

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Travellers arrivals soar to **170,000** at **Ngwesaung Beach** in Ayeyawady Region from January to August this year

NGWESAUNG BEACH, an enchanting haven for tourists in Ayeyawady Region, warmly welcomed over 170,000 visitors, both domestic and international, from January to August 2023. The majority of those tourists hailed from China,

India, and Russia, as reported by Assistant Director U Soe Win of the Ngwesaung Branch under the Ayeyawady Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism. The allure of Ngwesaung Beach extends far and wide, captivating travellers both near and far with a

choice of accommodation at 31 hotels and six guest houses, totalling an impressive 37 establishments offering a grand total of 1,831 rooms.

SEE PAGE-2

Myanmar set to export exceeding 200,000 tonnes of rice per month in Oct-Dec

SEE PAGE-7



Exported rice bags being loaded onto the overseas merchant vessel at Yangon Port.

NATIONAL

PAGE-5



Officials extend an invitation to designers for reconstruction of new archway in Sittway

NATIONAL

PAGE-6



Income tax on salaries of Myanmar nationals working abroad must be paid in foreign currency from October

NATIONAL

PAGE-7



Rising domestic peanut oil prices drop to K14,500 per viss

NATIONAL



A double Buddha image seen in the cave of Thagyapone temple in Bagan.



Buddhological mural paintings in Thagyapone temple available for revered

THE Thagyapone temple dating back to 12th Century AD in the Bagan-NyaungU ancient cultural zone in Mandalay Region is available for worship, and visitors can also see mural paintings portraying Buddhological works or the life story of the Lord Buddha.

It is a neighbouring temple of Thag-

yahit temple and is located in Wetgyiinn ward of NyaungU, the north-east of old Bagan. Both temples have caves in which Buddhological work is portrayed with both reliefs and mural paintings.

The cave of Thagyapone temple accommodates a small Buddha image enveloped by a large one. Such a Buddha image faces the eastern wing

of the chamber.

There are several neighbouring temples named Shwezigon pagoda in the east, the Thagyahit, Shweleiktu and Shweleikpauk temples in the south, the Htilo Minlo temple in the south west and the Ngwezigon, Stumukha and Thangetaw temples in the west. — Dipa Lin/TH

Travellers arrivals soar to...

FROM PAGE-1

"During the high season from January to August this year, more than 170,000 local and foreign travellers paid visits to Ngwesaung Beach. Among them, a total of 1,622 travellers came from China, 597 from India, 196 from Russia, 180 from Japan, 141 from Thailand, and 99 from the United States of America, totalling 6,855 visitors during this period. Additionally, an impressive 265,830 local travellers chose Ngwesaung Beach as their preferred destination," he explained.

Furthermore, the directorate has taken proactive steps to enhance the overall tourist experience. They've set up information counters to provide essential guidance on hotels and tourism services during the open season. In addition, they've organized tourism awareness seminars to discuss and promote ASEAN tourism standards.

Local authorities have also issued directives to all hotels and guest houses, urging them to maintain cleanliness in their vicinity. They are encouraged to enhance the beauty of the landscape and sidewalks, and most importantly, to provide catering services featuring delicious domestic cuisines to their esteemed guests.

Ngwesaung Beach continues to shine as a jewel in Ayeyawady Region's tourism crown, attracting travellers from diverse corners of the world. With its stunning natural beauty and a commitment to hospitality of Myanmar. — ASH/KZL

COVID-19 report, 24 September 2023

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3,299

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Plan underway to organize Taunggyi Tazaungdaing Festival in November

THE Taunggyi Tazaungdaing traditional hot-air balloon festival, a famous festivity in Taunggyi Township, southern Shan State, will be held from 21 to 27 November, according to the Southern Shan State Traditional Hot-air Balloon Professionals Association.

The festival will resume in November 2023 after a three-year hiatus due to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic.

"Taunggyi Tazaungdaing festival, one of Shan State's famous festivities, will be brought back. It will be held together with the PhaungdawU Pagoda Buddha Pujaniya festival. The festival aims to further promote tourism industry and sell local foods and utensils," said Sai Aung Myo from the association.

This year, the traditional hot-air balloon festival will be prioritized rather than the competition format, and the initial plan is to release hot-air balloons comprising balloons with lightings at night fire, Seinnaban hot-air balloons with fireworks and the balloons in shapes of toys at day time.

The professionals launched 281 balloons at day time



An impressive scene of the 2019 Taunggyi Tazaungdaing Festival.

and 115 balloons with lighting and fireworks at night in the Taunggyi Tazaungdaing Hot-air Balloon Festival in 2019. — ASH/KZL

NATIONAL

Union Information Minister arrives back from Viet Nam

THE Myanmar delegation, led by Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, arrived back yesterday from Viet Nam after attending the 16th Conference of ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information-AMRI and related meetings held in Da Nang of Viet Nam.

Delegation members Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, Director of Myanmar International Television (MITV) Daw Lein Mung Pan,

Deputy Director U Han Win Aung and Assistance Director of the Media Development Department Daw Myat Kyemon who accompanied Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn came back on the same flight.

The 16th Conference of ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information-AMRI, the 20th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting Responsible for Information-SOMRI and related meetings were attended by Information and Communication



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn is seen on his arrival back at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

Ministers, departmental heads and representatives from ASEAN members countries and Japan, and officials of ASEAN China, Republic of Korea and Secretariat. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar delegation joins 2nd Global Security Cooperation Conference (2023) (Lianyungang Forum) in China on 19-21 September

A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar Police Force Lt-Gen Ni Lin Aung participated in the Second Global Security Cooperation Conference (2023) (Lianyungang Forum) held at the Jinlin Haizhou Bayview Conference Centre in Lianyungang, the People's Republic of China, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Deputy Minister discussed the commitments made during the talks in the Global Security Initiative (GSI) included principles such as respecting sovereignty, territorial integrity, and non-interference in internal affairs values that have long been upheld in Myanmar's foreign policy. He also expressed his support for and welcomed the Global Security Initiative (GSI), as it aligns with the five principles of peaceful coexistence.

He described Myanmar collaborates with international organizations to combat the dangers of narcotics. Precursor chemicals required for narcotics production are imported, not produced within Myanmar. Therefore, it is crucial for all countries to cooperate in their prevention.

Furthermore, new tech-



The Second Global Security Cooperation Conference (2023) (Lianyungang Forum) in progress in Lianyungang, the People's Republic of China.

nologies like Artificial Intelligence and ChatGPT are being employed in online scam centres. There is a pressing need for close cooperation and comprehensive information sharing among law enforcement organizations, non-governmental organizations dealing with online scams, financial intelligence agencies, and relevant private companies.

He also expressed, as per the Global Terrorism Index Report (2023) published by the Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP), terrorist

groups are increasingly employing drones, making their use a future challenge. To prevent such weapons, including drones, from falling into the hands of criminals and malicious groups worldwide, it is essential to enhance regional and bilateral cooperation. This can be achieved through the strengthening of border control measures.

The Myanmar delegation returned to Yangon by flight from Guangzhou, Guangdong Province yesterday afternoon. — MNA/KZW

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 03/2023

Issued at 15:00 hours MST on 24-9-2023

ACCORDING to the observations at 14:30 hrs MST today, due to the Easterly wave and a low pressure may form over the North Andaman Sea and Eastcentral Bay of Bengal, rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread to widespread in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states with likelihood of regionally and isolated heavyfalls in some regions and states with strong wind from 28.9.2023 to 3.10.2023.

Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (40) mph. Wave height will be about (9-12) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

DUE to the Easterly wave and a low pressure may form over the North Andaman Sea and Eastcentral Bay of Bengal, people should be awared heavy rain with strong wind, flash flood and landslide in the hilly areas and near small rivers and also domestic flight, trawlers, vessels and ships off and along Myanmar Coasts.

Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal Condition

Issued at 15:00 hours MST on 24-9-2023

ACCORDING to the observations at 14:30 hours MST today, a low pressure area may form over the North Andaman Sea and adjoining Eastcentral Bay of Bengal around 30.9.2023. —DMH

NATIONAL



Union Minister U Myint Kyiaing looks into the process of immigration at Shwe Nan Taw immigration checkpoint in Muse yesterday.

Arrangements set to allow Myanmar, Chinese citizens to pass through border with passports

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Immigration and Population, arrangements are being made to allow Myanmar and Chinese citizens to travel with passports through the Myanmar-China border.

Currently, Myanmar citizens are travelling with Border Pass-BP and Temporary Border Pass-TBP, so preparations are being made to allow citizens from Myanmar and China to enter and exit with passports in the near future.

The citizens of Myanmar and China will be able to enter and leave with passports, so that they should pay special attention to security and coordinate with each other, Union Minister U Myint

Kyiaing said during a tour of the Kyel Gaung immigration checkpoint on the Chinese side.

In addition to this, the Union Minister met officials in Ruili and discussed the setting up of border immigration checkpoints between the two countries and the ability to meet the needs of the border checkpoints for the convenience of border inspection operations.

The two sides also focused on the requirements to facilitate the entry and exit of truck drivers and the requirements to facilitate the entry and exit of travellers with passport and to ensure safety.

— ASH/KZL

Illegal consumer goods, industrial materials, foodstuffs, vehicles seized on 20-22 September

A combined team under the supervision of Mandalay Region Illegal Eradication Task Force seized 14 goods including 18 child chairs, 5,760 bottles of collagen day & night cream estimated at K24,179,900 and two Mitsubishi Fuso Trucks estimated at K75 million, totalling K99,179,900 at Milepost 23/5 and Milepost 21/6 on Muse-Mandalay highway on 20 and 21 September and the action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Next, an on-duty team under the management of Customs Department made inspection at Myanmar Industrial Port container yard on 20 and 21 September. They found six goods including 1,030 kilogrammes of pencil case, 900 grammes of Clip File totalling K21,685,860, not declared in Import Declaration goods from three con-

tainers. At Yangon International Airport, 149 bottles of Gano Excel generic pain reliever medicine could not be presented in the Import Declaration, along with six handsets, one electrical spare part with an estimated value of K4,593,903, and 8,000 kilogrammes of raw materials for industrial test liner, with an estimated value of K5.256 million, were loaded in excess of the declared amount on one vehicle travelling from Myawady to Yangon at Mayanchaung Permanent checkpoint. The vehicle consisted of one Nissan Diesel Tractor Head and one trailer carrying these items, with an estimated value of K45 million. A total of items with an estimated value of K76,535,763 were seized, and actions are being taken in accordance with Customs Procedures.

In addition, on 21 September,

a joint task force under the management of the Shan State Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections in Muse. Smuggled items were piled up on the side of the road near Namkhun Village, past the Asia World toll gate. These items included 15 REDMI 9 phone glasses, 12 REDMI 8 phone glasses, 10 REDMI 10X phone glasses, and 10 REDMI NOTE 11R phone glasses, totalling 18 items with an estimated value of K5,146,000. They were seized, and action is being taken in accordance with Customs Procedure.

Also, inspections were carried out by combined teams under the management of Kayin State Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force on 21 September. They discovered the following items: 800 Pro Link

UPSs, four Two-Door refrigerators, 14 Samsung washing machines, 14 Samsung washing dispensers, with a combined estimated value of K57,804,500. These items were being transported on one Nissan Diesel Truck and one Mitsubishi Fuso Truck, with an estimated value of K70 million.

At the Kawkareik (Tadakyko) combined checkpoint, two products with an estimated value of K3.66 million were discovered. These products included 600 litres of Two Shrimps brand cooking oil, which could not be presented with official documents. They were found on one vehicle travelling from Myawady to Yangon. A total of items with an estimated value of K131,464,500 were seized, and actions are being taken in accordance with Customs Procedures.

In addition, on 22 September, a combined task force under the management of the Taninthayi Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections and discovered 31,600 kilogrammes of fish, with an estimated value of K80 million, abroad an illegal fishing boat near Kawthoung Township and a boat measures 62.08 feet in length, 18.11 feet in width, and has a draught of 8.1 feet, with an estimated value of K57.22 million. A total of items with an estimated value of K137.22 million were seized, and actions are being taken in accordance with the Myanmar Sea Fisheries Law.

Therefore, 22 arrests on 20 and 21 reached 22 September, were estimated value of K449,546,163, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/KZW

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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.

24th Japanese Language Spoken Competition set for November, accepting applications starting 27 September

The 24th Japanese Language Spoken Competition will be held in November. Applications for the competition will be accepted from 27 September to 6 October, according to the Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA).

Only Myanmar nationals between the aged 16 and 30 years can compete in the Japanese language competition. Japanese language teachers will not be allowed to compete, but part-time Japanese language teachers, are allowed to participate in the competition.

Previous winners of the contests will not be allowed to compete in it.

An official from the Myanmar Association for Japan Alumni (MAJA) said, "In addition to awarding handsome prizes, the award winners will be allowed to continue competitions in the international Japanese Language Spoken Contest, representing Myanmar, together with contestants from ASEAN countries."

The 24th Japanese Language Spoken Competition is scheduled to be held from 9 am to 12 pm on 11 November 2023 at the office of the Myanmar Association for Japan Alumni (MAJA) in the Yangon Region. — ASH/KZW



Pilgrims are seen on the platform of the Myathalun Pagoda in Magway.

2587th Buddha Pujaniya festival to last for 20 days at Magway Myathalun Pagoda

The 2587th Buddha Pujaniya festival of Magway Myathalun Pagoda will take place for 20 days from the 10th waxing of Thadingyut to the 14th waning of Thadingyut, according to U Aung San, a member of the pagoda board of trustees.

More than 1,000 stalls will be allocated for the festival, and currently more than 300 stalls have been built.

"Until 2019, we arranged stalls at the festival for pilgrims from all over the country. Starting around 2020, when was the time of COVID-19, we stopped doing the amusement programme and only

celebrated the pagoda festival without fail. This year, we will make the event again. A total of 1,080 booths are planned.

"As a fun event, funfair programmes are not included. However, for the kids, there will be a pirate ship, a rotor, and other amusements. For pilgrims from all over the country, free lounges with water and electricity supply are planned for 1,000 people.

"Paritta reciting event will be included in the festival. When the Pathana recitation is celebrated, there will be offerings of alms cash to the monks. A total of 1,500 monks will include in the recitation. On

the night of the full moon, 9,000 lamps, 9,000 joss sticks, and 9,000 flowers will be offered to the pagoda. Pilgrims from all over the country are invited to join the event," U Aung San added.

The festival was held every year in the month of Thadingyut, but it was stopped from 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and will resume this year.

Pilgrims come to Myathalun Pagoda to pay their obeisance. On normal days, the number of pilgrims comes from 800 to 1,000 per day. On full moon days and public holidays, the number of pilgrims rises to about 4,000 per day. — ASH/KZL

In response to the unfortunate damage inflicted upon the previous archway by cyclonic storm Mocha in May of this year, authorities are taking proactive steps to organize a competition aimed at conceptualizing the new entrance archways to Sittway in the Rakhine State. This ambitious initiative is being spearheaded by the Rakhine State Development Committee, reflecting the region's commitment to revitalizing its iconic archway.

Designers eager to participate in this prestigious contest are cordially invited to submit their masterpieces to the Rakhine State Development Committee office, with the submission window open from 20 September to 1 October.

Entrants are tasked with creating archway designs that artfully encapsulate the

Officials extend an invitation to designers for reconstruction of new archway in Sittway



The photo shows the debris of archway hit by cyclonic storm Mocha in Sittway of Rakhine State.

rich cultural heritage of the Rakhine State and its diverse ethnic communities. Their designs must also adhere to essential architectural principles and align seamlessly with the current landscape. Beyond aesthetics, these entries are expected to enhance the prestige of the Rakhine State while offering practical features such as accommodating the passage of cargo trucks, resilience against earthquakes and natural disasters, and an integration with the surrounding environment. It is worth noting that the winning design

will receive well-deserved recognition and rewards, as stated by a committee official.

