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

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

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

U Aung Aung elaborated on the current trading scenario in Rakhine State, highlighting that products from various regions within Myanmar are presently exported to Bangladesh via the Maungdaw Kanyinchauung zone and Sittway Shwemingan Port. However, there has been no avenue for exports from Rakhine State to India until now. Consequently, efforts are underway to see PAGE-7.

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

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

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

“We allowed foreigners to stay in the zone for five days for their visits and charged K25,000 as an entrance fee per foreigner. From 1 October, the entrance fee rises to K30,000 per foreigner.”

International travellers exploring a temple in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone.
Yunnan Information Minister urges China, Myanmar media to promote cooperation

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

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

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

She continued that the dut- ties of media are noble, adding they should prioritize the ex- pression of bilateral relations between China and Myanmar and the progress of development undertakings.

The Yunnan Minister remarked that those who emphasize the development of new media can face both opportunities and challenges but the new media have greater opportunities rather than challenges. She unveiled that Yunnan media have changed their positions in conformity with the current era, stressing that media need to produce the best works aligned with current situations and creations that must benefit all humans.

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

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

The Mingala Talk intro- ductory programme, the series of reciprocal Fauskphaw com- passion and glittering loyalty programmes were launched.

— KN/TTA

Myanmar to present 2 films to ASEAN-Pretoria Film Festival

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

Myanmar was invited to participate in the ASEAN-Pre- toria Film Festival on Septem- ber 29th, and Myanmar films such as “Upadan” and “3(a)” will be screened at the festival. “When we invited the film companies, they sent only these two films because there were not many producers who wanted to have their films screened. The film festival will be held in October and November. It is a film festival organ- ized by ASEAN and embassies as a cultural exchange,” said U Chan Thar Kyi Soe.

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

— ASH/ MKKS

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

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

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

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

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

Entrance fee for foreigners to be raised...

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The fee will increase to K30,000 per foreigner. They will be allowed three days for visits in the zone, and if their stay period ex- ceeds the permission, the fur- ther zone entrance fee will be charged,” said the director.

Foreigners can visit and observe four sacred tooth relic pagodas in the zone, significant religious monuments built by kings of Bagan dynasty, archi- tectural works, mural paintings in the temples, arts and crafts, il- lumination on Buddhistological Ja- taka stories, stone inscriptions, ink inscriptions, iron furnaces, Sulegon, Wuttanahtaw (aka) Pabetaw, Kheminda, Yinnmana and Lawkaokshuang pagodas in the zone. — ASH/TTA

Captivating images showcase Rakhine Traditional Thingyan Festival in past years.
Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
State Administration Council  
Order No 85/2023  
11th Waxing of Tawthalin 1385 ME  
25 September 2023  
Reconstitution of State Administration Council

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

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

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing  
Senior General  
Chairman  
State Administration Council

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

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

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

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

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

Steering Committee gathers for NCA 8th anniversary celebration planning

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

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

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

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

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

In conclusion, Committee Chair Lt-Gen Yar Pyae summarized the discussions and presentations. The meeting was adjourned with plans in motion for a grand and meaningful NCA 8th anniversary celebration scheduled for 15 October 2023. — MNA/TS
Collaborative implementation of Logistics Surveillance System (E-Lock), National Single Window (NSW)

The Logistics Surveillance System (E-Lock) is a system implemented on a grand scale in Mandalay in the third week of November this year with the participation of two Myanmar and some 70 Chinese partners, urging them to arrange meetings with customs officials at the Zeya Thihla meeting hall on the morning of 25 September.

The meeting held at the Myanmar Radio and Television on Pyay Road of Yangon yesterday focused on the choice of news, presentation, dressing and creativity expressed his agreement with the Union minister and some 70 Myanmar participants, urging them to arrange visits to Nay Pyi Taw after the forum.

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

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

Deputy Prime Minister MoPF Union Minister U Win Shein made this announcement during a meeting with Customs Department officials at the Zeya Thihla meeting hall on the morning of 25 September. E-Lock and the National Single Window System are crucial projects that must be successfully implemented.

