

Eighth anniversary of NCA signing, peace agreements seek to fulfil their political promise

All NCA signatories should attend the ceremony, and non-signatories should join the ceremony to walk on the peace track if they wish to enjoy the fruits of peace.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pledged to mark the signing of peace agreements and the Eighth Anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement with political essence.

The Senior General delivered an address at the SAC meeting 4/2023 at the SAC Chairman's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

"Coming 15 October is a significant day when the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement was signed. It is necessary

to mark the day with political essence. I extended invitations to all ethnic leaders as much as I could. I also invited State leaders of foreign countries," the Senior General said.

The Senior General recounted that he sent personal letters to those State

leaders of foreign countries and that he contacted some leaders through telephone or letter. Some of them promised him to attend the ceremony. Some replied that they could not join it but they would send their reliable representatives.

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Enthusiasts of mammoths can explore Elephant Museum at Wahnet Elephant Camp



Intelligent elephants and their mahouts grace the Wahnet Elephant Camp, set amidst breathtaking mountain ranges.

THE Elephant Museum has been opened at the Wahnet Elephant Camp located by the roadside of Yeywa Dam between Mandalay and PynOoLwin to educate the visitors about the evolution, biology, nature and behaviour of elephants, said Daw Thada Shin Thant, warden of the Wah-

net Elephant Camp.

The museum features documentary photos of elephants, elephant conservation and protection, and an elephant skeleton. That skeleton belongs to a 38-year-old Han elephant that died 15 years ago.

"The museum exhibits information

about elephants for the visitors. There are four male elephant species (Han, Te, Haing and Swesone) found in Myanmar. The skeleton of the elephant showcased in the museum is called Zaw Win Oo (Registration No 5899). He died after fighting with a male elephant in the wild.

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Myanmar, China discuss new Muse-Mandalay railway, Mandalay-Kyaukphyu railway projects

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Black gram price down by K130,000 per tonne during end-Sept

BUSINESS PAGE-7



YGEA set gold reference price lower as spot gold price dips below US\$1,900

NATIONAL

Welcoming guests allowed back inside Yangon International Airport



Friends and family members gather to welcome travellers arriving at and departing from Yangon International Airport.

ACCORDING to Yangon Aerodrome Company Limited, which has a licence to manage Yangon International Airport, those who will be escorting and welcoming passengers arriving at and departing from Yangon International Airport will be allowed to enter and exit the airport again.

Yangon International Airport's (YIA) Terminal 3 (domestic airport) building has allowed visitors to escort and welcome passengers since 28 September.

Passengers travelling abroad must enter through Gates No 1, 2 and 4 with complete official travel documents.

Family members and friends who welcome the passengers and relevant staff must enter through Gate No 2.

Guests must obtain an access card at the Registration Area near Gate No 2, then enter the building with this access card and exit from Gate No 3.

Family members and friends of the passengers who

use Terminal 1 of Yangon International Airport (YIA) have been allowed to enter the airport premises starting from 11:30 am on 19 September.

To ensure the safety and security of the public at the airport, relevant security measures will be maintained as usual, so guests will have to undergo relevant security checks and will need to wear their access cards according to the rules established in the airport building. — ASH/KZL

MYEA's new executive members elected

THE MYEA (Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association) elected the 2023-2026 new executive members on 23 September. At the event, Daw Thin Thin Kyaw was elected as chairperson of MYEA.

"The young people have creative ideas, innovative ideas and ability to do than the finance," said the newly elected chair.

The eighth annual general meeting of MYEA was held with a hybrid system.

"Each of the members should work together with the organizations to receive a good economic community. We have

valuable members, and they are excellent young entrepreneurs. To be a successful association, it needs the enjoyment of members in addition to the work processes. The members also should be in unity," said Dr Aung Thura, patron of MYEA.

Under the guidance and support of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Group was formed in November 2008. The Group participated actively in local and regional entrepreneurship development events and grew rapidly. The Group was upgrad-

ed and became the Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association (MYEA) 2012.

"The effort of young entrepreneurs is needed to support watching the changing global businesses in a timely manner. Running a business is not perfect just with the techniques and qualifications, it needs guidance in the right way by sharing experiences and knowledge. The federation will work with the skilled young entrepreneurs and associates in private-business development programmes," said U Aye Win, president of UMFCFI. — TWA/KTZH

Bay of Bengal Condition

Issued at (14:00) hours MST on 28-9-2023

ACCORDING to the observations at (13:30) hrs MST today, a low pressure area may form over the Eastcentral and adjoining Northeast Bay of Bengal. It is likely to move northwestwards with and may further intensify into a Well Marked Low Pressure Area on (1.10.2023) there after it may reach to North Odisha and adjoining West Bengal Coast, India.

Condition of El Nino during October 2023 to January 2024

Issued at 28-09-2023

- The Sea Surface Temperature (SST) over the Tropical Pacific Ocean near the Equator and atmosphere phenomena is moderate condition. According to the Numerical Weather prediction models of the International Meteorological Agency, it is forecast to reach strong El Nino condition during October 2023 to January 2024. It is forecast that the El Nino condition may gradually decrease starting from February 2024.
- Although the El Nino condition occurs in the Pacific Ocean, the effect of El Nino may cause generally extreme weather events such as irregular rainfall patterns, rising temperature, irregular storm formation and drought.
- Therefore, it is advised to prepare in advance for all related sectors. El Nino Condition will be updated in time.

Enthusiasts of mammoths can explore Elephant Museum at ...



One of the fascinating exhibits: An elephant skeleton at the Elephant Museum.

FROM PAGE-1

The elephant body was decomposed and that skeleton was unearthed after six months of burial. The chemicals are used to preserve the skeleton. The visitors are fascinated about the elephants," she explained.

The photos featuring documentaries of elephants, biological terms of elephant parts, livelihood and elephant care

service, history of the elephants and records are shown at the museum. The entrance fee at the elephant camp is K3,000 for a short trip and K5,000 for a long trip.

The monks, nuns and children under three years old are free of charge. The tourists are charged K10,000 per head. The elephant ride costs K10,000 as well. — Min Htet Aung/EM

COVID-19 report, 28 September 2023

NEW TESTS

4,286

NEW CASES

8

CASUALTIES

0

Eighth anniversary of NCA signing, peace ...

FROM PAGE-1

He pointed out that if so, ethnic leaders should be keener to attend the ceremony. Especially, he highlighted that all NCA signatories should attend the ceremony, and non-signatories should join the ceremony to walk on the peace track if they wish to enjoy the fruits of peace.

The Senior General stressed that if they grasp hate, the country will face loss, adding that if all stakeholders move forward without doubts and grudges, all will smoothly achieve the goal.

He underscored that all ethnic people need to comprehensively understand the actual situation of the State and focus on the interests of the State rather than individuals or each ethnic interest.

With regard to regional situations, the Senior General expressed his wish to know the



State Administration Council Chair Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presides over the SAC meeting 4/2023 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

true situation of regions, the true concepts of the people as well as their requirements. So,

he recounted that he urged SAC members to divide assignments to make trips to relevant regions. As a result of this, they could know more information about the regional conditions.

Council members presented reports on their trips to assigned areas, having information about requirements of education, health, economy and development, wishes of the people to peacefully do businesses, instigations of some foreign organizations for disturbing internal peace in ethnic areas despite

efforts of the State for ensuring peace and stability, good prospects to restore internal peace, and requirements of technologies and infrastructures for manufacturing advanced products with the use of domestic products.

The Joint Secretary reported on the progress of counter-terrorism measures for ensuring peace and stability of the State, forging the rule of law, seizures of arms and ammunition from terrorists, emphasis for drug eradication, exposing illegal trade measures, and plans

to take strict action against departmental officials involved in raising prices in sales of oils and commodities higher than the reference prices.

The Secretary also explained implementing the functions of the council and coordination over submissions from relevant regions.

The meeting was also attended by SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, council members and officials. — MNA/TTA

Salient points in speech of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at SAC meeting 4/2023

- THE signing of peace agreements and the 8th Anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement will be marked with political essence.
- THOSE from all NCA signatories should attend the ceremony, and non-signatories should join the ceremony to walk on the peace track if they wish to enjoy the fruits of peace.
- THE Senior General wishes to know the true situation of regions, the true concepts of the people as well as their requirements.

