

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



External Relations Committee Chairman Mr Grigoriev Evgeny Dmitrievich of the St Petersburg Government pays a courtesy call on State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Myanmar to open consulates in Russian Federation for enhancement of diplomatic relations

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and External Relations Committee Chairman Mr Grigoriev Evgeny Dmitrievich, member of the St Petersburg Government, discussed preparations for the establishment of consulates in the Russian Federation to enhance diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Russia.

Chairman of the External Relations Committee Mr Grigoriev Evgeny Dmitrievich from the Russian Federation called on Chairman of the State Admin-

istration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the office of SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Both sides emphasized the promotion of cooperation in bilateral friendly relations between Myanmar and Russia in addition to sector-wise cooperation including education, health and tourism sectors.

They also discussed the exchange of students to pursue higher education, the

establishment of sister cities from a city in St Petersburg and a city of Myanmar, bilateral relations in cultural and religious affairs, and trade promotion.

Also present at the meeting were SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Lwin Oo. The Russian delegation was accompanied by officials from the Russian Embassy to Myanmar. — MNA/TTA

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Traditional festival of Mon ethnic people celebrated with enthusiastic crowds

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Japan to recruit around 800 Myanmar workers

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UMFCCI boosts Mon State fruit exports, bolsters salt farming

AYA, UAB to disburse K1.2 bln MSME loan to Danyingon wholesale market's sellers

AYA Bank and UAB Bank will provide MSME loans worth K1.2 billion to the sellers from the Danyingon Wholesale Market for the first time.

Each seller is entitled to take out a K5 million to K10 million loan to expand businesses by presenting necessary documents. The first phase of this loan will cover 60 sellers.

The loan term is set from one to two years. The interest rate per an-

num is 9.5 per cent and 10.5 per cent depending on the loan type (secured and unsecured loan).

Those who wish to apply for a loan must have three shops running in the market. The tax payment receipt, business receipt, citizenship scrutiny card of the applicant and recommendation letter of the business are required. — TWA/KK



The market located near Danyingon railway station offers the sale of about 7,000 tonnes of green groceries and about 3,000 tonnes of various commodities daily. PHOTO: KANU

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 99/ 2023

5th Waxing of Thadingyut 1385 ME
19 October 2023

Appointment and Duty Assignment for Judge of Mandalay Region High Court

THE State Administration Council has appointed and assigned U Than Tun Aung to duties of Judge of the Mandalay Region High Court under Section 419 of the State Constitution.

By Order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council



Traditional festival of Mon ethnic people celebrated with enthusiastic crowds

A traditional festival of Mon ethnic people, featuring the offering ceremony of Sandy Pagoda was held in the precinct of Kyaikkhami Pagoda, Thanbyuzayat, Mon State, on 19 October, according to the festival organizing committee.

The festival is held to perpetuate Buddhism and pass on traditional culture to the new generations of Mon ethnic youth.

Mon ethnic people came near the Sandy Pagoda, as they did meritorious deeds near the pagoda.

"Buddhist monks were invited and religious

matters were conducted including donations of flowers. Then we shared merits. The festival originated a thousand years ago. Sandy Pagoda Festivals are usually held from the 3rd to 5th Waxing of Thadingyut in every part of Mon State where there is a beach.

For those who cannot afford to use cement and bricks, a pagoda was built of sand and offered to the Buddha to be free from all sufferings. Mon ethnic people across Mon State occasionally visit the Kyaikkhami Pagoda where the festival is held. — ASH/KZL

Rakhine State Economic Forum 2023 to kick start on 22 October



An invite to the 2023 economic forum in Rakhine State.

THE Rakhine State Business Forum 2023 will be held on 22 October in Sittway Township, Rakhine State, according to the Rakhine State Government. The business forum will be held at Khaing Thazin Hall in Sittway, and everyone is invited to join the event.

The forum was organized by the Rakhine state government to promote the emergence of local entrepreneurial businessmen in Rakhine State and the future economic development.

Business experts U Tin Zan Kyaw, U Tun Tun Naing and Daw Pan Ei Phyu will be keynote speakers at the business forum.

During the forum, three dialogue sessions will be held by local ethnic businessmen, university students and young business professionals on future business prospects.

IT equipment, food and consumer goods will be sold at low prices and educational services, bookstores and book galleries, and exhibits related to employment opportunities will be included at the event. — ASH/KZL

Myanmar beauty queen to compete in Miss Cosmopolitan World 2023



Myanmar beauty queen Thandar Soe.

MYANMAR beauty contestant Thandar Soe will compete in the Miss Cosmopolitan World 2023 in Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia.

The beauty queens representing over 30 countries will take part in the Miss Cosmopolitan World 2023 that will run from 24 October to 9 November.

"I challenge myself for this competition. I think they chose me as I conform with their contest. The organization selected me as I meet the prescribed qualifications. I am very consistent if I do something. It has always been my dream since my childhood to compete internationally," said Miss Thandar Soe.

Akyab Star Agency produces Miss Thandar Soe who Miss Universe Sittway 2023 - 1st Runner won Up and Miss World Myanmar 2023 1st Runner Up. She was also selected by the Myanmar Beauty Paradise Organization for the Miss Cosmopolitan World 2023. — ASH/KTZH

COVID-19 report, 19 October 2023

NEW TESTS	2,656
NEW CASE	1
CASUALTIES	0

NATIONAL

Yadanabon Hall in Mandalay to host opening of 2023 China-Myanmar Twin City Media Forum

TWIN City Media Forum is of importance for friendly relations between Myanmar and China, combating fake news and misinformation as well as for enhancement of tourism industry, said Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn in receiving Executive Chief Editor Mr Zhang Ruogu and party from Yunnan International Communication Centre for South Asia and Southeast Asia.

The Union minister together with Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung delivered a speech at the meeting to successfully hold the 2023 China-Myanmar Twin City Media Forum at the Mandalay Regional Government office in Mandalay yesterday.

The Union minister explained that as Kunming and Mandalay are twin cities as well as sister cities, Mandalay was chosen to host the opening ceremony of the forum, adding the Myanmar-China Twin City Media Forum has been held in Kunming and Mangshi of the People's Republic of China three

times, and the forthcoming forum will take place in Myanmar for the first time.

He recounted that he held a preliminary meeting with the Executive Chief Editor and party on 25 September to host the forum in Myanmar.

Director General U Ye Naing of MRTV discussed holding the forum and the representative from Yunnan Province participated in the meeting online.

The meeting was also attended by officials from the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, the Mandalay Region government, the Chinese consul, the China-Myanmar Friendship Association and Chinese religious organizations.

The opening of the forum will take place at Yadanabon Hall in Mandalay in the fourth week of November and the forum in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Union minister and party inspected Yadanabon Hall in Mandalay.

Yadanabon Hall was built on a six-acre land at the corner



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn and party view round the Yadanabon Hall where the forthcoming 2023 Myanmar-China Twin City Media Forum to be held, in Mandalay yesterday.

of 78th and 38th streets in Mandalay on 30 November 2020. The hall was commissioned into service by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 17 May 2021. Yadanabon Hall can give services for wedding receptions,

dinners, birthday parties, annual ceremonies, get-together dinners, paper-reading sessions, convocations, entertainments and market promotion ceremonies. So, the hall was chosen for hosting the opening ceremony of the 2023 China-Myanmar Twin City Media Forum.

The Union minister met service personnel from the Mandalay branch of MRTV, region, district and township IPRDs, Mandalay Press and Sub-printing House (Mandalay) at the Mandalay Region IPRD office and presented cash assistance to them. — MNA/TTA

Russian delegation calls on Nay Pyi Taw Mayor, Vice-Mayor



Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Mayor U Than Tun Oo receives the Chairman of the External Relations Committee of the Government of St Petersburg yesterday.

NAY Pyi Taw Council Chair Mayor U Than Tun Oo received a delegation led by Mr Grigoriev Evgeny Dmitrievich, Chairman of the External Relations Committee, member of the Government of St Petersburg, Russia, at the council office yesterday.

At the meeting, increased multi-sectoral cooperation was discussed regarding the friend-

ship between Myanmar and Russia, industrial production, service and value-added manufacturing sectors, hotels and tourism sectors, farm-based businesses, and the agricultural sector for cooperation in the development of industrial and investment sectors.

After the meeting, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chair and the

Chairman of the External Relations Committee, member of the Government of St Petersburg, Russia, exchanged gifts.

The Russian delegation also had a meeting with the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee Vice-Chair Vice-Mayor U Maung Maung to discuss increased cooperation to promote friendship between the governments as well as people of the two countries and cooperation between the two cities, namely, Nay Pyi Taw and St Petersburg in the development efforts. The permanent secretary of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Myo Aung and officials also attended the meeting.

After the meeting, the parties exchanged gifts before Vice-Mayor U Maung Maung hosted a dinner at the Jasmine Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA/TH

Union Minister for Health receives Russian delegation



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win holds talks with the Russian delegation yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win received a delegation led by Mr Grigoriev Evgeny Dmitrievich, Chairman of the External Relations Committee, member of the Government of St Petersburg from the Russian Federation, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Both sides discussed mutual technology exchange of modern cancer treatments and human resource development, cooperation and exchange of experiences between medical pro-

professionals from the cancer treatment centres of Myanmar and St Petersburg, arrangements for cancer treatment specialists of the two countries to carry out joint medical treatments, providing medical treatment to cancer patients in Myanmar using cancer treatment drugs from Russia, holding medical conferences and inviting medical professionals of both countries to exchange knowledge and enhance cooperation in the medical education sector. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

Myanmar delegation attends 3rd World Construction Championship in Russia



Union Minister U Myo Thant (2nd from left) participates in the Third World Construction Championship in Russia on 17 October 2023.