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

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

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

The Logistics Surveillance System, known as E-Lock, is currently under implementation. In this system, product inspections at the starting point and the end of the journey are essential for direct monitoring by CCTV cameras in the E-Lock Control Room. Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister of Planning and Finance U Win Shein said the Union minister talked about cooperation with foreign countries in the forum programme.

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

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

In the afternoon, the Union minister talked about cooperation with foreign countries in the media sector at the meeting with officials from the Myanmar Press Council Office in Botataung Township. — ASH/KZW
Myanmar delegation led by MoI UM returns after attending 16th ASEAN Information Ministers’ meeting

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

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

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

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

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

Deadline set for 2nd round of oil mill loan applications

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Furthermore, the conversation encompassed the Chinese Yuan’s inclusion in the IMF’s SDR Currency Basket and the emergence of global reserve currencies.

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

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

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.
Businesses urged to recognize significance of Industrial Design Law for enhanced business protection

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

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

All designs that are visible and appealing to consumers, such as customized clothing patterns, jewellery designs, accessories, watches, vehicles, luxury items, home interior designs, and packaging designs, as well as any items created for competitive sale in the market, are considered industrial products. Innovation in design plays a crucial role since customers consider industrial products. Outstanding industrial designs provide a competitive advantage and greater profits for manufacturers and companies that invest in industrial design.

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

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

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

Warning issued not to catch hilsa species for one month

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It is reported that garlic, lead sulphide, cardboard paper scraps, and plastic scraps were exported to neighbouring countries. — TWA/CT
Myanmar’s pulses exports surge, garnering US$650 mln in 5.5 months

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

The pulses exports by seaborne trade amounted to $542,625 million (over 607,441.396 tonnes), whereas over 123,446 tonnes of pulses worth $106.089 million were sent to the neighbouring countries through land borders between 1 April and 15 September 2023, totalling $648,714 million from exports of over 790,888 tonnes.

Myanmar's pulses exports earned over US$1.47 billion from over 1.9 million tonnes in the previous FY 2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce’s statistics indicated. India has growing demand and consumption requirements for black gram and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2021, India will import 256,000 tonnes of black gram and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses' annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are also entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that annual quota.

The current market prices are K2.584 million per tonne of pigeon pea (tur). — NN/EM

Yangon rice market prepares for sluggish demand ahead

As the new monsoon low-grade paddy is being piled up and new high-grade Pawsan paddy will be harvested in two months, rice demand is set to slow in Yangon's depot, U Kyaw, a rice warehouse situated on the Myanmar-India border, via land routes.

“Goods will be transported from the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transport Project. Subsequently, goods will be transported from Paletwa to Mizoram, situated on the Myanmar-India border, via land routes. In order to streamline trade between Rakhine State and Mizoram State, dedicated jetties have been constructed in both Sittway and Paletwa for maritime transport. Furthermore, reports indicate that the construction of the road connecting Mizoram to Chin State has been successfully completed.

The inauguration of the Sittway Jetty within the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project took place on 9 May 2023, with the presence of officials from both India and Myanmar. The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, initiated in 2018 as part of the India-Myanmar Friendship Programme, entails an investment of US$548 million by India. — ASH/MKKS

YGN palm oil wholesale reference price continues to fall

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

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

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market was set lower for a week ending 1 October at K4,375 per viss, according to the Supervisor Committee on edible oil import and distribution. The reference price was registered at K4,440 per viss last week ending 24 September. This week’s price showed a decrease of K65 per viss compared to that of the previous week.

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

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

The Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce notified the consumers of lodging the complaints for overcharging through the Call Centre’s Hotline in late August.

The Department urged consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices while the ministry is making efforts to bring down the palm oil prices.

The Department is making concerted efforts to steer the high volatility in palm oil prices in the retail market and offer fairer prices to the consumers, in coordination with the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association and oil importing companies. The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over Hot Line: 1335 of the Call Center of the Consumers Affairs Department or sent to the Facebook Page of the Department and the Facebook pages of the region and state departments concerned.

