

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## Three Martial Law orders issued to enforce security, rule of law and community peace in townships of Shan State

THE State Administration Council issued Martial Law Orders No 10/2023, No 11/2023 and No 12/2023 on 12 November 2023.

Martial Law Order 10/2023 stated that the SAC has transferred the executive and judiciary power to the Commander of North-East Command to exercise the Martial Law under Section 419 of the Constitution to enforce security, the rule of law and community peace in six townships of Shan State.

Martial Law Order 11/2023 stated that the SAC has transferred the executive and judiciary power to the Commander of Regional Control Command (Laukkai)

to exercise the Martial Law under Section 419 of the Constitution to enforce security, the rule of law and community peace in two townships of Shan State.

Martial Law Order 12/2023 stated that the SAC has transferred the executive and judiciary power to the Commander of North-East Command and the Commander of Regional Control Command (Laukkai) to exercise the Martial Law under Section 419 of the Constitution to more effectively enforce security, the rule of law and community peace in Shan State's relevant townships. — GNLM/TTA



The aerial view photo shows Shwesettaw Pagoda and its greenish surrounding areas. PHOTO: ZEYAR HTET (MINBU)

## Nearly 500,000 pilgrims visit Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda last festival

The Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda, located in Minbu (Sagu) Township, Magway Region, admitted a total of 488,773 pilgrims last year, according to the pagoda's board of trustees.

Preparations are underway for this year's festival, including the renovation of the Koekhangyi and the 28-Buddha images, the archway and stairway of the upper Settawya (sacred footprint), the

platform of the lower Settawya, and the Naga lake. Paintings, sculptures, and archaeological features of the pillars and seven tiers will also be restored to their original forms. Additionally, two bridges are being constructed on the 3<sup>rd</sup>-mile road leading to the pagoda, and shad trees will be planted on each side of the road.

Pilgrims visiting the famous pagodas in Minbu can observe rare star

tortoises and golden deer at the Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary. They can also enjoy elephant rides at the Shwesettaw Manchaung elephant camp.

"Due to the preparations of the pagoda and recreational places, pilgrims from all over the country can pay visit to the Shwesettaw Pagoda in peace of mind," said U Than Hlaing, vice-chair of the pagoda board of trustees. — Zeyar Htet (Minbu)/KZL

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Over 800,000 travellers flock to Shwedagon Pagoda in October 2023

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Taunggyi Tazaungdine hot-air balloon festival to span seven days

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Over 100 YBS buses charging elevated fares suspended from CNG utilization

# NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
State Administration Council  
**Martial Law Order 10/2023**  
14<sup>th</sup> Waning of Thadingyut 1385 ME  
12 November 2023

1. In order to effectively provide security, the rule of law and community peace, the State Administration Council has transferred the executive and judiciary power to the Commander of North-East Command to exercise the Martial Law in the following townships in Shan State in accordance with Section 419 of the Constitution.

- (a) Kutkai
- (b) Kunlong
- (c) Namhkam
- (d) Muse
- (e) Lashio
- (f) Hsenwi

2. Depending on changing situation in the region, the commander shall exercise the Martial Law by himself or shall transfer the power to the regional military commanders.

By Order,  
Aung Lin Dwe  
Lieutenant-General  
Secretary  
State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
State Administration Council  
**Martial Law Order 11/2023**  
14<sup>th</sup> Waning of Thadingyut 1385 ME  
12 November 2023

1. In order to effectively provide security, the rule of law and community peace, the State Administration Council has transferred the executive and judiciary power to the Commander of Regional Control Command (Laukkai) to exercise the Martial Law in the following townships in Shan State in accordance with Section 419 of the Constitution.

- (a) Kongyan
- (b) Laukkai

2. Depending on changing situation in the region, the commander of Regional Control Command shall exercise the Martial Law by himself or shall transfer the power to the regional military commanders.

By Order,  
Aung Lin Dwe  
Lieutenant-General  
Secretary  
State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
State Administration Council  
**Martial Law Order 12/2023**  
14<sup>th</sup> Waning of Thadingyut 1385 ME  
12 November 2023

1. Under the State Administration Council's Martial Law Order 10/2023 and the Martial Law Order 11/2023 dated 12 November 2023 (14<sup>th</sup> Waning of Thadingyut 1385 ME), the SAC has transferred the executive and judiciary power to the Commander of North-East Command and the Commander of Regional Control Command (Laukkai) to exercise the Martial Law in accordance with Section 419 of the Constitution to enforce security, the rule of law and community peace in relevant townships of Shan State.

2. Local administrative bodies at different levels under the Martial Law area shall carry out the tasks concerned with them under the command of the Commanders of North-East Command and Regional Control Command (Laukkai).

3. The Commanders of North-East Command and Regional Control Command shall designate the military regions in the martial area and shall appoint the commanders of military regions by issuing the martial law orders with the approval of the Chairman of the State Administration Council.

4. The Commanders of North-East Command and Regional Control Command shall accomplish the following tasks by themselves, or military region commanders or an appropriate person or a body he transferred the power.

**(A) Administration**

- (1) security issues
- (2) social issues
- (3) trade issues
- (4) transport issues

**(B) Judiciary**

(1) **Formation of courts:** The Commanders of North-East Command and Regional Control Command shall decide criminal cases that occurred during the martial law period at courts formed under the existing law or Military Tribunal.

(2) **Deciding cases at Military Tribunal:** Criminal cases can be heard and decided by Military Tribunal in a summary way.

(3) **Punishment:** Following punishments shall be sentenced by a Military Tribunal in accordance with the existing laws for anyone who is found guilty for crimes mentioned in Appendix (A) as follows: -

(AA) Death Sentence

(BB) Prison sentence with hard labour for unlimited years

(CC) The highest punishment designated in accordance with respective crimes

(4) **Approval:** The decisions and sentences handed down by Military Tribunal shall be final. However, a death sentence shall be approved only with the approval of the State Administration Council Chairman. An unlimited years-prison sentence shall be approved with the approval of the relevant military command commander and the commander of regional control command. Following are the rights for exercising the rights for approval.

(AA) Abolishing a decision of a case

(BB) Commuting a sentence

(CC) Changing a sentence to another lesser one

(DD) Approving the conviction

(5) **Appealing:** No appeal for decisions or convictions handed down by Military Tribunal.

(6) **Applying for reversal of decisions:** If a death sentence is handed down by a Military Tribunal, applying to the State Administration Council Chairman can be made for reversal of the decision within 15 days from the day of conviction. Reversal for other punishments can be applied to the relevant military command commander and the commander of regional control command within

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## Myanmar joins 29<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting, related meetings

**A** Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo attended the 29<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting and related meetings, according to the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

The meetings were held on 9 and 10 November in Luang Prabang, the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The Deputy Prime Minister attended the opening ceremony of the 29<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Transport Ministers' Meeting held on the morning of 9 November, along with ministers from ASEAN member countries.

The Deputy Prime Minister discussed issues regarding the cooperation process of the ASEAN transport sector, the process to be carried out in 2024 and the

ASEAN Air, issues related to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the ASEAN Expressway Network and the formulation of policies that should be adopted for the development of the infrastructure of electric vehicles and the increased use of technology in ports.

In addition, he attended the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-China Transport Ministers' Meeting and discussed the implementation of the ASEAN-China Cooperation Roadmap process and to further increase cooperation in maritime transport sector safety and security.

Similarly, the 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-Japan Transport Ministers Meeting was held online at the 50<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Japan Partnership Relations Establishment Ceremony and the 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Japan Transport Cooperation Commemoration Ceremony.

In addition, he attended the



Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo takes part in 29<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting and related meetings on 9 and 10 November.

14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Korea Transport Ministers' Meeting and discussed issues related to the signing of the ASEAN-Korea Aviation Agreement.

In the afternoon, he joined the interim meeting of the ASEAN Ministers of Transport and Tourism held online and dis-

cussed matters related to the formation of a working group consisting of representatives from both sectors to promote ASEAN tourism.

In the evening, he attended the Myanmar-Laos transport minister level meeting and discussed the draft memorandum

on cross-border transportation between the two countries, issues of cooperation in the improvement of the Mekong River channel, and potential bilateral cooperation issues. The Union minister returned to Yangon by flight yesterday evening. —ASH/KZL

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Martial Law Order 12/2023

14<sup>th</sup> Waning of Thadingyut 1385 ME  
12 November 2023

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15 days after the convictions. The State Administration Council Chairman or the relevant military command commander and the regional control command commander shall reverse the decision. Following is the rights for exercising power for reversal of the decision.

