of Myanmar Task Force and Secretary-General as Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator. One day before holding a video conference with the Union Minister for the Ministry of International Cooperation, ASEAN Secretary-General had a meeting with Union Minister for Health to discuss how best to facilitate providing vaccines relating to Covid-19 treatment within Myanmar.

From October 2021 to June 2022, Cambodia's Secretary of

State responsible for humanitarian assistance visited Myanmar two times, firstly from 18 to 24 April and secondly from 7 to 11 June 2022. In the course of his visit, matters of implementation relating to the provision of humanitarian assistance to Myanmar were discussed in a cordial manner. During his visit, Cambodia's Secretary of State had a meeting with the Union Minister of Health over important matters.

Before Phase 2 of Life-Sustaining has to be effectively implemented, the Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for International Cooperation actively participated in Consultative Meeting held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 6 May 2022. During the course of the Consultative Meeting, ways and means to achieve substantive progress in providing humanitarian assistance throughout Myanmar are practically exchanged between Myanmar Delegation and those participants.

The Consultative Meeting discussed ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Delivery Arrangement, Joint Vaccination Framework for ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar, Operational Challenges in provision of ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar and ASEAN-UN collaboration for ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar.

Myanmar agreed in principle to carry out the Joint Vaccination Framework for ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar with an operation team of 50:50 between MOH and partners as well as to conduct pilot projects in the areas identified by Myanmar Task Force. Deputy Ministers for Health and Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement also participated in the Consultative Meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

With a view to commencing Phase 2 of Life-Sustaining, Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) works were introduced in Bago Region (Kyaukkyi), Shan State (Pindaya) and Kayah State (Loikaw) by AHA and ERAT team members with the support of respective local authorities.

The success of JNA in designated areas by the AHA Centre was due to the fruitful support of the Myanmar Task Force in tandem with respective competent authorities of concerned States and Regions in Myanmar.

### Myanmar's commitment

Time has passed over one month, and Myanmar is eagerly awaiting efforts to secure the second phase of provision of the humanitarian assistance as the Government of Myanmar has given green light to do so in Mon State, Shan State, Kayah State,

Rakhine State, Bago Region, Magway Region and Sagaing Region respectively.

Based on the JNA results, the AHA Centre has come to a halt to continue to the second phase of Life-Sustaining as projected in the work plan.

It is observed that the Myanmar government by its agencies and government relating organizations including competent authorities has carried out the obligation to their fullest extent in collaboration with not only the AHA team but also the ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN ERAT) throughout the whole process of humanitarian assistance.

Myanmar has fully complied with cherished principles of humanitarian assistance in the operations conducted by the AHA Centre and filed works in Joint Needs Assessment in areas designated by AHA in close collaboration with respective local authorities within the parameters of Myanmar's territory where security is put as the first priority.

It is a firm wishful desire that such a humanitarian situation in Myanmar would come to a complete end as when a conducive environment happens in the soonest possible means.

MOFA MYANMAR

## Omicron, sub-lineages circulating predominantly in India: Report



Delhi on 6 August recorded 2311 Covid cases with a positivity rate of 13.84 per cent. PHOTO: AFP

**T**HE Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG), in a weekly meeting, reviewed the data of genomic surveillance of variants and found that at present, Omicron and its sub-lineages are the predominant mutations that are circulating in India.

"Presently, only Omicron and its sub-lineages are the predominant circulating variants in India," sources told ANI today.

"The COVID-19 cases are rising, but hospitalization and deaths are still less," said sources.

"We review the data every week, but there is no need to panic at all because hospitalization hasn't increased and no

new variant has been found so far," added sources.

INSACOG will release its bulletin regarding the presence of Omicron sub-lineages soon.

### Dominant variant in India

According to the bulletin issued on 11 July by INSACOG, Omicron and its sub lineages continue to be the dominant variant in India. "BA.2.75 sub-variant has acquired more mutations in spike protein and other genes of the SARS-CoV-2," and it also mentioned that the variant is being closely monitored.

INSACOG is jointly initiated by the Union Ministry of Health and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) with the Council

for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

"COVID-19 is a cyclical viral disease like many others. Immunity from infection is short-lived for coronaviruses, unlike measles or chicken pox viruses. Newer Omicron sub-lineages are especially capable of leaping past the immunity generated by older versions of the same variant," said Dr Rajeev Jayadevan, co-Chairman of National Indian Medical Association's COVID-19 task force.

"The longer we are past the recent infection or the last vaccine dose, the more the number of susceptible people in a

region. Many people are not following basic precautions now, and therefore making the virus spread by aerosol is easier. The public must understand that the virus has not gone away," he said further.

The national capital on Friday recorded 2,419 new COVID-19 cases, which is the highest in six months.

India recorded as many as 19,406 fresh COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, informed the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Saturday.

The tally of COVID-19 cases is now at 4,41,26,994 including 1,34,793 active cases. Active cases account for 0.31 per cent of the total cases.

