

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Tatmadaw demonstrates commitment to internal peace process through patience, tolerance

Representatives of EAOs, Kayin ethnic leaders, RCSS Chairman call on SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing explained the implementation of the internal peace process by the Tatmadaw with patience and tolerance to representatives of ethnic armed organizations who attended the 8th Anniversary of the NCA celebration.

Those representatives called on State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Tatmadaw plans to continue peace talks with those who do not harm Our Three Main National Causes and realization of the multiparty democratic system, said the Senior General.

The Senior General continued to say that the government is striving for peace and stability in the nation and development undertakings in accord with the motto: "Keep Moving Forward To Achieve Our Goal",

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Representatives of ethnic armed organizations pay courtesy calls on State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

India, France propose to buy Myanmar's avocado this year

FRANCE offered to buy eight tonnes of Amara avocado variety while India proposed to purchase 1,000 tonnes of Hass avocado in the upcoming avocado season, said an official of Myanmar Avocado Producers and Exporters Association.

The harvest season for avocados of export quality will commence in early November. The association is endeavouring to meet the demands of those foreign countries.

"We receive purchase orders from global markets. However, we have weak infrastructure in warehouses and logistics for avocados. An avocado processing factory is under construction in Hopong City. We have received a purchase order for eight tonnes of Amara avocado from France and 1,000 tonnes of Hass avocado from India.

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PHOTO: TAMOEOUT FARM

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UEC Chair meets chairpersons, leaders of political parties

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US\$16,551.306 mln earned from foreign trade volume in more than six months period in 2023-24 FY

BUSINESS

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Self-sufficiently produced edible oil sold in Mandalay market

NATIONAL



The conveyance of the PhaungdawU Buddha Images in the Inlay Lake.

PhaungdawU Buddha Images arrive at Helya Ywama Temple

ON the second day of the Inlay PhaungdawU Pagoda Festival, the PhaungdawU Buddha Images arrived at the Helya Ywama Temple on 16 October and will be worshipped for two nights, according to the Board of Trustees.

The Inlay PhaungdawU Buddha Images began their tour around the lake, visiting 21 temples on 15 October after a three-year suspension in Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State (South). The PhaungdawU Buddha

Images commenced their tour from the Yadana Temple to the Shweinntein Village Temple at 7:30 am on 15 October, marking the start of the PhaungdawU Pagoda festival.

The festival was bustling with visitors, including local pilgrims, and featured 20 boats for alms offerings, including barges and decorated boats.

Additionally, the festival includes rowing competitions, such as the men's over-100-rower, 46-rower, and women's

26-rower boat races. There is also an Individual Boat Competition.

After spending one night at Shweinntein Temple, the decorated barge carrying Buddha images arrived at Helya Ywama Temple on 16 October and stayed there for two nights.

The remaining 19 temples will be visited on other days, and the PhaungdawU Buddha Images will return to the original Yadana Temple on 1 November. — TWA/MKKS

Myanmar traditional lacquerware, handmade products on display at ASEAN Family Day event in Australia

MYANMAR Embassy displayed traditional lacquerware and handmade products at the event of ASEAN Family Day held by the Australia-based ASEAN Committee in Canberra (ACC), according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Alternate Chair of ACC, Laos Embassy celebrated the ASEAN Family Day at the Lennox Garden in Canberra on 15 October.

The Myanmar Embassy introduced Myanmar traditional handmade lacquerware products at the event and provided the guests with food.

The event was also attended by Michelle Chan, Deputy Secretary of the



The group documentary photo of the ASEAN Family Day event on 15 October.

South and Southeast Asia Group of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of

Australia and other relevant officials of the department. — ASH/KTZH

Yangon Hexagon Complex to host “Rock in Yangon” concert on 21 Oct

A rock concert called “Rock in Yangon” will be held on 21 October at the Yangon Hexagon Complex in Tamway Township, Yangon Region, according to Shwe Sin Event Creation, which organizes the rock concert.

“The rockers loved by young people will perform at

the “Rock in Yangon” event. A market stall is also planned for this concert. There will be more “Rock in Yangon” events in the future. There are concerts to be held in other cities as well,” said Ko Ee Kyar Kway, an organizer of Shwe Sin Event Creation.

The rock music concert

will include the performances of singers known for rock music such as Nor Naw, G Latt, and Wai La, as well as popular rock bands such as Wanted and Eternal Gosh.

The rock music concert will be held on 21 October from 6pm to 10 pm. — ASH/CT

Myanmar to compete in Mrs Heritage Int’l 2023

MRS Heritage Myanmar 2023 Shan ethnic “Nann” will compete in Mrs Heritage International 2023 to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, according to Supra Myanmar Beauty Pageant organization.

The event will take place in Bangkok from 18 to 27 No-

vember and the beauty queens representing over 30 countries will compete in the contest.

Beauty contestant Nann was sent to Mrs Heritage International 2023 by the Supra Myanmar Beauty Pageant organization. — ASH/KTZH



Shan ethnic Nann, Mrs Heritage Myanmar 2023.

India, France propose to buy Myanmar’s avocado this year

FROM PAGE-1

Nonetheless, the yield rate drops this year due to heavy rain. We might not meet export demand by India,” he elaborated.

Heavy rain in avocado season led to yield loss this year. Additionally, high input costs prompted the growers to foster low-input farming, resulting in

low yield.

It is necessary to negotiate the price upon global market prices. The proposed price is K3.5 million per tonne. The outright purchase of avocado is K5,500 per kilo of Buccaneer Avocado. The retail price is approximately K7,000-8,000 per kilo in Yangon’s retail market. — Maung Aye Chan/EM

NATIONAL

Tatmadaw demonstrates commitment to internal peace process through patience, tolerance

FROM PAGE-1

urging all ethnic armed organizations to be present at the meeting to participate in the process.

Representatives of EAOs discussed that although some organizations issued statements that the NCA has nullified, the NCA does not nullify with firmness and sustainability, and they continue working towards firm realization of the NCA.

The Senior General clarified the needs of all stakeholders to emphasize the development of the nation with the same will and to participate in taking measures of peace and stability for the nation and relevant regions.

Representatives of EAOs submitted their suggestions for proper ways to restore internal peace and organize NCA non-signatories to join the NCA.

The Senior General underscored that the Government and Tatmadaw continue the realization of the NCA process, by signing the NCA and discharging the State responsibilities under the Constitution (2008) due to voting frauds in the 2020 multiparty general elections.

He also explained the implementation of the State Administration Council on two national visions: prosperity of the State and food security as well as two political visions: strengthening the genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system and building the Union based on democratic and federal system.

Those EAO representatives

reported on appropriate situations for ensuring internal peace and regional development in addition to region-wise education promotion.

Also present at the meeting were Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Chairman of KNU/KNLA (PC) Saw Htaw Lay, Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) Chair Saw Mra Raza Lin, Lahu Democratic Union (LDU) Chairman Kyar Solomon, Commander of KKO Saw Ba Nyein, Chairman of Pa-O National Liberation Organization Khun Thurein, Patron of PNLO Khun Okkar, Central Executive Committee member Nai Banyar Lel of New Mon State Party (NMSP) and Vice-Chairman U Myo Win of All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF).

The Senior General also received Kayin ethnic leader Saw Mutu Say Poe and Chairman of Kawkaik District Pado Shwe Maung who attended the 8th Anniversary of the NCA celebration at the same venue yesterday morning.

They cordially discussed the matter of leading Kayin ethnic people wishing to restore peace in Kayin State, the requirement of social, economic, health and regional development for ethnic nationalities in Kayin State, the need for education promotion of ethnic people, and peace and



SAC Chair C-in-C of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Saw Mutu Say Poe, Kayin ethnic leader yesterday.



SAC Chair C-in-C of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives RCSS Chairman General Yawd Serk yesterday.

stability of Kayin State.

The same day, the Senior General frankly held talks with a team led by Chairman of the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) General Yawd

Serk, emphasizing requirements for ensuring peace and stability of the region and the State, firmly walking by the State and Tatmadaw on NCA path, enumeration of a pilot census this year,

preparations to hold an election by collecting the national census in coming year, and needs to continue realization of NCA for peace and stability of the country. — MNA/TTA



Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon-Pyay special trains to run in Thadingyut

THE Myanmar Railways (MR) said they will run Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon-Pyay spe-

The photo shows a Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw special train at the railway station.

cial trains for the convenience of passengers starting on 27 October during the Thadingyut holidays.