- (AA) Abolishing a decision of a case
- (BB) Commuting a sentence
- (CC) Changing a correction to another lesser one
- (DD) Approving the conviction

(7) The Chairman of the State Administration Council or the relevant military command commander and the regional control command commander not only can exercise the rights mentioned in the above clause (6) but also can increase the punishment.

5. The military command commander and the regional control command commander shall form an advisory body for martial law to get assistance for performing their duties.

6. The military command commander and the regional control command commander shall report to the Chairman of the State Administration Council on the situation of the martial law area.

By Order,  
Aung Lin Dwe  
Lieutenant-General  
Secretary  
State Administration Council

**Appendix (a)**

**Crimes to be heard by Military Tribunal**

1. High Treason (Section 122 of the Criminal Procedure Code)
2. Attempt to excite disaffection towards the Government (Section 124-A of the Penal Code)
3. Sabotage or hinder the performance of the Defence Services of the Union or law enforcement organizations (Section 124-C of the Penal Code)
4. Disrupts or hinders Defence Services and Government employees (Section 124-D of the Penal Code)
5. Section 505 of the Penal Code
6. Cause fear, spread false news, agitate directly or indirectly criminal offence against a Government employee (Section 505-A of the Penal Code)
7. Cases against unlawful associations act
8. Cases against weaponry act
9. Murder cases
10. Death cases
11. Rape cases
12. Robbery cases
13. Banditry cases
14. Corruption cases
15. Cases against Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law (1993)
16. Cases against protection of public properties act
17. Cases against protection of public property law (1963)
18. Cases against news and media law
19. Cases against printing and publishing law
20. Cases against Myanmar Immigration (provisional) act (1947)
21. Cases against electronic communications law
22. Cases against ward or village-tract administration law
23. Cases against anti-terrorism law

# NATIONAL

**MYANMAR GAZETTE**

### Appointment of Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of Director-General U Aung Kyaw Soe of Urban and Housing Development Department under the Ministry of Construction on the expiry of one-year probationary period.



(၂၀၂၃)ခုနှစ် ကမ္ဘာ့ဆီးချိုသွေးချိုရောဂါကာကွယ်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေးနေ့  
(၁၄-၁၁-၂၀၂၃)  
"ဆီးချိုသွေးချိုအန္တရာယ်ကာကွယ်ဖို့ ကိုယ်တိုင်သိရှိဆင်ခြင်စို့"  
"Know your risk, Know your response"

## MoH delegates to participate in child health research, clinical training sessions in Russia

THE Ministry of Health is enhancing collaboration and exchange activities in the fields of healthcare, medical research and medical education with the Russian Federation.

Five paediatricians from the Ministry of Health left Yangon yesterday to attend the Children's Health Research and Clinical Training Conference scheduled to be held in St Petersburg in the Russian Federation from 13 to 25

November.

These research and practical training seminars focus on providing emergency healthcare for newborns and children under five years of age. The sessions will cover topics such as children's medicine, aiming to teach and discuss ways to enhance medical knowledge and clinical skills, ultimately improving professional quality in dealing with communicable diseases. — MNA/KZW



The Ministry of Health delegation poses for photo at Yangon International Airport yesterday before departure for Russia.



File photo shows that devotees are seen thronging to worship the Shwedagon Pagoda.

## Over 800,000 travellers flock to Shwedagon Pagoda in October 2023

IN October 2023, more than 800,000 travellers from both home and abroad visited the Shwedagon Pagoda in the Yangon Region to pay their homage, said U Bo Thin, a member of the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustee.

A total of 10,395 monks, 5,718 nuns, 37,173 men and 442,097 women visited shwedagon Pagoda. Additionally, 7,808 foreign tourists were reported to have come to pay their homage.

"In terms of pilgrimage to Shwedagon Pagoda, there are approximately 20,000 pilgrims on regular business days, and on weekends, especially Sundays, the number increases to around 40,000 to 50,000 pilgrims per day. Additionally, there are at least 150 foreign tourists on a daily basis, with the majority coming from China, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

Over a ten-month period, more than 6.8 million travellers have come to pay homage.

To ensure peaceful worship at the Shwedagon Pagoda, CCTV security cameras have been installed over the past ten years, with around 280 cameras in place. In 2018, approximately 300 high-quality CCTV cameras were installed and upgraded. The platform, lower and upper terraces have been facilitated with a comprehensive network of CCTV cameras," stated U Bo Thin.

In October, a significant day, specifically on the full moon day of Thadingyut (the day of Abhidhamma), it is reported that 170,977 travellers, including monks and nuns, visited the pagoda. Shwedagon Pagoda will host a ceremony to offer 10,000 oil lamps on 27 November; full moon day of Tazaungmone.

Due to the growing number of travellers, the Shwedagon Pagoda is now open for pilgrimage from 5 am to 8 pm, allowing visitors to peacefully explore the pagoda. — ASH/KZW

COVID-19 report, 12 November 2023		
NEW TESTS	NEW CASE	CASUALTIES
1,849	Nil	Nil

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Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.  
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# NATIONAL

## Taunggyi Tazaungdine hot-air balloon festival to span seven days

THE Taunggyi Tazaungdine traditional hot-air balloon festival will take place at the Ahweiya hot-air balloon ground in Taunggyi in Shan State (South) on 21-27 November, according to Director U Htin Aung Naing from the Shan State Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

The festival will be held in the same way as before the COVID-19 pandemic with day balloons and night balloons. Currently, the hotels, motels and guest houses in Taunggyi and the surrounding areas are already full with bookings of visitors from across the country.

“The Taunggyi Tazaungdine Hot-air Balloon Festival is a famous festival of Taunggyi that people from all over the coun-

try come and enjoy. It could not be held in 2020 and 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was briefly held in 2022. This year, it will be held for seven days crowded like before the COVID-19 period and plans are underway to release eight or nine hot-air balloons per day. During the day, the festival comprises releasing of two-legged and four-legged balloons and at night, Seinnapan and Nyameegyi will be launched,” said U Htin Aung Naing.

The festival is celebrated around the Tazaungmone Full Moon Day in Taunggyi and there are two kinds of hot-air balloon competitions namely the Day hot-air balloon and the Night hot-air balloon. — ASH/MKKS



File Photo shows that a hot air balloon attached with fireworks and revellers are seen during the Taunggyi Tazaungdaing festival.



The Youth and Health Forum 2023 in Rakhine State in progress in Sittway on 10 November.

## Youth and Health Forum 2023 to take place in Sittway Township

THE Youth and Health Forum 2023 in Rakhine State was held for the first time on 10 November in Sittway Township, as reported by Dr Kyi Lwin, Head of Rakhine State Department of Public Health and Medical Services.

The forum aimed to enhance the health knowledge of future generations. The message was conveyed to ensure that health-related information is readily accessible.

“In the state, young people typically face issues related to drugs, and it has been

observed that there are instances of death due to traffic accidents. This forum aims to enhance health knowledge, enabling individuals to recognize the dangers of drugs and understanding mental health problems related to the subsequences of drug abuse,” said Dr Kyi Lwin.

The Youth and Health Forum 2023 was held for the first time in Sittway Township. In addition to discussions and lectures on health research, medical exhibitions were also displayed at the forum.

At the forum, a mental health specialist led a discussion on essential aspects of young people’s mental health, including discussions about reproductive health, the dangers of drugs, hazards related to food and cosmetics, and talks about traffic safety. Additionally, group discussions were reported to have taken place.

The forum was launched with an address by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htin Lin and other officials. — ASH/KZW

## MR to launch special trains for Tazaungdine on Nay Pyi Taw, Mawlamyine, Pyay routes

MYANMA Railways (MR) will run Nay Pyi Taw, Mawlamyine and Pyay routes during the Tazaungdine holidays, according to U Kyaw Myo Lwin, assistant manager of MR Division-7 (Yangon Region).

Special trains will run from 24 to 27 November and the services will be expanded if the number of passengers is high.

On 24 November, there will be Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon, Yangon-Mawlamyine, Mawlamyine-Yangon, Yangon-Pyay and Pyay-Yangon special trains.

On 25 November, there will be special train services for Yangon-Mawlamyine, Mawlamyine-Yangon, Yangon-Pyay

and Pyay-Yangon routes.