### The recovery rate

The recovery rate is currently at 98.50 per cent. As many as 19,928 recoveries from the infection were logged in the last 24 hours thereby increasing the total recoveries to 4,34,65,552.

The single-day rise of 49 fatalities has pushed India's COVID-19 death toll to 5,26,649, the government data added.

The daily positivity rate, as per the government data, is at 4.96 per cent and the weekly positivity rate is at 4.63 per cent. The data further informed that 87.75 crore of total tests have been conducted so far of which 3,91,187 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours.

SOURCE: ANI



## Myanmar SEOM Leader, ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Pillar

### FROM PAGE-7

In the realization of ASEAN's future political, economic and social goals with a 'unity in diversity' spirit.

Principles and objectives enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, the declarations, sectoral cooperation agreements, and other instruments of ASEAN play the main mechanism in shaping future political, economic and social goals through the 'Unity in Diversity' spirit.

In addition, Bali Concord II also called on ASEAN to nurture common values, share information on common issues such as environmental degradation, maritime security, and defence, and develop a set of socio-political values and principles.

For realizing the equitable economic development goals of ASEAN, technical assistance and capability-building programmes for public and private sectors

have been implemented under the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) program.

ASEAN proved its successful integration into the global economy through the establishment of Free Trade Areas (FTA) with China, Hong Kong (China), Japan, the Republic of Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand. The world's largest Free Trade Agreement, Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which was signed by ASEAN and its FTA partners entered into force recently.

The reason that ASEAN is integrated into the global economy as a powerful group in the last 55 years has shown strong evidence of diversity can be an asset.

**Q: As the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 is approaching its completion in 2025, what new visions ASEAN should be considered and what new goals**

**should be set for the ASEAN Community's post-2025 periods?**

**A:** At the 37th ASEAN Summit in 2020, the ASEAN leaders announced the Ha Noi Declaration on the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 vision for the development of the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision and attendant document(s). ASEAN Leaders agreed that the development of a Post-2025 Vision shall be pursued in a comprehensive, pragmatic, balanced, inclusive and coordinated manner.

For developing ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision, the High-Level Task Force on the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision (HLTF-ACV), which consists of 10 Eminent Persons and 10 High-Level Representatives, was established in 2021. Up to now, the two meetings of HLTF-ACV were conducted and discussed the possible core elements for the post-2025 vision. HLTF-ACV meetings will continue

this year to finalize the core elements for consideration by ASEAN leaders.

The core elements for ASEAN Community's post-2025 vision may consider geopolitical dynamics which can impact the stability of ASEAN and economic and social affairs, and increased protectionism. In addition, core elements should include collective measures to address emerging issues such as transnational crimes, energy crisis, climate change, digitalization, cyber security, and future pandemic. Moreover, core elements that would strengthen ASEAN as an open, inclusive, rules-based community, and enhance external relations that strictly adhere to ASEAN Centrality and complementarity on the development agenda of sub-region groups including the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) may be required to include in the post-2025 vision. ■

## CRIME NEWS

### Illegal timbers, consumer goods, cosmetics, foodstuffs and vehicles confiscated

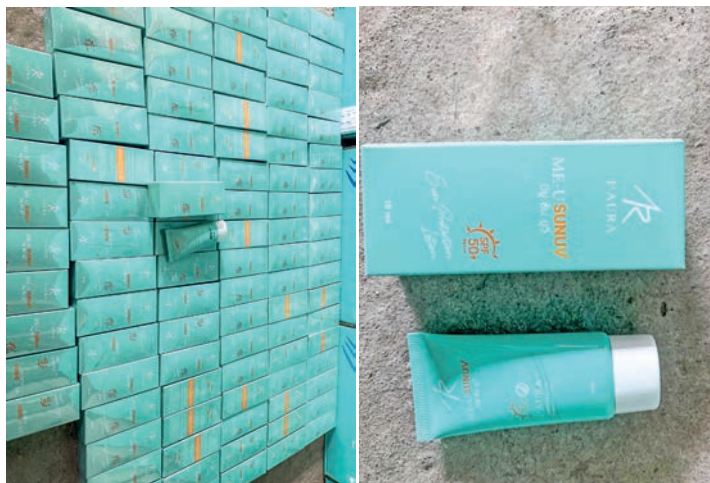
SUPERVISED by the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, effective action is being taken to prevent illegal trade under the law.

Under the instructions of the Investigation and Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force of the Customs Department, an on-duty team made inspections on 5 August.

Officials captured K33,034,320 worth of consumer goods and cosmetics that were different from the Import Declaration (ID) from a Mitsubishi 12-wheel truck (approximately K25 million) between Yemon village and Nyaungtathan village in Hlegu township, according to information. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, on 5 August, a combined team led by the Dawei District Crime Suppression Department made inspections under the management of the Taninthayi Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force.

