

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

Vol. X, No. 146, 10th Waning of Wagaung 1385 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Sunday, 10 September 2023

Government commits to conducting elections following National Census enumeration in 2024

Basic data of voter lists must be compiled correctly to enable all eligible voters to cast votes in all parts of the country.

Arrangements are being made to enumerate the nationwide census in 2024 to hold the election soonest, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior

General Min Aung Hlaing.

The Senior General notified departmental officials, town elders and MSME businesspersons of regional development at the city hall in Lashio of northern Shan

State yesterday morning.

He pointed out that basic data of voter lists must be compiled correctly to enable all eligible voters to cast votes in all parts of the country. **SEE PAGE-3**

NATIONAL PAGE-2



Use of chemicals planned to clear vegetation from Bagan Pagodas

Myanmar handicrafts shine at International Gift Show in Tokyo

The biannual show held from 6 to 8 September is among Japan's largest international trade shows for personal gifts and household goods.

PAGE-5



The booth of Asia Crafts Link which employs Japanese technology to produce Myanmar handicrafts using wood and bamboo from Myanmar.

NATIONAL PAGE-4



Potato prices rise while onion prices plummet in commodity market

CURRENT AFFAIRS PAGE-6



Two fires break out in Yangon Region, impacting Muslim Charitable Hospital

INTERVIEW PAGE-10

"Myanmar had always a very special place in the heart of my family. So I came here"

Pure Arabica Coffee
PYIN OO LWIN
NAN MYAING

Sales Department- Ph-085 2021740, 09 30529111
 STARMART Nine Mile Showroom- (9)mile, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph-09 30860180
 KHA YAE PIN MART - Mingaladone, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph- 09 671443555
 STARMART MANDALAY Wholesale -Corner of 26th st and 66th st , Mandalay.Ph-09 661702244
 STARMART Nay Pyi Taw Yangon- Mandalay Highway Road, Ywar Gauk Ward, Pynmanar.Ph- 09 685119077

NATIONAL

Use of chemicals planned to clear vegetation from Bagan Pagodas



A staff from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch) removes plants on a temple of Bagan. The department cooperates with the Bagan Heritage Trust (BHT) to remove vegetation on the ancient buildings using herbicides. (above and top photos)



CHEMICALS will be used to remove the plants on the pagodas in Bagan, World Heritage Site depending on the values of history and architectural works, according to the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch).

The department cooperates with the Bagan Heritage Trust (BHT) to remove the vines on the ancient buildings using herbicides as per the priorities.

"The department will work together with the BHT to conserve the ancient heritages in Bagan successively. We also conduct emergency responses to natural disasters that can be sudden in World Heritage Site. In removing the plants on the pagodas, we will work with BHT as there is not enough staff in the laboratory division. We will also conduct capacity-building training for the new generation of BHT," said U Kyaw Myo Win, director of the department.

The plant removal operation will be conducted monthly. It is reported that it will make regular monitoring procedures on the upper part of the pagoda and research paper reading sessions by cooperating with the department. — ASH/KTZH

Russian Federation's humanitarian assistance for Mocha victims received

BASED on the friendship between Russia and Myanmar, a cargo plane carrying humanitarian assistance from the Russian Federation for Mocha victims landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday early morning.

An official from the AHA Centre, Director U Than Soe of the Disaster Management Department of Yangon Region accompanied by officials and officials from the Russian Embassy to Myanmar checked the supplies.

Included in the relief supplies that arrived yesterday

terday were 13.95 tonnes of preserved fish, 10.5 tonnes of macaroni, 2.9 tonnes of 25 tents (10-person group) and a mobile electric power station (2.8 tonnes).

The government provides humanitarian assistance items in time to the Mocha-affected people by upholding the principle that no one should be left behind by joining respective ministries and the region/state governments under the supervision of the Natural Disaster Management Centre. — MNA/MKKS



Officials from Myanmar and Russian Embassy to Myanmar are seen at the handover event of humanitarian assistance from the Russian Federation for Mocha victims in Yangon yesterday.

COVID-19 report, 9 September 2023

NEW TESTS 4,531

NEW CASES 3

CASUALTIES 0

သတင်းစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နှိုင်းတကာခံချိန်စီ ပုံနှိပ်လေ့ရှိကာ ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်

The Global New Light Of MYANMAR

01 860 4530

FROM PAGE-1

As peace and stability are of importance in the democratization process, the government cooperates with residents in restoration of peace and stability as well as the rule of law, urging the people from Shan State (North) to ensure peace and stability and rule of law, he noted.

The Senior General expressed his remarks that although the Constitution (2008) does not directly use the federal, everybody can observe that the Constitution has consisted of federal procedures for sharing power.

The Senior General expressed his deep pledge that Tatmadaw firmly stands on the NCA in the restoration of the peace process, adding the 8th Anniversary of NCA will be held with essence on 15 October, with a pledge to strive for securing more achievements in the peace process.

On the occasion, the Shan State Chief Minister, local authorities, businesspersons and town



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hears the reports of officials concerned on upgrading works of Lashio airport during his development-observing tour of Lashio yesterday.

... Tatmadaw firmly stands on the NCA in the restoration of the peace process, adding the 8th Anniversary of NCA will be held with essence on 15 October, with a pledge to strive for securing more achievements in the peace process.

Government commits to conducting elections following National Census enumeration in 2024

elders reported on requirements for the development of the state. Union ministers responded to their reports on each topic.

In the regional development sector, the Senior General disclosed that currently, preparations are being made to run trains on the Lashio-Mandalay railway whereas construction of the Lashio-Muse-Lashio-Chinshwehaw railway is also under preparation.

Only when the flow of commodities is swift and smooth will it contribute to the development

socioeconomic life of local people. Hence, the runway of Lashio Airport is being improved to ensure better transport, he added.

The Senior General underscored that if transport facilities are developed, Shan State (North) and its residents can enjoy the fruits of improved socioeconomic life, and all-out efforts aim for region-wise development and then nationwide improvement.

He pointed out that as Shan State (North) is endowed with fascinating natural beauties in-

cluding the Gokteik Viaduct attracting travellers, efforts should be made for the restoration of peace and stability and the rule of law for the development of the tourism industry.

The Senior General gave guidance after inspecting progress in upgrading the runway of Lashio Airport for the purpose of admitting the landing of jets.

Regarding the economic sector, the Senior General highlighted that as domestic manufacturing industries based on agriculture and livestock farms

are being encouraged to raise the GDP of the State, the government helps boom MSME businesses. On the other hand, he continued to say that it is necessary to decline commodity prices and adjust consumption and production. As suitable action has been taken against greedy businesspersons, prices of cooking oil decline in the market, he added.

In the afternoon, the Senior General met with Tatmadaw members and families of Lashio Station under the North-East Command. — MNA/TTA

Union Education Minister attends inauguration of Russian Department and Language Course at MUFL

UNION Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe attended the opening ceremony of Mandalay University of Foreign Languages' (MUFL) new Russian language course and seminar, held in collaboration with Shukshin Altai State University for Humanities and Pedagogy of the Russian Federation, and the Department of Russian Studies at MUFL.

Guests were welcomed with traditional Russian cuisine, and notable

attendees included the Union minister, the regional chief minister, the Russian Consul to Myanmar, the deputy minister, and other officials sprinkled scented water the Russian language office signboard.

The second part of the ceremony occurred at Thiri Yadana Hall, where the Union minister emphasized the state's commitment to supporting education promotion and the growing cooperation between Myanmar universities and for-

eign institutions through MoUs.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung welcomed the establishment of the Russian language department.

Following this, Russian Consul Mr Pavel Kablukov delivered a congratulatory speech.

MUFL and Russia's ASUHP shared a video clip, exchanged souvenirs, and took photographs. The Union minister and his team explored traditional cultural displays from various countries.

As part of the initiatives, the Union minister visited Yadanabon University, where he toured the library and arranged supply of books to both the university library and faculty libraries.

Similarly, the Union minister visited the University Research Centre at Mandalay University to promote research activities and underscored the importance of effective research equipment utilization and disciplined research practices. — MNA/KZW

NATIONAL

State vows support for farmers and food security

STATE Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung reaffirmed the council's dedication to championing farmers' interests and protecting their rights. Emphasizing the urgency of addressing food security in different regions and promoting agricultural and fishing sectors, he stated that farmers' needs would be backed by all stakeholders.

