

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## BPI expands freeze-dried anti-snake venom, novel Covid drug production

BPI has inaugurated a modern freeze-dryer machine and unveiled the BPI Pharmaceutical Museum on 14 August, intending to bolster anti-snake venom production using the freeze-drying system in the coming years.



Cutting-edge freeze-dryer machine in operation for anti-snake venom production at State-owned BPI (Insein).

**T**HE State-owned pharmaceutical factory (Insein) (BPI) is poised to enhance its production of novel anti-COVID medications while continuing the freeze-drying of anti-snake venom in the upcoming year.

BPI has significantly expanded its pharmaceutical production network, encompassing branches like the pharmaceutical factories in Ywathagyi, Inyaung, PyinOoLwin, and Sagaing. Other components include the Anti-Snake Venom Production Branch in Hmawby, the Horse Ranches in Myitthay, Yanpel, and Heho, the Tatmadaw Pharmaceuticals

Factory (Hmawby), and the Universities of Pharmacy in Yangon and Mandalay.



The anti-snake venom serum produced by BPI with the freeze-drying system, which is an Australian technology.

These enclose the Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein) and

the Research Unit.

Furthermore, BPI has inaugurated a modern

freeze-dryer machine and unveiled the BPI Pharma-

ceutical Museum on 14 August, intending to bolster anti-snake venom production using the freeze-drying system in the coming years. The establishment of the BPI Pharmaceutical Museum aims to preserve over six decades of pharmaceutical production experience, equipment, methods, important medical literature, and the legacy of pharmaceutical manufacturing by a Myanmar State-owned enterprise.

The production of anti-snake venom has demonstrated a consistent increase. With 60,000 units manufactured last year, the figure has surged to 80,000 this year. — TWA/CT

## China, ASEAN explore opportunities to enhance trade, investment in Myanmar

CHINA and ASEAN countries see the potential for further expanding trade and investment in Myanmar, said Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo at the 7<sup>th</sup> China-South Asia Exposition and 27<sup>th</sup> China (Kunming) Export and Import Fair and the 5<sup>th</sup> China-Southeast Asia Business Forum.

He said the theme of the events represents the key cooperation between China and Southeast Asian countries. Myanmar participates in ASEAN economic agendas actively and possesses the proper potential for China and ASEAN countries to expand trade and investment, appreciating the role of the private sector which is the main drive for development and stability.

He added that the country will launch close trade and investment relations with China and Southeast Asian countries. Moreover, these countries should promote economic cooperation to explore better futures and chances.

Similarly, UMFCCI President U Aye Win presided over the China-Southeast Asian Business Forum. The presidents of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Southeast Asia and prefectures of Yunnan of China participated in the forum. — ASH/KTZH

### CURRENT AFFAIRS PAGE-6



Rescue operations halt in landslide-affected Phakant jadeland

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Centuries-old U Ye Kyaw Thu Monastery, Thakyamuni ordination hall undergo restoration in Sittway

# NATIONAL



Visitors through the seventh China-South Asia Expo and 27<sup>th</sup> China Kunming Import-Export Fair on the second day yesterday.

## Myanmar engages actively on 2<sup>nd</sup> day of 7<sup>th</sup> China-South Asia Exposition, 27<sup>th</sup> China Kunming Import & Export Fair

THE second day of the 7<sup>th</sup> China-South Asia Expo and the 27<sup>th</sup> China Kunming Export-Import Expo continued yesterday in China and cultural dances performed at the exhibition booth of Myanmar attracted crowds.

The visitors attentively studied the famous tourist destinations and products of Myanmar and pamphlets on investment and tourism in Myanmar at the exhibition hall.

The Export and Import

Fair will be held from 16 to 20 August and Myanmar will participate in the exhibition every day. Additionally, officials from the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization answered the questions raised by the visitors. — MNA/MKKS

## Young minds engage in literary discourse at Innma BEHS

IN a bid to nurture holistic development among students, a dynamic youth dialogue session took place yesterday within the premises of BEHS (Innma). This enlightening event was jointly organized by the Department of Information and Public Relations along with the Department of Basic Education.

These dialogues serve as platforms for the youth to refine

their oratory skills and gain confidence in addressing the public. The aim is to equip them with the ability to communicate articulately and fearlessly.

During this engaging session, school students delved into diverse topics that included “Youth and Education”, “Youth and Reading”, “Youth and Health”, and “Youth and Sports”.

— Maung Shwe Win (Pyay)/KZL



Young attendees engage in literary discourse at Innma Basic Education High School yesterday.

## Bay of Bengal Condition

Issued at 14:00 hours M.S.T on 18-7-2023

ACCORDING to the observations at 13:30 hrs MST today, a low pressure area may form over the Northwest Bay of Bengal during next 12 hrs.

### Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 14:00 hrs MST on 17-8-2023)

#### Flood Condition of Sittoung River

According to the 13:30 hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Madauk has exceeded by about one inch above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next one day.

#### Flood Condition of Thanlwin River

According to the 13:30 hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an has exceeded by about one foot above its danger level. It may fall the present water level by about ½ foot during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

#### Flood Condition of Chindwin River

According to the 13:30 hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Phaungpyin has exceeded by about 1.5 feet above its danger level. It may fall the present water level by about 1.5 foot during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.— DMH

## Pankhinn project phase II set to distribute CSCs to 800,000 individuals

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Immigration and Population, citizenship scrutiny cards will be issued to about 800,000 people who are already 18 years old in the remaining period of the Pankhinn project phase-2.

“As of 31 July 2023, over 900,000 people have been issued CSCs,” said the Union

Minister for Immigration and Population on 15 August.

In the Pankhinn project phase-2, those who have not yet had the CSC due to various reasons will be able to apply for it.

The Pankhinn project lasted 18 months from 3 May 2021 to 3 November 2022. From the start of the project

until 31 July 2023, more than 3.3 million people were issued the CSCs.

The duration of the Pankhinn project phase-2 is 17 months from 1 August 2022 to 31 December 2023 and measures are being taken to issue CSCs to more than 1.7 million people during this period. — TWA/MKKS

## Two new cases of COVID-19 reported on 17 August

TWO new cases of COVID-19 were reported on 17 August 2023, according to the Ministry of Health but there was no new death.

COVID-19 information can be browsed on the internet page moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health. — GNLM

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

1. Emphasis will be placed on ensuring peace and stability and the full rule of law across the whole Union, and on successfully conducting a free and fair multiparty democratic general election.
2. Continued efforts will be made to promote the State economy and enhance the socioeconomic situation of all people through expediting manufacturing businesses rooted in agriculture and livestock to benefit the entire National people.
3. Priority will be given to achieving peace as the essence of the State and stabilizing the results of the peace process in alignment with the agreements in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) to the extent possible.
4. Work processes will be accelerated to ensure a strong disciplined and authentic multiparty democratic system and build a Union founded upon democratic and federal systems.
5. Work will be undertaken to ensure accuracy and fairness in the general election to prevent eligible voters from losing their rights, and upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multi-party democratic elections will be held, and State duties will be handed over to the elected government.

# Pioneering agricultural trade aims to eradicate starvation by 2030, contributing to farmers and people

*THE market and population of GMS contribute to agricultural trade between China and GMS countries while facing global and regional trade challenges.*

NOW is the time for GMS countries to cooperate with each other and seek possible programmes to do cooperation as digital system implementation and its existence plays a key role in economic development, said Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw at the 2023 GMS Economic Corridor Governors Forum in Kunming of the People's Republic of China yesterday morning.

The Union minister expressed his belief that the market and population of the GMS can contribute to the agricultural trade between China and other GMS countries while facing global and regional trade challenges.

He pointed out that the agricultural trade is important for meeting the target of ending starvation in 2030, contributing to the livelihoods of the farmers and the people working in the food supply chain. It aims to reduce food insufficiency and choose better foodstuffs across the world, he added.