They confiscated 95 cartons of duty-free Singha Beer worth K2,375,000 at a market in Dawei township. The action was taken under the Myanmar Alcoholic



Seized cosmetics in Mandalay Region.

Beverage Act.

In addition, a combined inspection team led by the Forest Department captured a total of 1.0652 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K159,780 at about one mile from Yen-an village of Tamu township and a total of 7.6772 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K1,151,580 at the 100/1 milepost on the Kalewa-YeU Road on 5 and 7 August. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 8 August, K91,680,000 worth of cosmetics without official documents were confiscat-

ed from a Canter 6-wheel truck (approximately K11 million) near the Htonbo Tollgate on former Yangon-Mandalay Highway. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Afterwards, on 8 August, a total of 15.3190 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K4,253,360 were captured in Bago, Toungoo and Pyay districts and action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 12 arrests estimated at K171,154,040 were made on 5, 7 and 8 August, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

### Drugs impounded in various townships across Myanmar

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched Ma Chaw's house, which is located at Hleyoe ward in Aungban, Kalaw township at 3:30 pm on 6 August. They seized 3,075 stimulant tablets from the house. The Anti-Drug Police Force searched a motorcycle driven by Kya Pha on the Kengtung-Mongkhun Road near Mongkhun village in Kengtung township at 4 pm. They seized 10,000 stimulant tablets from him. At 12:10 pm, the team searched a Nissan car driven by Sai Nay Min Paing (aka) Sai Naw Hmine on Nyaungshwe-Yaksawk Road in Taunggyi township. They found 10,000 stimulant tablets from him. As an interrogation result, the team found Than Zaw Oo (aka) Maung Pu, who is waiting for drugs near Hekal village, Taungni village-tract in

Nyaungshwe township at 1:30 pm. They seized a motorcycle and K517,500 from him. And the task force stopped and searched a Crown vehicle, driven by Kuntal at the combined checkpoint in Tarsan village of Mongpan township at 5:30 pm on 6 August. They nabbed 15.75 kilogrammes of heroin worth K189 million.

Then, the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a Toyota Alphard car driven by Than Aung (aka) Ar Shein on the Lashio-Muse Union Highway near the Nantpaw Bridge in Namhaum village in Muse township at 6:45 pm on 4 August. The team impounded 500 stimulant tablets and 0.045 kilogramme of Ketamine.

They are prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, the Myanmar Police Force stated. — MNA



An arrestee is seen along with seized heroin and a saloon.

## Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit [www.moi.gov.mm/mal](http://www.moi.gov.mm/mal), [www.moi.gov.mm/km](http://www.moi.gov.mm/km), [www.moi.gov.mm/nlm](http://www.moi.gov.mm/nlm) and [www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper](http://www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper).

News and Periodicals Enterprise

# LOCAL BUSINESS

## Fisheries Dept to farm 1,000 acres of rohu for exports to Bangladesh

FISHERIES Department commenced the induced breeding of rohu starting from the first week of August at a fish hatchery in Chaungshay village by the roadside of Minbya-Pauktaw in Rakhine State. The department is implementing rohu farming on 1,000 acres with an aim to export rohu as the main freshwater fishery product to Bangladesh.

The State is stepping up to improve the livestock sector. As a pilot project, the department under the support of the Rakhine State government established a fish farming zone of commercially important rohu at a place where freshwater fish and shrimp farming is rarely seen.

The department initially implemented a freshwater farming project in freshwater and saltwater farming on 2,500 acres. The company in charge will provide technical and financial assistance to those interested farmers. Rohu from those 1,000 acres will be shipped to neighbouring Bangladesh and

a freshwater fish distribution hub is planned to emerge. The Rakhine State government is coordinating matters to facilitate freshwater and saltwater farming.

In the first year of the project, 100 acres of rohu farming are targeted. One hundred more acres will grow every year. As the fish hatchery developed under Rakhine State's budget has already existed in Rakhine State, there is no need to place an order from Yangon and Ayeyawady regions. The breeders can easily get fish larvae to ramp up livestock production.

"There is a fish hatchery developed under Rakhine State's budget in Chaungshay village by the roadside of Minbya and Pauktaw. The induced breeding has now started and fish larvae will be produced in the upcoming months. Initially, about 200,000-300,000 fish larvae are expected to be reproduced. Freshwater fish farming is seldom found in Rakhine State. The freshwater and saltwater farming zone will create jobs for locals and gener-



Beyond freshwater fish farming on 1,000 acres, saltwater fish farming on 1,500 acres will be implemented harmoniously in Rakhine State. PHOTO: KANU

ate foreign income. The successful production of fish larvae is crucial in fish farming. I am very delighted with the establishment of a fish hatchery in our state. Furthermore, a mixed culture of freshwater prawns and fish will be undertaken as well. Thanks to the support of the Rakhine State government, we will proceed with it," said U Thet Oo, director of the Rakhine State

Fisheries Department.