These commitments were underscored during a recent event in Htaungwi village, Hpa-an, Kayin State, where natural and chemical fertilizer mixed-sowing fields were demonstrated. The ceremony also included the distribution of 100 bags of urea and organic fertilizer to rainfed rice farmers from various villages.

Mahn Nyein Maung, together with SAC Member Khun San Lwin and other officials, engaged with local ethnic groups and residents at Zweekabin Hall in Hpa-an. Meanwhile, Khun San Lwin visited Mebaung Monastery in Ward 3, Hpa-an, for discussions with the monastery's Sayadaw and local Pa-O ethnic communities.

The meetings emphasized peace, socioeconomic development, and food security, with a strong focusing on harnessing the human resources of the Pa-O ethnic groups in politics and the economy. These dialogues aimed to address social service conditions and cater to the specific needs of the local and Pa-O communities. — MNA/KZW

SAC Member comforts patients at Myitkyina General Hospital

SAC Member Daw Dwe Bu greeted patients at Myitkyina General Hospital 500-bed. The visit, which took place yesterday morning, was marked by words of encouragement and support for the patients, along with the distribution of food and cash.

While meeting representatives from 12 ethnic tribes at the Malikha Hall within the state government office, the SAC member emphasized ongoing efforts towards achieving internal peace and facilitating a fair multiparty democratic general election. She also stressed the importance of active participation in the

census process as a vital element in national development.

As a token of goodwill, the SAC member presented K2.8 million to the ethnic groups and their literary and cultural associations. The chairman of the Kachin Traditional Culture Committee expressed gratitude on behalf of all the ethnic communities.

In the afternoon, the SAC member and her delegation engaged with local Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprise (MSME) entrepreneurs at the Gymnasium in Myitkyina city's sports playground. During this gathering,

MSME owners and farmers voiced concerns with obtaining business loans, receiving technical assistance for product quality improvement, and expanding market opportunities.

Issues related to electricity supply and sector-specific challenges were also addressed, with state-level officials offering insights on potential support measures. The state chief minister further elaborated on these discussions, while the SAC member emphasized the need to meet these requirements and enhance production capacities. — State IPRD/KZL

Potato prices rise while onion prices plummet in commodity market



The Pakokku onion market is seen on 8 September.

IN the commodity market, the wholesale price of Chinese potatoes, which dropped to K2,100 per viss, rose to K2,450 per viss on 7 September. Onions that were valued up to K3,700 per viss, faced falling prices on 8 September, fetching K3,250 per viss.

The Yangon potato market announced the price of Chinese potatoes, and the wholesale price of Chinese potatoes fell to K2,100 per viss on 28 August. The prices rose to K2,300 on 4 September, K2,400–K2,450 on 5 September, and K2,400 on 8 September.

In the onion market, which has a lot of interest in trading, the wholesale price of a viss of onions was only K2,600 on 17 August 2023. The price went up to K3,700 on 29 August.

The onion price is decreasing despite the low supply, and only 78,000 visses of onions entered the market on 8 September, at K3,250 per viss for large-sized onions.

On 8 September, 28,000 visses of onions entered the Pakokku market, and the highest price for a viss of onions was only K2,850. According to market price reports, the highest price of a viss in local markets was above K3,000 in the previous days.

On 8 September 2022, which is the same period as last year, the wholesale price of Chinese potatoes was K2,150–K2,200 per viss, and the wholesale price of onions was between K2,900 and K3,500 per viss.

Therefore, at the start of the second week of September this year, the prices of onions and potatoes were still remarkably low compared to the same period last year. Thus, the price of onions and potatoes has not yet risen for consumers, Ko Aung Moe, a seller of onions and potatoes from the Lanmadaw Nyaungpinlay Market, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM). — TWA/CT

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 454237515

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

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

Write for us

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

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

NATIONAL

SAC Member provides aid items to IDPs in Kayah State

STATE Administration Council Member Porel Aung Thein along with officials including Kayah State Chief Minister U Zaw Myo Tin provided basic foodstuffs to IDPs in Kayah State on 9 September.

Additionally, the SAC

member met displaced persons at the city hall of Loikaw in Kayah State.

In the afternoon, the SAC member accompanied by the State Chief Minister and officials visited the State General Hospital in Loikaw and empha-

sized the healthcare issues of the health workers at the State General Hospital.

Afterwards, the SAC member donated K 1 million and the state chief minister donated a medical grade Sony (LMD-2435MD) to the General Hos-

pital with encouragement to the patients and IDP patients by providing nutritious foods and cash assistance.

Then, the SAC member friendly met respective teachers of basic education not only providing K 1 million for im-

plementing the educational development activities in the State at the Education Office but also emphasizing the educational issues at the No 1 Basic Education High School in Loikaw township. — MNA/MKKS

Myanmar handicrafts shine at International Gift Show in Tokyo

FROM PAGE -1

AMBASSADOR of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Japan U Soe Han visited the 96th Tokyo International Gift Show Autumn 2023 on 7 September at the invitation of Asia Crafts Link which sells Myanmar handicrafts in Japan.

The Ambassador also visited the booth of Asia Crafts Link which employs Japanese technology to produce Myanmar handicrafts using wood and bamboo from Myanmar.

The show held from 6 to 8 September is among Japan's largest international trade shows for personal gifts and household goods and has been scheduled to convene two times a year since 1976. It has been held more than 90 times over the past 50 years and has been highly acclaimed by visitors as a trade show where attractive products of various genres are gathered under one roof. The recent show attracted more than 3,000 companies from 25 countries. — ASH/TH



Myanmar handicrafts using wood and bamboo from Myanmar are seen at the booth of Japan's largest international trade show.



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn visits the printing press of The Global New Light of Myanmar Daily in Yangon yesterday.

Media should maintain political neutrality in news selection to preserve bilateral relations, emphasizes MoI Union Minister

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn visited the Sarpay Beikman, Myanmar Media Development Department and The Global New Light of Myanmar Daily in Yangon and met officials of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization at the Film Promotion Branch yesterday.

On arrival at the Sarpay Beikman, the Union minister said the role of the Sarpay Beikman is important for its significant endeavours in literature. The staff should know international affairs and local affairs. Only true information brings benefits while misinformation causes negative impacts. Every country including Myanmar faces challenges due to disinformation and false news. Therefore, it should use social networks effectively and all should consider using

them effectively.

Then, he proceeded to the Myanmar Media Development Department in Bo Aung Kyaw Street and inspected the office compound, Media N Co Ltd office, newsroom and recording sessions of M Entertainment Channel.

At noon, he met the staff of The Global New Light of Myanmar.

During the meeting, the Union minister expressed appreciation to the editorial department and relevant staff for changing the Logo, features and new coverage styles of the newspaper starting 1 August 2023.

He then highlighted the need to select news items that can lure the interests of readers, to have a political outlook in selecting the news, and not to present news that can affect the bilateral rela-

tions and insult the partner countries' sovereignty even though it can express independently as per the policies of the house and to select the news and articles systematically and edit not to contain any errors.

During the meeting with officials of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, he talked about the intention of meeting and called on all to participate in making preparations for the 2023 Film Academy Award presentation ceremony, saying the cooperation between the ministry and film industry achieved certain success previously and it should prepare to show the films not only in the country but also at the international film festival and ceremonial occasions and consider how to promote the role of Myanmar films. — MNA/KTZH

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

CURRENT AFFAIRS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Appreciation to Chinese Government for Lancang-Mekong Projects

IN the interest of peace and prosperity in the Lancang-Mekong region, he extend his sincere gratitude to the Chinese government for their support of prosperous and sustainable development, Yangon Chief Minister U Soe Thein expressed, at the 'Lancang-Mekong Regional Technology Transfer Management System and MSME Innovation Development Policy Exchange Workshop,' organized by the Ministry of Science and Technology of Myanmar.

Support for loan services continued in Rakhine State

THE Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance stated at a meeting of the National Economic Promotion Fund Management Committee, held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Planning and Finance in Nay Pyi Taw on 8 September, that he urged all to try to continue providing loans that were temporarily suspended due to cyclone Mocha in Rakhine State.

Verify businesses using residential electric meters for commercial purposes

IF businesses are using household electric meters in residential wards, they must use the commercial power meter system, as recommended by the Ministry of Electric Power. The ministry is currently conducting ground surveys in these residential wards.

