

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing looks round the display exhibited at yesterday's centenary event in Nay Pyi Taw.

## Fully applying economics key to State's economic growth

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing stressed the need to analyze economic crises based on political and economic problems from the point of view of macroeconomics and political economics.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said so at the ceremony to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of economics education in Myanmar at

Economists have to analyze how to tackle the State economy based on basic data of the nation and implement short- and long-term plans for different regions.

Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. Speaking on the occasion, the Sen-

ior General noted that protectionism is prioritized to overcome challenges of geopolitics, geoeconomic tensions, outbreak of pandemics, impacts of natural disasters, trade and monetary problems, technological competitiveness and difficulties of energy security.

He unveiled that the State Administration Council has been striving to overcome disturbances, hindrances and crises in the State economy through various ways and means since its establishment.

He emphasized that priority is given to equal opportunities for the development of all sectors and employment opportunities in relevant areas for national races.

**SEE PAGE 3**

### Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the centenary celebration of economics education in Myanmar

1. Priority is given to equal opportunities for the development of all sectors and employment opportunities in relevant areas for national races.
2. As some 90 per cent of the State GDP depends on the production of private businesses, agro-based industry must be implemented in addition to the development of MSME businesses to raise export volume and reduce import products.
3. Self-interest protection policy is prioritized to overcome challenges of geopolitics, geoeconomic tensions, outbreak of pandemics, impacts of natural disasters, trade and monetary problems, technological competitiveness and difficulties of energy security.

## Article

The Burma Circle of the Geological Survey of India and their Contributions to the Geology of Myanmar

By **THAN HTUN**  
(**GEOSCIENCE MYANMAR**)

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Rare Aungban arrowroots see high demand from Yangon

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YR approves K1,500M+ and \$7.69M in investments, creating 5,255 jobs

## NATIONAL

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Sitagu Cakku Dana Hospital (Yangon) offers free eye donations for 8<sup>th</sup> time

# NATIONAL

## Residents Urged to Stay Vigilant as Terrorists Use Civilians as Human Shields

TERRORISTS launch attacks while hiding behind public houses in towns and villages.

Residents must exercise caution and awareness to avoid these groups, as they use people as human shields in their temporarily controlled areas to successfully combat terrorism.

*(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with members of the Kayah State government, state-level departmental officials, town elders and locals on 4 September 2024.)*

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Press Release

28 November 2024

UNDER Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law, the Union Election Commission (UEC) has reviewed the application submitted by the Public Interest Students' Party for continued registration. Based on verification reports from relevant ministries, it was found that the party did not comply with the provisions stipulated in Section 6 of the Political Parties Registration Law.

As a result, during its plenary meeting No 34/2024, UEC decided to reject the application for party registration. This decision was formally issued on 28 November through Form (G) as prescribed in the Political Parties Registration Rules.

*Union Election Commission*

## Deep Depression News, No 11, 2024

28 November, 2024 19:00 MST Today

### Deep Depression


According to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the Deep Depression over Southwest Bay of Bengal has moved slowly north-north-eastwards. It is centred at about 715 nautical miles west-southwest of CoCo Island (Myanmar), 255 Nautical miles south-southeast of Chennai (India). The centre pressure of Deep Depression is 999 hPa and maximum wind speed near the centre is 35-40 miles per hour.

It does not intend to move towards Myanmar coasts at the present stage and therefore the Deep Depression is coded as yellow stage.

### Forecast

It is likely to move nearly northwards and may cross near Sri Lanka Coast during next 12 hours and further intensify into a Cyclonic Storm. Thereafter, it is likely to continue to move north-northwestwards and may cross North Tamil Nadu- Puducherry Coasts (India) as a Deep Depression around of 30 November 2024.

Due to the Deep Depression, rain are likely to be isolated to scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, and Ayeyawady Regions and Shan, Chin, Rakhine, and Kayah States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls from tonight up to 30 November 2024. — DMH

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## Bagan Archaeological Museum sees 33,780 visitors in Apr-Nov

FROM April to November, both local and foreign tourists totalling 33,780 visited the Bagan Archaeological Museum, an official from the museum under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture said.

The number of visitor arrivals was just some 2,000 in September. However, it increased to 5,000 in October, the dry season, and there were around 6,900 visitors, according to statistics

until 26 November.

“The visitor arrival to the museum is large in the dry season. For now, there are more than 200 visitors per day regularly on weekdays but there are more

than 400 or even more than 800 on weekends including students. On the day after the full moon day of Tazaungmone, visitor arrivals mounted to 1,000. In the monsoon season, September alone, there were just 2,000 tourists, but ele-

vated again in October to some 5,000 and there were around 6,900 visitors until 26 November. From April 2024 to 25-26 November, the museum received a total of visitor arrival 33,780, earning more than K36 million,” said the official.

The foreign visitor arrival is around 30 a month, he said.

Except on Mondays and public holidays, the museum is open from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, admission is K1,000 for adults per local visitor and free for children under 12 years old and students with school recommendation letter and monks, while it charges K10000 per foreigner.

In the previous financial year, 94,951 local and foreign tourists visited the museum and earned more than K71.9 million, according to statistics. — MT/ZS



The Bagan Archaeological Museum.

# NATIONAL

## Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

*(Excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)*

### FROM PAGE 1

The Senior General pointed out that the capacity to fully apply economics plays a key role in the economic growth of the State.

He noted that emphasis must be placed on raising productivity, quality products and grasping market share for products of the country to increase income for the State by creating incentives for those who strive for the economic development of the nation.

He urged businesspersons, those serving in government organizations and non-government organizations, economists, leaders in the economic development of the nation and investors to actively implement objectives and the roadmap of the State.

He called on economists to analyze how to tackle the State economy based on basic data of the nation and implement short- and long-term plans for different

## Fully applying economics key to State's economic growth

regions.

The Senior General highlighted that only when Myanmar doubles its export volume will it contribute to the development of the nation. Hence, efforts must be made to boost production based on agriculture and livestock tasks. Moreover, it is necessary to improve the industries based on cotton, bamboo and rubber raw materials, he added.

He underscored that as some 90 per cent of the State GDP depends on the production of private businesses, agro-based industry must be implemented in addition to the development of MSME businesses to raise export volume

and reduce imports.

Under the leadership of veteran economists of Myanmar Sayagyi Dr Hla Myint, Dr Aye Hlaing, Dr Maung Shein and Dr Than Nyun in successive eras, the Senior General recounted that universities of economics have turned out 96,696 graduates and are giving training to 19,042 students within 100 years period.

Meanwhile, he explained that Universities of Distance Education have produced 170,930 graduates in economics. Universities in regions and states offer BA (Economics) courses to turn out human resources from an economic point of view.

At the ceremony, the Senior

General and attendees watched a video clip on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Myanmar's economics education.

Patron of the organizing committee Dr Than Nyun spoke words of appreciation while Chairman of the Leading Committee Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw reported on holding the commemorative ceremony.

After the ceremony, the Senior General and party visited the exhibition to mark the centenary celebration of Myanmar's economics education.

Concerning teaching economics education in Myanmar,

the Economics Department was opened under the Social Science Faculty of the Yangon University in 1924. This year falls on the centenary of economics education coincides with the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Yangon University of Economics.

Also present at the ceremony were Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, council members, Union ministers, Union-level dignitaries, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers, officials and students. — MNA/TTA

## Centenary Myanmar Economics and Business Education celebrated

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw attended the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Myanmar Economics and Business Education and paper reading section held with three Parallel Sessions at MICC II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Parallel Session I took place with the theme, "100 Years Journey of Economics in Myanmar: Past, Present and Future", and eight researchers discussed matters related to development, population changes and economic growth during 100 years of Myanmar economics, challenges and opportunities of policymakers in developing countries, reviews on the rural socioeconomic development, three Myanmar cooperatives projects, benefits and challenges in auditing in accord with international standards, potential to implement green economic and social investment for sustainability.

A total of 11 researchers participat-



The celebration event-cum-paper reading session of 100-year Myanmar Economics and Business Education in progress yesterday.

ed in Parallel Session II themed "World Economy, Megatrends and its challenges", and they discussed political economic approach in overcoming geopolitical competition, partner politics and economic challenges, new approaches in facing global economic challenges, analysis on impacts of international development assistance for Myanmar, current global economic affairs and challenges, migrant

workers, sustainable energy resources, ASEAN Economic Community's potential and challenges, measures to promote auditing services, The Global Economic Landscape and Economic Opportunities and Challenges in Myanmar and SME development.

The Parallel Session III was held with The Role of Infrastructure in National Development, and seven researchers dis-

cussed measures to develop basic infrastructure in multi-modal transportation, water distribution and sanity, public housing rental projects, benefits of sketching geological map, natural gas production (2013-2023) and logistics sectors for international trade of Myanmar.