When the rohu that is exported to Bangladesh can be produced in Rakhine State, it will cut transport charges and maintain the quality of fish. The freshwater rohu is currently supplied by Yangon and Ayeyawady regions. Freshwater fish farming projects will certainly increase the income of the Rakhine State.

Rohu is large enough to be

placed in the market after two years of farming. It reaches an over two-kilogramme size in the second year of farming. To create continuous exports, multiple-batch production is practised for one to two months. Beyond freshwater fish farming on 1,000 acres, saltwater fish farming on 1,500 acres will be implemented harmoniously in Rakhine State. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

## Fuel prices see K200-per-litre hike within one day



This photo taken on 6 August shows a sign displaying the petrol prices at one fuel outlet in Tamway Township.

THE prices of domestic fuel prices increased sharply by K200 per litre, according to the fuel oil market.

The fuel prices fluctuated starting from last July. On 7 August, oil prices stood at K1,615 per litre for Octane 92, K1,665 for Octane 95, K2,025 for premium

diesel and K1,970 for diesel. The prices slid to K1,820 for Octane 92, K1,880 for Octane 95, K2,290 for premium diesel and K2,225 for diesel on 8 August, showing an increase of K200 per litre within one day.

The fuel price hike is tracking the Central Bank of Myan-

mar's foreign exchange policy. The CBM raised the reference exchange rate for a US dollar from K1,850 to K2,100.

That recent foreign exchange policy came into effect on 8 August.

The market observation that shapes market price trends

still needs to be done.

The Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil is governing the fuel oil storage and distribution sector effectively not to have a shortage of oil in the domestic market and ensuring price stability for energy consumers.

The Petroleum Products Regulatory Department, under the guidance of the committee, is issuing the daily reference rate for oil to offer a reasonable price to energy consumers. The reference rate in Yangon Region is set on the MOPS' price assessment, shipping cost, premium insurance, tax, other general cost and health profit per cent.

The rates for regions and states other than Yangon are evaluated after adding the transport costs and the retail reference rates daily cover on the state-run newspapers and are posted on the media and official website and Facebook

page of the department on a daily basis starting from 4 May.

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. The domestic fuel price is highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss between the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices compared to that of Myanmar. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies and the prices are about 60 per cent cheaper than those in Myanmar. Every country lays down different patterns of policy to fix the oil prices. Myanmar also poses only a lower tax rate on fuel oil and strives for energy consumers to buy the oil at a cheaper rate. — NN/GNLM

# ECONOMY WORLD

## Hungary hits Ryanair with fine over inflation tax



(FILES) In this file photo taken on 1 July 2022 a Ryanair Boeing 737-8AS aircraft lands at El Prat airport in Barcelona. Hungary slapped a fine on Irish airline Ryanair on 8 August 2022 for passing on to customers the cost of a special tax that Budapest has imposed on some companies in response to surging inflation. **PHOTO: AFP**

HUNGARY slapped a fine on Irish airline Ryanair on Monday for passing on to customers the cost of a special tax that Budapest has imposed on some companies in response to surging inflation.

The Irish budget airline was fined 300 million forints (\$780,000) due to “a violation of the law as the airline misled consumers through unfair business practices”, Justice Minister Judit Varga wrote on Facebook.

Varga said she wanted to “protect the Hungarian people”

against the rising cost of living amid high inflation and the war in Ukraine.

Prime Minister Viktor Orban’s government has imposed the windfall tax on certain companies to finance his policy of placing a ceiling on energy and food prices.

The tax has added between 10 and 25 euros (\$10.2 and \$25.5) per ticket since 1 July. Ryanair has passed the cost on to its customers.

Ryanair said in a statement that it had not received official

notification from Hungarian authorities but that it would immediately appeal “any baseless fine”.

It said that European Union rules allow airlines to set ticket prices without any interference from national governments and would appeal to EU courts if necessary.

Ryanair chief executive Michael O’Leary has derided the tax as “idiotic” and “highway robbery”, saying it will lead to a “dramatic” fall in air traffic in Hungary.—AFP

### No recession in Switzerland this year: chief economist

SWITZERLAND does not expect to dip into recession this year despite the threat of an energy supply squeeze, the government’s chief economist said Sunday.

The Swiss economy is “doing well” despite the impact of the war in Ukraine on energy prices, Eric Scheidegger told the SonntagsZeitung newspaper.

He said it was down to companies to steel themselves for the possibility of power shortages in the winter months.

“We may have to revise our economic forecast downwards for next year. The revised forecast will be published on 20 September. However, we do not expect a recession for this year,” Scheidegger said.

“We run the risk of an energy supply bottleneck in winter. If there are persistent production interruptions in the EU and we ourselves have a gas shortage, it becomes problematic. “In our negative scenario, we expect zero growth for 2023 instead of growth of almost two per cent.”