The Union minister noted that the countries in individuals and the GMS have three policies on free trade agreements to further strengthen economic cooperation inside and outside the region, strategies for better investment laws and investment amounts, and investment frameworks in the GMS region.

The forum was also attend-



Myanmar delegation, headed by Union Ministers Dr Kan Zaw, U Maung Maung Ohn, and U Aung Naing Oo, take part in group documentary photo session at the 2023 Greater Mekong Sub-region Economic Corridor Governors Forum in Kunming, China, held yesterday.

ed by Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn and Myanmar delegation members together with officials from Yunnan Provincial Government and delegates from Cambodia, Laos and Thailand as well as ADB and South Asian countries.

Myanmar decided to host the 26<sup>th</sup> GMS ministerial level meeting 2023 in Nay Pyi Taw in the coming December. Delegates can share experiences with one another on the smooth investment processes, digitalization, creation of connections with regional governments, and participation of the private sector in the GMS plans and the regional investment frameworks. At the forum, officials of

Yunnan Province, Thailand and Laos signed the memorandum of understanding on economic cooperation.

In Q1 in 2023, the trade value between Yunnan Province of China and five Lancang-Mekong countries scored some US\$3.4 billion, and its rate is increasing year after year. Its value of 634 direct investments amounted to \$8.247 billion.

On the afternoon of 16 August, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn held discussions with Mr Yang Guo Rei, Deputy Chief of National Radio and Television Administration-NRTA, heads of Yunnan Province Radio and TV Administration and Yunnan Media Group-YMG on the promotion

of cooperation in the media sector and development measures. Union Ministers Dr Kan Zaw, U Maung Maung Ohn and U Aung Naing Oo attended the 4<sup>th</sup> Lancang-Mekong Audiovisual Week, the opening of the National Theme Day for Cambodia and entertainment.

In the afternoon, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn viewed round systematic packaging of foodstuffs and personal goods as well as grasping the market share of goods in Yunnan Province at the 7<sup>th</sup> China-South Asia Exposition and the 27<sup>th</sup> China Kunming Export and Import Fair in Kunming and gave instructions on the better export process of Myanmar products in

line with the restrictions of China and Yunnan Province.

The Union minister also visited the Yunnan medications exhibition and instructed officials to fulfil the need for the process for showcasing medications in Myanmar. While in Kunming, the Union minister viewed round the work process of setting the logo of Yunnan Daily in Kunming from 1950 after making preparations in 1948, the progress of the daily in decades, managing the online media as well as print media, and publishing nine dailies and nine magazines, and instructed officials to promptly implement cooperation with Yunnan Daily including exchange of news. — MNA/TTA

# NATIONAL

## MIFER Union Minister participates in 7<sup>th</sup> China-South Asia Expo, 27<sup>th</sup> China Kunming Import & Export Fair

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw visited the Guandu Pilot Free Trade Zone in Kunming of Yunnan Province, China on Wednesday together with delegation leaders of Lancang-Mekong countries such as Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam, who arrived in China to attend the Greater Mekong Economic Corridor Governor Forum.

They also visited Junfa-New Luosiwan International Trade City and Junfa-New

Luosiwan International Trade Mall.

On arrival at China (Yunnan) Pilot Free Trade Zone, the Union Minister and party observed the booths exhibiting Myanmar products at International Trade Enterprises Cluster Park and International Commodity Exhibition and Trading Center.

They also viewed round Tiktok Live Broadcasting Rooms at China-South Asia South East Asia Cross Border E-Commerce Industry Cluster



Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw (second from right) is pictured at the event in Kunming, China.

of Guandu Ecommerce Industrial Park and discussed the investment opportunities and investment types structure of Myanmar.

Then, Mr Li Dehong, administrator of Guandu District, and CEO of China (Yunnan) Pilot Free Trade Zone clarified the current and future investments of the pilot free trade zone.

The Union minister then met the scholars at Yunnan Agricultural University. — MNA/KTZH

## Representatives from Rosatom, Russian universities reunite alumni of Russian universities in nuclear fields

IN a significant stride towards fostering collaboration in the realm of nuclear and related fields, the first get-together of Myanmar nationals who graduated from universities across the Russian Federation, accompanied by representatives from Rosatom, Russian universities, and the State Atomic Energy Corporation of the Russian Federation, was successfully convened.

The event, a result of concerted efforts between Rosatom and the Ministry of Science and Technology, took place yesterday afternoon at the Nuclear Technology Information Centre in Hlaing Township.

Graced by Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Kyaw and officials from the Ministry of Science and Technology, the event also witnessed the attendance of Ms Vera Upirova, Senior Project Manager, and delegates from Rosatom of the



Rosatom representatives, Russia universities' delegates, and Myanmar graduates of Russian universities gather for the first time yesterday in Yangon.

Russian Federation, vice-rectors from Russian universities and former students who had received their education in nuclear technology and related sciences from Russian academ-

ic institutions, and participants pursuing their studies in Russia, as well as those engaging virtually from Myanmar.

Marking the commencement of the alumni meeting

were the resonating national anthems of both Myanmar and the Russian Federation. Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Kyaw delivered an opening address.

Attendees engaged in in-

sightful discussions, sharing their educational journeys and experiences in diverse sectors, including education, nuclear technology, energy, information technology, and others. The focal point of these deliberations was the mutual enhancement of collaboration between the Russian Federation and Myanmar.

The alumni from the renowned MPhI University spearheaded interviews and participated in the exchange of tokens that encapsulated the spirit of this momentous event.

This inaugural gathering of Myanmar's alumni, in conjunction with Rosatom and Russian university representatives, underscores the aspiration of nurturing a strong partnership that transcends geographical boundaries and leverages collective expertise for the advancement of nuclear and related domains. — MNA/TS

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### CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,

Hotline - 09 454237515

### ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,

Hotline - 09 251022355

marketing@gnlm.com.mm

subscription@gnlm.com.mm

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[gnlmnews@gmail.com](mailto:gnlmnews@gmail.com),  
[newsroom@gnlm.com.mm](mailto:newsroom@gnlm.com.mm)  
[www.gnlm.com.mm](http://www.gnlm.com.mm)

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# NATIONAL

## Myanmar delegation participates in 4<sup>th</sup> Lancang-Mekong Audiovisual Week



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn addresses the fourth Lancang-Mekong Audiovisual Week event in Kunming, China yesterday.

THE 4<sup>th</sup> Lancang-Mekong Audiovisual Week commenced with a grand opening ceremony held at Studio 1 of Yunnan Media Group in Kunming yesterday evening. This collaborative event, co-organized by China's National Radio and Television Administration (NRTA), Cambodia's Ministry of Information, and the People's Government of Yunnan Province, China, brought together a delegation from Myanmar and other Mekong-Lancang countries.

Dignitaries including the NRTA Deputy Minister, Cambodia's Information Minister,

the Deputy Governor of Yunnan Province, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, and Laos' Deputy Minister of Information, Culture, and Tourism delivered opening speeches during the ceremony.

In his address, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn emphasized the pivotal role that the media sector plays in contributing knowledge and information for regional development. He highlighted the collaborative efforts of Mekong-Lancang countries to strengthen media-to-media exchanges, studies, and cooperation, fostering

close relationships among the people of the region. This initiative resonates with the theme of the 4<sup>th</sup> Audiovisual Week: "Enjoy Lancang-Mekong Audiovisual Extravaganza and Co-Compose the Golden Chapter."

U Maung Maung Ohn also underscored the importance of media in Myanmar during the country's pursuit of democratic and federal systems in alignment with the State Administration Council's roadmap, political, economic and social objectives. He stressed the need for Mekong-Lancang countries to enhance sector-wise cooper-

ation in news and media, promoting the ethical application and exchange of modern media technology in line with international norms.