The train services of Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon Down Express Train and Yangon-Pyay Up Express Train will operate on 27 October and the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Up Express Train and

Pyay-Yangon Down Express Train will run on 30 October.

Moreover, plans are underway to prepare special trains for other routes if necessary. The passengers can make enquiries for train schedules and tickets at the respective railway stations, the MR said. — TWA/KTZH

NATIONAL

SAC Member DPM MoTC UM leaves for 3rd BRI Forum in China

AT the invitation of the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China, a delegation led by State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo departed from Yangon yesterday

morning to attend the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation to be held in Beijing on 17 and 18 October.

General Mya Tun Oo was accompanied by Union Minister at the Union Government Office 2 U Ko Ko Hlaing, Deputy Minister for Industry U Yin

Maung Nyunt, high-ranking officials from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, the Ministry of Industry and the Ministry of Transport and Communications, who are to participate in the discussions of the relevant topics of the forum. — MNA/TS



SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister MoTC Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo is seen off before leaving for China yesterday.

Certificate course in Basic Diplomatic Skills 44/2023 launched, Meeting with MISIS members

THE inauguration ceremonies of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills 44/2023 conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, were held in parallel at the Lawkanat Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw and at the Winzinminyarzar Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Yangon yesterday morning, with the opening remark being delivered by U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs in Yangon.

The 12-week part-time certificate course covers diplomacy, international relations, international law, economics, international affairs, negotiation skills and international conferencing.

Present on the occasion were deputy ministers for Foreign Affairs, the permanent secretary, retired Myanmar ambassadors and senior diplomats, directors-general from the departments under the ministry, professors and instructors from respective universities and about 100 trainees from Nay Pyi Taw



Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe presides over the meeting with members of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies yesterday in Yangon.

and Yangon.

The certificate courses in basic diplomatic skills have been reportedly conducted since the year 2000, not only for government staff but also for those from private and public sectors who are passionate about diplomacy

and international relations.

Furthermore, U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs met members of the Advisory Group of Myanmar Diplomatic Academy for the establishment of the Myanmar Diplomatic Academy

at the Satuyingabala Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 11:30 am in Yangon.

Moreover, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe delivered the remarks at the meeting with the members of

the Senior Advisory Board and the Executive Board of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, which was held at the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies meeting room in Yangon at 2 pm yesterday.

At the meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister explained the cooperation in regional and international relations. In addition, he encouraged the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies to contribute their advice and recommendations from the academic point of view in the various sectors for the national interests.

The Chairman of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, the members of the Senior Advisory Board and the Executive Board of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies reported to the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister on the current activities undertaken by the Institute. — MNA

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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

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

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gnlmnews@gmail.com
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

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NATIONAL

UEC Chair meets chairpersons, leaders of political parties

CHAIRMAN of Union Election Commission U Soe Thein met with the chairpersons and leaders of 37 political parties that were already allowed to register, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, the UEC Chairman said the commission had met with the officials of 36 parties in Yangon on 5 September 2023 and explained the Myanmar electronic voting machine including the demonstration of casting votes.

He also said the political parties that received the permission to register were instructed to prepare to conduct the campaign and for inspection as per the Political Parties Registration Laws and Rules.

The commission, relevant ministries and departments inspected lists of party members



The meeting between UEC Chair U Soe Thein and leaders of political parties underway yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

and it was found out that certain party members were not in conformity with the requirements and were informed to review the party member lists.

Therefore, the in-charge personnel of parties should focus on the systematic inspection and submit the further party member lists to the com-

mission and relevant township subcommissions.

He then said the party offices must be opened within 180 days, and the party office open-

ing and the signboards should be properly implemented following the instructions.

He added that the political parties should make preparations to compete and win in the coming election. In doing so, they must abide by the existing laws, bylaws, orders and instructions.

He then highlighted the efforts of the commission for educational campaigns and demonstration of Myanmar electronic voting machines at the governmental organizations, ministries and universities including the Yangon Region government.

He concluded the meeting after underscoring the duties of political parties and hearing the presentations of relevant officials. — MNA/KTZH

Nepali, Sri Lankan ambassadors call on MoRAC, MoHT Union Ministers

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin received Nepali Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Harishchandra Ghimire, and Sri Lankan Ambassador to Myanmar Mr JMJP Bandara in Nay Pyi Taw at 12 pm and 2 pm respectively yesterday.

During the meeting with the Nepali ambassador, they discussed the establishment of direct flights between Yangon-Kathmandu, Yangon-Lumbini, and Mandalay-Lumbini, the export of seafood products from Myanmar to Nepal, enabling tourists to visit famous pagodas in Myanmar and prominent places in the far north of the country, lowering the land rent for the Myanmar Golden Temple and the Lawkamanisula Pagoda in Lumbini Park.

During the meeting with the ambassador of Sri Lanka to Myanmar, they discussed the matter of foreigners stud-



The Nepali ambassador calls on Union Minister U Tin Oo Lwin yesterday.

ying at the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University in Yangon, Myanmar, without the burden of covering their food and living expenses and the lowering of expenses for Myanmar monks pursuing their studies at Buddhist universities in Colombo

and Kandy, Sri Lanka.

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Thet Thet Khine also received Nepali Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Harishchandra Ghimire in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The Nepali ambassador

to Myanmar stated that the Lumbini region in Nepal is the ideal destination for pilgrims. He held meetings and discussions with Myanmar National Airlines and Myanma Airways International regarding airline operations. Furthermore, he elaborated on the implementation of the e-visa system in Nepal and emphasized the need for enhanced cooperation in the development of tourism between the two countries.

The Union minister discussed the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on tourism cooperation signed between the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation of Nepal, as well as the resumption of charter flights for pilgrims travelling to Bodh Gaya and Lumbini. Airlines and private organizations are encouraged to plan and operate pilgrimage trips. — MNA/KZW

MoNREC UM receives Thai ambassador to Myanmar

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi received Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Mongkol Visitstump at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They discussed matters related to the control of illegal border trading, cooperation in the mining sector, control of transboundary smog pollution, and environmental conservation. — MNA/KZW

COVID-19 report,
16 October 2023

NEW TESTS 2,954

NEW CASE 1

CASUALTIES 0

NATIONAL

Incidence of childhood diabetes reach nearly 400 within nine years

CURRENTLY, about 200 children are receiving medical treatment for diabetes.

According to Yangon Children's Hospital, there are nearly 400 children with diabetes in Yangon Region over the past nine years, and 200 children are currently receiving medical treatment.

Yangon Children's Hospital opens an outpatient department and is treating type-1 diabetes and type-2 diabetes. All types of diabetes are caused by high blood sugar and is a chronic disease.

Type 1 diabetes is a condition in which the pancreas can no longer produce insulin, and if blood sugar cannot be controlled with medication, insulin injections are required.

According to the statistics,



A doctor takes a blood test to see if the child has diabetes.

the patient must receive treatment for diabetes throughout

his life. There is no cure for type 1 diabetes, so prevention

is the only way to respond the disease. Type 2 diabetes can be

reduced by making changes to the child's life style and changing diet and behavior.

People with a family history of diabetes, sedentary people, and those who eat sugary foods are more likely to develop type 2 diabetes.

According to the Ministry of Health, if children have symptoms of type 2 diabetes, such as excessive urination and frequent thirst, as well as gradual weight loss and weight gain, they should see nearest pediatrician.

Childhood hormone-related diabetes is a lesser-known condition. Since January 2014, Yangon Children's Hospital has opened an outpatient department for patients with this disease and is treating them every Tuesday. — TWA/KZL

US\$16,551.306 mln earned from foreign trade volume in more than six months period in 2023-24 FY

THE trade volume reached US\$16,551.306 million in the first six months of the 2023-2024 financial year. From 1 April to 6 October, Myanmar exported \$8,712.336 million and imported \$7,838.97 million. Imports exceeded exports by over \$870 million, resulting in a trade deficit of \$873.366 million.