MYANMAR delegation led by Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant attended the opening ceremony of the Third World Construction Championship held at ExpoForum Exhibition and Convention Centre in the Russian Federation on 17 October.

On 18 October, the Union minister and party attended the Smart City Conference, Russia-ASEAN Digital Space.

The conference discussed efforts to establish smart cities bridging the gaps between Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and urban development strategies through technolo-

gies, information, promotion of social standards, urbanization and effective services by creating innovative cities with the use of ICT and other technologies, unity and cooperation to build better social environment, living standard and safe and prosperous future.

The Union minister and party also attended the New Times Technology; Construction Site of the Future Conference on the same day and observed the booths displayed at the Expo Forum of the Third World Construction Championship and competitions. — MNA/KTZH

CBM Governor receives TBAM Chairman

GOVERNOR Daw Than Than Swe of the Central Bank of Myanmar received Mr Nuttaphong Visitkitchakarn, Chairman of the Thai Business Association of Myanmar (TBAM), at the meeting hall of the Yangon

branch of the Central Bank of Myanmar.

They discussed the situation in the financial sector including the bilateral trade using currencies of the two countries. — MNA/MKKS



The Russian delegation calls on Union Civil Service Board Chair U Aung Thaw yesterday.

UCSB Chair receives Russian delegation

UNION Civil Service Board Chairman U Aung Thaw received the delegation led by Mr Grigoriev Evgeny Dmitrievich, Chairman of the External Relations Committee, member of the Government of St Petersburg in the Russian Federation, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Both sides exchanged views on cooperation in the development of human resources of State employees in both countries, staff training schedules, sending trainees for education and sharing experiences between technical experts and professionals of the two countries, technical support for training, conducting business meet-

ings, public affairs management and sharing leadership experiences and working on mutually beneficial topics, signing of an agreement by the Civil Service Academies and National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPa) of Russia.

Present on the occasion with the UCSB Chair were UCSB members and officials, Mr Vyacheslav G Kalganov, Vice-Chairman of the External Relations Committee of the St Petersburg Government, Mr Dmitry M Krutoy, Chief Special Officer of the Department of International Relations, and Russian delegates among others. — MNA/TS

Myanmar delegation attends AALCO's 61st annual meeting

THE Myanmar delegation, led by Deputy Minister for Legal Affairs and Deputy Attorney-General Dr Htein Lin Oo, participated in the 61st Annual Meeting of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) held in Bali, Indonesia, from 16 to 20 October.

Vice-President of Indonesia, Prof Dr (HC) KH Ma'ruf Amin, attended the meeting as a special guest and delivered an opening speech.

During the meeting, member countries specialized discussions on topics related to international economic trade law, the law of the sea, human rights law, refugee law, international humanitarian law, environmental protection and sustainable development, and international criminal law. — MNA/CT

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
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We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

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

NATIONAL

Notice to Mariners released for offshore topside installation project

THE Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) under the Ministry of Energy and Posco International Corporation (Myanmar E&P), a joint venture partner in Myanmar's oil and gas industry and oil exploration, are conducting Offshore Topside Installation activities in the Shwe Phase III Development Project Area within Offshore Block No (A-1). The offshore construction and installation vessel, Hyundai 2500 (Call sign: 3FRA3), along with Lanpan 30 (Call sign: 9V2670) and Lanpan 34 (Call sign: 9V2757), will be carrying out these activities from 15 November 2023 to 30 April 2024, in the offshore Block No (A-1) area.

The coordinates of the activities are Point A 19°41' 48.39" N and 92° 30' 48.18" E, Point B 19°41' 48.92" N and 92°34' 14.27" E, Point C 19°38' 33.72" N and 92°34' 14.79" E, Point D 19°38' 33.20" N and 92°30' 48.76" E respectively.

To avoid causing any delays during the operation, large and small ships, small cargo boats and fishing boats should refrain from passing through or anchoring and setting up fishing gear within four kilometres of the above-mentioned areas according to the announcement. — MNA/KZW

Artistes donate food and cash to flood victims in Hlegu Township

BHONE Yaung Hlyan film production industry went to Kalihtaw Village, Hlegu Township, Yangon Region, and donated food items and cash to flood victims on 18 October, according to the actress Saung Eaindray Htun.

A dozen packets of noodle for 200 flood victims and K10,000 was also donated to each person.

"I personally make donations to the Mocha and Bago flood victims. Now, I have donated packets of noodle to Kalihtaw Village with Ko Jack, the owner of Bhone Yaung Hlyan film industry. It's not that I myself have a lot of money, but I love to do such kinds of small charities. I want to donate something, and someone who helps me to do so always appears. I'm delighted to join the donation together with Bhone Yaung Hlyan film production industry," said actress Saung Eaindray Htun.

The actress and friends also donated cash to the Shwenantha relief camp and Bago General Hospital on 12 October. — ASH/KZL



Foodstuffs and cash assistance are provided to flood victims.

Confiscation of illegal items: Timbers, industrial materials, foodstuffs and vehicles

THE Customs on-duty teams made inspections on 17 October and impounded seven kinds of goods worth about K102.3 million, including 16 Forklift tyres that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID), from a container at the Myanmar Industrial Port, two kinds of goods worth about K37.3 million, including 240 scale monitors and 14,600 kilogrammes of plastic bottles, from five containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint, two kinds of goods worth K9

million, including 2,160 kilogrammes of Deluxe Chromium Plated Aldrop that were not declared in the ID from a container, at the Thilawa Terminal container checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

In addition, the Customs on-duty teams captured two kinds of goods worth K11.35 million, including 740 Wifi routers (made in China) that were smuggled and piled up by the side of road near Panson village, at the Yepu permanent checkpoint,

an unregistered Honda Fit (approximately worth K6 million) that was parked near the Moppalin-Sutpanu-Ingabo detour and a Faw tractor head with a trailer (estimated value of K45 million), headed to Yangon from Myawady, carrying 4,000 kilogrammes of PP Pellet Packing worth K5.62 million that exceeded the quantity mentioned in the ID, at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The combined teams

made inspections on 17 and 18 October and seized a total of 7.545 tonnes of illegal teak in Ngaputaw township of Patheingyi district and Kyaukse township of Myanaung district, a Yutong bus (approximately worth K25 million), travelling from Ye to Yangon, carrying 2,000 bottles of M-150 energy drink worth K4.8 million without official documents at the Nyaungkhashay X-Ray station and a total of 10.7718 tonnes of illegal teak and 1.689 tonnes of illegal hardwood worth K7,794,928 in Bago and Toun-goo districts. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

A total of 15 arrests were made on 17 and 18 October, with an estimated value of K259,462,210, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS



(L&R): Confiscated illegal goods in Thilawa, Yangon Region, and in Bago Region.

Over K1.36 bln worth of Happy Water captured in Yangon Region, Shan State

OVER K1.36 billion worth of Happy Water was captured in Yangon Region and Shan State, Myanmar Police Force stated.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force arrested Htun Myat Thu (aka) Maung San with 17.28 kilogrammes of Happy Water in Mingala Taungnyunt township of Yangon Region at 10:30 am on 14 October.

In addition, police arrested Ye Yint Aung together with 14.94 kilogrammes of Happy Water on U Chit Maung Street in Bahan township and Saw John Paul (aka) John Paul with 6.6 kilogrammes of Happy Water and 2,200 tablets of caffeine in Ward 6 of Yankin township at 2 pm on the same day.

After conducting interrogations, police arrested Nay La Win (aka) Bank and Ye Yint Htay Aung (aka) Aik Pee with 5,000 Ecstasy tablets and a Toyota Crown in Tachilek township of Shan State (East) at 9:30 pm on the same day. Police have taken legal action against the offenders and an investigation is underway to identify the perpetrators of the crime chain. — MNA/MKKS

CORRIGENDUM

Please read "Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Thein Soe ..." and "... UEC Chair U Thein Soe ..." instead of "Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Soe Thein ..." and "... UEC Chair U Soe Thein ..." respectively in both the body and caption of the news story titled "UEC Chair meets chairpersons, leaders of political parties" on page 5 of The GNLm issue on 17 October 2023. Errors are regretted. — Ed.

NATIONAL

Japan to recruit around 800 Myanmar workers



Some foreign workers are seen working in a food factory in Japan.

THE Myanmar Embassy to Japan announced on 16 October that approximately 800 Myanmar workers will be recruited to work for Japanese companies once again. This recruitment will include more than 300 men and 500 women, corresponding to the 243 demand letters provided by Japanese companies. These letters were scrutinized between 3 and 16 October and then forwarded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The verification process involved confirming the official establishment of recruitment factories and compa-

nies in Japan, and the findings from documentary evidence and opinions were transmitted to the Ministry of Labour through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Myanmar workers interested in employment in Japan can conduct enquiries at the employment and labour offices in their respective townships, districts, regions, and states and must follow the designated procedures.