Additionally, designers are encouraged to keep in mind that the new archway will measure an impressive 60 feet in width, and it is imperative that their creations are oriented towards rebuilding the archway in its original location in Sittway, the capital of the Rakhine State.

This competition represents an exciting opportunity for visionary designers to contribute their talents and creativity towards a project of immense cultural and symbolic significance. As we eagerly anticipate the unveiling of the winning design, the entire community is invited to join hands in rebuilding the archway to Sittway, a beacon of hope and resilience in the face of adversity. — ASH/TTA

NATIONAL



Grand Asia Force Co Ltd, a licensed employment agency, holds personal interviews with trainees intended to work abroad.

Over 450 Myanmar labourers employed in Thailand under MoU arrangement

A total of 452 Myanmar workers were sent to Thailand via the Myawady-Mae Sot friendship bridge under the MoU system on 22 September. Those MoU workers were recruited by eight overseas employment agencies, including Grand Asia Force, Pyae Wa San, Shwe Myanmar Aung, Royal Four Sea, Myint Mo Chan Tha, Gold Silver Diamond, Pyae Paing Hmu and

Shwe Labpwint agencies.

The Ministry of Labour has issued an announcement, stating that individuals planning to work abroad must sign an agreement to transfer 25 per cent of their earnings through official channels.

As of August, there are 477 overseas employment agencies licensed to provide foreign employment services and carry out legal

procedures for sending workers abroad. Among them, 10 agencies are temporarily closed.

Furthermore, there are 158 licensed Thai agencies responsible for sending Myanmar workers to Thailand, eight agencies of which were currently temporarily closed. Additionally, 150 licensed Thai agencies are currently in operation. — TWA/KZW

Govt to purchase more than 1.1 mln visses of raw long-staple cotton for textile factories

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Industry, domestic entrepreneurs are invited to submit tender proposals for the government in order to purchase over 1.1 million visses of raw long-staple cotton for six State-owned textile factories.

A tender has been invited to purchase a total of 984,300 visses of Grade-A long-staple cotton and 175,480 visses of Grade-C long-staple cotton from six textile factories under No 3 Heavy Industrial Enterprise. The tendered quantities of long-staple cotton to be purchased are as follows: 115,000 visses of Grade-A and 47,000 visses of Grade-C from No 1 Shwedaung Textile Factory; 100,000 visses of Grade-A and 40,000 visses of Grade-C from No 3 Sagaing Textile Factory; 184,300 visses of Grade-A and 88,480 visses of Grade-C from No 4 Pwintphyu Textile Factory; 100,000 visses of Grade-A from No 5 Pakkoku Textile Factory; 200,000 visses of Grade-A from No 7 Myittha Textile Factory; and 285,000 visses of Grade-A from No 8 Pyawbwe Textile Factory.

The tender will be closed by 29 September and local entrepreneurs can contact the production department of No 3 Heavy Industries Enterprise, the Ministry of Industry, for detailed information. — TWA/CT



Cotton wool is being sun-dried in a factory.

Income tax on salaries of Myanmar nationals working abroad must be paid in foreign currency from October

THE Union Tax Law 2023 has been amended recently to state that income tax on the salaries of Myanmar workers in foreign countries must be paid in foreign currency starting October.

Section 22 of the Union Tax Law 2023 was amended and enacted so that, without subtracting the tax exemption under Section 6 and Section 6-a, a ten per cent tax shall be levied over the total foreign exchange obtained abroad, except for the salaries of the citizens residing in foreign countries.

In addition, subsection (b) has been added to Section 22 of the Law to state that the lesser amount of tax out of two ways in foreign exchange shall be levied over the total foreign exchange salaries of citizens residing abroad, regardless of what is provided in

the income tax rules. According to the amendment, Myanmar workers in foreign countries who earn an annual salary between K2 million and K10 million must pay 5 per cent of their salaries to the government as tax, and those who earn more than K10 million must pay 10 per cent.

In addition, a 15 per cent tax will be levied on those who earn between K30 million and K50 million, 20 per cent for those earning between K50 million and K70 million, and those with an annual salary above K70 million will have to pay up to 25 per cent of their salaries.

According to the statement, the Union Tax Law 2023, which has been amended, will be effective from 1 October until 31 March 2024. — TWA/CT



Myanmar workers going to work in Thailand.

Rising domestic peanut oil prices drop to K14,500 per viss

ACCORDING to Mandalay bean traders, the price of peanut oil for domestic consumption in the Mandalay market decreased to K14,500 per viss these days.

The decrease in peanut oil prices is due to the arrival of peanuts from Rakhine, Pyay, Pakokku, Yesagyo, Kyaukpadaung, Nay Pyi Taw, Tatkon and Pynmana in the Mandalay market. Last month, the price of domestically consumed peanut oil was as high as K18,000 per viss, but currently the price significantly dropped to K14,500 per viss.

At present, the prices of peanut oil for domestic consumption are falling again in the market. The price decrease is due to the release of peanuts from all over Myanmar. In the past few days, peanut and oil prices rose. Red peanut went from K10,000 to K7,900 per viss.



Containers of cooking oil are seen in production belt of an oil mill.

The price of white peanut decreased from K8,500 to K6,500 per viss. The price of peanut is only K6,000. The price of pure peanut oil has decreased from

K18,000 to K14,000 for one viss. From the point of view of consumers, it is good news that oil prices have come down from a high point. Due to the increase

in bean production, it is predicted that the price of oil will not rise further. The exchange rate between the Myanmar kyat and the Chinese yuan has also

decreased, according to U Soe Win Myint, owner of Soe Win Myint Depot in Mandalay.

As the price of peanut oil is falling in the market, farmers and traders need to be fully supported to maintain the current price.

These days, peanuts are entering the Mandalay market from all over the country. The groundnut is grown as a major crop in Mandalay, Sagaing, Magway and Ayeyawady regions not only for domestic consumption but also for export.

At the same time, the price of chickpeas, which is widely consumed in the country, has dropped from K280,000 to K255,000 for a bag of three baskets, and the price of raw chickpeas has also dropped from K7,000 to K5,800 for one viss, as stated by the traders. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)/KZL

Dropping garlic price remains higher than onion price

KO Thein, an onion, garlic, and potato vendor on Yaytama Road in Bayintnaung Brokerage in Yangon, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM) that the price of garlic from Aungban, Shan State, has fallen due to the decreasing price of Kyukok garlic.

The price of Kyukok and Shan garlic dropped by around K800–K900 on 23 September, ranging around K7,050–K7,200 per viss for Kyukok garlic and K7,300–K8,600 per viss for Shan garlic, since the price of Kyukok garlic was K8,000 per viss on 2 September while Shan garlic fetched K7,800–K9,500 per viss.

In the Yangon market, the prices of two types of garlic, including onions, potatoes, and chilli peppers, have dropped significantly these days due to low transactions on rainy days.

The price of Shan garlic is still three times the price of onions, Ko Swe Aung, a grocery dealer at the Nyaungpinlay Market in Lanmadaw Township, told the GNLM.

Housewives use onions more than garlic in their daily cooking. Onions are only one-third of the price of garlic, so housewives are less worried about the high price of garlic.

On 23 September 2022, the whole-



Garlic from Aungban area before shipping to a brokerage house.

sale price of Kyukok garlic was K3,850 per viss, and that of Shan Aungban garlic ranged from K2,800 to K3,900 per viss. Therefore, in the last week of September this year, garlic prices were around double the prices of the same period last year.

During early months of this year when Shan garlic was harvested, the yield was low and the price is high due to rain. According to a garlic seller, the high price of Shan garlic brought the price of Kyukok garlic imported from abroad to a high. — TWA/CT

Myanmar set to export exceeding 200,000

FROM PAGE - 1

Myanmar plans to export a monthly average of more than 200,000 tonnes of rice in the three-month period (October–December), U Ye Min Aung, the president of the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) said at an MRF's online press conference on 23 September.