The second-day paper reading sessions and policy paper reading session will take place on 29 November. — MNA/KTZH

# NATIONAL

## MoBA sports teams' training sessions inspected



Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung watches the training session of the men's Sepak Takraw team yesterday.

under the Ministry of Border Affairs, who will participate in the Fifth National Sports Festival.

The Union minister also observed the training sessions of the ministry's Sepak Takraw team, football team, and futsal team and warmly greeted administrators, coaches, and athletes. He called for sports teams to compete with full sportsmanship, bring honour to the ministry, and strive to become nationally renowned athletes.

The sports contingent of the Ministry of Border Affairs is composed of 105 athletes and will compete in five sports categories at the Fifth National Sports Festival. — MNA/TS

UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung yesterday encouraged the students from the University for the Development of the National Races and Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Yangon and Sagaing)

## Preparations at Nay Pyi Taw's sports venues inspected



Union Minister U Min Thein Zan reviews the preparatory activities in sports venues in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

UNION Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan, who chairs the leading organizing committee for the Fifth National Sports Festival inspected the readiness of sports venues in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The Union minister began by visiting sports venues in Zabuthiri Township, including Shwekyapin Sports Ground and Gymnasium, as well as

sports grounds in Pynmana Township, such as Paung Laung Sports Ground and Bawgawady Sports Ground. He reviewed the preparation status of these venues and directed the timely completion of tasks, such as preparation for entrance pathways and installation of backdrop vinyl boards, ensuring cleanliness and greenness within football grounds, maintaining proper

drainage, setting up flagpoles, and providing mobile sanitation facilities.

He then observed training activities at Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex. At Training Ground 2, 260 students from ISPE were practising fitness dance routines, while Training Ground 1 hosted 65 members of a flag-bearing team conducting group rehearsals. — MNA/KZL

## Dining plans for National Sports Festival athletes and officials inspected

DEPUTY Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Phyo Zaw Soe, who also chairs the Accommodation and Catering Subcommittee for the Fifth National Sports Festival, visited accommodation camps in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. He observed the dining arrangements for athletes, officials, coaches, and student performers participating in the opening ceremony.

The deputy minister inspected dining halls prepared for athletes, officials, and coaches. He checked the quality of meals and instructed that food and dishes meet high standards. He also interacted with athletes and coaches during their lunch, offering words of encouragement in a friendly manner.

He also viewed kitchens to

ensure cleanliness and adherence to hygienic standards. He instructed kitchen staff to prepare food in compliance with the guidelines of the Food and Drug Administration and emphasized the importance of wearing clean uniforms and maintaining personal hygiene.

Deputy Minister U Phyo Zaw Soe inspected health clinics, subcommittee offices, and sanitation facilities at the accommodation camps. He checked the use of pest control measures and the operation of water purification systems to ensure the cleanliness of water supplies. Additionally, he reviewed dormitories allocated for administrative teams to ensure they were appropriately prepared. — MNA/KZL



Deputy Minister U Phyo Zaw Soe views the dining arrangements at accommodation camps yesterday.

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# NATIONAL

## MoST Union Minister receives Bangladeshi Ambassador

UNION Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw met Dr Md Monwar Hosain, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar, at the ministry yesterday afternoon.

They exchanged frank views on technological development, human resource development, IT sector development, bilateral cooperation, and friendship enhancement between the two countries. — MNA/TS



The Bangladeshi ambassador calls on Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Kyaw yesterday.

## MSWRR Union Minister receives UNHCR Representative



The UNHCR Representative to Myanmar calls on Union Minister Dr Soe Win yesterday.

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win met Ms Noriko Takagi, UNHCR Representative to Myanmar, and her delegation yesterday in the ministry's hall.

During the meeting, discussions focused on the progress of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the ministry and UNHCR, the coordination provided by the ministry regarding residence permits, entry visas, and domestic travel authorizations for UNHCR's international staff, and UNHCR's humanitarian assistance in flood-impacted regions. Both sides engaged in open and constructive dialogue on these matters. — MNA/KZL

## CLMV, ACMECS Tourism Ministers' & Senior Officials' Meetings continue



The CLMV and ACMECS Tourism Ministers' and Senior Officials' Meetings in progress on 27-29 November in Yangon.

MYANMAR is hosting the Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam (CLMV) and Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) Tourism Ministers' and Senior Officials' Meetings at the Sedona Hotel in Yangon from 27 to 29 November. Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism, Dr Thet Thet Khine, attended the 6<sup>th</sup> ACMECS Tourism Ministers' Meeting held on the morning of 27 November.

The meeting was chaired by Ms Darany Phommavongsa,

Deputy Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism of Laos, and attended by ministers and senior officials from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam.

During the meeting, the Union minister highlighted several key initiatives, including the implementation of a five-country tour to boost tourism in the ACMECS region, following the ACMECS Summit held in Kunming, China, on 7 November 2024, promoting the use of the ACMECS Tourism brand in Myanmar and encouraging its

adoption by all member countries, Myanmar's progress in implementing the ACMECS Tourism Cooperation Plan 2023-2025, the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for tourism and related services in Myanmar, the introduction of visas on arrival for tourists, proposals for inclusion in the press release of the 6<sup>th</sup> ACMECS Tourism Ministers' Meeting, and Myanmar's approval to chair the 6<sup>th</sup> ACMECS Tourism Ministers' and Senior Officials' Meeting.

Following the meeting, the Union minister participated in a press conference. Tourism ministers, senior officials, and representatives from CLMV and ACMECS member countries visited prominent landmarks, including the Cultural Museum, Bogyoke Market, Maha Baddoola Park, and the Shwedagon Pagoda.

In the evening, Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine hosted a dinner for the visiting tourism ministers, senior officials, and representatives. — MNA/TKO

## Myanmar repatriates one citizen from Saudi Arabia

THE government has been making efforts to repatriate Myanmar nationals who are encountering difficulties abroad by coordinating with the Myanmar Consulate-General and relevant embassies to ensure their safe return to Myanmar.

The Myanmar Embassy to Saudi Arabia communicated with the authorities of Dammam to repatriate one Myanmar female citizen, Ma Pyae Thinza Cho, who faced hardships in Dammam, by flight on 26 November from Riyadh, and she arrived back in Yangon on Wednesday evening.

On arrival in Myanmar, the returnee shared the experiences she encountered in other coun-



Ma Pyae Thinza Cho. PHOTO: KANU

tries and thanked the government, the Myanmar Embassy and the Consulate-General for helping her. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

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# NATIONAL BUSINESS

## Shwepadauk Fish Market supplies marine products locally, for export daily



Varieties of fish available for sale at Shwepadauk Fish Market. PHOTO: ZWE MARN



THE Shwepadauk Fish Market, a distribution hub in Yangon, receives daily entry of freshwater and saltwater fishery products and operates distributions for local consumption and export.

The Ayeyawady Region is the leader in freshwater product farming among the three regions, and the market receives about 30 fishery products including rohu and striped catfish weighing about 300,000 visses per day. The freshwater products are transported to the market via land route rather than sea route. The freshwater products from the three regions are mainly exported to European and Middle East countries.

“In early winter, there is entry of freshwater and saltwater products. There are about 100 trucks in one week, and it is nearly 300,000 visses a day. The local freshwater fish farmers can make profits only when there is demand from foreigners. The small-size fish are distributed to the local markets and the marketable ones are exported. The entry of freshwater fish has been high recently. The fish farmers cannot expand the breeding due to the changing market and high production costs. However, they breed for local consumption and export as much as they can. The marine products play a key role in consumption at cheap prices, and so all are urged to work together to develop the maritime products,” said U Aye Ko, chairman

of the Shwepadauk Fish Market development committee.

The market receives over 20 different types of saltwater products including Ikan Batu, peter, barramundi, swamp barb, Batomorphi, cuttlefish, squid, sea tiger prawn and flower

prawn via 10 jetties, weighing over 100,000 visses. Meanwhile, about 300,000 visses of saltwater products were distributed to the market when fish and prawn capture was allowed in Rakhine State.

“The Shwepadauk Fish

Market sees the entry of fish and prawns from the seas, and the transactions are normal. In addition to local consumption, the large-size robin fish, white and black silver pomfret, yellow croaker, snapper, swamp barb, yellow pike conger, sea tiger

prawn, flower prawn and gold prawn are mostly exported. The marine products are exported to China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and Thailand, and a low amount to Singapore. The Chinese suppliers purchase the saltwater products and store them in cold storage,” said Daw Tin Nwe, a saltwater fishery entrepreneur.

The Yangon fish market receives plenty of freshwater and saltwater aquatic products, and freshwater products are abundant in early winter. When the freshwater breeding and fishing areas in the sea decline, it can affect the entry of marine products, the breeders and fishing boat owners suggested.