Despite the threat of power shortages and the effects of the war in Ukraine, Scheidegger does not see a serious economic crisis heading towards Switzerland. “At present, the economy is still doing well. Current indicators show that the economy in this country also developed well in the second quarter — after the outbreak of the war in Ukraine,” he said.—AFP

### World’s biggest chocolate plant restarts after health scare

A factory in Belgium billed as the world’s biggest chocolate-making plant said it restarted operations Monday after closing for six weeks to clean up a salmonella contamination.

Three of the 24 production lines at the plant in the town of Wieze resumed and the first delivery took place, said Barry Callebaut, the Swiss company that runs the factory.

The plant — which supplies industry giants such as Hershey, Nestle and Unilever but not to consumers directly — was shut down at the end of June after salmonella bacteria was found in one lot.

Zurich-based Barry Callebaut said it halted shipments and informed clients in time to prevent contaminated choco-



(FILES) In this file photograph taken on 30 June 2022, employees walk next to a vehicle inside the Barry Callebaut production site at Wieze, near Brussels. **PHOTO: AFP**

late making its way to shops.

It identified lecithin, added to smooth food textures, as the source of the contamination, prompting weeks of extensive cleaning. “We remain cautious

because this operation is unprecedented, the process of cleaning and disinfection takes a lot of time,” a Barry Callebaut spokesman, Korneel Warlop, told AFP.—AFP

## EU plan to cut gas use by 15% comes into effect

AN EU plan to cut gas consumption across the bloc by 15 per cent to cope with an energy price crisis spurred by Russia’s war in Ukraine comes into effect on Tuesday.

The EU regulation enshrining the plan agreed two weeks ago by the 27-nation bloc was published Monday in the European Union’s official administrative gazette, with the stipulation it would take force from Tuesday.

“Considering the imminent

danger to the security of gas supply brought about by the Russian military aggression against Ukraine, this regulation should enter into force as a matter of urgency,” it said.

The aim is for the EU to be able to bolster its reserves of gas in time for what is likely to be a very tough winter. European households and businesses are being squeezed by skyrocketing energy prices and reduced Russian gas that several member states are dependent on.

The regulation said that EU countries “shall use their best efforts” to cut gas consumption by “at least 15 per cent” between August this year and March next year, based on how much they used on average over the previous five years.

Some EU countries, though, had carve-outs from strictly following the rule, which was in any case termed a “voluntary demand reduction”.

These were countries not fully connected to the Europe-

an electricity grid or with gas pipelines to other parts of the EU or unable to free up enough pipeline gas to help other member states.

Hungary, which relies on gas piped in directly from Russia, had demanded the exception.

Germany, the EU’s economic powerhouse, took a major share of the 40 per cent of EU gas imports that came from Russia last year.

Should the European Com-

mission see a “severe gas supply shortage” or exceptionally high gas demand emerging, it can ask EU countries to declare an alert for the bloc. That would make gas cuts binding and limit exceptions.

While the EU has not included Russian gas in its sanctions on Moscow for the war in Ukraine, the Kremlin has drastically cut supplies anyway in what Brussels seems as an attempt to strongarm Europe.—AFP

# Markets struggle as strong US jobs boost Fed rate hike bets

MARKETS struggled Monday and the dollar held big gains as a blockbuster US jobs report ramped up bets that the Federal Reserve will announce more sharp interest rate hikes as it tries to tame runaway inflation.

While the employment reading — which was more than twice as high as expected — indicated the world's top economy remained resilient despite rising prices and borrowing costs, it will complicate the bank's plans to tighten monetary policy.

Traders have hoped that with several indicators pointing to a slowdown, including GDP figures showing a technical

recession, policymakers could begin to ease back on their pace of rate hikes.

Now, speculation is growing that the Fed will have to announce a third successive 75 basis-point increase next month, particularly as officials have said their decisions will be data-dependent.

"Friday's payroll report indicates an overheated labour market that continues to tighten further," said SPI Asset Management's Stephen Innes.

"Hence at minimum, the markets expect another 100 basis points of Fed funds rate increases over the next three meetings... with risks skewed towards significant increases."



People walk past an electronic display of the Hang Seng Index in Hong Kong on 4 August 2022. PHOTO: AFP

All eyes are now on the release this week of US July inflation data, which is expected to show

a slight slowdown from June but still at four-decade highs.

The "report seems

very unlikely to offer 'compelling evidence' of a slowdown needed for the Fed to pull away from its

aggressive inflation-fighting mode." Innes added.

The jobs figures left Wall Street's main indexes mixed Friday, and Asia followed suit with markets fluctuating in early trade.

However, there was some relief that tensions had calmed since Nancy Pelosi's visit to Chinese Taipei last week sparked a furious reaction from China that saw it conduct days of live-fire military drills around the island, which continued Monday.

Hong Kong fell with little excitement generated by news that the city will cut the amount of time incoming travellers must spend in hotel quarantine.—AFP

## Japan's SoftBank reports record quarterly net loss

JAPAN'S SoftBank Group on Monday reported a record quarterly net loss of \$23.4 billion, after interest rate hikes tanked tech shares.