A significant moment during the event was the signing of a cooperation agreement between the NRTA and China Television Theatre, witnessed by the attendees. Additionally, the launch of the Mekong Look App marked a crucial development. Created by the Yunnan Media Group, this app accommodates languages from Mekong-Lancang countries such as China, Cambodia, Thailand,

Laos, Myanmar, and Viet Nam. The app will undergo testing with Chinese, Cambodian, and Thai languages until August 2023, after which it will expand to include Lao, Myanmar, and Vietnamese languages by the end of 2025.

Myanmar, a proud Mekong-Lancang country, took part in the event with the intention of signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to further communication and cooperation among member countries.

The ceremony featured screenings of documentary videos showcasing Mekong-Lancang cooperation activities, past events, and development programmes, employing techniques from various regional countries.

Prior to the opening ceremony, information ministers, deputy ministers, counselors, and heads of TV stations engaged in an exclusive meeting, exchanging perspectives on pertinent information issues.

Concluding the day's events, the Union minister and the delegation from Myanmar explored the Yunnan Famous Tea Museum alongside representatives from other Mekong-Lancang countries. — MNA/KTZH

## Myanmar delegation attends 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-PAC Secretariat Meeting in Cambodia

LED by U Htein Lin, Director-General of the International Affairs and Prevention Department under the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), a Myanmar delegation participated in the 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Parties Against Corruption (ASEAN-PAC) Secretariat Meeting held on 16-17 August at the Sofitel Angkor Phokeethra Golf & Spa Resort in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

During the meeting, representatives from 10 ASEAN member countries approved the minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-PAC Secretariat Meeting held on 13 September 2022. Discussions centred around Cambodia's

hosting of the meeting, as the alternate Chairman of ASEAN-PAC, and deliberations on the issuance and distribution of an ASEAN-PAC e-booklet. The State Inspection Authority (SIA) of Laos, set to host the 19<sup>th</sup> Principals' Meeting of ASEAN-PAC in November 2023, presented the arrangements for the upcoming event. The gathering also covered topics like promoting news about the 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-PAC Secretariat Meeting on the ASEAN-PAC Portal, establishing an ASEAN-PAC contact list, and designating focal points.

Myanmar's delegation engaged in discussions regarding



The 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-PAC Secretariat Meeting in progress on 16-17 August in Cambodia.

the functioning of the Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission, the collaboration between Myanmar and other ASEAN-PAC member countries, as well as interactions with regional anti-corruption bodies. The delegation also highlighted individual partnerships by signing Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and outlined future initiatives.

Representatives from Cambodia's Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) and other ASEAN-PAC member countries participated in the meeting, contributing to productive conversations about future measures. — MNA/TH

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

# Rescue operations halt in landslide-affected Phakant jadeland



Members of the rescue teams are seen carrying the discovered bodies while onlookers involving family members of missing jade miners and local people watch the scene at the incident site in Phakant's jadeland area. **PHOTO: HNALONE HLA CSO**

RESCUE teams stopped their search after the bodies of 33 jade scavengers had been discovered from a landslide, according to the civil society organizations that are involved in rescue efforts.

A sand cliff collapsed at a jade mining site near Manna village in Phakant township on 13 August, injuring eight jade

scavengers and leaving nearly 39 people missing. Rescue efforts were started by 13 civil society organizations, discovering 33 bodies as of 16 August and they stopped their search, Ko Thar Gyi, a member of a civil society organization told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM) yesterday.

The incident of the sand

cliff collapse happened in the jade working area lake, spanning around 1,000 feet in length, 250 feet in width, and towering over 400 feet in height. The collapse caused the water to surge into the lake, tragically trapping jade miners in the murky waters.

"During four days of search, 33 bodies have been

discovered by rescue teams. According to a register of workers, 39 persons were estimated to be working there before the collapse. If the remaining bodies are found, local civil society organizations will arrange for funeral services. Our organization has stopped the search," Ko Thar Gyi told the GNLM. — TWA/TH

## University admission applications to open on 25 August

ACCORDING to the Department of Higher Education of the Ministry of Education, applications for admission to the university of those who passed the 2023 Matriculation Examination will be accepted from 25 August.

For the application, they must personally collect the score list and summary of qualifications from the supervisors of the examination department (heads of basic education high schools) where they took the exam, the guidebook for admission to the university, and the form in the envelopes to apply for admission to the university starting from 25 August.

The application envelopes will be received at the relevant universities from 25 August to 10 September, including Saturdays and Sundays.

Applications for university admission will be accepted at 26 universities nationwide, including universities in Yangon and Mandalay and other major cities.

Those who have passed the deadline can send their university admission application to the Department of Higher Education (Yangon Branch) at Thaton Road, Kamayut Township.

In the 2023 matriculation exam under the old system, nearly 100,000 out of more than 160,000 candidates passed the exam, with 67.87 per cent of pass rate. —TWA/KZL



The view of the Yangon University of Distance Education.

# MoH warns about counterfeit Covid vaccines, urges online sellers to register

THE Ministry of Health has issued a public alert regarding the use of counterfeit COVID-19 vaccines administered by certain clinics, which have been illegally imported online.

The notice highlighted that specific clinics and online platforms have been utilizing unlawfully imported vaccines, including Modera COVID-19 Bivalent Original and Omicron BA4/BA5 vaccines, as well as fake vaccines with Lot No AS7185B (Exp Date: 4 July 2023) and Lot No AS7144B (Exp Date: 12 May 2023). These instances were reported on Facebook pages. The public was urged to stay cautious and avoid such sources.

The Ministry of Health recommended receiving COVID-19



People are seen getting vaccinated against COVID-19 under the programme of the Ministry of Health in May 2022.

vaccinations solely through the official MoH programme available in states and regions.

The Department of Food and Drug Administration, advised individuals to exclusively use medicines bearing a Myanmar FDA Registration number. This practice ensures that the

registration, manufacturing, and import of drugs adhere to established standards to ensure safety and quality.

Online entities involved in sales, were instructed to complete the registration process within six months, as per the Ministry of Commerce's an-

nouncement on 21 July (Notification No 50/2023). The issuance of a registration certificate is expedited for complete document submissions during the online shop registration application. The Consumer Affairs Department emphasized that products like food, medicines, and cosmetics would be rejected from the online registration system without FDA approval.

Should any entity be found conducting online sales without a registration certificate six months post-notice publication, enforcement action would be taken under Section 5 of the Essential Supplies and Services Law. Offenders could face imprisonment for six months to three years and be fined up to K500,000. — TWA/CT

# LOCAL BUSINESS

## MRF, affiliated associations contribute K110 mln to Rakhine State government

MYANMAR Rice Federation (MRF) and its affiliated associations donated K110 million to the Rakhine State government.

A team led by the president of the MRF, including 22 members, visited Sittway from 12 to 14 August. During the trip, they contributed K110 million to the Rakhine State government on 12 August to ramp up rice production, escalate commercialization and assist in the resettlement of the Cyclone Mocha-hit agriculture businesses in Rakhine State.

Furthermore, the Rakhine State's chief minister, regional ministers, department officials, rice millers, traders and farmers discussed the coordination matters during the resettlement activities, market stability, boosting production, development of rice milling and MSMEs in the industry, exportation to Bangladesh, irrigation project from the river, integrated farming and drawing a master plan for the Rakhine State' agriculture and livestock sector.

The prices of other rice varieties are on an upward trend. The prices of old Pawsan rice hit K105,000-110,000 per sack depending on producing areas (Myaungmya, Pathein, Pyapon and other regions), while Pawsan from the Shwebo area touched the highest of K140,000 per sack. The prices



Productive coordination meeting takes place on 12 August 2023, involving Rakhine State government representative, rice millers, traders and farmers, and Myanmar Rice Federation officials.

stood at K95,000 per bag for Kunni, K69,000 for Ngasein, K69,000 for Aemahta, K95,000 for Pawkywe, K69,000 for rice grown under intercropping system and K107,000 for new Pawsan rice variety, as per the price data released by Myanmar Rice Wholesale Centre (Wahdan).