Rice prices drop approximately 7% compared to last week

THE price of rice has dropped by seven per cent due to the fact that rice is being sold at a lower price in the Wahdan and Bayintnaung commodities markets and designated retail stores. U Nay Lin, chairman of the Myanmar Rice Traders Association, said that trading in the Yangon rice market is currently slow.

MRESA warns of counterfeit documents in real estate market

IN real estate transactions, cases of false sales and purchases using counterfeit documents often occur. Those involved in such fraudulent activities may not necessarily be real estate agents; some fraudsters use fake grant papers, and they create bogus receipts through technology, often avoiding collateral acceptance contracts. During the election of the new central executive committee of the Myanmar Real Estate Service Association at Yuzana Hotel, executive U Yin Htwe told to the media on 5 September.

Expanding markets via international maritime trade routes

IN 2023, more than 50 container ships docked at Yangon port, and in the first eight months alone, over 400 ships arrived. During September, 53 international cargo ships entered the port for trade, as reported by the Myanmar Port Authority.— Htun Htun/KZW

Two fires break out in Yangon Region, impacting Muslim Charitable Hospital



The hospital's patients and those who had come to the hospital are evacuated by social welfare associations.

TWO fires broke out in two townships, in Yangon Region on 9 September.

A fire broke out at the Muslim Charitable Hospital on Maha Bandoola Park Road, Kyauktada Township, at around 1:30 pm on 9 September, according to the Myanmar Fire Brigade Headquarters.

Zaw Zaw told The Global New Light of Myanmar

(GNLM) that the fire lasted for about 10 minutes and was extinguished in time by officials. In addition, members of the Social Welfare Association, including those from Lawkahita Charity, assisted in relocating both the hospital's patients and those who had come to the hospital to escape from the fire.

And, another fire broke

out in a garage located in Ward 63 of Dagon Myothit (South) Township at around 1:30 pm. The fire brigade responded promptly, extinguishing the fire at Level 1, and it was completely put out by 3:35 pm. The root cause of the fire and the extent of the damage are currently under investigation by a combined team. — TWA/KZW

Over 2,700 EVs registered in first eight months of 2023

IN 2023, more than 2,700 electric vehicles (EVs) were registered, according to a statement from the Road Transport Administration Department.

From January to August this year, 2,779 EV vehicles motorcycles and tricycles were registered. There are more than 600 EV vehicles, which include two EV light truck and one EV cargo (truck), allowed to be registered until the end of August. More than 1,800 two-wheeled EV motorcycles and over 230 three-wheeled EVs have also been registered.

According to the Road Transportation Administration Department, Yangon's licensing authority is planning to issue an average of 10,000 EV vehicle registrations per year for imported electric vehicles (EVs).



Electric vehicles (EVs) that arrive at Yangon Port are seen in August.

The EV pilot project is scheduled to run until 31 December, allowing for the importation of EV vehicles through both sea and border ports. Reports are coming in from the Myanmar-China border, specifically the Wang Ding side.

During this pilot project, the Ministry of Commerce has

announced that importing EV vehicles from third party countries will not be allowed.

To develop the EV sector, the National Electric Vehicle and Related Industries Development Steering Committee has set the tax rates for electric vehicles to be reduced to zero per cent. — TWA/KZW

Entertainment

Celebrity Brief



Myint Moe Aung

The Best of Myint Moe Aung - Tribute Night was launched at THOR (The Heart of Rangoon) Pub & Lounge on 7 August. Singers Phyo Pyae Sone, Htet Nay Kyi, Kaung Kaung, Jewel, Su Htet Hlaing and Wuttyi Htet sang the best songs of composer Saya Myint Moe Aung.

It is the first event that offers fees to the composers. On 14 August, it will present old songs of composer Win Min Htwe and include singer Chit Kaung and other singers.

Chaw Yadana

ACTRESS CHAW YADANA took the character "Moe Hti Chay" who was abandoned by her husband and lost her daughter and mother in the "Laung" movie. For her character, she posted the feeling of a person who suddenly knows that she lost her daughter and mother at the same time. I carefully studied the feelings of three people who had the same feelings in a real situation. One of them wept just in front of me losing her consciousness," on her Facebook page.



Win Zaw (Forest)

WRITER WIN ZAW, (Forest), brother of the late writer Min Thein Kha, said the house mentioned in Surveillance Hnin Maung novel located at No 295, Bolane Street (currently Banyadala Street) in Kyaukmyaung Ward, Tamway Township belongs to Min Thein Kha. It is a public prop-



erty. Although the family members own it, they are no longer related to it. Therefore, it cannot be done – maintenance or reconstruction.

Min Thein Kha worked as a typist at the Police Commissioner's Office and had a chance to read a lot of cases and create his famous novels applying his life experiences, he said.



Phyo Pyae Sone

Singer Phyo Pyae Sone released his new song "Hlaung Aein" (The Cage) from Seik Chan Tha Entertainment recently and became popular among his fans.

He also committed that he stopped drinking alcohol to keep Five Precepts during an interview with another media. On 12 August, he served as MC at the Waso robe offering ceremony at Dhamma Yawei Tawya Meditation Centre.

Chan Myae Maung Cho

THE singer also sang "The Cage" song in her own style. The composer is Byadda and the music creator is Ko Zeyar Min. The Seik Chan Tha Entertainment launched a cover song competition for "The Cage" song. Those like singing can compete within a month and the winner will be announced later.- Htun Htun/KTZH

Model : Dee
Makeup : Kyaw Ye Tun (Ye Ye)
Designer : Han Zaw
Art director : Thihan Kyaw
Jewellery : Kalan Nge Htoo Zaw
Photographed by Minn Mon Chan



A TV show "Sparkle Hearts" to be aired in October by Canal+

THE Canal+ channel plans to broadcast a TV show containing 70 episodes called "Yinhte Kwaytetkyal" (Sparkle Hearts) –directed by Wai Yan Pe and produced by the film production company BONAZA – in October, according to Canal+ ZatLen Channel.

The script of the movie, which has the highest production cost among TV shows shot in 2023, is written by Chit Hsu Khin and Skyward Art team based on a story featured by Canal+ Myanmar Original Creation Teams.

"This TV show is shot featuring film actors community costing handsomely to translate a good script into a good movie with talented actors. In this movie, audiences will see the awkward nature of humans which cannot be perceived thoroughly just by physical appearance," Poe Mamhe Thar, an actress in the TV show remarks.

The new generation actors and actress such as Aung Ye Lin, Alin-yaung, San Min Ye Htut, Panyaung Chel, Poe Mamhe Thar, Li Li Kyaw Khaing, Tin Zar Win Pyae and Hillary Soe showed their artistic talents in the movie while veteran actors Nay Myo Aung, Min Thu, Academy Min Oo, Academy Moh Moh Myint Aung and Academy Myat Kay Thi Aung played their roles to make the movie more wonderful. – ASH/TH

Dee

Supermodel Dee competed in the National Costume Competition of Miss Universe Myanmar 2023 wearing "Sin Hla Theingi Mon Hanthawady" with inspiration from Mon Lady, a courtier of 15th Century AD of Hanthawady era like the hair knot, jewellery and ruby earrings.

A total of 31 contestants are competing in Miss Universe Myanmar 2023. "What I want to say is that please support the contestants you love, point out the weaknesses and make positive suggestions.

Don't make any hostilities with others and I want you to be supportive action to the beauty queens," said Dee.



OPINION

ARTICLE BOOKRACK

Restore Myanmar's forests for a greener future

MYANMAR, a land blessed with abundant natural forests, has a rich history tainted by aggressive colonial exploitation of its timber resources. The consequences of this historical deforestation are now evident on a global scale as the Earth grapples with escalating temperatures and the adverse effects of environmental degradation. The undeniable truth is that deforestation has ushered in a host of natural calamities, including droughts, floods, storms, landslides, and earthquakes, impacting human lives worldwide.

It is essential to recognize that climate change is not solely a result of timber extraction but rather the manner in which it is conducted. To address this pressing issue, authorities must implement a sustainable approach to timber extraction, adhering to predefined limits, while simultaneously embarking on reforestation efforts

encompassing diverse tree species. This strategy aims to enhance the socioeconomic well-being of the population while preserving the natural environment and ecosystem.