On 26 November, Yangon-Pyay, Pyay-Yangon, Yangon-Mawlamyine and Mawlamyine-Yangon trains will run as special trains.

Similarly, on 27 November, there will be Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw, Mawlamyine-Yangon, Yangon-Mawlamyine, Yangon-Pyay, and Pyay-Yangon special trains.

MR operated special trains for the passengers during the Thadingyut festival.

MR makes arrangements for the convenience of passengers and freight transport and will expand the services if necessary. — ASH/KTZH



A train and travellers are seen at Yangon Central Railway Station before departure.

# NATIONAL

## Businesses to be allocated on premises of Shwedagon Pagoda through bidding system

THE Shwedagon Pagoda board of trustees has announced that businesses will be allowed to operate on the premises of the Shwedagon Pagoda in 2024 through a competitive bidding system.

Proposals are invited for various businesses such as photo studios, gold foil sales, food stalls and restaurants, souvenir shops, flower shops, and the opening of exchange counters and ATM machines, etc.

The proposal form will be available for purchase at K20,000 per copy at the office of the board of trustees from 15 to 24 November. Price proposals must be resubmitted by 30 November.

In October, more than 800,000 domestic and foreign travellers, including Chinese, Thai, and Vietnamese nationals, visited the Shwedagon Pagoda, according to the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees. — TWA/KZL



Two travellers buy religious materials at stairway of Shwedagon Pagoda.

## Over 100 YBS buses charging elevated fares suspended from CNG utilization

ACCORDING to the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee-YRTC, the CNG licences of over 100 YBS buses operating in Yangon City have been suspended. Additionally, 66 YBS drivers who ran through red lights three times faced the maximum penalty of termination of their YBS driving licences.

CNG licences will be suspended for three months if YBS lines do not have way bills and

destinations, and for three months if a conductor is found on the vehicle. A six-month suspension will be imposed for charging fares exceeding the specified amount. If charging fares exceeding the specified amount and the presence of a conductor are found out, CNG licences will be suspended for one year.

Action has been taken against nearly 170,000 YBS buses that violated the rules

between 1 January and 30 September of this year. If a bus violates the rules three or more times, the licence to operate the line will be revoked.

Furthermore, reckless driving, attempting to overtake each other, and running red lights will be monitored in real-time by the Traffic Control Centre. Video records will be stored, and appropriate action will be taken against offenders. — TWA/KZW



Some YBS buses running to transport passengers across Yangon City.



## Rakhine state government allocates K3.5 billion for revitalization of Sittway Township

THE Rakhine State government is allocating K3,500 million for the redevelopment of Sittway Township, according to U Hla Thein, Advocate-General of Rakhine State government.

As a result, Sittway Township is undergoing redevelopment through a 90-day project. Given that Sittway Township serves as the capital of Rakhine State, the primary focus is on enhancing the beautification of the city.

“In the 90-day project for the redevelopment of Sittway Township, various tasks are underway, including the beautification of side streets, dredging of drains, city-wide garbage collection operations, and the installation of physical exercise equipment in parks for the elderly to engage in health activities. Additionally, measures are being taken to address potential water shortages in the summer, involving the sinking of tube-wells in the city and the improvement of Shukhintha Road and the roads leading to the beach. Even after the state government completes the 90-day project and relevant tasks, the Rakhine State Development Committee will continue to oversee preparation and maintenance,” said Advocate-General U Hla Thein.

The 90-day project for the peaceful development and beautification of Sittway began on 1 November, and all tasks will be completed by the end of January next year.

It is also reported that there are more than 30 wards in Sittway, and the project are being implemented by 150 employees from relevant departments. — ASH/KZW

## Sugar mills offer high prices making good profits for sugarcane farmers

THE great sugar mills in Shan State announced on 3 October that they will offer K120,000 per tonne of sugarcane in 2023-2024.

On 2 November, another sugar mill in Shan State offered K150,000 per tonne. However, some local sugar mills buy sugarcane at K110,000 per tonne. But the price range is between K110,000 and K150,000 per tonne.

The wholesale sugar price in the market on 1 November was K3,750/K3,780 per viss while K3,780-K3,820 on 6 November and K3,780-K3,800 on 10 November. Similarly, the brown slab-sugar price rose to K4,150 from K4,00 per viss.

Some sugar mills in Bago Region can crush only 1,500 and 2,000 tonnes of sugarcane per day and the ones in Shan State can grind 6,500/7,000 tonnes per day. The new sugar mill that is still under construction will crush up to 12,000 tonnes of sugarcane per day in 2025/2026.

A sugar mill in Sagaing Region produced 697,477 tonnes of sugarcane between 9 December 2022 and 17 March 2023. In 2023,



A farmer is seen working on the sugarcane plantation.

the wholesale price of sugar rose to K3,800 per viss, and so the purchasing price of sugarcane was also up.

Some sugar mills offer high prices so the sugarcane farmers get good profits. One acre of sugarcane produces between 35 and

50 tonnes of sugarcane.

In November 2022, the sugarcane price was only K90,000 per tonne and so the price of November 2023 is about K50,000 higher than the same period of last year.

The wholesale price of sugar

in November 2022 was K2,450/K2,550 per viss while K2,700 for slab sugar. In early November 2023, it was K3,750/K3,770 per viss of sugar and K4,000 per viss of slab sugar, jaggery purchaser Ko Pyae Phyto told the GNLM.

One tonne of sugarcane can

produce 30 buckets of sugarcane juice that also can produce about 60 visses of slab sugar. It can make over K200,000 for slab sugar according to market price in 2023.

The production cost of slab-sugar was about K100,000 per tonne while the sugarcane fetched K80,000 per tonne.

Therefore, when the slab sugar is about K4,000 per viss, it can make over K150,000 in producing slab sugar based on one tonne of sugarcane including the cost of sugarcane.

The sugarcane farmers can earn over K100,000 per tonne in the 2023 sugar mill season so they will make further profits.

In 2023, the sugarcane farmers get good prices that are about ten times higher than the prices of 2019 in which the sugarcane fetched K38,000 per tonne.

In 2019, the sugar price was about K900 per viss and now it is about four times higher in 2023. However, the dealing prices of some famous sugar mills are still three times, some suggested. — TWA/KTZH

## Chinese potato prices fall amid rising Kyukok garlic prices

AMONG imported commodities, Chinese potato prices are falling while Kyukok garlic prices become high starting 11 November, Ko Thein Lwin, a seller of potatoes and onions from Yetama Street at Bayintnaung Brokerage in Yangon told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

On 11 November, 50,000 visses of Chinese potato entered the market at a wholesale price of K3,500, down from K3,800 on 10 November. The quantity of potatoes that were brought to the market affected the prices, which varied till 11 November.

Before Kyukok garlic prices ranged between K16,000 and K17,000 per viss and Shan Aungpan garlic prices to between K12,000 and K15,000 per viss on 3 November, the prices of Chinese potatoes, Kyukok garlic, and Shan Aungpan garlic were K1,700, K7,800,



China potato and Kyukok garlic entering the market are seen at a commodity depot.

and between K8,400 and K9,800 respectively on 26 October. The price of Kyukok garlic stood at between K15,000 and K15,500 on 11 November while the prices of Shan Aungpan garlic had been between K11,000 and K12,500 during the period of 4 to 11 November.

On 11 November, the price range

for Kyukok garlic was K15,000 to K15,500 per viss, but the price for Shan Aungpan garlic ranged between K11,000 and K12,500 from 4 to 11 November. Despite the higher prices, the demand for garlic is not high as consumption of garlic in Myanmar cooking recipes is normally low. — TWA/TH

## Myanmar's October corn export to China and the Philippines earns \$3.967 million

MYANMAR earned US\$3.967 million in October by exporting over 14,910 tonnes of corn through seaborne and border trade, according to the data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar exported 5,920 tonnes of corn to China and 96 tonnes to Thailand via the border points in October, totalling over 6,010 tonnes valued at \$1.619 million.

Furthermore, in October, Myanmar sent more than 8,900 tons of corn worth an estimated value of \$2.348 million to the Philippines.

However, compared to September, corn exports in October decreased by more than 4,000 tonnes. — TWA/TH

## OPINION

### Expand cultivation of industrial raw crops to develop the State

Myanmar, an agro-based country, has allocated 49.39 million acres of land for cultivating various crops, including paddy, pulses and beans, oil crops, and industrial raw crop rubber. The latter is cultivated across 1.64 million acres in nine regions and states, highlighting its significance in the agricultural landscape.