The MRF, Myanmar Rice Traders Association and exporting companies worked together to sell off the rice from 7 August at Wahdan and Bayintnaung rice wholesale depots to control the price rallies.

The rice prices are set at K110,000-120,000 per sack of

Shwebo Pawsan, K94,000-97,000 per sack of Ayeyawady Pawsan, K65,000 per sack of Aemahta variety (10 per cent broken) and K60,000 per sack of Aemahta (25 per cent broken). An individual is entitled to buy one Pawsan rice sack and one low-grade rice sack per month at Wahdan and Bayintnaung rice depots, by presenting the citizenship scrutiny card.

Additionally, civil service personnel, factory and company staff can buy them by contacting the MRF via email: admin@mrf.com.mm with presenting an official letter. For further detail, please contact the MRF

Ph: 09400067260, 09400067270, Wahdan rice depot Ph: 018 221448, 018 220131, 018 210287 and Bayintnaung rice depot Ph: 09 769029428.

Myanmar has achieved self-sufficiency in rice and only the surplus rice is exported systematically. At present, rice crops are being harvested in the northern Bago Region and central Myanmar Region. With the electricity supply improving, rice mills could run operations fully. Therefore, the production meets the consumption for sure. Nevertheless, those unscrupulous are spreading malicious rumours and fake news to trigger

consumers' concerns and spark panic buying. The federation hereby requested the consumers to stop panic buying and buy the rice only if necessary.

Myanmar Rice Federation will endeavour to stabilize the rice price and steer the market for the right price and the right product. The MRF will join hands with the rice millers, rice traders and companies. The federation called on them to balance the short-term and long-term benefits in trading, as per the MRF's notification dated 24 April.

Individuals and family entities can contact the rice wholesale centres for fair prices and the right products. For any difficulties, please contact the office of the MRF, as per the statement.

Myanmar Rice Federation notified on 24 April that tips-off about those manipulators who spread malicious rumours on digital platforms to spark concerns of the consumers and raise the rice prices can be done for the sake of the long-term benefit of the rice industry. The federation will forward the reports of those manipulators to the relevant authorities if they refuse to be persuaded. The MRF encouraged all the stakeholders in the supply chain to exert concerted efforts in this as well. — NN/EM

## 600 companies fail to submit annual return in July: DICA

A total of 600 companies failed to submit annual returns (AR) on the online registry system in July 2023, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The DICA has notified that any registered company which fails to file its AR on MyCO is to be struck off the register from the date of the directive, under Section 430 (F) of Myanmar Companies Law, according to the DICA's notification.

Five hundred companies in

January, 400 each in February and March, 200 in April, 550 in May and 750 in June did not file the AR on the MyCO. In the past seven months this year, 3,400 companies failed to file AR.

Additionally, 5,000 companies failed to submit AR in 2022, the DICA stated.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018 under the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

All registered companies need to submit AR on the MyCO

registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation) under Section 97 of the law.

Under Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously. All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days before the end of the financial year under Section

53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, thousands of companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms before the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR

within 28 days after receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totalling K250,000.

If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/EM

# OPINION

## Enhance road safety: A global imperative

**I**N A world fraught with traffic dangers that imperil countless lives, the paramount significance of traffic safety cannot be overstated. Across the globe, an earnest focus on road safety measures is being championed to counteract the scourge of traffic accidents.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently released a sobering report, revealing that an alarming 1.3 million lives are claimed annually by road accidents worldwide, while over 50 million individuals suffer injuries. Tragically, this toll is steadily mounting year by year.

Historically, road accidents ranked as the eighth leading cause of mortality in the first decade. However, the report projects that this grim statistic might ascend to the third position during the 2020s. Notably, the majority of nations worldwide experience an annual economic setback of three to five per cent of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) due to road accidents, a fiscal burden for developing countries.

To counter this crisis, the Decade of Action for Road Safety has been enacted, aligned with the five pillars of road safety strategy: road safety management,

safer vehicles, enhanced road user behaviour, improved post-crash response, and the creation of safer driving environments. These pillars offer a holistic approach to road safety endorsed by the United Nations, providing a conceptual framework that informs road safety endeavours.

Presently, a comprehensive global plan for the second decade has been devised, augmenting the five pillars with 12 voluntary targets geared towards halving casualties resulting from road and traffic accidents by 2030. Active public involvement remains pivotal in preventing road accidents and ensuring traffic safety.

In Myanmar, the National Road Safety Council (NRSC) is at the vanguard, formulating essential policies and plans to oversee traffic and road safety

initiatives. The annual NRSC report underscores that a staggering 94 per cent of traffic accidents stem from human recklessness, compounded by road conditions, designs, and standards.

Right from the inception of road projects, the integration of road safety measures becomes paramount. The installation of pertinent road signs and directional aids assumes heightened importance in fostering road and traffic safety. Consequently, adherence to traffic regulations by the populace should be unwavering, while authorities must redouble their efforts to fortify the safety of road users.

As the world confronts the relentless toll of road accidents, it is incumbent upon societies to champion a collective commitment to road safety. Only through resolute adherence to regulations and a steadfast dedication to creating safer road environments can the harrowing statistics of road accidents be curbed, ultimately preserving precious lives across the globe.

By Yin Nwe Ko

**A**GEING is an inevitable part of life's journey, and with it comes a unique set of challenges that affect individuals in various ways. One such challenge is the often-overlooked trouble faced by aged individuals. As the body and mind undergo natural changes, seniors must confront physical limitations, cognitive decline, social isolation, and a sense of diminishing independence. However, it is important to recognize that within these struggles lie opportunities for growth, resilience, and the wisdom that only comes with a life well-lived.

### Physical Limitations

One of the primary difficulties that aged individuals face is the gradual decline of physical abilities. The body becomes more vulnerable to ailments and diseases, and even simple tasks such as walking, climbing stairs, or carrying groceries can become arduous. Chronic pain, mobility issues, and the risk of falls become daily concerns, altering the way seniors navigate the world.

To address these challenges, it is crucial to prioritize physical well-being. Regular exercise, tailored to individual needs and capabilities, can help improve strength, balance, and flexibility. Moreover, modifications to the living environment, such as installing handrails or non-slip mats, can enhance safety and independence. By adopting a proactive approach to physical health, aged individuals can mitigate the troubles associated with physical limitations and maintain a higher

quality of life. However, there are strategies to cope with cognitive decline. Mental stimulation, through puzzles, games, or reading, can help maintain cognitive abilities. Building routines and utilizing memory aids, such as calendars or reminder apps, can

“Providing adequate care services is essential for aiding the troubles of aged individuals. This includes both in-home care and residential facilities. Society should support initiatives that offer home assistance, allowing elderly individuals to age in the comfort of their own homes while receiving necessary help with daily tasks, medical care, and companionship.”

quality of life.

### Cognitive Decline

Another significant trouble faced by the elderly is cognitive decline, including memory loss, reduced attention span, and difficulties with problem-solving.



Communities, families, and caregivers can play a vital role in promoting social connections among the elderly by organizing and encouraging participation in relevant activities. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY

Conditions like Alzheimer's and dementia can cause profound emotional distress and hinder daily functioning. The frustration of forgetting cherished memories, losing track of time, or struggling to articulate thoughts can lead to feelings of isolation and vulnerability.

However, there are strategies to cope with cognitive decline. Mental stimulation, through puzzles, games, or reading, can help maintain cognitive abilities. Building routines and utilizing memory aids, such as calendars or reminder apps, can

assist in daily tasks and boost independence. Furthermore, engaging in social activities and maintaining social connections can contribute to cognitive vitality, as social interaction stimulates the mind and provides emotional support.