The Shwepadauk Fish Market is packed with sellers and buyers from 3 am to 6 am, and the distribution processes run after 6 am. The cleanliness activities are operated afternoon, and the market closes at 7 pm. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

## Edible frog prices surge this year

AT present, edible frog farming has thriving and the prices are positive compared year on year, according to edible frog and fish hatcheries.

Edible frog farms have now expanded in Kayan and Thongwa townships as well as in Muse and Myitkyina townships.

“The number of edible frog farms has sharply increased this month, and they are mostly found in Kayan and Thongwa townships as well as in Muse and Myitkyina. Frog price and trade have been better this year compared to last year. The number of consumers has risen too,” said Ko Paing Thu, a frog and fish hatchery owner from Kayan Township.

Rising feed costs and transport barriers resulted in most frog farms stopping in 2023. However, frog prices have been better again this year, making the number of farms expand again.



This image captures an edible frog.

Myanmar native frogs can give protein, fatty acid, carbohydrate, iron, Vitamin A, Vitamin B 1, Vitamin B2 and Vitamin C and they are a creature helpful to farmers. Frog farming is perfect for either commercial or small-scale production. — Thit Taw/ZS

## Rare Aungban arrowroots see high demand from Yangon

ACCORDING to the fruit market of Aungban Township, most of its arrowroots have been ordered from Yangon at a time of its less stock.

“It’s almost time for arrowroots to be out of season, but they are buying a lot of them. Orders are from all areas—Yangon, Mandalay, and Myeik. Yangon tops among them. Yangon’s being a zone may be one reason. Yangon is the place where most of the crops are sold. The wholesale prices of arrowroots decreased from K2,000-2,500 a viss to K1,300 and increased again to K1,500,” said an arrowroot farmer in Aungban.

Come January, arrowroots will be almost out of stock in the market.

“Vegetables and roots go down in price when they are plentiful. When they are scarce, they rise a little bit.



This image shows Aungban arrowroots being prepared for the market.

Arrowroots will be rare in December. Roots will be smaller again. If it is in January, it will be almost out of season. All the roots such as sweet potato, arrowroots and taro roots are available before Thadingyut, when we could dig them. People are also buying in the market. At that time, they are ripe,” he continued. — Thit Taw/ZN

## Export-based rice reserve hits 800,000 bags with exporters' cooperation

PRESIDENT U Ye Min Aung of the Myanmar Rice Federation said at a press conference on 27 November that there are about 800,000 bags of rice in the export-based reserved rice system implemented by the cooperation of exporters at the rice centre.

A total of Fifteen per cent Aemahta of fairly good rice quality has been stored as reserved rice, he added.

“We have made an export-based rice reserve system like the national reserved rice. Export-based is the par-

ticipation of traders and exporters. So, for every tonne of rice exported, one bag of rice is added to the reserve system. This is done with the cooperation of exporters at the rice centre. This programme has now about 800,000 bags of rice, the main variety is 15-mark Aemahta. Domestically, grassroots people can eat it, so it is fairly good,” he said.

With the reserve of 800,000 bags of rice, if there is a need by the charity association, social groups or factories, the federation will sell them. In



This photo captures President U Ye Min Aung of the Myanmar Rice Federation at the press conference on 27 November 2024.

addition to the export-based reserved rice system, Shwabo Pawsan and Ayeyawady Pawsan varieties are sold under the home delivery system.

“Despite the rice distribution and sales, our federation is not an organization that does business. However, due to the current situation and the needs of the market, especially for industrial zones, employees from companies, factory workers, and grassroots people, we will take out from this reserve and sell rice to them,” he added. — MT/ZN

## Yangon-Kawthoung-Ranong container shipping generates \$60M in 5 months

NEW Myanmar-Thailand border trade route to and from Yangon-Kawthoung-Ranong with a container shipping system earned about US\$60 million, according to the Central Committee on Trade Facilitation.

The Yangon-Kawthoung-Ranong container shipping launched at Myanmar Industrial Port and The Myanmar Terminal Port TMT in June 2024 to conduct border trade with Myanmar and Thailand. As of October 2024, the border trade value has totalled \$59.996 million.

Starting from March 2024, Myanmar has exported over 1,767 tonnes of freshwater fish to foreign markets with 17 container ships through Aungmyingala Port in Kyimyindine, Yangon.

The Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce permitted container shipping to and from Yangon-Kawthoung-Ranong on 11 April, according to export-import bulletin 1/2024, to ensure smooth border trade. Exporters and importers are required to strictly adhere to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), the Trade Department notified. — NN/KK

## Myanmar's agri-produce exports exceed US\$2.75B+ as of 25 Oct

MYANMAR'S agricultural export value has totalled US\$2.75 billion as of 25 October in the current financial year 2024-2025 beginning 1 April, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

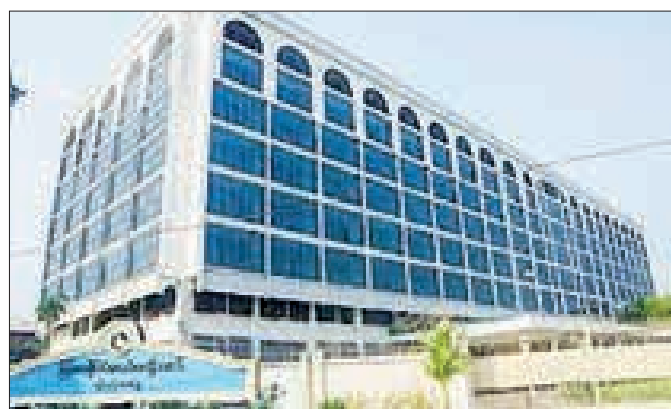
Myanmar's agricultural produce export by sea amounted to \$2.3 billion while border trade saw export value of \$446 million in the past nearly seven months.

Myanmar's agriculture sector is the backbone of the country's economy and it contributes to over 30 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product. The country primarily cultivates paddy, maize, cotton, sugarcane, sunflower, various pulses and beans. The second-largest production is pulses and beans, accounting for 33 per cent of agri-products and covering 20 per cent

of growing acres. Black grams, pigeon peas, green grams, peanuts, chickpeas, soybeans, black-eyed beans, butter beans and rice beans are also grown in the country.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods through maritime and border trade channels. — NN/KK

## CBM sells 3.21M Thai baht on 27 Nov



The general view of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) office in Yangon.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold 3.21 million Thai baht on 27 November.

It injected over 1.79 million yuan on 26 November after the sales of 17.8 million baht and US\$25,000 into the financial market on 22 November.

It sold 50 million baht to importers through the foreign exchange trading platform on 21 November.

CBM sold over \$3,900 on 21 November, \$24 million on 20 November, \$20 million and 100 million baht on 19 November, and over \$12,000 on 18 November.

CBM announced the sale of \$35 million to fuel oil importers on 16 November.

CBM injected \$400,000 into the financial market on 14 November. On 12 November, it sold 14.5 million baht after announcing it would sell 15 million baht to importers on 11 November.

It sold over 800,000 yuan on 11 November, over 2.17 million yuan and \$3,000 again on 8 November after sales of over 2.1 million baht, two million yuan and over \$3,300 on 7 November and about \$9,000, 490,000 yuan and 1.2 million baht on 6 November.

Its announcement on 5 November read that it would sell seven million yuan and 20 million baht to importers on foreign exchange trading platforms. On 4 November, CBM sold \$15 million, 1.5 million yuan, and 100.8 million baht.

In October 2024, CBM injected over \$91 million, over 9.8 million yuan, and over 610 million baht into the financial market.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and the currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March, it has been joining hands with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

# OPINION

## Transboundary haze precaution for border towns

**T**RANSBOUNDARY haze pollution is a significant environmental challenge for ASEAN member countries, as well as many other nations worldwide. In particular, the countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion face recurring haze pollution during the dry season each year. As such, they have to unite in controlling haze air pollution as part of providing healthcare services to their people.

Air pollution in this case arises from smoke caused by forest fires, the burning of vegetation to reclaim farmland, land preparation for commercial crops, landfill fires, and waste incineration. The smoke contains particles as small as 0.2 microns, mixed with dust, fine particulates, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and other gases.

These particles easily travel through the air and can cross borders, depending on their density and mass.

Some townships in Myanmar, particularly in Shan State along the borders, experience severe smoke pollution during the open season each year. This transboundary haze contains hazardous gases, posing significant health risks to residents in border towns. The pollution also harms plants and animals, disrupts ecosystems, and exacerbates environmental degradation.