"We are planning to export 200,000 tonnes in October and 250,000 tonnes each in November and December," U Ye Min Aung said.

MRF expects to boost rice exports in the coming months despite rice exports having consistently decreased in the earlier months of this financial year.

Climbing rice prices in the global market resulting from India's ban on rice export may spur a surge in rice export from Myanmar, a rice merchant said.

Myanmar's monthly average rice export stood at nearly 200,000 tonnes in previous years, but skyrocketing rice prices at home curb export volume less than 100,000 tonnes, according to the data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar exported 379,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice between April and August in the 2023-2024 financial year, declining more than a half from the same period last year, according to MRF.

Myanmar exports rice primarily to the Philippines, China and European countries this year. — TKZ/TH

OPINION

NCA: Basic factor to seek the best solution for political problems

The pursuit of lasting peace in Myanmar has been a continuous endeavour for successive governments, aiming to quell ethnic armed conflicts that have persisted since the nation's post-independence era. Unfortunately, Myanmar has yet to achieve enduring and comprehensive peace across the nation. These conflicts, rooted in diverse political doctrines, demand political solutions.

To attain sustainable peace and end armed conflicts, the key lies in initiating the peace process within the framework of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). Only when all stakeholders commit to this path can the nation achieve its peace process objectives. In the course of Myanmar's democratization process, ten ethnic armed organizations that have signed the NCA have been actively seeking political solutions to the country's problems.

Peace represents the ultimate aspiration for all Myanmar's people, offering the promise of stability, socio-economic advancement, and a better quality of life. To achieve this, they must unite their efforts, focusing on the peace, stability, and regional development initiatives.

The pursuit of peace in Myanmar hinges on a political resolution through the NCA framework and a commitment to dialogue and cooperation among all stakeholders. By prioritizing peace and stability, Myanmar can pave the way for a brighter future characterized by prosperity and harmony.

In the context of Myanmar's political system, a federal system based on regional autonomy is deemed the most fitting. To achieve this, relevant stakeholders must reshape their organizations to effectively represent their respective regions while pursuing political solutions. The Tatmadaw firmly supports the NCA as a means to kickstart the peace process.

However, some ethnic armed organizations have strayed from the path of peace, resorting to armed struggle. Historical evidence, both within Myanmar's political landscape and the global stage, underscores that armed struggle rarely leads to the best solutions for peace. Notably, ethnic armed groups with a focus on the Union's enduring existence, such as KNU Brigade-7 of Hpa-an District, have opted for a political approach to problem-solving, as indicated in their press release on 14 September.

The entire nation warmly embraces the decision of KNU Brigade-7 of Hpa-an District to seek political solutions. Furthermore, it is imperative that all ethnic armed organizations participate in peace processes to bring an end to armed conflicts that detrimentally affect the socio-economic well-being of the people. The pursuit of peace in Myanmar hinges on a political resolution through the NCA framework and a commitment to dialogue and cooperation among all stakeholders. By prioritizing peace and stability, Myanmar can pave the way for a brighter future characterized by prosperity and harmony.

ARTICLE

From "We are one in Chin" To "Peace and Development of Chin Land"

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

Fortunately, I have a chance to take part in State Administration Council (SAC) Member, Dr Hmu Thang's Chin land tour from 12 to 19 September 2023. The Chin land of Myanmar has a rich cultural heritage and a diverse population. It has also faced many challenges. To ensure peace and promote the development of Chin Land, it is crucial for the people to come together, unite as one, and work towards a common goal.

We are one in Chin can serve as the people of Chin Land to stand together, regardless of their ethnic background, religion (or) political affiliation. This unity can be the foundation for building a peaceful and prosperous Chin Land. To achieve peace and Development, dialogue and reconciliation must be prioritized. It is essential for different stakeholders, such as government, ethnic

armed groups, civil society organizations, religious leaders and community leaders, to engage in open and honest conversations. This dialogue should aim to address the root causes of conflicts, find common ground and explore mutually beneficial solutions.

Furthermore, development initiatives should be implemented to uplift the socioeconomic conditions of Chin land. Investments in infrastructure, education, health care, agriculture and cooperatives can create employment opportunities improve living standards and reduce poverty. In addition, the people of Chin land should also take ownership of their own development. This can be achieved through community-based institutions, entrepreneurship and the preservation of their cultural heritage. Empowering local communities to actively participate in decision-making



SAC Member Dr Hmu Thang gave away the present to local people.

processes and providing them with the necessary resources and skills can foster a sense of ownership and ensure sustainable development.

Moreover, it is vital to promote inclusivity and mutual respect for each other in Chin land. This requires strengthening institutions, promoting the rule of law

and ensuring access to justice for all. Regional Collaborations can play a significant role in supporting the peace and development of Chin land. Engaging with government, international organizations and local organizations can provide opportunities for knowledge exchange, technical assistance and financial resources.



Chin State Chief Minister Dr Wong Hsum Thang delivered a supportive speech to departmental officials and local people.

During the Chin Land Tour, SAC Member Dr Hmu Thang addressed the five-point roadmap and nine objectives of SAC as well as highlighted "We are one in Chin". Then Chin State Chief Minister Dr Wong Hsum Thang already mentioned food safety and food security as well as the integrity of Chin Land. Lastly, achieving peace and development in Chin land requires a collective effort from all stakeholders. By uniting as one in Chin and fostering dialogue, investing in development, promoting inclusivity and seeking regional and international collaborations, the people of Chin land can pave the way for a brighter future.

In conclusion, I would like to honour the CHIN land for the following words, C for creation, H for Honesty, I for Integrity and N for Nurture.

Mosquito Research Breakthrough Holds Promise for Dengue, Yellow Fever, and Zika Prevention

Researchers from the Johns Hopkins Malaria Research Institute at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health have made an important discovery about Aedes aegypti mosquitoes, which could one day lead to better methods for reducing mosquito-to-human transmission of dengue, yellow fever, Zika, and other potentially fatal viruses.

When infected, Aedes aegypti mosquitoes do not succumb to these viruses and continue to travel and eat normally. As a result, infected mosquitoes can transmit their viral cargo to people. The researchers revealed that an Aedes aegypti protein called Argonaute 2 plays an important role in maintaining mosquitoes healthy and active despite these infections through a variety of molecular pathways.

Unlocking Mosquito Biology

The discovery represents a significant advance in understanding mosquito biology. It also hints at a strategy that would aim to shut down Ae. aegypti

mosquitoes' defences whenever they become infected by certain viruses—killing the mosquitoes and thereby reducing the transmission of those viruses by Ae. aegypti to humans. Instead of making mosquitoes more resistant to the viruses, the discovery opens a possible path for making mosquitoes more susceptible and less tolerant to virus infection, which would impair their ability to transmit disease.

The findings of the research were published online in Nature Communications.

"Researchers have long wondered why Ae. aegypti mosquitoes don't get sick when they are infected by these viruses—our findings effectively solve this mystery and

suggest a potential new mosquito-based disease control strategy that merits further study," says study senior author George Dimopoulos, PhD, a professor in the Johns Hopkins Malaria Research Institute and in the Bloomberg School's Department of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology.

The study's lead author was Shengzhang Dong, PhD, a senior research associate in the Bloomberg School's Department of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology.