Myanmar exports agricultural produce, livestock prod-

ucts, fishery products, minerals products, forest products, finished industrial products, and other items to foreign countries. Investment goods, commercial raw materials, consumer goods, CMP raw materials, etc. are primarily imported from foreign countries.

To boost Myanmar's exports, the National Export Strategy (NES) 2020-2025 is

currently in effect. The key priority sectors of the NES 2020-2025 include agriculture-based food production, textile and clothing, industrial and electrical, fisheries, forest products, digital products and services, logistics services, quality management, trade information services, innovation and entrepreneurship, among others. — TWA/CT



Containers to be exported are seen at the port.

150 labour disputes resolved in Yangon Region's 44 townships in nine months

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein said during a seminar on labour dispute settlement held on 14 October at the UMFCCI that 150 labour disputes have been resolved in 44 townships, Yangon Region, and compensations of K148.3 million and US\$48,000 have been issued to 363 workers within nine months.

Most cases of disputes between employer and employee arise from dismissals, disruption of working relationship between management and workers, request of allowance for monthly regular attendance, factory closure and layoffs.

"The best way for the employer and employee is to negotiate and reach a settlement in the workplace. A good working relation between employer and employee can bring mutual benefits. If no settlement is reached, they can file a complaint with the

arbitration teams in the relevant townships. If disputes arise, they need to be resolved in accordance with the law," U Myint Naung, Union Minister for Labour has once said.

The township level arbitration teams are supposed to solve the disputes of interests while disputes relating to rights are to be solved by relevant departments. The Arbitration Council is to investigate and decide the cases that do not reach agreements at township level arbitration process and the council is the last resort to settle disputes. If a party involved in a dispute is not satisfied with the council's decision, he or she still have the right to submit the case to the Supreme Court of the Union to reach fair settlements.

There are 7,268 factories and workshops in various states and regions, with nearly 700,000 workers. — TWA/TH

Watermelon exporters fail to profit from current price

WATERMELON exporters are making a loss with the current price of approximately 1,500 Yuan per tonne, said Sai Khin Maung from the Khwanyo Fruit Trading Depot.

Quality of watermelons deteriorates as they are produced in monsoon season and half of them are ruined, he continued.

“If the offering price is 1,500 Yuan. It cannot cover the freight rate and general cost. Another problem is that half of them do not meet quality. The market will recover when quality watermelon season commences,” he elaborated.

Myanmar’s watermelon is primarily exported to China. Myanmar’s fruit traders are facing a series of challenges with the changes in China’s Customs clearance system.

In early February, tight inspections of Chinese Customs hindered truck transport. That being so, only 20-30 trucks were able to pass the checkpoint despite high demand. Consequently, watermelon was sold out at the depots on the China side, and more than 500 trucks queued in line on the Myanmar side.

In 2021, the COVID-19 restrictions hindered Myanmar’s watermelon and muskmelon exports to China. Chinese Customs Regulation increased delay. Long delays of trucks caused harm to watermelon quality and only one in five trucks heading to China remained undamaged with quality watermelons.



Myanmar’s watermelon is primarily exported to China. Myanmar’s fruit traders are facing a series of challenges with the changes in China’s Customs clearance system. The photo shows a glimpse of Myanmar’s watermelons.

The traders are observing delivery time, price and profitability as they are perishable fruit, while they are trying to explore new markets besides China.

On 1 April, Nantaw and Sinphyu border were suspended in the wake of COVID-19 impacts. China has closed down the major border crossing of Man Wein from 30 March 2021 following the COVID-19 cases in Myanmar.

On 8 July 2021, the two remaining cross-border points Kyinsankyawt and Pansang were suspended. As a result of this, the border trade between Myanmar and China was completely halted.

Among the Sino-Myanmar border points, the Kyinsankyawt border resumed operations on 26 November 2021.

Trade activity at the Muse-Mang Wein crossing point, which performed the majority of trade between Myanmar and China, resumed on 14 January 2023. Additionally, other goods except agricultural products (watermelon, muskmelon), minerals and fisheries products are allowed to be sent to China through that border point.

Additionally, Nantaw and Sinphyu border points, which is the major border crossing, were reopened on 25 January 2023. At present, Myanmar daily delivers rice, broken rice, rubber, various beans and pulses, fishery products, chilli pepper and other food commodities to China through the Kyinsankyawt border. — NN/EM



A seller is seen showing the quality of black gram.

Myanmar exports about 400,000 tonnes of black gram worth US\$352 mln

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Commerce, approximately 400,000 tonnes of black gram, valued at US\$352 million, were exported abroad.

Furthermore, between 1 April and 6 October, goods worth \$734 million, including various beans and pulses weighing 884,627 tonnes, were shipped abroad. Among these exports, black gram led the way with 396,841 tonnes, valued at US\$352 million. Mung beans and pigeon peas were also exported, amounting to \$163 million and \$95 million, respectively.

The price of black gram RC reached its highest point on 11 October 2023, at K2,650,000 per tonne, remaining at K2,649,000 on 14 October. During the second week of October, when the price increased, 95 containers of black gram RC weighing 2,280 tonnes were reportedly traded.

Reportedly, the price for a tonne of exported FOB black gram FAQ ranges from \$990 to \$1,010, while SQ is priced between \$1,095 and \$1,115, and pigeon peas range from \$1,350 to \$1,370.

Despite fluctuations in the price of black gram, the price of pigeon peas remained constant for two weeks, from 29 September to 14 October, at K4,075,000 per tonne.

There are approximately 150,000 tonnes of black gram remaining in the country. While India, a significant consumer of black gram, has introduced a new black gram variety, its quality is not favorable.

In Myanmar, early in 2024, new multi-cropped black grams are expected to become available, particularly from the delta regions. — TWA/CT

Self-sufficiently produced edible oil sold in Mandalay market

U Soe Win Myint, an owner of the Soe Win Myint commodity depot, said that domestically produced edible oil is being produced and sold in the Mandalay market at low rates for consumers.

At present, in order to meet the peo-

ple’s need for edible oil, locally produced crops are milled into oil and sold in the market. In so doing, a viss of peanut oil is being sold at K15,000, sesame oil at K14,000, sunflower oil at K14,000, mustard oil at K10,000, niger oil at K14,000,

and soybean oil at K7,000.

“These days, all the oil mills in and around Mandalay operate, mill the produce into oil, and sell it in the market. Monsoon peanuts are in season too, and sesame produced in the central region is harvested and sold in the market. In addition to peanut and sesame, soybean, niger, sunflower, and mustard are being milled at the same time to produce oil,” he continued. Locally produced crops such as peanuts, sesame, sunflower, soybean, niger, and mustard are milled into oil and sold in the market to meet the needs of consumers. Domestically produced oil can be easily purchased anywhere in Myanmar, due to the good weather and great yield of oil crops this year. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/CT



Workers are working on the cooking oil production at the mill.

OPINION

Preserve coastal areas to combat plastic pollution

THE world is witnessing a growing population and an increasing number of travellers, both domestically and internationally. Unfortunately, this has led to a surge in pollution along the coastlines of oceans and seas, which make up over 70 per cent of the Earth's surface. Iconic beaches worldwide are now bearing the brunt of various forms of pollution. Therefore, it is imperative for all countries to prioritize the conservation of their coastal and marine ecosystems.

Coastal resources encompass natural infrastructures such as mangrove forests, coastal woodlands, and coral reefs. These ecosystems play a crucial role in sequestering carbon dioxide, a major driver of climate change. The depletion of coastal resources could exacerbate climate change, causing harm to vital features like mangrove forests, coral reefs, seagrass beds, archipelagos, deltaic regions, and fisheries. Myanmar, situated in Southeast Asia, boasts

a rich array of ecosystems, including mangrove forests, coral reefs, and seagrass beds, all of which contribute significantly to the nation's economy and well-being.

Regrettably, Myanmar's mangrove forests along the coastal areas are rapidly deteriorating for several reasons. Among them, communities living along riverbanks dispose of hundreds of tonnes of waste into the water each year. Moreover, a large number of beachgoers leave plastic waste behind without any regard for the environment.