Additionally, wildfires and farmland reclamation through slash-and-burn practices lead to deforestation, biodiversity loss, soil degradation, and water scarcity. In history, one of the worst incidents of transboundary haze pollution occurred during the forest fires in Indonesia from 1997 to 1998, which affected approximately 2.2 million hectares of forest. Around 40,000 people sought hospital care for air pollution-related health issues. Surveys estimated that these fires released between 3,000 and 9,400 megatonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Currently, local authorities and departmental personnel raise public awareness about the dangers and impacts of air pollution in towns, villages, schools, and public areas through talk shows and the distribution of pamphlets. Only by broadening their horizons can people avoid actions such as setting fire to forests and farmlands for land preparation, and gain the knowledge needed to prevent transboundary haze pollution.

However, a single country is unable to attempt to control transboundary haze pollution. Relevant countries sharing borders have to collaborate in controlling air pollution. These countries have to cooperate in the implementation of the agreement on transboundary haze pollution by using agricultural waste as natural fertilizers, substituting a slush and burn system with other proper agricultural techniques suitable for relevant regions and taking preventive measures against negligent fire as much as they can.

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## Mount Popa Region

### The Taungni, Gwegon and Sebauk Tuffs

This article is a continuation of Episode 50 on the Mount Popa Region, extracted from Chapter XXX of *The Geology of Burma* by HL Chhibber (1934).

**Taungni Hill:** The rocks of Taungni Hill consist of silicified and unsilicified tuffs, the former displaying various colours, the latter a cream-to-white tint. In the silicified tuffs' cavities, well-developed colourless quartz crystals are sometimes seen. The hard, silicified, fine-grained rocks occasionally show coloured rhythmic banding of iron oxide owing to the diffusion of the iron salts through these cryptocrystalline siliceous, another case of the Liesegang phenomena. The older andesites are also seen on the southern slopes of this hill, where they occupy a lower position; being extrusive rocks, they must be older than the overlying white tuffs. This fact was further confirmed by finding specimens of rhyolites (and allied tuffs) containing xenoliths of andesite. Further, weathered fragments of andesite are enclosed in the white tuffs.

The second main occurrence of these white tuffs is to the east and south of Gwegon village. They do not call for any special mention. Specimens of red and variegated jaspers are associated with them.

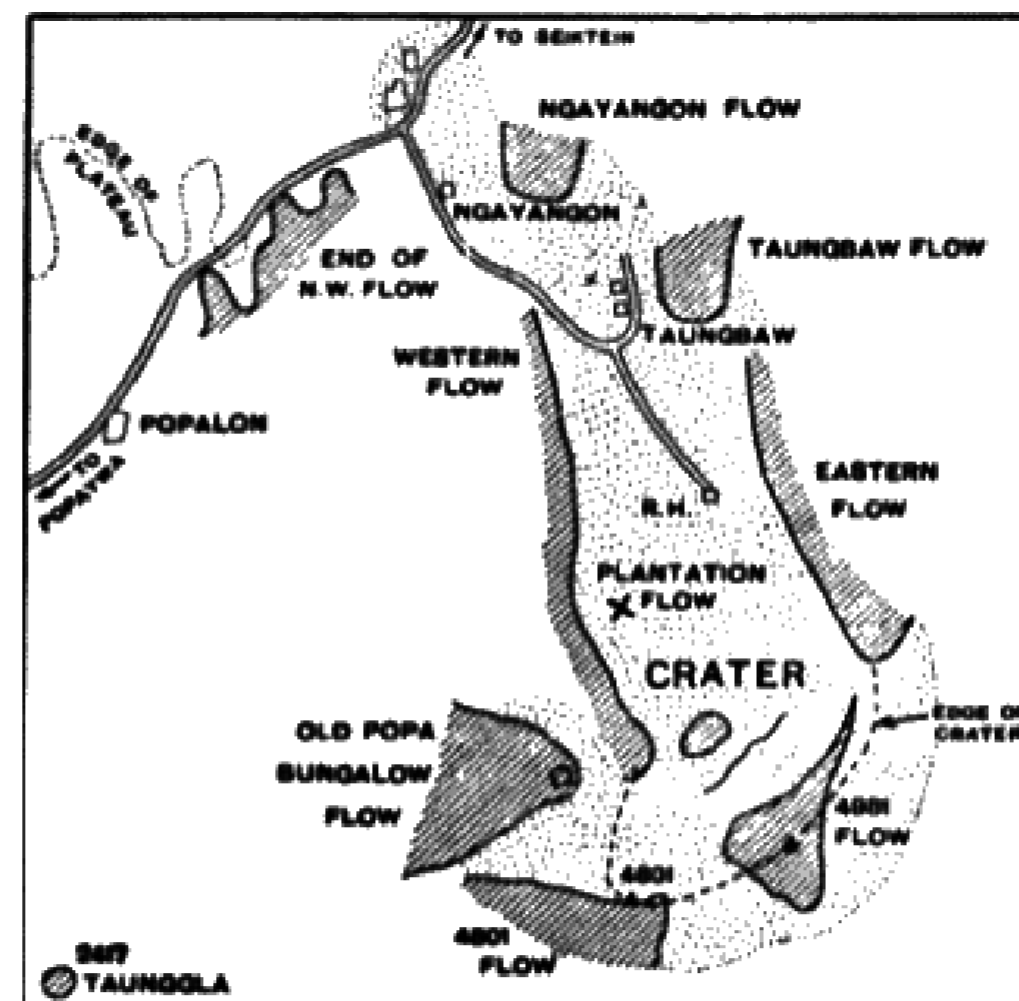
The third notable occurrence of the tuffs is to the north and northeast of the village of Sebauk. The tuffs, as usual, are white, friable, and present a chalky appearance. The rock is well bedded, and north of Sebauk, it shows south-westerly dips, where it caps the Irrawaddy Series and exhibits potholes in the stream channels. About half a mile north of Sebauk it presents a steep scarp. The Irrawaddy sandstone forms the lower portion overlain by tuff; the steepness of the scarp is due to the more resistant covering of tuff preserving the underlying soft sand-rock removed from the neighbourhood. Another occurrence is in the valley about one mile west of Taunggala, where chalky white tuff is interbedded with Irrawaddian sands, etc.

**Biotite-Hornblende-Gneiss:** The rock from the hill east of Okshitkon village appears to be a biotite-hornblende-gneiss, and was found associated with andesite and other tuffs. The specimens of these gneisses and mica-schists associated with white tuffs, described below, show that the latter have undergone metamorphism, largely of a thermal character; this was brought about by subsequent volcanic discharges, heated gases, and vapours, aided by regional metamorphism due to earth-movements which occurred at the close of the Tertiary period.

**Mica-schist:** A specimen of mica schist from two miles due south of Taunggala, associated with white tuff near Sebauk, is light-grey in colour and consists of muscovite and quartz. Under the microscope, a thin section shows a granular mosaic of quartz and colourless flakes of muscovite. Most probably this schist was formed by earth movements which folded the white partially silicified tuffs. Similar

# The Burma Circle of the Geological Survey of India and their Contributions to the Geology of Myanmar

## EPISODE: 51



Sketch map showing the position of the separate lava flows of Mount Popa. The dotted areas represent tuff and agglomerate.

Scale: 1" = 1 mile.

metamorphism of fine tuffs into silky schists has also been recorded by Geikie.

**Age:** These rocks appear to be older than the lavas of Mount Popa. They are interbedded with Tertiary sands west of Konde village. A thin covering of the Irrawaddian is seen capping them; they seem contemporaneous with the closing of the Irrawaddian epoch (Pliocene period). Further, these white tuffs are older than the interbedded black tuffs, as they occupy a lower position in the Irrawaddian sands and have undoubtedly taken part in the folding movements. In contrast, the black tuffs are almost horizontal. But the white tuff is younger than the older flow of andesite and the Kyaukpadaung lavas, as fragments derived by denudation from the former rocks form the white tuff.

### The Interbedded Black Tuffs and Ashes.

The Black Tuff and Ashes are exposed

all around the slopes, especially on the west, of the plateau on which Popa stands, interbedded with the Irrawaddian rocks on which the plateau is built. The rock is generally a coarse-grained ash that often passes into coarse tuffs where the pieces of andesitic rocks have been cemented by finer ash. With these, similar black basal tuffs underlying the lavas of Mount Popa may also be included as they are not very different petrographically. The ash is usually a stratified deposit, and its best sections are seen near Sinzin village and at the pagoda point about two miles to the west. Here, the almost horizontal bedding is so fine and regular that steps leading to the pagoda have been cut out of these rocks. Similar beds, over which the younger andesite has flowed, crop out opposite the pagoda.

These rocks, like the older white tuffs, are interesting in that they furnish evidence regarding the date of commencement of the

volcanic activity around Mount Popa itself. The rocks are interbedded with the upper Irrawaddian, suggesting thereby that the Popa volcano was first active towards the close of the Pliocene period. Sir Edwin Pascoe notes that "activity commenced in Irrawaddian times, but the later and larger flows of augite and hornblende andesite and the clastic material derived therefrom where in all probability post-Irrawaddian".