Nearly 1,000 Myanmar workers were reportedly recruited from Japan on 2 October. — TWA/CT

Yangon Region Thadingyut festival set for 27 Oct at People's Park

THE Yangon City Development Committee has announced that the Yangon Region Thadingyut festival will take place at People's Park, starting on 27 October.

The entertainment stage will be set up during the Festival of Lights, complete with restaurant areas and shops. Decorative

lantern trees will be installed for hanging decorative lights. The YCDC is planning the installation of the "We Love Yangon" lights in various locations.

The lighting festival will take place from 27 to 30 October. For the festival, the YCDC is also creating flowery plots. — TWA/KZW

Above 2,000 acres of private fish farms submerged due to Bago floods

ACCORDING to the Department of Fisheries, floods in Bago Region submerged over 2,000 acres of private fish farms.

Between 8 and 12 October, heavy rainfall caused flooding in several townships in Bago Region, affecting more than 2,000 acres of privately owned fish farms.

Fortunately, the flood spared two fish farms owned by the department in Bago Region (East).

The Department of Fisheries is currently working to stock the affected fish farms with 6.6 million hatchlings at a rate of 3,000 hatchlings per acre.

This year, Yangon Region,



Workers are seen netting fish in a fish breeding pond.

Ayeyawady Region, and Bago Region collectively lost over 30,000 acres of fish farms due to flooding, with more than 6,000 acres suffering damage in Yan-

gon Region's Htantabin and Taikkyi Townships. The estimated financial loss due to the flooding of fish farms exceeds K18,000 million. — TWA/CT

Passport renewal for PJ and PS holders requires tax clearance certificate



The photo shows some Myanmar passports.

THE job passport (PJ) and seaman passport (PS) can be renewed only with the tax clearance certificate from the respective township revenue offices, according to the Internal Revenue Department (IRD) and the Myanmar passport office.

The Myanmar passport office issues such types of passports as the passport for visit (PV), the passport for seaman (PS), the passport for business (PB), the passport for education (PE), the passport for job (PJ), the passport for religious affairs (PR) and the passport for dependent (PT). — TWA/MKKS



The Alan Bagan Lake in the Thantsinkyal Village of the Konetangyi Village-tract in NyaungU.

Three lakes in Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone to be restored

THREE lakes in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone — the Alan Bagan Lake, the Mayo Lake, and the Nyaung Laphat Lake which have been existing since the Bagan period to the present — will be reportedly restored.

The Mandalay Region chief minister inspected the lakes for restoration on 17 October.

The Alan Bagan Lake is situated in Thantsinkyal Village, while the Mayo Lake and the Nyaung Laphat Lake are

located in Min Nanthu Village, NyaungU Township.

The lakes have nearly silted up, and due to poor drainage system, floods often occur in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone during the rainy season.

Therefore, the lakes will be re-excavated, and the embankments, daps, water access areas, water inflow channels, and additional water outlets will be assessed and repaired. — TWA/CT

UMFCCI boosts Mon State fruit exports, bolsters salt farming

The UMFCCI and Mon State CCI discussed earning revenue from exports of salt produced from Mon State.



Salt farmers are seen harvesting their products in Mon State.

THE Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) will help enhance the salt farming businesses and organize the exportation of fruits, including areca nut, produced from the Mon and Kayin states.

The UMFCCI and Mon State Chambers of Commerce and Industry on 18 October discussed matters regarding improving the salt businesses in Mon State, maintaining the sustainability of salt farmers' businesses, production of high-quality salt and earning export income from salt.

Similarly, they also focus on the exportation of areca nut and fruit products from Mon and Kayin State to China, trade facilitation, smooth transportation and UMFCCI's support to get access to agricultural loans.

Additionally, exhibiting local products at MSME fairs, market exploration, agricultural loan access, legitimate banking transactions in exports, collaborative efforts of the UMFCCI and Mon State CCI in manufacturing and trade businesses, and the border rules of neighbouring countries designated for exports. — TWA/EM



The photo shows potatoes and workers at the Bayintnaung market.

Market sees sharp decline in onion, potato prices

THE prices of onion and potato drastically rose at the Bayintnaung market on account of decreasing truck arrivals following the Bago flood.

When the truck arrivals return to normal on 13 October, the prices fell again.

On 9 October, 60,000 visses of onion and 24,000 visses of potato entered the Bayintnaung market, and the onion was priced at K2000-2800-2900-3000 per viss and the potato fetched up to K2,300 per viss.

On 10 October, the onion prices rose to K2300-3000-3300-3400 per viss and there was no entry of potato on the same day. The unsold potatoes of previous days were priced at K2,500 per viss.

On 11 October, the market received 198,000 visses of onion and 78,000 visses of potato and 84,000 visses of potato again on 13 October and, as a result, the price fell to K1,900/2,000 per viss.

Similarly, the wholesale prices of Seikphyu onion were K1800-2700-2800-3200 per viss, K1500-2000-2200 for Myingyan onion and K1500-2500-2600-2900 for Pyawbwe onion.

On 14 October, only 90,000 visses of onion entered the market but the price remained unchanged and 48,000 visses of potato entered the market on the same day and the price was only K1900/2000 per viss.

The low-quality onions entered the Yangon market and the small-size Myingyan onion was K500 per viss in the market on 12 October, said a buyer.

On 13 October, the remnant Seikphyu onion was sold at K1000-1500-1500 per viss depending on the sizes, an onion seller from Yetamar Street told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The Pakokku market received 58,000 visses of onion on 12 October and the highest price was K2,500 per viss and another 42,000 visses of onion on 13 October with the highest price of K2,600 per viss.

The onion-producing regions still have unsold onions and the demand is also lower compared with the same period of the previous year. — TWA/KTZH

Lack of foreign demand drives peanut prices down

THE prices of peanuts continue to fall in the absence of foreign demand, according to the Mandalay wholesale market. "The prices show a steep plunge these days in the Mandalay Wholesale Centre. The white peanut is barely exported to foreign markets. The price is relatively similar to the prices of new peanuts used in oil mills," Ko Ye Moe from the Win Win Depot in Mandalay said.

At present, fresh peanut supply from regions near Mandalay city is seen at the Mandalay Wholesale Centre. The demand from Chinese buyers is sluggish. The prices peaked at K7,550-11,000 per viss on the back of strong foreign and local demand at Mandalay wholesale centre on 18 August.

The prevailing prices of peanuts moved in the range of K5,700-6,500 per viss (a viss equals to 1.6 kg), Mandalay market's price statistics indicated. The peanut market is relying on domestic oil millers and buyers at present. "The market potential is quite dissatisfying. It is solely relying on domestic demand for now," Ko Ye Moe shared his opinion. Despite the drop in peanut prices, the peanut oil price stayed strong at over K15,000 per viss.

Myanmar has been exporting oil seeds (sesame seeds and peanuts) to foreign countries. Last April 2022,



Peanuts are pictured in the market.

the world's top palm oil exporter Indonesia, which is one of the main oil suppliers to Myanmar, declared an export ban on cooking oil export to reduce domestic shortage. Consequently, Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce temporarily suspended exports of oil crops (peanut and sesame) from 9 May 2022 to have oil self-sufficiency. Exports of Myanmar's edible oil crops resumed as the world's top palm oil exporters returned to normalcy, according to a notification dated 5 July 2022 released by the Trade Department. The country conveyed over 9,900 kilogrammes worth US\$15.319 million to foreign markets through seaborne and border trade channels in the H1 of the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April. — NN/EM

The Global New Light of Myanmar

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OPINION

Expand learning opportunities for youths

EFFORTS to enhance the educational system are underway, aiming to provide ample learning opportunities for all school-age children. One key objective is to prevent students from prematurely dropping out before completing their primary and middle school education. The introduction of new educational plans seeks to ensure that students can pursue a diverse range of subjects, thereby increasing their chances of success.

Under the latest educational initiatives, all students who successfully complete middle school (Grade 8) will be offered the opportunity to delve into agriculture, livestock, and industrial subjects. In the 2023-24 academic year, 51 basic education high schools across 50 districts in various regions and states have been incorporated into this program. This development marks a significant step towards broadening educational horizons. Moreover, plans are already in

motion to include an additional 34 schools across 34 districts in the 2024-25 academic year.

This innovative approach will allow students to acquire vocational skills in industrial, agricultural, and livestock techniques while continuing their high school education. Upon completion of this program, they will be well-prepared for a wide array of job opportunities, thereby significantly contributing to the overall improvement of living standards for both their families and themselves.

When students transition from basic education to middle school, they often find themselves at a crossroads in life, uncertain about their future paths. The government's commitment to providing educational options enables them to seamlessly integrate academic and vocational subjects into

their learning journey. At this juncture, students can make informed decisions about focusing on industrial techniques, agriculture, or livestock farming tasks, setting the stage for a brighter future.

Within the realm of industrial techniques, students can study areas such as construction, electrical work, and machinery production. Those who successfully pass examinations in these subjects will receive completion certificates, opening doors to job opportunities. For those who excel and demonstrate a strong aptitude, further educational avenues are available at institutes or colleges, and those with exceptional performance can even pursue degrees at relevant universities. This structured approach ensures that their educational paths align with their goals, leading to a promising future.