The telecom firm-turned-investment behemoth posted a net loss of 3.16 trillion yen, nosediving from a net profit of 761.5 billion yen in the same April-June period the previous year.

"Global stock declines and the rapid depreciation of the yen" contributed to the slump, CEO Masayoshi Son told reporters.



The logo of Japan's SoftBank Group is displayed at an entrance of their headquarters building in Tokyo on 8 August 2022. PHOTO: AFP

A company statement elaborated, blaming the

"global downward trend in share prices due to growing concerns over

economic recession driven by inflation and rising interest rates".

SoftBank's big stakes in global tech giants and volatile new ventures have made for unpredictable earnings, and it has lurched between record highs and lows in recent years. The portfolio companies that suffered large losses for the quarter included South Korean e-commerce giant Coupang and US meal delivery platform DoorDash, SoftBank Group said.—AFP

## Japan's January-June current account surplus down 63% to 8-year low

JAPAN'S current account surplus shrank 63.1 per cent in the first half of 2022 from a year earlier to 3.51 trillion yen (\$25.9 billion), the lowest in eight years due to a major goods trade deficit stemming largely from a higher oil price and the weak yen, the Finance Ministry said Monday.

The surplus in the current account balance, one of the widest gauges of international trade, fell to the lowest level since it sank into the red in the first half of 2014, according to the ministry's preliminary report.

The fall was also the second steepest for a half-year period following the second half of 2008, when a global financial crisis was sparked by the collapse of US securities firm Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc, data showed. Among key components, the resource-poor country had a goods trade deficit of 5.67 trillion yen and a service trade deficit that expanded to 2.49 trillion yen from 2.09 trillion yen in the first half of 2021, according to the ministry.—Kyodo

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (230W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (230W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-8-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V IRIS MIKO VOY.NO. (21S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V IRIS MIKO VOY.NO. (21S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-8-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

### MYANMA Port Authority "NOTICE of High Tide"

EXCEPTIONALLY high spring from 20.14 feet to 21.13 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of August 11<sup>th</sup> to August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

Ads Call 09251022355  
09974424848

# GLOBAL AFFAIRS

## Any attack on a nuclear plant 'suicidal': UN chief Guterres

ANY attack on a nuclear plant is "suicidal", United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned Monday after fresh shelling hit a huge atomic power complex in southern Ukraine.

Moscow and Kyiv blame each other for the latest strike at the Zaporizhzhia plant, Europe's largest nuclear power site, which has been under Russian control since the early days of the war.

The fighting on Friday at the plant has prompted the UN's nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to warn of "the very real risk of a nuclear disaster".

At a press conference in Tokyo, Guterres condemned such attacks without saying either side was responsible.

"We support the IAEA on



UN Secretary-General António Guterres (C) speaks during a press conference at the National Press Club in Tokyo on 8 August 2022. PHOTO: AFP

their efforts in relation to create the conditions of stabilization of that plant," he said.

"Any attack to a nuclear plant is a suicidal thing. I hope that those attacks will end, and at the

same time I hope that the IAEA will be able to access the plant."

His comments followed a vis-

it to Hiroshima over the weekend, where Guterres gave a speech to mark the 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the world's first nuclear bomb attack.

In the Japanese city on Saturday, he warned that "humanity is playing with a loaded gun" as crises with the potential for nuclear disaster proliferate worldwide, from Ukraine to the Middle East and the Korean peninsula.

The Portuguese 73-year-old also delivered a stark warning against the horrors of atomic weapons a week ago in New York at a key nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty conference, which he reiterated on Monday. "We are witnessing a radicalization in the geopolitical situation that makes the risk of a nuclear war again something we cannot completely forget," he said. —AFP

## Kremlin accuses Kyiv of nuclear plant shelling, warns of 'catastrophic consequences'

THE Kremlin on Monday accused Ukrainian forces of firing on the Zaporizhzhia atomic power plant, warning against potential "catastrophic consequences" for Europe.

"The shelling of the territory of the nuclear plant by the Ukrainian armed forces is a potentially extremely dangerous activity... fraught with catastrophic consequences for a vast area, including the territory of Europe," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

He called on Ukraine's al-

lies "to use their influence to prevent the continuation of such shelling".

Moscow and Kyiv have blamed each other for strikes on the atomic power plant, where recent fighting sparked a UN warning of a potential nuclear disaster.

Zaporizhzhia — Europe's largest atomic power complex that was occupied by Russia early in its offensive — has in recent days been the scene of military strikes that have damaged several structures, forcing the shutdown of a reactor.—AFP



(FILES) In this file photo taken on 27 April 2022 shows a general view of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, situated in the Russian-controlled area of Enerhodar, seen from Nikopol. PHOTO: AFP

## Gas crunch pushes German glassmaker to the brink

IN 400 years, Heinz-Glas, one of the world's biggest producers of glass perfume bottles, has seen off many crises — including the two World Wars and the oil shock of the 1970s in the last century alone.