These interbedded rocks consist largely of soft ash grading into black basaltic or andesitic tuff which consists of pieces of lava cemented by the softer ashes.

**Andesitic Tuff:** The rock outcropping opposite the pagoda, about two miles west of Sinzin village, is grey, and dark green pyroxene and clear feldspar can be recognized with the pocket lens. Under the microscope, a thin section consists of laths of feldspar and pyroxenes.

The rock, from about 1 1/2 miles SSW of Popaywa village, taken from the outer edge of the plateau, is soft and grey-coloured with pieces of andesite enclosed in it. The thin section is remarkable for its large crystals of brown hornblende showing reaction rims, with augite and clear feldspar set in a glassy matrix.

**The Volcanic Ash:** It is light grey in colour and soft and fine-grained. Under the microscope, it appears to consist of very minute laths of feldspar and fine pyroxene granules cemented by dark glass. The specimens may represent consolidated volcanic dust.

### The Younger Andesites and Basalts, with Associated Tuffs and Conglomerates.

The andesitic lavas of the Mount Popa area north of Lat 20° 53' and extending up to the village of Legyi (near Seiktein, which marks the northernmost limit of lava), appear younger than the andesites described above. In the field, the younger andesites are generally distinguished by well-developed squarish phenocrysts of dark-green augite and sometimes of brownish-black hornblende. However, in places, these phenocrysts are not so well marked. The rock is of grey, greenish-grey, or greyish-blue colour. It is remarkable that besides undisturbed flows, piles of disintegrated boulders of lava are strewn all around Mount Popa north of the latitude given above. Wherever lava has flowed down steep slopes it has generally split up into blocks, and this is best seen on the slopes of the plateau surrounding

By **THAN HTUN**  
(GEOSCIENCE  
MYANMAR)

Mount Popa. Sometimes these blocks are resting on the Tertiary sands. These small accumulations of broken boulders represent disintegrated flows, and the upper surface of the boulders often shows signs of having come from the surface of a flow, exhibiting a ropy and slaggy appearance.

In the centre, there is the enormous mass of Mount Popa itself, mostly a tuff and lava cone, rising at least 3,000 feet above the plateau on which it stands. Sir Edwin Pascoe notes that what is left of the crater wall is formed of breccia or agglomerate. In the crater, we find good exposures of agglomerate which we may give the name of "crater agglomerate." This deposit is best seen in the streams near the villages of Taungbaw, Gyaingywa, Kanzatkon, etc. The top of the main mountain is covered with layers of volcanic ashes, tuffs, cinders, bombs, etc., of varying thickness, approaching 100 feet or more in places.

Volcanic conglomerates and tuffs are sometimes associated with these andesites, and in places extend far into the slopes of Mount Popa. The cuttings made by streams expose small and large fragments of andesite cemented by ash or other volcanic detritus.

The figure shows some of the more important flows around the crater, and the following table indicates their petrographic characters:

Taungbaw flow.	Acid olivine-basalt.
Ngayangon flow.	Hornblende-augite-andesite.
Old Popa Bungalow flow.	Hornblende-augite-andesite.
"4,801" flow.	Glassy hypersthene-augite-andesite.
Western flow.	Olivine-basalt.
Eastern flow, best seen below the Δ marked on the one-inch sheet.	Olivine-basalt; hornblende-augite-andesite, etc.
North-western flow.	Hornblende-augite-basalt.
Plantation flow.	Enstatite-basalt.
Western crater wall flows.	Hornblende-augite-andesites.

Several bedded flows are seen in the crater walls; this is particularly the case in the eastern wall. During a subsequent visit, the author observed several distinctly bedded flows below Δ marked NNE of 4981. The average thickness of the flows is roughly ten feet. The walls are so precipitous that it is difficult to map some of them separately on the available one-inch maps.

### The Taunggala Type. Hornblende-Augite-Andesite.

The hill known as Taunggala (Taungkal-

at), "2,417," forms a remarkable feature on the southwestern slopes of Mount Popa; in the section, it is roughly circular and rises precipitously on all sides. It consists of a plug of igneous rock intruded into Irrawaddian sands, which, in general, dip away from the igneous mass. Taunggala is a typical subsidiary neck on the flanks of the main volcano. The rock is dull-grey in colour, often with a purplish tinge due to weathering, and is characterised by elongated crystals of hornblende. It has a coarser and more even-grained texture than most igneous rocks in this area. Its specific gravity is 2.74.

The groundmass is holocrystalline and consists of feldspar laths with abundant granules of augite and magnetite. It appears certain that the magma was supersaturated with hornblende, evidenced by many long pseudomorphs. Consequently, hornblende was the first mineral to form; it was then re-acted upon by the residual magma, resulting in the corrosion of the hornblende crystals and their consequent filling with augite crystals or groundmass.

In some cases, the corroded crystals serve as nuclei around which augite crystals develop; hence, the supersaturation of magma with hornblende is proved. Some are seen partly with feldspar, augite, and groundmass. In other sections, feldspar and augite show ophitic or sub-ophitic relations, and there is evidence to prove that the crystallization of augite and feldspar proceeded simultaneously in some cases.

In some sections, the feldspar has been altered to a pale yellow or pale pink mineral which is isotropic and may be analcite. Islands of unaltered feldspar are often to be seen. The alteration of feldspar to analcite, both in the phenocrysts and groundmass and the development of the greenish tinge in the hornblende may have been brought about by the escaping gases and vapours which are generally emitted during the waning phases

of an eruption. Associated with magnetite are some primary haematite, which is orange-red.

It is also seen as inclusions in hornblende and other minerals. Crystals of specular iron ore are found associated with these rocks and are locally called Popa "sein", or Popa "diamonds". (To be continued)

### References:

Chhibber, HL, 1934: *The Geology of Burma, Macmillan, and Co Limited, St Martin's Street, London.*



# NATIONAL



This photo showcases a construction site and its workers.

## YR approves K1,500M+ and \$7.69M in investments, creating 5,255 jobs

ACCORDING to the Yangon Region government, eight new foreign investments and one local investment were approved between January and November 2024. These investments totalled K1,500 million and US\$7.69 million, creating 5,255 new jobs.

An official from the Yangon Region government stated, "The Yangon Region Investment Committee approved one

local investment and several foreign investments in various sectors.

These include wearing apparel production, the construction materials industry for 100 per cent domestic sale, wool fibre and yarn production, manufacturing wigs under the CMP system, paper label printing, and producing and selling various plastic bags for use in garment factories and local

markets".

The report indicates growth in the quantity of investments and employment opportunities during this period. The Yangon Region Investment Committee regularly reviews and approves Myanmar and foreign investments per relevant laws and regulations to support the region's job creation and economic development. — ASH/ MKKS

## Myanmar seeks global recognition for Myanmar Pawsan Rice with GI status

MYANMAR Rice Federation (MRF) President U Ye Min Aung stated that Myanmar is working towards achieving Geographical Indication (GI) status for Myanmar Pawsan Rice in the global market.

He explained that efforts had previously secured GI registration for Shwebo Pawsan Rice, and now similar recognition is being sought for Myanmar Pawsan Rice to enhance its appeal in international markets.

"We need to introduce Pawsan rice to the global market because of its excellent flavour. For instance, Pakistan has successfully marketed its Basmati rice globally. Basmati is cultivated not only in Pakistan but

also in India and Nepal, and it is well-received worldwide. Similarly, Thailand has established Jasmine Rice as an international brand. We must promote Myanmar Pawsan Rice as a unique brand too, and we've already achieved GI registration for Shwebo Pawsan," said U Ye Min Aung.

Currently, MRF is focusing on exporting Aemahta rice, which is less popular domestically. The federation aims to export two million tonnes of rice during this financial year. In October alone, 400,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice were exported, marking the highest monthly export volume in the past seven months of the financial year. — ASH/TMT



This image shows Myanmar Pawsan Rice and its after-cook quality.

## Goethe-Institut Myanmar to host 2024 Christmas Bazaar on 1 Dec

THE 2024 Goethe's Christmas Bazaar will take place on 1 December at the Goethe-Institut Myanmar in Bahan Township, Yangon Region, according to the institute.

The annual event aims to support local small businesses that focus on Myanmar arts and crafts while fostering connections between organizations dedicated to reducing plastic usage.

"This year's Goethe's Christmas Bazaar will be held from 9 am to 5 pm on Sunday, 1 December. The event will also feature Christmas carols in the evening. Items available at the bazaar include clothing and fashion accessories, handicrafts and artworks, food and beverages, home decor and fragrances, jewellery, and souvenirs," said a representative from the organizing committee.