In this collective endeavour, rural communities must take on the responsibility of conserving trees and forests, while urban dwellers have a national duty to green their surroundings. This commitment is integral to improving climate conditions, raising living standards, and advancing economic, social, and health sectors.

The renewability of natural resources varies, with some resources replenishing automatically and others requiring human intervention.

Forests fall into the former category, offering the opportunity for human assistance in the regeneration process. Thus, it becomes imperative for humanity to embark on the correct path of reestablishing forests, lest the entire world faces dire consequences of environmental degradation.

Since Myanmar gained independence in 1948, successive governments have heavily relied on timber exports to bolster state revenues. Unfortunately, this approach led to a drastic decline in the nation's forest cover, plummeting to a mere 42 per cent of the national territory. The onus now falls on every citizen to partake in reforestation efforts, incrementally increasing forest cover to mitigate the impacts of climate change and natural disasters.

Today, the world grapples with dwindling groundwater reserves, river and creek silting, and recurring droughts. Consequently, all living beings endure hardships as a result of water scarcity in its various forms. This compels all Myanmar citizens to embrace the responsible management of forest resources, environmental greenery, climate change mitigation, and natural disaster prevention.

In light of these pressing concerns, tree-planting ceremonies have become a ubiquitous tradition across the nation during the monsoon season when the soil is primed for sapling growth. These ceremonies symbolize acts of compassion and nobility, reaffirming our commitment to a greener and more sustainable future for all.

GLOBAL rice prices reached a 15-year high in August after top exporter India banned some overseas sales of the grain, the Food and Agriculture Organization said Friday.

While global food prices eased in August, those of rice rose 9.8 per cent compared to the previous month, "reflecting trade disruptions in the aftermath of a ban on Indica white rice exports by India", the FAO said in a monthly report.

"Uncertainty about the ban's duration and concerns over export restrictions caused supply-chain actors to hold on to stocks, re-negotiate contracts or stop making price offers, thereby limiting most trade to small volumes and previously concluded sales," the UN agency said.

Rice is a major world food staple and prices on international

Global rice prices hit 15-year high after India curbs: FAO

markets have soared in the wake of the Covid pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the impact of the El Nino weather phenomenon on production levels.

India announced in July a ban on exports of non-basmati white rice, which account for around a quarter of its total.

The consumer affairs and food ministry said at the time that the move would "ensure adequate availability" and "allay the rise in prices in the domestic market".

India accounts for more than 40 per cent of all global rice shipments.

The ban was expected to hit African nations, Turkiye, Syria and Pakistan, all of which were

Rice, a vital global food staple, has experienced surging prices due to the Covid pandemic, the Ukraine conflict, and El Nino's production disruptions.



India responded by imposing a ban on non-basmati white rice exports to secure domestic availability and curb price hikes. PHOTO: TAUSEEF MUSTAFA/ AFP

already struggling with high inflation, data analytics firm Gro Intelligence warned in a note in July.

The Philippines, one of the world's top importers of rice, reached a five-year agreement with Vietnam on Thursday to buy rice.

El Nino effect

World rice stocks are forecast to reach an all-time high of 198.1 million tonnes, with India and China holding nearly three quarters of this volume like in previous seasons, according to the FAO.

This total represents around 38 per cent of rice consumption forecast over the same period.

But aggregate rice reserves

held by the rest of the world are expected to end the year with a second successive contraction, it added.

El Nino could also have a negative effect on the next harvests.

The turmoil in the rice market comes as global food prices have been progressively easing from a peak last year after war broke out between major grain producers Russia and Ukraine.

The FAO's global food price index, which tracks monthly changes in international prices of a basket of food commodities, averaged 121.4 points in August, down 2.1 per cent from July.

The index was 24 per cent below the summit it reached in March 2022.

Prices of cereal, meat, dairy and vegetable oils all fell in August.

SOURCE: AFP



Book Title	-	KFC, Colonel Sanders and the American Dream
Translator	-	Yee Lwin
Publishing House	-	Eikmat Ah-thit
Publication Date	-	August 2023
Price	-	K4,500

KFC, Colonel Sanders and the American Dream

By Josh Ozersky

THE original writer of this book under review is Josh Ozersky, who is contributing articles on food and culture to American magazines. And this book was published by the University of Texas under the title, "Colonel Sanders and the American Dream". The translator of this book is Yee Lwin, who said in his foreword to the translated version that the extreme eulogies of Colonel Sanders have been cut off.

Colonel Harland David Sanders was an American businessman, best known for founding fast food chicken restaurant chain Kentucky Fried Chicken and later acting as the company's brand ambassador and symbol. His name and image are still symbols of the company.

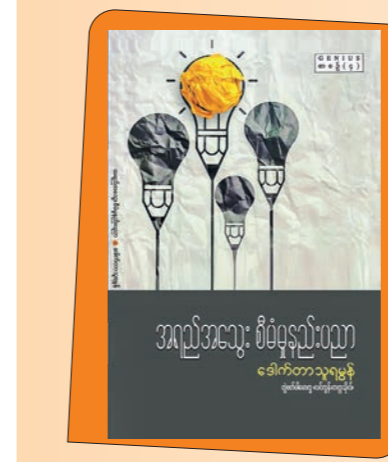
He was born in Henryville, Indiana, United States on 9 September 1890. He died on 16 December 1980 in Louisville, Kentucky in the

United States.

In his youth, Sanders held a variety of jobs, including steam engine stoker, insurance salesman and gas station operator. He started selling fried chicken at a street-side restaurant in North Corbin, Kentucky, during the Great Depression. During that time, Sanders developed a "secret recipe" and a patented method of cooking chicken in a pressure fryer. Sanders saw the potential of the restaurant franchise concept, and in 1952, the first KFC franchise opened in South Salt Lake, Utah. After the original restaurant closed, Mr Sanders devoted himself full-time to franchising fried chicken across the US and internationally has been overwhelming for Sanders. In 1946, then 73, he sold the company for US\$2 million (18.9 million today) to a group of investors led by John Y Brown Jr and Jack C Massey. Nevertheless, he retained operational control in Canada and became a paid brand ambassador

for Kentucky Fried Chicken. In his later years, he became highly critical of the food served at KFC restaurants, believing that they cut costs and allowed lower quality.

Concerning public image and personality, Sanders began dressing up, growing a goatee and wearing a black frock coat (later changed to a white suit), and lace ties, and called himself colonel. According to the biographer Josh Ozerski, his peers "first jokingly and then seriously" agreed with the title change. For the last 20 years of his life, he wore nothing else in public, and in the winter, he wore a heavy woollen suit. A light cotton suit is perfect for summer. He bleached his moustache and goatee to match his grey hair. John Y Brown Jr recalled Sanders as "a great man with gourmet food taste, visionary vision, great motivation, the style of a showman and the discipline of an artist". Vince Lombardi: Sanders was a Freemason.



Book Title	-	Quality Management Techniques
Writer	-	Dr Thura Mon
Publishing House	-	Genius
Publication Date	-	August 2023 (1st Edition)
Price	-	K8,500

Quality Management Techniques

DR Thura Mon, the writer of this book under review, is the Associate Professor of the Faculty of Economics and Post Graduation Courses Affairs Department of the Lincoln University of Malaysia. He has been conducting an assessment of the research papers with IJOR and PES Journals jointly published by the University of Kragujevac in Serbia and the University of Montenegro as well as those of AJSET Journal based in Boston in the US.

The writer has already written three books' titles, "Zati Thinnya Yinkyayhmu," 'Aung Myin Kywewa Chantha Zemyi Tway Khaw Hmu Ah Lay Ah Hta Myar,' and 'Sayzat Hnyi Hnaing Nee Phyint Aung Myin Hmu Go Tee Hsauk Chin'. This book is the fourth of his writing.

This book was written in dedication to the learners of quality management techniques as well as to those who want to have some knowledge of this discipline. For the sake of

easy reference, the writer has provided the footnotes and references. The writer is seen to have exerted enough effort in the translation of the management jargon into the Myanmar language.

This book is composed of 11 units covering the background history of quality control and quality management, definition of quality, inspection of quality, control and assurance, quality engineering and management, guru on quality management discipline, the Total Quality Management (TQM), QFD, Quality Management with the use of six sigmas, TRIZ or Solution to the Issues of Invention, Business Information Management (BIM) and the value-based engineering.