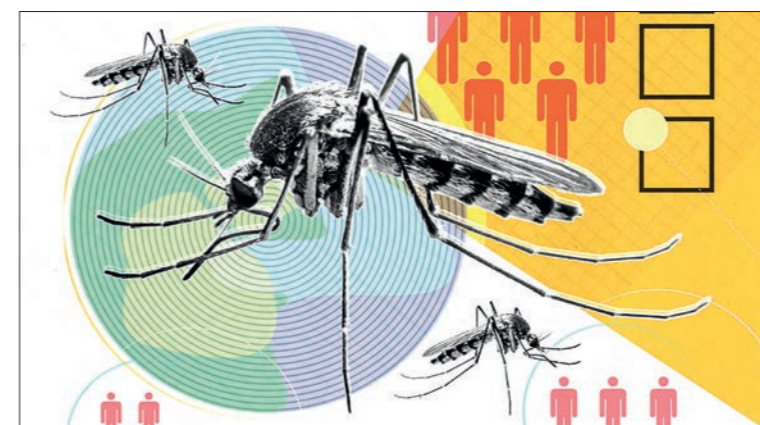
Ae. aegypti mosquitoes transmit "arthropod-borne" or "arbo-" viruses including dengue virus, yellow fever virus, Zika virus, chikungunya virus, and Mayaro virus.

Limited Treatment Options

Each year these pathogens sicken millions of people around the world each year, killing tens of thousands. There are no antiviral therapies for any of these viruses. Currently, a vaccine is available for yellow fever virus. One dengue vaccine is approved by the Food and Drug Administration for individuals between six and 16 who have had prior dengue infection. Disease control methods for Ae. aegypti emphasize the use of insecticides, which have had limited success and have led to insecticide resistance.

Ae. aegypti mosquitoes are effective vectors of arboviruses because they can sustain signifi-

The discovery centers on a crucial mosquito protein, Argonaute 2 (Ago2), which plays a pivotal role in preserving mosquito health and activity despite viral infections, acting through various molecular pathways.



Infected Aedes aegypti mosquitoes don't succumb to viruses and can continue feeding and flying, allowing them to transmit these viruses to humans. ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ PIXABAY

cant infections with these viruses without suffering costs to their overall ability to reproduce — what biologists call "fitness." If the mosquitoes' fitness was im-

paired, they would likely have evolved strong defences against these pathogens. Instead, they somehow ended up with a live-and-let-live balance that allows

Cellular Waste Buildup

The scientists showed that this increased mortality is caused not only by the impairment of the siRNA antiviral pathway, but also by defects in two other processes that happen to depend on Ago2: DNA repair, and a basic waste-removal process called autophagy. Ago2-deficient mosquitoes exposed to arboviruses were left with hyperinfections, extensive DNA damage, and the accumulation of molecular waste in their dying cells.

Apart from illuminating an important aspect of Ae. aegypti biology, the findings point to a possible new arboviral disease control strategy. This would be to engineer the mosquitoes so that arbovirus infections trigger the loss of their tolerance mechanisms, perhaps via the inhibition of Ago2. Arbovirus-carrying Ae. aegypti mosquitoes would thus die quickly, whereas the much greater number of non-arbovirus carrying Ae. aegypti should be unaffected.

SOURCE: ANI

TECH/ENVIRON WORLD

Recycling plastic not enough, warns UN environment chief

The treaty reveals varying levels of ambition among nations, particularly concerning the reduction of raw polymer production versus the promotion of reuse and recycling.



PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride) pipes can be produced from recycled plastic material. Workers stand in a PVC pipe and construction equipment manufacturing plant in an industrial area of Abidjan. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ ISSOUF SANOGO/AFP**

WITH the production of plastic on the rise worldwide and creating ever more pollution, the UN environment chief warned that humanity cannot just recycle its way out of the mess, and she called for a total rethink about the way we use plastics.

“There are different sort of onramps to the highway to solutions. But I think everybody recognizes that the status quo is just not an option,” said Inger Andersen, director of the UN Environment Programme, in an interview Thursday with AFP on the sidelines of the General

Assembly in New York.

Andersen was talking two weeks after the publication of the first draft of a future international treaty on plastic pollution, which is expected to be finalized by the end of 2024.

It reflects the wide range of ambitions of the 175 countries involved, notably the gap between those who argue for a reduction in the production of raw polymers and those who insist on reuse and recycling.

First, Andersen said the aim was to get rid of as many single-use plastics as possible,

“eliminating what’s frankly not necessary: that thing that is wrapped in plastic that’s completely mindless, that is maybe even wrapped by nature itself,” like an orange or a banana.

Then, “there is thinking about the product itself. Does the product need to be liquid? Can we rethink the product... can it be powder, can it be compressed, can it be concentrated?” she said, saying that when entering a supermarket, she goes straight to the soap aisle to see if solid versions are available. — AFP

Spain farmers jailed for illegal water tapping at nature reserve

FIVE siblings have been jailed for more than three years for illegally extracting water from an aqueduct feeding a UNESCO-listed Spanish nature reserve that is threatened by desertification, a court ruling showed.

The five farmers — four men and a woman — were found guilty of crimes against the environment and causing damage for “putting the ecosystem at serious risk” through the “systematic and extensive extraction” of water supplying Donana National Park, said the



A dried-up lagoon in the Donana National Park last month. **PHOTO: SPANISH NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (CSIC)/AFP**

ruling dated 18 September that was seen by AFP on Friday.

One of Europe’s largest

fauna-rich wetlands, Donana is located in the southern Andalusia region. — AFP

Solomon Islands leader ‘appalled’ by Japan on Fukushima water

THE leader of Solomon Islands, who has developed close ties with China, on Friday joined Beijing in denouncing Japan’s release of wastewater from Fukushima’s crippled nuclear plant.

Addressing the United Nations General Assembly, Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare said he was “appalled” at the move and warned of effects on his South Pacific archipelago.

“If this nuclear wastewater is safe, it should be stored in Japan. The fact that it’s dumped into the ocean shows that it is not safe,” he said.

“The effect of this act is transboundary and intergenerational and is an attack on global trust and solidarity,” he said, calling on Japan to stop “imme-

diately” and find other options.

Japan began on 24 August discharging into the Pacific some of the 1.34 million tonnes of wastewater that had collected since a tsunami devastated the facility in 2011.

Japan insists that the discharge is safe, a view backed by the UN atomic agency, and Western countries including the United States have voiced understanding.

But China, which has longstanding tensions with Japan, accused Tokyo of treating the ocean as a “sewer”. China banned all Japanese seafood imports and Chinese citizens have thrown bricks and eggs at Japanese schools and consulates. — AFP



A boy watches a distant cargo ship in Honiara, Solomon Islands. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ZHU HONGYE/XINHUA**

Japanese startup to develop refueling satellite for US Space Force

JAPANESE startup Astroscale Holdings Inc said Friday it has won a \$25.5 million contract from the US Space Force to develop a satellite capable of providing in-space refueling services to other satellites.

Astroscale, a Tokyo-based company founded in 2013, aims to provide “on-orbit services”, such as refueling, that would extend the service life of satellites, and the removal of space debris.

A feature likely to have been among the capabilities consid-

ered of high value by US Space Systems Command, the premier space capability delivery organization of the US Space Force, is the company’s satellite-grabbing technology, which involves a robotic arm.

According to the command, Astroscale’s US office is scheduled to deliver a prototype for its refueling satellite by 2026.

It is rare for a Japanese private company to seal a contract with the US military related to satellite development. — Kyodo

Sheepskin rafts: carrying memories of Yellow River



Niu Qiang carries tourists with a sheepskin raft on the Yellow River in Lanzhou, northwest China's Gansu Province, 5 September 2023. **PHOTO: FANG XIN/XINHUA**

NIU Qiang from Huining of northwest China's Gansu Province has been a sheepskin raft worker since he was 16. He has been doing the job for 27 years in the Lanzhou section of the

The work of raft workers is not just a livelihood but a reflection of the rich history and cultural significance of the communities along the Yellow River.

Yellow River.

For 2,000 years, sheepskin rafts had been an important means of transportation on the Yellow River. However, as the economy develops, people have more choices in their way of travel and sheepskin rafts became less of a first choice for travelers. Nowadays, the sheepskin rafts on the Yellow river mainly serve as a tourist attraction.

Niu Qiang believes he has inherited the ancient craftsmanship from his ancestors, just like other raft workers. This practice reflects the history and culture of the people living along the banks of the Yellow River.