## Navigating the Challenges and Finding Strength

### Social Isolation

One of the most pressing troubles faced by the aged is the risk of social isolation. As friends and family members age or pass away, social circles tend to diminish, leaving individuals

“Providing adequate care services is essential for aiding the troubles of aged individuals. This includes both in-home care and residential facilities. Society should support initiatives that offer home assistance, allowing elderly individuals to age in the comfort of their own homes while receiving necessary help with daily tasks, medical care, and companionship.”

feeling lonely and disconnected. Reduced mobility, transportation challenges, and limited access to technology can further exacerbate this issue.

Recognizing the importance of social interaction, it is vital for society to address the isolation

faced by aged individuals. Communities can establish programs that facilitate social engagement, organize events specifically tailored to seniors, and provide transportation services to help them participate in activities outside their homes. Additionally, family members, friends, and neighbors must make an effort to maintain connections with the elderly, whether through regular visits, phone calls, or virtual communication.

### Diminishing Independence

A significant psychological challenge faced by elderly individuals is the sense of diminishing independence. Tasks that were once routine and effortless may now require assistance, eroding self-esteem and creating a feeling of helplessness. This loss of autonomy can lead to frustration and a loss of purpose, contributing to mental and emotional distress.

To address this trouble, it is crucial to foster an environment

that promotes autonomy and dignity for the elderly. Implementing assistive technologies, such as personal emergency response systems or smart home devices, can enhance safety while preserving independence. Encouraging participation in decision-making processes and valuing the opinions of seniors can also help combat the feeling of powerlessness, allowing them to maintain a sense of control over their lives.

As our population continues to age, it becomes increasingly important for society to address the unique challenges faced by elderly individuals. The troubles experienced by aged persons, such as physical limitations, cognitive decline, social isolation, and diminishing independence, which were mentioned above and what is more, require collective efforts to ensure their well-being and quality of life. By fostering a supportive and inclusive society, we can help alleviate these difficulties and provide the necessary support for our

## in Ageing

aging population.

### Promote Age-Friendly Infrastructure

Creating age-friendly environments is crucial to aid the troubles of aged persons. This involves designing cities and communities that are accessible and accommodating to individuals with varying physical abilities. Implementing ramps, handrails, and wider sidewalks can facilitate mobility, while well-lit public spaces and seating areas can provide rest stops for older individuals. Additionally, public transportation systems should be designed to accommodate the needs of the elderly, ensuring ease of travel and accessibility to essential services.

### Enhance Social Connections

Social isolation is a significant concern for aged individuals, often leading to loneliness and a decline in mental well-being. To address this issue, society must actively promote social connections

among the elderly. Community centers, senior clubs, and local organizations can organize social events, group activities, and educational programs specifically tailored to their needs. Encouraging intergenerational interactions, where young and old can learn from one another, can also foster a sense of belonging and purpose for aged persons.

### Establish Supportive Care Services

Providing adequate care services is essential for aiding the troubles of aged individuals. This includes both in-home care and residential facilities. Society should support initiatives that offer home assistance, allowing elderly individuals to age in the comfort of their own homes while receiving necessary help with daily tasks, medical care, and companionship. Additionally, well-designed and well-staffed residential care facilities can provide a supportive and safe environment for those requiring more comprehensive care.

### Encourage Lifelong Learning

Cognitive decline is a common trouble faced by the elderly. By promoting lifelong learning opportunities, society can help maintain cognitive abilities and mental well-being. Community education programs, workshops, and online courses tailored for seniors can stimulate their minds, and foster a sense of accomplishment. Creating platforms where older individuals can share their knowledge and skills with younger generations can also contribute to intergenerational understanding and bridge the generation gap.

### Foster Intergenerational Support

Intergenerational support is vital for aiding the troubles of aged persons. Encouraging interactions and connections between different age groups can create a mutually beneficial environment. Schools, universities, and community organizations can facilitate

intergenerational programs where young individuals volunteer or assist older adults. This not only helps the aged persons with tasks they may find challenging but also nurtures empathy, respect, and understanding among younger generations.

### Raise Awareness and Sensitize Society:

To aid the troubles of aged persons, it is crucial to raise awareness about their challenges and sensitize society to their needs. Educational campaigns, public forums, and media initiatives can highlight the issues faced by the elderly, promote empathy, and challenge ageist stereotypes. By fostering a culture that values and respects the contributions of aged individuals, we can create a society that prioritizes their well-being and recognizes the importance of their wisdom and experience.

The trouble of an aged person encompasses physical limitations, cognitive decline, social isolation, and diminishing independence. However, through a combination of support, understanding, and proactive measures, these challenges can be mitigated, enabling aged individuals to lead fulfilling lives.

As a society, we must recognize the immense value and wisdom that seniors bring. By creating inclusive communities that prioritize the well-being and inclusion of aged individuals, we can harness their experiences and knowledge to enrich our collective lives. Ultimately, the troubles faced by the elderly can be transformed into opportunities for growth, resilience, and intergenerational harmony.

Aiding the troubles of aged persons requires a collective effort from society. By promoting age-friendly infrastructure, enhancing social connections, establishing supportive care services, encouraging lifelong learning, fostering intergenerational support, and raising awareness, we can create a society that supports and values its elderly population. Therefore, it will be crucial to work together and build a compassionate and inclusive society that ensures the well-being and dignity of aged individuals as they navigate the challenges of aging.

Reference: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3578989/>



# NATIONAL

## Centuries-old U Ye Kyaw Thu Monastery, Thakyamuni ordination hall undergo restoration in Sittway

THE renovation work on 106-year-old U Ye Kyaw Thu monastery and Thakyamuni ordination hall are being conducted in Sittway Township of Rakhine State, said U Kyi Khin, director of the Department of Archeology and National Museum (Sittway Branch).

The Rakhine's historic U Ye Kyaw Thu monastery and the Thakyamuni ordination hall located in the monastery compound were hit by Cyclone Mocha and the repair works are underway in their original structures.

"It has begun the repair works on Mocha-hit U Ye Kyaw Thu monastery and Thakyamuni ordination hall since



Photos show the 106-year-old U Ye Kyaw Thu Monastery – locally called "Than Kyaung" as it was constructed largely of iron.



July. The destroyed old tiles of the ordination hall are replaced with new ones and also the lighting and water pipes,"

he said.

The U Ye Kyaw Thu Monastery was built in 1917 by Arakanese tycoon U Ye Kyaw

Thu, who established Myanmar's nascent banking industry. The 106-year-old monastery was also named "Than

Kyaung" as it was constructed largely of iron and was damaged in fighting during World War II. — ASH/KTZH

## Yangon hosts construction & renewable energy expo on 18-20 August

An advert of the expo event.

THE construction and renewable energy exhibition will be launched from 18 to 20 August at the Yangon Convention Centre (YCC) in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, according

to the managing director of IMS Silver Sea Exhibition, U Zarni Tin Myint, who organized the event.

With the main support of the Myanmar Engineering Fed-

eration, the expo will be attended by various engineering academic associations, featuring an exhibition of electric vehicles (EVs).

"About the expo, there will be three parts. The first part includes the construction sector. It will be construction equipment and technology. The second part is the housing sector, especially housing and condos. The last one is the renewable energy sector. In that section, solar and EV vehicles will be displayed," U Zarni Tin Myint said.

In the exhibition, the engineering associations participating in the Myanmar Engineering Federation will also read 10 technical papers.

The engineers attending the symposium will also be supported by the Myanmar Engineering Federation and the Myanmar Engineering Council. — ASH/KZL

## Confiscation of illegal items: Fuel oil, medicines, consumer goods, industrial materials and vehicles

AN on-duty team under Kachin State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force captured three Nissan diesel UD (approximately worth K155 million), headed to Tanai from Myitkyina, carrying 3,870 gallons of smuggled diesel and 2070 gallons of smuggled gasoline worth K78,071,400 at the combined checkpoint of Tanai township on 14 August. The action was taken under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

The combined teams examined a motorbike, headed south from the north, on the road in front of Hotel Magic in Myothit Ward 1 in Chanmyathazi township on 14 August and seized four kinds of smuggled medicines worth K1,261,500 including four boxes of Dano Injection (Tetanus Taxoid Tetanus vaccine) without registration at the Ministry of Health and drug registration number.