Additionally, visitors can participate in hands-on activities to create Christmas-themed handicrafts and decorations. — ASH/TKO

## New TV series begins filming



This photo captures artistes joining the shooting launch of the 'Brown Jackets: A Long Journey of the Next Life' series.

ACCORDING to actress Li Li Kyaw Khine, a ceremony to mark the start of filming for the TV series 'Brown Jackets: A Long Journey of the Next Life' took place at the Eaindawya Pagoda in Dagon Township, Yangon Region, on

26 November.

The series is directed by Arkar Soe Oo, who also wrote the storyline, with the script co-written by Arkar Soe Oo and Yun Mie Mie Htet for Twenty-Three Film Production.

"I portray the character of Thawda.

In the story, a five-member group named 'Brown Jackets' investigates the afterlife and hunts ghosts. My character has two distinct personalities, making the role particularly engaging.

The series has a unique and exciting plot, so I hope our fans will support us when it is released," said actress Li Li Kyaw Khine.

The cast includes Academy Tun Tun, Min Phone Myat, Thiha Tin Aung Soe, Li Li Kyaw Khine, Nay Chi Shun Lae, Nay Nwe Zin Lin, Min Thu, Zwe Naing Win, Phone Shan, Nyi Jor, Aye Min Hein, Hsu Htet Kaday, and Mo Kham. — ASH/TRKM

# NATIONAL



This photo showcases eye patients undergoing eye examination and medical treatment at Sitagu Cakku Dana Hospital (Yangon).

## Sitagu Cakku Dana Hospital (Yangon) offers free eyesight donations for 8<sup>th</sup> time

IN its eighth round of free eyesight donation, Sitagu Cakku Dana (Yangon) provided a medical examination for more than 2200 patients, out of them more than 500 underwent surgery and more than 40 were given laser treatment, according to the hospital.

Altogether, 2,258 eye patients were provided a medical examination in this round from 22 to 28 November, and 520 regained their eyesight and treated 47 with laser treatment, it said.

This is a donation in collaboration with eye specialists, nurses, medical assistants, Red Cross

volunteers and donors under the leadership of Sitagu Sayadaw. On 1 December, professional eye specialists will re-examine patients who underwent surgical treatment starting from 6:30 am.

The hospital provided eye examinations for 10,859 patients, of them 3,157 and 215 received surgical treatment and laser treatment respectively throughout the donation including this round. New patients will be accepted in the 10<sup>th</sup> round and further announcements will be made for the date of donation. — MT/ZS

## Seasonal jicama tuber sales on the rise

ACCORDING to the fruit market in Aungban, sales of seasonal jicama roots are increasing.

Seasonal crops are selling well in the Aungban market, and early harvested jicama fruits are one of them.

“Seinsar-Ou (jicama) are now available in the market. The wholesale price is K2,800 or K3,000 per viss. At retail, they sell them at K5,000 a viss. They are selling well as it is an early harvest. Jicama is produced almost all over the country including Pynmana and Aungban. The price of jicama is a little higher this year than the previous year. The yield is normal,” said Ma Nyo Lei Yi, a various fruit trader in Aungban.

Jicama is a root vegetable called Pe Seinsar or Pe Seinsar-Ou in Myanmar. It can be planted in silty land in the cold season. It takes five to eight months to grow well after planting in a paddy field, and it is usually dug up when the plant becomes big and withers. According to a farmer, the yield ranges from 2,000 to 6,000 viss per acre.

Jicama contains enough vitamins, and it can prevent seasonal diseases such as colds, runny nose, cough, as well as asthma in children. Because it contains a large amount of



This image depicts jicama fruits being displayed at the Aungban market.

water, it can reduce heat in the body, so it is a seasonal fruit that can contribute a lot to health. — Thit Taw/ZN

## Purple sweet potatoes selling well in Taunggyi

COMPARED to yellow sweet potato, purple sweet potato has been traded well in the Taunggyi vegetable market.

Purple sweet potato is widely used in making snacks, making the sales increased.

“There are two kinds of sweet potatoes — yellow sweet potato and purple sweet potato, and trade of the latter is better now. Orders are placed mainly from Tachilek and Myeik and majorities go to Tachilek which is a border town so it uses premium quality. Small-sized sweet potatoes are mainly transported to Bago as well as Myeik. But the trade of purple sweet potatoes is better than that of yellow sweet potatoes because it is softer and widely used in making snacks,” said Ma Sandi Taya, a vegetables and fruits retail and wholesale distributor from Taunggyi Township.

Purple sweet potato is categorized into two kinds — Shan sweet potato and Japan sweet potato and in Taunggyi, Japan

sweet potato is mainly grown.

“There are Shan purple sweet potato and Japan purple sweet potato. We call the Shan purple sweet potato a local species. Japan species is completely purple and the price is also a



This image shows a purple sweet potato.

little higher than the local species. Now sweet potato supply is slightly large so the price is cheap,” she added. — Thit Taw/ZS

### Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar 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

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



# NATIONAL

## Kyonekapyin-Tapseik invites visitors to observe rare birds, biodiversity in cold season

THE Kyonekapyin-Tapseik Wildlife Conservation Group has invited travellers to come and relax while studying the world's rare yellow-breasted bunting bird species and other biodiversity in the cold season.

Come winter, the study and preservation of yellow-breasted bunting in the conservation area is one of the trips full of excitement. Bird species are enumerated and recorded every month in the area. Besides the yellow-breasted bunting, baya weavers and sociable weavers

are also present and it is a breathtaking experience to correctly identify the species that can be seen with the cameras.

For the local conservation team who have to enumerate and record, care must be taken to distinguish them correctly and not to wrongly identify these rare birds, to accurately count the number of male and female birds and to check their legs for the presence of any marking rings installed by other countries.

In addition to these species,



This photo captures a yellow-breasted bunting bird being spotted in the Kyonekapyin-Tapseik Wildlife Conservation Area.

kites and eagles flying in the sky, Black Drongo, Asian Palm-swift, Barn Swallow and Bee-eater species that eat insects in the air, and Snipe species, Watercock, Babbler species and Prinia species that live in the paddy fields and bushes can also be seen.

Therefore, the Kyonekapyin-Tapseik Wildlife Conservation Group extends an invitation to tourists to visit and enjoy studying the world's rare species of yellow-breasted bunting and other biodiversity. — MT/ZN



### Counter-argument to false information

## Malicious media outlets defame security forces

MALICIOUS media spread misinformation that security forces launched attacks using heavy weapons and drones in Ledo Township, Bago Region, detaining one and injuring 13 people.

According to a resident and a security official, such news was invalid. Security forces conducted security measures near the vicinity area of the village following a tip-off. During that time, terrorists opened fire using heavy weapons and drones. The shells fell into the village and exploded, resulting in injuries and deaths.



This screenshot shows misinformation.

Subversive media attempts to cause misunderstanding between residents and security forces and defame security forces through social network pages. — MNA/KTZH

## 2-day illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth K1.554B

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to combat the illicit trade are continued effectively by the law.

On 26 November, the combined teams under the Kayin State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force captured three trucks (worth approximately K95 million) carrying industrial materials and consumer goods (worth K135.34 million) without official documents in the compound of Yetha Temporary vehicle checkpoint and three trucks (estimated value of K165 million) carrying ten kinds of auto parts, industrial materials, consumer goods and foodstuffs (valued at K327.19 million) without official documents near Hlaingbwe junction on Hteelon-Hpa-an road. The action was taken in line with Customs procedures.

Similarly, the combined teams conducted inspections and seized six unregistered motorbikes (estimated value of K10.7 million) in Hinthada, Maubin and Myaungmya Districts, foodstuffs (worth K1.15 million) without official documents in Ngaputaw Township, an unregistered Toyota Mark X (worth approximately K19 million) in Taninthayi Township, an unregistered Toyota Wish (approximately K16.5 million) at the Taninthayi bridge check-

point and foodstuffs (worth K2.28 million) without official documents in Dawei. The action was taken under the Export-Import Law and the Excise Law respectively.

Additionally, on 27 November, the combined teams under the management of Customs Department impounded two buses (worth approximately K160 million) carrying foodstuffs and consumer goods (worth K12.52 million) at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint, two trucks (worth approximately K140 million) carrying vehicle parts and industrial materials (worth K21.25 million) without official documents at the Ywathagyi Dry Port and industrial materials (worth K75.4 million) without official documents from four containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port. The action was done following Customs procedures.

The combined on-duty teams nabbed a Hino Profia tractor head with a trailer (worth approximately K86 million) carrying industrial materials (worth K94.67 million) without official documents at the Kywetetson checkpoint, a Hino Profia truck (estimated value of K30 million) carrying industrial materials and auto spare parts (worth K14.21 million) without official documents at the Myitnge checkpoint, a



Confiscated illegal items.

