

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Loading and discharging of export and import cargoes at Yangon Port onto and from the overseas-bound container vessel.

## Myanmar's foreign trade surges beyond US\$18 bln in last seven months

Myanmar has been implementing the National Export Strategy (NES) 2020-2025 to bolster exports.

**M**YANMAR's external trade amounted to over US\$18 billion as of 3 November in the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's export was worth over \$8.664 billion whereas the country's import was valued at \$9.7 billion between 1 April and 3 November.

Myanmar's seaborne trade value crossed over \$13.12 billion this FY, while

border trade was valued at \$5.32 billion.

The trade figure over the past seven months shrank from \$20.5 billion recorded in the corresponding period last FY, indicating a sharp drop of over \$2.078 billion.

Myanmar exports agricultural produce, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, intermediate goods, raw materials imported by the CMP enterprises and

consumer goods.

Myanmar has been implementing the National Export Strategy (NES) 2020-2025 to bolster exports. The priority sectors of the NES comprise agricultural production, garment and apparel, industrial and electronic device, fishery business, forest product, digital manufacturing and service, logistic service, quality management, trade information service, innovation and entrepreneurship sectors. — NN/EM

### SUNDAY EDITION

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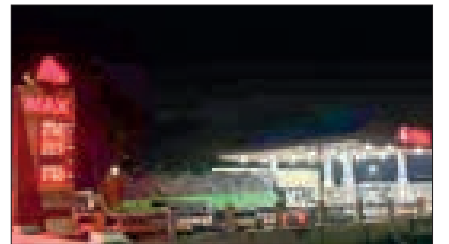
Consumers call for monitoring, law enforcement against price manipulators

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Over 130 accidents on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway in 10 months, claiming 70+ lives

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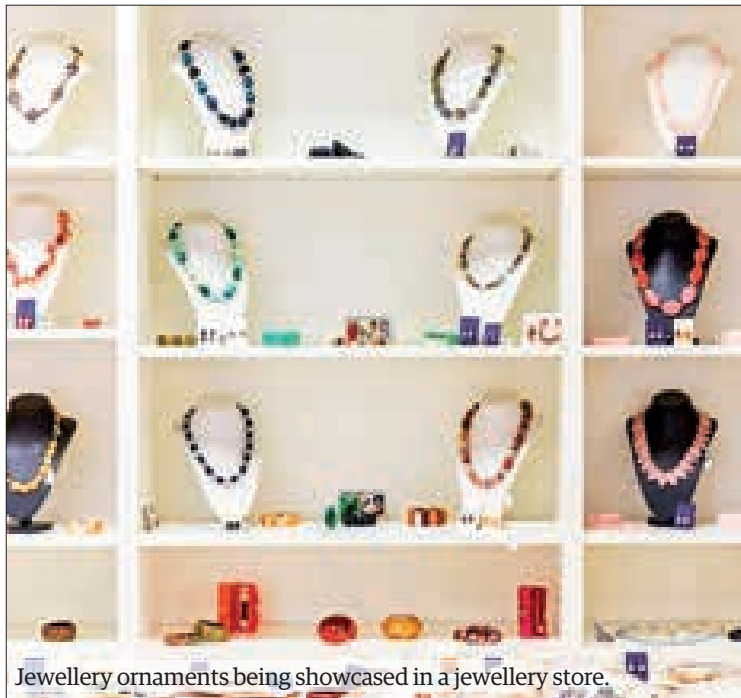
Low supplies of fuel lead to long queues at service stations

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# NATIONAL



Jewellery ornaments being showcased in a jewellery store.

## Raised gem licence fees to be enforced starting 2024

STARTING from 1 January 2024, licence fees for the jewellery business will be increased and collected.

The proposed changes to licence rates include an increase in business licences for selling finished gemstones and jewellery, from K50,000 to K300,000. Licenses for finished jewellery and figurines carving will now cost K200,000, up from the previous K30,000. Additionally, there is a proposal to raise the license

fee for the finished trading business from the previous K30,000 to K1.5 million, according to information from individuals working in the jewellery trading business.

Information regarding the jewellery business license can be obtained from the Yangon Museum Department, the Mandalay office, Mogok, Mongshu, Lonkhin, and Phakant mining centres and the Myitkyina camp office.

The licence term is set at one year, and if the duration exceeds the specified term, a fine equivalent to one year's licence fee must be paid. If the duration exceeds two years, the corresponding amount equivalent to a two-year licence fee must be paid. Gems businessmen are advised to submit licence extension applications three months before the licence expiration as per the terms and conditions. — TWA/KZW

## WEATHER REPORT

### Bay of Bengal Condition

Issued at (14:00) hours M.S.T on 11-11-2023

ACCORDING to the observations at (12:30) hrs M.S.T today, a low pressure area may form over the Southeast Bay of Bengal on (14.11.2023). It is likely to move West-Northwestwards and may further intensify into a depression over the Central and adjoining South Bay of Bengal on (16.11.2023).

### MYANMAR Daily Weather Report

(ISSUED at 7:00 pm Saturday 11 November, 2023)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is a few cloud over the North and Westcentral Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 12 November 2023:** Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region, scattered in Mon State and isolated in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Southern Shan and Kayin states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Taninthayi Region. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing Region and Northern Shan State and partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

**THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD:** The Cumulonimbus clouds are developing over the Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin and Mon states. The area along the Cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as thunder, lightning, hail and isolated rain or thundershowers may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance these phenomena.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3-6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

## Consumers call for monitoring, law enforcement against price manipulators



A rice shop is seen running both wholesale and retail.

AS consumers expect to buy rice at the reasonable market price set by the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF), they called for monitoring and law enforcement against price manipulators, consumers facing a price burden stated.

The consumers hope the actual market price is close to the set price and they have a chance to buy them at a reasonable market price just like in the edible oil market.

Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) notified on 8 November its affiliated companies, millers and traders to sell and buy the rice at reasonable market prices set for November.

The reasonable market prices issued for November are K58,000-60,000 per 108-pound sack of Aemahta rice (25 broken), K60,000-62,000 for Aemahta rice (15 broken), K62,000-64,000 for Aemahta (10-5 broken), K65,000-80,000 for Ayamin, Ayeya Padaytha, special Aemahta rice varieties (10-5 broken), K70,000-75,000 for Ayamin, Ayeya Padaytha, special Aemahta rice varieties and K75,000-80,000 for Ayeyawady Pawsan rice. The reasonable market prices for high-grade Shwebo Pawan rice will be issued in December during the harvest time.

Since August 2023, traders

have rarely seen the actual market price as per the daily price rate issued by the Wahdan Rice Wholesale Centre.

Although the wholesale price of Myaungmya and Pyapon Pawsan was K100,000 per sack according to the official statistics, they are transacted at over K110,000-K120,000 per sack. Shwebo Pawsan market price surged to around K150,000 per sack yet it was officially priced at K125,000 per sack.

Reportedly, there is a lack of the buyer's name and transaction date on the so-called receipt on white paper. — TWA/KK

## COVID-19 report, 11 November 2023

### NEW TESTS

2,715

### NEW CASES

Three

### CASUALTIES

Nil

# NATIONAL



State Administration Council Member Porel Aung Thein presents the championship trophy to the Yangon Region's men's team yesterday.

## Inter- State/Region Taekwondo Championship 2023 concludes

The final and awarding ceremony of the Inter-States and Regions Taekwondo Championship 2023 was conducted at the Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium A in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The State Administration Council members and Union ministers enjoyed the performance of the athletes.

The final events of the championship were held and the Yangon Region team and Sagaing Region team participated in the Men's Single (50-54) kilograms event, while the Yangon Region team and Mandalay

Region team battled in the Women's Single Attacking event (62-67 kg) and Rakhine State team fought against Shan State team in the Men's Individual Attacking event of 68-74 kg.

An awarding ceremony was held after the championship and officials presented medals and cash prizes to the winners related to the various categories of the championship.

A total of 15 men's teams and 15 women's teams with 280 athletes participated in the Inter-States and Regions Taekwondo Championship 2023, held from 7 to 11 November. — MNA/KZL

## Road To A Star acting basic course to open for three months

A basic acting course named Road To A Star will be opened on 3 December at the Myawady Media Centre in Yankin township.