Myanmar delegation arrives back after ICJ meeting

CONCERNING the application filed by the Gambia at the International Court of Justice alleging Myanmar of violating the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the Gambia filed its Memorial to the Court on 23 October 2020 and Myanmar filed its Counter-Memorial on 24 August 2023 accordingly. In this connection, Myanmar was informed by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that the President of the Court will receive the Agents of the Parties to discuss the subse-

quent procedure in the case on 26 September 2023 at the International Court of Justice, The Hague. The Myanmar delegation led by U Ko Ko Hlaing, Agent of Myanmar and Union Minister at the Office of Union Government 2, and Dr Thida Oo, Alternate Agent of Myanmar and Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General, travelled to the Netherlands to attend the meeting with the President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

The Myanmar delegation



The Myanmar delegation meets the president of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 26 September 2023 in The Hague.

left for The Hague, the Netherlands, on the morning on 24 September 2023 and arrived at The Hague on the morning on 25 September 2023.

On 26 September 2023, the

President and the Agents of the Parties discussed the subsequent procedure in the case filed by the Gambia against Myanmar at the International Court of Justice, The Hague.

The Myanmar delegation departed from The Hague on the morning on 27 September 2023 and safely arrived back at Yangon on the morning on 28 September 2023. — MNA

NATIONAL

Myanmar, China discuss new Muse-Mandalay railway, Mandalay-Kyaukphyu railway projects



The Global Sustainable Transport Forum in progress on 25-26 September in China, addressed by Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo.

MYANMAR and China are discussing establishment a new Muse-Mandalay railway and Mandalay-Kyaukphyu railway section under the Myanmar-China railway cooperation project, according to the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo discussed these two aspects at the Global Sustainable Transport Forum held in Beijing, China, on 25 and 26 September.

The Union minister visited the headquarters of China Railway Group Co Ltd in Bei-

jing on 24 September, observed the Railway Museum, and discussed the feasibility study for a new Muse-Mandalay railway and Mandalay-Kyaukphyu railway section.

On 25 September, he proceeded to the headquarters of China Railway and observed

the Centralized Traffic Control-CTC. He received the presidents and officials of China Communication Construction Co Ltd and China Harbour Engineering Co Ltd on 26 September.

During the visit, he also met with Chinese Vice Premier Mr

He Lifeng on the morning of 25 September, and Chinese Transport Minister Mr Li Xiaopeng on the evening of 26 September and exchanged views on the enhancement of cooperation in the transport sector, acceleration of existing projects and future work plans.

The Myanmar delegation led by the Union minister also attended the plenary session, ministerial roundtable discussion and related meetings of the Global Sustainable Transport Forum.

The opening ceremony of the Global Sustainable Transport Forum was held at the China National Convention Centre (CNCC) on 25 September and attended by ministers, officials of international transport organizations from 18 countries and other experts and entrepreneurs from over 60 countries.

The Myanmar delegation arrived back on the evening of 27 September. — ASH/KTZH

MoTC DM attends Myanmar-HK aviation link signing ceremony



The signing event between Myanmar and Hong Kong underway yesterday in Hong Kong.

TRANSPORT and Communications Deputy Minister U Aung Kyaw Tun visited the People's Republic of China yesterday for the signing ceremony of the aviation link agreement between Myanmar and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region held at the Central Government Office building in Hong Kong.

At the ceremony, the

Deputy Minister and the Minister of Transport and Logistics of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region from the People's Republic of China signed the agreement and delivered the address.

The ceremony was attended by U Han Win Naing, Consul-General of the Myanmar in Hong Kong, officials from Myanmar National

Airlines, and Myanmar Airways International and staff from the Civil Aviation Department, and the Airport Authority and Department of Transport and Logistics of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

According to the agreement, airlines from Myanmar and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region will be able to exchange each other's passenger and cargo flights with greater freedom.

In addition, at the invitation of Mr Simon Li, President of the Hong Kong International Aviation Academy, the deputy minister and members of the Myanmar delegation visited the Hong Kong International Aviation Academy and discussed issues related to human resource development and cooperation. — MNA/TS

MoNREC Union Minister meets the Russian Federation delegation

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi received the delegation led by Mr Anatoly Bulochnikov, President of the Russia-Myanmar Association for Friendship and Cooperation, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They discussed the development of mining and pearl sectors between Myanmar and the Russian Federation. — MNA/MKKS



Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi holds talks with the RMAFC president yesterday.

NATIONAL

MoTC Deputy Minister calls for environmentally friendly maritime transport aligned with MARPOL convention

DEPUTY Minister for Transport and Communications U Aung Myaing called for collective efforts to develop an environmentally friendly maritime transport sector as committed in MARPOL Convention at a ceremony to mark the World Maritime Day 2023 at Yangon's Wyndham Grand Yangon Hotel yesterday.

He also said the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, known as MARPOL, is not only a legal contract but also a reflection of appreciation and aspiration for a prosperous maritime environment.

The deputy minister explained that the theme of World Maritime Day 2023 is "MARPOL at 50 – our commitment goes on" and it aims to bolster the preservation of global soil and seas as per the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by all United Nations member states.

He also highlighted the pur-



The World Maritime Day 2023 in progress yesterday in Yangon, addressed by Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Aung Myaing.



pose of the MARPOL Convention — signed by 161 member states and represents 98.89 per cent of cargo vessels globally — is a legal instrument to tackle spills of oil, intoxicated liquids, goods in hazard-prone packaging as well as water pollution caused by sanitary and rubbish resulted from other sources. Myanmar signed annexes 1 and 2 to the convention in 1988 and 3, 4, and

5 in 2016 and the country is drafting a law to address water pollution complying with the clauses of the convention.

The video clip of the Secretary-General's message on World Maritime Day was displayed at the ceremony before Dr Ko Ko Naing, acting Director-General of the Department of Marine Administration explained the theme 'MARPOL at

50 – our commitment goes on'.

At the ceremony, three SRPS companies providing seafarer recruitment and placement service (SRPS) that made the most number of job placements for seafarers in 2022 and U Tayar Nge, a deck officer who rescued a seaman who fell from the ship in the Korean sea, were awarded for their outstanding performances.

Officials of the Department of Marine Administration under the ministry presented their activities on maritime affairs before the Deputy Minister and invitees viewed the World Maritime Day 2023 showrooms displayed by the ministry.

In the afternoon, the Myanmar Seafarers Forum, Stakeholders Consultation Workshop on National Maritime Transport Policy and Myanmar Port State Control Workshop were conducted at the same time.

The ceremony was attended by heads of departments under the ministry, representatives from local and overseas maritime organizations, training schools, international ports, SRPS companies as well as owners and staff of vessels.

At night, the ministry lit blue lights at the office of the Department of Marine Administration, Myanmar Port Authority as well as international wharves and ships in honour of the World Maritime Day 2023. — MNA/TH

30th MTMC to be held on 3-5 Oct

TWO pre-conference workshops of the 30th Myanmar Tatmadaw Medical Conference were held from 25 to 27 September and the conference will take place at No 1 Military Hospital (700-bed) in PynOoLwin from 3 to 5 October.

Local and international researchers, professors, medical experts, and nurses from the Myanmar Tatmadaw Medical Corps will collectively submit 72 research papers, and 114 research posters, and participate in a conference symposium, a major symposium, 21 specialized symposiums, a clinicopathological conference, a clinical session, 10 special talks, and a debate.

The retired senior officers, professors, medical experts and nurses need to register at www.dsmrdc.org for attendance at the conference online. — MNA/MKKS

Myanmar Consul-General clarifies 'No More Bets' movie

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Consul-General of Myanmar in Nanning, China, briefed the official of the Foreign Office of China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region about the tarnishing of Myanmar's image in the film named No More Bets, which was shot by China and released in China and around the world.

Consul-General U Kyaw Soe Thein made this clarification during his meeting with Ms Lian Yin, Director of the Foreign Office of China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in the reception hall of the Myanmar Consulate General on 26 September.

Consul-General U Kyaw Soe Thein highlighted the Myanmar government's cooperation with neighbouring countries in the fight against

online crimes regarding the tarnishing of Myanmar's image since the Chinese film No More Bets was screened in China and across the globe in recent months.