Plastic products, while inexpensive, take hundreds of years to decompose. Consequently, plastic waste can be found in natural water bodies such as rivers, creeks, lakes, oceans, and seas. Shockingly, surveys reveal that between 75 million and 199 million tonnes of plastic waste currently contaminate oceans and seas.

If global consumption, production, and disposal of plastic products continue unabated, the amount of plastic waste entering aquatic ecosystems could skyrocket to an alarming 19 million to 23 million tonnes annually. According to the United Nations Environment Programme, this volume could triple by 2040. Since plastic waste persists in the environment for extended periods, microplastic particles can gradually find their way into the food chain through aquatic organisms.

In light of these concerning trends, the people worldwide, including the citizens of Myanmar, need to take action to conserve oceans and coastal areas promptly. This is not only crucial for safeguarding food production but also for mitigating the impact of natural disasters. By recognizing the importance of these coastal ecosystems and adopting sustainable practices, everybody can hope to reverse the tide of plastic pollution that threatens precious oceans and seas. It's time for a united global effort to protect our coastlines and preserve the health of the planet.

In light of these concerning trends, the people worldwide, including the citizens of Myanmar, need to take action to conserve oceans and coastal areas promptly. This is not only crucial for safeguarding food production but also for mitigating the impact of natural disasters. By recognizing the importance of these coastal ecosystems and adopting sustainable practices, everybody can hope to reverse the tide of plastic pollution that threatens precious oceans and seas. It's time for a united global effort to protect our coastlines and preserve the health of the planet.

Selling Rice as a Means of Aiding

It was a day in early May 2004 when the Managing Director (MD), U Min Hla Aung, gave me an instruction to accompany him to the Minister's office for a crucial matter. I was working as a Deputy General Manager at the Export Department under Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading.

Upon reaching the ministerial office, the Managing Director quickly went inside to inform the Minister, Brigadier-General Pyae Sone of his presence. In the meantime, I waited patiently outside the minister's office. After a short wait, the Managing Director came out, and we headed back to our office together. On our way back, the MD asked if I was familiar with a country called Gambia. In fact, I was not aware of it yet, answering that I assumed it to be a country in Africa.

After hearing my response, the Managing Director instructed me, "A VIP from the Gambia (Official name is the Republic of the Gambia) is currently in our country. Having engaged with the high dignitaries, he has sought assistance due to a prevailing food shortage in his nation, necessitating the sale of rice. It is imperative that you collaborate with the General Manager and other pertinent executives to expedite the shipment process. Given the country's difficulties, plan to sell the rice at the lowest possible price." Upon returning to the office, the Managing Director called the General Managers to discuss the specific details of exporting rice to Gambia.

I distinctly remembered the directive from the Managing Director, stressing, "There is a food crisis in Gambia, and we must offer our assistance to the best of our ability." The directive specified the necessity of reducing prices in comparison to other export markets, prioritizing the selection of good-quality long-grain white rice Emata (25 per cent broken). Additionally, it emphasized the importance of approaching this task with a sense of sympathy and a humane perspective. At that point, my knowledge of Gambia was limited, prompting me to gather information from various accessible sources to

UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF COMMERCE MYANMA AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE TRADING	
Contract No. R-001/2004-2005	Dated 6.5.2004
This contract is made between Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading No.302/304 Pansodan Street, Yangon, Myanmar (hereinafter referred to as the SELLERS) who have agreed to sell and The Government of Gambia C/O Department of State for Trade Industry & Employment Independence Drive Banjul, The Gambia (hereinafter referred to as the BUYERS) who have agreed to buy the following goods on the terms and conditions set out hereunder:-	
1. Commodity	Myanmar White Rice
2. Quality	Emata Myanmar 25% Broken (2003 Crop) FAQ of the season which shall conform to the specification laid down in the schedule attached hereto as Annexure.
3. Quantity	30000 MT (Thirty Thousand Metric Tons only) 5% more or less at Sellers' option.
4. Price	Euro Eur 161.67 (Euro Eur One Hundred Sixty One Point Six Seven only) PMT, FOB, Yangon.
5. Packing	Goods to be packed in new single P.P woven bags each weighing about 50 kgs nett and tare weight of about 120 (+/-) 2 grams.
6. Duties	All Export duties and taxes in respect of cargo to be loaded in the Union of Myanmar shall be for the SELLERS' account. Any taxes, dues/charges on freight/vessel shall be for BUYERS' account.
7. Port of Loading	Yangon, Myanmar (Government owned wharves).
8. Destination	BANJUL (GAMBIA)
9. Fumigation	The Rice delivered by the SELLERS shall be fumigated either prior to loading or on board the carrying vessel after completion of loading at the BUYERS' option and at SELLERS' expense and shall be free from five insects' injurious to rice at the time of shipment. However, if fumigation is to be carried out on board the vessel after completion of loading, any incidental expenses in temporary evacuation of the crew ashore including hotel and other expenses shall be borne by the BUYERS. The time taken for fumigation on board the vessel shall not be counted as laytime.
10. Security Deposit	(a) The BUYERS shall remit Five percent of the Contract value (i.e. Euro Eur 242505) by telegraphic transfer through Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank, Yangon as security deposit in advance latest by 10 days after signing of the contract. (b) The BUYERS shall have the right to utilize the amount of security deposit which shall be paid in advance to the SELLERS under above clause (a) in settlement of the payment for the final consignment. (c) Should the BUYERS fail to fulfill any of the terms of this contract, the SELLERS shall have the right to forfeit the Security Deposit, cancel the contract and claim from the BUYERS the losses, if any, sustained by the SELLERS on account of any unshipped balance.

For and on behalf of the BUYERS
The Government of Gambia

(Mr. Tamsir M. Manga)
Permanent Secretary
Department of State for Trade, Industry & Employment Independence Drive,
Banjul, The Gambia

Mr. Momodou Lamin Kujabi (1)

Mr. Yusupha Jawara (2)

For and on behalf of the SELLERS
for Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading

(Min Hla Aung)
Managing Director

(Tin Shwe)
General Manager

(Kyaw Zaw Maung)
Deputy General Manager

Witness by

The Generous Country

By Aung Naing Oo (Mandalay)

enhance my understanding of the country.

The Gambia in 2004

The Gambia, situated on the west coast of Africa, was primarily an agricultural country, with an estimated 70% of the population depending on the sector for its food and cash income. The agricultural sector accounted for 30 per cent of GDP and 90 per cent of its export earnings. In 2003, The Gambia's population stood at 1.4 million. Over two-thirds of the population resides in rural areas and is primarily engaged in agriculture and/or agriculture-related activities. Remarkably, the country had a population density of 128 people per square kilometre, positioning

it as one of the highest nations in Africa.

The Gambia River is an important source of water for the country's agricultural sector, but salinity intrusion from the sea has made coastal areas unsuitable for crop cultivation. The production of the country's agricultural sector has also been fluctuating over the years and because of this, The Gambia is classified as the least developed, low-income and food-deficit country. The country's food production only caters to 50 per cent of its consumption requirement, primarily rice, requiring an annual expenditure of approximately 40 million US dollars for imports. This circumstance was adversely impacting the nation's foreign reserves. The primary source of

food for The Gambia was local production, supplemented by imports and international aid. With 47 per cent of the population living in poverty and 30 per cent in extreme poverty, food insecurity remained a significant challenge for the country.

Signing of Rice Sales Contract with the Gambia

According to the "New Rice Policy" introduced in 2003, Myanmar's Agricultural Produce Trading (MAPT) shifted away from purchasing, milling, and storing rice. Consequently, the rice remaining at MAPT had aged, with a majority containing between seven per cent and 20 per cent yellow grains. Adhering to Myanmar's standard specification, the tolerance of yellow grain is only two per

cent in Emata white rice (25 per cent). This strict criterion made it the MAPT difficult to export good-quality rice to the Gambia. However, under the coordination of the then general managers — U Tin Shwe, U Maung Maung Kyi, and U Myo Oo — the entire staff of MAPT diligently worked to meet Gambia's request for the purchase of thirty thousand tons of rice. Furthermore, following the guidance of the Managing Director, it was decided to sell the rice at a rate of 161.67 Euros per ton. During that period, the price of Emata White Rice (25 per cent) stood at approximately 180 Euros per ton to regular markets. Selling prices in US dollars faced

challenges due to the sanctions imposed by the United States. Following negotiations with representatives from the Gambia, it was agreed to export 30,000 metric tons of rice via two shipments and the Gambia sought prompt shipment. To facilitate this, plans were made to swiftly prepare the rice to be cargo-ready. The contracted value of the rice amounted to 4.85 million euros (4,850,100).