However, due to high costs and intricate procedures, the creation of sheepskin rafts, a process that takes at least three months, has become a "solitary" craft that few are willing

to learn.

Designated as one of Gansu's intangible cultural heritages, this craft now has only a handful of successors, with 43-year-old Niu Qiang being the youngest, and the oldest practitioner being over 90 years old.

This year, Niu Qiang plans to document the entire process of this craft through video to introduce it to a wider audience. — Xinhua

In southern Spain, reviving an ancient salt harvesting tradition

IN the salt marshes of Cadiz in southwestern Spain, Juan Carlos Sanchez de Lamadrid surveyed a grid of rectangular pools of milky water, part of a time-honoured tradition to harvest salt from the sea.

Civilisations as old as the Phoenicians who ruled the Mediterranean from around 1,200 BC have taken advantage of the constant and strong winds that blow from North Africa, facilitating the evaporation of seawater to produce salt in the region.

"This is the perfect place for salt marshes. It's windy, there is lots of sunshine... you have everything you need," said De Lamadrid, wearing a straw hat to protect himself from the blazing sun.

The 56-year-old, originally from Seville, was part of a small but dynamic group of artisans

trying to keep the tradition of sea salt harvesting alive. The sector flourished in this sunny region for centuries, with salt from Cadiz exported to the Americas, until the invention of refrigeration drastically reduced the need for salt to conserve foods.

Of the 160 sea salt producers that existed at the beginning of the 20th century, only four are still operating.

After a long career as a photographer and drawn by the beauty of the salt marsh landscapes, De Lamadrid set up shop in the region in 2020, becoming a sea salt harvester alongside his wife and two employees.

"We had to learn everything, we were starting from zero," he explained, saying he learnt the techniques from one of the few veteran harvesters who are still active. — AFP



Last year, Juan Carlos Sanchez de Lamadrid and his wife Macu Gomez produced 30 tonnes of virgin sea salt and three tonnes of gourmet fleur de sel salt crystals. **PHOTO: CRISTINA QUICLER/AFP**

Latest gaming PCs proving popular at Tokyo Game Show



Alongside Germany's Gamescom, Tokyo Game Show is one of the last remaining major gaming conventions in the world. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The event organized by the Computer Entertainment Supplier's Association boasts an impressive participation of 787 exhibitors from more than 40 countries and regions.

NEW gaming PCs were among the exhibits that drew the most attention from visitors to the Tokyo Game Show, one of the world's biggest gaming events which opened on Thursday, with the organizer expecting some 200,000 people to attend the four-day trade fair.

The annual gaming extravaganza is using the entire Makuhari Messe convention center in Chiba for the first time in four years following the lifting of restrictions related to the coronavirus pandemic.

A record 787 exhibitors from over 40 countries and

regions are participating, with some events also offered online, according to the Computer Entertainment Supplier's Association, which organizes the event.

In addition to the many new game titles for various platforms and other products on display, gaming PCs have seen a resurgence in interest.

Taiwan's ASUS exhibited its new portable gaming PC, the ROG Ally, which lets users play PC video games while on the go like the hugely popular Switch console sold by Nintendo Co.

The device has been launched to meet demand from

those who want to play games even when they are away from home, a company official said.

Intel Corp displayed the latest gaming PCs carrying its advanced semiconductors, developed in collaboration with various PC makers.

"An increasing number of people started playing video games on PCs during the coronavirus pandemic because many game consoles were not (widely) available due to a chip shortage," said Shoko Ueno, marketing director at Intel's Japanese unit. "The market is expanding." — Kyodo

ECONOMY WORLD

Skilled workers, low-wage earners work second jobs more than others

HIGHER-PAID individuals with specialized skills and low-wage workers in need of additional income to make ends meet tend to take on second jobs more than middle-class workers, a government survey showed.

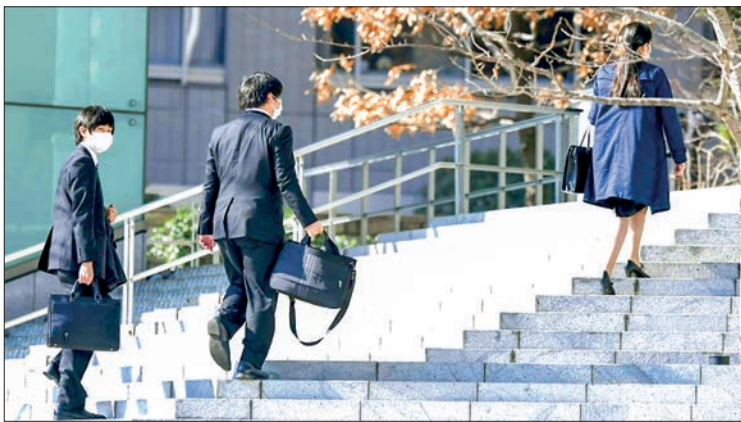
Among employees of different income classes, 6.25 per cent of those earning 10 million yen (\$67,000) or more a year in their main jobs had side jobs in 2022, with the proportion even higher for individuals earning 15 million yen or more, according to the Employment Status Survey by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

The survey on working conditions, conducted every five years, also showed that 6.25 per cent of people earning less than 3 million yen per year in

their regular jobs worked second jobs in 2022. The proportion tended to be higher for those who earned less.

For middle-class workers who earned between 3 million yen and 10 million yen a year, 2.82 per cent had second jobs. Of all workers, 4.61 per cent had side jobs. Toshihide Iwata, an official of the government-affiliated Japan Institute for Labor Policy and Training which surveyed workers about second jobs, said many high-paid workers use their professional expertise in their second jobs.

Among low-income workers, there are those “who have no choice but to take on multiple part-time jobs due to the financial challenges they face,” he said. — Kyodo



People who earn a lot and have special skills, as well as people who don't earn much and need extra money, often work second jobs more than those who are in the middle income range. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ KYODO**

France, Spain, Ireland get more seats in European Parliament

THE EU on Friday announced it is adding 15 extra seats to the next European Parliament ahead of elections next year, to reflect demographic changes in different member countries.

France, Spain, Ireland and the Netherlands are among a dozen countries to get one or two more seats each added to their national quota in the next legislature, which will have a total 720 MEPs in its 2024-2029 configuration.

Europeans will vote in June next year on the lawmakers to fill the seats.

The decision by the European Council, representing the 27 member states, adopts a recommendation made by the parliament earlier this month.

It corresponds to “the demographic changes in EU member states,” the European Council said in a statement.

Thus countries whose populations have become proportionally bigger compared to their peers were given extra seats.

Under the EU treaty, the European Parliament can have a maximum 750 seats, plus one for the legislature's president. — AFP

Scottish port feels force of UK fishing storm



Fishing became a key negotiating issue in the UK's new trade deal with the EU. **PHOTO: AFP**

In Peterhead, once touted as a place of abundant opportunities following Brexit, locals have instead faced a series of challenges and increased financial burdens, even prior to the effects of rising inflation.

IN Peterhead, a major port in northeast Scotland and Europe's largest wholesale market for white fish, Brexit was supposed to offer “a sea of opportunity” for locals.

Instead they have suffered

a wave of complications and added financial costs in recent years, even before the impact of surging inflation.

“Careful what you wish for, it hasn't turned out as they promised,” Mark Addison says

in front of his trawler, the Benarkle II, which is moored just behind Peterhead's fish market.

“It's been the hardest three years,” he tells AFP. “Brexit followed by the (Ukraine) war was just a double whammy.”

Ukraine war sent prices soaring worldwide, with the fishing industry hit hard by rocketing fuel prices and large cost increases for key equipment such as nets.

Even though fishing represents just a small fraction of Britain's economy, it became a key negotiating issue in the country's new trade deal with the EU, as UK politicians rallied behind the island's rich maritime history.