The issue of signing a memorandum of understanding on education cooperation between the Ministry of Education of Myanmar and the Department of Education of Guangxi Region was also discussed.

He explained that the movie 'No More Bets' is about the characters who were affected by online scams, the storylines are related to Myanmar, and there are reports that Chinese nationals are worried about visiting Myanmar.

Regarding discussions, Ms Lian Yin expressed her appreciation for discussing the development situation

of Myanmar. Regarding the movie, she said that the public should only believe official statements and news about the fight against crime by the governments, and she continued to say that by looking at the successes of the cooperation between the governments of the two countries, they will be able to see the attitudes of the

governments.

The Guanxi regional government emphasized the relationship and cooperation with ASEAN countries, including Myanmar, and reiterated that it will cooperate with the Guanxi Department of Education to sign a memorandum of understanding on education cooperation. — ASH/KZL



A poster of the film 'No More Bets'.

NATIONAL

MoSWRR initiates disability assessment, registration for 2023-2024FY

IN the financial year 2023-2024, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is overseeing the implementation of disability rating and registration tasks across 10 designated project areas.

The registration of individuals with disabilities initially commenced in 2019 but was temporarily halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the financial year 2022-2023, the project saw progress in four specific locations: Pobbathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, Hlinethaya Township in the Yangon Region, Hpa-an Township in Kayin State, and Hopong Township in the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone of Shan

State (South).

The Union Minister emphasized the importance of advocating for the rights of individuals with disabilities during the 1/2023 working committee meeting on the rights of persons with disabilities. He noted that with the approval and publication of the Five-Year Strategic Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, work plans for each sector of the strategy will be developed and approved.

By conducting disability assessments and registering individuals with disabilities, it becomes feasible to provide targeted assistance to disabled individuals in various regions



The victorious sports team representing Myanmar in the 12th ASEAN Para Games held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, returned to Yangon by air on 10 June 2023.

and states while accurately determining the level of assistance required for each disability category.

There are 330 townships in the country and the establishment and execution of a

nationwide coverage plan is imperative. Additionally, it is anticipated that the registration of disabled individuals will coincide with the 2024 census.

At present, a fund of K3 billion designated for persons with

disabilities is being disbursed as business loans to small financial institutions over three years. This approach aims to prevent the erosion of the principal amount and facilitate its growth. — TWA/CT

Black gram price down by K130,000 per tonne during end-Sept

THE price of black gram hit a nearly week-low of K2.5 million per tonne on 28 September from K2.628 million per tonne on 23 September in Yangon's market, showing a decrease of K128,000 per tonne.

The prices stood at K2.5 million per tonne of black gram (FAQ/RC), K2.78 million per tonne of black gram (SQ/RC) and K4 million per tonne of pigeon pea on 28 September.

A total of 60 containers loaded with 1,440 tonnes of black gram were traded on 25 September. Trading volumes were registered at 190 containers of black gram (4,560 tonnes) in July and 385 containers (9,240 tonnes) in August.

On 28 September, 335 containers of black gram (8,040 tonnes) were transacted, as per market data.

The prices touched the highest of K2.499 per tonne of black gram and K1.38 million per tonne of pigeon pea on 31



The photo shows a store displaying various pulses and beans for sale.

August and the lowest of K2.315 million per tonne of black gram and K3.085 million per tonne of pigeon pea on 9 August.

The black gram price peaked at K2.634 million per tonne on 22 September and plunged to the lowest of K2.42 million per tonne on 11 September. Meanwhile, the highest price of pigeon pea was K4.15

million per tonne on 8 September and the lowest price was K3.95 million per tonne on 18 September.

The black gram prices fluctuated within a certain range of K300,000 per tonne in the two months (Aug-Sep), whereas a large price gap of pigeon pea at K1 million per tonne was recorded. — TWA/EM

"Beautiful Myanmar" colour photo contest to be held to commemorate 76th Independence Day

ACCORDING to the Department of Information and Public Relations, there will be a 'Beautiful Myanmar' colour photo contest to commemorate the 76th Independence Day.

The contest will be held to commemorate the 76th Independence Day, which falls on 4 January 2024. According to the Department of Information and Public Relations, invitations are extended to participate in the competition with photos that depict the essence of independence, such as the country's development, peace, stability, the beauty of ethnic tradition, cultural heritage, and landmarks, places, and people that are prominent in the struggle for independence.

An official from the department stated that it must be a colour photo taken in Myanmar with any type of camera. The size of the image must only be 10 and 15 inches, and there is no limit to the number of contestant photos.

A total of 751 postcards were submitted to participate in the colour photo competition on the 75th Diamond Jubilee Independence Day last year, and 199 experts selected the postcards.

Contestants must fill in their name, number of Citizenship Scrutiny Card (CSC), address, phone number, location, and content of the photo taken in a separate letter on the back of the competing photo and send it to the Yangon Region Information and Public Relations Department by 31 October. — TWA/CT

YGEA set gold reference price lower as spot gold price dips below US\$1,900

THE spot gold price dropped below US\$1,900 per ounce, prompting the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) to lower the reference price to K2,210,000 per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) at the end of September.

The spot gold price hit \$1,940 per ounce in early September and slid to \$1,877 per ounce at the end of September, indicating a decrease of over \$60 over the past 20 days.

Nonetheless, pure gold in the grey market bucked the global trend and hit approximately K3.4 million per tical. There is

a price difference of K1.1 million per tical between the market value and the reference price by the YGEA.

YGEA calculated the price depending on the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference exchange rate of K2,100, with some addition, while the US dollar is exchanged at over K3,300 in shady dealings.

The US dollar exchange rate influences domestic gold prices. The soaring dollar exchanging at over K4,500 hiked up the gold price to a record-high of K3.7 million per tical in late August 2022. — NN/EM



The picture depicts the gold jewellery outlet in Yangon.

Sugar price jumps amid low supply, no sugar importation

THE price of sugar spiked at K3,700 per viss in the domestic market amid the low stocks and no sugar importation, as per the Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Commodity Centre).

As the sugar price remained on an upward trend, some companies have reportedly planned to contribute K200,000 per acre in advance for new sugarcane growers for the 2023-2024 season. Rocketing prices will prompt the growers to expand the acreage of sugarcane and sugar export is expected to rise, as per the Myanmar Sugar and Cane Related Association.

Ngwe Yi Pale Sugar Co Ltd notified the sugarcane growers that it will offer K110,000 per tonne of sugarcane in the upcoming 2023-2024 sugarcane season.

Therefore, the company enticed the growers to ramp up production and expand the cultivation acreage.

Myanmar's annual sugar production is estimated at 450,000 tonnes. Myanmar earlier sent sugar to China and Viet Nam beyond self-sufficiency.



Sugar is seen being displayed for sale at the market.

At present, it is delivered to Viet Nam only, said U Win Htay, Vice-Chair of the Myanmar Sugar and Cane Related Association.

Sugar export to China via the border was conducted under the provincial-level Memorandum of Understanding. However, it came to an abrupt stop due to the COVID-19 policy of China. Therefore, the sugar industry called for a government-to-government agreement to legally export sugar to China under quota.

At present, Myanmar's sugar is shipped to Viet Nam and tax exemption is granted

with the presence of the Certificate of Origin. Only three registered Myanmar companies are entitled to sugar exports to Viet Nam so far.

Sugarcane is commonly found in the upper Sagaing Region, followed by northern Shan State. It is also found in the western and eastern Bago Region, Yangon Region and Mandalay Region.

The sugarcane is grown in December-January. It can be harvested from November to February of the following years. The sugarcane growing rotation cycle lasts for four years in Myanmar. — NN/EM

Sagaing Region provides nearly 700,000 rice sacks to other regions in under three months

SAGAING Region distributed a total of 697,600 rice sacks (34,880 tonnes) to other regions including big cities like Yangon, Mandalay, and Nay Pyi Taw beyond self-sufficiency in the nearly past three months.

The Shwebo, Kalay, Katha and Kanbalu areas in Sagaing Region supplied 235,500 rice sacks (11,775 tonnes) to various regions including 61,000 rice sacks to Yangon and 107,570 to Mandalay in July, 87,400 rice sacks (14,370 tonnes) to various regions including 72,500 sacks to Yangon and 137,800 to Mandalay in August, and 174,700 sacks (8,735 tonnes) to

various regions including 53,000 sacks to Yangon and 70,600 to Mandalay as of the third week of September respectively.