Nissan Condor truck (estimated value of K40 million) carrying foodstuffs (valued at K12.29 million) at the Yadanabon bridge (Mandalay) checkpoint and a Hino Profia truck (worth approximately K65 million) carrying consumer goods (valued at K29.66 million) without official documents in Kyaukse. The action was carried out per Customs procedures.

A total of illegal teak weighing 1.034 tonnes and illegal other timbers weighing 0.42 tonne (valued at K967,568) were captured in Nyaunglebin District and action was conducted under the Forest Law.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 74 arrests on 26 and 27 November, seizing goods worth approximately K1.554 billion. — MNA/MKKS

## Coffee price hits highest since 1977 on Brazil crop fears



The price of Arabica coffee has surged to its highest level since 1977 due to concerns over limited supplies caused by a severe drought in Brazil this year. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

THE price of Arabica coffee reached the highest level since 1977 in trading Wednesday on concerns of limited supplies caused by drought in Brazil this year.

A pound of Arabica beans listed in New York hit 320.10 US cents, extending the commodity's rally over the past year and pushing past a nearly thirty-year high the day prior.

The all-time recorded high was 337.50 US cents in 1977.

Brazil, the world's largest coffee producer, faced a record-breaking drought this year which has raised significant concerns about the production potential for the crop in 2025/2026.

The concerns come even after crops benefited from "significant rains" that returned in October, leading to an "excellent flowering", according to Guilherme Morya, senior analyst at Rabobank.

Price rises have also been buoyed by geopolitical factors such as disruptions to shipping in the Red Sea, potential US tariffs and the future European Union regulation on deforestation, according to analysts.

While demand remains high, "farmers are choosing to sell only what is necessary, thus limiting the coffee supply in the local market", Morya added. — AFP

## 'Anti-woke' Americans hail death of DEI as another domino topples

AMERICA'S largest private employer, Walmart, is the latest name to join a list of US businesses and institutions rethinking programs to bolster minority groups as support for progressive policies erodes.

Walmart said it will phase out the terms "diversity, equity and inclusion" (DEI) and "Latinx", end supplier diversity programs, shutter a racial equity centre and pull out of a prominent gay rights index.

The announcement comes in the wake of similar moves by a string of prestige brands — from Ford, John Deere and Lowe's to Harley-Davidson and Jack Daniel's — reflecting a backlash against so-called political correctness in American public life.

The rightward shift is credited in part for popu-

*Walmart is scaling back DEI programmes amid conservative backlash. The company is ending supplier diversity programmes and pulling out of a gay rights index.*



Shares of Walmart rose as it reported higher profits and lifted its forecast. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

list Donald Trump's White House comeback and for laying the groundwork for a 2023 Supreme Court ruling ending affirmative ac-

tion in college admissions. DEI initiatives aim to right historical discrimination but conservatives have long criticized them

as unfairly targeting white people, particularly men, as well as being performative "virtue-signalling". — AFP

## French luxury mogul Arnault defiant at ex-spy chief trial

FRANCE'S richest man, LVMH chief Bernard Arnault, testified Thursday in the influence-peddling trial of the former head of France's domestic intelligence agency, denying any knowledge of an alleged scheme to protect the luxury group.

Bernard Squarcini, ex-head of

the DCRI security service (since renamed the DGSI), is one of 10 men on trial and charged with using his security contacts for private gain, including obtaining confidential information on behalf of LVMH.

Squarcini faces 11 charges in the Paris criminal court case, including

influence peddling, misuse of public funds and compromising national security information. "I would like to point out that I am here as a witness, a simple witness, and that my indictment was never considered by the investigating magistrates," Arnault said in his opening statement. — AFP

<p><b>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE</b> M.V WISDOM VOY.NO. (002N)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on <b>M.V WISDOM VOY.NO. (002N)</b> are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on <b>25-11-2024</b> and cargo will be discharged into the premises of <b>AWPT</b> where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: <b>2301185</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Shipping Agency Department</b> <b>Myanma Port Authority</b></p> <p>Agent For: <b>M/S K.NAVIGATE CO., LTD</b></p>	<p><b>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE</b> M.V SINAR BUKITTINGGI VOY.NO. (032N)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on <b>M.V SINAR BUKITTINGGI VOY.NO. (032N)</b> are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on <b>29-11-2024</b> and cargo will be discharged into the premises of <b>AWPT</b> where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: <b>2301185</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Shipping Agency Department</b> <b>Myanma Port Authority</b></p> <p>Agent For: <b>M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES</b></p>	<p><b>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE</b> M.V MTT SAPANGAR VOY.NO. (445W)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on <b>M.V MTT SAPANGAR VOY.NO. (445W)</b> are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on <b>29-11-2024</b> and cargo will be discharged into the premises of <b>MIP</b> where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: <b>2301185</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Shipping Agency Department</b> <b>Myanma Port Authority</b></p> <p>Agent For: <b>M/S MAERSK A/S</b></p>
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# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## Japan's ex-top currency diplomat Kanda picked as next ADB chief



*Kanda will officially take office as ADB's president on 24 February 2025.*

FORMER top Japanese currency diplomat Masato Kanda has been selected as the next president of the Asian Development Bank, the Manila-based international lender said Thursday.

Kanda, 59, currently a special adviser to Japan's prime minister, will take office on 24 February 2025 as the 11<sup>th</sup> president, succeeding Masatsugu Asakawa, another former senior official of Japan's Finance Ministry, the ADB said.

Japan, a leading shareholder in the ADB along with the

United States, has supplied the bank's chief since the institution was established in 1966. With Kanda emerging as the sole candidate, the ADB's Board of Governors completed the process for selecting him Wednesday.

"Mr Kanda's extensive experience in international finance and proven leadership in multilateral settings will serve the ADB well in navigating complex global economic challenges," ADB Board of Governors chairman Fabio Panetta said in a statement. — Kyodo

## Hong Kong Intl airport to open third runway on 28 November

THE three-runway system at the Hong Kong International Airport will go into service on 28 November boosting the city's aviation industry. The new system will enable the airport to handle 120 million passenger trips and 10 million tonnes of cargo annually.

The airport handled 45 million passenger trips and 4.5 million tonnes of cargo during the previous financial year.

Construction of the system began in August 2016. It is complete with a 3,800-metre runway, a new concourse, an automated people mover system, and a baggage handling system. — Xinhua

Japan and the United States are each other's top foreign investors. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Laos sees 3.3 mln intl tourists in first 10 months of 2024

LAOS welcomed 3.3 million foreign visitors in the first 10 months of 2024, a 19 per cent increase from the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism.

From January to October, Thailand, Vietnam and China were top sources of foreign tourists to Laos, according to the ministry's latest report.

To bolster tourist numbers during Visit Laos Year 2024, the government has approved visa-free entry and extended the duration of stay for tourists from certain countries.

Under the Visit Laos Year 2024 campaign, tourism au-

thorities and operators have improved services at hotels, guesthouses, and restaurants,

and added facilities at tourist sites to provide a better visitor experience. — Xinhua



Tourists visit the Patuxay Park in the Lao capital Vientiane on 30 June 2023. **PHOTO: KAIKEO SAIYASANE/XINHUA**

### BRIEFS: WORLD

#### Despair in Sweden as gangs recruit kids as contract killers

SWEDEN is grappling with a disturbing rise in gang violence, where children, some as young as 11, are being recruited as contract killers.

Gangs exploit minors, who are too young to be prosecuted, using encrypted messaging apps like Telegram and Snapchat to offer cash and promises of power.

In one shocking case, an 11-year-old boy posted on Instagram about killing someone, and a 19-year-old gang member responded, offering him money, clothes, and transport to carry out the crime.

This trend has escalated, with the number of murder-related cases involving suspects under 15 rising dramatically.

Vulnerable children, often struggling in school or with addiction, are recruited into gang violence, often with little connection to the underlying conflicts.

Some even seek out these violent "jobs" for the promise of quick cash, a sense of belonging, or street credibility.

The gangs operate in an increasingly sophisticated manner, using minors as mercenaries, hidden behind pseudonyms online. — AFP

## Norway faces WWF in court over deep sea mining

THE World Wide Fund for Nature's (WWF) Norwegian chapter will have its day in court Thursday, after it sued Norway for opening up its seabed to mining before performing sufficient impact studies.

Already Western Europe's largest oil and gas producer,

Norway could become one of the first countries to authorise seabed mining.

While deep-sea mining is contentious due to its potential impact on vulnerable marine ecosystems, Norway's parliament in January formally gave its green light to open up parts of

its seabed to exploration.