Regarding payment, at that time, MAPT's remaining rice was efficiently managed for quick export and only a telegraphic transfer (TT) system (Advance Payment) was preferable. However, to ensure a smooth transaction and allevi-

ate any difficulties for the Gambia in purchasing rice from Myanmar, it was decided to adopt a letter of credit (LC) system, wherein payment is allowed to be made after the product is shipped.

Following successful negotiations with the Gambian delegation, the rice sales contract was formally signed on 6 May 2004, by Mr Tamsir M Manga, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Trade Industry and Employment of the Government of The Gambia, and U Min Hla Aung, the Managing Director of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading. Mr Momodou Lamin Kujabi and Mr Yusupha Jawara from the Gambian side, and U Tin Shwe, General Manager, and U Kyaw Zaw Maung, Deputy General Manager, also signed as witnesses in the sales contract. Subsequent to the signing of the sales contract, MAPT diligently prepared for the export of rice to Gambia.

Exporting Rice to the Gambia

After the contract was signed, a vessel from Gambia berthed at Yangon port a few days later and loaded 15,000 metric tons of rice. Unfortunately, Gambia was unable to ship the remaining 15,000 tons due to other difficulties, leading to the cancellation of the contract. Despite this setback, the MAPT continued their processes to assess the possibility of Gambia resuming shipments, showing empathy for the Gambian citizens.

Sympathy for the Gambia

Upon entering a contract to supply rice to Gambia, guided by our national leaders, the MAPT facilitated several supportive relief measures with a compassionate and humane approach to assist Gambia, a nation facing an acute food crisis. The measures encompassed the careful selection and collection of good quality rice from various regions of the country and the mobilization of a total of 30,000 metric tons of standardized long-grain Emata 25 per cent rice. The collected rice underwent re-milling to enhance its quality, and it was subsequently sold at a more favourable price compared to rates exported to other coun-

tries. These practical measures showcased Myanmar's sympathy, empathy, and generosity toward the Gambia.

In adherence to the contractual terms, the designated shipment period was scheduled from May to July 2004. Myanmar, in the contract, also granted The Gambia a one-month extension, allowing flexibility in case the shipment couldn't be dispatched within the initial timeframe. Moreover, within the sales contract, aligning with the policies at that time, a provision stipulated that "if the buyer cannot ship the contracted quantity within the agreed shipment period, inventory carrying charges at the rate of 2 US\$ per tonne per week or part of thereof for the unshipped balance shall be paid to the seller". It's noteworthy; however, that the MAPT, by the guidance of a higher level, exempted the Gambia from paying such charges for the 15,000 metric tons that they were unable to ship.

The Generous Country

As a state-owned enterprise, the MAPT typically conducts the export of rice to foreign countries through commercial means, employing various market strategies to optimize crop prices. However, in the case of exporting rice to the Gambia, Myanmar adopted a stance driven by humanitarian considerations, prioritizing sympathy, a spirit of friendship, and adherence to the willingness of our leaders of the State to assist the small economy which suffered a food crisis. Under the guidance of the government, the Ministry of Commerce and Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading strived diligently to accomplish the mission. Despite Myanmar grappling with developmental hurdles and challenges for some reasons, the country did not hesitate to extend support to those in need and the export of rice to the Gambia reflects our nation's generosity. Myanmar actually is a generous country.

Reference
FAO.2004b. Gambia: TCP/ GAM/2906 NEPAD-CAADP National Medium-Term Investment Programme.

NATIONAL



The documentary group photo of World Food Day 2023 event held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Myanmar marks World Food Day 2023

WORLD Food Day 2023 was held at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung, Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi, deputy ministers, the permanent secretaries, directors-general, rectors and departmental officials attended the event.

Speaking at the event, the MoALI Union minister highlighted the theme of World Food Day—Water is life, water is food. Leave no one behind, saying wa-

ter is essential to life on Earth.

According to the UN, globally, nearly 2.4 billion people live in countries where the supply of water is limited. Only 2.5 per cent of water is freshwater.

Moreover, 74 per cent of natural disasters that occurred in two decades were due to floods and that caused losses worth US\$700 billion.

He then added that the country has an adequate supply of agricultural and livestock products with 154.33 per cent of rice security, 126.2 per cent of cooking oil security and 512 per cent of pulses and beans security so it represents 28.8 per cent of total exports of the country.

He then talked about the

need to consider and prepare for the distribution of irrigation water to summer paddy plantations and supply of drinking water to regions as the country might face the possible consequences of El Nino.

Additionally, he pledged to make effective plans for the impacts of El Nino that are likely to occur until mid-2024 through negotiation with the relevant departments, the public, farmers and entrepreneurs.

Then, the video message of the FAO Secretary-General for World Food Day and a video clip featuring activities of the government for World Food Day were played. — MNA/KTZH

Cash contributions, donations provided to elderly film artistes

SINCE 16 October, the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization (MMPO) has been giving out cash contributions and donations to the elderly artistes who are unable to attend the 46th Respect Paying Ceremony to Aged Film Artistes, according to MMPO Vice-President U Aye Kyu Lay.

Only 30 senior film artistes could attend the 103rd Myanmar Motion Picture Day and 46th Respect Paying Ceremony to Aged Film Artistes held on 13 October, due to space constraints and health conditions, while no more than 100 senior film artistes were able to attend.

“Due to space constraints and the fact that there are some elderly parents who cannot sit for a long time and have to come

in wheelchairs, we paid respect to only 30 people on the day of the ceremony. That’s why we are handing out cash contributions and donations to the remaining 100 senior artistes today. Plans are being made to visit the homes of elderly artistes who are bedridden and unable to come to the ceremony due to ill health. As of this morning, nearly 50 elderly artistes absent in ceremony have come,” U Aye Kyu Lay continued.

There are more than 140 elderly artists who are eligible for the ceremony this year, and the MMPO is contributing K400,000 in cash and about 70 medical supplies to each of the elderly artistes who are unable to attend the ceremony. — ASH/CT



Cash assistance and donations being presented to one elderly film artiste.

Confiscation of illegal items: Foodstuffs, consumer goods, industrial materials and vehicles

THE combined team captured seven kinds of goods worth K105,733,091 including 20,400 litres of UHT full cream milk and 216 litres of pure full cream milk that were submitted to be abandoned by the company at the dry port (Ywathagyi) container checkpoint on 11 October. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The combined on-duty teams made inspections on 14 October and confiscated a Toyota HiAce (approximately K20 million), headed to Hpa-an from



Confiscated illegal goods.

Myawady, carrying 720 bottles of Goat Milk shampoo without official documents at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint and two kinds of goods worth K5 million including 20 sets of Su-Yoso wireless karaoke speaker without official documents from a vehicle travelling from Tachilek to Taunggyi at the Maeyan combined checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures. On 14 and 15 October, the combined teams impounded two Yutong buses (estimated value of K60 million), which were seized

by police officers from Waw Township Police Station, carrying three kinds of goods worth K12.61 million including 7,500 bottles of M-150 energy drink without official documents and DJI drone worth K1 million from luggage at the Mandalay International Airport (Import Desk). The action was taken under Customs procedures. A total of 10 arrests were made on 11, 14 and 15 October, with an estimated value of K208,483,091, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Amusement park stages experiment to find horror 'sweet spot'

"THIS was the scariest thing I have ever been through," said Vicki Baath after being hooded and made to feel "like a hostage".

"I didn't know where to go and where they would lead me," said the 45-year-old teacher who was also walked into a dark wood, tied up on a bed and surrounded by creepy voices and forms.

She had just completed a horror-themed experiment that sought to establish the perfect balance between fear and excitement.

In an observation room, researchers and the production team followed the spectacle on a monitor.