Pawsan paddy fetched K3.7 million per 100 baskets in the third week of September in Shwebo township, while high-grade Pawsan rice was priced at K125,000 per sack.

The price of Pawsan rice in Monywa decreased to K125,000 per sack in the third week of September from K150,000 in the first week of September. Similarly, the paddy prices also dropped to K3.2 million per 100 baskets from K3.7 million in the past three weeks in



The photo shows some farmers collecting the harvested rice at a farm in Shwebo District.

Monywa city.

Before the 2010s, the region had to depend on other areas for rice security. At present, the region can supply rice to other areas beyond self-sufficiency. More than 200,000 rice sacks are sent to various regions on average.

The price of high-grade Pawsan rice from the Shwebo area is estimated at K125,000 per sack at the Wahdan rice wholesale centre, while Pawsan rice from delta regions is priced around K100,000 per sack, U Kyaw, a trader involved in Bayintnaung rice depot, told The Global New Light of Myanmar. — TWA/KK

OPINION

Attract Indian and Chinese tourists with exceptional services in Myanmar

THE weather forecast predicts the imminent withdrawal of the southwest monsoon from Myanmar, heralding the arrival of October in the Gregorian calendar. This marks the beginning of a new season, characterized by numerous sunny days, making it an ideal time to explore the enchanting landscapes of Myanmar.

In a concerted effort to bolster international tourism, the Myanmar government has taken significant strides in relaxing various restrictions for tourists, opening the doors to a plethora of captivating destinations across the nation. In this context, the government has announced its decision to issue tourist arrival visas to Indian and Chinese travellers. Myanmar is bestowed with an abundance of awe-inspiring tourist attractions, ranging from the northernmost reaches to the southern shores and from the eastern frontier to the western expanses. Unique snow-capped mountain ranges, a rare gift of nature, beckon travellers, setting Myanmar apart as the sole Southeast Asian country boasting this natural wonder, bound to captivate both local and foreign explorers. Furthermore, travellers will have the opportunity to explore numerous enthralling sites throughout the country, except for a few restricted areas due to security concerns. Many hidden gems, largely uncharted even by the local populace, await discovery by international travellers. This inclusive approach grants tourists, whether local or international, the chance to traverse every corner of the nation while immersing themselves in the warm hospitality of the local people, experiencing their customs, and lifestyles, and savouring traditional ethnic cuisines.

Indian and Chinese tourists can readily access border regions in Myanmar, but they also have the option of embarking on extended journeys to the scenic countryside by utilizing international airports and enhanced aviation services. Myanmar's ongoing efforts to upgrade multiple airports, ensuring suitable runways for international flights, are poised to facilitate the seamless influx of tourists heading to Myanmar's iconic destinations.

With the advent of the open season in Myanmar, international and domestic travellers will find an opportune moment to explore the nation's ancient religious edifices, landmarks, and the rich cultural tapestry of its diverse ethnic groups. The government's initiative to introduce tourist on-arrival visas for Indian and Chinese nationals is expected to invigorate Myanmar's tourism industry.

Stakeholders in the hospitality and tourism sector prepare diligently to provide exceptional services to the impending influx of guests in Myanmar's forthcoming open season. Their commitment to upholding the image of the state and their own establishments will be instrumental in ensuring the success of this new tourism initiative, ultimately driving the growth of Myanmar's tourism industry.

LEGAL Advocacy Training is a crucial wing for developing organizational effectiveness in a Legal Perspective. At the moment, with the guidance of the Chairman of the State Administration Council and the supervision of the Minister for Legal Affairs, the Ministry of Legal Affairs (MOLA) has conducted three Legal Advocacy Training courses. We (37 trainees from different ministries) attended Legal Advocacy Training No 3 from 8 June 2023 to 19 August 2023 at MOLA.

Legal Advocacy Training is motivated by Organizational Development in Legal Perspective, which involves shifting the focus from representing clients in legal disputes to ensuring the legal aspects of an organization's operations are optimized and aligned with its goals. The following points in this training are essential for organizational development:

To understand the organization's Legal Needs: Before you can enhance organizational effectiveness from a legal perspective, you must thoroughly understand the specific legal needs and challenges of the organization. This could include compliance with industry regulations, contract management, intellectual property protection, employment law, and more.

Assessing current Legal Framework: To evaluate the organization's current legal framework, including contracts, policies, procedures, and compli-

Effective Legal Advocacy Training for Organizational Development

By Dr Than Lwin Tun



Fig: The trainers and trainees at the closing ceremony of Legal Advocacy Training No 3. PHOTO: MOLA

ance programmes. Identify areas where improvements or updates are necessary to enhance legal effectiveness.

Assessment of Legal Risk: To conduct a comprehensive legal risk assessment to identify potential legal risks and liabilities that the organization might face.

Contract Management: This involves analyzing contracts, reviewing compliance with laws and regulations, and assessing the

legal health of the organization.

Legal Compliance: To ensure that the organization is fully compliant with all applicable laws and regulations. Develop and implement compliance programmes, policies, and procedures to mitigate legal risks and liabilities.

Policy Development and Review: To work on developing and periodically reviewing organizational policies and procedures to align with legal requirements and best practices. Ensure that policies are communicated effectively throughout the organization.

are well-drafted, reviewed, and executed in a way that protects the organization's interests and minimizes legal exposure.

Policy Development and Review: To work on developing and periodically reviewing organizational policies and procedures to align with legal requirements and best practices. Ensure that policies are communicated effectively throughout the organization.

Conflict Resolution and Intervention: To utilize legal skills in conflict resolution and intervention within the organization. Help resolve disputes and conflicts in a manner that minimizes the risk of legal action.

Data Privacy and Security: Increasing importance of data privacy, focus on implementing and maintaining robust data protection measures to safeguard sensitive information and ensure compliance with data privacy laws.

Litigation Avoidance: To develop strategies and practices aimed at preventing legal disputes and litigation. This could involve creating processes for early issue identification and resolution.

Legal Budgeting and Cost Control: To manage the legal budget effectively, ensuring that legal expenditures are in line with the organization's financial goals and priorities. Explore cost-effective ways to handle legal matters, such as alternative dispute resolution methods.

Communication and Collaboration: To foster effective communication and collaboration between legal and non-legal

departments. Ensure that legal insights are integrated into decision-making processes across the organization.

Performance Metrics: To establish key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure the effectiveness of your legal contributions to the organization. These KPIs could include reduced legal risks, cost savings, improved compliance rates, and successful dispute resolution.

Continuous Learning: To stay updated on legal developments relevant to the organization's industry and operations. Continuously adapt your legal strategies and practices to align with changing legal requirements and organizational needs.

Evaluate and Adjust: To evaluate regularly the impact of your legal initiatives on the organization's effectiveness and adjust your strategies as needed to achieve better results.

In addition, these Legal Advocacy Training courses are very effective and motivated for organizational development. We get innovative ideas and creative thinking from these kinds of training and consider a proactive approach to identify and address legal issues, minimize risks, and align legal efforts with the organization's overall objectives. It's a multifaceted role that combines legal knowledge with a deep understanding of the organization's goals and operational challenges.



Letter to the Editor:

READING the issues of THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR, it seems that the educational and cultural traditions are very close to Indian traditions and also influenced by them. Especially, the fabric of agriculture and industry seems to be woven in the same way. Congratulations and best wishes to the intellectual team of the newspaper.

Shivnath Shukla,
Link Road, Camp-2 Bhilai,
Chhattisgarh, INDIA.

THE editorial in the Wednesday issue (27 September 2023) of THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR is well written. The tourism industry is really quite important. This becomes even more important especially if we look at the cultural, archaeological and art heritage of Myanmar.

This is also reflected in the Indian environment. If work is done in this direction, the tourists of the world will be impressed. The article published on gossip is also important. Congratulations and best wishes to the editor.