"We believe the government is violating Norwegian law by now opening up for a new and potentially destructive industry without adequately assessing the consequences," Karoline Andaur, CEO of WWF-Norway, said in a statement. — AFP



Protesters hold placards during a demonstration against seabed mining outside the Norwegian Parliament building in Oslo. **PHOTO: NTB/AFP**

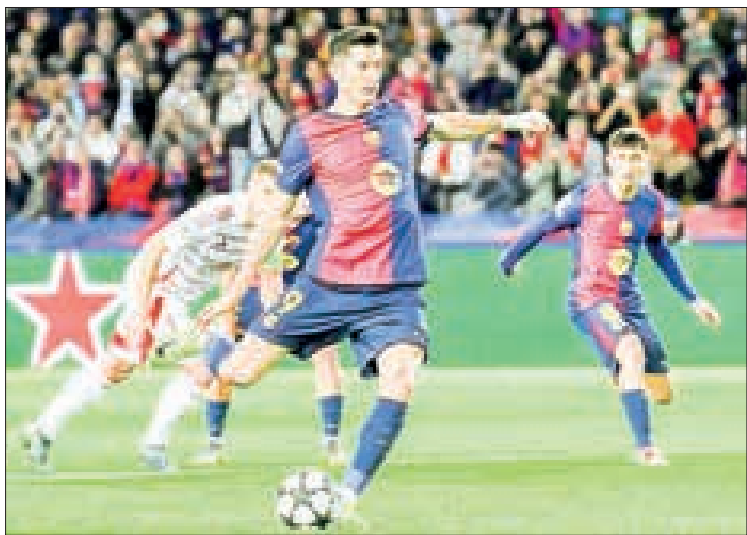
# SPORTS

## Lewandowski happy after reaching 100 Champions League goals

AFTER beating Brest 3-0 in the Champions League on Tuesday evening, FC Barcelona striker Robert Lewandowski expressed his pride at scoring his 100<sup>th</sup> and 101<sup>st</sup> goals in the European competition. The Pole put the host ahead in the 10<sup>th</sup> minute with a penalty after a mistake from Brest goalkeeper Marco Bizot, who charged into the striker's back and bundled him over. In the stoppage time the 36-year-old netted his 101<sup>st</sup> goal in the tournament to make it 3-0.

Lewandowski became the third player in Champions League history to reach 100 goals in the competition. Poland's captain sits behind Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi, who scored 140 and 129 goals respectively in all-time classification.

"I'm very happy. Years ago, I didn't think I would score more than 100 goals in the Champions League. We did the job as a team," the striker was quoted as saying by Polish media on Wednesday. — Xinhua



Barcelona striker Robert Lewandowski scores his 100<sup>th</sup> Champions League goal from the spot. **PHOTO: AFP**



The fund aims to address key issues such as refugees, education, public health, and football development. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/FIFA**

## FIFA launches World Cup 2022 Legacy Fund

FIFA announced on Wednesday the launch of its World Cup 2022 Legacy Fund, which aims to invest US\$50 million in various social initiatives.

In partnership with Qatar and three international organizations - the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) - the Legacy Fund will focus on supporting refugees, promoting education, enhancing public and occupational health, and furthering

football development programs.

FIFA stated that the fund, supported by this multi-stakeholder partnership, aims to deliver results beyond the football field and assist international organizations in generating positive social and developmental impacts around the world.

According to FIFA's statement, collaboration with the UNHCR will support initiatives that empower vulnerable communities, fostering resilience and self-reliance for those most

in need. In collaboration with the WHO, the Legacy Fund will back "Beat the Heat", a flagship initiative designed to protect high-risk individuals from the effects of extreme heat.

Furthermore, FIFA will partner with the WTO and the International Trade Centre to support the Women Exporters in the Digital Economy Fund, which aims to economically empower female entrepreneurs by utilizing digitalization to help them access global value chains. — Xinhua

## Bayern coach Kompany hails defender Kim's resurging form

BAYERN Munich's coach Vincent Kompany said on Wednesday that South Korean defender Kim Min-Jae is on his way to meet expectations after a year of frustration.

"I saw our strikers have no fun competing against him in training sessions," Kompany said of Kim, who struck the winner to guide Bayern Munich to a 1-0 home win over Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League on Tuesday.

At the same time, Kompany, a former Manchester City defender, mentioned those days when Kim was struggling with a difficult start in the German first flight after his move from Naples for 50 million euros in 2023. — Xinhua



## 'Europe's best' Liverpool aim to pile pain on Man City

JUDE Bellingham said Real Madrid were beaten by "the best-performing team in Europe" as Liverpool's dismantling of the Spanish giants set a new bar in Arne Slot's stunning start at Anfield.

Beleaguered Manchester City are next to run the gauntlet against the rampant Reds on Sunday as Liverpool sense the opportunity to land a knockout blow to Pep Guardiola's men in the Premier League title race.

Slot has won 17 and drawn one of his 19 matches in all competitions since replacing a legendary figure in Jurgen Klopp.

Liverpool enjoy a commanding eight-point lead at the top of the Premier League and have one foot in the last 16 of the Champions League as the only side in the competition with a perfect record from five games.

Overcoming the might of Madrid was the sweetest one so far as Slot did what Klopp could not do during his glorious reign in leaving the kings of the Champions League with a bloodied nose. — AFP

Liverpool have won 17 of their opening 19 games under Arne Slot. **PHOTO: AFP**



## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION EFFORT

### Massive drug bust unearths new Pacific trafficking route

AUTHORITIES from dozens of countries seized 225 metric tonnes of cocaine in a six-week mega-operation where they unearthed a new Pacific trafficking route from South America to Australia, the Colombian Navy said Wednesday.

The latest phase of global naval operation "Orion" resulted in the seizure of more than 1,400 tonnes of drugs, including 225 tonnes of cocaine and 128 tonnes of marijuana, Navy official Orlando Enrique Grisales told reporters.

More than 400 people were arrested in the operation targeting oceans, coasts, rivers and ports around the globe in October and November.

The massive bust involved the security agencies of the United States, Brazil, Spain, the Netherlands and several other nations, as well as multiple international organizations.

The seizure deprived drug cartels of more than \$8.4 billion dollars, according to a Navy statement. — AFP



Russia has also offered to supply liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Pakistan, including from Novatek, on the spot market. PHOTO: ILYA PITALEV/SPUTNIK

## Pakistan, Russia wrap up finalization of oil payment mechanism

**P**AKISTAN is interested in continuing to buy Russian oil and the process of working out a payment mechanism for oil supplies between the two countries is in its final stages, the speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly told Sputnik on Thursday.

"Pakistan is very interested in purchasing Russian oil. Now we are in the final stage of working out the payment mechanism. I believe everything will be implemented, once it is agreed upon," Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said.

Coordinator to Pakistani Prime Minister Rana Ihsaan Afzal Khan said in October that Pakistan planned to increase oil imports from Russia in the near future, with

*As of 2023, Pakistan has already bought about 100,000 tonnes of Russian oil. This is part of a broader effort to increase oil imports from Russia in the near future.*

about 100,000 tonnes of Russian oil already purchased in 2023.

Former Russian Energy Minister Nikolay Shulginov said in October that Russia was discussing long-term oil sup-

plies with Pakistan. Moscow also offered Pakistan to purchase liquefied natural gas (LNG), including from Novatek, on the spot market. Pakistani Energy Minister Muhammad Ali announced in 2023 that Islamabad was discussing signing a long-term oil supply contract with Russia, considering volumes of 0.7-1 million tonnes per year. Russia could become Pakistan's largest trading partner, both in terms of exports and imports, once all banking issues are settled, the speaker pointed out.

"I believe that we have not fully realized each other's potential in terms of trade. The current trade of over one billion is not the maximum we could achieve," Sardar said. — SPUTNIK

## Lebanon ceasefire turns Israel's focus to Gaza, Iran



Lebanese celebrating in Beirut after the ceasefire took effect. PHOTO: AFP

*Israel made it clear that it would not hesitate to resume strikes against Hezbollah if the ceasefire terms were violated.*

WHEN Israel accepted a ceasefire in Lebanon, which took effect Wednesday, it said the end of its year-long fight with Hezbollah would allow it to turn its attention back to Hamas in Gaza, as well as its arch-foe Iran.

But Israel has said it will not hesitate to strike Hezbollah again should the terms of the ceasefire be breached, and analysts say the deal is unlikely to

pave the way for a similar truce in Gaza — as some leaders and diplomats have hoped — let alone a reduction in hostilities with Tehran.

The reason for a ceasefire in Lebanon but not Gaza is primarily due to the different objectives Israel has in each region.

In Lebanon, Israel's goal was to push Hezbollah out of the border area to ensure the

safety of displaced Israelis, with the ceasefire allowing Israel to shift its focus to Hamas in Gaza.

In contrast, Israel's main objective in Gaza is to annihilate Hamas entirely, including the destruction of its infrastructure and the release of hostages.

Israel views a ceasefire with Hamas as a step towards achieving this goal, rather than a comprehensive truce. — AFP