Make it work

In 2019, Boris Johnson, prime minister at the time, visited Peterhead as he sought re-election for his Conservative party on a platform of Brexit promotion, telling locals: “It's a sea of opportunity up here.” Johnson also made a trip to Grimsby, a major fishing market in northern England. — AFP

As planet gets warmer, ski gondola maker goes urban



A growing number of urban areas are adopting the cleaner, space-saving mode of transportation. **PHOTO: ARND WIEGMANN/AFP**

AUSTRIAN company Doppelmayr is well known for making gondolas for ski resorts, but its workshop is increasingly building cable cars for congested cities as climate change has opened up new markets.

A growing number of urban areas are adopting the

cleaner, space-saving mode of transport: Doppelmayr's cable cars now glide over London, Mexico City and La Paz.

Urban mobility currently accounts for 20 percent of sales for the world's biggest cable car maker as cities seek to decarbonise their public transport systems.

“We have evolved with our customers,” said Reinhard Fitz, Doppelmayr's head of international business development.

The 130-year-old company, which built its first ski lift in 1937, has yet to see a drop in demand from mountain resorts, Fitz said. — AFP



This aerial photo taken in April 2020 shows the vehicles carrying a batch of components from Chinese green power developer Universal Energy for the 50 MW wind power project in Kostanay of Kazakhstan. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

BRI cooperation makes the world greener

BRAVING wind and sun, camel caravans trekked along the ancient Silk Road, taking silk and tea from China to Central Asia and Europe more than 1,000 years ago. Now, clean energy products are delivered to Belt and Road countries via freight trains and flights, turning wind and sunshine into treasure.

While green development is becoming a global consensus, more and more Chinese enterprises have become strong forces in building a green Belt and Road. This year marks the 10th anniversary

of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

At the 2023 Euro-Asia Economic Forum, Nikolay Pomoshchnikov, head of the subregional office for North and Central Asia of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific of the United Nations, said that Central Asia has huge potential for renewable energy including solar energy, wind energy and hydropower and the forum provides a very good opportunity for cooperation with China and these countries. — Xinhua

Bavarian village to decide future of key BMW factory

A sleepy Bavarian village could decide the future of BMW's drive towards electromobility as it goes to the polls on Sunday over the German automobile giant's plans to build a huge battery factory.

The residents of Strasskirchen, around 90 minutes' drive from Munich with a population of around 2,700, are being called upon to vote in a referendum on the construction of the factory. — AFP

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ICRC

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Call for Sealed Bid Vehicle Auction

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) would like to sell the following vehicles with Myanmar Kyat by sealed bid auction system. Those who are interested to buy are invited to come and submit with sealed bid prices.

Vehicles to be sold,

Sr	Make & Model	ICRC Code	Local Plate Number	Year of Manufacture
1	HYUNDAI ACCENT	22783	YAN, 2S/8322	2021
2	HYUNDAI ACCENT	22784	YAN, 2S/8207	2021
3	HYUNDAI ACCENT	22809	YAN, 2S/8917	2021
4	HYUNDAI ACCENT	22810	YAN, 2S/8942	2021
5	HYUNDAI ACCENT	22811	YAN, 2S/8946	2021
6	HYUNDAI ACCENT	22812	YAN, 2S/8923	2021
7	HYUNDAI ACCENT	22814	YAN, 2S/8961	2021

The auction form and details can be obtained during office hours at the address below.

Date and time of Auction form taking - 25-Sep-2023 to 06-Oct-2023, Between 10 AM. and 4 PM

Date and time of Vehicle inspection - 09-Oct-2023 to 11-Oct-2023, Between 10 AM and 3 PM

Date and time of Auction Submission - 12-Oct-2023 to 13-Oct-2023, Between 9 AM and 4 PM

Auction closing date and time - 13-Oct-2023 at 4 PM

Where to collect the Auction form - Reception Desk, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) No. 2 (C)-5, Kabar Aye Pagoda road, 8 miles, Manyangone Township, Yangon.

phone - 09 880597609

Notice for loss of Passport

Passport Number MH-704348, belonging to U Myint Soe holding Citizenship Scrutiny Card Number 12/MaYaKa(Naing)012289, has gone missing. If found, please call 09770948647.

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09 454 237 515

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01 860 4530

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (099N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (099N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-9-2023** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (178N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (178N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-9-2023** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD



Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan have long been at loggerheads over the dam. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Ethiopia, Egypt, Sudan resume Nile dam talks

ETHIOPIA said Saturday it had begun a second round of talks with Egypt and Sudan over a controversial mega-dam built by Addis Ababa on the Nile, long a source of tensions among the three nations.

Ethiopia this month announced the completion of the fourth and final filling of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, prompting immediate condemnation from Cairo, which denounced the move as illegal.

Egypt and Sudan fear the massive \$4.2-billion dam will severely reduce the share of Nile water they receive and had repeatedly asked Addis Ababa to stop filling it until an agreement was reached.

For years at loggerheads over the issue, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed agreed in July to finalise a deal within four months, resuming talks in August. — AFP

Japan looks to promote electronic visas amid inbound tourist recovery

THE Japanese government is looking to expand its electronic visa services system to streamline application procedures for foreign visitors amid a resurgence of tourism after the end of coronavirus-related border control measures, according to government officials.

The Foreign Ministry began the online service in March in 11 countries and regions, with China added to the system in June. Among its conveniences, it enables eligible applicants to obtain short-term stay visas without going to their

local Japanese embassy or consulate.

In the first eight months of this year, some 15.19 million foreign tourists entered Japan, data from the Japan National Tourism Organization shows. The figure represents about 69 per cent of the total number recorded in the same period of 2019, before the coronavirus pandemic emerged.

An official from the ministry's Foreign Nationals' Affairs Division said that "the rate of online applicants is increasing. The system allows for smooth issuance of documents, and it is very

likely to be contributing to the recovery in inbound tourism." The ministry is currently assessing whether to make the scheme available in more countries.

Computerization of the visa system has sped up processing times and reduced staff workload, according to another government official.

"Inbound tourist numbers are on an upward trend, meaning we could at some point become unable to respond with the current workforce. I hope we can progress further with bringing the system online," the official said. — Kyodo



In the first eight months of this year, Japan welcomed 15.19 million foreign tourists. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Fighting ongoing in north Kosovo: PM

SKIRMISHES between gunmen and authorities in northern Kosovo were ongoing, according to Prime Minister Albin Kurti, hours after a police officer had been killed when a patrol was hit by an ambush involving firearms and explosives.

Kurti said at least 30 heavily armed gunmen were now surrounded by authorities near Banjska in north Kosovo and called for their surrender.

"There are at least 30 professional, military or police armed people who are surrounded by our police forces and whom I invite to surrender to our security



The Serbia Orthodox Church confirmed that gunmen had stormed a monastery in Banjska, where pilgrims from the northern Serbian city of Novi Sad were staying. **PHOTO: STRINGER / AFP**

agencies," said Kurti during a press conference.

Kurti added that the group

was located in and around a monastery near the village of Banjska, where the patrol had been ambushed early Sunday.

The Serbia Orthodox Church confirmed that gunmen had stormed a monastery in Banjska, where pilgrims from the northern Serbian city of Novi Sad were staying.

"We can see armed people in uniforms... they are firing on us and we are firing back," Kosovo police official Veton Elshan told AFP by phone from Banjska.

Kurti's comments came hours after he called the ambush an act of terrorism and pinpointed the blame on the Serbian government. — AFP

TOP HEADLINE

Biden blames 'extreme Republicans' for threatening US government shutdown

PRESIDENT Joe Biden on Saturday blamed "a small group of extreme Republicans" for a budget impasse that has placed the US government a week away from a shutdown, urging the lawmakers to resolve the issue.

Speaking at a Congressional Black Caucus awards dinner, Biden said he and top House Republican Kevin McCarthy had previously agreed on government spending levels.

"Now a small group of extreme Republicans don't want to live up to the deal so now everyone in America could be forced to pay the price," he said.