Shivnath Shukla
Link Road, Camp-2
Bhilai, Chhattisgarh, INDIA

Decarbonizing shipping to cost over \$100 bln per year: UNCTAD

Over the past decade, emissions from the global maritime fleet have increased by 20 per cent. This is concerning as the world is grappling with the need to reduce emissions to combat climate change.

THE UN called for rapid decarbonisation of the shipping industry on Wednesday, warning that the price tag could top \$100 billion a year as the sector's emissions continue to swell.

The UN's trade and development agency, UNCTAD, highlighted the vital role shipping plays in the global economy, with over 80 per cent of all traded goods in the world moved by sea.

But it also accounts for nearly three percent of all greenhouse gas emissions globally.

At a time when industries are under pressure to reduce their carbon footprint to avert catastrophic climate change, emissions from the global maritime fleet has increased by 20 per cent in the past decade.

"We call for global action to decarbonise shipping," UNCTAD chief Rebeca Grynspan told re-

porters, presenting an annual report on the industry.

"Balancing environmental sustainability, regulatory compliance and economic demands is vital for a prosperous, equitable and resilient future for maritime transport," she said.

The agency is calling for a rapid shift towards cleaner fuels across a shipping industry, where nearly 99 per cent of the global fleet remains reliant on conven-

tional fuels.

"Fuel transition in shipping is still in its infancy," Shamika Sirimanne, head of UNCTAD's technology and logistics division, told reporters.

UNCTAD cited some promising developments, including that 21 per cent of vessels currently on order are designed for alternative fuels.

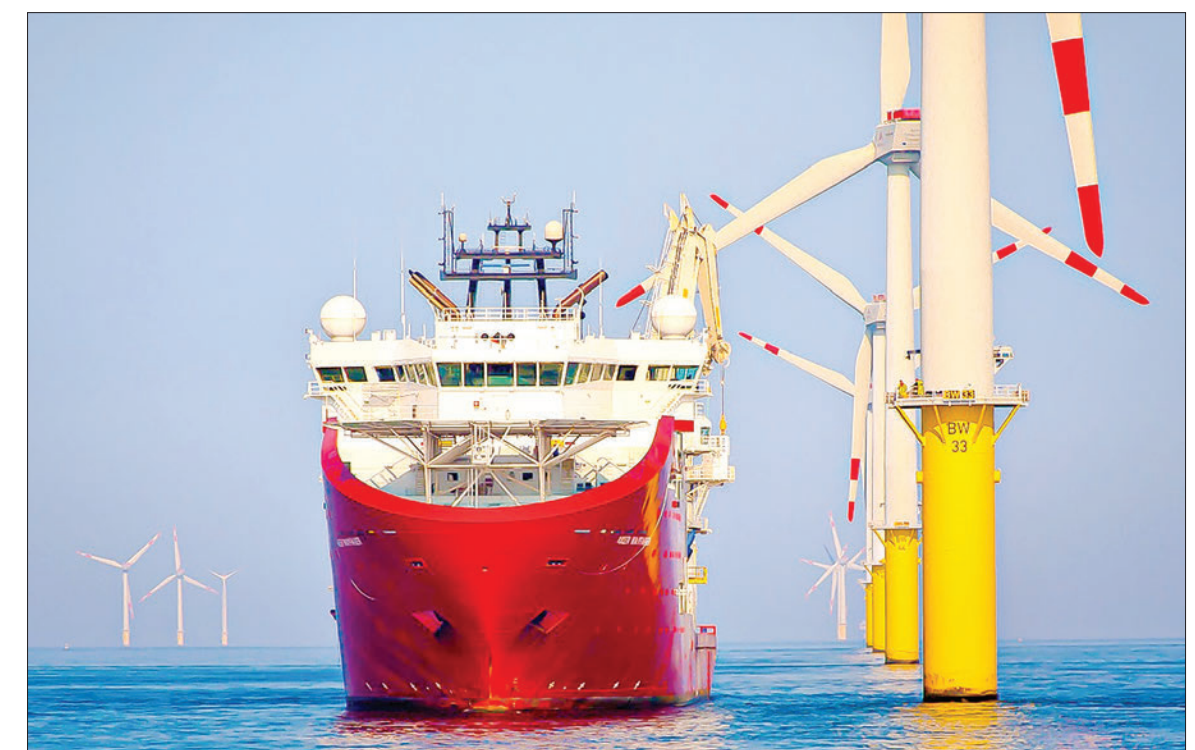
But the agency stressed the need to step up the pace, while ac-

knowledging that "the transition comes with substantial costs".

The UNCTAD report found that up to \$28 billion would be required annually to decarbonize ships by 2050.

And even more investments — as much as \$90 billion — would be needed each year to develop the necessary infrastructure for 100 per cent carbon neutral fuels by then, it said.

SOURCE: AFP



UNCTAD's chief, Rebeca Grynspan, called for global action to decarbonize the shipping industry. ILLUSTRATION: DAVID MADDOCK/SHUTTERSTOCK/UNCTAD

NATIONAL



An aerial view of the Tuyintaung Pagoda in NyaungU Township.

Tuyintaung pagoda festival to commence on Tawthalin full moon day

TUYINTAUNG tooth relic Pagoda festival in Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone will be held on the Full Moon of Tawthalin, U Kyaw Tun, Chairman of the Pagoda Trustees Board stated.

The pagoda festival will start on 29 September with donations to members of the Sangha at the pagoda terrace.

“It is a festival that is held every year on the Full Moon of Tawthalin. People from 18

villages around the pagoda donate alms to more than 70 monks. The Board of Trustees also participate in the donations. As a prelude to the pagoda festival, more than 30 religious groups from 18 villages recited Parittas at the pagoda about 10 days before the festival. A total of 30 members of the Sangha will also lead the recitation,” said U Kyaw Tun.

The event will begin at

4 am on 29 September with various programmes including alms donations to members of the Sangha.

Tuyintaung tooth relic pagoda is located in NyaungU Township. It is located on the western side of NyaungU Kyaukpadaung Road and about six miles southeast of Bagan. It was built on Mount Tuyin by King Anawrahta. — ASH/KZL

Myanmar wins second prize in UNESCO contest

KO Nay Lin Tun, a young photographer from Myanmar, won the second photographic prize in the 2023 Youth Eye on the Silk Road photo contest organized by UNESCO, according to the Myanmar Photographic society.

The 21-year-old photographer won the second prize in the 5th edition of UNESCO Youth Eye on the Silk Road photo contest with the image of the ‘Festival of Lights’ at Mwaytaw Kakku Pagoda of Shan State.

The photo contest offers an exciting opportunity for young people from all over the world to capture their understanding

of the shared heritage of the Silk Road through the lens of their camera. It was divided into two categories: Category 1: 14-17 years old and Category 2: 18-25 years old.

Under Category 2, a 25-year-old Iran photographer grabbed first prize with the image themed Hawraman Village in the Kurdistan region and Myanmar photographer Ko Nay Lin Tun won second prize with the ‘Lights on Temples in Myanmar’ which features Pa-O ethnic damsels lighting candles at the Mwaytaw Kakku Pagoda.

The contest received more than 6,700 young participants worldwide. — ASH/KTZH



The Winning photography—Lights on Pagodas in Myanmar.

Ko Nay Win (Mizzima Hline) set to release new music album on 30 Sept



Well-known composer-cum-singer Ko Nay Win.

VETERAN composer and singer Ko Nay Win (Mizzima Hline) — Medium Wave will release a music album named “Sorrows of a Poem” on 30 September, commemorating his 73rd birthday.

The music album was produced by Tribute Records Music Production, containing 12 verses of music sung by Ko Nay Win himself. The music album will contain 12 songs in total, including songs composed by himself, such as songs ‘The Sound of the Harp’, ‘When schools reopen’, and ‘The Process of a Circle’. — ASH/KZL

Myanmar artistes invited to HK Performing Arts Expo

“MYANMAR artistes have been invited to participate in the Hong Kong Performing Arts Expo (HKPAX), organized by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC),” said U Chantha Kyi Soe, Information Officer of International Communications and Public Relations committee from Myanmar Motion Picture Organization.

According to the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, the expo, to be held from 14 to 18 October, aims to promote cultural exchanges between artistes from China, including the Hong Kong region, and those from other parts of the world.