Currently, Myanmar extracts latex from approximately 1 million acres of properly aged rubber plants, yielding over 300,000 tonnes of rubber annually. A substantial portion of this output, exceeding 20,000 tonnes, is utilized domestically, while the surplus—around 300,000 tonnes—is exported to international markets.

Historically, rubber plantations were limited to the Taninthayi Region and Bago mountain ranges. However, recognizing the potential, Myanmar has expanded rubber cultivation, aiming to achieve 400,000 tonnes of rubber in annual production in the near future.

The emphasis on the development of Micro-, Small-, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs), reduction of foreign exchange expenditure, and the cultivation of high-quality rubber strains is imperative for Myanmar. This multifaceted approach will not only elevate the status of the rubber industry but also pave the way for the production of high-quality rubber products, fostering sustainable economic growth.

Despite its strategic importance, Myanmar's rubber industry faces challenges in quality and yield compared to regional counterparts like Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Vietnam. The local yield of 700 pounds per acre lags behind, prompting a strategic shift. Approximately 26.83 per cent of rubber plantations have transitioned to recommended high-yield rubber strains, aiming for an increased yield of 1,350 pounds per acre. This necessitates continued efforts by rubber farmers to establish new plantations with high-yield strains and budding saplings.

Myanmar has historically missed opportunities to domestically produce rubber-based goods, leading to an annual import expenditure of around US\$65 million on items such as bicycle and motorbike tires and tubes. To reverse this trend, authorities must play a pivotal role in encouraging and supporting the development of rubber-based industries within the country. Such endeavours would not only reduce foreign exchange spending but also create job opportunities and contribute to overall economic development.

The emphasis on the development of Micro-, Small-, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs), reduction of foreign exchange expenditure, and the cultivation of high-quality rubber strains is imperative for Myanmar. This multifaceted approach will not only elevate the status of the rubber industry but also pave the way for the production of high-quality rubber products, fostering sustainable economic growth.

Thinking beyond the box is a common expression that encourages people to approach problems or challenges with creativity and innovation, rather than relying on conventional or traditional methods. To “think beyond the box” is to take this concept a step further and explore even more unconventional and imaginative solutions. It suggests pushing the boundaries of your thinking, breaking free from the constraints of existing norms, and daring to imagine and implement ideas that are truly groundbreaking. Thinking beyond the box is about embracing the unknown, questioning assumptions, and being open to new perspectives and possibilities. It encourages individuals and teams to consider ideas and solutions that may initially seem radical or far-fetched, but could ultimately lead to innovative breakthroughs.

Thinking beyond the box in the context of health sector development involves considering innovative approaches to improving healthcare, wellness, and overall well-being. The following are some creative ideas and strategies to promote development in the health sector;

- Telemedicine and Tele-Health

## Thinking Beyond the Box for Health Sector Development

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

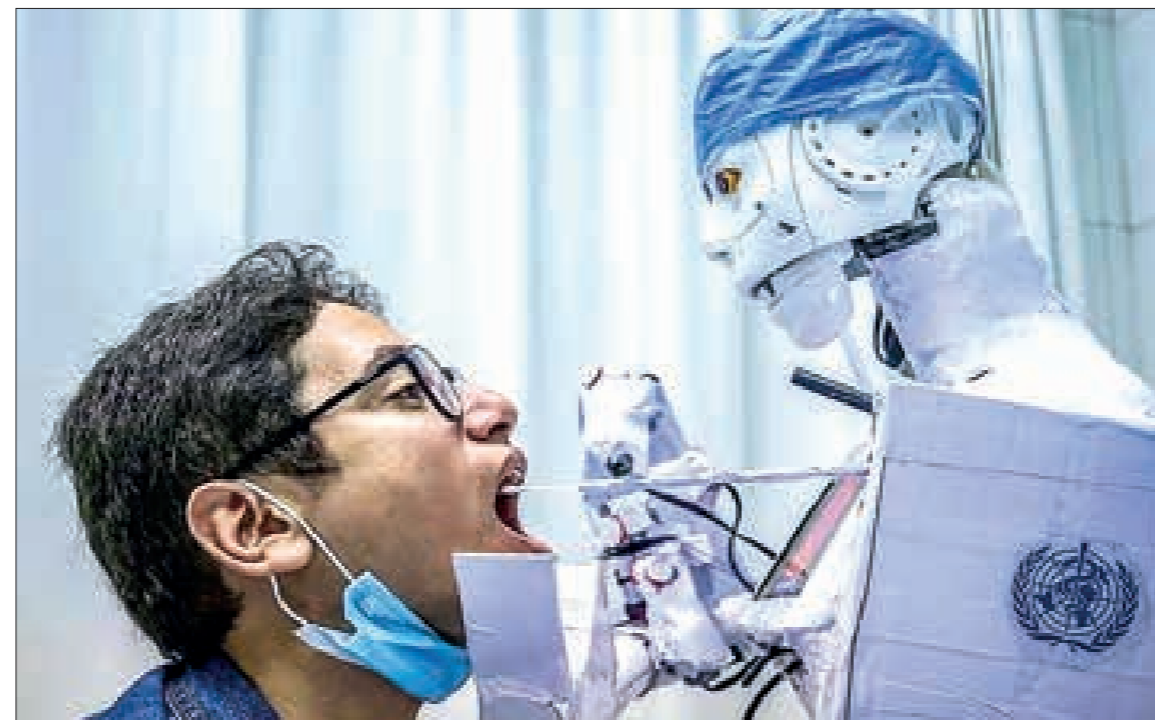
*In health sector development, thinking innovatively means exploring new approaches for better healthcare, wellness, and overall well-being.*

- Advancement; Develop and implement advanced telemedicine technologies, including virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) platforms for remote consultations, diagnostic assessments, and surgical training.

- Personalized Medicine; Invest in genomic medicine and personalized treatment plans tailored to an individual's genetic makeup and lifestyle, maximizing the effectiveness of medical interventions.

- Artificial Intelligence Diagnostics; Apply artificial intelligence to create more accurate and efficient diagnostic tools from early disease detection to predictive analytics for public health management.

- Healthcare Drones; Explore the use of drones for the de-



Robotic Healthcare Assistants: A remote-controlled robot prototype extracts a throat swab sample, as part of a project to assist physicians in running tests on suspected Covid-19 patients in Egypt's Nile delta city of Tanta, on 20 March 2021. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

- Blockchain for Health Records; Implement blockchain technology to secure and streamline electronic health records, ensuring patient data privacy and improving interoperability between healthcare providers.

- Community Health Initiatives; Develop community-based health programmes that focus on preventive care, nutrition, and mental health support, emphasizing a holistic approach to well-being.

- Medical 3D printing; Expand the use of 3D printing for custom medical implants, prosthetics, and even entire

- livery of medical supplies, especially in remote or disaster-stricken areas, ensuring faster response times and more extensive reach.

- Health Gratification; Create interactive health and fitness applications and platforms that make wellness and disease management engaging and fun, encouraging healthier lifestyle choices.

- Robotic Healthcare Assistants; Integrate robots and automation into healthcare settings for tasks like patient monitoring, medication dispensing, and surgery, enhancing efficiency and precision.

- Alternative Medicine Integration; Foster collaboration between traditional and alternative medicine systems to combine the strengths of both, offering patients a more comprehensive approach to health.

- Global Health Equity; Develop international partnerships and programs to address healthcare disparities, ensuring that advancements in the health sector benefit all communities, regardless of their location or economic status.

- Smart Health Cities; Create “smart cities” with integrated healthcare systems, using

- data analytics and Internet of Things (IoT) devices to improve public health, reduce pollution, and enhance overall well-being.

- Medical Tourism Promotion; Attract medical tourists by providing high-quality, cost-effective healthcare services, contributing to economic growth in the health sector.

- Health Education Innovations; Utilize virtual reality, augmented reality, and gratified platforms for healthcare education, enhancing training for healthcare professionals and promoting health literacy among the general population.

- Wellness in the Workplace; Encourage employers to invest in employee well-being programs, focusing on physical and mental health support to boost workforce productivity and job satisfaction.

In conclusion, by thinking beyond the box and embracing innovation, the health sector can continuously progress and address complex challenges as well as encourage improving the overall quality of healthcare and well-being for individuals and communities.