All the units include figures, charts and graphs for easy and clear understanding. Unit I is concerned with the background history of which construction of pyramids in Egypt, the enactment of a law that calls for the death

sentence in cases of casualties caused by the collapse of buildings constructed not up to the required construction standards in Mesopotamian Era and quality control, as well as, quality assurance.

Unit II is about the definitions of quality by the international eminent persons in different periods. Some say that quality means consumers' taste whereas some say that keeping quality standard means abidance by the prescribed norms and criteria. There are still those who believe that meeting all the standards will foster good quality. It is interesting to learn the four quality management assumptions as explained by such quality management gurus as Philip B Crosby, W Edwards Deming, Armand V Feigenbaum, Kaoru Ishikawa, Joseph M Juran, John S Oakland, Shigeo Shingo and Genichi Taguchi. Not only their different definitions but also their biographies are provided by the original writer:

INTERVIEW

“Myanmar had always a very special place in the heart of my family. So I came here”

Interview with Mr Vasily Pushkov, Director of International Cooperation, Sputnik

GNLM: Mr Vasily, could you tell us the purpose of your visit?

Mr Vasily Pushkov: The purpose of my visit is a very specific, singular purpose to actually, finally, personally sign a new cooperation agreement with our new partner in Myanmar—the newspaper Global New Light of Myanmar. So, this is such an important occasion for our media group that just for this purpose alone, I decided to come to Myanmar.

GNLM: Yesterday, I saw you at the signing ceremony. So, after the signing ceremony, how do you feel about our cooperation?

Mr Vasily Pushkov: I feel very optimistic because when you start talking to your new partners, you immediately understand whether you are on the same page or not. As I mentioned yesterday, I know that we are experiencing the same problems, we have the same challenges, and we have the same goals and values. So, I just see that there will be no difficulty for us to move forward with this cooperation. Now all we have to do is to find the best way to communicate, the best way to conduct logistics, and I think that it will just grow naturally from there.

GNLM: Is The Global New Light of Myanmar your first partner in Myanmar?

Mr Vasily Pushkov: In this particular form, I would say yes. We are already working with Myawady, but the form of cooperation is a little bit different. In this particular form, you are the first partner in Myanmar.

GNLM: Why did you decide to make a cooperation with The Global New Light of Myanmar?

Mr Vasily Pushkov: Actually, well, I am personally not a big expert on Myanmar media, so I have talked to several people, and we had good advice from the Russian embassy to Myanmar. We had good advice from our colleagues in the Russian Ministry of Information, and



Mr Vasily Pushkov poses for the memorable photo in front of the former Rangoon Institute of Technology (RIT).

they all said that The Global New Light of Myanmar would be a very suitable partner for us. Because, again, they basically said that the two organizations have the same goals and the same operational technique. Though they are newspaper and we are basically a news agency, I think that we will have a lot of common ground that we can use.

GNLM: Could you elaborate in more detail about what kind of cooperation will be conducted between us?

Mr Vasily Pushkov: We understand very well that nowadays, different media companies from around the world are experiencing several challenges. Not the least of them are financial troubles. So, I'm going to be completely honest. Because of that reason alone, our media company, being one of the largest in Russia, still does not have a cor-

respondent in Myanmar, not in Nay Pyi Taw, not in Yangon. But we have a steadily growing demand for news out of Myanmar. So, we need a partner who will provide us with that news, and vice versa. I understand that it's not very simple, it's not very easy to put a correspondent in Moscow, being a Myanmar media company. So, we are ready to provide you with our own news products about Russia that you can use in your work. Also, the second thing is that we, an international media group, Broadcast Sputnik broadcast 32 languages worldwide, and part of our audience lives in Myanmar. So, for us, it's very important to actually understand the local audience there, the interest, media, culture and so on and so forth. We hope to learn that from you. At the same time, we are ready to share any of our expertise with you.

GNLM: With our cooperation,

do you believe that can we promote the friendship between our two countries?

Mr Vasily Pushkov: Well, the most possible direct way, because Russian people, I'm sorry to say that Russian people are now are only learning in general, are only starting to learn about Myanmar.

THE government has been working on creating closer ties with Myanmar for quite some time now. General audience, the general public only starts to learn about Myanmar. In order for the government to conduct its work at a steadier pace, the public has to support them. So, we are here also to provide our Russian-speaking audience with news about Myanmar. We are here to provide the international audience with news about Myanmar because I'm sure you know better than I do that there is a lot of low-quality information, let's just call it

that, about Myanmar circulating in the world media. We have to create a balanced, steady stream of balanced information about Myanmar. We will try to do that with your help. This will help our two governments to, as I said, more steadily bring our countries closer together.

GNLM: Another one is the rise of social media and also the rise of so-called citizen journalists. So the mainstream media is facing a lot of problems with fake news and other uncorrected information. So what is your opinion about how we fight for the fake news?

Mr Vasily Pushkov: Well, I'm going to be honest with you, it is my personal opinion, but I don't treat fake news as some sort of new disease that you can't actually find a cure for. Fake news has been around for centuries, actually.

SEE PAGE - 11

INTERVIEW

FROM PAGE - 10

So, all we can do is actually provide a balance with professional news. Now, the other issue that you have raised is actually much more dangerous because of the single journalists, the private journalists, the so-called Facebook journalism, and the bloggers. The problem is that we professional media companies actually have honestly, to compete with them on basically the same level. When we talk about platforms like Facebook or even Telegram, basically an account, a channel in Telegram belonging to our company, which is created out of efforts of thousands of people has to compete with a channel only created by one or two people. And that, of course, creates a bit of trouble for us. But at the end of the day, like I said, fake news is not a new problem. Those who are spreading the fake news are not a new problem. Unprofessional journalists are not a new problem. They have been around for many, many years.

I still believe that for a dedicated audience, it will be always simple to distinguish between unprofessional journalism and professional journalistic entities like a professional newspaper news agency or a media group. And people will always, at the end of the day, select the proper



GNLM: The second part is like that you have your visit so now you are this is I know that you're first visit to Myanmar. How do you have an impression about Myanmar when you are right here?

MR Vasily Pushkov: Should I tell my family story, right?

er was born in Yangon in 1958. My grandfather worked as an interpreter on the construction sites of several buildings in Yangon, which were constructed with the help of the Soviet government. My mother lived here until she was five years old when they moved to another country, but because of

looks almost similar to what you use nowadays. On the other hand, there was a negative thing impacting my impression, because if you look at how the mainstream media describes the modern life of Myanmar, you read a lot of negative stories about the modern situation in the country. Whether you like it or not, after reading enough stories, you're starting to believe it at least some of them. So I was expecting at least some form of this repair in the country.

And of course, as always, I immediately understood that those stereotypes are not correct, that this is a very prosperous country, that is moving steadily forward. After visiting Nay Pyi Taw, I almost lost my breath just looking at how beautiful the city is and how it's developing before you rise. So as always, as it happened to me before many, many times, I decided for myself that you should not read about countries and create your image of them without visiting them. Definitely visit the country and see for yourself if you're interested in the place.

I mean, just saying that I'm happy to finally get this chance to say nothing at all because this is basically a dream come true for me. Plus, right now, I can honestly tell my colleagues in

Russia, how the country actually represents right now. What it actually looks like, what it actually feels like and so on and so forth. So I think that from now on, I will be somewhat over Myanmar ambassador in Russia and public investment.

GNLM: So that means that your view on Myanmar change after visiting here.

MR Vasily Pushkov: My view on Myanmar, of course, become much more positive. Well, you should even say positive, it will be much more objective, realistic and close to what the situation actually is. It will be more fruitful of course.

GNLM: You meet with a lot of Myanmar people. How do you feel about the Myanmar people? So what is your impression of Myanmar people?

MR Vasily Pushkov: I would say that Myanmar people are so welcoming that you could say that they are too welcoming.

GNLM: I saw you in the television news yesterday night. You visited the Maravijaya Buddha image. How do you feel about that?

MR Vasily Pushkov: Um, well, I'm going, to be honest with you at first, I was a little bit afraid for my eyes, because it was so bright that I lost my eyesight for a second. I was not sure if it was good for my eyes to be this white. It was like a fairy tale. I'm just sorry that modern cameras on phones are not able to capture this beauty. My eyes could not distinguish from where the roofs of the pagoda ended. I think that after promoting this, you will bring a lot of tourists also from Russia because of this kind of thing.