“The invitation letter for the Hong Kong Performing Arts Expo was received on 15 September. Applicants who wish to participate in any types of performance must submit a video clip of the performance to the HKPAX selection committee. If selected, the winner will receive US\$10,000 as travel and accommodation allowances,” said U Chantha Kyi Soe.

The presentation must be recorded on video with English subtitles and submitted in Full HD MP4 Format (H-264) with a duration of 45-60 minutes via www.hkpax.org.hk by 30 October. — ASH/MKKS

Myanmar's finished industrial goods exports generate US\$4.46 bln in revenue in 5 months



The picture depicts the Yadana Offshore Gas Platform.

MYANMAR earned US\$ 4.46 billion from the export of finished industrial goods in the first five months of the current 2023-2024 financial year, according to Daw Cho Thet Mu, deputy director of the Trade Policy Branch under the Ministry of Commerce.

The revenue from the export of finished industrial goods made by the state-owned businesses from 1 April to 15 September was \$1.56 billion

while \$2.9 billion by the private sector, totalling \$4.46 billion.

"We received \$4.46 billion from the export of finished industrial goods this financial year from 1 April to 15 September. We receive most from the garment and gas export," she said.

The exports of garments manufactured under the cut-make-pack (CMP) system rank first in export followed by sugar, jewellery and natural

gas. In the import sector, petroleum products rank first, followed by textiles and clothing.

Myanmar mainly exports agricultural, animal and marine products, minerals, forest products, finished industrial goods and manufactured goods to its foreign trade partners, and imports capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer goods. — ASH/KTZH

YRIC approves 2 JV investment projects creating 461 jobs

U Myo Khaing Oo, Director of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (Yangon Region), reported that the Yangon Region Investment Committee had approved two joint venture investment projects with a total capital amount of US\$619,000 in September.

These projects, which include a garment enterprise and an Adhesive Resin enterprise using the CMP system, are expected to create a total of 461 employment opportunities for the local workforce.

U Myo Khaing Oo stated, "The Yangon Region Investment Committee meeting for September 2023, held at the Yangon Region Investment Committee office on 27 September, approved these two Joint Venture Investment projects with a total capital amount of US\$619,000, aiming to generate 461 local job opportunities."

Furthermore, the Yangon Region



Female workers are pictured on the CMP manufacturing line at the workplace.

Investment Committee increased investment amounts for existing businesses, including new investment projects, in July. This expansion allowed for an increase in the number of employees in the work-

force, as approvals for Myanmar citizen investment and foreign investment were granted monthly as per procedures to create new employment opportunities. — ASH/MKKS

Confiscation of illegal items: timbers, consumer goods, foodstuffs, machineries and vehicles

THE Customs on-duty teams under the supervision of the Customs Department made inspections on 20, 25 and 26 September and confiscated two kinds of goods worth about K3.3 million, including 38 iron cabinets, from a container at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint, four kinds of goods worth K24.3 million, including iPhone and Apple watch, without official documents from luggage at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk), 102 sets of Oppo A36 mobile phones (used) worth K10.2 million without official documents from a vehicle travelling from Laukai to Lashio at the Yepu permanent checkpoint and a Nissan Diesel tractor head with a trailer (approximately worth K45 million), headed from Myawady to Yangon, carrying 5,000 kilogrammes of PP woven bag worth K5.94 million that exceeded the quantity mentioned in the Import Declaration (ID) at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 25 September, the combined inspection teams seized a Hino Profia truck (estimated value of K40 million) carrying 3,600 litres of vegetable oil worth K9.8 million without official documents at the Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) checkpoint and a Hino PR1JJB bus (estimated value of K20 million), headed from Mandalay to Muse, carrying 550 kilogrammes of dried beef worth K3.3 million without official documents at the 16th-Mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The combined inspection teams captured a Luigondg excavator, a Komatsu excavator and a Kubota excavator that were used in the illegal mining work in Mayan Village in Khamaukgyi of Kawthaung District and a total of 0.432 tonne of illegal teak and 1.908 tonnes of illegal other timbers worth K604,140 in Toungoo District on 26 September. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Forest Law.

As a result, a total of 15 arrests were made on 20, 25 and 26 September, with an estimated value of K292,445,340, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

ECONOMY WORLD

Poland says open to Ukraine grain proposals ahead of talks

Logistical problems led to a buildup of grain in central Europe, causing a decrease in local prices.

POLAND'S agriculture minister said on Wednesday that his country remained open to a Ukrainian proposal for a grain import licensing system, adding that the thorny issue would be discussed in the coming weeks.

Kyiv has suggested issuing licences to exporters of wheat, corn, rapeseed and sunflowers in line with Poland's needs, Robert Telus said, after a video meeting with his Ukrainian counterpart.

"It's a question that we have to examine, but from the outside the proposal seems like a good thing," he said.

Ukraine's grain exports are meant to be transiting through

the European Union to Africa and the Middle East in particular, since the war-torn nation's traditional Black Sea routes were blocked by Russia's invasion.

But because of logistical issues, grain had been piling up in central Europe and driving down local prices, prompting several countries to declare an embargo on imports which was temporarily approved by Brussels.

Along with Hungary and Slovakia, Poland said on 15 September that it would extend its embargo, going against a European Commission decision to end the restrictions. — AFP



Train cars filled with Ukrainian grain at the Dorhusk station on the Polish-Ukrainian border. **PHOTO: AFP**

Tanzania kills millions of birds to save rice fields

TANZANIA has culled millions of quelea birds to prevent them from destroying rice fields, using drones and planes to monitor commercial farms, the country's plants and pesticides watchdog said Wednesday.

The Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA) which is also responsible for controlling desert locusts, killed five million quelea birds in the northern region of Manara last week where about 1,000 acres of commercial

crops were under threat.

"We killed swarms of five million destructive birds and now we are monitoring other zones," Joseph Ndunguru, acting director-general of TPHPA, told AFP by phone.

The tiny red-beaked birds, which move in large flocks, are notorious for ravaging crops, with invasions generally occurring during the onset of the dry season in September and October. — AFP

Beijing to welcome 12.8 million tourists during upcoming holiday

Beijing to host over 2,000 cultural events for holiday visitors, including classic dramas and operas.

BEIJING is set to experience a tourism boom during the upcoming Mid-Autumn Festival and National Day holiday, which will last from 29 September to 6 October this year, with more than 12.8 million people expected to visit the city.

It is estimated that the number of visitors to the Chinese capital during the holiday will be up 60.8 per cent year on year, or up 21.9 per cent from the 2019 pre-COVID figure. About 5.5 million of those visitors will travel from other parts of China, up 192.4 per cent year on year, said Zhou Weimin, an official of the Beijing municipal bureau of culture and tourism, during a Tuesday press conference.

The city will organize more than 2,000 cultural activities for holiday visitors, including sever-



The Temple of Heaven is a famous historic site located in Beijing, China. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is known for its stunning architecture and cultural significance. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

al classic and popular dramas and operas that will be staged.

Public venues such as museums will also make adjustments to meet the cultural consumption demand of tourists

during the holiday, with many expanding their visitor capacities, extending their opening hours and implementing other experience-optimization measures. — Xinhua

UK approves new North Sea oil production, angering green groups

BRITAIN on Wednesday authorised oil and gas production in its largest undeveloped field to bolster its energy security, one week after the government diluted its net zero targets, triggering further condemnation by environmentalists.

Norwegian oil and gas producer Equinor and Ithaca Energy, a subsidiary of Israeli group Delek, will together invest \$3.8 billion in developing the Rosebank field in the North Sea off the coast of Scotland.

The North Sea Transition

Authority, a UK oil and gas regulator, said it had "granted development and production consent for the Rosebank field, north-west of Shetland".

Equinor has an 80 per cent interest in the project and Ithaca the remainder. — AFP



A workman on board an oil platform in the Clair Ridge oilfield in the North Sea, 45 miles off the coast of Scotland. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Hyundai, Kia recall 3 million cars over fire risk

SOUTH Korean car manufacturers Hyundai and Kia are issuing recalls for 3.3 million vehicles in the United States due to their risk of suddenly catching fire, regulators announced Wednesday.

“Until these recalled vehicles have been repaired... the safest place to park them is outside and

away from homes and other structures,” the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) said in a statement. “Fires can occur whether the vehicle is parked and turned off or while driving.”