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

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

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

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

FROM PAGE-1
facilitate the transportation of goods from Sittway to Paletwa via maritime routes as part of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transport Project. Subsequently, goods will be transported from Paletwa to Mizoram, situated on the Myanmar-India border, via land routes.

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Population and other authorities to ensure a seamless enumeration of census and household registration data scheduled for 1 October 2024, marking a decade since the last census in 2014. Recognizing the gravity of this task and its implications for the nation’s future, government officials and departmental personnel must work closely through preparations to navigate the challenges it presents. The Ministry of Immigration and Population and township officials have had preparatory discussions with the people of mainland China’s complete and accurate data both online and as hard-bound handbooks in real-time.

The media representatives observed that the People’s Daily and Yunnan Daily have strong reputations in China and that they are working hard face-to-face with 20 townships in October as part of the preparations.

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

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

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

Lancang-Mekong Cooperation: A glimpse into the innovative media

Representatives from the six Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMEC) member countries, including Myanmar, attended the 2023 Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Media Summit and Workshop from 27 June to 4 July 2023 in three major cities in China, aiming for a better future plan innovative media. The China media sector has continued to be a critical step toward achieving a significant milestone in the nation’s history.

It lays the foundation in the nation’s history. It has become a new main media group with more than 10 million followers on Weibo, WeChat, Facebook, and Twitter. People’s Daily has also launched a commercial software service called People’s PressReader that provides outsourcing content censor in 2022.

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

The People’s Daily publishes 26 pages on weekdays and eight pages on weekends and holidays, all in colour consisting of important news, commentaries, theories, weeklies and supplements. In 2023, the daily circulation of the People’s Daily reached 3.2 million copies across the nation daily.

The communication of the People’s Daily in digital platforms is growing significantly, with more than 100 million followers on Weibo, WeChat, Facebook, and Twitter. People’s Daily has also launched a commercial software service called People’s PressReader that provides outsourcing content censor in 2022.

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

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

The summit was jointly organized by the International Organization of Employers (IOE), the Japan Business Federation (Keidanren) and the European Employers-OIE, the Japan Business Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Keidanren), and the Asia Employers’ Summit held at the head office of Keidanren Kaikan in Japan.

The summit aimed to promote cooperation among national-level social partners in the regions of the Asia-Pacific, including India’s Human Rights Commission Vice-Chair Dr Nanda Hmun, and Deputy Director-General Dr Khine Khine Win attended the 38th Annual General Meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum and Biennial Conference in New Delhi, India, on 20-21 September 2023.

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

Discussions at the meeting revolved around collaboration among Asia Pacific National Human Rights Organizations and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs). They also addressed administrative and financial matters of the Forum and explored future work programmes, leading to the issuance of the and Business Membership Organization-EBMOs with prospects to boost the future economy, salaries and wages, skills, challenges in all aspects, opportunities, economic and human rights, building sustainable and competitive supply chains in Asia, organizing MSME businesses to become EBMO members, exchange of significant success of MSME businesspersons in Asia, digital transformation in the world economic landscape and the important role of the Classbox Economy.

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

Delhi Declaration approved

MYANMAR National Human Rights Commission Vice-Chair Dr Nanda Hmun, and Deputy Director-General Dr Khine Khine Win attended the 38th Annual General Meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum and Biennial Conference in New Delhi, India, on 20-21 September 2023.

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

Dr Nanda Hmun and Dr Khine Khine Win of MNHRC returned to Yangon on 23 September. — MNA/MKKS
The ‘tyranny of thinness’ still dominates fashion

**The Global New Light of Myanmar**

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

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

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

Experts have called “fat-washing,” which means brands use a few curvy models to deflect criticism.

The idea is to break down all the walls,” said Graham, 35, whose production “Lines” premiered this weekend and runs until 8 October at the Dream City Festival in Tunis. The performance brings together 15 dancers from different segments of society in the north African country.