Mercedes Benz Trucks' eActros 600 electric long-distance lorry. PHOTO: AFP

Hydrogen-powered heavy lorries were once seen as the future of emissions-free road transport but they could soon be relegated to niche markets in Europe, overtaken by electric trucks.

On the outskirts of Trondheim in western Norway, food wholesaler Asko has since 2020 been testing four hydrogen fuel cell trucks supplied by Swedish

truckmaker Scania.

The experience has been mixed so far.

Integration problems, defective parts and a forced stoppage after the explosion of a charging station near Oslo have meant the vehicles have been available for use only 30 to 40 per cent of the time.

“They’re not on the road as much as we would have liked.

That’s the least we can say,” admits Asko project head Roger Saether.

“But we’re convinced that it will all work out in the end.” When they’re running, the trucks, which have a range of up to 500 kilometres (310 miles), supply supermarkets spread across a vast region.

For closer deliveries, the group uses battery-run vehicles,

## Electric heavy lorries poised to overtake hydrogen trucks

*Hydrogen lorries, once hailed for emissions-free transport, might be overshadowed by electric trucks in Europe.*

which today have a shorter range.

That distribution of roles — hydrogen lorries for heavy loads over long distances, electric ones for lighter loads on short distances — has long been accepted as standard among industry experts due to the advantages and disadvantages of each technology.

But things are changing.

“Now what we’re seeing is that contrary to a few years ago, electric trucks and buses are actually playing an increasingly big role and we also see a very important role for them to play in the decarbonisation (process),” said Fedor Unterlohner, freight manager at NGO Transport and Environment.

### Electric Avenue

Heavy duty vehicles account for six per cent of the European Union's greenhouse gas emissions.

Brussels has called for the industry to reduce its emissions by 45 per cent compared to 2019 levels by 2030, and by 90 per cent by 2040.

According to a study conducted last year by German authorities, truckmakers expect 63 per cent of new lorries sold in Europe in 2030 to be “zero emission” vehicles.

Electric trucks are expected to make up the lion's share, with 85 per cent.

That’s because previous concerns about electric trucks have been eliminated as, unlike hydrogen, the technology for electric trucks has benefitted from advances made in the electric car industry.

### Range?

Most heavy trucks in Europe drive fewer than 800 kilometres a day, a distance that could soon be within reach of electric batteries — especially given drivers' strictly regulated breaks, during which they can recharge their vehicles.

Payload limited by the batteries' weight?

The amount of energy batteries can store continues to

improve, to the point where the weight difference compared to a diesel truck is expected to become insignificant.

### Infrastructure?

So-called megawatt charging stations are currently being developed and should soon be able to provide 10 times more power than the fastest charging stations currently available.

### Economies of scale

When it comes to cost — a crucial factor, given the narrow margins in the transport sector — electric trucks hold the advantage.

Purchase prices benefit from

economies of scale generated by the rapid development of electric car batteries.

Operating costs are also modest, with e-trucks requiring little maintenance and electricity normally much less expensive than green hydrogen.

However, in some cases hydrogen lorries could be the wiser choice.

“For example, if you are driving with two drivers in Europe — which allows drivers to skip regulated breaks.

“Or when you are in very peripheral regions. Or on islands where you don't have any connection to the grid,” said Unterlohner.

“Or if you're transporting an 80-tonne wind turbine through Germany, where you have to block the roads in the night and you have to work all night. Then it may make sense,” he said.

But even Scania, which has supplied the four hydrogen trucks to Asko, has chosen to focus on electric heavy trucks “due to their cost advantage in total operation economy and fuel efficiency”.

SOURCE: AFP



# TECH/ENVIRON WORLD

## SpaceX hopes for second Starship flight test next week

*SpaceX envisions Starship as a reusable spaceship for crew and cargo transport to Mars.*

SPACEX is hoping to re-launch Starship, the most powerful rocket ever built, next week, the company said, after an attempt in April ended in a spectacular explosion.

“Starship preparing to launch as early as 17 November pending final regulatory approval,” SpaceX said on X Friday evening.

SpaceX foresees Starship as a next-generation, fully reusable spaceship that will eventually carry both crew and cargo to Mars.

The project is being followed closely by NASA, which has contracted a version of Starship to function as a lunar lander for

its Artemis program to return astronauts to the Moon by the middle of this decade.

On 20 April SpaceX blew up the uncrewed rocket four minutes after it blasted off from the company’s Starbase in Boca Chica, Texas. Starship experienced multiple engine failures, and its first-stage booster did not separate from the spacecraft above it.

The rocket disintegrated into a ball of fire and crashed into the Gulf of Mexico, sending a dust cloud over a town several miles (kilometers) away.

The Federal Aviation Administration needs to issue a launch license for a second test to be attempted. — AFP



The SpaceX Starship lifts off from the launchpad during a flight test from Starbase in Boca Chica, Texas, on 20 April 2023. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## Fly larvae: Costa Rica’s sustainable protein for animal feed

RAISED in vertical farms and stuffed with fruit waste, fly larvae have been turned into animal feed, as a new Costa Rican venture in sustainability is demonstrating.

The Central American nation, one of the most biodiverse places on Earth, has put a lot of energy and creativity into the goal of becoming the greenest, most sustainable country in Latin America.

In Guapiles, a farming town just 60 kilometres (37 miles) north of the capital San Jose, an innovative company has turned the tables on the flies that have always buzzed annoyingly



A worker collects black soldier fly (*Hermetia illucens*) larvae at the production plant in Guapiles, Costa Rica. **PHOTO: AFP**

around the crops — putting them to work.

The black soldier fly (*Hermetia illucens*) is native

to tropical climates such as Costa Rica’s, with its larvae incessantly gobbling up organic waste. — AFP

## German big wave surfer turns to science to tame the breakers

SEBASTIAN Steudtner already holds the world record for the largest wave ever surfed, but as the giant wave season begins, the German is looking to science and technology to chase a new high.

Harnessing the technical prowess of racecar maker Porsche and autoparts specialist Schaeffler, Steudtner is seeking

to dwarf his record 26.21-metre (86-foot) wave set at the Portuguese surfers’ Mecca of Nazare three years ago.

“With the world record wave I realised I’ve reached a limit for how fast my board can go,” Steudtner told AFP of his last run, involving the wave reaching the equivalent of around eight storeys.

“Together with Porsche, we asked ourselves how we could make the board faster and more stable,” said the 38-year-old Bavarian.

Surfers who increase their speed can take on bigger swells — although it’s not just a question of a “need for speed” but a question of safety as well. — AFP

## Australia ports firm fights to restore operations after cyber incident

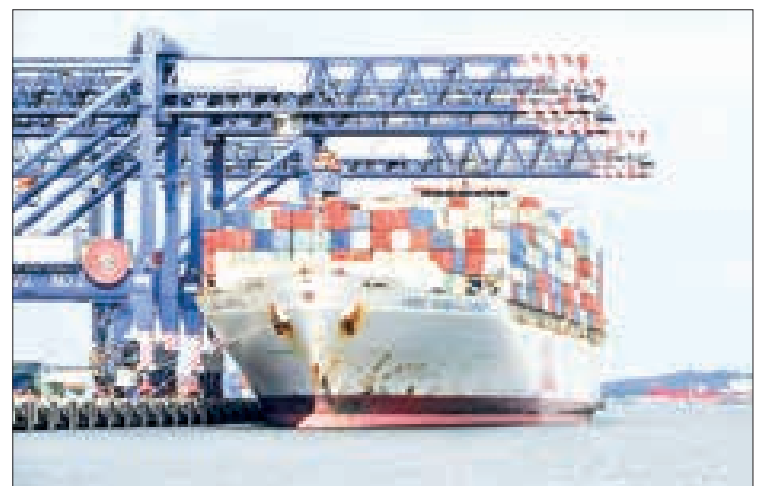
*Disruption prevents truck movement in and out of terminals, although containers can still be unloaded from vessels.*

PORTS operator DP World said Sunday it had made “significant strides” towards resuming normal freight trade at major gateways into Australia, which have been crippled for two days by a cyber incident.

Government agencies held crisis talks over the weekend in response to what Home Affairs and Cyber Security Minister Clare O’Neil described as a “serious and ongoing” breach

that has disrupted operations at key ports.