US lawmakers have until midnight on 30 September to reach an agreement on a spending bill, before funding for government services is due to dry up. "Funding the government is one of the most basic responsibilities of Congress. It's time for Republicans to start doing the job America elected them to do. — AFP

SPORTS



Winners of Hangzhou Asian Games opening gold eye podium finish in Paris 2024

Winners were emotional after the victory, and their dream is to stand on the Olympic podium.

AFTER bagging the first gold of the Hangzhou Asian Games, Chinese rowers Zou Jiaqi and Qiu Xiuping are eyeing the 2024 Olympic Games. “The ultimate goal is to step onto the highest podium in Paris,” Qiu told Xinhua after the victory. Qiu, 23, finished first with her teammate Zou in the women’s light-weight double sculls in seven minutes and 6.78 seconds at the Fuyang Water Sports Center here on Sunday morning. This is the sixth time in a row China grabbed the opening gold at the Asian Games. Despite being an established rower with titles from China’s National Games and the Asian Championships, Qiu could not keep her cool and almost burst into tears after Sunday’s victory.

“I saw my parents before the game and this is the first time they



Zou Jiaqi (L) and Qiu Xiuping compete during the game. **PHOTO: JIA HAOCHENG/XINHUA**

come to see me compete in my 10 plus years rowing career. Their support touched me deeply,” Qiu said. Qiu’s 21-year-old partner Zou is a Zhejiang native, who, growing up “drinking the water from Fuchun River here”, was excited to be crowned in her hometown. “This is my first time to participate in the Asian Games. Rowing is also the event that generates the first gold in this Asian Games. I feel stressed but motivated,” she said. Zou hoped that she could stand on the podium in Paris next year, and the dream was shared by Qiu. “The competition today brought me more confidence,” Qiu said. “But when I stepped down the podium, I was at a new starting point. I will work harder and be well-prepared for the Olympics in Paris.” Qiu had her motto: “Do your best, work hard, and then success will follow.” — Xinhua



Myanmar’s Kaung Htet Paing (red) vies for the ball with Indian player during their final group match of the Asian Games men’s football event in China on 24 September 2023. **PHOTO: MFF**

their equalizer, and substitute striker Yan Kyaw Htwe scored with a header in the 74 minute. After that, both teams could not score any more goals, and the result ended in a one-goal draw.

In the other Group A match, hosts China and Bangladesh played to a goalless draw. At the end of Group A, the host Chinese team finished first in the group with seven points, and the Indian team finished second in the group with four points to advance to the next round. The Myanmar team had the same score and goal difference as the Indian team, but with less goals, they only garnered the third place in the group.

Myanmar advance to Asian Games next round amidst draw against India

The XIX Asian Games hosted by China in Hangzhou was launched at Hangzhou Olympic Centre on the night of 23 September, attended by Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan who led the Myanmar sports contingent together with those from other countries.

Yesterday, the final group stage of the 19th Asian Games hosted by China was held on 24 September, and the Myanmar team tied India 1-1.

Myanmar missed out on the second place in the group

because they could not win against India, but they were able to enter the next round of the four-team list with the best third place in the group.

Team Myanmar head coach made changes to the starting line-up and started with young players. The Myanmar squad tried their best to advance to the next round. Myanmar had to play behind when they conceded the lead through a penalty kick in the 23 minute.

The leading goal for the Indian team was scored by the captain and veteran striker Chithiri. In the second half, the Myanmar team was keen for

The Asian Games men’s football tournament is divided into six groups, with the top two teams from each group and the best four third-placed teams advancing to the next round.

The last day of the group will be held from 25 September, but the Myanmar team is sure to enter the list of the best third-placed four teams.

Myanmar U-24 team advanced to the second round of the men’s football tournament. Myanmar team secured such a victory to sail into the 16-team stage after grasping the same success in 1974. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Sakkari downs Dolehide for WTA Guadalajara title

SECOND-SEEDED Maria Sakkari ended her four-year wait for a second WTA title on Saturday, beating Caroline Dolehide 7-5, 6-3 to win the 1000 level Guadalajara Open.

Greece’s Sakkari, ranked ninth in the world, had come up empty in six finals since her breakthrough victory in Rabat in 2019.

That included the Guadalajara final last year, when she lost to Amer-

ican Jessica Pegula, and a loss to Coco Gauff in the final at Washington this year.

An emotional Sakkari thanked her coach of five years, noting they’d waited “more than four years for a second title.

“We’ve heard so many bad things — that I will never win a title, that I’m a top-five player with only winning one title, that was very hard for me

to overcome,” she said. “I’m so happy that I did it here this week.”

The victory came less than a month after Sakkari was unceremoniously dumped from the first round of the US Open, her third straight first-round exit at a Grand Slam.

Sakkari had said at Flushing Meadows she was “suffering on the court” and was “uncertain” about what to do about it. — AFP



Greece’s Sakkari, ranked ninth in the world, had come up empty in six finals since her breakthrough victory in Rabat in 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Japan looks to promote
electronic visas amid
inbound tourist recovery

PAGE-14



Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said his country is prepared to supply the global oil and gas market. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AFP

Venezuela proposes UN to create sanctions-free zone

The proposal aims to establish a zone free from unilateral coercive measures with the goal of facilitating financial transactions and interbank payments.

The Venezuelan government proposes creating a sanctions-free zone where financial transactions, trade and investment will be protected from Western restrictions, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Yvan Gil said on Sunday.

“We propose creating a zone free from unilateral coercive measures in which we can carry out our financial transactions and interbank payments and which will allow us to guarantee direct investment and legal trade between our countries without risks, arbitrary or

punitive obstacles from Western powers,” Gil said at the UN General Assembly. Gil added that the Venezuelan economy, despite sanctions, has begun the process of recovery with projected growth rates significantly higher than those of other countries in the region. — SPUTNIK

Italian PM admits she hoped to do ‘better’ on migration

ITALIAN Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has admitted she had hoped to do “better” on controlling irregular migration, which has surged since her far-right party won historic elections a year ago.

“Clearly we hoped for better on immigration, where we worked so hard,” she said in an interview marking the win, broadcast late Saturday on the TG1 channel.

“The results are not what we hoped to see. It is certainly a very complex problem, but I’m sure we’ll get to the bottom of it.”

Meloni’s post-fascist Brothers of Italy party was elected largely on a promise to reduce mass migration into Italy.

But the number of people arriving on boats from North Africa has instead surged, with more than 130,000 recorded by the interior ministry so far this year — up from 70,000 in the same period of 2022.

After 8,500 people arrived on the tiny island of Lampedusa in just three days earlier this month, Meloni demanded the European Union do more to help relieve the pressure.

Brussels agreed to intensify existing efforts, and this week said it would start to release money to Tunisia — from where many of the boats leave — under a pact aimed at stemming irregular migration from the country. — AFP

Philippines may consider Russian fertilizers despite sanctions

Regarding fertilizers, we are open to exploring opportunities for discussion if they arise.

The Philippines may consider purchasing fertilizers from Russia, Foreign Minister Enrique Manalo told Sputnik.

“As far as I know, we’ve not been in any official contact with them, Russia, on fertilizers. But certainly, I suppose if there are any opportunities, we might be able to discuss with them,” Manalo said on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

Russia is one of the main suppliers of fertilizers throughout the world, but the Ukraine conflict has affected Moscow’s ability to ship its grain and fertilizers from Black Sea ports.

On 18 July, the Türkiye- and UN-mediated Black Sea Grain Initiative, which provided for a humanitarian corridor to allow safe sea exports of Ukrainian and Russian agricultural products, expired after Russia refused to extend its participation, citing persistent violation of the package deal’s component to facilitate Russian grain and fertilizer exports.

“Certainly we’re very also concerned, for example, over the grain deal, which has been suspended,” Manalo said on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. — SPUTNIK



Russian farmers load fertilizer into a sowing machine in Krasnoyarsk region, Russia. PHOTO: ILYA NAIMUSHIN/SPUTNIK