GNLM: My last question. After you return to Moscow and Russia. What kind of words you're telling your colleagues about Myanmar? Only one sentence one sentence and complete.

MR Vasily Pushkov: I'm not sure that you will be satisfied with my answer. But if you want to limit it to one sentence, which I will tell my friends, it will be that you should go and try the food there.



My mother was born in Myanmar because my grandfather was working in Myanmar and living here with my grandmother. So my mother was born in Yangon in 1958. My grandfather worked as an interpreter on the construction sites of several buildings in Yangon, which were constructed with the help of the Soviet government.

professional journalistic entity. So, I'm very optimistic about the future of media companies.

GNLM: What are the most challenging issues media industries face around the world?

MR Vasily Pushkov: The problem of financing has started again in the media industry.

And well, I have a little bit of a special position when you compare me to the ordinary Russian, because I have heard about Myanmar since my childhood, and I have heard about it many, many times. My mother was born in Myanmar because my grandfather was working in Myanmar and living here with my grandmother. So my moth-

er was born in Yangon in 1958. My grandfather worked as an interpreter on the construction sites of several buildings in Yangon, which were constructed with the help of the Soviet government. My mother lived here until she was five years old when they moved to another country, but because of

WORLD

Modi opens G20 summit as PM of 'Bharat'

INDIAN Prime Minister Narendra Modi made his opening address to the G20 summit Saturday with his country nameplate labelled "Bharat" — an ancient Sanskrit word — in the biggest signal yet of a potential official change.

The gesture came days after invitations to the summit dinner were sent out in the name of the "President of Bharat", prompting rumours that official usage of the country's English name would be scrapped.

Modi himself typically refers to India as "Bharat", a word steeped in Hindu religious symbolism and dating back to scripture: in the Mahabharata, King Dushyant and Shakuntala's son was named "Bharat" and the kingdom he inherited came to be known as "Bharatvarsha".

India and Bharat are both official names for the country under its constitution, in which Article 1 opens with the phrase: "India, that is Bharat".

The plaque in front of PM Modi at the G20 Summit said "Bharat".

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke at the G20 summit and used the word "Bharat" on his country's nameplate, which is an ancient Sanskrit word for India.
- PM Modi urges global unity and trust-building at G20 Summit.



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (2L) addresses the opening session of the G20 Leaders' Summit at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on 9 September 2023. **PHOTO: LUDOVIC MARIN / POOL / AFP**

The first session of the summit under the theme 'One Earth' started at Bharat Mandapam, the venue of the conference.

PM Modi on Saturday called upon the international commu-

nity to transform the global trust deficit into one of trust and reliance. He stressed that it is time for the world to move together.

In his address at Session-1 on 'One Earth' during the G20

Summit being hosted under India's Presidency, PM Modi said, "Following the COVID pandemic, the world faced a new challenge of trust deficit and unfortunately, the wars have

further deepened this.

But we must remember that if we can defeat a pandemic like COVID, we can also win over the challenge of this trust deficit.

Today, as the President of the G20, India calls upon the entire world to transform this global trust deficit into trust and confidence. This is the time for all of us to move together."

"India's G20 presidency has become a symbol of inclusion, of 'sabka saath' both inside and outside the country.

This has become People's G20 in India. Crores of Indians are connected to this. In more than 60 cities of the country, more than 200 meetings have taken place. With the sense of 'Sabka Saath', India had proposed that the African Union be granted permanent membership of G20. I believe that all of us agree to this proposal," he said.

PM Modi also invited the head of the African Union to take his seat as a member of the G20. — AFP / ANI

Group of 20 expands as African Union joins bloc

The African Union was granted permanent membership in the G20 summit, bolstering the representation of the continent in the group, as Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi aimed to position India as a voice for the Global South.

THE African Union joined the Group of 20 leading economies at its summit on Saturday, giving the continent broader representation in the often-divided bloc as host Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeks to portray his country as a voice for the Global South.

"With everyone's approval, I request the African Union head to take his seat as a permanent G20 member," Modi said in his opening address,

bringing a ceremonial gavel.

Modi, who has painted the summit as India's diplomatic coming of age and is pushing for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council, said it turned the grouping into a "people's G20".

The African Union at full strength has 55 members but six junta-ruled nations are currently suspended. Collectively, it has a GDP of \$3 trillion with some 1.4 billion people.



The proposal to include the AU in the G20 has received support from various international actors. **PHOTO: AFP**

As the G20, the grouping included 19 countries and the European Union, representing 85 per cent of the world GDP, with South Africa its only member state from the continent.

"As a continent, we look for-

ward to further advancing our aspirations on the global stage using the G20 platform," Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, who is at the summit, posted on X, formerly known as Twitter.

The G20 was conceived in the throes of the 2008 financial crisis as a way to manage the global economy, but finding consensus among members has been increasingly difficult in recent years. — AFP

Gotion builds EV lithium battery manufacturing plant in Illinois

GOTION announced on Friday that it is building a new electric vehicle (EV) lithium battery manufacturing plant in Manteno, US state of Illinois. Covering approximately 150 acres, the plant will focus on lithium-ion battery cell, battery pack production, and energy storage system integration, according to a press release issued by the Illinois governor's office.

The plant is expected to begin production in 2024, to produce 10 GWh of lithium-ion battery packs and 40 GWh of lithium-ion battery cells, and will create over 2,600 jobs for local residents, the press release said.

Illinois Governor JB Pritzker

and local leaders and officials joined the EV battery maker's groundbreaking ceremony in Manteno, a township about 80 kilometres south of Chicago, on Friday, hailing the project as a significant step forward for Illinois in growing its EV ecosystem and supply chain.

"With 2,600 new jobs, a 2-billion-dollar gigafactory, and the most significant new manufacturing investment in Illinois in decades, it's the most recent proof that we are in a new paradigm. Illinois is on the rise, and we're open for business," Pritzker said. "This new facility will be a game-changer in our state's economy, creating new



A worker is busy at a battery company plant of Gotion High-tech Co Ltd in Hefei, east China's Anhui Province, 19 June 2020. **PHOTO: HUANG BOHAN/XINHUA**

jobs and showing our continued commitment to making Illinois a renewable energy manufacturing powerhouse," said Lt-Gov Juli-

ana Stratton. "When we come to Illinois, we are not building a new factory but are planning to reuse an existing one and bring

it back to life again as our way of cherishing and conserving resources," said Li Zhen, chairman of Gotion High-tech. — Xinhua

Toyota Czech unit cuts output after fire hits supplies

THE Czech unit of Japanese automaker Toyota said Friday it would suspend its production for another week following a fire at the factory of its plastic parts supplier.

The world's top-selling carmaker halted production at its plant east of Prague on 22 August, a week after the factory of local car-parts maker Novares was destroyed by fire.

"I can confirm the shutdown will be extended until next Friday, that is, 15 September," Tomas Paroubek, a spokesman for Toyota Motor Manufacturing Czech, told AFP. He declined to comment on the impact on production at the car factory that normally produces around 1,000 Toyota Aygo and



This picture taken on 31 October 2022 shows the logo of Toyota Motor displayed at a car showroom in Tokyo. **PHOTO: YUICHI YAMAZAKI / AFP**

Yaris cars a day. The country's largest automaker, Skoda Auto, said Friday it was suspending a part of its production for at

least a week because of a drop in supplies from a Slovenian company damaged by heavy flooding there. — AFP

Sompo Japan president to resign over Bigmotor insurance fraud scandal

SOMPO Japan Insurance Inc President Giichi Shirakawa will step down to take responsibility for the handling of a high-profile insurance fraud case involving used car dealership and

repair chain Bigmotor Co the insurer's parent company said Friday.

The major Japanese insurer's close relationship with Bigmotor has come under scrutiny

since the dealership chain was found to have charged excessive repair fees after intentionally damaging cars and to have made fraudulent insurance claims. — Kyodo

Israel to lift 5-day ban on exports from Gaza at main crossing

THE Israeli authorities have decided to reopen the Kerem Shalom border crossing for commercial goods leaving the Gaza Strip after a five-day closure, Palestinian authorities said on Friday.