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

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

‘Break down walls’: Tunisia dance show celebrates diversity

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

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

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“The Nun II” tops North American box office for 3rd straight weekend

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

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

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


Lionsgate’s action film “Expendibles,” starring Sylvester Stallone and Jason Statham, opened in second place with 8.3 million dollars this weekend.

Taylor Swift turns out for Chiefs game stoking Kelce romance rumours

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Malaysia boosts China palm oil exports under EU pressure

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Srettha noted that ensuring tourist safety is their top priority, right from the moment visitors set foot in the country until they depart with a memorable experience. — Xinhua
Amazon steps up AI race with $4 bln Anthropic investment

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

The success of OpenAI’s ChatGPT, a chatbot released last year that is able to generate poems, essays and other works with just a short prompt, has led to billions being invested in the field. Amazon had already announced it aimed to soup up its Alexa voice assistant with generative AI, which the firm said would allow users to have smoother conversations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Indonesia to regulate social media sales soon: leader

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

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

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

Announcement to Shareholders

1. We are pleased to announce that 31st Annual General Meeting (2022-2023 FY) of Myanmar Citizens Bank Ltd. is soon to be held. The meeting will be arranged in accord with the bank’s Articles of Association and Memorandum of Association. Thus, some directors shall terminate at the end of their terms and new directors shall be elected for their places as per existing Articles of Association.

2. Candidates shall have to submit their applications to the Central Bank of Myanmar in advance before the Meeting. Accordingly any Special Account Holders at Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB) and Security Account Holders at Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) willing to be elected as the directors, among individuals with the shares of MMK 5,000,000 (Five Million Kyats) and above, and companies/associations with MMK 10,000,000 (Ten Million Kyats) and above at the closing on 04.10.2022 as set by MCB Board of Directors, may visit MCB at No-383, Maharbandula Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon and submit your applications by 16:30 on 09.10.2023.

3. Candidates must meet the qualifications stated in sub-clause 1 to 8 of Clause 76 (b) of Section 10, the Financial Institutions Law.

4. Please note to bring NRC (original), 1 photo (license photo size) and proof documents for the ownership of shares along with you at the time of application. We shall announce the time and venue of Annual General Meeting later. For more information, please contact our Administration Department at 01-8386023 and 01-8386029.

Myanmar Citizens Bank Ltd
From K-pop to sales girls: AI goes mainstream in South Korea

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

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

Pulse9 has created digital humans for some of South Korea’s largest conglomerates, including Shinsegae, with responsibilities likened to a tsunami, hard-driving music agencies.

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

But Pulse9 says this is only the beginning. They are “working on developing the technology to broaden AI human use”, Park Ji-eun, the company’s CEO, told AFP: “Virtual humans are basically capable of carrying out much of what real people do,” she said, adding that the current level of AI technology means humans are still needed — for now.

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

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

British PM’s trade envoy visits Cambodia to boost ties

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

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

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

Egypt announces presidential vote on 10-12 December

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Libya orders 8 officials arrested after flood: prosecutor

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

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

The officials are suspected of “bad management” and negligence, a statement from the prosecutor-general’s office said, adding that they served of “bad management” and negligence, a statement from the prosecutor-general’s office said, adding that they served.
Myanmar U-24 Football Team receives cash awards in recognition of advancing to second stage at XIX Asian Games

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

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

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

Japan, South Korea extend winning streak in Asiad women’s football

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

Haruka Osawa had a brace as Japan thrashed Nepal 8-0 in Group D with seven players on the scoresheet. Vietnam also lacked in Group D with seven players on the scoresheet. Vietnam also

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

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

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

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

Liu claimed the silver with 31 hits, while Kazakhstan’s Nikita Chiryukin took the bronze.

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

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

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

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

PHOTO: XINHUA.

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PHOTO: XINHUA.

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

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

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

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

All in all, Venezuela’s foreign minister sees BRICS’s expansion as an “ideal alliance of perfect complementarity”.

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

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

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

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

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

Petition against felling trees in historic Tokyo park area

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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