The course will last for three months and not only basic acting will be given as a priority in the course but also basic concepts such as director, script writing, camera, lighting and editing audio will be taught.

The fee is set at K200,000 per month for the basic course at K600,000. In the course, there will be training by veteran directors and actors with teaching materials.

Those who want to know more details and attend the course can contact the messenger of Road to A Star's Facebook page. — TWA/MKKS



A press conference of the Road To A Star acting basic course in progress in May 2023.



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn is seen alongside officials from the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar and the Ministry of Information at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

## MoI UM returns from 2023 World Internet Conference

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn attended the 2023 World Internet Conference -WIC Wuzhen Summit in Jiangxi Province, People's Republic of China, from 8 to 10 November. He returned to Myanmar yesterday morning by air.

Mr Zheng Zhihong, Minister Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy and officials from the Ministry of Information greeted him on his arrival at Yangon International Airport. — MNA/KZW

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increasing of death rate based on the disease.

# NATIONAL

## 2023 Myanmar International Textile and Machinery Fair scheduled in December

THE 2023 Myanmar International Textile and Machinery Fair sponsored by the Department of Commerce, Zhejiang Province, China, is scheduled to be held from 8 to 10 December at the Inya Lake Hotel in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, according to Daw Khine Khine Nwe, General Secretary of Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association.

The expatriate garment associations operating in Myanmar such as the Korea Garment Association in Myanmar (KOGAM), Japan Garment Manufacturers Association in Myanmar (JGMA), and Hong Kong Myanmar Manufacturers' Association Limited-HKM MA will cosponsor the event while also running booths in the fair.



Officials from Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association hold a press conference on 2023 Myanmar International Textile and Machinery Fair at Time City, Yangon, on 10 November 2023.

"Each and every country has different tastes in terms of clothing, fashion, and design. However, they all like good quality and innovative products. Since this

exhibition will promote the products made in Myanmar, we will work together with international partners such as China, Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, etc. The high

quality of locally manufactured products will also be seen significantly in the show, and we should be proud of that," said Daw Khine Khine Nwe during a press

conference for the event held at Time City, Kamayut Township on 10 November. At the exhibition, 25 brands from China, products of more than 100 manufacturers of textiles, garments, shoes and bags in addition to garments, shoes and bags produced locally will also be displayed.

ASEAN Federation of Textile Industries (AFTEX) representatives from ASEAN countries will also share the future prospects of the textile and garment sectors of ASEAN countries through panel discussions. Those who will come to the exhibition will have the opportunity to communicate directly with the representatives at the booths and will be able to promote joint ventures in related areas. — ASH/TH

## Over 130 accidents on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway in 10 months, claiming 70+ lives



Accident on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway: On 10 November 2023, a Yutong (Yangon-Tachilek Express) vehicle lost control of its speed between mileposts 45/4 and 45/5 and collided with a Toyota Alphard (white) vehicle. **PHOTO: FSD**

ACCORDING to the office of the expressway police commander office, over 130 traffic accidents occurred on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway in ten months, resulting in more

than 70 deaths.

In October, there were 11 accidents on this road, resulting in seven fatalities and 22 injuries.

In addition, in October, 968 vehicles were impounded for speeding on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway. Reportedly, those from 169 vehicles were prosecuted for not wearing seat belts.

According to statistics, from 1 January to 31 October of this year, there were 137 traffic accidents on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, resulting in 276 injuries and 78 fatalities.

A total of 54 men and 24 women died in traffic accidents, while 125 women and 151 men were injured. The total number of injuries is 276. — TWA/KZW

## Confiscated illegal items: Consumer goods, foodstuffs, auto parts and vehicles

THE combined teams under the supervision of the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections on 7 and 8 November and nabbed a Nissan Condor vehicle (estimated value of K15 million), headed to Yangon from Myawady, carrying three kinds of goods worth K7,077,600 including 2,190 kilogrammes of Smart softeners that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID) near Shwe Thanlwin Tollage in Phayagyi and two Nissan Diesel truck (approximately K40 million), travelling from Thaton to Yangon, carrying three kinds of goods worth K7.1 million including 24 sets of 32-inch Recond TV without official documents at the Nyaungkhashay X-Ray station. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

An on-duty team impounded a MAN tractor head with a trailer (approximately K66 million), headed to Mandalay from Yangon, carrying four kinds of goods worth K21.09 million including 1,020 kilogrammes of motorbike seat cover that were not declared in the ID near Myitnge bridge on Yangon-Mandalay Highway on 8 November. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 9 November, the combined teams cap-

tured two kinds of goods worth K6.3 million 120 bottles of Two Shrimps palm oil (five litres) and 6,000 boxes of Lactasoy soy milk at a warehouse in Myeik township, and a Nissan diesel truck (approximately K25 million), headed to Yangon from Myawady, carrying seven kinds of goods worth K7.128 million including 630 kilogrammes of Oriental Style instant noodle that exceeded the ID near Kamawkasin village in Hpa-an township. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On the same day, the on-duty teams under the supervision of the Customs Department confiscated 53,140 kilogrammes of tube valves (car parts) without Import Licence from two containers at the Myanmar Industrial Port and two vehicles, headed to Theinzayet from Kyaikto and to Bago from Thaton, carrying 122 jerrycans of Prawn Hornet palm oil (18 litres) without official documents at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures. A total of 19 arrests were made on three consecutive days from 7 to 9 November, with an estimated value of K313,911,400, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

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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.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Myanmar Rubber Forum launches short-, long-term project initiatives

THE second day of the Myanmar Rubber Forum-2023 took place at MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 November, where 12 short-term activities and 9 long-term activities were established.

“Bicycle and motorcycle tyres, valued at about 65 million US dollars annually in imports, along with tubes, pose a significant expenditure. Despite having a strong foundation for local rubber product manufacturing, the production sector has not been adequately encouraged. On the first day of the Myanmar Rubber Forum 2023, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing stated that the country resorts to importing these products from abroad due to a lack of market competitiveness.

### Surges of new customers in garment market

AS the number of new buyers grows in the current Myanmar garment market, there is also an emergence of new brands dedicated to the business. Currently, approximately 500 garment CMP factories are in operation, employing around 500,000 workers. While some clothing brands utilizing the CMP system in the country are preparing to leave, the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association reports an increase in new orders.

### Legal action required for unfarmed acquired farmland

THE Bago Region government office stated that action should be taken under the Agricultural Land Law when agricultural lands are purchased without actual cultivation or proper farming practices. Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win addressed this issue during a meeting held on 10 November at the Royal Hantha meeting Hall with chairpersons of district and township administration bodies and the chief minister of Bago Region.

### FDA urges reporting of side effects from fake drugs, home remedies

WHEN purchasing and using medicines, it is important to ensure they bear the Myanmar Medicines Registration Number. Only buy medicines from licensed shops. Avoid buying herbal medicines altogether and refrain from combining traditional medicines with food. In case of experiencing unusual symptoms related to the medication or encountering drugs without a registration number, or if there are doubts about the drug quality or suspicion of counterfeit drugs, promptly notify the FDA head office and relevant branches of quality of drugs.

### Academy Award ceremony scheduled for early 2024

THE Myanmar Film Excellence Awards Ceremony is scheduled to take place in 2024, with plans underway for an early-year event. The 2023 Myanmar Film Awards Academy ceremony involves the evaluation of a total of 40 films, as discussed in the second preliminary coordination meeting between the Ministry of Information and the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization. — Htun Htun/KZW



A general front view of Sagaing University of Education.

## Yangon, Sagaing education universities' admissions surpass 1,000

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Education's press releases, over 1,000 students have been admitted to Yangon University of Education and Sagaing University of Education.