But Germany's current energy emergency strikes at the heart of its very existence.

"We are experiencing an exceptional situation," Murat Agac, deputy chief executive of the family-owned company founded in 1622, told AFP.

"If there is a halt in gas supplies... then glass production will very likely disappear" from Germany, he said.

To make glass, sand is heated to temperatures of up to 1,600 degrees Celsius (2,912 degrees Fahrenheit) and gas is the most



An employee inspects flacons on an assembly line at the German glass producer Heinz-Glas Group in Kleintettau, Germany on 3 August 2022. PHOTO: AFP

frequently chosen source of energy.

Until recently, a glut of gas flowing to Germany via a pipeline from Russia had helped keep production costs low,

allowing Heinz-Glas to book annual revenues of some 300 million euros (\$305 million). With competitive prices, exports made up 80 per cent of the glassmaker's total output. —AFP

## Sri Lanka frees Stalin on bail after arrest draws outcry

A Sri Lankan court on Monday released on bail top leftist trade union leader Joseph Stalin, whose arrest had sparked international condemnation and widespread protests.

Police have arrested scores of people on charges of damage to public property during months of protests, which peaked with the flight and resignation of

president Gotabaya Rajapaksa in July.

Stalin, 57, was arrested on Thursday for contempt after he participated in an anti-government demonstration that was banned by a court in May. Stalin, named after the late Soviet leader by his staunch communist father, thanked UN Human Rights Council officials who had called

for his release and fellow activists who demonstrated across Sri Lanka demanding his freedom. "The government cannot intimidate us through arrests, there are at least another 50 protesters who are held across the country," Stalin told AFP, vowing to continue agitating against the new president, Ranil Wickremesinghe.—AFP

# SPORT



## African players in Europe: Salah, Mane score as season starts

AFRICAN superstars and former Liverpool teammates Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane scored at the weekend as new league seasons dawned in Europe.

Egyptian Salah scored on the opening day of the Premier League for a sixth straight season to salvage a 2-2 draw for Liverpool at Fulham.

Senegalese Mane, who left Anfield for Bayern Munich during the close season, netted as the reigning German champions ran riot at Eintracht Frankfurt to triumph 6-1 in the Bundesliga.

Here, AFP Sport highlights some of the Africans who created headlines at the weekend:

### ENGLAND

**MOHAMED SALAH** (Liverpool)

He helped rescue a point for the 2022 runners-up as they were unexpectedly held to a 2-2 draw by promoted Fulham. Jurgen Klopp's men were still behind with 10 minutes left when a long ball towards substitute Darwin Nunez caused

panic among the Fulham defenders. The ball eventually fell kindly to Salah, who netted from close range.

### MOHAMMED SALISU (Southampton)

It was a match to forget for the Ghanaian defender and his Saints teammates as they suffered a 4-1 hiding at Tottenham Hotspur despite scoring the opening goal. Spurs were 2-1 ahead when, just after the hour mark, the off-balance Salisu made the game safe for the London club by turning a cross from South Korean Son Heung-min into his own net.

### GERMANY

**SADIO MANE** (Bayern Munich)

Reigning African Footballer of the Year Mane picked up where he left off in Liverpool colours, scoring on his Bundesliga debut as Bayern thrashed UEFA Europa League title-holders Eintracht. Mane, who also scored in the German champions' 5-3 Super Cup win over RB Leipzig, helped assuage those Bayern fans who are concerned their side may be toothless up front after the loss of Poland forward Robert Lewandowski to Barcelona. —AFP

## Formula One great Hamilton thinking of extending career beyond 2023

SEVEN-TIME world champion Lewis Hamilton has said he could continue in Formula One beyond the finish of his current contract with Mercedes.

The 37-year-old Briton won six drivers' world championships in seven years between 2014-2020 following a maiden title success with McLaren in 2008. But he was denied a record-breaking eighth title last year by Max Verstappen in a dramatic battle for the Championship that went all the way to the finish of the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

But the 2022 campaign has so far seen Hamilton left well behind by Red Bull's Verstappen, who now appears firmly on course to retain his title. Hamilton's current contract will keep him with Mercedes until next year and, with the prospect of a record-breaking eighth title in his sights, he told Vanity Fair magazine he was "still on the mission". —AFP

Liverpool's Egyptian striker Mohamed Salah celebrates after scoring their second goal during the English Premier League football match between Fulham and Liverpool at Craven Cottage in London on 6 August 2022. PHOTO: JUSTIN TALLIS / AFP

## Myanmar welcomes back victorious athletes at 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games 2022



Triumphant athletes are cheerfully welcomed at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

MYANMAR athletes with disabilities earned 14 gold medals, 12 silver medals and 17 bronze medals, ranked sixth place in the whole team at the 11th ASEAN Para Games in

Surakarta (Solo), Indonesia from 30 July to 6 August.