“DP World manages almost 40 percent of the goods flowing in and out of our country,” she added in a post on X. The port operator halted internet connectivity at its terminals in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Fremantle on Friday to prevent “any ongoing unauthorised access” to its network, a company spokesperson said. — AFP



The ‘cyber security incident’ has affected operations at ports in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Fremantle. **PHOTO: SAEED KHAN/AFP**

## Vienna fountain decried for 'ugliness', costs

Vienna's 1.8-million-euro water system commemorative fountain, commissioned by the left-wing government, sparks criticism for its perceived "ugliness" and high costs, despite inauguration by President Van der Bellen on 24 October.

A fountain in Austria's capital commemorating 150 years of Vienna's modern water system has drawn fierce criticism for its perceived "ugliness" and excessive costs.

The 1.8-million-euro (\$1.9-million) fountain was commissioned by the city's left-wing government led by Social Democrat Mayor Michael Ludwig and inaugurated with President Alexander Van der Bellen on 24 October.

The unusual fountain — fea-

turing 33 humanoid sculptures seated in a circle — was created by the provocative Viennese artist group Gelitin after their design symbolising the "communal responsibility for water" as a precious resource won over the jury.

While officials hailed the fountain's "extraordinary, reality-inspired" design for skilfully conveying a pivotal "sense of togetherness", critics took issue with its artistic properties, venting their anger online. — AFP



The 1.8-million-euro fountain was inaugurated on 24 October in Vienna. PHOTO: JOE KLAMAR/AFP

## Cambodian artist turns tyres into giant King Kong

A giant, snarling gorilla rears from the peaceful paddy fields on the outskirts of the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh, made entirely from old tyres by a Cambodian artist keen to encourage others to reuse materials in their work.

Mean Tithpheap used 500 bicycle and motorbike tyres to create the 2.5-metre (eight-foot) King Kong over five weeks with two helpers.

The 37-year-old artist, who studied at fine art school in Phnom Penh, has been turning tyres into sculptures for four years.

He has made around 40 statues for clients, including King Kongs, elephants, lions, cobras and garudas — a mythical man-bird creature.

Tithpheap said he hoped others would follow his example and put discarded rubber and plastic to creative use so that it does not pollute the environment.

"I have used old tyres of bicycles and motorbikes to make such animals because these tyres are waste and if we can recycle them, it will help the environment some," Tithpheap told AFP. — AFP

## The Beatles score first UK number one in 54 years

The Beatles' "Now And Then" became their first UK number one single in 54 years, marked by Paul McCartney as "a very emotional moment," with artificial intelligence isolating John Lennon's 1978 vocals from a pre-murder tape.



The Beatles — Lennon, McCartney, Starr and Harrison — split in 1970, each going on to solo careers. PHOTO: PAUL ELLIS/AFP

THE Beatles' latest release "Now And Then" on Friday became the legendary band's first UK number one single in 54 years, with Paul McCartney calling it "a very emotional moment".

Artificial intelligence helped isolate late member John Lennon's vocals from a tape he recorded in 1978, two years before he was murdered.

They were combined with old session tracks, including

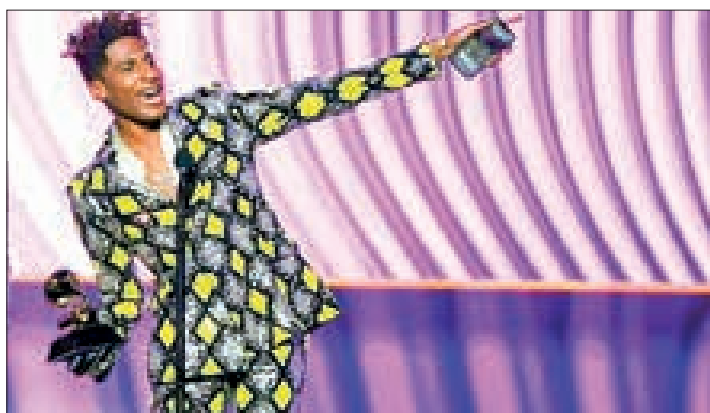
parts by late guitarist George Harrison, and new lines from remaining members McCartney and drummer Ringo Starr to "reunite" the band for a final time.

The Official Charts Company announced Friday that "Now and Then" had climbed to number one following its release last week, making it the band's first chart-topper since "The Ballad of John and Yoko" in 1969.

The Liverpool group now

claims the record for the longest gap between number one hits, and also the longest time span between an artist's first and last chart-topper. The Beatles' first number one single was "From Me to You" in 1963, more than 60 years ago, and they have 18 in total. "Now And Then" is the fastest selling single of the year so far and has accumulated the highest number of one-week physical sales in almost a decade. — AFP

## Women dominate music's Grammy nominations, SZA tops with nine



Grammys darling Jon Batiste, who swept up awards in 2022, is again a top nominee. PHOTO: VALERIE MACON/AFP

IT will be a woman's world at the upcoming Grammys, with SZA scooping the most chances for gold ahead of the star-stud-

ded music gala with nine, as pop's superstars including Taylor Swift and Billie Eilish dominated across the categories.

Olivia Rodrigo, Phoebe Bridgers and the indie rock supergroup boygenius also will strong contenders at the 4 February event in Los Angeles, where music from the blockbuster film "Barbie" will almost certainly clean up, according to the nominations list released Friday.

SZA — the acerbic, R&B risk-taker whose layered tales of romance earned her acclaim with her debut "Ctrl" in 2017 and saw her top the charts again with 2022's "SOS" — is poised to rule the night, with nominations spanning the categories. — AFP

# ECONOMY WORLD

## PM Modi elevated India's economy from eleventh to fifth globally in 9 yr

Amit Shah stated that PM Narendra Modi elevated the country's economy from eleventh to fifth globally in the past nine years.



Despite being in the early stage, the rapidly growing EV sales have led to rising investments in EV production in India, which is expected to reach one million units over the next five years. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ AFP**

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has brought the economy of the country from eleventh to fifth position in the world in the last nine years.

The Union Home Minister while addressing an election rally here in Dhar listed the developmental works done by the Bharatiya Janata Party-led dispensation in the poll-bound state.

"In the last nine years, PM Modi brought the economy of the country from 11<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>.

Along with this, he did many things for the development of Madhya Pradesh. A medical college has been built in Dhar. The Maksi-Godhra railway line has become operational. In Dhar itself, the construction of a law college worth Rs 11 crore has been started," Shah said.

The elections for the 230-member Madhya Pradesh Assembly are scheduled on 17 November. The counting of votes will be done on 3 December.

During his address, Shah also said that Congress would

foist a 'Teen Tigaada-Kaam Bigaada' (too many cooks playing spoiler) government on the people if elected.

"Theirs would be a 'Teen-Tigada, Kaam Bigada' government. The orders will come from the Gandhi family, instructions will be given by (Congress state president) Kamal Nath and Digvijay Singh will be made the fall guy," he said. The minister said that when the Congress ruled the country and states, the number of cases of terrorist attacks surged. — ANI

## China beefs up financial support to real economy

CHINA'S policymakers leverage financial resources to support small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), scientific and technological innovation and green development, thereby boosting economic recovery and securing high-quality development.

At the Annual Conference of Financial Street Forum 2023 in Beijing, Pan Gongsheng, governor of the People's Bank of China as well as head of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange, said that the central bank had intensified



The Annual Conference of Financial Street Forum 2023 in Beijing, on 8 November 2023. **PHOTO: YIN GANG/XINHUA**

counter-cyclical adjustments to bolster the real economy, such as lowering reserve requirement ratios for banks, bringing down interest rates,

rolling out favorable policies for home buyers, and encouraging inclusive loans to agriculture and small firms. — Xinhua

## Far right urges Poland to be ready to quit EU

Kowalski contends that future treaty changes will turn the EU into a "euro-federalist collective" led by the European Commission.

TENS of thousands of far-right supporters on Saturday chanted anti-European Union slogans amid a sea of red and white Polish flags at an independence day rally.

The annual event in Warsaw attracted 40,000 people, city hall said, while media outlets estimated 90,000 had turned out, less than a month after the pro-EU opposition won legislative elections.

Banners and placards called for a "Polexit" after Britain's Brexit from the EU from January 2020.

"If there are new changes in the European treaties, Poland must be ready to quit the European Union," said All-Polish Youth leader Marcin Kowalski.

Future changes to the treaties will transform the bloc into a "euro-federalist collective" led by the European Commission, Kowalski charged.

The ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party which had backed the rally in previous years, organised its own independence celebrations this year on the eve of the official date. — AFP



The far right rally on Poland's independence day saw calls for a 'Polexit', after Britain's Brexit from the EU from January 2020. **PHOTO: WOJTEK RADWANSKI/AFP**

## US Speaker unveils stopgap bid to avoid government shutdown

THE Republican party on Saturday revealed an unconventional temporary plan to fund the US government, with little room to maneuver it through a deeply divided Congress just days ahead of a potential shutdown.

Mike Johnson, the new Speaker of the House of Representatives, said the two-part move was "a necessary bill to place House Republicans in the best position to fight for conservative victories".

US media reported that unusual play would see some bills needed to keep the government open passed via a short-term

bill until 19 January while the rest would be rolled over until 2 February.

It is aimed at buying Congress time to pass individual spending bills — and does not provide funding for Israel, Ukraine and border security, according to the reports.

But with some Republicans already complaining that the plan does not make the funding cuts they seek it was unclear if the party, which has only a narrow majority in the House, would be able to pass it, much less the Democrat-controlled Senate. — AFP

## Direct carbon capture tech commercialized in US amid high hopes

*Carbon dioxide lingers for centuries, with ongoing emissions significantly fueling climate change.*

THE United States' first commercial facility to directly pull carbon dioxide from the air has been opened in California this week, amid high hopes that the technology could be scaled up and help tackle global warming.

The facility, built by California-based company Heirloom Carbon Technologies in Central Valley, uses a technology called direct air capture to capture and permanently store carbon dioxide.

Carbon dioxide per-

sists for hundreds to thousands of years in the atmosphere, and continuing emissions of carbon dioxide have greatly contributed to climate change.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said that to achieve the goal of limiting future temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the world must do more than just reduce emissions but also deploy technologies to remove carbon from the atmosphere. — Xinhua



Heirloom's Direct Air Capture (DAC) facility in Tracy, CA uses limestone rocks to pull already-emitted CO2 from Earth's atmosphere. PHOTO: HEIRLOOM

## Fashion mogul categorically denies serial rapes accusations

FINNISH-CANADIAN fashion mogul Peter Nygard, on trial in Toronto for alleged serial rapes, categorically denied any sexual misconduct as he wrapped up several days of defense testimony on Friday.

The 82-year-old founder of Nygard International has pleaded not guilty to charges of sexually assaulting four women and a 16-year-old girl in Canada's largest city between 1988 and 2005.

In court, defence attorney Brian Greenspan asked Nygard how he could firmly reject the

allegations given that he could not recall dealings with any of his accusers.

"The type of allegations that were said and were described is the type of conduct that I know that I have never done, I never would do," Nygard replied.

On the stand, he also disputed elements of the complainants' testimonies including that he attended a Rolling Stones concert with one of them, offered an emergency birth control pill to a girl after allegedly raping her, or called another from a plane to arrange a date. — AFP

## Chinese firms aspire to expand business networks at Egypt's transport expo

*The event featured 350 exhibitors from 20 countries showcasing technologies and products in transportation, including railway, metro, monorail, electric transport, roads, bridges, traffic safety, maritime transport, seaports, logistics, and related information and communications.*



People view robots during the Smart Transport, Logistics, Infrastructure, and Traffic Fair for the Middle East and Africa in Cairo, Egypt, on 7 November 2023. PHOTO: AHMED GOMAA/XINHUA

EGYPT'S international transportation exhibition has witnessed enthusiastic participation from Chinese companies, which are eager to take part in the transport development in

the Middle East, especially in Egypt.

The fifth Smart Transport, Logistics, Infrastructure, and Traffic Fair and Forum for the Middle East and Africa was held in New

Cairo from Nov. 5 to 8 with the sponsor of Egypt's Ministry of Transport.

At the event, nearly 350 exhibitors from 20 countries displayed their technologies, solutions

and products, covering the fields of railway, metro, monorail, electric transport, roads and bridges, traffic safety, maritime transport, seaports and logistics, as well as information and communications in these regards.

Meng Xiaohong, Marketing Director of China Railway Signal and Communication, told Xinhua that his company cherished the expo as an opportunity to promote products and brand awareness in Egypt and the Middle East at large.

China's Qingdao Haixi Heavy-Duty Machinery Co., Ltd also coveted the expo's potential regarding port terminal construction.

Meng Wei, the company's international business director, said during the past two years, the company was awarded contracts for building container cranes in the Alexandria port and the Damietta Alliance Container Terminal SAE in Egypt and now looks forward to providing more services. — Xinhua

## Aftermath of Hollywood strikes leaves US entertainment industry's future uncertain

AFTER a 118-day strike that brought the US entertainment industry to a standstill, Hollywood is poised to return to

action.

The tentative agreement between the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Televi-

sion and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) union and studios and major media companies ended the strike on Thursday,

and breathed new life into the 134 billion US dollars American movie and television business. — Xinhua

### Notice for Change of Pesticides Trade Name

The foreign manufacturer AgriGate CropSciences Pte., Ltd will import and distribute the following insecticides registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board Changing trading name.

No.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	A.I	Reg: Type	Reg: No.
1	Adika 200SL	Promer 200SL	Diquat dibromide 200g/l SL	Provisional	P2020-5144
2	Lynn 20WP	Bateria 20WP	Oxolinic Acid 20%WP	Provisional	P2023-4914

It is therefore announced to come and reject within 14 days to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of insecticide.

Address - Myanma Awba Group Co., Ltd  
No.(95-A), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road, 8<sup>th</sup> mile, Mayangone Township, Yangon Region, The Republic of Union of Myanmar.

# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## India's Ayodhya sets record by lighting over 2.2 mln earthen lamps on Diwali Eve



Ayodhya Deepotsav set a new world record of lighting more than 22 lakh earthen lamps on Diwali eve on 11 November. **PHOTO: @MYOGIADITYANATH/X**

*Ayodhya makes history with 2,223,000 earthen lamps lit during Deepotsav celebrations.*

AYODHYA city in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh Saturday set a record by lighting over 2.2 million earthen oil lamps during Deepotsav celebrations on the eve of Diwali -- the Hindu festival of lights, officials said.

The earthen lamps illuminated the 51 ghats of the temple city located on the bank of the Saryu River.

With the record number of lamps, Ayodhya set a new Guinness World Record for lighting lamps in such a large number.

"Ayodhya creates history yet again, with a total count of 2,223,000 earthen lamps lit during Deepotsav," a brief statement issued by Uttar Pradesh's tourism department said.

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### TOP HEADLINES

#### Croatian defence minister dismissed after car crash

CROATIA'S prime Minister on Saturday dismissed Defence Minister Mario Banozic after he was involved in a car collision in which another driver was killed.

Prime minister Andrej Plenkovic told a press conference that Banozic was also in hospital with serious injuries.

Banozic, defence minister since 2020, was in his private car leaving the eastern town of Vinkovci when he was in collision with a van.

Authorities said the van driver was killed.

"You have heard the circumstances of the accident and we express regret and concern about the condition of the minister who is hospitalized with serious injuries," Plenkovic said. —AFP

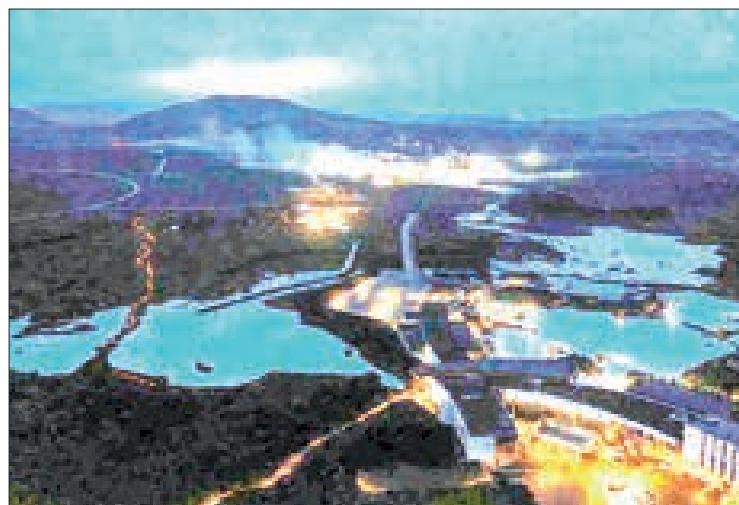
#### Hundreds of thousands stage Armistice Day pro-Palestinian rally in London

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Saturday condemned far-right protesters and Hamas sympathisers, as hundreds of thousands of pro-Palestinian supporters marched through London calling for a ceasefire in Israel's war in Gaza. Nearly 2,000 police were out in force to keep rival groups apart, with the march organised on Armistice Day, the annual event when Britain remembers its war dead with solemn ceremonies at war memorials. The march went ahead after a week of tensions, which saw the government call for it to be scrapped, and police said they made scores of arrests.