The "Peak Fear" experiment is a collaboration between the Liseberg theme park and



The "Peak Fear" experiment is a collaboration between the Liseberg theme park and the Recreational Fear Lab at Aarhus University which seeks to "explore the limits of fear, and to find the sweet spot between fun and the unpleasant". **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ UNSPLASH**

the Recreational Fear Lab at Aarhus University which seeks

to "explore the limits of fear, and to find the sweet spot be-

tween fun and the unpleasant". Karl Svedung, head of mar-

keting for Liseberg, said the experiment would allow them to expand their "horror experiences".

"We want to develop all the time... and that requires new insights," Svedung said.

Clowns and blood

The experience is divided into five stages focusing on different types of fear.

The participants navigate flashing lights, confined and dark spaces as well as blood splattered walls. Actors play scary monsters while in some cases other victims try to push them to their breaking point.

After completing it, Baath said she was "really proud".

Only two participants out of 1,600 applicants were selected to take part in the tailor-made horror experience. — AFP

The red and the white: Bosnian wine shines on the global stage

AMID the karst soil and harsh sun in southern Bosnia, two grape varieties are making waves outside the mountainous Balkan country rarely associated with world-class wine.

The tough Zilavka and temperamental Blatina wines have even managed to net international prizes thanks to their embrace of tradition along with new techniques.

Wine has deep roots in Bosnia, with historians saying the mountainous country has been producing vino since the days of

the Roman Empire. Its southern valleys provide a range of micro climates to grow an array of grapes.

At the age of 77, Grgo Vasilj watches as heaps of dark blue Blatina grapes are crushed, after being picked from one of his vineyards on the outskirts of Medjugorje — a small village famous for its Catholic shrine.

Here, his family has been tending vineyards covering 22 hectares (54 acres) for generations. — AFP



Wine has deep roots in Bosnia, with historians saying the mountainous country has been producing vino since the days of the Roman Empire. **PHOTO: ELVIS BARUKCIC/AFP**

Where am I? Gaming whizzes put geography on the map

THE world's best gamers who can identify a location anywhere in the world after seeing an image in less than a second face off Saturday in a world championship in Stockholm.

A picture of a sunny paved road appears on a computer screen, bordered by trees and bushes. A red dirt road crosses the paved road, in what appears to be a tropical landscape.

"We're going to be in Indonesia because of the sticker on this pole," Trevor Rainbolt of the United States tells AFP.

He clicks on the map and selects what appears to be a random location in Indonesia.



Spectators are pictured during the Geoguessr World Cup at the Space Arena on 14 October 2023 in Stockholm. **PHOTO: AFP**

Bingo — he's just 88 kilometres (55 miles) from the actual spot. Rainbolt, a fast-talking computer geek, is one of the biggest stars in the Geoguessr

game community for his uncanny ability to determine the location of a Google Maps picture in a tenth of a second — less than the blink of an eye. — AFP

Designer Avido puts Kenyan slum on the fashion map

HIS creations are made in Kibera, the largest urban slum in Kenya, but have attracted the attention of global stars such as Beyonce and Bruno Mars and featured in Vogue magazine.

For Avido, his designs have a dual purpose: both to show

to the world what can come from the impoverished Nairobi neighbourhood where he was born and raised, and to make it a better place.

Last year, the 27-year-old designer launched Kibera Fashion Week and the second

edition was staged on Saturday in the heart of the sprawling slum. Avido, whose real name is David Ochieng, drew inspiration from his journey to create one of his mottos: "Great things can come from places least expected." — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

AI, VR take centre stage at Japan's annual electronics show

ARTIFICIAL intelligence and virtual reality took centre stage as Japan's major annual electronics show opened to the media on Monday, with NEC Corp, Sony Group Corp and other major tech companies demonstrating their latest technologies.

A total of 684 companies and organizations, up from 562 last year, are participating in this year's Combined Exhibition of Advanced Technologies, scheduled to open to the public from Tuesday through Friday in the Makuhari Messe convention centre in Chiba, near Tokyo.

It is the first CEATEC to be held after coronavirus restrictions were fully removed. The event was held partly or fully online for the past three years.

Overseas participants have increased to 195 from 146 last year, with a pavilion to showcase Ukrainian companies set up for the first time.

NEC Corp is displaying generative AI software, which it says has a high ability to cope with the Japanese language and is more suited for businesses that deal with confidential information compared with its rival services overseas.

"Our product is easy to install on customers' servers directly, unlike other services that rely on cloud computing," said Kazuya Ishikawa, evangelist at NEC Generative AI Hub, adding, "That makes it easy for our customers to handle sensitive information



Japan's major electronics show CEATEC opens to the press for a preview at the Makuhari Messe convention centre in Chiba on 16 October 2023, a day before it opens to the public. **PHOTO: KYODO**

on our AI."

Sony Group Corp is exhibiting a series of products that are designed to be easily handled by people with or without disabilities through virtual reality technologies. One of the exhibits is a game utilizing cross-reality, or XR, technology that allows visually impaired people to play virtual catch with smartphones that emit the sound of an imaginary flying ball.

Players throw and catch the virtual ball, taking their cue from the sound of the ball that changes its tone depend-

ing on the imagined distance from the players, Sony said.

"This can be also played between people who are physically apart utilizing the combination of real and virtual technologies. It is very popular at nursing homes," a Sony official said.

The maker of PlayStation 5 also unveiled a new controller of the console specifically designed for disabled people while also showcasing a smart monacle for people with impaired hearing that displays what other people have said in letters in real time. — Kyodo

Iraq signs deals with UAE firm to develop three oil, gas fields

IRAQ signed three contracts on Sunday with the United Arab Emirates' Crescent Petroleum to develop three oil and gas fields in the eastern and southern regions of the country, the Iraqi Oil Ministry said.

The ministry said in a statement that the deals would help Iraq produce 400 million standard cubic feet of natural gas per day within 18 months in the blocks of Kilabat-Gumar and Khashim al-Hmer-Injana in the eastern province of Diyala province and Khudhr al-Maa in the southern province of Basra.

Iraqi Oil Minister Hayan Abdul Ghani said the government was keen to increase gas investment projects to reduce gas flaring, which refers to the burning of the natural gas associated with oil extraction, and use the gas for power generation.

Iraq, a member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), has more than 145 billion barrels of proven oil reserves and 132 trillion cubic feet of proven natural gas reserves. But it still flares much of its gas wealth and relies on Iranian gas imports to feed its power plants. — Xinhua

Indonesia's trade balance surplus rises slightly in September

INDONESIA posted a trade balance surplus of 3.42 billion US dollars in September, rising slightly compared to the previous month of 3.12 billion US dollars, amidst the decline in the value of exports and imports, Statistics Indonesia (BPS) announced on Monday.

"This is the 41st consecutive month of surplus," said Acting Head of BPS Amalia Adininggar Widayanti in a press conference, adding that exports in September were registered at 20.76 billion US dollars, down by 5.63 per cent from the previous month, and the recorded imports value was 17.34 billion US dollars, down by 8.15 per cent from August 2023. From January to September, China, the United States, and India are the top three non-oil and gas export destinations for Indonesia, altogether accounting for 42.86 per cent of total exports.

During the first three quarters of this year, China, Japan, and Thailand were the top three nations selling non-oil and gas commodities to Indonesia, with a volume of 45.68 billion US dollars (32.92 per cent), 12.36 billion US dollars (8.91 per cent), and 7.71 billion US dollars (5.55 per cent) respectively. — Xinhua

China-Laos, China-Viet Nam intl cold-chain freight trains begin operation

ON Monday morning, two cold-chain freight trains carrying fruits and vegetables left southwest China's Yunnan Province for Laos and Viet Nam respectively, marking the launch of international cold-chain train services on China-Laos, China-Viet Nam routes.

The two maiden train trips, which began from Yanhe Station of Yuxi City, Yunnan, are expected to reach the Laos capital, Vientiane, and Viet Nam's Lao Cai after about a day's trip.