Currently, the government is actively working to create inclusive learning opportunities and environments that cater to students' individual circumstances. These diverse pathways in vocational training will not only empower students to improve their own lives but also have a positive impact on their families and communities. It is imperative for students to seize these learning opportunities and shape the trajectory of their lives and their nation's future.

By Yin Nwe Ko

THE Facebook post containing information about a recent incident had a significant impact on our quaint town. It reported the disappearance of a female student from a local boarding school the previous night. Our small town, despite its size, boasts three private schools, signifying the importance of education in our community. The missing student was a twelfth-grader, approximately 17 years old.

I too found myself intrigued by this latest development. The day after the incident, several female students from the same private school as the missing girl approached me before their language class. They were eager to share details of the peculiar incident with me. Instead of allowing them to convey the information verbally, I suggested that they write an essay titled "The Remarkable Events from Two Days Ago." They agreed wholeheartedly, assuring me that they would deliver the essays the following night. What follows is an interesting essay penned by one of my female students, Ms. Kyal.

The news of a schoolgirl getting lost from her boarding school has left the people of our town amazed and concerned. The incident occurred a few days ago, and the authorities have been working tirelessly to find the missing girl.

The school in question is a private school that is attached to a boarding school. This means that many students live on campus and are under the care of the school management. The girl's parents had entrusted the school with their daughter's safety, and they are understandably distressed by her disappearance.

According to reports, the girl went missing during a routine evening roll call. It is uncertain how she managed to leave the premises undetected. The school immediately contacted the authorities, and a search party was set up to comb the surrounding areas. However, despite their best efforts, the girl has yet to be found.

Following the incident, the school management released a statement reassuring parents and students of their commitment to ensuring the safety and security of all students. They have pledged to review and strengthen their pro-

cedures and protocols to prevent such incidents from happening again.

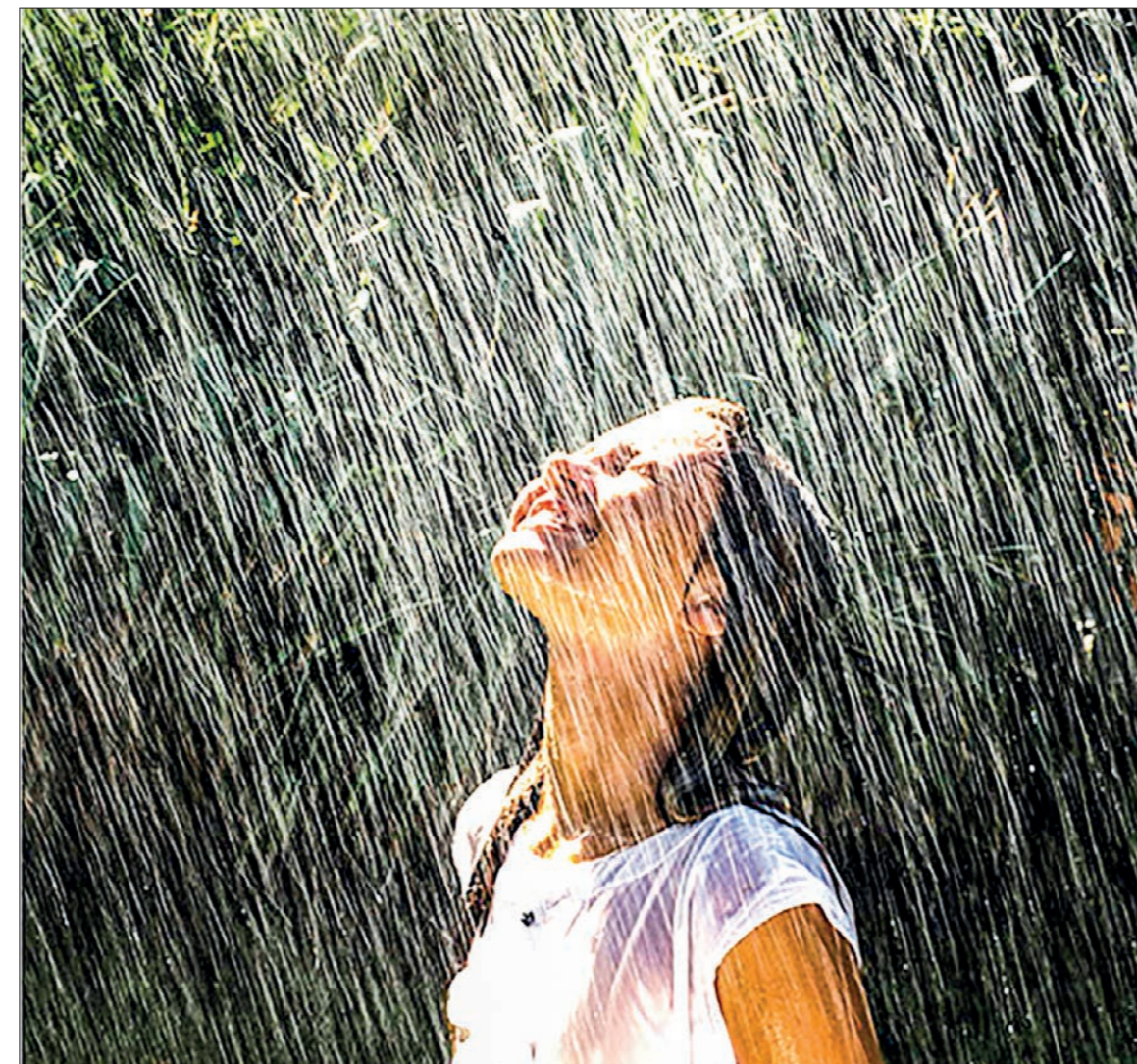
The community has also come together to support the search efforts. Flyers with the girl's photo and details have been circulated in town, and social media has been actively used to spread the word. The police have urged anyone with information on the girl's whereabouts to come forward.

Two days ago, a perplexing event unfolded in our school, situated on Ooyin Street, Kyaung-gon, Ayeyawady Region that left our entire community in shock. The news of our friend, Ms Thaw, going missing sent ripples of concern throughout the school grounds. She resided in the same boarding school compound as our principal, making her sudden disappearance even more baffling.

Shortly after the news broke, some of our fellow students from the boarding school joined our class. Oddly, they acted as if nothing unusual had occurred. In my curiosity, I approached Ms Thaw, one of the boarding students, and asked, "Is it true that Ms. Thaw is missing?" To my surprise, she responded, "We are attending guided teaching classes, so we know nothing." This response left me intrigued, and I began to question others. Eventually, one of them admitted to the truth - Ms Thaw was indeed missing, and they were keeping it hushed.

As the school day progressed, the atmosphere became increasingly tense. During the first period, while the Myanmar teacher was instructing, two other teachers, Mr Lwin (Chemistry) and Mr Phyto (Mathematics), entered our classroom wearing motorcycle helmets, their faces filled with worry. They requested information from the students, as they were tasked by our principal to locate Ms Thaw. Their account of the events leading to her disappearance shed some light on the mystery.

It all began when Ms Thaw requested the key to the restroom from the dormitory warden early in the morning. Another student made a similar request shortly afterwards, and the warden obliged. However, when the next student ventured outside, there was no sign of Ms Thaw. Her absence



The Lecture from The Mysterious Disappearance At A Private School

was discovered when Mr Phyto conducted a headcount. It was then that the search for her commenced. Surprisingly, her personal items, including her umbrella, torch, slippers, and a button, were found scattered along the path to the restroom. There were signs that she might have fallen. This unsettling scene prompted the involvement of Ms Thaw's parents, who arrived distressed and anxious.

Following this explanation, Mr Lwin and Mr Phyto left the room, leaving behind a sombre and fearful atmosphere. Two hours later, Mr San, another teacher, entered our classroom and questioned the students who were closest to Ms Thaw. This included Ms Saung Oo, her best friend, as well as Ms Ei Mon and Ms Zar Chi. They were asked to share everything they knew about

Ms Thaw's situation. Soon, we learned that Ms Thaw's parents had filed a report with the local authorities at the police station, causing a stir at the boarding school, with law enforcement personnel becoming involved.

As time passed, anxiety levels soared. Teachers struggled to focus on teaching, and our classroom remained in a state of hushed distress. By lunchtime, news of Ms Thaw's disappearance had spread on social media, particularly on Facebook, though no trace of her had been found. The situation had attracted attention far beyond our town's borders.

The gravity of the situation weighed heavily on our teachers, and Ms Saung Oo, Ms Thaw's friend, was inconsolable. Our studies came to a standstill as we grappled with the uncertainty of the situation. We remained in

the dark until we returned home. Our headmaster faced significant pressure, as he had to submit a report to local authorities within 12 hours. The situation grew increasingly complex, with Ms Chaw, the boarding school's warden, and our headmaster's wife spending time at the police station. Ms Thaw's parents held Ms Chaw responsible for their daughter's disappearance.

Finally, news of Ms Thaw's whereabouts came to light, alleviating the anxiety that had gripped the community. At 7:38 pm, she called her father from Pathain and asked him to come to her. However, she requested that only her mother and sister join her. This led to a group consisting of two policemen, her sister, her mother, and Ms Chaw heading towards Pathain. Shortly afterwards, Ms Thaw called again, this time saying she was in Chaungtha, a well-known beach destination. The group promptly redirected their efforts to Chaungtha.

The following day brought relief to everyone as Ms Thaw was reunited with her family. However, the mystery deepened when it was revealed that she had left the school grounds on her own, bypassing the school's security. She claimed to have gone to Daga village by bus, where she sold her earrings, bought new clothes, shoes, and hats, and continued to Chaungtha by car. She attributed her actions to depression caused by Ms Chaw, the warden, and placed the blame squarely on her.

The official investigation may have concluded, but the townsfolk continued to engage in gossip as if they were privy to all the details. New catchphrases circulated amongst us at school. If someone expressed a desire to go somewhere, another would retort, "Just head to Chaungtha." If someone lamented the weariness of school lessons, another would jest, "Then escape to Chaungtha." Our collective uncertainty persisted regarding whether Ms Thaw would return to school, but one thing remained certain: we were eager to hear her account of the astounding incident that had captivated the people of Kyaung-gon.

While the case eventually reached a resolution, it left us with many unanswered questions. It remains unclear why Ms Thaw chose to fabricate her own kidnapping and venture out on her own. Her actions had far-reaching consequences, causing anxiety for her parents, teachers, and friends. If I were in Ms Thaw's shoes, I would never have chosen a course of action that would inflict such worry upon those around me.

My female student's essay concluded here but some puzzled thoughts overwhelmed me.

In the wake of the perplexing events surrounding Ms Thaw's disappearance and her subsequent return, our quiet town finds itself pondering the role of private schools within our community. The incident shed light on the unique challenges and responsibilities these institutions bear.

Private schools, as we know, offer specialized education and often pride themselves on providing a safe and nurturing environment for their students. Parents entrust not only their children's education but also their well-being to these establishments.

The disappearance of a student from one of our local private schools has made us realize that the responsibility of ensuring the safety and security of students goes beyond the classroom. It extends to the boarding facilities, where students reside for a significant part of their academic lives. The incident prompted the school management to reevaluate its security protocols and procedures, promising parents and students a renewed commitment to safeguarding their welfare.

The incident also highlighted the close-knit nature of our community, where news spreads quickly, and collective concern and support emerge in times of crisis. The town rallied together to assist in the search efforts, and social media played a pivotal role in spreading awareness. It was a stark reminder of how interconnected our lives have become, thanks to technology and the power of social networks.

As we reflect on these recent events, we are left with a mix of relief and bewilderment. Ms Thaw's actions, while inexplicable to many, have united us in curiosity and speculation. We await her return to school, not only to hear her firsthand account of what transpired but also to understand the complex emotions and pressures that may have led to her actions.

In the end, the presence of private schools in our town serves as a testament to our community's commitment to education and its enduring values. While we may grapple with questions and uncertainties, we remain resolute in our belief in the importance of providing a safe and nurturing environment for our students, ensuring they have the support they need to thrive academically and emotionally. The events of these past days have brought this commitment into sharp focus, and we look forward to a future where every student's well-being is of paramount importance.

Note: Based on the true story; names are changed for the respective people's privacy

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ADVERTORIAL

Dapein Hydropower Station Illuminates the Streetlights All over Myanmar



Dapein Hydropower Station of China Datang Corporation Limited (“CDT”) stands deep in the mountains of northern Myanmar. Surrounded by peaks and virgin forests, it is adjacent to the Dapein River on the China-Myanmar border. The construction of the hydropower station began in July 2007, and now it boasts an installed capacity of 240,000 kilowatts. As the first hydropower station invested, constructed, and operated by CDT, it is a power corridor connecting China and Myanmar, and a vital window overlooking Southeast Asia. Over the past 15 years, the hydropower station has generated more than 10 billion kWh of electricity, supplied more than 700 million kWh of free power to Myanmar, and maintained safe production for more than 4,000 days. Dapein Hydropower Station has provided reliable clean energy for the people of Myanmar, illuminated the streetlights in the northern part of the country, and effectively improved people’s livelihood there and the local economy. The hydropower station has been commended by all circles in Myanmar, and a good corporate image of CDT has been established.

I. Huge Contributions to the Social and Economic Development of Myanmar

By the end of September 2023, the cumulative power generation capacity of Dapein (1) Hydropower Station has totaled about 10.618 billion kWh, and the free electricity supplied to Bhamo has amounted to 745 million kWh. While delivering electrical power to China, the Dapein Hydropower Station has been providing stable and clean electrical energy for Bhamo and solved its power problems. By allowing local people the stable use of electrical devices and speeding up industrial and agricultural production, the hydropower station has made huge contributions to the economics of Bhamo and the living standards of its inhabitants, which was recognized by both the Myanmar government and its people. In January 2020, the Dapein Hydropower Station received an appreciation letter from the Ministry of Electric Power and Energy of Kachin State, in which the government leaders thanked the station for its long-term supply of safe, high-quality, and reliable power, as well as its important contributions to the social and economic development of Bhamo and the living standards of its people.

Moreover, during the construction and operation of the hydropower station, many local people have joined the workforce in production, security, and cleanliness, which has played an active role in improving local employment.

In 2019, Dapein Hydropower Station carried out three recruitment campaigns in Bhamo, Myitkyina, and other areas of Myanmar, and a number of outstanding Myanmar employees were successfully recruited. Meanwhile, during the construction of the project, the hydropower station, from a practical point of view, arranged resettlement for the residents in the surrounding areas and built new villages for the immigrants, which tangibly improved the living standards of the local people, while

also propelled the development of economy and society.

Among those recruited was Wu Juedu, a stationed representative at Dapein Hydropower Station from Myanmar’s Ministry of Electric Power, who joined the Dapein (1) Joint Venture in 2019. Since his first day in the hydropower station, Wu Juedu’s well-being has been closely tied to that of the entire company. He has made every effort to ensure the safe production and stable operation of the hydropower station, while also contributing to the friendship among the employees from both countries.

The Myanmar employee Nay Myo Set, who graduated from Bhamo University in 2019, became a foreign employee of Dapein Hydropower Station after several rounds of strict competition. After signing the “master-apprentice agreement”, he not only mastered the Chinese language but also learned the relevant technologies and



skills and quickly grew from a trainee employee of the mechanical team to an assistant to the supervisor. In 2022, he was also recognized as an advanced individual by CDT. With the stable income from Dapein Hydropower Station, he has built a beautiful new house in his hometown; and as an employee of CDT, he has made his parents very proud.

II. Contributions to the Infrastructure Construction of Myanmar

In addition to the direct social and economic benefits, Dapein Hydropower Station has greatly facilitated the friendly exchanges between the people of China and Myanmar by supporting the infrastructure construction of the station.

During previous flood seasons, the roads in the areas around Dapein Hydropower Station collapsed severely and the traffic was often interrupted, causing great inconveniences for the personnel and the transport of materials, while posing tremendous difficulties to the travelling of local people. To solve these problems, the joint venture of CDT took active actions to timely repair the damaged roads from the Hongbeng River to the hydropower station and from the station to Bhamo, so that locals could travel freely.

The Ying-Ba Road (18 km section) Project of Dapein

(1) Hydropower Company Limited within the territory of China started in September 2010 and was successfully completed in 2011. Ying-Ba Road has not only facilitated the travelling of the personnel in the station and the transportation of materials but also brought great conveniences to the travelling and business transactions of residents. Meanwhile, the 10.8 kilometres road between the Hongbeng River and the factories of the hydropower station was hardened according to the Class IV standards in China, which totally improved the local road conditions.

On 18 August 2020, the Daying River Basin was badly flooded with heavy rainfall, and the flood control situation was very challenging. In the face of the flood, Dapein Hydropower Station scientifically scheduled and orderly responded to ensure the safety of power generation and flood control. Before the arrival of the flood, the hydropower station immediately informed

the Bhamo government downstream, along with local military and police forces, so as to reserve sufficient time to deal with the flood and safeguard the lives and property of the people. On 17 August 2020, Wu Deming, the person in charge of the stationed personnel from the Ministry of Electric Power of Myanmar, conveyed the thanks of the ministry: “The Ministry of Electric Power would like to show its deepest gratitude to China Datang Corporation Limited, who has firmly guaranteed the safety of our people’s lives and their property by notifying us of the flood in advance.”

Over the years, Dapein Hydropower Station has wholeheartedly helped the Kachin ethnic group with its cultural heritage. For example, the staff in the station have purchased lamps for the large-scale assemblies, the Manaus. The station has trained 47 employees for the Ministry of Electric Power, the technical backbone who have mastered the Chinese standard. It has also sent three excellent university students to study in China, strengthening mutual understanding, forming bidirectional connections, and cultivating the potential for common development.

Meanwhile, when the world was ravaged by the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, Dapein Hydropower Station actively donated anti-epidemic supplies such as masks and disinfectants to the local military and police forces, while strengthening the joint prevention and control mechanism. Chinese and Myanmar employees joined hands to fight the pandemic and supported each other, deepening the “Pauk-Phaw” camaraderie between the two nations.

The Belt and Road Initiative has brought us development opportunities, and with new opportunities comes a new journey. With stronger beliefs, higher morale, and a more pragmatic style, Dapein (1) Hydropower Company Limited will uphold fundamental principles and break new ground, while striving continuously to strengthen itself, to further deepen the friendship between China and Myanmar, to illuminate the streetlights all over northern Myanmar, and to make new contributions to the development of the national electrical power of Myanmar.

From pencil and paper to media giant: A century of Disney



Walt Disney, born in 1901, co-founded the company with his brother in 1923, and over the years, Disney achieved numerous milestones, including the creation of Mickey Mouse, the release of the first color feature film, and the establishment of iconic theme parks.

PHOTO: AFP

The Walt Disney Company celebrated its 100th anniversary with the release of the short film "Once Upon a Studio," featuring over 500 characters from 85 films and combining various animation techniques.

THE Walt Disney Company celebrated its 100th anniversary on Oct. 16, marking the occasion with the release of a short film featuring more than 500 characters from 85 films.

The nine-minute short entitled "Once Upon a Studio" combines digital images, hand drawings and live-action to honor the studio's mammoth body of work.

Here are some major mile-

stones in the history of the global entertainment giant.

Walter Elias Disney was born in December 1901 to an Irish-Canadian father and a German-American mother in Chicago, Illinois. In 1923, he joins his brother Roy in Hollywood, where they set up a studio in a garage.

Mickey Mouse made his first appearance in the 1928 short film "Steamboat Willie."

Initially christened Mortim-

er, the mouse was later renamed with inspiration from Walt Disney's wife Lilly.

Mickey Mouse became so famous during the 1930s and 40s that he was used as a code name for the Normandy landings by Allied troops on June 6, 1944.

Disney's first color feature film "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" was released in 1937 and awarded an honorary Oscar the following year. — AFP

Machine learning is being used to improve Parkinson's disease outcomes

A team of researchers at Oxford University is using a system of wearable sensors and machine-learning algorithms to track the progression of Parkinson's disease.

It's a method designed to enable a more accurate monitoring of the progression of motor symptoms in a bid to improve diagnoses. Researchers from the Department of Clinical Neurosciences at Oxford University in England have demonstrated the usefulness of machine learning algorithms (too often summed up over simplistically as "artificial intelligence") in analyzing data from sensors worn by Parkinson's disease patients.

Analysis of the data collected during walking and standing

tasks shows the progression of the disease's motor symptoms over time, as participants in this study were assessed every three months.

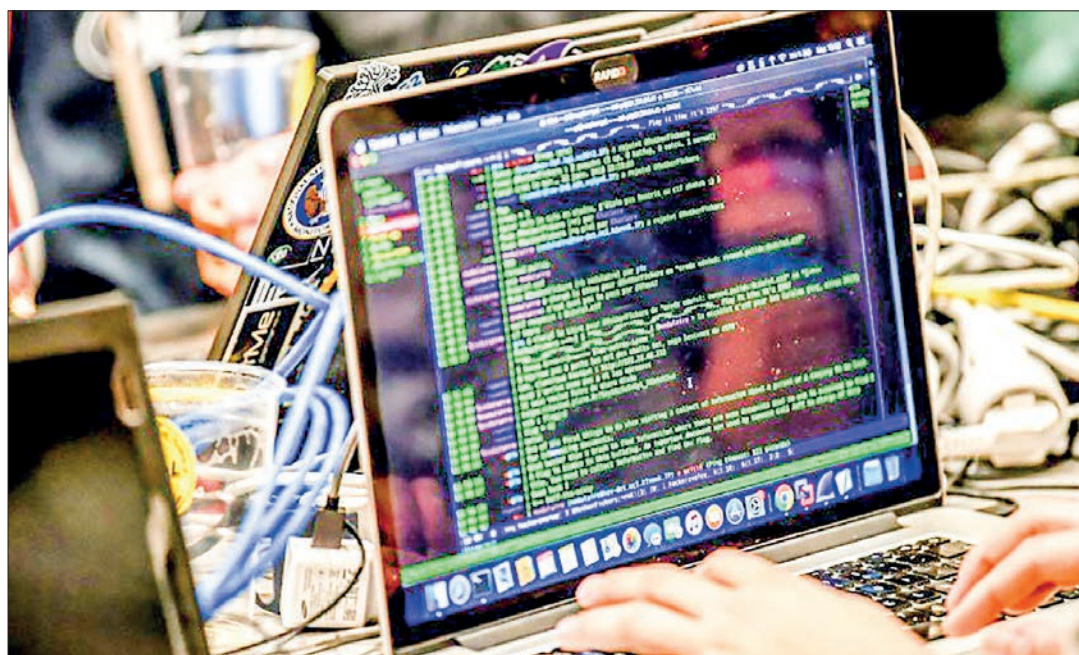
The study shows that such a system can considerably improve diagnostic – and prognostic – accuracy.

Being able to track the progression of motor symptoms in people with neurological disorders such as Parkinson's disease is useful for adapting their care protocol and ensuring it addresses their needs. With current assessment scales — scoring systems based on purely physical examination — detection of disease progression can sometimes be delayed by the subjectivity of observations and ratings. — AFP



A team of researchers at Oxford University is using wearable sensors and machine-learning algorithms to monitor the progression of Parkinson's disease. PHOTO: AFP

Finland charges psychotherapy hacker with extortion



The prosecutor is seeking a seven-year prison sentence, and the defendant has denied the charges while being held on remand. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AFP

FINLAND on Wednesday charged a hacker, accused of the theft of tens of thousands of records from psychotherapy patients, with over 21,000 counts of extortion, the national prosecutor announced.

"The suspect is held on remand and has denied being guilty of the offences," the National Prosecution Authority said in a statement.

The prosecutor is seeking a seven-year prison sentence for the defendant, Aleksanteri Kivimaki, who was formerly identified as Julius Kivimaki.

In the 2018 breach of the

Finnish firm Vastaamo, which oversaw dozens of psychotherapy centres throughout the Nordic nation, the private treatment records of tens of thousands of patients were stolen.

After stealing the records, Kivimaki initially sought to extort over 360,000 euros (\$381,000) in bitcoin Vastaamo in exchange for not leaking the records, according to the prosecutor.

When Vastaamo refused to pay, Kivimaki started leaking the records as a means of putting pressure on

the company.

According to the prosecution, Kivimaki also sent extortion letters to patients demanding sums ranging from 200 to 500 euros to prevent the disclosure of records of their therapy sessions. Kivimaki was also charged with 9,598 counts of dissemination of information infringing on personal privacy.

Following a European arrest warrant issued by the Finnish police in October 2022, he was arrested in the Paris region on 3 February. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Marcos suspends Philippine wealth fund formation

Marcos wanted to make sure the fund would help the country grow while keeping things clear and responsible.



Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos has suspended the implementation of a law creating a multi-billion-dollar sovereign wealth fund, the government said Wednesday. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

PHILIPPINE President Ferdinand Marcos has suspended the implementation of a law creating a multi-billion-dollar sovereign wealth fund, the gov-

ernment said Wednesday.

The surprise announcement came three months after Marcos signed off on the Maharlika Investment Fund

Act, which critics said would put public money at risk.

Marcos had pushed Congress for swift approval of the proposal for a 500-billion-peso (\$8.8-billion) fund, which was filed by his son and cousin late last year.

The office of executive secretary Lucas Bersamin said Marcos issued the suspension because he wanted to “study carefully” the rules and regulations dealing with implementation of the law.

Marcos wanted “to ensure that the purpose of the fund will be realized for the country’s development with safeguards in place for transparency and accountability”, the statement said. A copy of a memo signed by Bersamin, which was dated 12 October, with the president’s order for the treasurer and state banks to suspend the implementation of the law was released to reporters. — AFP

Qatar signs 27-year gas deal with Britain’s Shell

QATAR has agreed to supply British firm Shell with natural gas for 27 years, the Gulf emirate’s state-owned energy company announced on Wednesday.

Since Ukraine war last year, European countries have scrambled to replace lost deliv-

eries of natural gas from Russia.

Qatar will supply 3.5 million tonnes of gas a year under the deal, QatarEnergy said, following two agreements with Shell for a share of the Gulf state’s huge North Field gas expansion project. “We are delighted to

sign these two long-term LNG sale and purchase agreements with Shell that will further enhance our decades-long relationship and strategic partnership in Qatar and around the world,” Qatari Energy Minister Saad al-Kaabi said. — AFP



This handout photo released by QatarEnergy’s Public Relations and Communication office shows the headquarters of the Gulf state’s main energy facility in the capital Doha on 8 November 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

EU states strike deal on electricity market reform

EU member states reached an agreement to reform its electricity market after months of sparring between France and Germany over state support for nuclear energy, the European Council said Tuesday.

The European Union’s plans to make the market less vulnerable to volatility were a response to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, which sent energy prices spiralling for consumers and businesses last year.

The reform aims to cut households and businesses’ bills with long-term contracts to smooth out the impact of gas price volatility.

It had been blocked by Franco-German disagreement after Paris pushed for measures to

support nuclear energy, which alarmed Berlin.

Germany fears what it believes to be an unfair challenge from French electricity that is made more competitive thanks to massive public support.

France generates around 70 per cent of its electricity from nuclear energy.

The debate focused on programmes known as contracts for difference (CfDs) that would allow member states to get back money from energy producers when electricity prices rose higher than a certain limit.

France and Germany bitterly disagreed on the conditions required to use such schemes for investments in existing nuclear power plants. — AFP



Energy prices in Europe spiralled after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine last year. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

UK carmakers sound alarm over customs duties

UK automakers industry warned Wednesday that they will soon face a damaging 10-per cent hike in customs duties on electric cars crossing the Channel.

Britain left the European Union in early 2021 after clinching a last-gasp free trade agreement which removed tariffs on cars.

But under the deal’s “rules of origin” condition for goods crossing the border, from 1 January, 2024, at least 45 per cent of the value of vehicle parts must originate from Britain or the European Union in order to be exempt from customs duties.

This could add £3,600 (\$4,385) to the cost of each UK-made cars sold in Europe, and almost as much to European vehicles heading the other way, industry body the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) said in a statement. “We’ve been raising this for a number of months now, that the rules of origin is a major threat,” SMMT chief executive Mike Hawes told AFP.

He added that the UK “is an important market for European manufacturers and the EU is our number one market for UK exporters”. — AFP

Philippines' Cebu Pacific in talks with Airbus, Boeing for jets

PHILIPPINE budget carrier Cebu Pacific is in talks with Airbus and Boeing for an order of at least 100 planes with an estimated price tag of more than \$12 billion,

the airline said.

The aircraft makers have until the end of the year to submit proposals for "100 to 150 narrow-body jets", Cebu Pacific said in a statement sent

to AFP late Tuesday. Boeing and Airbus sent representatives to Cebu Pacific's office in Manila "in recent weeks as part of the early stages" of the request for proposals, the

airline added.

Cebu Pacific said the order would be the "largest ever commitment" by any airline in the country's aviation history. — AFP

Germany's Infineon to supply chips for Kia, Hyundai

GERMAN chipmaker Infineon said Wednesday it had signed an agreement to supply semiconductors to South Korean carmakers Kia and Hyundai until 2030, as part of efforts to diversify supply chains following a global shortage.

Infineon "will build and reserve manufacturing capacity" to deliver silicon carbide and silicon power semiconductors to the companies, it said in a statement. The Hyundai-Kia group will in turn support Infineon "with financial contributions".

Carmakers worldwide have in recent

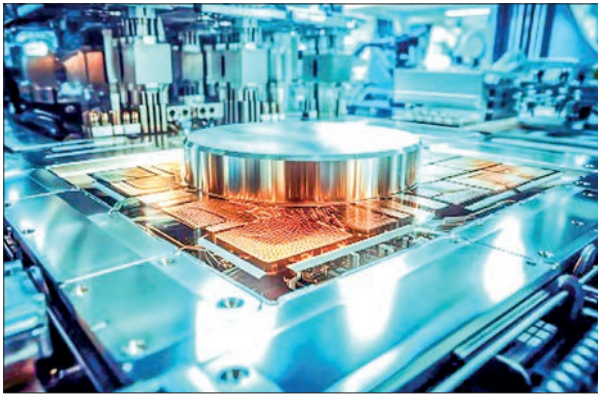
years been impacted by a shortage in semiconductor chips, fuelled by a pandemic-induced surge in demand for home electronics and supply chain

disruptions. Automakers have at times been forced to trim production because of the lack of semiconductors, critical components in both conventional and

electric vehicles (EVs).

"This partnership not only empowers Hyundai Motor and Kia to stabilize its semiconductor supply but also positions us to solidify our leadership in the global EV market," said Heung Soo Kim, Hyundai's executive vice president.

The supply woes have eased in recent months but the squeeze has prompted a push to reduce reliance on Asia, where most chips are manufactured, and ramp up production in Europe and the United States. — AFP



Infineon "will build and reserve manufacturing capacity" to deliver silicon carbide and silicon power semiconductors to the companies. PHOTO: FREEPIK



Nokia CEO Pekka Lundmark said the Finnish telecom group was hit by 'macroeconomic challenges'. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Nokia to cut up to 14,000 jobs as 5G demand slows

FINNISH telecom giant Nokia said Thursday it would cut up to 14,000 jobs as profits fell on weakening demand for its 5G equipment in North America.

The announcement adds to a series of layoffs in the tech industry following a boom during Covid pandemic lockdowns.

"In the third quarter we saw an increased impact on our business from the macroeconomic challenges," CEO Pekka Lundmark said in a state-

ment.

Nokia's savings programme is expected to reduce staffing to as low as 72,000, cutting costs by up to 1.2 billion euros (\$1.14 billion) by 2026, the company said.

The programme targets business areas Mobile Networks, Cloud and Network Services and corporate functions.

"The most difficult business decisions to make are the ones that impact our people," Lundmark noted. — AFP

Glencore to close huge Australian copper mine

SWISS commodities giant Glencore said Wednesday it would close one of Australia's biggest copper mines as it reaches the end of its life after 60 years in operation.

Glencore told the 1,200 workers at the underground copper mine at Mount Isa in northwest Queensland that production would end in the second half of 2025 as operations become unviable, the company said in a statement. "We know this decision will be disappointing for our people, our suppliers, and the Mount Isa community," Sam Strohmayer, chief operating officer of Glencore's zinc assets in Australia, said in the statement. — AFP

Invitation to Bid for In-house Consultancy Services Re-Tender RFP No. 09 / In-house Consultancy Services / 2023-2024 (Re-Tender)

1. Department of Hydropower Implementation (Client) intends to select consulting firm for In-house Consultancy Services for Feasibility Study, Basic Design, Tender Design, Construction Design and Scope of Works mentioned in Section-5 of RFP for the Hydropower Projects.
2. The Client requests for proposals to the qualified, well experienced international consulting firms in hydropower projects on the basis of open tender announcement in order to carry out In-house Consultancy Services described in RFP.
3. A consulting firm will be selected under Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method and procedures as described in the RFP. This RFP has been addressed to **International Consulting Firms**.
4. The proposals shall be submitted in six sets (one original and five duplicates/copies) in two separate and sealed envelopes clearly marked "Technical Proposal" and "Financial Proposal" on or before 1:30 pm on 19th December, 2023 (Myanmar Local Time) to Tender Receiving and Scrutinizing Committee, Department of Hydropower Implementation.
5. Only technical proposals will be opened on the same day of submission of proposals at meeting room, Department of Hydropower Implementation, in the presence of authorized representative of the firms. Absence of the representative of the firm shall not hinder the opening of the proposal.
6. A complete set of RFP documents with detailed information shall be available from 19-10-2023 to 20-11-2023 at the following address during office hours.
Tender Receiving and Scrutinizing Committee, Department of Hydropower Implementation, Ministry of Electric Power, Office No (27), Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, Phone: + (95) 067 8104184, + (95) 067 8104298, Email: dd1officedhpi@gmail.com
7. The bid announcement form can also be accessed on the Ministry of Electric Power website www.moep.gov.mm.

**Tender Receiving and Scrutinizing Committee
Department of Hydropower Implementation
Ministry of Electric Power**

MYANMA Port Authority "NOTICE of High Tide"

EXCEPTIONALLY high spring from 20.41 feet to 20.90 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of October 28th to October 31st, 2023. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

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ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Russia's Lavrov meets North Korea's Kim, slams 'dangerous' US policy

Lavrov's visit is seen as a precursor to a visit by Russian President Vladimir Putin, who was invited by Kim at a recent summit.



Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov (centre left) meets with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang on Thursday. **PHOTO: RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY/AFP**

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov met North Korea's Kim Jong Un on Thursday, after slamming US policy towards the nuclear-armed state as "dangerous".

Lavrov hailed North Korea as a "close neighbour and long-time partner" in a meeting that lasted a little over an hour, Russia's foreign ministry said in a statement.

The veteran envoy's two-day visit is expected to lay the groundwork for a trip to the country by Russian President Vladimir Putin, who was invited by Kim last month at a high-profile summit in Russia's far east.

Earlier in the day, Lavrov lashed out at what he termed a

"dangerous" US policy towards North Korea while touting the "new, strategic level" of relations between Moscow and Pyongyang.

"Like our North Korean friends, we are seriously worried about the intensification of military activity of the United States, Japan and South Korea in the region and by Washington's policies," Lavrov told journalists, according to Russian news agencies.

"We oppose this unconstructive and dangerous line," he said, adding that the United States was placing "strategic infrastructure, including nuclear elements", in the region, without elaborating. — AFP

ILLEGAL CONTENT

EU opens disinformation probes into Meta, TikTok

THE EU announced probes Thursday into Facebook owner Meta and TikTok, seeking more details on the measures they have taken to stop the spread of "illegal content and disinformation" after the Hamas attack on Israel.

The European Commission said it had sent formal requests for information to Meta and TikTok respectively in what is a first procedure launched under the EU's new

law on digital content.

The EU launched a similar probe into billionaire mogul Elon Musk's social media platform X, formerly Twitter, last week.

The commission said the request to Meta related "to the dissemination and amplification of illegal content and disinformation" around the Hamas-Israel conflict.

In a separate statement, it said it wanted to know more

about TikTok's efforts against "the spreading of terrorist and violent content and hate speech".

The EU's executive arm added that it wanted more information from Meta on its "mitigation measures to protect the integrity of elections".