Some 150 people from the mass protest were detained under public order legislation for wearing face coverings and setting off fireworks, while 82 counter-protesters were held to prevent them infiltrating the main march. —AFP

## Icelandic volcano could destroy town of Grindavik: experts

*The town, situated near the Svartsengi geothermal plant, supplies electricity and water to 30,000 Reykjanes peninsula residents and has a freshwater reservoir.*



The red shimmer from magma is seen coming out from the erupting Fagradalsfjall volcano behind the tourist land mark Blue Lagoon, near the town of Grindavik some 40 km west of the Icelandic capital Reykjavik, in this file picture taken on 20 March 2021. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

AN Icelandic town home to some 4,000 people near the capital Reykjavik could be heavily damaged by a volcano expected to erupt within hours or days, experts have said.

The town of Grindavik on the southwestern coast was evacuat-

ed in the early hours of yesterday after magma shifting under the Earth's crust caused hundreds of earthquakes in what was believed to be a precursor to an eruption.

"We are really concerned about all the houses and the infrastructure in the area," Vidir

Reynisson, head of Iceland's Civil Protection and Emergency Management said.

The town — around 40 kilometres southwest of Reykjavik — is located near the Svartsengi geothermal plant, the main supplier of electricity and water to 30,000 residents on the Reykjanes peninsula, as well as a freshwater reservoir. Grindavik is also near the Blue Lagoon geothermal spa resort, a popular tourist destination which closed as a precaution earlier this week.

"The magma is now at a very shallow depth, so we're expecting an eruption within a couple of hours at the shortest, but at least within a couple of days," Mr Reynisson said. The most likely scenario would be a fissure opening in the ground near Grindavik.

"We have a fissure that's about 15km long, and anywhere on that fissure we can see that an eruption could happen," Mr Reynisson said. — AFP

# SPORTS

## Myanmar's Joshua Van seals victory at UFC 295

MYANMAR MMA fighter Joshua Van won the UFC 295 match in the United States yesterday, after beating Kevin Borjas.

Both fighters launched their attack starting from the early minutes. Joshua stayed in the counter attack while Borjas relied on the speedy punches.

As Borjas' power waned as his stamina dwindled, Joshua was able to bombard him and win by unanimous decision of all three judges at the end of the match.

Joshua has won both of his two fights in UFC events. It was his eighth win in a nine-fight professional career. Joshua Van is also the first Myanmar player to work with the famous UFC among fighting organizations. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Myanmar's Joshua Van (left) lands a punch on Kevin Borjas at the UFC 295 event in the United States on 12 November 2023. PHOTO:UFC



It gave the Swedish Olympic Committee the green light to submit a complete application to host the Games. PHOTO:AFP

## Swedish govt backs 2030 Winter Olympics bid

*The government is prepared to explore state guarantees for hosting the 2030 Winter Games in Sweden.*

Sweden's government on Sunday lent its backing to the country's bid to host the 2030 Winter Olympics, saying it was ready to begin the process of looking into state guarantees.

"The government is ready to proceed to the next phase and examine the conditions for providing the state guarantees required to host the 2030 Winter Games in Sweden," it said in a statement.

It gave the Swedish Olympic Committee the green light to submit a complete application to host the Games.

Events would be held primarily in Stockholm as well as several central Swedish towns including Falun, Are and Ostersund.

Some events could also be held in nearby Latvia and Norway, Sweden's sports minister Jakob Forssmed told news agency TT on Sunday.

On Tuesday, France officially launched a bid for the 2030 Games, spread over sites in the French Alps, while Switzerland has also announced it will be a candidate.

The International Olympic Committee is expected to announce its decision in 2024.

Stockholm hosted the Summer Games in 1912, but has never hosted a Winter Olympics despite numerous attempts over the years. — AFP

## Lewandowski goal mark 'still too far away' says record-breaking Kane

*Kane's first-half brace takes his season total to 17 in 11 games, nearing Lewandowski's record of 41 from 2020-21.*

BAYERN Munich striker Harry Kane said Robert Lewandowski's league goals record was "still a bit too far away" despite again scoring a brace in a 4-2 win over Heidenheim on Saturday.

Kane scored a brace in the first half to bring his season tally to 17 in 11 games, edging closer to Lewandowski's record of 41 set in 2020-21. "It's a little bit too far away yet" Kane said of the record, telling reporters "I'm sure you guys will bring it up every time I score."

"I just need to be focused game by game... if we're close in April, then I'm sure it'll be something I'll try and reach." Kane, 30, told reporters he was "proud" of "my best start of a season so far". "It's never easy with everything going on, on and off the pitch. This was my first experience of moving clubs so to have started the way I have, I'm really happy." Lewandowski, who left for Barcelona in the summer of 2022, scored 312 in 384 games for Borussia Dortmund and Bayern, but not even the Pole started a season with 17 in 11 games as the England captain has done now. — AFP



Bayern Munich forward Harry Kane scored a brace as his side won 4-2 at home against Heidenheim on Saturday. PHOTO:MICHAELA REHLE/AFP

India's Ayodhya sets record by lighting over 2.2 mln earthen lamps on Diwali Eve

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# World health leaders call for fossil fuel phaseout ahead of COP28

*Global health organizations urge leaders before UN climate talks to rapidly phase out fossil fuels, citing climate-induced extreme weather's severe health impacts worldwide.*

GLOBAL medical and health organizations have called on world leaders ahead of UN climate talks to swiftly phase out of fossil fuels, saying climate change-induced extreme weather events are causing serious health problems worldwide.

"A full and rapid phaseout of fossil fuels is the most significant way to provide the clean air, water, and environment that are foundational to good health," they said in an open letter addressed to the United Arab Emirates' industry minister, Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, who will preside over the 28<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Leaders arranging their participation in the COP28 conference, from 30 Novem-



One of RWE's coal-fired power plants in mainland Europe. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ GREENPEACE

ber to 12 December in Dubai, include Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Pope Francis, who is expected to become the first pontiff to take part in a UN climate summit. While the UN climate conference has designated for the

first time 3 December as Health Day for concentrated discussions on the topic, the signatories of the letter stressed the upcoming gathering must address the root cause of the climate crisis — the continued extraction and use of fossil fuels.

Organizations represented in the letter include the World Medical Association and the International Pediatric Association, with the combined membership of all the groups standing at 46.3 million. — Kyodo

# San Francisco herding homeless to improve image ahead of APEC Summit

*High-cost US city relocates and dismantles homeless camps ahead of APEC Leaders' Week 2023 summit hosting over 20 world leaders.*



San Francisco is honored to be the Host City for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Week 2023 with the theme of "Creating a Resilient and Sustainable Future for All". PHOTO: SPUTNIKGLOBAL

SAN Francisco, with a population of about 810,000 people, has a homeless population exceeding 7,000. Encampments and open-

air drug markets have crowded some city streets, tarnishing the city's reputation around the world.

One of the most expensive cities in the United States is moving homeless people and destroying their encampments in an attempt to clean the parts of the city that will host more than 20 world leaders for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Week 2023 summit that kicked off on Saturday.

According to multiple media reports describing the raids, officials are targeting several areas in the SoMa district of San Francisco, sometimes asking the homeless not to return until after the conference is over and utilizing "night ambassadors" to keep the area clear.

US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping are scheduled to speak at the event, with their meeting being described as an important step in stabilizing relations between the two countries. — SPUTNIK

## A MORE INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC CHURCH

### Vatican takes 'step' towards transgender Catholics

LGBTQ rights campaigners welcomed a Vatican statement that transgender people can be baptised as a step towards a more inclusive Catholic Church, but denounced caveats that provide cover to those who object.

In a document published on Wednesday, the powerful Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, one of the main departments that manages the affairs of the Holy See, said transgender believers can be baptised if it would not cause scandal or confusion.

The document, written in response to questions from a Brazilian bishop and approved by Pope Francis, also raised no objections to baptism for the children of same-sex couples, either adopted or born through surrogacy. — AFP