According to the information related to these seized medications, officials made inspections on the pharmaceutical warehouse in Chanayethazan township and confiscated another 52 kinds of medicines worth

K27,483,300 including 22 boxes of Megra-100 tablets without registration at the Ministry of Health and drug registration number.

The Customs on-duty teams under the supervision of the Customs Department made inspections at the Myanmar Industrial Port on 15 August and, from three containers, impounded 13 kinds of goods worth K275,457,630 including 255 lead acid storage batteries that were to be abandoned by the owner for not being able to pay the fines for importing without a licence, 132 Chicken ceramic tiles worth K2,567,277 that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) at the Wampon International Port in Tachilek township and nine kinds of goods worth K2,435,000 including 12 electric cookers (red) without official documents from a vehicle travelling from Kengtung to Tachilek at the Maeyan combined checkpoint.

A total of six arrests were made on 14 and 15 August, with an estimated value of K542,276,057, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

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.

## Plus-size movement reshapes fashion in Brazil

DEFYING the fashion world's narrow stereotype of beauty, Brazilian plus-size designer Amanda Momente poses confidently for the camera, wearing the clothing label she founded after failing to find other options that fit. More than half of all adults in Brazil are overweight, but Momente is part of a growing movement of entrepreneurs, activists and models who are fed up with a fashion industry they say fails to fit their needs and shames them for their bodies.

"Society judged me based on one thing, so I took that thing and used it... to launch my business," says Momente, 34, dressed in a sheer black bodysuit created by Wondersize, the company she founded in 2017.

The former real-estate agent, who sports a pink mohawk and multiple tattoos, got the idea after feeling uncomfortable at the gym in clothes she says were too tight, turned transparent when stretched or bunched up around her thighs.



More than 50 per cent of Brazilian adults are overweight. A movement, including individuals like Momente, consisting of entrepreneurs, activists, and models, is gaining momentum. **PHOTO: WONDERSIZE/INSTAGRAM**

She decided to find a seamstress to help her make her own workout outfit.

It turned out so well she quit her day job and plunged headfirst into the fashion world, she says. The rise of colourful, stylish clothes for Brazilians

with large bodies is part of a broader international trend rejecting unrealistic standards of beauty, especially for women.

"The fashion industry needs to fit our bodies, not the other way around," says Momente.

### 'Identity and dignity'

Major brands tend to dedicate at most a small portion of their lines to clothing in larger sizes, leaving "repressed" demand, says Marcela Liz, head of the Brazil Plus Size Association. — AFP

## Chinese project places over 120 languages, dialects under protection

A Chinese language resource protection project launched in 2015 has completed research and protection work at over 1,700 sites in its first phase in China, covering more than 120 languages and dialects of the country, the Ministry of Education said Wednesday at a press conference in Henan Province.

A series of books about the languages and dialects of different ethnic minorities and places in China, as well as the related cultural phenomena, have been published under the project, said Tian Lixin, head of the ministry's department of language information management. The project concluded its first phase in 2019 and started its second phase in 2021. — Xinhua

## Piano great Argerich scraps more concerts over illness



Celebrated Argentine pianist Martha Argerich (seated) and pianist and conductor Daniel Barenboim (left) are pictured during a free concert at Plaza Vaticano square in Buenos Aires in this file picture on 29 July 2017. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

PIANO virtuoso Martha Argerich has cancelled further concerts in Austria and Germany in August due to illness, organizers of the events said Wednesday.

The 82-year-old musician, considered one of the world's best pianists, was scheduled to play a series of concerts with

the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra conducted by Argentinian-Israeli maestro Daniel Barenboim.

Last week she scrapped two of the planned engagements but kept two concerts in Salzburg and Berlin on the programme.

"The pianist had hoped

for a recovery soon," the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra said.

But Argerich has now also dropped the remaining appearances "for health reasons".

German pianist Igor Levit is taking her place at the concerts.

No details were provided about Argerich's illness.

Dubbed the "lioness" for her impressive long, grey mane of hair, Argerich was born on 5 June 1941 in Buenos Aires and began playing the piano at the age of three.

She gave her first concert with an orchestra aged eight.

She moved to Europe with her family in 1955, learning from some of the continent's top pianists.

At the age of 16, in the space of 10 days, she won two major music competitions in Bolzano, Italy and in Geneva, later becoming a naturalized Swiss citizen. — AFP

## Push to free chained elephants at Hanoi zoo

LEGS in iron chains and unable to roam freely, the treatment of two elderly elephants at the Hanoi public zoo has drawn outrage in Viet Nam, with animal rights groups demanding the pair be relocated.

The groups are calling for the two female elephants — Thai and Banang — to be released to a national park, and close to 70,000 people have signed an online petition in support.

State media has also covered the story widely in recent weeks.

This morning, the pair's legs were in chains as zookeepers fed them grass and sugarcane, AFP journalists observed.

"The elephants are quite fierce. With a broken electric fence, we had to chain them," a zoo staff member told AFP on the condition of anonymity.

Zoo director Le Si Dung, however, has characterised the

push to free the animals as "illogical", according to state media.

"The two elephants, aged 60-70 years old, have been at our zoo for more than 10 years... They will die if they are put back to nature as they do not know how to seek food or protect themselves," Dung was quoted as saying by the Dan Tri news site. — AFP



Many people visit zoos as a recreational activity with family or friends. An elephant with a shackled leg is pictured at the Hanoi Zoo on Wednesday. **PHOTO: AFP**

# ECONOMY WORLD

## Action plan to boost China's rural-region commerce

A three-year action plan released by the Chinese government will inject new economic vitality into the nation's vast rural regions through efforts to boost local commerce activities.

At a government press conference held Tuesday, officials of multiple ministries spoke of the measures and targets under the plan, seeking to strengthen the commerce system across the nation's counties to improve rural farmers' income and upgrade their consumption trends.

Li Gang, an official with the Ministry of Commerce, said that the central government would continue funding counties to improve the local commerce networks and logistics distribution system and innovate and upgrade township business centers, bazaars, township markets, and village convenience stores.

The central government



This aerial photo taken on 19 June 2023 shows a mahogany furniture market in Huayuan Village of Nanma Town, Dongyang City, east China's Zhejiang Province. **PHOTO: XU YU/XINHUA**

funding will also support digitalization and chain-store venture

by rural business entities and encourage qualified rural areas

to explore and develop smart logistics, instant retail, and other

new business models.

"In terms of improving the supply of high-quality agricultural products, the action plan proposes to improve the quality of these product supplies, enhance the commercialization of agricultural products, and accelerate the establishment of agricultural brands," Li said.

Song Danyang, an official with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, specified that the ministry would support local counties' efforts to enhance the competitiveness of their agricultural brands. "From production to circulation and to consumption, we will promote improved seed varieties, quality improvement, brand building, and standardized production, strengthen the basic infrastructure facilities such as distribution centres, and facilities for processing, warehousing, packaging, and cold chains," Song said. — Xinhua

## Bank of Ireland apologizes for 'free money' tech glitch



The bank warned customers that withdrawals and transfers, including those over normal limit. **PHOTO: AFP**

BANK of Ireland apologized on Wednesday after fixing a tech-

nical issue that allowed customers to withdraw or transfer

more money than was in their accounts.

The glitch saw large queues form at some cash machines on Tuesday and into the night, as word spread on social media, prompting police to be called in.

Some reports said customers with no money in their accounts were able to withdraw up to 1,000 euros (\$1,100).