The vehicles in question include 1.64 million from Hyundai and Genesis, concerning 2010 to 2015

models, and 1.73 million Kias, ranging from 2010 to 2017.

The problem comes from an issue with the vehicles’ anti-lock brake systems (ABS), “which could leak brake fluid internally and cause an electrical short”, the NHTSA said.

“Hyundai plans to notify owners to bring their vehicles to the nearest dealership to replace the ABS module fuse,” the agency said. “Kia is still working on a remedy.” Neither company knows of “any crashes, injuries or fatalities associated with this defect.”

Hyundai has recorded 21 vehicle fires linked to the default in the United States, as well as “22 thermal incidents,” including visible smoke, burning and melting. — AFP



South Korean car manufacturers Hyundai and Kia are issuing recalls for 3.3 million vehicles in the United States due to their risk of suddenly catching fire, regulators announced Wednesday. **PHOTO: AFP**

US sues eBay for selling products that harm environment

THE US Justice Department sued eBay on Wednesday for allegedly selling restricted pesticide products and devices that defeat motor vehicle emission controls.

The complaint against the online marketplace was filed on behalf of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in a federal court in New York. It accused the San Jose, California-based company of selling hundreds of thousands of products in violation of the Clean Air Act (CAA) and other environmental protection legislation.

“The complaint filed today demonstrates that EPA will hold online retailers responsible for the unlawful sale of products on their websites that can



The DoJ has accused eBay of selling hundreds of thousands of products in violation of the Clean Air Act and other environmental protections. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

harm consumers and the environment,” Assistant EPA Administrator David Uhlmann said in a statement.

US Assistant Attorney-General Todd Kim said “laws prohibiting the sale of products that harm human health and the environment apply to e-commerce retailers just

as they do to brick-and-mortar stores.”

According to the complaint, eBay has sold more than 343,000 devices which defeat motor vehicle pollution emission controls and at least 23,000 unregistered, misbranded or restricted-use pesticide products. — AFP

TotalEnergies to raise fossil fuel production

FRENCH oil and gas major TotalEnergies said Wednesday that it would boost fossil fuel production over the next five years, a reversal after years of reducing output.

The company said it would increase output by two to three per cent per year, mainly from liquefied natural gas.

“TotalEnergies reaffirms the relevance of its balanced multi-energy strategy considering the developments in the oil, gas and electricity markets,” the firm said.

The group said it was “in a very favourable position to take advantage of changing energy prices”.

The oil and gas business “is expected to generate more than \$3 billion of additional underlying cash flow in 2028 compared to 2023 at constant prices”, TotalEnergies said. — AFP

Trump’s business empire threatened by judge’s ruling

A key selling point of Donald Trump’s 2016 presidential run was that he was a businessman, not a politician.

But his corporate empire — which served as proof to many voters of his economic bonafides — is now in jeopardy after a judge ruled Tuesday that the former president, his sons and the Trump Organization had engaged in “persistent and repeated fraud”.

The ruling stemmed from a fraud case brought

by New York Attorney-General Letitia James, which still must go to trial Monday.

In a partial victory for James, Judge Arthur Engoron found there had been a systemic overvaluation of assets, such as Trump Tower and other properties, to better negotiate with banks.

In addition to finding that Trump and his sons committed fraud, the judge also revoked their state business licences and asked the parties to

propose receivers to manage the dissolution of the companies in question.

James is seeking \$250 million in penalties and the removal of Trump and his sons from management of the family empire, the Trump Organization.

Engoron’s initial decision puts in jeopardy Trump’s control over not just the iconic Trump Tower, but other restaurants and boutiques, as well as high-end commercial property. — AFP

Changing Trade Name of Pesticide

Aventine Limited would like to change the trade name of the following pesticide which is registered by Qingdao Audis Bio-Tech Co.,Ltd. China.

No.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Reg. No.
1.	Small Aphids	Armo Queen Star	Pymetrozine 20% +Thiamethoxam 15% WG	E2021-5350

And we would like to invite any objection for the above changing trade name within (14) days of the publication of this notice to the Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogon, Insein.

Distributor: Aventine Limited

No.126(A), Kabaraye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (297N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (297N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-9-2023** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Israel top court weighs rules on removing prime minister

ISRAEL'S top court debated appeals Thursday against a law restricting how a prime minister can be removed from office, as current premier Benjamin Netanyahu faces protests against the judicial overhaul.

Eleven of the Supreme Court's 15 judges sat to hear three appeals against legislation passed by parliament in March, which determined a premier can only be declared unfit for office due to health reasons.

The law also stipulated that

a two-thirds majority in cabinet is required to take such a step, before the move is approved by at least 80 of the parliament's 120 members.

Opponents argue the legislative change was intended solely to benefit Netanyahu, because it removes the possibility of him being removed from office over corruption charges.

Netanyahu in May 2020 became the first sitting prime minister of Israel to stand trial over a series of graft allegations he

denies. Ahead of the Supreme Court session, dozens of protesters rallied outside his Jerusalem residence, where four people were arrested, according to the police.

Justice Minister Yariv Levin declared the hearing "an attempt to overturn the elections", in a statement published by his office.

He sits in cabinet alongside extreme-right and ultra-Orthodox allies who were elected in November. — AFP



Israel's Supreme Court president Esther Hayut and judges hear petitions against a law restricting how a prime minister can be removed from office. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP**

Australia shakes up army in shift to long-range deterrence

AUSTRALIA announced Thursday a "major restructuring" of the army featuring a new long-range strike capacity, as it adapts to China's growing military clout in the Asia-Pacific region.

The shake-up responds to a strategic review in July that called for a sharp shift towards long-range deterrence — using missiles, submarines and cyber tools to keep adversaries at arm's length.

"This is an important step forward for our army. This builds an army which will be

able to project," Defence Minister Richard Marles told reporters in the northeastern city of Townsville.

"This is the basis upon which we will be creating the army we need for Australia's future," he said.

The overhaul will create specialized combat brigades in three bases: in the northern city of Darwin, a light, easy-to-deploy force; in northeastern Townsville, a force with more heavy armour tanks to "bring to bear the greatest lethality in any conflict"; and in the eastern

city of Brisbane, a mixture of both capacities.

Hundreds of personnel will be redeployed over the next five-to-six years, Marles said, describing it as a "major restructuring of the Australian army".

The revamp also creates a new brigade in the South Australian capital of Adelaide with long-range fire capacity and integrated air and missile defence.

"This will be the cutting edge of army technology," the minister said. — AFP



Australian Army soldiers arrive at Melville Island, Northern Territory, by Zodiac after a patrolling around the waters of Darwin as part of Exercise Predators Run 23. **PHOTO: SUB-LIEUTENANT CHLOE REAY/AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE**

TOP HEADLINES

Russia to hike defence spending by almost 70% in 2024

RUSSIA is set to hike defence spending by almost 70 per cent in 2024, a finance ministry document published Thursday showed, as Moscow pours resources into its full-scale offensive in Ukraine.

The document said defence spending was set to jump by over 68 per cent year-on-year to almost 10.8 trillion roubles (\$111.15 billion), totalling around six per cent of GDP — more than spending allocated for social policy. — AFP

Thai police seize drugs worth \$8 million

THAI anti-narcotics police seized over \$8 million worth of drugs in one of the largest single hauls in the kingdom's history, officers said Thursday.

The so-called "Golden Triangle" where Thailand, Myanmar and Laos meet has long been a hot spot for drug smuggling, particularly of methamphetamine, despite repeated crackdowns.

Officers raided a building in central Nakhon Pathom city late Wednesday night, detaining four men at the premises and uncovering a huge stash.

"This is one of the largest amounts of drugs ever confiscated," said newly appointed National Police Chief Torsak Sukwimol, adding the haul was worth roughly 300 million baht (\$8 million).