The Myanmar Paralympic Sports Team arrived back at Yangon International Airport by the Myanmar National Air-

lines' chartered flight yesterday morning.

Deputy Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Myo Hlaing, Yangon Region cabinet members, officials of the De-



partment of Sports and Physical Education, athletes from the Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Yangon) and officials from Myanmar Paralympic Sports Federation delightfully welcomed them back at the Yangon International Airport. The victorious Myanmar sports team bagged nine golds, seven silvers and 11 bronze medals in athletics,

five golds, three silvers and two bronzes in swimming, one bronze in the football event, two silvers and two bronzes in weightlifting and one bronze medal in archery, altogether 43 medals and Myanmar missed medals in volleyball and goalball events. The 12th ASEAN Para Games will be hosted by Cambodia in June 2023. — MNA



## Myanmar seals semi-final spot with 1-0 victory over Cambodia



The Myanmar U-16 team celebrate the victory after beating the Cambodian team 1-0 at the 2022 ASEAN U-16 Championship Group (C) in Indonesia on 8 August. **PHOTO: AFF**

THE final day of the 2022 ASEAN U-16 Championship Group (C) continued yesterday in Indonesia, where the Myanmar team beat Cambodia 1-0 and advanced to the semi-finals.

On the last day of Group C, Malaysia and Australia also drew with two goals each. The Myanmar team tried their best to advance to the semi-finals and won with a goal scored at the beginning of the second half.

Team Myanmar made a few changes to the starting line-up that was used for two consecutive matches against Malaysia and Australia.

Since the Myanmar team needed to win to enter the semi-finals, they played an open

attack from the kick-start. The Cambodian team also played their best as they have hopes of entering the semi-finals if they get a big win.

The Cambodian team played defensively to avoid scoring, so the Myanmar team had to attack hard.

Although the Cambodian team could only penetrate occasionally, they were able to threaten the Myanmar net.

In the first half, both teams failed to score and it was a goalless draw. At the beginning of the second half, the Myanmar team scored the winning goal, and team captain Lin Htet Oo scored through a penalty kick.

After scoring the goal, the

Myanmar team played to maintain the winning result.

Cambodian team tried to score an equalizing goal, but Myanmar's defence did not allow any goal.

After the group (C) matches, the Myanmar team won two games out of three games with one draw. Team Myanmar ranked first in the group with seven points and advanced to the semi-finals.

The Malaysian team lost their place in the semi-finals as they failed to beat Australia.

The semi-final matches will continue on 10 August with Thailand facing Vietnam and Indonesia taking on team Myanmar. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

## Myanmar University Wushu, sports teams arrive back

RECTORS, officials from the Ministry of Education, the deputy director-general of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, the Myanmar Wushu Federation president, officials and students welcomed back the Myanmar University Wushu team, which competed in the 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN University Games yesterday evening.

The Myanmar University Wushu team consists of Myat Noe Eain, Aye Thitsa Myint and Khant Min Htet led by Mandalay University Rector Dr Tin Htun, Coach Daw Swe Swe Thant participated in the Wushu competition of the 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN University Games. Three athletes of the Myanmar University Wushu team earned two golds, two silvers and one bronze in six events of the Barehanded and Weapons Competitions.

Similarly, the Myanmar University Sepak Takraw team, including eight athletes led by Pyay University Rector Dr Thet Lwin and officials, arrived back yesterday.



Myanmar University sports teams are warmly welcomed back at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

In addition, the Myanmar University Football team, who had won the bronze medal in the 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN University Games, was welcomed back by Yangon Region Attorney-General U Htay Aung and officials from the Ministry of Education yesterday.

As the Myanmar University sports team competed in Football, Archery, Sepak Takraw, and Wushu tournaments in the 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN University Games, Myanmar bagged two gold medals, two silver medals and two bronze medals. — MNA

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

### 1. Political affairs

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

### 2. Economic affairs

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

### 3. Social affairs

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

## Final group match of Viet Nam U-19 Invitational Tourney to be held today

THE last day of the Viet Nam U-19 Invitational Tournament organized by the Viet Nam Football Federation will continue today, and the Myanmar team will play against the Malaysian team.

Team Myanmar match will begin at 3:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time and host Viet Nam will take on Thailand at 6 pm Myanmar Standard Time.

On the second day of the group game on 7 August, Thailand beat Myanmar 1-0, and Viet Nam beat Malaysia 2-1.

The Vietnamese team won two games and won six points. The Thai team won one game and drew four points. The Malaysian team has won one match, one draw and one loss, while the Myanmar team has lost both matches and has not yet scored a point.

According to the format of the competition, the two teams with the highest points will play the final and the two teams with the lowest points will play the third-place match. According to the standings after the second day of the group, the Vietnamese team has reached the final and the Myanmar team will only have to play the third-place match.

Most of the players in the current Myanmar U-19 team have little international experience, so there is still room for improvement, said football experts. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM