

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, State Councillor of China Public Security Minister discuss bilateral cooperation including northeast region conditions of Myanmar

**C**HAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and member of the Secretariat of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee State Councillor of the People's Republic of China and Minister of Public Security Mr Wang Xiaohong held a talk on attacks of MNDAA insurgents on security camps in northeast region of Myanmar with attempts to deteriorate peace and stability in the region and bilateral cooperation measures at the Credentials Hall of the Office of the SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Both sides also focused on the situations of Myanmar and China which are trustful for each other, friendly relations between the two countries and enhancement of diplomatic relations.

They also emphasized plans to take action against offenders in online gambling, fraudulent communications, production of narcotic drugs and trafficking in the Laukkai region, interference of a world powerhouse in affairs of global countries including Myanmar's affairs and manipulating these countries under the double standard with selfishness.

They also frankly exchanged views on the occurrence of ethnic armed conflicts based on the power struggle of ethnic groups in northern Shan State since the



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives member of the CCPC Secretariat, State Councillor and Minister of Public Security Mr Wang Xiaohong in Nay Pyi Taw on 31 October 2023.

post-independence period, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs by some ethnic armed organizations, an unrest of Phon/Yan groups in Kokang region, empowering Pei group, attempts to grasp power, production of arms and ammunition, deterioration of border region peace and sta-

bility due to inflow of arms and ammunition, plans to effectively restrict illegal online gambling and online scam in the border region and exposing the offenders and taking action against them, plans to verify the businesses not in line with the law in the region and formation of the joint law en-

forcement and security bodies between the two countries.

Also present at the meeting were SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Council member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing and Deputy Minis-

ter for Foreign Affairs U Lwin Oo.

The member of the Secretariat of the Chinese Communist-Party Central Committee State Councillor of China Minister of Public Security was accompanied by Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai and delegation members. — MNA/TTA

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### BUSINESS

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YGN palm oil wholesale reference price dips over K150 per viss for week ending 5 Nov



# NATIONAL



A serene view of the Magway Myathalun Pagoda.

## Approximately 100,000 visitors throng Myathalun Pagoda in Magway

OVER 100,000 visitors visited the Myathalun Pagoda in Magway on Thadingyut Full Moon Day which falls on 29 October.

Devotees donated 9,000 candles, 9,000 flowers and 9,000 scented candles to the

pagoda and also participated in the lighting festival.

The 2587<sup>th</sup> Pagoda's Festival is being held for 20 days as it was postponed last year due to COVID-19, according to a member of the pagoda's

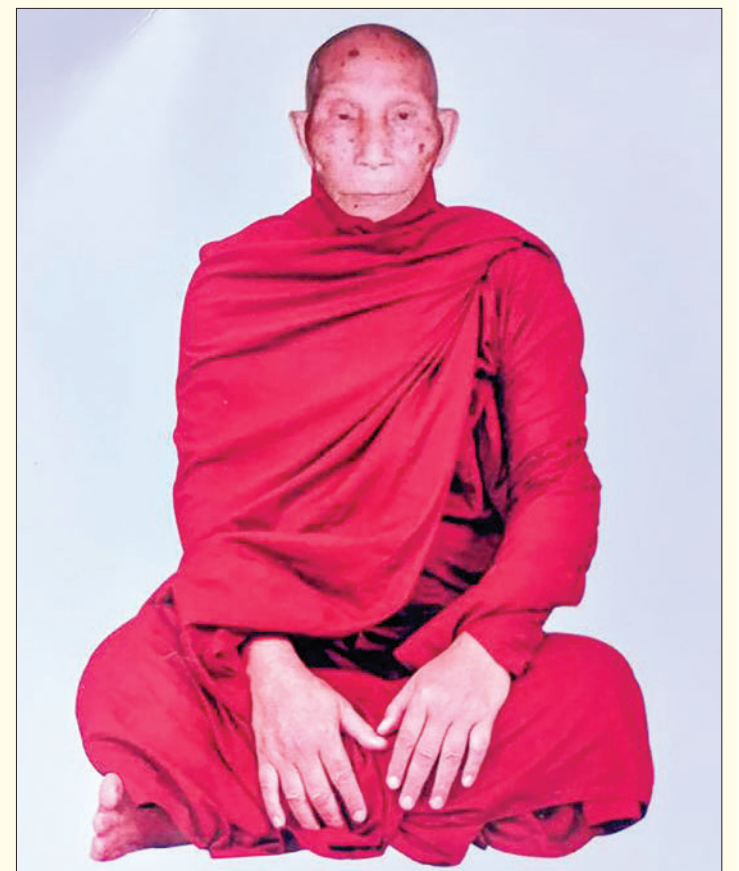
trustee.

Food stalls, playgrounds and souvenir shops are seen at the festival which is crowded by the pilgrims and visitors. — Maung Maung(Minbu)/KZL

## State Ovadacariya Sayadaw passes away

PRESIDING Patron of Dhamma Mamaka Monastery on 2<sup>nd</sup> Zeyawady Street in Ward 12 of Thakayta Township in Yangon Region Ganadhipati of Wailun Nikaya Gana State Ovadacariya Sayadaw Bhaddanta

Pañnavamsa, aged 104, vasa 84, passed away at 5:55 pm on 30 October 2023, 1<sup>st</sup> waning of Thadingyut 1385 ME, according to the Department of Religious Affairs. — MNA/TTA



The image of the State Ovadacariya Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pañnavamsa.

## U Bein Bridge restoration set to conclude in three days

PART of U Bein Bridge in Mandalay collapsed at 2:10 pm on 29 October due to the large number of visitors.

The Department of Archeology and National Museums (Mandalay Branch) started repairing the broken part of the bridge on 30 October and will complete it within 3 days.

An official from the Department of Archaeology and National Museums (Mandalay Branch) said that the bridge has been around for more than 170 years, and the day of the incident was the Full Moon Day of Thadingyut.

"The department carries out preservation. It was broken due to the large number of visitors on 29 October. Two eight-foot-wide divisions broke, and preparations will be made to repair three divisions. The pillars have been planted up to a depth of five feet. Today, two new bridge pillars have been made. The duration of the prepara-



The damaged section seen under restoration.

tion work is three days.

"As it is an ancient teak bridge, it is

being replaced with teak pillars, and the bridge pillars are 25 feet long, and the

pillars are buried five feet into the ground and erected. The steps and floors will also be newly prepared. Taungthaman boat team and local people participate and help in the repair work.

"It is called U Bein Bridge because it was built by a man named U Bein, and it is also called Taungthaman Bridge because it crosses the Taungthaman Lake. It is more crowded than usual on office holidays. For the bridge to be sustainable for a long time, visitors need to maintain it as well", an official told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The bridge was built in 1211 Myanmar Year during the reign of King Bagan of the Amarapura era. It has 1,086 pillars and 482 divisions. The length of the bridge is 3,967 feet.

The bridge is more than 170 years old and it took two years to build. — Maung Aye Chan/KZL

# NATIONAL

## Senior General says only when Myanmar's traditional cultural performing arts continuously flourish will people have higher national self-defence power



State Administration Council Chair Premier Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and dignitaries attend the award presentation ceremony of the 24<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE continuous flourishing of Myanmar's traditional cultural performing arts will contribute to the moral development of youths in the right way, resulting in the improvement of national self-defence power, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered an address on the enhancement of the morale of youths at the awarding ceremony of the 24<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition held at the MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

He continued that the gov-

ernment of the State Administration Council is striving for all-round development, peace and stability of the country, national solidarity of ethnics, and socio-economic development of citizens.

The Senior General explained that fine arts are based on traditional culture and customs in nurturing the youths to have five criteria of physical, mental, moral, fraternal and economic strengths.

He prayed for all to further forge solidarity among the national brethren in the preservation of national cultural heritages and uplifting the prestige and integrity of the nation based on the fraternity of nationals.

The Senior General presented honorary awards to traditional dance troupes from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states in addition to first, second and third as well as consolation prizes to winners in the Mahosadha drama contest and those for outstanding characters in the contest respectively.

The wife of the Senior General awarded winners in the classical song women's amateur first and second-class contest, first, second and third prizes and consolation prizes to classical song women's amateur first and second-class contest, and marionette contest respectively. The wife of the SAC Vice-Chair-

man Deputy Prime Minister, the wife of the Joint Secretary and the wives of council members also gave medals and certificates of honour to winners in the classical song women's higher education and basic education (aged 15-20) and (aged 10-15) contests respectively.

SAC members, their wives, Union-level officials and Union ministers handed the remaining prizes to the relevant winners.

This year's competition comprised three events in the singing contest, eight in the dancing contest, four in the song-composing contest and 13 in the playing music contest, totalling 28.

The number of participants

reached 2,306 in this year's competition, 468 contestants more than that of the last year.

In the competition, Yangon Region secured 143 prizes, Mandalay Region 81, Ayeyawady Region 56, Kayin State 31, Sagaing Region 32, Bago Region 40, Mon State 32, Rakhine State 17, Taninthayi Region 19, Kachin State 19, Kayah State 16, Shan State 15, Chin State 14 and Magway Region 16.

In the evening, the Senior General and his wife attended the dinner to mark the competition at the MICC-II where the Senior General presented certificates of honour to panels of judges for relevant contests.

— MNA/TTA

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar Announcement of Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

2<sup>nd</sup> Waning of Thadingyut 1385 ME  
(31 October 2023)

IT is necessary to control Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) infection continuously. So, it is now announced that public requests, orders, notifications and directives (except for easing restrictions) released by Union-Level Organizations and Union Ministries up to 31 October 2023 have been extended to 30 November 2023 for prevention, control and treatment on Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

## ME joins ASEAN Culture Day event

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Embassy of Myanmar participated in the ASEAN Cul-



Serving Myanmar's traditional food at the event in Washington DC, USA.

ture Day ceremony jointly organized by the embassies of ASEAN countries based in Washington, United States of America, and Associates of the American Foreign Service Worldwide (AAFSW).

The ceremony was held on 30 October at the Dean Acheson Auditorium at the US Department of State.

During the ASEAN Culture Day event, the ASEAN embassies presented national cultural performances and hosted the US State Department officials and guests with traditional food of ASEAN countries.

In hosting such entertainment, the Myanmar Embassy performed the performance of the Myanmar Water Festival Dance, served traditional Myanmar food, and introduced Myanmar scenic video clips to the attendees. Around 400 diplomats attended the ceremony. — ASH/KZL

# NATIONAL

## MoIP Union Minister receives Chinese delegation

UNION Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing received Member of the State Council of the People's Republic of China and Minister for Public Security Mr Wang Xiaohong and party in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Both parties discussed matters pertaining to enhancing cooperation between the two countries in immigration-related activities for stability and peace in the border areas of the two countries, enabling the people of both countries to be able to interact comfortably, establishing

more China-Myanmar border posts, expanding cooperation in immigration-related activities, conducting director-general level meetings annually.

The discussion dwelt on the support of China to fulfil technological and needs for Myanmar's population and household census and e-ID system implementation, cooperation amongst Myanmar, China, Thailand and Laos in efforts to prevent illegal migrations between the countries, drug trafficking, human trafficking and online gambling, the urgent restoration of stabil-



Union Minister U Myint Kyaing holds talks with the Chinese delegation yesterday.

ity at the China-Myanmar border areas where armed conflicts

have been flaring up, and efforts to maintain lasting friendly bilat-

eral relations between Myanmar and China. — MNA/TH

## MoSYA UM receives Chinese Economic & Commercial Attaché-led delegation



The discussion between Union Minister U Min Thein Zan and the delegation headed by Chinese Economic and Commercial Attache' Mr Ouyang Daobing underway yesterday.

UNION Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan met the delegation led by Mr Ouyang Daobing, Economic and Commercial At-

taché of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Both sides discussed the

reconstruction of Aung San Stadium, the activities of the visiting engineering teams and their feasible study. —

MNA/TS

## Coordination meeting on safe mobile banking held

A coordination meeting supervised by the Mobile Money Financial Services Industry Oversight Committee led by the Central Bank of Myanmar governor was held yesterday in Yangon to prevent cases of financial fraud and organize the Action Task Force.

During the meeting, the CBM governor discussed matters regarding financial fraud through the communication network, information access and screening for prevention, and action on Standard Operation Procedure-SOP.

Then, the participants of the meeting discussed the formation

of the Action Task Force, issues related to financial fraud, notifications on mobile websites so that the public can easily find out, and statements and awareness programmes using social media.

In addition, Central Bank of Myanmar Governor Daw Than Than Swe met with officials from the Central Bank of Myanmar (Yangon branch) yesterday morning.

During the meeting, Risk-based Supervision methods mentioned in the Onsite Examination Manual and Onsite Examination plans for financial fraud are discussed. — MNA/KZL



The coordination meeting on mobile banking safety in progress yesterday.

**COVID-19 report, 31 October 2023**

NEW TESTS	NEW CASES	CASUALTIES
2,596	Two	Nil

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

# NATIONAL

## Medical specialists depart on humanitarian mission aboard Tatmadaw hospital ship

MEDICAL specialists from both the Tatmadaw Mobile Medical Team and the Ministry of Health Mobile Medical Team, along with medics and nurses, have departed aboard the Tatmadaw seagoing hospital ship (Thanlwin) from Yangon Region's Coco Island Township. Their mission is to provide healthcare services to the local people in the surrounding villages of Haigyi Island, as well as the townships and villages along the Rakhine coast and Ayeyawady Region.

Yesterday afternoon, they embarked from Naval Jetty No 3 in Thilawa, Yangon. Senior officers and members of the Tatmadaw (Navy) extended their well-wishes to the team before departure.

Specialists from the Tat-



The Tatmadaw hospital ship 'Thanlwin' ready sailing for humanitarian activities in Haigyi Island and its vicinities.

madaw and the Ministry of Health, including paramedics, nursing officers, military nurses, are accompanying the Navy Hospital Ship (Thanlwin) on a mission to provide surgical treatments and healthcare services to the residents of the villages surrounding Haigyi Island in Irrawaddy Region and the townships along the Rakhine coast. The services will cover surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology, children's diseases, bone diseases, eye diseases, ear/nose/throat diseases, dental diseases, and general illnesses. Diagnostic and treatment facilities such as ECG machines and x-ray machines will be available on board, and laboratory tests will also be conducted. — MNA/KZW

## Confiscated illegal items: Timbers, medications, consumer goods, and vehicles

A combined team under the management of the Ayeyawady Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force impounded a total of 1.737 tonnes of illegal wood worth K142,428 near Malatto village in Maubin township on 28 October. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On the same day, a combined team under the supervision of the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force nabbed six kinds of medicines worth K12.38 million, including 80 phials of Bevac vaccine and 90 boxes of Abhayrab rabies vaccine without registration with the Ministry of Health, in Aungmyaythazan township. The action was taken in accordance with respective procedures.

The on-duty teams made inspections on 30 October and seized four kinds of goods worth K1.62 million, including 10 cartons of Hehua cigarettes without official documents from luggage, at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk) and two unregistered vehicles – Nissan AD Van and Toyota Mark II – in Kyauktaga township of Toungoo district. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Export and Import Law.

On 31 October, the combined teams

captured an unregistered Canda motorbike worth K300,000 in Naungpoaung village in Homalin township and a total of 9.741 tonnes of illegal wood worth K768,546 in Gwa township of Thandwe district. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law and the Forest Law.

A total of eight arrests were made on 28, 30 and 31 October, with an estimated value of K26,210,974, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS



Confiscated unregistered vehicle.

## Tatmadaw responds to KIA attacks near Kantawyan

KIA and joint forces attacked the security team, which was on security duty near Kantawyan, the Myitkyina-Bhamo main highway, used by the public.

KIA and allied forces also attacked the security post on the Loilem road on 6 October, so Tatmadaw contacted the relevant Peace-Talk Creation Group (PCG) and informed them twice that appropriate responses would be made.

Despite the negotiation by the Tatmadaw, they attacked the Kantawyan Security Station yesterday morning and attempted to control the Myitkyina-Bhamo road by force. In the process, some army officers and soldiers were killed and injured.

Therefore, Tatmadaw had to carry out appropriate counterattacks against the KIA group's weapons production sites, ammunition and mine production sites and storage sites based on accurate reports from key informants.

The area is close to the border, and the neighbouring country was notified in advance of the inevitable incident, and limited counterattacks were carried out with re-



The location map of the attack of the KIA and combined forces on the Kantawyan security post.

straint. If there are any further acts of violence against the public, the necessary response will be taken. — MNA/KZL

# NATIONAL

## Thukha Dagon public rental housing applicants' list to be revealed at township offices on 2 Nov

THE Thukha Dagon Public Rental Housing Leasing and Disciplinary Committee has announced that the names of applicants selected for Thukha Dagon public rental housing in Dagon Myothit (South) Township will be posted at the township administration offices on 2 November.

It has been announced that retired employees, civil servants, and individuals facing challenges living in Yangon Region will be eligible to rent apartments in Thukha Dagon Public Rental Housing at a fixed rental rate.

The Leasing and Disciplinary Committee has screened and selected those who meet the stipulated conditions and requirements. The dates for drawing lots will be notified and announced at the respective district and township administration offices from 2 to 12 November.

Those who have been selected for the drawing lots will need to bring their original Citizenship Scrutiny Cards (CSCs) and household lists. The apartment assignments will take place on specified dates according to the desig-



Apartments in the Thukha Dagon public rental housing.

nated block of flats at the Thukha Dagon public rental housing in Dagon Myothit (South) Township.

A list of eligible applicants for the

drawing lots can be obtained at the district and township administration offices where applicants submitted their applications. For further information

about the apartment drawing lots programme, you can contact 09 699998814 or 01 8379061 during office hours. — TWA/CT



The photo shows Myanansankyaw Golden Palace in Mandalay.

### Re-exhibit king's equipment with simple donation, necessary documentation

EFFORTS are underway to exhibit royal artefacts at the Myanansankyaw Golden Palace in Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay Region.

The Department of Archaeology and National Museums is extending an invitation to monasteries and individuals in possession of royal relics to contribute these items, along with the relevant evidence and documentation.

For those who offer royal paraphernalia of confirmed historical significance, the department will present a certificate of honour along with a cash award. It's important to note that the palace structures, including the Myanansankyaw Golden Palace, exemplify the ancient architectural heritage of Myanmar. This palace was once the residence of two kings during the Yadanabon Period, and it stands as a cultural treasure worth exploring for both domestic and international tourists. — TWA/KZW

## 64 drug addicts receive comprehensive psychological, physical care over 10 months

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement, 64 individuals who have overcome drug addiction are currently receiving mental and physical follow-up care within the first 10 months of this year.

From 1 January 2023, up to the present, 64 recovering drug addicts have been provided with psychological and physical follow-up care in various rehabilitation centres under the MoSWRR. A ceremony to hand them over to their parents took place on 31 October.

The rehabilitation of drug addicts has been ongoing since 1980, utilizing three strategies: camp-based rehabilitation, camp and community-based rehabilitation, and community-based rehabilitation.

A total of 14 rehabilitation centres have been established in locations such as Yangon, Mandalay, Myitkyina, Lashio, Kengtung, Tachilek, Nantlatt (Taunggyi), Myawady, Kawthoung, Wethteekan (Pyay),

Pekhon, Hpa-an, Dawei, and Myeik.

In these drug rehabilitation camps operated by the Department of Rehabilitation, camp-based rehabilitation programs are conducted over 90 days. These programmes include

courses in hairdressing, welding, printing, soap production, basic motorcycle and computer repair, basket weaving, basic home electrical repair, basic skin care production, motorcycle wiring and repair, and so on. — TWA/CT



Trainees at the Yangon rehabilitation camp in Mayangon Township in Yangon in 2020.

## YGN palm oil wholesale reference price dips over K150 per viss for week ending 5 Nov

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market indicated a decrease of over K150 per viss for the week ending 5 November compared to that recorded in the previous week, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The wholesale price was set at K4,725 per viss for a week ending 30 October and this week's rate was set lower a bit to K4,570 per viss for a week from 31 October to 5 November, showing a decrease of 155 per viss.

The Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia including transport costs, tariffs and banking services to issue the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly.

Nevertheless, the market price was higher than the reference price.

To tackle the overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce apprised the consumers of lodging complaints for overcharging through the call centre's hotline in late August. The Department urged consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices. The Department is making concerted efforts to steer the high volatility in palm oil prices in the retail market and offer fairer prices to the consumers, in coordination with the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association



Vendors prepare cooking oil for sale at the kitchen grocery outlet.

and oil importing companies.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department or sent to the Facebook Page of the Department and the region and state departments concerned.

Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association formed a task force for edible oil price stability and started informing the lists of wholesale/retail shops of each company on 28 August, including the address of the shops in the respective townships and the number of available barrels.

The task force will govern the

market to meet the satisfaction of the end-users in the supply chain and get easy access to the consumers.

It will also supervise the market to ensure that palm oil sales at wholesale prices are not higher than two per cent of the net profit margin and retail prices are not higher than the 10 per cent margin.

The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the domestic demands, about 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/EM

## Black gram, pigeon pea prices remain high in post-Thadingyut holidays

THE prices of black gram and pigeon pea escalated in the post-Thadingyut holidays (28-30 October) on the back of strong foreign demand, according to the Yangon Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Wholesale Commodity Centre).

Prior to the Thadingyut holidays, the prices stood at K2.918 million per tonne of black gram and K4.075 million per tonne of pigeon pea on 27 October.

The opening prices in the post-Thadingyut holidays were K2.937 million per tonne of black gram and K4.075 million per tonne of pigeon pea.

The pigeon pea price remained unchanged whereas the black gram price rally persisted and hit new highs in the domestic market.

The FOB prices were US\$1,090-

1,110 per tonne for black gram on 31 October, as per the Yangon Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Wholesale Commodity Centre).

Myanmar primarily exports black gram, green gram and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Of them, black gram and pigeon peas are mostly conveyed to India while green grams are shipped to China and Europe.

Black grams which India primarily purchases are commonly found only in Myanmar, whereas pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

Myanmar shipped more than 930,000 tonnes of pulses, with an esti-



Various kinds of beans and pulses are organized at the market.

ated value of over US\$778 million, to foreign countries over the past six and half months of the 2023-2024 financial year beginning 1 April, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's pulses exports crossed over \$1.4 billion from over 1.9 million tonnes in the past financial year 2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated. — NN/EM

## Rubber prices on decline in end-Oct

THE price of rubber has fallen to around K1,580 per pound in Mon State's rubber market.

The prices touched a high of K1,790 per pound of Ribbed Smoked Sheet Local 3 and K1,770 for sun-dried rubber on 18 October.

The prevailing prices moved down to K1,560 per pound for sundried rubber and K1,580 for RSS Local 3. The figures showed a two-week decrease of over K210 per pound.

Global demand for rubber, rubber production in the Southeast Asian nations and the market supply are contributing factors to Myanmar's rubber prices.

The rubber price in Mon State, a major rubber production state in Myanmar, is closely tied to those factors as well, the traders elaborated.

Myanmar's annual rubber production is estimated at 300,000 tonnes. Seventy per cent of rubber produced in Myanmar goes to China. It is also shipped to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea, India, Japan, and other countries.

The association aims to achieve rubber exports of 300,000 tonnes in the current 2023-2024 financial year beginning 1 April. The rubber production in the last FY 2022-2023 reached over 360,000 tonnes and more than 200,000 tonnes of rubber were shipped to foreign trade partners.

Rubber is commonly produced in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions in Myanmar. As per 2018-2019 rubber season data, there are over 1.628 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar, with Mon State accounting for 497,153 acres, followed by Taninthayi Region with 348,344 acres and Kayin State with 270,760 acres.

Myanmar bagged more than US\$449 million in revenue in rubber exports in the 2020-2021 FY. — NN/EM



Workers are seen preparing rubber for export.

## OPINION

### Mark global tapestry of cities with urban future

**W**ORLD Cities Day, observed under the theme “Financing Sustainable Urban Future for All”, pays homage to cities around the world that have spearheaded transformative investments in urban development and achieved financial decentralization. These cities, many of which have stood the test of time for centuries, have continually evolved and grown across all sectors. The dedicated efforts of their inhabitants and governments have played a pivotal role in shaping these metropolises into thriving, aesthetically pleasing, and well-organized societies with impeccable urbanization strategies.

The denizens of these cities take immense pride in the ancient landmarks that stand as testaments to the endurance and evolution of their urban centres. Over successive eras, governments have acted as stewards, passing down invaluable legacies to future generations, and preserving their cultural heritage.

Effective urban planning is the cornerstone of orderly city expansion. It serves as a guiding force for strategic investment, land subdivision, and the establishment of essential infrastructure before construction commences. Retrofitting informal settlements in cities can be a complex and costly endeavour.

It is incumbent upon everyone to transform their cities into smart urban centres. In smart cities, residents become smarter, and the citizens who actively contribute to the city’s development take pride in being its builders. Their collective endeavours are etched into the annals of city history, providing invaluable lessons for future generations. The proliferation of eminent cities across the world is a phenomenon without equality, reflecting the unwavering commitment to progress and sustainable development.

World Cities Day, observed annually on 31 October, marks the culmination of Urban October, a month dedicated to activities, events, and discussions on urban sustainability. Urban October provides a platform for global and local dialogues, allowing stakeholders to address the challenges and opportunities arising from the rapid urbanization of our cities and towns.

Cities are at the forefront of climate change, and they must play a central role in climate action. Communities worldwide have already taken initiatives to enhance climate resilience and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, paving the way for a sustainable future. City dwellers must actively participate in environmental conservation efforts to ensure the longevity of their cities.

The interplay between climatic conditions and urban populations is crucial for environmental sustainability. Prominent cities worldwide are committed to aligning themselves with sustainable development goals, striving to be lush and green. This approach not only benefits the environment but also enhances the quality of life for its residents.

It is incumbent upon everyone to transform their cities into smart urban centres. In smart cities, residents become smarter, and the citizens who actively contribute to the city’s development take pride in being its builders. Their collective endeavours are etched into the annals of city history, providing invaluable lessons for future generations. The proliferation of eminent cities across the world is a phenomenon without equality, reflecting the unwavering commitment to progress and sustainable development.

**O**UR sense of smell might not always get the attention it deserves, but recent events have made us realize just how vital it is. The ability to smell is not something we often think about, but when Joanne Hort, a professor from New Zealand, lost her sense of smell due to COVID-19, she discovered how crucial it is in her life. Like Joanne, many people around the world have experienced a disruption in their sense of smell because of the virus. While most recover quickly, for some, it can take several months. As Professor Evan Reiter from the Smell and Taste Disorders Centre points out, this loss, known as anosmia, has drawn attention to a sense that was once considered of little importance. In reality, our sense of smell plays a significant role in our daily lives, influencing our survival instincts, our food preferences, and even our emotional connections. Now, let’s explore the importance of our sense of smell and how to protect it.

#### “Once thought of as trivial, we now know our sense of smell is super important”

You probably get your eyes tested to protect your sight, maybe have a yearly hearing test to check your ears – but, protecting your nose... eh? However, as many of us have suffered or are suffering a disruption in our ability to smell thanks to COVID-19, we’re starting to appreciate just how important this ‘forgotten’ sense is – and why we should all be doing more to keep it healthy.

Just three days after being diagnosed with COVID-19 in September 2022, Joanne Hort real-

ized she’d lost her sense of smell when she couldn’t taste some orange juice. “I panicked and ran to the bathroom and started trying to smell my perfume, but there was nothing,” says the academic from Palmerston North, New Zealand. Hort’s experience is now quite a common story, but what makes this tale different is that she doesn’t have a prevalent job. She’s a professor at New Zealand’s Massey University working in the field of sensory perception, so her sense of smell is integral to her career. “The idea that it might be gone or diminished was terrifying,” she says. “I started smelling everything I could to try and kick-start its return, but it took over six months for it to return properly.”

Around 86 per cent of people who have had COVID-19 experience a change in their sense of smell. For most, it’s short-lived but for one in every five, particularly the over-40s, the damage takes over six months to resolve. “And that’s a lot of people given the millions that have been afflicted with COVID-19,” says Professor Evan Reiter, medical director of the Smell and Taste Disorders Centre at Virginia Commonwealth University in the US. This epidemic loss, a condition known in medical terms as anosmia, has focused attention back on the sense that biologist Charles Darwin once described as “of extremely slight service to mankind”.

Almost 150 years after he said that we now know that Darwin was wrong – very wrong. “Research has discovered more than 600 genes in the human body associated with the sense of smell,”

## The Allure of Safeguarding Our Sense of Smell

By Min Zan

explains sensory expert Professor Eugeni Roura from Australia’s University of Queensland. “That’s around three per cent of the whole genome associated with just one system. That’s huge and shows that the sense of smell is actually immensely important to the human body.”

Let’s start again with the fact that smell can help keep us alive by alerting us to dangers such as food that might make us sick or the threat of fire, and it does this very quickly. Odour signals reach the brain within 100-150 milliseconds of inhalation – and recent research from Sweden found we process unpleasant or dangerous smells even faster than innocuous ones.

“But smell also helps create the flavour of food and plays a role in controlling the variety of our diet and the nutrients we consume,” says Professor Hort. “It’s linked to emotion and memory.” It may even be why you picked your partner as we subconsciously use smell to help find mates who have different immune systems to our

own. So how do we smell? It happens when odour molecules in the air hit nerves in the lining of the nose. These send signals to the olfactory organ, the part of the brain that interprets smell, which scours our memory to determine what the smell is – and if it’s good, bad, or indifferent.

The olfactory organ makes up around five per cent of the human brain. It’s estimated that it can distinguish between a million different odours. Each of us has a unique sense of smell and the strength of our unique smell is related to the genes you inherit from your parents which determine which smell receptors (detectors) are expressed in the nose.

Other factors further determine how sensitive your sense of smell is. Women generally have a stronger sense of smell than men, while damage from air pollution means people who live in highly polluted cities have a less sensitive sense of smell than those in rural areas.

“We also know the sense of



smell declines with age,” says Professor Hort. “And if you’ve damaged your nose through a head injury, illness, or inhaling something that causes irritation, your sense of smell can also be negatively affected.”

Protecting your nose from such damage is therefore the first step in keeping your sense of smell thriving. Avoid inhaling strong scents like bleach or other chemicals. If you have a long-term condition like rhinitis, speak to your GP about nasal sprays that might help dampen down the inflammation.

Then, keep your nose busy. “The sense of smell is a bit like a muscle, you can train it to become stronger by exercising it,” says Professor Roura.

Here’s how to give yours a workout.

#### Make smell a primary sense

During the day we tend to focus more on our other senses like taste or sight, but start using smell, too. Sniff vegetables and fruit as part of determining ripeness before you buy them, focus on the different notes in the perfume you wear, or identify dif-

ferent flowers in your garden by scent alone.

#### Seek out new scents

The more different smells you expose your nose to, the better. “When I work with smell experts, they literally smell everything they find interesting,” says Professor Roura, laughing. “Travelling with them is a bit of a nightmare, as it takes ages to get anywhere as they keep sniffing things.”

#### Feed your nose

Just like the rest of your body, your olfactory system needs a good mix of nutrients to perform optimally – deficiencies in vitamin D, vitamin B12, and zinc have all been linked to a reduced sense of smell. But, also watch your fat intake. Research from Florida State University found that mice eating a high-fat diet had a reduced sense of smell – and fewer olfactory neurons – than those eating a less fatty diet.

#### Stay hydrated

“To smell effectively the mucosa of the nose needs to be in a good physiological state – and hydration plays a part in this. You don’t smell as well if your nose is dehydrated,” says Professor Roura.

#### Why COVID-19 damages the sense of smell

A reduction in the ability to smell is quite common with respiratory infections like cold, flu, and COVID-19, as mucus produced during such illnesses physically blocks smell molecules from reaching the nerves that interpret them. However, COVID-19 doesn’t

just block the nerves. “It actually infects the neurons, leading to cell death – and this can go all the way up the brain,” says Professor Roura. “These cells then need to be renewed to restore the sense of smell – and that’s why recovery can take so much longer than with colds or flu.”

Research into how to tackle COVID-related smell loss is ongoing but one technique that is helping is smell training. Take four strong (but not harmful) scents – in studies they start with rose, clove, eucalyptus, and lemon – and sniff them. This is done twice a day and can stimulate the regrowth of the smell neurons in around three months. Ask your GP the exact protocol if you’re affected.

In brief, the sense of smell, often overlooked in the past, has proven to be incredibly important to our overall well-being. COVID-19 has brought this “forgotten” sense into the spotlight, as many have experienced disruptions in their ability to smell. Research has revealed that our sense of smell is linked to our survival instincts, food preferences, emotions, and even mate selection. It is a crucial part of our lives, and we should take steps to protect and strengthen it. By avoiding strong, irritating scents, staying hydrated, and actively engaging our noses through smell exercises, we can maintain a healthy sense of smell. So, let’s not underestimate the power of our sense of smell and continue to appreciate its significance in our lives.

Reference: Reader’s Digest May 2023



Those who participated in heated yoga sessions had significantly reduced depressive symptoms than those who did not in a randomised controlled clinical trial of people with moderate-to-severe depression. ILLUSTRATION: JOELLEPEARSON/WIKIPEDIA

## Heated yoga could help treat depression: Study

The results of the study suggest that heated yoga could be a viable therapeutic option for individuals suffering from depression.

**T**HOSE who participated in heated yoga sessions had significantly reduced depressive symptoms than those who did not in a randomised controlled clinical trial of people with moderate-to-severe depression, according to new research.

The trial’s findings, which

were published in the Journal of Clinical Psychiatry and led by investigators from Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), a founding member of Mass General Brigham (MGB), suggest that heated yoga could be a feasible therapeutic option for people suffering from depression.

In the eight-week trial, 80 participants were randomized into two groups: one that received 90-minute sessions of Bikram yoga practiced in a 105°F room and a second group that was placed on a waitlist (waitlist participants completed the yoga intervention after their waitlist period). A total

of 33 participants in the yoga group and 32 in the waitlist group were included in the analysis.

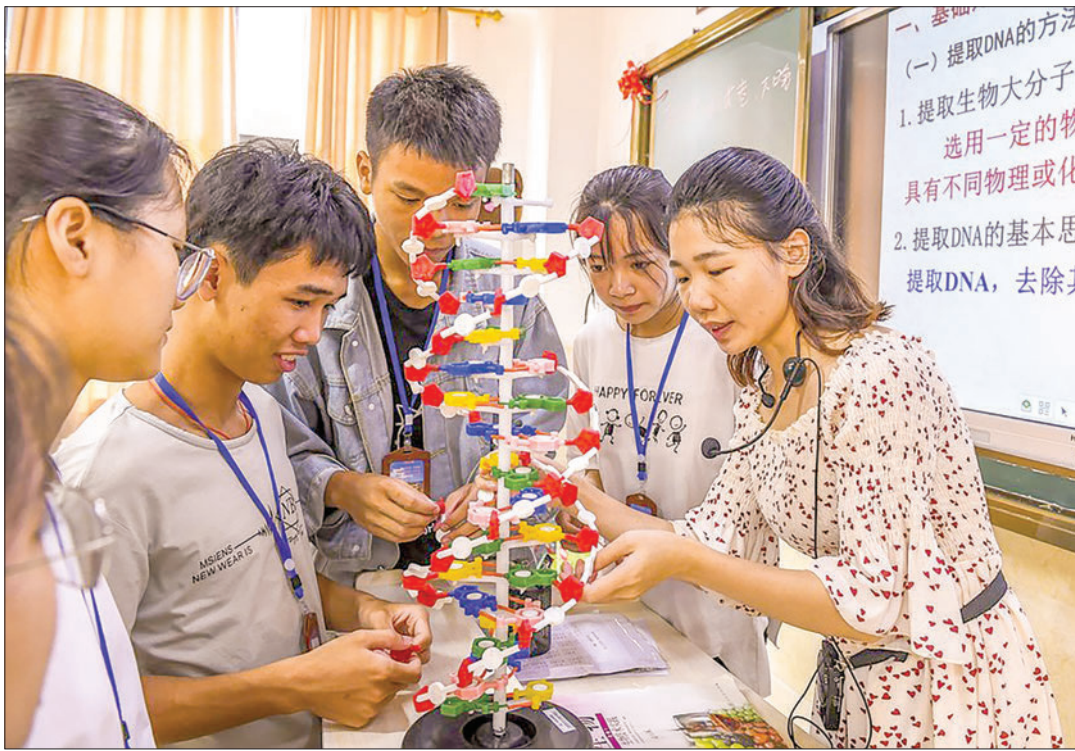
Participants in the intervention group were prescribed at least two yoga classes per week, but overall, they attended an average of 10.3 classes over eight weeks.

After eight weeks, yoga participants had a significantly greater reduction in depressive symptoms than waitlisted participants, as assessed through what’s known as the clinician-rated Inventory of Depressive Symptomatology (IDS-CR) scale.

SOURCE: ANI



# SCI/TECH/ENVIRON WORLD



A teacher and students study a DNA structure model at a middle school in Xingye County, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, 29 May 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA

## Chinese scientists develop DNA damage, repair atlas to control tumours

CHINESE scientists have developed an atlas of high-throughput sequencing DNA damage and repair, which could help in promoting tumour prevention and treatment.

DNA damage and its improper repair are the major source of genomic alterations responsible for many human diseases, particularly cancer.

However, a comprehensive database is still lacking despite the rapid accumulation of published datasets.

The researchers from the Centre for Excellence in Molecular Cell Science, under the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Guangzhou Medical University, have presented the DNA Damage Atlas (DDA), which is the first large-scale

repository of DNA damage and repair information.

The new atlas features a standardized workflow comprising 6,030 samples from 262 datasets by 59 technologies, covering 16 species. It includes 10 types of damage and 135 treatments, according to the study published recently in the journal *Nucleic Acids Research*. — Xinhua

## UK backs deep-sea mining moratorium to protect oceans

BRITAIN on Monday backed international efforts to temporarily suspend the awarding of deep-sea licences for mineral exploration in order to boost marine biodiversity and protect the world's oceans.

The announcement was timed to coincide with the first day of negotiations of the Jamaica-based International Seabed Authority (ISA), an intergovernmental body tasked with protecting the seabed.

"The UK government has announced its support for a

moratorium on the granting of exploitation licences for deep-sea mining projects — which involve the extraction of minerals such as precious metals, copper and cobalt — by the ISA," the UK statement read. "This means the UK will not sponsor or support the issuing of any such licences until sufficient scientific evidence is available to assess the potential impact of deep sea mining activities on marine ecosystems and strong, enforceable environmental regulations, standards

and guidelines have been developed and adopted by the ISA." Britain joins more than 20 other nations — including Canada, Chile, France, Germany, Spain and New Zealand — which have already called for a full ban, moratorium or pause on the practice. The ISA's member nations had in July agreed on a two-year roadmap for the adoption of deep sea mining regulations, despite conservationists' calls for a moratorium on mineral extraction they say would avert marine threats. — AFP

## Italy, France, Germany back 'innovation-friendly' approach to AI

THE EU's planned law regulating artificial intelligence must be based on an "innovation-friendly" approach, ministers from Germany, France and Italy said Monday, while urging more investment in the new technology.

After meeting in Rome, the economic affairs ministers from the European Union's three largest economies welcomed what would be the world's first law covering AI, expected to be agreed by the end of the year.

But in a joint statement, they said it was "paramount to

ensure that legislation in the EU is designed without unnecessary bureaucracy and that existing red tape is being cut". They "reiterated their commitment for an innovation-friendly and risk-based approach, reducing unnecessary administrative burdens on companies that would hinder Europe's ability to innovate".

The law would regulate AI according to the level of risk: the higher the risk to individuals' rights or health, for example, the greater the systems' obligations. — AFP

## Asteroid dust caused 15-year winter that killed dinosaurs: study

AROUND 66 million years ago, an asteroid bigger than Mount Everest smashed into Earth, killing off three quarters of all life on the planet — including the dinosaurs.

This much we know.

But exactly how the impact of the asteroid Chicxulub caused all those animals to go extinct has remained a matter of debate.

The leading theory recently has been that sulphur from the asteroid's impact — or soot from global wildfires it sparked — blocked out the sky and plunged the world into a long, dark winter, killing all but the lucky few.

However research pub-

lished Monday based on particles found at a key fossil site reasserted an earlier hypothesis: that the impact winter was caused by dust kicked up by the asteroid.

Fine silicate dust from pulverized rock would have stayed in the atmosphere for 15 years, dropping global temperatures by up to 15 degrees Celsius, researchers said in a study in the journal *Nature Geoscience*.

Back in 1980, father-and-son scientists Luis and Walter Alvarez first proposed that the dinosaurs were killed off by an asteroid strike that shrouded the world in dust. — AFP



Paleospace's director Karine Boutillier looks at the skull of a Tarbosaurus, an Asian cousin of the Tyrannosaurus rex, at the Paleospace Museum in Villers-sur-Mer, northwestern France, on 30 March 2023, ahead of the exhibition "Tresors des collections : fossilizations exceptionnelles". PHOTO: AFP



Photo taken on 30 October 2023 shows the basement of the new facility Anime Tokyo Station, which houses the Tokyo metropolitan government's archives of anime production materials, in the Japanese capital's Ikebukuro district **PHOTO: KYODO**

## New anime facility opens in Tokyo showcasing capital's archives

A new anime exhibition facility opened Tuesday in Tokyo's Ikebukuro district, with the three-storey complex inviting visitors worldwide to view the metropolitan government's collection of anime materials and learn about the world of Japanese animation.

Jointly operated by the Tokyo metropolitan government and the industry group the Association of Japanese Animations, the Anime Tokyo Station, span-

ning a total area of around 1,300 square metres, aims to promote anime-based industry, culture, and tourism in the capital.

"It is our sincere hope that this facility, just like its name, will become a starting point into the world of anime and that people from all over the world visiting Tokyo will connect with these wonderful works," Tokyo Gov Yuriko Koike said at the grand opening ceremony Monday.

The facility's symbol — a

hanging montage composed of anime characters and iconic scenes from around 120 works — greets visitors on the first floor, which is set to be used for events and workshops throughout the year.

Referred to as the "platform" level, this floor aligns with the facility's station theme, with remnants of train carriages displayed in the front windows, perfectly complementing the motif. — Kyodo

## In UK, tourists discover darker side of Oxford and Cambridge

BRITISH universities Oxford and Cambridge are constantly ranked among the best in the world and celebrated for their academic excellence.

But their murkier history is being brought to life for tourists, as the country increasingly grapples with its colonial past.

"This is not the standard walking tour," warned guide and student Claire McCann, before leading her group onto the cobbled streets of Oxford, which attract some seven million visitors every year.

Majestic buildings, many dating back to the Middle Ages,

bear witness to the rich history of the university city, some 50 miles (80 kilometres) north-west of London.

Most British prime ministers, including current UK leader Rishi Sunak, and the Labour main opposition leader Keir Starmer, have studied behind the high walls of Oxford's various colleges.

But their university years are not the subject of the tour, which instead focuses on "difficult legacies" — a burning issue brought to the fore in the UK since Black Lives Matter anti-racism protests.

First stop on the tour is Oriel College, outside of which sits a statue of alumnus Cecil Rhodes (1853-1902), a colonizer who dreamed of a British Africa from Cape Town to Cairo.

McCann, originally from South Africa, read a quote of Rhodes in which he described Africans as the "most despicable specimens of human beings".

She highlighted his role in the Second Boer War (1899-1902) and that he founded De Beers, which is still the world's number one diamond company. — AFP



Tour guides Devika and Oliver talk with a group of people attending an 'Uncomfortable Oxford' tour outside the College of All Souls in Oxford on 20 October 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Iran hosts art event to present tourism, cultural attractions of China's Zhejiang



Visitors look at an exhibit in Tehran, capital of Iran, on 30 October 2023. An art event to present tourism and cultural attractions in east China's Zhejiang Province and to display the province's celadon ware was held in Tehran on Monday. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

AN art event to present the tourism and cultural attractions of the eastern Chinese Zhejiang Province, and to display the province's celadon ware was on Monday inaugurated in the Iranian capital Tehran. The event was organized by the Chinese Embassy in Tehran, Zhejiang Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism and the Iranian Academy of Arts.

In remarks at the event, China's Vice-Minister of Culture and Tourism Lu Yingchuan said, "looking back at history, China and Iran met and knew each other and learned from one another through the ancient Silk Road".

He added that the cooperation between China and Iran

throughout history had led to the creation of superb artworks, stressing in recent years, cultural exchanges and collaborations between the two countries had witnessed significant growth.

The President of the Iranian Academy of Arts Majid Shah-Hosseini stressed the longstanding friendship as well as cultural and artistic relations between the two ancient civilizations, which have been reflected in the artworks of the two countries' artists since a long time ago.

During the ceremony, Iranian and Chinese musicians performed music pieces, some of which were played on celadon wares. — Xinhua

# ECONOMY WORLD

## Eurozone economy shrinks in third quarter, inflation falls further



A woman walks on a bridge over the river Main towards the headquarters of the European Central Bank (ECB, L) in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany, on 26 October 2023 ahead the meeting of the governing council of the ECB, that is exceptionally held in Athens, Greece. **PHOTO: AFP**

ECONOMIC growth in the eurozone contracted in the third quarter, data showed Tuesday, hit by the European Central Bank's painful rate-hiking campaign and Germany's weakening economy, but inflation slowed in October.

The EU's official data agency said the 20-country single currency zone's economy shrank by 0.1 per cent over the

July-September period, after recording only 0.2 per cent growth in the second quarter.

The figures reflect the difficulties facing the eurozone including the cost-of-living crisis and concerns over the flagging demand in the global economy.

Although the eurozone has weathered the shocks from the coronavirus pan-

demic and the war in Ukraine, fears are growing over the economic effects of the Hamas-Israel war.

The data published by Eurostat on Tuesday showed, however, the whole 27-country European Union economy — including members who do not use the euro — fared better, growing by 0.1 per cent in the quarter. — AFP

## Cambodian economy steadily recovering from pandemic, still faces challenges: IMF official

THE Cambodian economy continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, but still

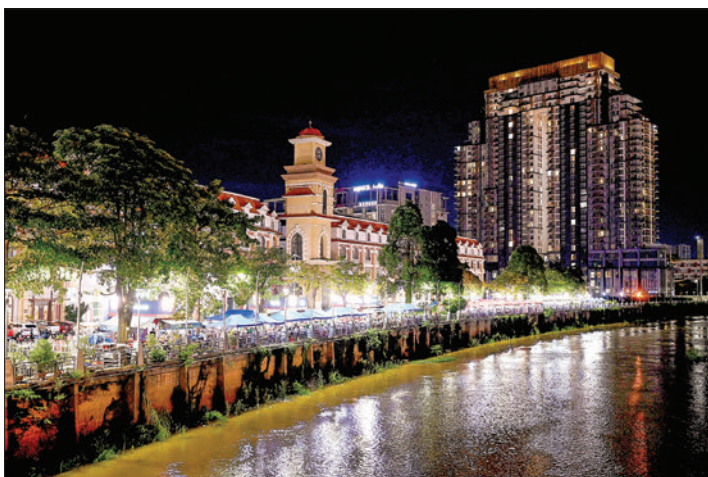
faces domestic and external challenges, an International Monetary Fund (IMF) official

said here on Tuesday.

Davide Furceri, the IMF mission chief for Cambodia, said the country's economy is projected to expand by 5.3 per cent in 2023 and six per cent in 2024, from 5.2 per cent in 2022.

"The ongoing recovery in tourism and surging exports of solar panels and electrical components are the main growth drivers," he said in a press conference at the end of his two-week mission to Cambodia.

"Garment exports remain weak, showing only modest signs of recovery in recent months, and slower construction activity is also weighing on growth," he added. — Xinhua



People gather near restaurants at the coast of a river in the satellite city Koh Pich (Diamond island) of Phnom Penh on 15 September 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Japan's two major airlines log profit jump as COVID curbs removed

JAPAN'S two biggest airlines on Tuesday posted a significant recovery in profits in the April-September period as travel demand picked up after the removal of COVID-19 restrictions revived travel demand.

Net profit at ANA Holdings Inc. more than quadrupled from a year earlier to 93.21 billion yen (\$620 million) in the six months ended 30 September, boosted by an increase in both domestic and international travellers. Sales grew 26.8 per cent to one trillion yen. Its operating profit also more than quadrupled to 129.74 billion yen, a record high for the six-month period, the company said.

"Increased revenue in international flight operations and cost control contributed to a record profit," ANA President Koji Shibata told a press conference.

Japan Airlines Co posted a net profit of 61.67 billion yen in the fiscal first half, a turnaround from a net loss of 2.2 billion yen a year earlier. Sales increased 32.7 per cent to 820.94 billion yen.

Reflecting the demand pickup, JAL raised its net profit forecast for the year through March to 80 billion yen from an earlier estimate of 55 billion yen. Sales are now projected at 1.684 trillion yen, up from 1.658 trillion yen projected earlier. — Kyodo



Japan Airlines passenger planes sit on the tarmac at Tokyo's Haneda Airport on 1 August 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Viet Nam posts trade surplus at 24.61 bln USD in 10 months

VIET Nam recorded a trade surplus of 24.61 billion US dollars in the first 10 months of this year, Vietnam News reported Tuesday, citing the General Statistics Office.

The trade surplus figure stood at 9.56 billion dollars in the same period last year. In October alone this year the trade surplus reached three billion dollars, it said.

During the 10 months, the total import-export turnover of goods reached 557.95 billion dollars, with export turnover recorded at 291.28 billion dollars and imports at 266.67 billion

dollars. The export and import turnovers both saw year-on-year decreases, at 7.1 per cent and 12.3 per cent, respectively.

China was Viet Nam's largest import market for the cited period, the report said.

From January to October, a total of seven exporting items reported revenues of over 10 billion dollars, accounting for 66.2 per cent of the total export value.

Meanwhile, three importing items posted revenues of over 10 billion dollars, accounting for 43.4 per cent of the total import value. — Xinhua

## Samsung Electronics says Q3 operating profits down but flags 2024 chip recovery

SOUTH Korea's Samsung Electronics said Tuesday that its operating profits for the July to September period were down nearly 80 per cent, but forecast that a prolonged slump in the memory chip market was coming to an end.

The firm is the flagship subsidiary of Samsung Group, by far the largest of the family-controlled conglomerates that dom-

inate business in Asia's fourth-largest economy.

Samsung announced third-quarter operating profits of 2.4 trillion won (\$1.7 billion), down 77.6 per cent year on year, citing "strong sales of flagship models in mobile and strong demand for displays" for a recovery from earlier quarters this year.

Although down sharply from 2022, the company's

third-quarter profit was well above the first quarter's 640 billion won — the lowest since 2009 — and the second quarter's 670 billion won. The firm — one of the world's largest makers of memory chips and smartphones — said artificial intelligence was driving demand and remained hopeful that memory market conditions will recover in 2024. — AFP



Samsung Galaxy Z Fold5 (L) and Z Flip5 (R) smartphones are displayed at a Samsung Electronics store in Seoul on 31 October 2023. PHOTO: AFP

## Stocks mixed, oil up as traders eye Mideast and central banks

STOCKS were mixed Tuesday, with traders tracking developments in the Middle East crisis as Israel presses on with its ground incursion of Gaza, while oil prices edged up.

Attention is also on meetings by major central banks, with Japan announcing a small tweak to its policy control programme that fell short of expectations, sending the

yen down against the dollar but providing support to the country's equity market.

There is a sense of relief on trading floors that the Israel-Hamas conflict has not geographically spread to include other regional powers such as Iran or Saudi Arabia so far, analysts say. After surging almost three per cent Friday on fears of a wider conflagration, both main oil contracts tumbled more than three per cent at the start of this week as Israel opted for more day-to-day attacks targeting Gaza. — AFP

## Vodafone sells Spain unit for up to 5.0 bln euros

BRITISH mobile phone giant Vodafone announced Tuesday the sale of its Spanish division to investment fund Zegona for up to 5.0 billion euros (\$5.3 bil-

lion), as part of an ongoing overhaul.

"The sale of Vodafone Spain is a key step in right-sizing our portfolio for growth and will enable us to

focus our resources in markets with sustainable structures and sufficient local scale," said chief executive Margherita Della Valle in a statement. — AFP



A man walks in front of an electronic board showing numbers of the Tokyo Stock Exchange along a street in Tokyo on 10 October 2023 PHOTO: AFP

### NEWSPAPER ANNOUNCEMENT

#### Notice of a general meeting to approve a selective share buyback by Alliance Brewery Company Limited

Notice is hereby given as required by section 121 (d) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017 that Alliance Brewery Company Limited (registration number: 116511053), a company incorporated in Myanmar and with its registered office at No. 33, Pyay Road 6 1/2 Miles, 11 Quarter, Hlaing Township, Yangon Region, 11051 Republic of the Union of Myanmar (the "Company") intends to issue notice of a general meeting of the Company to approve a buy-back offer in respect of 55,182 ordinary shares (selective share buy-back) in accordance with the notice and documents filed with the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (406N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (406N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-10-2023** 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC CHANGMING VOY.NO. (2316S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC CHANGMING VOY.NO. (2316S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-11-2023** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UV4IE1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UV4IE1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-11-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

### China's Shenzhou-16 astronauts return safely to Earth

THE Shenzhou-16 crew consisting of three Chinese astronauts returned to Earth safely on Tuesday, after completing a five-month space station mission.

Shenzhou-16's return capsule, carrying astronauts Jing Haipeng, Zhu Yangzhu and Gui Haichao, touched down at the Dongfeng landing site in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region at 8:11 am (Beijing Time), and the crew had all left the return capsule by 9:10 am, according to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA).

The Shenzhou-16 astronauts are in good health and the Shenzhou-16 manned mission proved a success, while also marking that all three kinds of astronauts currently available in China, namely spacecraft pilot, spaceflight engineer and payload expert, had completed their flight assessments and practical tests, the CMSA said. This mission has laid a good foundation for the subsequent development and con-



Astronaut Gui Haichao is out of the return capsule of the Shenzhou-16 manned spaceship at the Dongfeng landing site in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region 31 October 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

struction of the crewed space-flight programme and large-scale space science experiments, the

CMSA added.

"I am very excited at this moment as we have finally

come back home and returned to our motherland," said Jing, the mission commander and the

first Chinese astronaut to complete four space missions, which amounted to over 200 days.

"During our mission, the crew lived a happy life and worked efficiently. All operations were carried out without any mistakes," said Jing while sitting on a chair in front of the capsule.

Zhu, the country's first spaceflight engineer in space, said they coordinated well in successfully completing various tasks and witnessed the glorious space station Tiangong, the country's national space laboratory, during the five-month mission. "China's space station is always worth looking forward to," Zhu added. "I will stick to my original aspiration and mission as an astronaut and a teacher with practical actions, and look forward to travelling to the country's space station again to explore more scientific mysteries," said Gui, China's first civilian astronaut and first payload expert in space. — Xinhua

### King Charles visits Kenya as colonial abuses loom large

KING Charles III and Queen Camilla began a state visit to Kenya on Tuesday, facing mounting calls to make an apology over Britain's bloody colonial past.

Although the four-day trip has been billed as an opportunity to look to the future and build on the cordial modern-day ties between London and Nairobi,

the legacy of decades of British colonial rule looms large.

It is the 74-year-old British head of state's first visit to an African and Commonwealth nation since ascending the throne in September last year on the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II.

Under rainy skies, the royal couple were given a ceremonial

red-carpet welcome by Kenyan President William Ruto, who has hailed the visit as a "significant opportunity to enhance collaboration" in various fields.

The British High Commission said the tour, which follows trips to Germany and France earlier this year, will "spotlight the strong and dynamic partnership between the UK and Kenya".

But it will also "acknowledge the more painful aspects" of Britain's historic relationship with Kenya as the East African country prepares to celebrate 60 years of independence in December. This includes the 1952-60 "Emergency", when colonial authorities brutally suppressed the Mau Mau guerrilla uprising, one of the bloodiest insurgencies against British rule.

At least 10,000 people — mainly from the Kikuyu tribe — were killed, although some historians and rights groups claim the true figure is higher. — AFP



Britain's King Charles III (C) shakes hands with Kenyan President William Ruto (2nd R) as Kenyan First Lady Rachel Ruto (R) and Britain's Queen Camilla (2nd L) look on upon his arrival for the ceremonial welcome at the State House in Nairobi on 31 October 2023. PHOTO: AFP

#### NEWS IN BRIEF

##### Thai FM travels to Qatar, Egypt for Hamas hostage talks

THAILAND'S foreign minister begins an urgent visit to Qatar and Egypt on Tuesday for talks on the fate of 22 Thais taken hostage by Hamas in its attack on Israel.

Israeli authorities say more than 1,400 people, mostly civilians, were killed in an attack launched by the Palestinian militant group on 7 October from the Gaza Strip.

In response, the Israeli military has pounded Gaza, where the Hamas-controlled health ministry says more than 8,300 have been killed — more than 3,000 of them children.

More than 230 hostages are being held by Hamas in Gaza, according to the latest Israeli figures — 22 of them Thai nationals, the foreign ministry in Bangkok has said.

Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin said Monday his government was working hard to get Thai citizens home. — AFP

##### Flooding, heavy rain kill three in Viet Nam

THREE people died after days of heavy rain in central and north Viet Nam that flooded homes and submerged roads, disaster management authorities said Tuesday.

Access to several communities in central Ha Tinh province has been cut off, while the police and military have been mobilized to rescue people from high-risk areas.

A woman and a 13-year-old boy were found dead in the province after being swept away by strong currents. A search for a 29-year-old woman, also in Ha Tinh, is ongoing, the flood and storm control department said in its latest report. — AFP

# SPORTS

## Messi wins eighth Ballon d'Or as Bonmati claims women's award

LIONEL Messi won the eighth Ballon d'Or of his remarkable career at a glittering ceremony in Paris on Monday, while Spain's World Cup-winning star Aitana Bonmati took the women's prize.

For Messi, the trophy rewards, above all else, his inspirational performances at last year's World Cup in Qatar, when he dragged Argentina to victory, scoring seven goals and being named the tournament's best player.

It was the crowning moment of his astonishing career, and it allowed him to see off stiff competition, in particular from Erling Haaland and Kylian Mbappe, to take the award on the stage of the

Chatelet Theatre in Paris.

It was a return to the French capital after his departure from Paris Saint-Germain in June and his subsequent move to Inter Miami in Major League Soccer.

"This is a gift to the whole Argentina team for what we achieved," said Messi on stage after receiving his award from David Beckham, the co-owner of Inter Miami.

Messi dedicated the trophy to

(COMBO)

This combination of pictures created on 30 October 2023 shows Inter Miami CF's Argentine forward Lionel Messi (L) holding his 8th Ballon d'Or award and FC Barcelona's Spanish midfielder Aitana Bonmati (R) holding her Woman Ballon d'Or award during the 2023 Ballon d'Or France Football award ceremony at the Theatre du Chatelet in Paris on 30 October 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**



late Argentina legend Diego Maradona, who would have celebrated his

63<sup>rd</sup> birthday on Monday.

"Happy birthday Diego. This is for you too," he said.

Messi benefits from a recent change which means the award is based on a player's record over

the last season, rather than over the calendar year.

He won despite an underwhelming final season at PSG, even if he was a Ligue 1 title winner. — AFP



Great Britain's Andy Murray breaks his tennis racket after losing his men's singles match against Australia's Alex de Minaur on day one of the Paris ATP Masters 1000 tennis tournament at the Accor Arena - Palais Omnisports de Paris-Bercy - in Paris on 30 October 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Murray misses match point as De Minaur jinx continues

ANDY Murray missed a match point and blew a 5-2 lead in the final set to suffer his sixth straight defeat to Alex de Minaur in the Paris Masters first round on Monday. The three-time Grand Slam champion appeared poised to finally clinch a first win over Australian De Minaur after a double-break in the deciding set, but slumped to a 7-6 (7/5), 4-6, 7-5 loss.

Murray has still not won

a match at Bercy Arena since lifting the title in 2016 en route to finishing as the year-end world number one. The Briton saw three set points come and go before losing the first set in a tie-break, but bounced back to level the match and then take control.

But he twice failed to serve out the match, missing a match point in the 10<sup>th</sup> game. — AFP

## Australia abandons 2034 World Cup bid in boost for Saudi

AUSTRALIA decided on Tuesday against bidding for the 2034 men's football World Cup, paving the way for Saudi Arabia to host the event.

Football Australia pulled its bid on the 31 October deadline, after the Asian Football Confederation threw its weight behind Saudi Arabia, which is the hot favourite to land the event.

"We have explored the opportunity to bid to host the FIFA World Cup and – having taken all factors into consideration – we reached the conclusion not to do so for the 2034 competition," Football Australia said in a statement. FIFA has invited bids from the Asia and Oceania regions for the rotating World Cup hosting rights after naming Morocco, Spain and Portugal as joint hosts for 2030.

There had been talk of a joint bid from Indonesia and Australia for 2034, but the former recently said it supported the Saudi bid. — AFP

## Bellingham calls on England to 'quit talking' and deliver after winning Kopa Trophy

REAL Madrid and England star Jude Bellingham said he was targeting Euro 2024 glory with England after winning the Kopa Trophy for the best player of last season aged under 21 at the Ballon d'Or ceremony in Paris on Monday. The 20-year-old has enjoyed a sensational start to his Real career, a brace in Saturday's 2-1 Clasico win over Barcelona

taking him to 13 goals in his first 13 games for the Spanish giants.

But the Kopa Trophy rewards his performances last season. In his final campaign with Borussia Dortmund, Bellingham scored 14 times in 42 games as they came second in the Bundesliga. He also helped England reach the quarter-finals of the World Cup in Qatar. — AFP



Real Madrid's English midfielder Jude Bellingham (R) reacts on stage as he receives the Kopa Trophy for best under-21 player next to Former Belgian midfielder Eden Hazard during the 2023 Ballon d'Or France Football award ceremony at the Theatre du Chatelet in Paris on 30 October 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**



## US responsible for Middle East crisis, global instability: Putin



In this pool photograph distributed by Sputnik agency Russia's President Vladimir Putin (C) chairs a meeting with members of Security Council, Russian government and law enforcement agencies in Moscow on 30 October 2023. PHOTO: GAVRIIL GRIGOROV / POOL / AFP

**T**HE United States and its allies are behind the Middle East crisis and other regional conflicts, and benefit most from global instability, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Monday.

"Those, who are behind the conflict in the Middle East and other regional crises will exploit their devastating consequences to sow hatred, and sow dissent among people worldwide," said the Russian leader at a meeting with top security and law enforcement officials.

It is important to understand who is behind the Middle East conflict and who is responsible for organizing and benefiting from "deadly chaos" in different regions, Putin said.

"It is the current US ruling elites and their satellites that are the main beneficiaries of global instability," he said.

Putin said that attempts have been made to use the dramatic situation in the Middle East and other regional conflicts against Russia, with the aim of destabilizing the country and splitting its diverse and multi-religious society.

The United States is becoming weaker and losing its status as the world's sole superpower and hegemon. This world order is slowly becoming a thing of the past, said Putin.

Washington wants to maintain and extend its dominance and global leadership, he said, adding that this is more convenient in times of global instability when it is easier to restrain competitors and geopolitical opponents. — Xinhua

## China calls for immediate cessation of hostilities in Israeli-Palestinian conflict

A Chinese envoy on Monday called for an immediate cessation of hostilities in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The UN General Assembly on Friday adopted by an overwhelming majority a resolution calling for an immediate and durable humanitarian truce, which has pointed in the right direction, said Zhang Jun, China's permanent representative to the United Nations. China solemnly calls on the parties to the conflict to cease all hostilities, disengage immediately, put in place a humanitarian truce, and make every effort to prevent the situation from escalating further, he said.

China solemnly calls on Israel, as the occupying power, to fulfill its obligations under international humanitarian law, lift its full siege on Gaza, immediately rescind its emergency evacuation order, and expeditiously restore the supply of basic necessities so as to prevent an even larger humanitarian disaster, the envoy added. — Xinhua

## N Korea may have held combustion test for satellite launch: report

US and South Korean intelligence officials have spotted that rocket fuel was transported out from a satellite launch site in northwest North Korea, suggesting several combustion tests may have been held in preparation for a military spy satellite launch, a South Korean newspaper reported Tuesday.

North Korea unsuccessfully tried to launch a rocket carrying a satellite in May and in August. Soon after the failed second launch, Pyongyang's state-run media reported that the country would seek to try for a third time in October.

US and South Korean officials believe that North Korea may instead make its third attempt in November after enhancing the performance of its rocket engine technology with assistance from Russia, according to the report by Dong-A Ilbo.

The report said that vehicles and personnel for fuel delivery have been



File photo taken in May 2023 shows the attempted launch of a military spy satellite at the Seohae satellite launch site in northwestern North Korea. PHOTO: KNS/KYODO

detected at a site presumed to be a large fuel storage facility at the Seohae satellite launch site in Dongchang-ri. — Kyodo