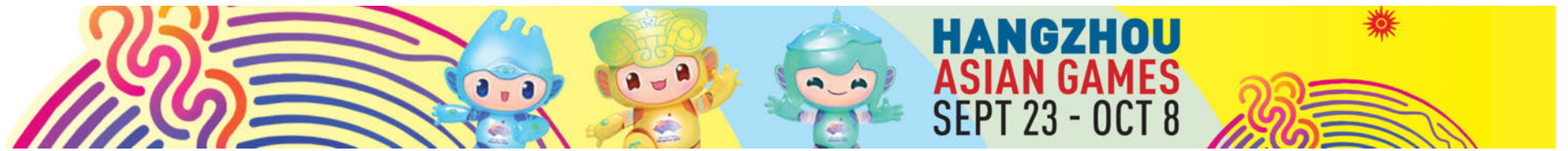
He told reporters officers had found roughly 15 million "yaba" pills — methamphetamine tablets that are produced and used across the region. — AFP

Chinese universities rise in global rankings

CHINESE universities are making a "dramatic" rise up a leading university rankings table as higher education institutions in Britain and the United States face growing competition from Asia.

According to the annual Times Higher Education World University Rankings published Wednesday, two Chinese universities entered the top 15 for the first time in the 20-year history of the ranking. China's Tsinghua University occupied 12th place on the list, gaining four places since last year, while Peking University rose from 17th to 14th. Overall, China had seven universities in the top 100, compared to two universities in 2018, while the number of Chinese institutions in the top 400 list doubled from 15 in 2021 to 30 this year. — AFP

SPORTS



Asian Games Men's Football: Myanmar eliminated from Round of 16

MYANMAR men's football team said goodbye to the men's football event of the XIX Asian Games after a 0-7 loss to world-class Japan at the Round of 16 event.

Team Myanmar tried to get a good result, but the difference in ability was too high.

The Japanese team put pressure on the Myanmar team from the start of the game, winning by five goals in the first half and scoring two more goals in the second half.

In the other matches of the Round of 16, Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia, Host China, South Korea, Iran, Hong Kong and North Korea secured their victories and advanced to the Quarter-finals. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Myanmar's Khun Kyaw Zin Hein (red) tries for the pass during the Round of 16 match at the Asian Games against Japan on 28 September 2023. **PHOTO: MFF**

Asian Games Women's Football: Loss to Philippines makes Myanmar out from Group Stage

THE final day of the XIX Asian Games Women's Football Group was held in Hangzhou, China yesterday and the Myanmar team lost to the Philippines by three goals and dropped out of the tournament.

The two teams played as a deciding match to advance to the next round, and the Myanmar squad was eliminated from the group stage with a 0-3 defeat. The Myanmar national women's team, which competed in the Asian Games for the first time, was unable to make a remarkable performance and had to be turned away from the group stage.

As the Philippine team used multiple players to face

the Myanmar team, Bodin scored the lead in the 19th minute. After that, the Myanmar team tried to equalize, but it didn't work out, and the Philippines team was leading by one goal at the end of the first half.

To score the equalizer in the second half, the Myanmar team changed players and attacked high, but the Philippines team made the most of the opportunities. Sarah scored the winning goals for the Philippine team at the 60 and 63 minutes.

With the win over Myanmar, the Philippines team secured the Quarterfinal spot as one of the best second-placed teams. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Asian Games: Matsumoto, Aoki win as Japan earns two more swim golds

JAPAN picked up its second and third swimming gold medals of the Asian Games in Hangzhou on Wednesday, with Katsuhiro Matsumoto winning the men's 100-metre butterfly and Reona Aoki winning the women's 100 breaststroke.

Japanese women's swim team captain Rikako Ikee, who is struggling with health issues, settled for fifth place in the 100 butterfly, won by China's Zhang Yufei. Matsumoto won the 100 butterfly in 51.13 seconds, 0.11 ahead of Wang Changhao, after trailing the Chinese by 0.36 at the turn. Kazakhstan's Adilbek Mussin placed third, in 51.86, at Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre's Aquatic Sports Arena.

"This result is the payoff for the work I've done," Matsumoto said. "The pressure to win the gold was more than I ever expected. But the fact that I could win under pressure makes me-



Japanese swimmer Katsuhiro Matsumoto poses with his gold medal after winning the men's 100-metre butterfly event at the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, on 27 September 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

happy."

"I won the gold medal, but the time is not competitive at the world level, so I have to raise my level." Aoki clocked 1 minute, 6.81 seconds to win 100 breaststroke gold, edging compatriot Satomi Suzuki by 0.14. China's Yang Chang rounded out the podium in 1:07.01. — Kyodo

Asian Games: N Korea picks up 1st gold medals of Hangzhou Asiad

NORTH Korea captured its first two gold medals of the Asian Games in China's Hangzhou on Thursday, with gymnast An Chang Ok taking one of them in the women's vault and the other clinched in the women's team 10-metre running target range shooting.

An led a 1-2 North Korean finish with Kim Son Hyang in the country's first international multi-sport event appearance since the 2018 Asian Games, also known as Asiad, in Jakarta and Palembang, Indonesia. North Korea had been staying out of competitions due to its COVID-19 border controls.

China's Yu Linmin finished third at Huanglong Sports Centre Gymnasium. In shooting, Paek Ok Sim, Pang Myong Hyang and Ri Ji Ye gave a military-style salute on the podium, shedding tears as their nation's flag flew high overhead.

Kazakhstan earned silver and Indonesia bronze. — Kyodo





North Korea announced in February 2023 successful testing of a multiple rocket launcher system potentially armed with 'tactical' nuclear weapons, following the launch of two ICBMs into waters near Japan. North Korea's "super-large" 600 mm rocket launchers are displayed in Pyongyang in December. **PHOTO: KCNA / VIA KYODO**

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un emphasized the importance of maintaining the country's status as a nuclear weapons state.

change nor concede the present position of our country as a nuclear weapons state, but, on the contrary, continue to further strengthen the nuclear force," the official Korean Central News Agency reported.

The incorporation of the policy to bolster its nuclear force in the supreme law was "the most just and reasonable crucial step," Kim added, referring to the importance of accelerating the modernization of the country's nuclear weapons to "hold the definite edge of strategic deterrence" against the United States, KCNA said.

Kim said the establishment of "the triangular military alliance" involving the United States, South Korea and Japan had finally resulted in the emergence of an "Asian-version NATO", which he described as "the worst actual threat".

He also criticized Washington for having "maximized its nuclear war threats" to North Korea by conducting large-scale military drills and deploying its strategic nuclear assets near the Korean Peninsula on a permanent basis, the report said. — Kyodo

N Korea adopts constitutional amendment on bolstering nuclear force

NORTH Korea adopted a constitutional amendment to incorporate its policy of "rapidly developing nuclear weapons to a higher

level" during a key parliamentary session earlier this week, with leader Kim Jong Un stressing the need to deter US military "provocations", state-run media

said Thursday.

At the two-day session of the Supreme People's Assembly through Wednesday, Kim said, "We must neither

Spain shocked as 14-year-old stabs five people in school

A 14-year-old stabbed three teachers and two students in a school in Spain on Thursday, sparking soul-searching in a country where violent crime is fairly rare.

The boy, who has not been named, allegedly stabbed them repeatedly shortly after classes started at the school in Jerez de la Frontera in the southern Andalusia region, police spokesman Adrian Dominguez told reporters at the scene.

"Police located the suspect on the third floor. He had in his possession the two knives used to attack three teachers and two students," Dominguez said, adding the suspect had been taken to a police station. — AFP

Warehouse blast near Tashkent airport kills one, injures over 160

AN overnight explosion at a warehouse near the airport in Uzbekistan's capital, Tashkent, killed one person and injured more than a hundred, authorities in the Central Asian country said on Thursday.

"A teenager born in 2006 died," the Uzbek health ministry said on Telegram, adding that a further 162 had been injured.

The emergency situations ministry said powerful lightning had caused "an explosion, then a fire, which is still burning" in a warehouse in the airport zone.

Of those hurt in the accident, 138 sustained minor injuries and a further 24 were still in hospital in a more serious condition, the health ministry said.

Videos circulating on social media showed a column of flames and smoke rising into the night sky. — AFP

The emergency situations ministry reported that the explosion was triggered by powerful lightning.



In this photo released by Uzbekistan's Emergency Ministry Press Service on Thursday, 28 September 2023, firefighters work to extinguish a fire at a site of a warehouse in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. **PHOTO: UZBEKISTAN'S EMERGENCY MINISTRY PRESS SERVICE VIA AFP**