Currently, one trip is scheduled daily from Kunming of Yunnan to Vientiane for the China-Laos international cold-



A train drives on the China-Laos Railway's Luang Prabang cross-Mekong River super major bridge in Laos 28 May 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

chain freight train service, while one trip a week service is scheduled between Kunming and Lao Cai. The transport frequency of the services will be

adjusted according to customer needs in the future, said the service operator, China Railway Kunming Bureau Group Co, Ltd. — Xinhua

Markets wary as Italy budget targets tax cuts

A year after her first budget drew praise for its prudence, Italy's Giorgia Meloni set out her 2024 plans Monday amid market fears over a loosening of the purse strings.

The far-right leader and her coalition partners agreed around 24 billion euros (\$25 billion) in new measures focused on support for households and businesses still struggling with inflation, as well as helping women back to work after having children.

After a cabinet meeting to agree the plans, Meloni said it was a budget that was "very serious and realistic and which does not waste resources, but concentrates them on the main priorities".

These priorities, financed with 15.7 billion euros in additional debt and unspecified spending cuts, are intended to "defend the purchasing power of families", she told reporters.

But the largesse comes despite a declining economic outlook for the eurozone's third largest economy, with Rome having forecast last month lower than expected growth.

And the government now expects a deficit of 4.3 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2024, up from 3.7 per cent estimated previously.

The market response to that announcement was immediate, with a sharp increase in the cost of Italy's borrowing costs. — AFP

S Korea's ICT export falls for 15th month in September

SOUTH Korea's export of information and communications technology (ICT) products fell for the 15th consecutive month in September amid continued weakness in global demand for locally-made tech products, government data showed Monday.

ICT products shipment sank 13.4 per cent from a year earlier to 18.06 billion US dollars in September, continuing to slide since July last year, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.

Semiconductor export declined 14.4 per cent to 9.99 billion dollars last month on the back of lower chip prices.

Display panel shipment added 1.0 per cent



A woman walks past an advertisement for Samsung Galaxy Z Flip5 phone at an underground shopping area in Seoul in Seoul on 11 October 2023. Samsung Electronics said on 11 October it expected third-quarter operating profits to plunge nearly 80 per cent as the firm grapples with weak demand for memory chips. **PHOTO: AFP**

to 2.0 billion dollars on demand for OLED panels

used for mobile devices, but mobile phone export

reduced 5.2 per cent to 1.37 billion dollars. — Xinhua



(FILES) Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni attends a joint press conference in Mdina at the end of the EU-MED9 summit in Malta on 29 September 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (180N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GSS YANGON VOY.NO. (180N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-10-2023** 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (110N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (110N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-10-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LNIE

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
Central Committee for Holding Myanmar Gems Emporium
The Information about Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2023

1. The significant **Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2023**, under the supervision of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, will be held from October 20 to 28, 2023 at Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. Genuine Myanmar pearl, gems and rough jade lots will be sold at the Emporium.
2. The local gems entrepreneurs who got the permit and the local gems merchants who got the license to operate in the finished gemstone making and dealing under the Myanmar Gem Law, will be allowed to attend and purchase the Lots at **Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium, 2023** according to the terms and conditions.
3. For further information in detail about granted admission to purchase Lots at **Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium, 2023**, any merchants can inquire and keep contact with Emporium Central Committee, Myanmar Gems Enterprise (Head Office), Myanmar Pearl Enterprise (Head Office) in Nay Pyi Taw.

Emporium Central Committee

Advertise with us/ Hot Line : 09251022355, 09255597511

AMBIENT DIGITAL MYANMAR COMPANY LIMITED
(the "Company")

Notice under Section 147, 152 (a) of the Insolvency Law and Rule 9 and 15 of the Insolvency Rules
(Members' Voluntary Winding Up)

As per special resolutions duly passed in writing on 13.10.2023 by all of the members of the company:

1. The process of members' voluntary winding up will proceed and take effect from 13.10.2023.
2. U Aung Nay Myo (Advocate.17955) shall be and is hereby appointed as liquidator of the Company for the purpose of such members' voluntary winding up and is authorized to carry out the Company's affairs in respect of such winding up; and
3. All of the creditors (if any) of the Company are required to contact the liquidator before 30.11.2023 with detailed particulars of their claim attached with complete supporting documents. The Company shall not take any responsibility for or settle any debts that are claimed and submitted after such date.

U Aung Nay Myo

LL.B, D.B.L, D.I.L, D.I.P.L, Advocate (No.17955), Liquidator

Level 16, Unit 1605, Sule Square 221, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon.
Tel: 09-952211180

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Cairo summit on 'Palestinian cause' to be held Saturday: Gulf state media

LEADERS in Qatar and Kuwait received invitations Monday for a summit in Cairo to be held on Saturday to "discuss developments and the future of the Palestinian cause and the peace process".

State media in both countries announced the invitations a day after Cairo announced its intention to host "a regional and international summit on the future of the Palestinian cause", during a visit by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

The Gulf Cooperation Council also announced Monday it would hold an extraordinary meeting of its foreign ministers Tuesday, "to discuss developments of the situation in the Gaza Strip".

Ten days into the violent war that erupted between Hamas and Israel, diplomatic efforts have yielded little success,



Palestinian rescuers gesture at the site of a collapsed and damaged buildings following an Israeli airstrike in Rafah in the southern of Gaza Strip on 16 October 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

as regional and world leaders try to secure humanitarian

aid and prevent any regional spillover.

Air strikes have killed at least 2,750 people in the Gaza

Strip in a relentless aerial campaign launched by Israel in retaliation for a Hamas attack on 7 October that killed 1,400 people. Mostly civilians died on both sides.

Egypt — historically a key mediator between Hamas and Israel — has been pushing diplomatic efforts, urging "restraint" and a return to the political process.

French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna said on Monday in Cairo that Paris "welcomes Egypt's initiative" for the summit.

She said it would "show that there is a political horizon that can take into account Israel's right to security and the Palestinians' right to a state".

Blinken — who on Monday returned to Israel after a tour of the region — had said Sunday that "these kinds of initiatives are good ideas". — AFP

Iran's president warns of war expansion if Israel continues attacks on Gaza

IRANIAN President Ebrahim Raisi on Sunday warned of the expansion of the conflict if Israel continues its attacks on the Gaza Strip.

"If the Zionist regime seeks to pay for its defeat through the continuation of these crimes (against Palestinians), the dimensions of the developments will expand," said Raisi in a phone conversation with French President Emmanuel Macron.

Raisi strongly condemned Israel's attacks on the Palestinians over the past few days and criticized the French government for preventing a rally in support of the Palestinian people, according to a statement published on the website of the

Iranian president's office.

The French president, for his part, voiced concern over the escalation of the crisis in the Gaza Strip and called on Iran to play its influential role in controlling the situation in the region. However, Raisi said that "resistance groups can decide for themselves".

The Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) launched a surprise attack with thousands of rockets and the infiltration by scores of militants on Israel on 7 October, prompting extensive Israeli airstrikes on Gaza.

The ongoing conflict, now in its ninth day, has killed about 4,000 on both sides and wounded even more. — Xinhua

US strategic bomber to land in S Korea amid N Korea threat



File photo shows a US military B-52 bomber. **PHOTO: USAF/GETTY/KYODO**

A US B-52 strategic bomber is scheduled to land at a South Korean air base later this week, US forces in South Korea said on Monday, amid heightened tensions over the threat posed by North Korea's ongoing nuclear and missile programmes.

The bomber will arrive

during the six-day Seoul International Aerospace and Defence Exhibition, which will start on Tuesday, US Forces Korea said in a statement.

The deployment of a US strategic bomber to the region for reasons other than participating in joint military drills is considered to be rare. USFK

said that the deployment shows the United States' commitment to its alliance with South Korea is at an all-time high, in recognition of the 70th anniversary of the alliance.

The aircraft will conduct two flyovers during the biennial event, according to the USFK.

Maj. Rachel Buitrago, the 7th Air Force's spokeswoman, said the B-52's deployment and planned flyovers are "part of our continued pledge to promote peace, stability and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula," according to the USFK statement.

Last Thursday, the US nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan docked at the South Korean port city of Busan for a five-day visit. The aircraft carrier left Busan on Monday, according to South Korean media. — Kyodo

SPORTS

Qatar Team wins Cup of Embassies Football Tournament 2023 in Yangon

THE Embassies Football Tournament 2023 organized by the Embassy of the State of Qatar on the occasion of the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023™ was completed on 16 October 2023 at the Yangon United Sports Complex, Indoor futsal stadium.