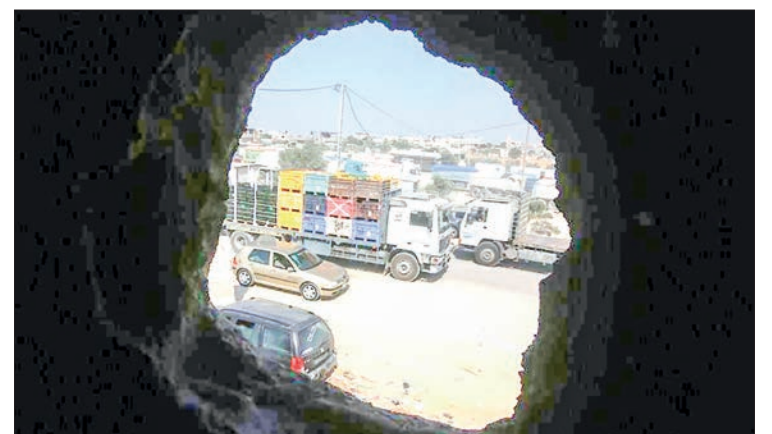
"Israel has officially informed us that goods exports through Kerem Shalom will restart on Sunday," the coordinating commission run by the Palestinian Authority said in a press statement to Xinhua.

Israel on Tuesday halted commercial goods leaving Gaza through Kerem Shalom, the sole crossing point for exports from

Gaza to Israel, after thwarting an attempt to smuggle explosive materials at the crossing, according to Palestinian and Israeli sources.

Israel accused the armed Palestinians in Gaza of assisting the militants in the West Bank in manufacturing explosives for use in attacks against the Israelis.

During the five-day suspension, the Gaza-based businessmen, workers, and human rights organizations have called on the international community to pressure Israel to revoke its decision and reopen the crossing. — Xinhua



Trucks are seen at the Kerem Shalom border crossing in the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah on 5 September 2023. **PHOTO: KHALED OMAR/XINHUA**

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Kim Jong-un, daughter attend North Korea's 75th anniversary military parade

Rocket launchers, trucks, and tractors paraded through Kim Il-sung Square in Pyongyang, with planes forming a "75" in the sky as part of celebrations for the founding day.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and his daughter attended a paramilitary parade which took place in Pyongyang to mark the 75th anniversary of the republic's founding day, state media reported. **PHOTO: KCNA/SPUTNIK**

THE Founding Day military parade was the third such event staged this year in North Korea.

In July, the 70th anniversary of the armistice agreement in the 1950-1953 Korean War was also

marked by solemn celebrations, with a Russian delegation led by Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu

attending at the invitation of the North Korean Defence Ministry.

The North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and his daughter attended a paramilitary parade held in Kim Il-sung Square in Pyongyang to mark the 75th anniversary of the country, state media reported on Saturday.

North Korea, officially the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), was established on 9 September 1948.

To mark the founding day, rocket launchers towed by trucks and tractors traversed the square in the capital that bears the name of the founder of North Korea, while planes lined up in the sky to depict the number "75" to the strains of music played by a military orchestra, according to the official Korean

Central News Agency (KCNA).

A solemn ceremony of raising the national flag of the DPRK took place, and columns of the Workers and Peasants' Red Militia also marched across the square. At the end of the parade, there was a fireworks display.

Coming as North Korea is set on enhancing ties with Moscow and Beijing, diplomats from both countries stationed in Pyongyang had been invited to attend the celebrations.

A Chinese delegation led by Vice-Premier Liu Guozhong, as well as the Russian Army Academic Song and Dance Ensemble named after Alexandrov, which is visiting the DPRK, were also in attendance. — SPUTNIK

UK police arrest escaped terror suspect in London

UK police on Saturday arrested a terror suspect who escaped from a London prison earlier this week, sparking a nationwide manhunt.

"Metropolitan Police officers have arrested Daniel Khalife. Officers apprehended him just before 11 am (1000GMT) today in the Chiswick area, and he is currently in police custody," the force said in a tweet.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, currently in India at the G20 summit, told UK media he was "very pleased with the news".

"My thanks to the police officers for their fantastic work over the past couple of days," he added. The 21-year-old former soldier

fled from Wandsworth prison in south London on Wednesday morning, probably by clinging to the bottom of a delivery van.

His disappearance triggered a major hunt with extra security checks introduced at ports and airports amid fears he may try to flee the country. But following confirmed sightings in south west London, he was eventually apprehended in the Chiswick neighbourhood on Saturday. He last appeared in court in London on 28 January and was remanded in custody over two incidents at the Royal Air Force base in Stafford, central England, near the army barracks where he lived. — AFP

US confirms April seizure of Iran oil shipment

In April, the US confirmed seizing an Iranian oil tanker, the Suez Rajan, and its cargo for alleged sanctions violations, imposing a fine on the vessel's owner.

THE United States confirmed Friday that it seized a tanker load of Iranian oil in April, just before Iran seized two vessels in the Gulf region, in the Justice Department's first official statement on the incident.

The department said that it had seized the Suez Rajan, a Greek-managed tanker, and its cargo of 980,000 barrels of crude oil, allegedly being sold by Iran's powerful Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps to China.

That sale allegedly violated US and international sanctions, and the United States government obtained a warrant early this year for its seizure.

On 19 April, around the time of the seizure, the vessel's owner, Suez Rajan Ltd, pleaded guilty to sanctions violations and was fined \$2.5 million.

Subsequently the Greek vessel operator, Empire Navigation, agreed to cooperate with US authorities and ordered the ship, located in Southeast Asia

at the time, to take its load of oil to the United States.

At the time US authorities would not confirm it was taking control of the cargo and that the ship was sailing to the United States.

But Iran's seizure of two tankers — the Marshall Islands-flagged Advantage Sweet as it sailed toward the United

States in the Gulf of Oman, and then the Greek-owned Niovi, as it travelled from Dubai to Fujairah — came just days later.

At the time the United States accused Iran of "harassment" and "interference with navigational rights in regional and international waters".

The seizures elevated tensions in the Gulf region. — AFP



Iranian military seizing the US-bound oil tanker Advantage Sweet in April, shortly after the US moved to seize a Greek-managed tanker, the Suez Rajan, carrying Iranian oil to China. **PHOTO: IRANIAN ARMY OFFICE/AFP**

No call for phase-out of fossil fuels in G20 statement: text

A G20 leaders' statement issued at their summit in New Delhi on Saturday contained no pledge to phase out fossil fuels, the text showed, despite multiple warnings of a climate crisis.

The leaders said they recognized the importance of "accelerating efforts towards phasedown of unabated coal power", a day after a key UN report said phasing out all unabated fossil fuels was "indispensable" to reaching net zero. — AFP

SPORTS



Myanmar face big loss to Qatar in Asian Cup U-23 Qualifiers

MYANMAR team suffered a 0-6 defeat to Qatar in the Asian Cup U-23 Qualifiers played at Changwon Football Centre Stadium in Thailand yesterday.

Although the Qatar team is in the Group B qualifiers, it has been announced to host the final tournament, and it has passed the qualification and the team's results will not be included in the qualifying group standings.

Therefore, the Myanmar squad made changes to the starting lineup and started with some reserve players. Team Myanmar conceded only one goal in the first half but lost five more goals in the second half. In the first match, the Qatar team defeated the South Korean team 2-0. In the previous match, the South Koreans also beat Kyrgyzstan 1-0.

The results of the meeting with the Qatar team are not taken into account in the group standings, so South Korea has three points from one game.

Myanmar has one point from one game and Kyrgyzstan has one point from two games. The Myanmar team will play against the South Korean team on 12 September as a final group game. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

A Myanmar player (white) tackles for the ball against Qatar in the Asian Cup U-23 Qualifiers at Changwon Football Centre Stadium in Thailand on 9 September 2023. PHOTO: MFF

Djokovic schools Shelton to reach 10th US Open final

NOVAK Djokovic earned himself another shot at a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam title after beating unseeded American Ben Shelton in straight sets on Friday to advance to his 10th US Open final. Djokovic ended the run of the 20-year-old Shelton, winning 6-3, 6-2, 7-6 (7/4) to set up a potential repeat of his Wimbledon final against Carlos Alcaraz, who faces Daniil Medvedev in the other semi-final.

"Another Grand Slam final. I cannot be happier with where I am," said Djokovic, who signed off victory in his 100th US Open match by imitating Shelton's hang-up-the-phone celebration.