The list of individuals who passed the 2023 matriculation examination and applied for

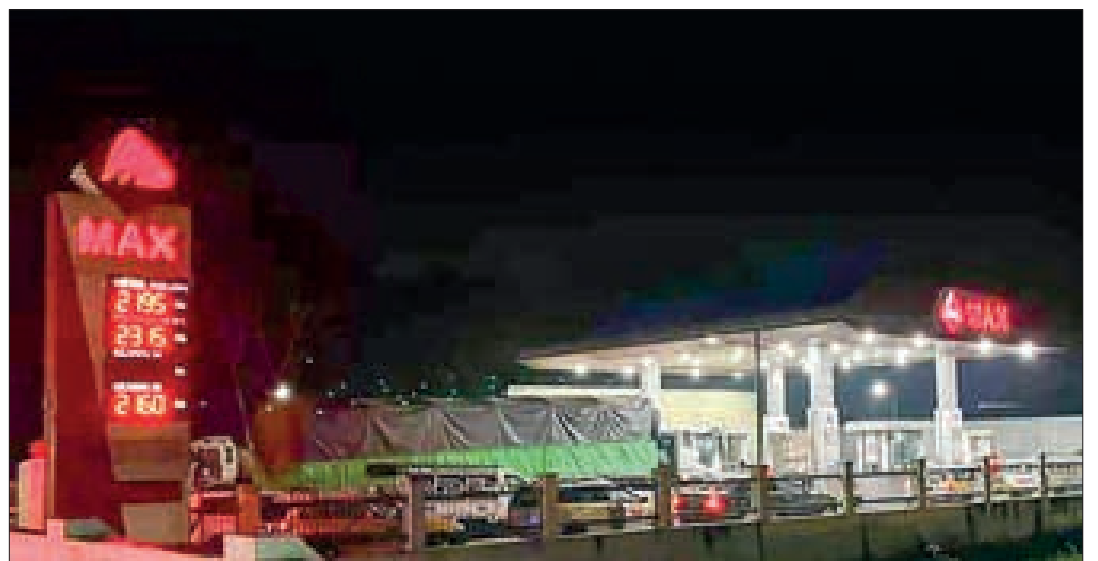
admission to the University of Education was announced on 7 November.

A total of 511 students have been admitted to Yangon University of Education, and 564 to Sagaing University of Education.

According to the an-

nouncement, university admission lists were released on 7 November and enrollment for day courses from the first year to the master's level at both universities will commence on 16 November, with classes beginning on 23 November. — TWA/KZW

## Low supplies of fuel lead to long queues at service stations



The photo shows vehicles waiting for fuel till night.

CARS have been queuing up at the fuel stations for a long time as the petrol station cannot sell the fuel in Yangon, some vehicle owners and taxi drivers told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Some fuel stations were no longer able to sell petrol starting at noon on 10 November, and the people had to queue for fuel, Ko Tun Naing, a taxi driver from South Okkalapa Township told the GNLM.

“When the petrol prices fall, we can't buy them. If the price goes up, we get the fuel. The fuel price dropped about K20 recently and we

cannot buy it. If the digital boxes that display the fuel prices at the filling stations are unplugged, that means... we can't buy the petrol. But we need to queue at the stations where we can buy the fuel,” he said.

Although long queues of motorists formed at petrol stations on the morning of 11 November, the shops were reselling in the same afternoon, said Ko Min Oo, a private car owner.

On 11 November, the prices were K2,060 per litre of 92, K2,160 per litre of 95, K2,195 per litre of diesel and K2,315 per litre of premium diesel, according to the gas stations. — TWA/KTZH

# Entertainment



## Myitkyina's Arena Band to release album

KACHIN'S Myitkyina-based Arena Band introduced its album on 10 November at The Heart of Rangoon (THOR) in Yangon Region, said producer Ko Min Thu.

The album contains eight songs composed by KaphiOo, Yan Shin, Seng Myat Aung and MSD Shing. The songs are own tunes of Pop, R&B, and Rock music. Master Music Production will release the album on 15 November.

"Our band is called Arena

Band consisting of six singers and four players. We established this band when a new Music Bar was opened in Myitkyina and they needed a band for entertainment. For the sustainability of our band, we must be an official one, release albums and create songs, and so we release this album," said Ko Min Thu.

The launching event was attended by singers Naw Naw, JZ Daung Loon, Thar Dee Lu and Kaung Sett. – ASH/KTZH



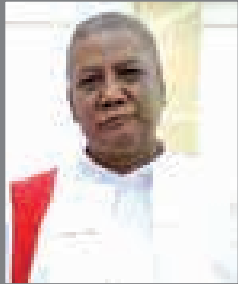
### Win Pe

THE Solo exhibition "Magic in the Bag" of artist U Win Pe, father of singer Mie Mie Win Pe and winner of the Best Director Academy Award with the film "Hnin Si Ni Aein Met" in 1981 was organized at Blossom Art Gallery in Mandalay from 10 to 12 November. Sayagyi U Win Pe served as Principal of State School of Fine Arts, Mandalay in 1966 and was described as

the second generation of Myanmar modern painting together with U Paw Oo Thet and U Khin Maung Yin, and also as a cartoonist, writer and scriptwriter.

### Cartoon Aung Aung

CARTOON Aung Aung who once said he would keep painting until his eyes could not see clearly and his hands shake is now 80 years old. He is the creator of his famous Shwe Gaung Pyaung character. Currently, he cannot draw his Shwe Gaung Pyaung character because of his poor health condition. On 10 November, U Aung Shan Wine provided the cartoonist with K100,000 under the "Hmya-To-Hmya" programme.



### Moe Hay Ko

ACADEMY Moe Hay Ko completed the Advanced Film Making Class. She posted on her Facebook page that there are many things that she never knew and still needs to learn after attending classes at MIFA. It is a good training school. The movie "Once Upon a Time in Yangon" in which she starred will be screened at the cinemas soon. The film was made by Director Nyo Min Lwin and starred Academy Lu Min, Tyron, Phone Thaik, Nyi Htut Khaung, Swan, Kaung Myat San, Aung Lay, Moe Hay Ko, Baby Maung, Phone Thiri Kyaw, Htoo Char, Min Kha, Zwe Naing Win and other artistes.

– Htun Htun/ KTZH

## Celebrity Brief

### Eaindra Kyaw Zin

THE advertisement of Weint Sein gold shop is made with 12 famous actresses and academy Eaindra Kyaw Zin is one of those 12 actresses. She wore a dress made of over 50 ticals of gold, and she said she was so surprised

as she had never worn such a dress before.



### May Myint Mo

ACTRESS May Myint Mo opened the "Bagan Myo Thu" hotel in Bagan recently, and she will run certain businesses and manage her business and career very well, she said. She also participated in 'Aein Myaung' movie made by Director Thar Nyi, together with academy Kyaw Kyaw Bo, Tun Pale Yadana, Amie Zan, Joker, KNyi, Moe Nyo, Saung Akari Zaw (kid character) and other artistes.



### Sai Kham Leik

FAMOUS composer Sai Kham Leik is now over 70 years old. The THOR presented "The Best of Sai Kham Leik" for its Tribute Night on 9 November. The popular singers Rabecawin, Phyo Pyae Sone, Phyo Kyaw Htike, Han Htoo Zan, Chan Myae Maung Cho, Nan Zarchi Lin sang the best songs of Saya Sai Kham Leik, and his daughter Nang Kham Han Leik performed for Next Generation Guest section.



## Kyat depreciates against dollar at around K3,300 in grey market



The general view of the office building of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) in Nay Pyi Taw.

KYAT weakened to K3,310 against the greenback in the shady dealings on 11 November. The exchange rate climbed from K3,230 on 1 November.

Presently, the Central Bank of Myanmar set the reference exchange rate at K2,100.

CBM has set the currency trading band at 0.3 per cent for the Kyat to fluctuate between these two specified upper and lower exchange rates for transactions, selling or buying, starting 10 August 2022.

Financial institutions including banks and informal money exchanges have been instructed to set a dollar value at K2,094 for buying and K2,106 for selling. However, the over-the-counter kyat-dollar exchange rate was K3,270

for buying and K3,310 for selling on 11 November.

Despite a large price difference between the reference rate of the CBM and the unofficial market rate, there is no way for the CBM to set the new price, as per the notification released in May 2023.

The dollar gained to around K4,000 on 19 August 2023.

Under Section 9 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, only those entities holding foreign exchange dealer licences are allowed to deal in foreign currency and traveller's cheques. Those holding foreign currencies without valid licences and permits will face legal actions under the law, according to the CBM's notification released on

21 August 2023.

According to Notification 7/2014 dated 30 September 2014 issued by the Central Bank of Myanmar, stating that under Clause 15 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, domestic residents are allowed to keep US\$10,000 in a maximum or equivalent amount of foreign currencies for six months. If those foreign currencies that have been unused for over six months have to be exchanged in local currency at the market price through authorized dealers or deposited into bank accounts.

Those illegally holding foreign currencies are to face legal actions under the Foreign Exchange Management Law, CBM warned again. — NN/EM

## Myanmar's fishery exports decline to US\$375 mln over past 7 months

MYANMAR conveyed fisheries worth US\$375.144 million to foreign trade partners over the past seven months of the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, as per the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The fishery export value plunged from \$423.989 million recorded in the year-ago period, indicating a decrease of \$48.845 million.

Myanmar exports fisheries products to external markets through maritime and border channels.

At present, fishery export has yet to increase. The fishery export is regularly going yet the volume of fishery export is still lower than those recorded in the pre-pandemic periods.

Myanmar ships fisheries to European countries, China, Thailand and Japan. Fisheries such as fish, shrimp and crabs are sent to neighbouring countries via Muse, Myawady, Kawthoung, Sittway, Myeik and Maungtau borders.

More than 20 fish species including hilsa, rohu, catfish, and seabass are delivered to foreign markets, according to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation. Myanmar ships fishery products to over 40 countries, mostly to Thailand and China. — NN/EM

## Bangladesh eyes Myanmar onions amid low supply from India

THE Bangladesh market saw an influx of Myanmar onions when onion imports from India declined and the price surged.

The strong foreign demand pushed up onion prices to K3,250-3,300 per viss in onion-producing areas (Pakokku, Myingyan) at the end of October.

Some exporters who purchased Myanmar's onion at K2,800-3,000 per viss reaped a handsome profit as onion price in Bangladesh's market is approximately K3,800 per viss.

After a few days of a large entry of Myanmar's onion to

Bangladesh, onions from India also flowed into Bangladesh's market, causing the price to plunge to K2,500 per viss.

Bangladesh turned to Myanmar's onions as the prices of onions from India rose with the Dipavali celebration approaching.

When the onion price jumped to K3,200-3,300 per viss in the domestic market, the exporters faced losses as onion prices in Bangladesh decreased. If India's onion output drops due to erratic weather and production covers only self-sufficiency,

Bangladesh eyes Myanmar's onions.

Newly harvested monsoon onions are likely to enter the market in the coming days. Onion prices hit new peaks in 2023, those traders who kept the stocks in their hands made great profits then.

Chinese onions were sold at K3,000 per viss in the Bayintnaung market when onion price climbed in November 2022. This year, they are barely found in the market, said Ko Yee, a potato and onion seller at Nyaungpinlay market. — TWA/KK



The Pakokku onion market is seen on 10 November 2023.

# OPINION

## Choose the most appropriate job to have prestige and integrity

**C**HOOSING the right course of action before putting plans into motion is crucial for the success of any endeavour. Work constitutes the essence of every employee's life, serving as both a means of earning income and a remedy for personal well-being. While engaging in regular work is inherent to an individual's nature, it is exceptional performances that elevate the prestige of employees.

For adults, work is not only a means of earning but an integral part of their lives, requiring conscientious attention to their professional responsibilities. Carelessness in employment should be avoided at all costs, with individuals diligently and ethically fulfilling their assigned duties. The meticulous and comprehensive execution of tasks contributes significantly to the enhancement of their socio-economic lives.

Failure to adhere to these principles may result in unaccomplished assignments, leading to missed deadlines and a negative impact on the reputation of all parties involved. To avoid such pitfalls, individuals within the workplace must exercise due diligence and meticulous care in their preparations before embarking on projects. If so, all the assignments they implement will meet satisfactory successes, benefiting themselves as well as those from society. Consequently, aims must be set that the success of society will bring prestige and integrity to all.

those involved. The key lies in equipping both seniors and juniors with the knowledge of managing assigned tasks and overcoming challenges to ensure a smooth and successful outcome.

Failure to adhere to these principles may result in unaccomplished assignments, leading to missed deadlines and a negative impact on the reputation of all parties involved. To avoid such pitfalls, individuals within the workplace must exercise due diligence and meticulous care in their preparations before embarking on projects. If so, all the assignments they implement will meet satisfactory successes, benefiting themselves as well as those from society. Consequently, aims must be set that the success of society will bring prestige and integrity to all.

Recognizing the potential repercussions of mistakes in the work process — such as loss of labour, time, money, and management resources — officials must carefully select employees suited for the implementation of assigned duties. Offering necessary support and encouragement to these individuals is paramount in ensuring the successful execution of their responsibilities, ultimately contributing to the positive image and success of the entire team.

To prevent negligence in the execution of duties, individuals facing complexities in their assignments should seek guidance from their seniors. Clear and comprehensive clarifications and briefings contribute to successful task completion. Simultaneously, seniors bear the responsibility of providing detailed guidance to subordinates, ensuring they understand the nature and criteria of their assigned jobs to stay on course and achieve their objectives.

Furthermore, employees must possess the qualifications necessary for their assigned tasks. Honest self-assessment enables them to acknowledge their capabilities, allowing officials to make informed decisions when delegating responsibilities. Without this crucial alignment, projects are likely to fall behind schedule, tarnishing the reputation of

**I**N THE worst-case scenario, what can we expect? This is a crucial concern in flood-prone areas: what extreme occurrences should preventive measures be constructed for? Often, the answer is as simple as going back in time: the worst flood disasters of the previous decades or centuries are viewed as a reasonable upper limit for what might be expected in the future.

However, this can be misleading, as so-called “mega-floods” have shown in recent years. Time and again, extreme flood events occur, creating extraordinary outliers that were not considered possible on the basis of local data. A major research project carried out under the leadership of TU Wien (Vienna) has now been able to demonstrate: If one considers the entire European continent,

## Research reveals how mega-floods can be predicted

*If data from other regions with similar hydrological conditions is taken into account, the extent of these “mega-floods” suddenly becomes predictable.*

these local surprises are no longer surprising at all.

### Drastic consequences

If data from other regions with similar hydrological conditions is taken into account, the extent of these “mega-floods” suddenly becomes predictable. This has drastic consequences for the way in which flood protection must be dimensioned. The results have now been pre-

sented in the journal Nature Geoscience.

### The simple extrapolation of probabilities

In 2021, there was a devastating flood disaster in Germany and Belgium in which over 220 people died. An event of this magnitude had not been expected. “Predicting the extent of such mega-floods is very difficult,” says Prof Gunter Bloschl



In 2015, heavy rain during the northeast monsoon caused floods in South India, particularly affecting Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Over 500 people died, and 1.8 million were displaced. People gather to look at floodwaters covering the end of a highway in Chennai. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

from the Institute of Hydraulic Engineering and Water Resources Management at TU Wien, who led the project. Until now, the usual strategy has been to statistically examine previous flood events in the region: there is a high probability of minor flooding and a lower probability of major flooding. From this, one can try to extrapolate the probability of even greater floods.

However, as has now been shown, there is a much better strategy: in an elaborate research project, data from more than 8,000 gauging stations across Europe, from the years 1810 to 2021, has now been analyzed. “The decisive step was to anticipate mega-floods in one place by using data from similar river basins in other places on the continent,” explains Dr Miriam Bertola (Institute of Hydraulic Engineering and Water

Resources Management, TU Wien), the lead author of the current publication.

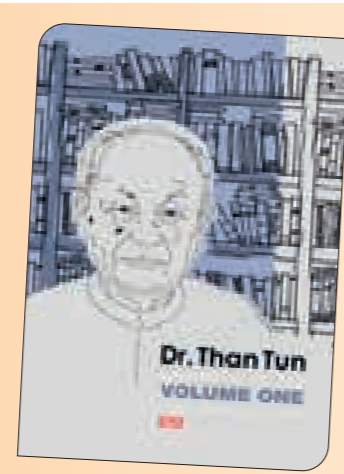
### Hydrological characteristics

“In each river basin we can learn from other areas that have similar climatic and hydrological characteristics where mega-floods may have already occurred”.

### Expecting the unexpected

If one looks at the historical flood data of all these areas simultaneously, a pattern emerges: locally surprising “mega-floods” are often below or close to the upper limit of previous floods observed in similar regions. By using a larger amount of data, a statistical outlier at the local scale becomes something expected at the continental scale.

**SOURCE: ANI**



Book Title	-	Collected Works, Volume One, History Of Burma, AD 1000-1400
Writer	-	Dr Than Tun
Publishing House	-	Htibaungga
Publication Date	-	August 2023 (1st Edition)
Price	-	K6,500

## Collected Works, Volume One, History of Burma, AD 1000-1400 By Dr Than Tun

**B**EFORE dealing with the book written by Sayagyi Dr Than Tun, I would like to commence my book review with the two great remarks made by Sayagyi. His remarks have been historic as he was too outspoken when he made the said remarks. The first historical remark is that people need to learn history so that they are not silly, foolish and gullible. He made this historic remark at a freshers' welcome ceremony at the History Department of the University of Mandalay in 1965. He was very outspoken when he said in his capacity as the dean of

the department, “I was told to welcome you. Actually, it is unnecessary. I see no reason to welcome you, and I have no special words of advice to give because you are no longer children. You are mature enough. Anyway, I'd say you learn history only if you have an interest in it. If you just want a degree or if you think you can get an officer position upon graduation, don't learn it.

As for me, I will teach you history so that you are not silly, foolish and gullible. That's all. You are dismissed.” What a concise speech! He had made

the same remark when he met a writer named Maung Tha Ya at the Ludu Press in Mandalay in 1969.

The second remark was made at a coordination meeting held during the period of Burma Socialist Programme Party. The meeting was held to discuss the introduction of a new education system under which science subjects would be given top priority. Sayagyi was quoted as saying, “As they are going to introduce the new education system, they invite me to a coordination meeting. They said the priority would be given to the science sub-

jects. This is still OK but they have gone too far to say that the Discipline of History is not needed to be incorporated into the curriculum. OK, then you fire the history teachers, who number about 300. Maybe, they can be in trouble. But what is worse is that the country will be a failed state in 20 years or so.”

Throughout his academic career, he has been teaching and doing research. Upon retirement, he continued to do the research, submitting his papers to the paper-reading sessions till he turned 82. This book under review is a collection of his research papers most of which were written between 1957 and 1960. The papers are as follows:

1. History of Burma, AD 1000-1300
2. History of Burma, AD 1300-1400
3. The Legal System in Burma, AD 1000-1300
4. Religion in Burma, AD 1000-1300
5. Religious Buildings of Burma, AD 1000-1300
6. Agriculture in Burma, AD 1000-1300
7. Social Life in Burma, AD 1044-1287



Book Title	-	Hegel: A Very Short Introduction by Peter Singer
Writer	-	U Khin Maung Swe (Mann Tekkatho)
Publishing House	-	Bawa Tekkatho
Publication Date	-	November 2023 (1st Edition)
Price	-	K7,000

## Hegel Ei Dattana (Hegel: A Very Short Introduction by Peter Singer)

**T**HE translator of this book under review is U Khin Maung Swe (Mann Tekkatho), who has written such books as Ayeyawady Myit Kanpa Hma Phaya Pahto Zedi 5,000 (Bagan Bayint Naing Ngan Daw), Khwe Gyan Seik Phyar Chitchin Myit-ta (Manutthabayda Hnit Hsint-kai Phytitsin Hsaingyar), 21 Yazu Seikpyinnya Shudaug Ah Htway Htway (The Perspective of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Psychology), Seik Ei San Ein Oo Hnauk (Brain: The Seat of Mind).

Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel was born in Stuttgart in 1770. He is a German philosopher. No philosopher of

the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> centuries had as great an impact on the world as Hegel. The only possible exception to this sweeping statement would be Karl Marx, and Marx himself was heavily influenced by Hegel. Without Hegel, neither the intellectual nor the political developments of the last 150 years would have taken the path they did.

Hegel's impact alone makes it important to understand him, but Hegel's philosophy is in any case worth studying for its own sake. His profound ideas led him to some conclusions that strike modern readers as bizarre, even

absurd. Whatever one thinks of his conclusions, however, there are arguments and insights in his work that retain their force to the present day. The effort required to understand Hegel is repaid by them, and also by the satisfaction of having mastered the challenge to our comprehension that Hegel represents.

Daw Khin Marlar, a retired lecturer of history at Yangon Arts and Science University and Mandalay Arts and Science University has also recommended this book both for history students and general readers who have an interest in history in addition to the recommenda-

tion made by the writer of the foreword of this book under review.

The original writer Peter Singer has admitted that it is a very hard task to explain the work of a great philosopher in a short book. To make this hard task manageable, he has done two things, he said. The first task is to limit the scope whereas the second is to make the lofty heights of Hegel's thoughts accessible to novices — i.e., to select the gentlest possible approach route.

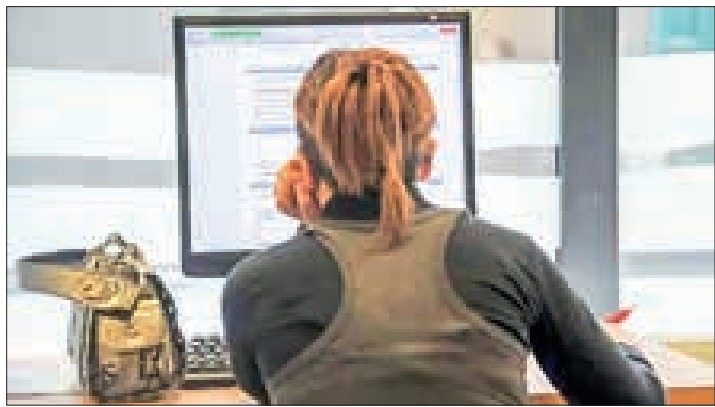
To make the book review succinct, I would discuss only two chapters — Chapter 1 and Chapter 2. Chapter 1 is concerned with Hegel's times and life whereas Chapter 2 is titled, “History with a Purpose.” What is worth mentioning in this chapter is the remark made by Karl Marx, who said, “What distinguished Hegel's mode of thinking from that of all other philosophers was the exceptional historical sense underlying it. However abstract and idealist the form employed, the development of his ideas runs always parallel to the development of world history, and the latter is indeed supposed to be only the proof of the former.”



## SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

# France, UK seek greater regulation of commercial spyware

*Although using spyware may have valid reasons, it only takes a small amount of code manipulation to use it for harmful purposes.*



Free software programme Detekt can find spyware on your PC. **PHOTO: PHILIPPE HUGUEN/AFP**

FRANCE and Britain are calling for greater global regulation of commercial surveillance software in the wake of recent Pegasus and Predator spyware scandals, the French foreign ministry said Friday.

In a joint initiative announced at the Peace Forum in the French capital, Paris and London warned against the unregulated development and use of surveillance technology.

While the use of such spyware might be legitimate, it

only takes “a few lines of code” to allow it to be used with malicious intent, a French official said.

“Its unregulated use poses a problem in terms of the security and stability of cyberspace, but also in terms of respect for human rights,” the official said.

“An unregulated market also poses the risk of proliferation. This therefore becomes a regulatory issue for us at diplomatic level.”

Cyber attacks by state

actors, criminal groups and activists have been a threat for years.

But legally available commercial spyware increasingly poses a widening risk, the official said.

Last month, Amnesty International said Vietnamese agents may be behind a global spyware campaign targeting officials, civil society and journalists around the world using an EU-made software called Predator.

Predator, like the Pegasus spyware from Israeli firm NSO that caused a global scandal two years ago, takes control of the camera and microphone of an infected phone, turning it into a pocket spy.

French news outlet Mediapart, which broke the story in a joint investigation with Germany’s Spiegel magazine, said Predator had been sold to governments including Egypt, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Pakistan. — AFP

# France says to build vessel for polar research

PRESIDENT Emmanuel Macron said Friday France will build an ice-capable vessel as part of a billion-euro plan to boost polar research.

Addressing a conference on the polar regions and glaciers, he urged world powers to act in the face of the climate emergency despite raging geopolitical tensions.

He said mankind faced a “civilizational” challenge and called for “an unprecedented level of cooperation” despite the “resurgence of geopolitical tensions”.

He spoke on the final day of the One Planet-Polar summit, a

conference he called to address the climate emergency.

Based between the French territory of New Caledonia and Australia, the new ship will divide its time between the Western Pacific and Antarctica, he said.

The vessel will bear the name of Michel Rocard, a former prime minister and ambassador for international negotiations over the Arctic and Antarctic who died in 2016, Macron said.

France plans to invest a billion euros (\$1.1 billion) in polar research by 2030, Macron said. — AFP



Built by Cammell Laird and operated by the British Antarctic Survey, the RRS Sir David Attenborough polar research vessel aims transform how ship-borne science is conducted in the polar regions. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY**

# Battle looms over renewed plastic treaty negotiations



Annual plastic production is on track to triple within four decades. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

*Negotiators have met twice before, but Nairobi is the first chance to discuss a draft treaty from September that outlines various ways to address the plastic issue.*

REPRESENTATIVES from 175 nations meet in Nairobi from Monday to negotiate for the first time what concrete measures should be included in a binding global treaty to end plastic pollution.

Nations agreed last year to finalize by 2024 a world-first UN treaty to address the scourge of plastics found everywhere from mountain tops to ocean depths, and within human blood and

breast milk.

Negotiators have met twice already but Nairobi is the first opportunity to debate a draft treaty published in September that outlines the many pathways to tackling the plastic problem.

The material made from fossil fuels is pervasive in the modern world, sparking growing alarm in recent years. — AFP

## Gaza in spotlight as Arab, Iran leaders meet in Saudi

ARAB leaders and Iran's president are in the Saudi capital Saturday for a summit meeting expected to underscore demands that Israel's war in Gaza end before the violence draws in other countries. The emergency meeting of the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) comes after Hamas militants' bloody 7 October attacks that Israeli officials say left about 1,200 people dead and 239 taken hostage.

Israel's subsequent aerial and ground offensive has killed more than 11,000 people, mostly civilians and many of them children, according to the Hamas-run health ministry. Aid groups have joined pleas for a ceasefire, warning of a humanitarian "catastrophe" in Gaza, where food, water and medicine are in short supply.



This handout picture provided by the Palestinian Authority's press office (PPO) shows Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas (centre) arriving in Saudi Arabia on 10 November 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

The Arab League and the OIC were originally meant to meet separately, but the Saudi foreign ministry announced early Saturday that the blocs' summits would be combined. The move underscores the importance of reaching "a unified collective position that expresses the common Arab and Islamic will regarding the dangerous and unprecedented developments witnessed in Gaza and the Palestinian territories," the official Saudi Press Agency reported. The Arab League aims to demonstrate "how the Arabs will move on the international scene to stop the aggression, support Palestine and its people, condemn the Israeli occupation, and hold it accountable for its crimes", the bloc's assistant secretary-general, Hosam Zaki, said this week. — AFP

## Prince Harry wins latest round in legal battle with UK newspapers

THE publishers of two UK newspapers on Friday lost a bid to have a case for unlawful information gathering brought against them by Prince Harry and others thrown out of court, opening the way for a possible trial.

King Charles III's younger son made headlines earlier this year when he flew in from California to make an unexpected in-person appearance at the High Court in London for the case.

The prince and six other high profile figures including pop star

Elton John launched the legal action last year after becoming aware of "compelling and highly distressing evidence that they have been the victims of abhorrent criminal activity and gross breaches of privacy" by Associated Newspapers Limited (ANL).

Other claimants are John's husband David Furnish, the actors Liz Hurley and Sadie Frost, politician Simon Hughes, and Doreen Lawrence, whose son Stephen was killed in a racist murder in 1993. — AFP



Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex, arrives to the Royal Courts of Justice, Britain's High Court, in central London on 6 June 2023. **PHOTO: HENRY NICHOLLS / AFP/FILE**

## FBI agents seized New York mayor's cell phones: lawyer

*FBI seizes NYC mayor's devices in a campaign fundraising investigation, suspecting corruption ties with Türkiye's government.*

FBI agents seized the New York mayor's cell phones and other devices, his campaign lawyer said Friday, in an apparent escalation of a federal investigation into campaign fundraising.

The seizure appears to be part of a corruption investigation into whether Eric Adams' 2021 campaign conspired with Türkiye's government and others.

"On Monday night, the FBI approached the mayor after an event. The Mayor immediately complied with the FBI's request and provided them with electronic devices," said Boyd Johnson, the campaign's attorney, in a statement to AFP.

"The mayor has not been accused of any wrongdoing and continues to cooperate with the investigation," the attorney added.

The federal probe into Ad-



New York's Mayor Eric Adams, shown here in 2023, had his communication devices seized by the FBI as part of a federal probe into potential campaign fundraising violations. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ams' campaign went public last week when FBI agents searched the home of his former top fundraiser — a 25-year-old one-time intern, Brianna Suggs — seizing laptops, cell phones and a manila folder labelled "Eric Adams".

News of the raid prompted the mayor to reverse course and abruptly return to New York from Washington, where he was to have met with officials at the White House and Congress over an influx of migrants into his city. — AFP

# ECONOMY WORLD



Founded in 1694, the Bank of England is the central bank of the United Kingdom. **PHOTO: AFP**

## British economy stalls in third quarter

BRITAIN'S economy stagnated in the third quarter, official data showed Friday, weighed down by elevated inflation and interest-rate hikes. Gross domestic product showed no growth in the July-September period, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in a statement. That beat market expectations for a contraction of 0.2 per cent, but followed 0.2-per-cent expansion in the second quarter.

The data comes one week

after the Bank of England froze interest rates at a 15-year high of 5.25 per cent to tackle high inflation, and forecast the economy would flatline next year.

Reacting to Friday's data, UK finance minister Jeremy Hunt warned that "high inflation was the single greatest barrier to economic growth".

Hunt added that his budget statement on 22 November, would "focus on how we get the economy growing healthily again".

ly again".

### 'UK woes'

"UK economy woes continue," noted KPMG economist Yael Selfin. "Economic activity is continuing to slow as high interest rates are weighing on consumer sentiment and disposable incomes. "While real incomes have started to grow as inflation eases, this is being offset by higher mortgage rates feeding through into housing costs." — AFP

## In a pickle: Baltic herring threatened by warming sea

*Experts suggest reducing fishing quotas to protect the delicate ecosystem, but there are concerns that stopping fishing altogether could have more negative consequences than positive ones.*



Herring fisherman Holger Sjogren empties a net full of fish into a metal container on his boat off Kotka, southern Finland on 10 October 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

EVEN aged 84, Holger Sjogren nimbly untangles the knots in his herring net as it was lowered into the murky depths of

the Baltic Sea.

"When the trawl bag comes up, the seagulls give us a concert," he said.

Sjogren, a fifth-generation herring fisherman, has been trawling from the waters near Kotka in southeastern Finland for more than five decades.

In the harbour, dozens of customers eagerly await his return to buy his catch straight off the boat. However, the Baltic, which is enveloped by some of Europe's most industrialized nations, is one of the most heavily polluted marine ecosystems on the planet. — AFP

## EU strikes deal on key biodiversity bill

*The law will force EU countries to put in place measures to restore at least 20 per cent of the EU's land and 20 per cent of the EU's seas by 2030.*

THE European Parliament and EU member states reached an agreement on Thursday on a key biodiversity bill aimed at rewilding EU land and water habitats.

The law will force EU countries to put in place measures to restore at least 20 per cent of the EU's land and 20 per cent of the EU's seas by 2030, said a statement by the council, which represents the 27 member states.

There had been attempts by the parliament's biggest grouping, the conservative European People's Party (EPP), to shoot down the text earlier this year.

While EU lawmakers welcomed the agreement reached

before midnight following hours of talks that began on Thursday afternoon, some critics pointed to watered down elements.

"We can be proud of this historic result setting ambitious and workable rules for all," Pascal Canfin, the head of the parliament's environment committee, said on social media. Spain's minister for ecological transition, Teresa Ribera Rodriguez, said she was "proud" of the law, "the first of its kind". "It will help us rebuild healthy biodiversity levels across member states and preserve nature for the future generations, while fighting climate change," she said. — AFP



Swedish climate campaigner Greta Thunberg looks on as she takes part in a demonstration with activists in favour of the nature restoration law in front of the European Parliament, in Strasbourg, eastern France, on 11 July 2023. **PHOTO: FREDERICK FLORIN/AFP**

## US nears government funding deadline, again risking shutdown

LESS than two months since the US federal government narrowly avoided running out of funding, the deeply divided Congress once again faces a tight deadline to approve a new budget — just one week.

Neither the Democratic-controlled Senate or the Republican-led House of Representatives has passed a bill to extend government funding,

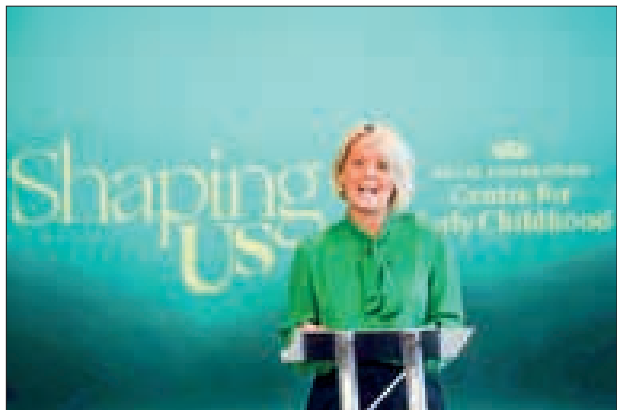
which expires at midnight next Friday into Saturday.

Without an agreement by 17 November, the world's largest economy will instantly begin pumping the brakes: 1.5 million government employees will go without pay, most federal facilities including national parks will be closed, and sectors such as air travel could be forced to slow down. — AFP

# NatWest bank slashes ex-CEO payout over Farage row

BRITISH bank NatWest on Friday said it had axed almost £7.6 million (\$9.3 million) worth of potential payouts for Alison Rose, its former chief executive who resigned over the lender's treatment of arch-Brexititeer Nigel Farage.

Rose has not been considered a "good leaver" following her departure in July and will therefore not receive most of the discretionary parts of her pay package, NatWest said in



Former NatWest bank CEO Alison Rose has admitted making a 'serious error of judgement' in speaking to a reporter about the banking affairs of arch-Brexititeer Nigel Farage. **PHOTO: AFP**

a statement.

She will still receive £2.4 million, however, for 12 months' worth of pay and benefits — plus about £800,000 for shares due to vest in March.

The bank is also paying more than £400,000 towards her legal fees.

NatWest on Friday stressed there had been "no finding of misconduct" against the former boss.

Rose welcomed the finding and said the mat-

ter had been brought to a close.

An independent investigation last month found that NatWest displayed "serious failings" in its treatment of the banking affairs of Farage.

Former leader of the Brexit Party and the anti-immigration party UKIP, Farage had complained about the closure of his account with NatWest's upmarket division Coutts, claiming he was removed

for his political views.

NatWest appointed law firm Travers Smith to investigate the "debanking" controversy, which sparked the resignation of Rose. She was found to have made an "honest mistake" in discussing details of Farage's account with a BBC journalist.

However, it was found that the closure of Farage's account was lawful because it was a commercial decision. — AFP

# Novo Nordisk invests \$6 bln to boost anti-obesity drug output

DANISH drugmaker Novo Nordisk said Friday it would invest 42 billion kroner (\$6 billion) to expand manufacturing facilities in efforts to meet massive demand for its anti-diabetes and anti-obesity treatments.

Sales of the Ozempic and Wegovy treatments have made Novo Nordisk the most valuable company in Europe by market capitalization. But the drugmaker has struggled to keep up with demand for the drugs, which both rely on its GLP-1 analogues, a medicine which increases the amount of an intestinal hormone that secretes insulin.

The company said the investment would be

used to "expand existing manufacturing facilities in Kalundborg, Denmark, for the current and future product portfolio within serious chronic diseases". "The investment will create additional capacity across the entire global value chain from manufacturing of active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) to packaging, with the vast majority invested in API capacity," Novo Nordisk said in a statement. It added a new "multi-product facility" would be constructed, and the investment was expected to lead to the creation of 800 new jobs — 700 in the new API facility and 100 in a new packaging facility. — AFP



Danish drugmaker Novo Nordisk said Friday it would invest 42 billion kroner (\$6 billion) to expand manufacturing facilities in efforts to meet massive demand for its anti-diabetes and anti-obesity treatments. **PHOTO: AFP**

# Thai telecoms regulator approves controversial merger

The decision will allow AIS to purchase 100 per cent of local rival 3BB in a 32.4 billion baht deal.

THAILAND'S telecom regulator has approved the merger of top Thai mobile operator AIS and a local rival, despite concerns about the potential for anti-competitive practices.

AIS, whose parent company Intouch Holdings was founded by billionaire and ex-prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra's family, declared its plans to merge with 3BB in July last year.

The National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission



Following the AIS-3BB merger deal, only two companies will dominate over 80 per cent of the broadband market in Thailand. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

(NBTC) approved the deal late Friday, but listed condi-

tions such as price capping and quality controls.

"The merger is a delicate matter and affects the general public, we have studied it comprehensively," the NBTC said in a statement. "The majority of NBTC has expressed points of concern for this merger... it needs to follow the regulations of the price strictly," it added. The decision will allow AIS to purchase 100 per cent of 3BB — also known as Triple T Broadband — in a 32.4 billion baht (\$899 million) deal, according to media reports. — AFP

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## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BAJO VOY.NO. (008N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BAJO VOY.NO. (008N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-11-2023 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.

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# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## Portuguese political parties draw battle lines for election

Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa announced his resignation on Tuesday after he was embroiled in a corruption investigation into the awarding of energy-related contracts.



The departure of Costa – forced to quit after being implicated in a scandal over energy-related contracts – immediately opened a battle for the leadership of his Socialist Party (PS). **PHOTO: AFP**

PORTUGAL'S main political parties began this week drawing battle lines for an early general election triggered by the sudden resignation of Socialist Prime Minister Antonio Costa over a corruption scandal.

The departure of Costa — forced to quit after being implicated in a scandal over energy-related contracts — immediately opened a battle for the leadership of his Socialist Party (PS). The leadership race began just hours after President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa announced on Thursday he would dissolve parliament and call a snap election for 10

March. Jose Luis Carneiro, interior minister in the outgoing government, was the first to throw his hat into the ring to replace Costa as PS leader and, potentially, prime minister.

“I have announced that I am available,” he said late Thursday. The PS will select its new head in an internal vote in December, before the party conference in January.

Pedro Nuno Santos, who leads the left wing of the PS and has been seen for several months as a possible challenger to Costa, is also expected to stand, according to media reports. Santos was forced to

resign as Costa's infrastructure minister in December 2022 after being implicated in an earlier corruption crisis.

That scandal centred on a 500,000-euro (\$534,000) severance package paid to an executive at state-owned national airline TAP.

Although the official election campaign will not start until 25 February, the main right-wing opposition party said it had been preparing its platform for several months.

### Fragmented parliament

It is unlikely that any single party will win an outright majority at the election, according to polling organizations contacted by the Publico daily.

The most recent opinion poll, published in October by the Aximage institute for CNN Portugal, put the left-wing parties at 41 per cent and the right as a whole at 44 per cent.

The vote could result in “a very fragmented parliament ... with a fragile government at the mercy of parliamentary horse-trading”, Bruno Ferreira da Costa, a political scientist at the University of Beira Interior, told AFP. — AFP

## 31 hurt in suspected gas blast at Italian migrant centre

A video from the fire service revealed a blast near Viterbo in San Lorenzo Nuovo, causing parts of a two-storey building to collapse before midnight.

A suspected gas explosion partially brought down a building housing asylum seekers in central Italy overnight injuring 31 people, firefighters said Saturday.

A video published by the fire service showed sections of the two-storey building in San Lorenzo Nuovo, near Viterbo, reduced to rubble after the blast which occurred shortly before midnight.

The fire service said there had been an “explosion and partial collapse” of the building it described as a reception centre, “probably as a result of

a gas leak”. Thirty-one people had been confirmed injured, it said, after rescue searches that included the use of sniffer dogs.

One person was in a serious condition, transported by helicopter to a hospital in Rome and currently in a coma, according to the ANSA news agency.

It said the building was made up of mini-apartments hosting asylum seekers, mostly men but also women without children.

A carpenter's workshop and a wine shop adjacent to the building were also destroyed, ANSA said. — AFP



The fire service said there had been an ‘explosion and partial collapse’ of the building. **PHOTO: AFP**



Smoke rises following an Israeli airstrike in Gaza City, on 9 November, 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## Latest developments in Israel-Hamas war

HERE are key developments from the past 24 hours:

### Gaza hospital, a flashpoint

Israel faced growing calls Saturday to protect civilians in Gaza as combat with Hamas intensified around hospitals where Palestinians have sought refuge from intense bombardment and gun battles.

The director of the besieged territory's largest hospital, Al-Shifa, said the compound was struck repeatedly overnight and lost power for hours after its

generator was hit. **Saudi summit**

Arab and Muslim leaders including Iran's president are in the Saudi capital Saturday for a summit meeting expected to underscore demands for a ceasefire before the violence draws in other countries.

The Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation were originally meant to meet separately, but the Saudi foreign ministry announced early Saturday that the blocs' summits would be combined. — AFP

# SPORTS



Myanmar footballers are seen in training hard ahead of the World Cup Qualifiers. PHOTO: MFF

## Team Myanmar intensively prepare for World Cup Qualifiers

THE Myanmar national team is preparing for the second-round qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup to be played this month, as stated by the Myanmar Football Federation.

Team Myanmar has been taking training since 6 November, but due to Shan United's AFC Cup group match and those playing in foreign clubs being able to join late, there were few days for all players to practice.

Myanmar national team head coach Michael Feichtenbeiner initially

selected 29 players but later added some players.

The Myanmar national team will have more than a week to prepare for the World Cup qualifiers and will leave for Osaka, Japan on 13 November.

The Myanmar national team will play away against the Japanese national team on 16 November as a World Cup qualifier, and they will play at home against the North Korean team on 21 November. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

## Czechs down USA to complete BJK Cup semi-finals line-up

BARBORA Krejčíková and Katerina Siniakova won the decisive doubles rubber against the United States to seal Friday's tie and claim the last place in the Billie Jean King Cup semi-finals.

Krejčíková and Siniakova beat Danielle Collins and Taylor Townsend 6-3, 7-5 to secure top spot in Group A and set up a showdown with Canada in Seville on Saturday for a spot in the final.

"I was very happy when we sealed the winning point today. It was a really good match and I was really excited and happy that we finished it and with the way we played," said Siniakova.

"It's tough to be unbeatable because it's impossible, but I'm proud of how we play and how long we are playing, because it's not easy," said

in Tokyo.

"Everyone wants to beat us, and they are coming and trying to find things," added Siniakova.

Collins gave the USA — the record 18-time winners — the ideal start with a 6-3 6-3 victory over Siniakova, but Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova thrashed Sofia Kenin 6-1, 6-1 in the second singles.

"The US were there, just waiting for the winning moment. It got to the wire and it could have gone either way, but we have a world-class doubles team," said Czech captain Petr Pala. — AFP



Inter Miami's Argentine forward Lionel Messi holds his eighth Ballon d'Or trophy prior to a friendly match to commemorate the award against MLS rivals New York City FC. PHOTO: AFP

## Messi celebrates Ballon d'Or with MLS fans but Miami fall in friendly

INTER Miami saluted Argentine star Lionel Messi's eighth Ballon d'Or on Friday, but their friendly match to mark the achievement ended in a 2-1 loss to MLS rivals New York City FC.

The defeat, in a match between two teams long out of the MLS championship running, was just a footnote on a celebratory night that began with Messi offering his thanks to fans for the welcome he'd received in Florida.

Fans, many of them shouting "Messi! Messi!" in unison, nearly filled the DRV

PNK stadium — despite the fact that the club's MLS season ended last month.

"Thank you for being here, for this beautiful tribute," Messi said after raising the trophy he'd collected in Paris last month. "I have been here for a short time, but it seems like a lot of time.

"I want to thank all the people of Miami, not only those who are here, but in the city in general, for the treatment I and my family have received during this time.

"They showed me a lot of affection, they made me feel

at home."

The 36-year-old superstar received a rapturous welcome when he arrived at Inter Miami in July and powered the struggling franchise to the Leagues Cup title in a tournament with MLS and Mexican league clubs in August.

He played his first MLS regular season match for Miami on 26 August as a second-half substitute, scoring a goal in Inter's 2-0 win at New York Red Bulls to snap an 11-match winless streak. — AFP



Siniakova of her partnership with Krejčíková.

The pair have combined to win seven Grand Slam doubles titles and Olympic gold

Czech Republic's Barbora Krejčíková (R) and Katerina Siniakova celebrate their doubles win. PHOTO: AFP

## Paw patrol: dogs soothe nerves at Berlin's 'cursed' airport

*The programme aims to win over weary travellers with a bit of canine comfort.*

BENNY waddles up to eight-year-old Maya, performs a cheerful pirouette on his short hind legs and then nuzzles in for a cuddle. Already a little cranky from the long wait for her flight to Turkiye with her family, Maya is instantly besotted with the four-year-old dachshund and her father Michael Uth a bit less harried. Berlin's massively delayed, absurdly over-budget, far too small international airport BER, which opened in 2020 to heaps of scorn, has had to get creative to try to win over weary passengers. A pilot programme is dispatching three particularly good-natured pooches along with two human trainers as on-the-ground stress relief ambassadors. — AFP



Comfort dog Benny, a Dachshund, during its mission at the Berlin Brandenburg Airport BER in Schoenefeld. PHOTO: AFP

## TV actors recall childhood memories of their Diwali celebrations

*"Diwali has always been a fun time with family. We always arrange a big lunch in the office with the yummiest of food and then puja and dinner with the family. Most of my Diwali celebrations have been in Pune."*

The excitement for the festival of lights, which will take place on Sunday, is at its peak. TV actors are also looking forward to celebrating with their families.

From Ali Merchant to Vahbiz Dorabjee, actors got candid about their Diwali celebration plans and shared childhood memories related to Diwali.

Vahbiz Dorabjee, who made her TV debut as Panchi Dobriyal in the series 'Pyaar Kii Ye Ek Kahaani' from 18 October 2010 to 15 December 2011 and in 2013, she portrayed Alak in the TV serial 'Saraswatichandra', recalled how she used to celebrate Diwali during her childhood days.

She said, "Diwali has always been a fun time with family. We always arrange a big lunch in the office with the yummiest of food and then puja and dinner with the family. Most of my Diwali celebrations have been in Pune."



Ali Merchant, Vahbiz Dorabjee. PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/ANI

Ali Merchant shared, "Creating customized cards for my family during Diwali has been a cherished memory for me, along with the joy of decorating the house, receiving Diwali gifts, and exploring various friends' homes to deepen my understanding of the culture, a curiosity

nurtured since childhood.

"Additionally, our annual Diwali tradition of gathering in Bangalore with our extensive family holds some of my fondest memories. The reunion brings all my cousins together, making it a special time of celebration and connection." — ANI

## Picasso's 'Woman with a Watch' fetches \$139 mln at NY auction

*Pablo Picasso's "Woman with a Watch" fetched \$139.3 million at a Sotheby's auction in New York, making it the second-highest price for the artist.*

One of Pablo Picasso's masterpieces, "Woman with a Watch", was sold at auction Wednesday night for \$139.3 million by Sotheby's in New York, the second-highest price ever achieved for the artist.

In a jam-packed room at the venerable auction house, it only took a few minutes of telephone bidding for the 1932 painting depicting one of the Spanish artist's companions and muses, the French



painter Marie-Therese Walter, to be sold. "Femme a la montre" had been valued at over \$120 million before going on

the block, according to Sotheby's.

It was part of the house's special sale this week of the collection of New York

arts patron Emily Fisher Landau, who died this year at age 102.

Julian Dawes, Sotheby's head of impressionist and modern art, called the Picasso canvas — which hung in Landau's living room — "a masterpiece by every measure".

"Painted in 1932 — Picasso's 'annus mirabilis' — it is full of joyful, passionate abandon yet at the same time it is utterly considered and resolved," he said.

Walter was regarded as Picasso's "golden muse," and features in another of his works going under the hammer on Thursday at Christie's: "Femme endormie", or "Sleeping Woman", estimated to sell for \$25-\$35 million.

She also featured in "Femme assise pres d'une fenetre (Marie-Therese)", or "Woman Sitting Near a Window", which was sold in 2021 for \$103.4 million. — AFP