The team of Qatar lifted the trophy after the nail-biting match against Kuwait in the Final match.

During the third-place play-off, the French team secured the third place after beating the Saudi Team.

Following the tournament, Dr Rashid Abdulla AL-Kuwari, the Head of the mission and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Embassy of

the State of Qatar awarded the first winner the trophy and symbolic golden medals, and the second and third winners were given silver and bronze consecutively. Then Dr Rashid cut the Embassies Football Tournament 2023's cake to close the event.

The Diplomatic Football Tournament 2023, was held in Yangon for the very first time with a total of 16 matches played on the days of 29 September and 2, 6, 9, 13 and 16 October 2023 with the participation of teams from Myanmar MoFA, besides Embassies of Russia, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, France and Qatar, and Ooredoo Myanmar. — KZL



The Qatari team is seen lifting the trophy. PHOTO: QATAR EMBASSY

Myanmar to face MSAR in second leg of World Cup qualifier today

MYANMAR will play against Macau in the second leg of the first-round qualifiers in the Asian Zone of the 2026 World Cup at the Olympic Sports Centre Stadium in Macau at 6 pm Myanmar standard time on 17 October (today).

Due to thrashing its opponent with a 5-1 result in the first leg held on 12 October, team Myanmar possesses a good prospect of advancing to the next stage. As the skills and talent of Myanmar are higher than Macau's in the first leg, Myanmar has a high potential for securing a good result in the second leg.

A press conference on the second leg of the qualifier between Myanmar and Macau took place on 16 October. German Michael Feichtenbeiner, head coach of the Myanmar national football team, unveiled, "We would like to win over the opponent in the away match similar to the home match. So, we will translate all chances to secure the victory. We have no plan to play the defensive style but will pour our efforts into competing with Macau in full swing. Although we won over Macau in the first leg, the latter is capable of competing with us."

Myanmar's midfielder Kyaw Min Oo remarked, "We would like to grasp a win in this match similar to the first match. We regard this match as preparation



Michael Feichtenbeiner, head coach of the Myanmar national football team, gives training to Myanmar footballers. PHOTO: MFF

for the upcoming World Cup qualifiers. So, we will play against the opponent team with full strength and concentration." — Ko Nyi Lay/TTA

Myanmar Paralympic team leaves for 4th Asian Paralympic Games

TO participate in the 4th Asian Paralympic Games, the Myanmar Paralympic team departed from Yangon to Hangzhou, People's Republic of China, yesterday evening.

Maj-Gen Hla Moe, Chair-

man of the Federation of Sports for the Disabled, led the team, and he is accompanied by administrators, coaches, and players with disabilities.

At the 4th Asian Paralympic Games, the Myanmar sports

team will compete in athletics, swimming, and sitting volleyball.

The games are scheduled to take place in Hangzhou, China, from 22 to 28 October. — MNA/KZW

Hangzhou Asian Para Games Village opens

THE opening ceremony of the Hangzhou Asian Para Games Village, as well as the welcoming ceremony for the Chinese delegation, was held here on Monday.

Following around one week of transformation, the Asian Games Village has been turned into the Asian Para Games Village to welcome its first batch of residents.

Covering an area of 325,000 square metres, the village has been converted from the media village of the Hangzhou Asian Games and will provide 3,446

rooms for the delegations during the Asian Para Games.

Humanistic concern is prevalent in the village, as tactile paving can access all the facilities and signs are marked in Braille. Over 30 shuttle vehicles will provide around-the-clock transportation services. As there is a height difference of one to two centimeters inside and outside the rooms, rubber ramps are applied for wheelchair access, and protective strips are placed at the wall corners. In the athletes' rooms, beds can be adjusted to differ-



Members of Chinese Sports delegation pose with children and Feifei, the mascot of the 4th Asian Para Games, during the opening ceremony for the 4th Asian Para Games Village and team welcome ceremony for the Chinese Sports Delegation in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, 16 October 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

ent heights to cater to specific needs. The Hangzhou Asian

Para Games will be held from 22-28 October. China has sent

439 athletes to compete in 397 events in 22 sports. — Xinhua



IN the autumn of 2013, China proposed the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), igniting the imaginations of many by rekindling the spirit of the two-millennia-old ancient Silk Road.

Ten years on, the initiative has evolved from a vision into reality through the collaborative efforts of all participating nations, becoming a widely-appreciated public good and a global driver of inclusive growth.

Over the past few decades, the global economy has contended with insufficient inclusivity, imbalances, and increasing wealth inequality. While some countries and regions have made notable strides economically and socially, other parts of the world have grappled with persistent poverty, inequality and developmental obstacles.

A decade ago, and with its strong focus on inclusive growth, the BRI offered the world a timely and practical solution infused with Chinese wisdom to address these very challenges.

As Chinese President Xi Jinping has said, no country or nation should be left behind on the road to the well-being of all humankind. All countries and nations are equally entitled to development opportunities and rights to development.

What exactly is the initiative? Consider it a public road open to all, not a private path owned by one party. All interested countries are welcome aboard to participate and share in its benefits.

As Xi has said, the BRI may be China's idea, but its opportu-



This aerial photo taken on 28 April 2023 shows a China-Europe freight train pulling out from the China-Kazakhstan (Lianyungang) logistics cooperation base in Lianyungang, east China's Jiangsu Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

How the Belt and Road gives rise to a more inclusive world

Contrary to protecting the narrow interests of a group of countries that divide the world, China's endeavour to promote multilateralism via the BRI helps create a harmonious world, an expert said.

nities and outcomes are going to benefit the world.

By June 2023, China had signed more than 200 BRI cooperation agreements with over 150 countries and 30 international organizations across five continents.

Contrary to protecting the narrow interests of a group of countries that divide the world, China's endeavour to promote multilateralism via the BRI helps create a harmonious world, Kostas Gouliamos, former rector of European Univer-

sity Cyprus, once argued.

The BRI has offered more countries a greater say in the global economy.

From 2013 to 2022, the cumulative value of imports and exports between China and BRI partner countries was 19.1 tril-

lion US dollars, with an average annual growth rate of 6.4 per cent.

Furthermore, the BRI embodies equitable development, striving to assist countries in overcoming poverty and ushering in an era of development.

Looking back over the past decade, the BRI has addressed the significant bottlenecks restricting connectivity and economic growth in most developing countries by constructing essential railway, highway, pipeline, shipping, energy and communications infrastructure.

From the China-Laos Railway that transformed landlocked Laos into a land-linked hub to Kenya's Mombasa-Nairobi Railway contributing two per cent to the African nation's economic growth, notable impactful projects have effectively reduced the cost for countries to participate in international trade, increased access to the global economy and stimulated development.

The ultimate goal of the pursuit of economic growth, development and prosperity is to enhance living standards. To ensure the benefits of cooperation are as widely available as possible, the Belt and Road cooperation focuses on food safety, poverty alleviation and job creation.

China, a country that has won the historical battle against extreme poverty, has strengthened poverty reduction efforts in BRI countries through agricultural cooperation, expertise and technology transfer. — Xinhua

Israel military confirms 199 hostages abducted by Hamas

THE Israeli military on Monday raised the figure to 199 people confirmed to have been abducted by Hamas to the Gaza Strip in the militants' cross-border attacks which sparked a devastating war.

"We have updated the families of 199 hostages," military spokesman Daniel Hagari told a media briefing, revising up an earlier figure of 155 captives.

Israelis and foreigners are among those abducted in the Hamas assault on

7 October.

"The efforts on the hostages are a top national priority," Hagari said. "The army and Israel are working around the clock to bring them back."

At least 1,400 people have been killed in Israel and 2,750 in retaliatory strikes on Gaza, according to tolls from officials on both sides. The Israeli military has said the bodies of some 1,500 militants were located in the wake of the attacks. — AFP



A woman sits on the middle isle of a road holding a placard demanding a 'prisoner deal', a week after Israeli hostages were snatched by the Palestinian militant group Hamas attack into southern Israel, outside the Ministry of Defense in Tel Aviv on 16 October 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**