Novak Djokovic will appear in his 10th US Open final. PHOTO: AFP

The 36-year-old Djokovic is attempting to become the oldest men's champion in New York in the Open era, which would also see him match Margaret Court's all-time mark for most major singles titles. The Serbian, who will return to number one in the world after the tournament, has now won 22 of his last 23 Grand Slam semi-finals. He captured the last of his three US Open titles in 2018.

Djokovic has reached the final at all four majors in the same year for the third time. He will try to claim three Grand Slams in the same season for the fourth time in his career.

"I'm obviously over the moon with the results so far on Grand Slams," said Djokovic.

"Playing in all four finals of all four Slams in a season is amazing. It's the highest achievement I can think about when I start the season. — AFP

Two-goal Neymar breaks Pele's record as Brazil crush Bolivia 5-1

NEYMAR surpassed Pele as Brazil's all-time top scorer with two second-half goals in a 5-1 win over Bolivia in South America's 2026 World Cup qualifiers on Friday. The 31-year-old striker went into the game level with Pele on 77 goals and had a golden opportunity to break the record in the 17th minute when Brazil were awarded a penalty.

But he looked distraught after his soft spot-kick was easily saved by Bolivia keeper Guillermo Viscarra to keep the scores goalless. Seven minutes later, Brazil got in front when Rodrygo reacted quickly to slot home after a shot from Raphinha was parried out by Viscarra.

Brazil doubled their lead just after the break when Raphinha cut in from the left and his low shot took a slight deflection as it flew into the bottom corner.

Neymar had a hand in Brazil's third, with a clever chipped pass that was flicked on by Bruno Guimaraes into the path of Rodrygo who confidently drilled home.

Then came Neymar's moment to enter the history books as he pounced on a loose ball inside the box and tucked away his 78th goal in his 125th game for his country — raising his hands and his

gaze to the skies.

Victor Abrego pulled a goal back for Bolivia, bustling through a disorganized Brazil backline before blasting an unstoppable shot past Ederson. —AFP



Brazil's forward Neymar celebrates after scoring a goal during the 2026 FIFA World Cup South American qualifiers football match between Brazil and Bolivia at the Jornalista Edgar Proença 'Mangueirao' stadium, in Belem, state of Para, Brazil, on 8 September 2023. PHOTO: AFP



The premiere of "Dicks: The Musical" took place during the 2023 Toronto International Film Festival. **PHOTO: AFP**

Miyazaki's likely swan song charms Toronto as film fest opens

THE Toronto International Film Festival opened Thursday with admiring applause for "The Boy and the Heron", Japanese animation master Hayao Miyazaki's likely last movie — a meditation on love, loss and the horrors of World War II.

Cinema buffs crowded into the 2,000-seat Princess of Wales theatre to be the first outside Japan to catch Miyazaki's first feature film for the storied Studio Ghibli in a decade — and, at age 82, perhaps his farewell to the industry.

The film tells the story of young Mahito, who moves to the countryside with his father after his mother dies in a fire-bombing during World War II. It takes viewers on a surreal journey as Mahito searches for his mother, encountering talking animals and fantastical creatures along the way.

The film, showcased at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), is seen as a brilliant expression of director Hayao Miyazaki's vision. — AFP



Tourists visit the Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang, northwest China's Gansu Province, 11 May 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA/MA XIPING**

How ancient city on Silk Road attracts global fans

Pronkina Olga, a 37-year-old Russian professor at the Gansu University of Political Science and Law, is a huge fan of Dunhuang and has a strong bond with this ancient city on the Silk Road.

Her connection with Dunhuang began 16 years ago when she watched a performance of Dunhuang dance in her hometown in Russia's Penza. The dance performance drew inspiration from the murals in the Mogao Grottoes, a UNESCO

World Heritage Site in Dunhuang, northwest China's Gansu Province.

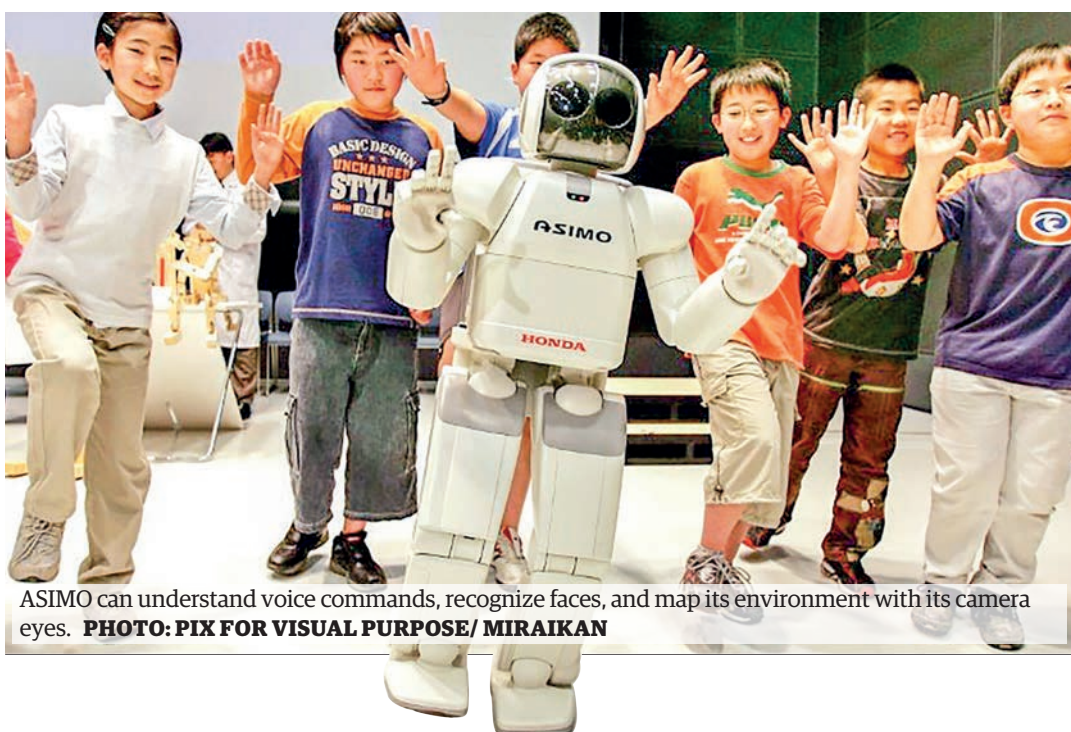
The thrilling performance piqued her interest in Dunhuang culture, and so she later travelled to China to study Dunhuang culture. This year, she was invited to an academic symposium on the global significance of Dunhuang Studies in the city.

"Culture can connect different countries, religions, and nationalities. My life is rich and colourful because it is connected by cultures," she said.

She is not alone. The study of cultural relics based on the Dunhuang grottoes and related documents has inspired the formation of an internationally distinguished discipline of Dunhuang studies since the cultural treasures of Dunhuang were rediscovered at the beginning of the 20th century.

Dunhuang studies and the preservation of Dunhuang's cultural relics have vigorously developed, and the ancient city with more than 2,000 years of history has gradually evolved into a world-renowned cultural and artistic treasure house. With collaborative efforts of academic circles both at home and abroad, a wealth of outstanding academic achievements and a large number of international academic cooperation projects have emerged. —Xinhua

Japan city to use robots to tackle rising school truancy



ASIMO can understand voice commands, recognize faces, and map its environment with its camera eyes. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ MIRAIKAN**

A Japanese city plans to use robots to enable pupils to attend classes virtually, as truancy rates surge due to anxiety and bullying, officials said Wednesday. Children will be able to use devices at home to remotely manoeuvre robots that represent them at school, allowing them to take part in classes and discussions with schoolmates, the southern city of Kumamoto said.

Like other countries, Japan has seen a rise in children not attending school following the Covid-19 pandemic, with reasons for being absent ranging from difficulty fitting in to bullying, according to a government probe. The one-metre (three-

foot) tall robots will be self-propelling, with pupils able to move them within the school grounds and even participate in events, reports said.

"Communicating through these robots is not completely real-life, but can at least give a certain sense of reality to kids who are still unsure and afraid of interacting with others," Maki Yoshizato, a Kumamoto city official, told AFP. "We hope this undertaking will help alleviate their psychological fears." Across Japan, the number of truant pupils at elementary and middle school levels hit an all-time high of 244,940 in fiscal year 2021, according to the latest education ministry survey. — AFP