Meta and TikTok have until 25 October to respond, with a deadline of 8 November for less urgent aspects of the demand for information. — AFP

CONTEMPT CHARGES

Woman arrested for disrupting Trump civil fraud trial

A woman was arrested on Wednesday for disrupting Donald Trump's civil fraud trial after she approached the former US president in court saying she wanted to "assist him", a court spokesman said.

The woman, a court em-

ployee, was "safely escorted" out of the Manhattan courtroom by officers and has been charged with contempt and immediately placed on administration leave pending an investigation, spokesman Lucian Chalfen said.

The woman, who was not identified, "disrupted the proceedings by standing up and walking towards the front of the courtroom and yelling out to Mr Trump indicating she wanted to assist him", Chalfen said in a statement. — AFP

UN inspectors test Fukushima fish

UN inspectors collected samples from a fish market near the Fukushima nuclear power plant as concerns continue over the release of wastewater from the facility in August.

UN inspectors took samples from a fish market near the Fukushima nuclear power plant on Thursday following the release of wastewater from the wrecked facility in August.

China and Russia have banned Japanese seafood imports since the discharge began but Japan says it is safe, a view backed so far by the International Atomic Energy Agency

(IAEA). Some 540 Olympic swimming pools worth of water have been collected since a tsunami sent three reactors at Fukushima-Daiichi into meltdown in 2011 in one of the world's worst nuclear disasters. Japan says that the water has been filtered by its special ALPS technology of radioactive substances — except tritium — and diluted with seawater. — AFP



Paul McGinnity, left, research scientist of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) observes a fishing boat unloading catch of the day for a morning auction at Hisanohama Port in Iwaki, northeastern Japan Thursday, 19 October 2023. **PHOTO: EUGENE HOSHIKO, POOL/AFP**

SPORTS

Paris Olympics organizers and event management firms raided: sources close to probe

French investigators raided 2024 Paris Olympics offices amid favouritism probe.

FRENCH investigators have raided the offices of the 2024 Paris Olympics organizers and event management firms involved in the opening ceremony, sources close to the probe told AFP on Thursday.

The sources said the raids took place on Wednesday as part of an ongoing investigation into alleged favouritism in the awarding of contracts linked to the Olympics.

The searches are part of investigations into contracts awarded for the Games that are being led by the French Nation-

al Financial Prosecutor's Office (PNF).

"Paris 2024 confirms that the PNF attended its headquarters on Wednesday, 18 October, and obtained all of the information that it asked for. Paris 2024 is cooperating fully with the investigation as it has always done," the organizing committee said in a statement.

The first raids took place in June, targeting the organizing committee's headquarters and the offices of Solideo, the company responsible for the construction of Olympic sites. — AFP



The Paris Olympics organizers are subject to a probe into the awarding of contracts for the Games. **PHOTO: AFP**



Premier League clubs already enjoy a huge financial advantage over their European competitors due to far more lucrative domestic and international TV rights deals. **PHOTO: AFP**

Premier League eyes biggest ever TV rights deal by selling 70 more matches

The League is inviting offers on a four-year deal lasting till the 2028/29 season.

THE Premier League is aiming to smash its own record domestic television rights deal after making 70 more matches available for broadcast from 2025.

Currently, 200 matches per season are sold to broadcasters in the UK with the three-year deal that runs until the 2024/25 season worth a reported £4.8

billion (\$5.8 billion).

A Saturday afternoon blackout, designed to protect attendances in the lower leagues, will remain.

However, matches switched to Sundays due to the involvement of clubs in European fixtures will be broadcast live for the first time.

The extra games will also come from every match of five midweek rounds per season and the final round of the season being shown live.

Rather than the usual three-year cycle, the Premier League is inviting offers on a four-year deal lasting till the 2028/29 season. — AFP

Neymar has torn knee ligament, facing surgery

FOOTBALL superstar Neymar has a torn ligament and meniscus in his left knee and will have to undergo surgery after being injured during Brazil's 2-0 loss to Uruguay, the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) said Wednesday.

The 31-year-old, who joined Saudi Arabian side Al Hilal from Paris Saint-Germain in August, was stretchered off in tears just before halftime in Brazil's 2026 World Cup qualifying match in Montevideo Tuesday. Neymar will undergo surgery for the injuries at a "yet-to-be-determined date," the CBF said, after a series of medical exams on the player in Sao Paulo. "Brazilian

and world football need Neymar healthy and recovered, because football is happier when he's

on the pitch," CBF president Ednaldo Rodrigues said in a statement. — AFP



Brazil's forward Neymar leaves the field crying in pain after an injury during the 2026 FIFA World Cup South American qualification football match between Uruguay and Brazil at the Centenario Stadium in Montevideo on 17 October 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Mickelson says more PGA players will jump to LIV Golf

SIX-TIME major winner Phil Mickelson said Wednesday that more PGA Tour players will jump to Saudi-backed LIV Golf despite a framework agreement for a merger by the end of 2023.

The 53-year-old US left-hander, among the first to leap from the PGA to the upstart circuit last year, spoke Wednesday ahead of Friday's start of the season-ending LIV Golf Team Championship at Doral.

"I've been fielding calls, as we all have, from players that are free agents to PGA Tour players to DP World Tour players that want to come over," Mickelson

said.

Asked if he expected an "exodus" of talent from the PGA and DP World tours, Mickelson was confident of more movement.

"Do I think that? No. I know that's going to happen," Mickelson said. "When players look at LIV, they're wanting to be a part of it."

"Everybody here is happy and enjoying what we're doing, enjoying the team aspect of it and enjoying each other and the camaraderie and enjoying playing golf globally and all the benefits that come with playing this tour. — AFP

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A convoy of trucks carrying aid supplies for Gaza from Egypt waits on the main Ismailia desert road, about 300 kilometres east of the Egyptian border with the Gaza Strip. PHOTO: KHALED DESOUKI / AFP

Aid trucks wait at Egypt's border with war-torn Gaza after deal

THOUSANDS of tonnes of aid bound for Gaza remained on the Egyptian side of the border Thursday, after US President Joe Biden struck a deal with Egypt and Israel to allow relief in. Biden said Wednesday that Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi had agreed to "let up to 20 trucks through to begin with" to the heavily-bombarded Gaza Strip, starting Friday, giving authorities time to repair roads.

Sisi — whose spokesperson said the pair had agreed on "the sustainable delivery of aid" — has maintained that Egypt "did not close" the border, but that four rounds of Israeli air strikes on the Palestinian side of the Rafah crossing

Humanitarian workers at the border again warned that the aid must be allowed in as soon as possible, as perishable supplies had already begun to spoil.

have forced it shut.

An eyewitness told AFP that "150 trucks have been waiting at Rafah" — the only passage in and out of Gaza not

controlled by Israel — in addition to those in the nearby Egyptian city of El Arish, where planes full of relief supplies have been arriving. Humanitarian workers at the border again warned that the aid must be allowed in as soon as possible, as perishable supplies had already begun to spoil. Israel cut off supplies of water, electricity, fuel and food to the long-blockaded Palestinian enclave following the 7 October Hamas assault on Israeli border communities near Gaza. More than 1,400 people have been killed since the Hamas assault in Israel, which has responded with a withering aerial campaign that has so far killed nearly 3,500 people in Gaza. — AFP

SECOND BID FOR HOUSE SPEAKER

Washington in limbo as house marks 15th day without speaker

US lawmakers rejected hard-line conservative Jim Jordan's bid for speaker of the House of Representatives for a second time on Wednesday, as the leadership vacuum paralyzed Washington for a 15th day with no clear resolution in sight.

The lower chamber of Congress has been in a tailspin since Republican speaker Kevin McCarthy was ousted by his party's far right on 3 October — leaving it unable to address a looming government shutdown or war in the Middle East.

Jordan, an acolyte of scandal-engulfed Donald Trump, could only afford to lose four Republican votes, but 22 of his colleagues rejected his candidacy in the second ballot — two more than were against him a day earlier.

The Israel-Hamas conflict, a renewed push for aid to Ukraine and the threat of a government shutdown have dramatically upped the stakes, with Republicans hoping the urgent need for Congress to respond would unite the fractured party.

But Jordan's centrist colleagues, already wary of his hard-right politics, voiced irritation over a concerted effort to whip extra votes for the 59-year-old former wrestling champion.

"Each day that passes without a speaker of the House is a national security risk," said Jordan supporter and California Republican David Valadao. — AFP

Honda, GM driverless taxi JV to be operational in 2026 in Tokyo

This initiative represents a significant stride towards advancing autonomous and zero-emission technologies within the automotive sector.

HONDA Motor Co and General Motors Co said Thursday they will launch a driverless taxi joint venture that will be operational by early 2026 in Tokyo, as the auto industry rapidly shifts to vehicles that use autonomous and zero-emission technologies.

The two automakers, along

with GM's autonomous driving car unit called Cruise, will set up the venture in 2024 in Japan with Honda taking a majority stake. The ride-hailing service will use self-driving Cruise Origin electric vehicles jointly developed by the three partners, the automakers said.

The venture will start in central Tokyo with a few dozen EVs and is set to become the first driverless taxi service to operate in urban areas in Japan. It will then later be expanded beyond the central capital, with the fleet boosted to about 500 EVs. — Kyodo



The Cruise Origin vehicle was jointly developed by General Motors, Cruise and Honda. PHOTO: KYODO