The bank warned customers that withdrawals and transfers, including those over normal limits, would be debited from accounts, potentially tipping them into costly overdrafts. — AFP

## Ukraine says first cargo ship exits Black Sea port via new corridor

UKRAINE said Wednesday the first cargo ship to use new Black Sea shipping lanes had exited a southern port despite threats from Russia that its

navy could target vessels leaving the country.

"The first vessel is moving along the temporary corridors established for civilian

vessels to and from Black Sea ports," Ukraine's Infrastructure Minister Oleksandr Kubrakov said in a statement. — AFP

## July foreign entries to Japan at 2.3 mln, 78% of pre-pandemic level

JAPAN saw an estimated 2,320,600 foreign visitors in July, the highest number since arrivals began to plummet due to the COVID-19 pandemic and about 78 per cent of the level in July 2019 before the outbreak, government data showed Wednesday.

The figure was up 16-fold from a year before and topped two million people for the second straight month as schools across

many countries entered the summer holidays and Japan's eased COVID-related border restrictions continued to attract travellers, the Japan National Tourism Organization said. Even excluding visitors from China, where restrictions on Japan-bound group travel for its citizens had been in place until last week, the number was 3.4 per cent higher than in July 2019. — Kyodo



Passengers arrive at New Chitose Airport in Hokkaido, northern Japan, on 17 July 2022 as international flights resumed after a 28-month hiatus. **PHOTO: KYODO**

## Aldi to buy 400 supermarkets in US Southeast

DISCOUNT supermarket chain Aldi announced Wednesday a deal to purchase 400 grocery stores across the southeastern United States, expanding its footprint as inflation tests American consumers. Under a deal with Southeastern Grocers, Aldi, the American affiliate of the German company, will acquire Winn-Dixie and Harveys supermarkets across Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and Mississippi.

“The time was right

to build on our growth momentum and help residents in the Southeast save on their grocery bills,” said Jason Hart, chief executive of Aldi’s US operations.

“The transaction supports our long-term growth strategy across the United States, including plans to add 120 new stores nationwide this year to reach a total of more than 2,400 stores by year-end.”

Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed. — AFP

## SF Airlines launches China-UAE cargo route

A new air cargo route was launched on Wednesday linking Ezhou City in central China’s Hubei Province, with Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), announced SF Airlines.

Early Wednesday morning, a Boeing 747-400 freighter took off from Ezhou Huahu Airport, China’s first cargo-focused airport. This marked the launch of the first cargo route connecting the airport with the Middle East, said SF Airlines, China’s largest air cargo carrier in fleet size.

A weekly round-trip air cargo service is scheduled for this route, with a total of around 200 tonnes



This photo taken at wee hours of 16 August 2023 shows the launch ceremony for SF Airlines’s first cargo route connecting Ezhou Huahu Airport with the Middle East at Ezhou Huahu Airport in Ezhou City, central China’s Hubei Province. **PHOTO: SF AIRLINES/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

of air express capacity.

The new route will mainly handle general cargo, e-commerce goods, and express shipments, providing efficient and reliable

air logistics between China and the UAE, according to the cargo airline.

The Ezhou Huahu Airport was put into operation in July 2022. It is positioned

as a cargo-focused hub airport with extensive cargo traffic and some passenger traffic. It opened the first international cargo route in April. — Xinhua

## UK annual inflation drops under seven per cent

BRITAIN’S annual inflation rate dropped sharply in July to below seven per cent, official data revealed Wednesday, off the back of lower energy prices and in line with economists’ expectations.

The Consumer Prices Index rose by an annual rate of 6.8 per cent, down from 7.9 per cent in June, the Office for National Statistics said

in a statement.

The CPI rate is the lowest in 15 months, and met the predictions of analysts, including the Bank of England, which had forecast that rate of growth for July.

However, the UK’s inflation rate has for months remained the highest among G7 nations despite the bank hiking its key interest rate more than a dozen times

since late 2021 in a bid to tame it.

Although there was a fall in gas and electricity prices in July, food prices continued to rise, but less quickly than the same month a year earlier.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has set a target of halving inflation through this year to around five per cent by the end of 2023. — AFP

### THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (20/2023-2024)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(1)	DMP/L-017(23-24)	Pipe Lax (ENV) (250) Drums and PAC-L (75,000)Kg	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials/Qtty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from **17 August, 2023** at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications and Commercial Quotation with Original Bid Bond in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **13:00 pm on 31, August 2023**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – **31-8-2023, 13:00 pm**

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise  
Ph No. + 95 67 – 411206

### The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

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### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (293N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (293N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-8-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V FILOTIMO VOY.NO. (332W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V FILOTIMO VOY.NO. (332W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-8-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

# ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

## Ancient ritual rolled out as festival begins

*The annual Shoton Festival kicked off Wednesday in Lhasa, China's Tibet, with an unrolling ceremony of a large Thangka painting of the Buddha.*

THOUSANDS of residents formed long lines in Lhasa on Wednesday to visit a giant thangka exhibition — religious images embroidered in silk — to mark the beginning of the annual Shoton, or Yogurt Festival.

The festival, held in the Drepung Monastery, is one of the most important traditional holidays in the capital of the Tibet autonomous region. It is also known as Yogurt Festival, as sho is yogurt in Tibetan, and ton means banquet.

The event usually lasts for seven days, and the activities include artistic performances, Tibetan operas, horse racing,

Tibetan chess competitions and concerts, along with activities to promote investment in Lhasa.

At around 7 am, monks from the Drepung Monastery started the preparatory work for the exhibition by transporting a giant thangka to the site.

Before the thangka was moved, a Tibetan Buddhist religious ceremony was held at the monastery.

At around 8 am, as the first rays of sunlight hit the summits of the distant mountains in the Lhasa valley, the giant thangka was gradually unfolded from top to bottom — its width reaching 37 metres and height 40 metres.



People visit a giant thangka marking the start of the annual Shoton Festival on Wednesday in Lhasa. **PHOTO: DAQIONG/CHINADAILY.COM.CN**

Nyagwang Choizin, deputy director of the Drepung Monastery Management Committee,

said, with a history of at least 500 years the monastery holds a thangka exhibition every year on

the 30<sup>th</sup> day of the sixth month of the Tibetan calendar. — CHINA DAILY/Xinhua

## Israel says US okays 'landmark' missile defence deal with Germany

ISRAEL said the United States on Thursday approved the "landmark" sale of the Arrow 3 hypersonic missile defence system to Germany, in the country's biggest military deal worth \$3.5 billion.

The Arrow 3 system — an interceptor designed to shoot down ballistic missiles above the Earth's atmosphere — is jointly developed and produced by the Israel and the United States.

Israel's defence ministry said in a statement the US

State Department had notified it of the US government's approval for Germany to procure the Arrow 3 system.

"The Israeli Ministry of Defence, German Federal Ministry of Defence, and Israel Aerospace Industries will sign the landmark \$3.5 billion defence agreement, marking Israel's largest ever defence deal," it said.

The ministry said senior officials from the Israeli and German defence ministries would sign a letter of commit-

ment to the deal with a preliminary payment of \$600 million.

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, quoted in the statement, called the agreement "the largest in Israel's history".

"This is a significant decision, which will contribute to Israel's force buildup and economy," he said.

"It is also particularly meaningful to every Jewish person, that Germany is acquiring Israeli defence capabilities." — AFP



The Arrow 3 system — jointly developed and produced by Israel and the United States — is an interceptor designed to shoot down ballistic missiles above the atmosphere. **PHOTO: ISRAELI MINISTRY OF DEFENCE/AFP**

## Nicaragua seizes Jesuit university



The Jesuit Central American University (UCA) of Nicaragua announced the suspension of all its activities after a court ordered the confiscation of its assets and funds after accusing it of being a "centre of terrorism". **PHOTO: AFP**

A Jesuit university in Nicaragua said Wednesday it is suspending classes and all other activities after the leftist government announced the seizure of all its assets, accusing the school of terrorism.

The Central American University in Managua said the punishment stems from unfounded reports that it "operated as a terrorism center, organizing delinquent groups" during an-

ti-government protests in 2018 that left more than 300 people dead.

The government's National University Council said it was working to keep classes going at the Jesuit school.

Nicaragua is led by President Daniel Ortega, a former guerrilla leader who toppled a US-backed right-wing regime in the 1970s and ruled for more than a decade. — AFP

# SPORTS

## ‘How to win graciously’: Sportsmanship melts hearts at World Cup

UNLESS there is an uncharacteristic outbreak of hostility and flurry of red cards in Sunday’s final, opposing players consoling each other after games will be among the enduring images of the Women’s World Cup.

England, who face Spain in the final in Sydney, have been notably quick to approach their emotional opponents after the final whistle to offer a heartwarming hug and words of sympathy.

The European champions dealt out some rough treatment to Australia’s skipper Sam Kerr

in defeating the co-hosts 3-1 in their semi-final on Wednesday in front of 75,000 in Sydney.

But after the final whistle the Lionesses players and staff consoled an emotional Kerr, who plays in England for Chelsea and is one of the most respected forwards around.

Images of England players rushing over to commiserate with Nigerian goalkeeper Chiamaka Nnadozie after defeating the African side on penalties in the last 16 were shared widely online. — AFP



Sweden’s forward Fridolina Rolfo (R) is consoled by Spain’s Mariona Caldentey. PHOTO: AFP



Manchester City added the UEFA Super Cup to their treble of trophies last season. PHOTO: AFP

## Super Cup success does not mask cracks in Man City’s facade

MANCHESTER City’s treble winners have added more silverware to their collection, but a UEFA Super Cup victory over Sevilla only exposed some cracks in Pep Guardiola’s squad ahead of another demanding campaign.

Sevilla had begun their campaign last weekend with a

disappointing 2-1 home defeat to Valencia and finished 12th in La Liga last season.

But the Europa League winners should have picked up another European trophy in Athens.

Youssef En-Nesyri’s header powered the Spaniards into a first-half lead, but the Mo-

roccan was guilty of missing two huge chances when one-on-one with Ederson after the break.

City badly missed the creativity of Kevin De Bruyne and Bernardo Silva, who were sidelined by injury and illness respectively. — AFP

## Thailand clinch Myanmar 3-0 in 2023 AFF U-23 Championship match

MYANMAR U-23 lost 0-3 to team Thailand in the group match of the 2023 AFF U-23 Cham-

pionship in Rayong, Thailand yesterday.

Team Myanmar was slow

to attack once the game started. The Thai team is much better than the Myanmar junior team in both individual skills and teamwork.

Phodchara Chainarong sealed the first goal for Thailand at 21 minutes. After that leading goal, their whole team became more motivated and played better.

Chudit Wanpraphao again scored at 32 minutes to set two goals at the top of the scoreboard at the end of the first half. Myanmar played more aggressively in the second half but Thailand stayed perfect.

The third goal saw a penalty kick from Thai star Yotsakorn Burapha at 88 minutes to seal a 3-0 victory over Myanmar. — KZL



Myanmar’s Khun Kyaw Zin Hein (red) touches the ball against the opponent during the 2023 AFF U-23 Championship group match. PHOTO: MFF

## Djokovic makes winning US return in Cincinnati as rival retires

NOVAK Djokovic made a winning return in his first appearance on US soil for two years on Wednesday, reaching the third round of the ATP/WTA Cincinnati Open when Alejandro Davidovich Fokina retired hurt.

The world number two Serb advanced after winning the first set 6-4, when his Spanish opponent could not go on with a lower back injury.

“He told me it started yesterday,” the 23-time Grand Slam singles champion said. “Hopefully he will be ready for New York (US Open).”

“This is never the way you want to win, the crowd was expecting a match, a bat-

tle,” the 36-year-old added.

“I have mixed emotions with how the match ended. I’m hoping to build form and progress through the tournament by raising my level.”

Djokovic is playing in the United States for the first time since 2021.

He was barred from entering the country during the latter stages of the COVID-19 pandemic after refusing to get vaccinated.

Djokovic’s next opponent on Thursday will be Gael Monfils, who continued his run of comeback form by defeating Australian Alex de Minaur 7-5, 6-4 to reach a third round for the second consecutive week. — AFP

Ancient ritual  
rolled out as  
festival begins

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# WORLD



A Petroecuador oil platform is seen in Yasuni National Park in June 2023. **PHOTO: RODRIGO BUENDIA, AFP/FILE**

This controversial drilling initiative began in 2016 after unsuccessful attempts by former President Rafael Correa to secure \$3.6 billion from the international community to prevent it.

“block 43,” which contributes 12 per cent of the 466,000 barrels per day produced by Ecuador.

The government of outgoing President Guillermo Lasso has estimated a loss of \$16 billion over the next 20 years if drilling is halted.

“The Yasuni has been like a mother to the world... We need to raise our voices and hands so that our mother can recover, that she is not injured, that she is not beaten,” said Alicia Cahuiya, a Waorani leader born in the heart of the jungle.

The reserve is home to the Waorani and Kichwa tribes, as well as the Tagaeri, Taromenane and Dugakaeri, who choose to live isolated from the modern world.

Cahuiya said the reserve was “a lung for the world”, capturing carbon dioxide and pumping out oxygen and water vapor. — AFP

## In a first, Ecuador to vote in referendum on oil drilling in the Amazon

**IN** AN unusual example of climate democracy, it is Ecuadorians who will decide what is more important, drilling for oil or protecting the Amazon, in a closely watched referendum on Sunday. The drilling is taking place in the

Yasuni National Park, one of the most diverse biospheres in the world, and home to three of the world’s last uncontacted Indigenous populations.

It began in 2016 after years of fraught debate and failed efforts by then president

Rafael Correa to persuade the international community to pay cash-strapped Ecuador \$3.6 billion not to drill there.

After years of demands for a referendum, the country’s highest court authorized the vote in May to decide the fate of

## German storm causes flight cancellations, floods

**GERMANY’S** biggest airport was today scrambling to book passengers on new flights after a massive storm caused dozens of cancellations, and also triggered flooding that deluged streets and toppled trees.

The storm swept over southwest Germany late yesterday, dumping huge quantities of water and reportedly unleashing over 25,000 bolts of lightning in about an hour.

Frankfurt Airport said it was forced to axe 90 flights while 23 more were rerouted to land at other airports.

Some passengers slept on camp beds while many spent the night at the airport hotel. — AFP

## ‘Silent threat’: Bahrain to build walls against rising sea

**ALREADY** battling extreme heat, Bahrain is scrambling to ward off another environmental threat: rising seas that could swallow parts of its coast, the island nation’s oil and environment minister told AFP.

By next year, the tiny Gulf state will begin building its coastal defences against sea levels that have begun advancing, by widening beaches, constructing taller sea walls and elevating land.

“Bahrain is vulnerable,” Mohamed bin Mubarak bin Daina, Bahrain’s oil and environment minister and special envoy for climate affairs, said in an interview.

“The main threat is a silent threat, which is the sea level rise,” he said at his office in the capital Manama.

According to official estimates, an extreme rise of five metres (16.4 feet) would swamp most of the country, including its international airport.



According to official estimates, an extreme rise of five metres (16.4 feet) would swamp most of the country, including its international airport. **PHOTO: AFP**

Even a rise of 0.5 to two metres could submerge five to 18 per cent of Bahrain’s total area, according to Sabah Aljenaid, an assistant professor at the Arabian Gulf University in Manama.

Bahrain is the only island nation among the resource-rich countries lining

the Gulf. Most of its population and major facilities are located in low-lying coastal areas less than five metres above the water.

Other islands around the world are also threatened by rising seas as global warming melts ice sheets and glaciers. — AFP