

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing warmly encourages officers, other ranks injured in serving State defence and security duties

Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung and senior military officers, comforted officers and other ranks who were injured in serving State defence and security duties, receiving medical treatments at the Orthopaedics and Traumatology Department of the Defence Services General Hospital (1,000-bed) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In giving words of encouragement, the Senior General warmly asked after the health of patients individually and warmly enquired about the wound causes and convalescence and fulfilled their requirements. The Senior General also presented cash assistance and gifts to those officers and other rank patients.

General Maung Maung Aye who accompanied the Senior General, and senior military officers also cordially gave words of encouragement to those patients in individuals and honoured them with cash assistance and gifts. — MNA/TTA



Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents cash assistance and gifts to a Tatmadaw member at the Defence Services General Hospital (1,000-bed) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



Seafood turnover at Yangon's Shwe Padauk fish market relatively high in Tazaungdine period

Sales of the seafood and fishery products from the Shwe Padauk fish market in Yangon Region are reportedly increasing during the Tazaungdine Festival than that of Thadingyut, according to the market development committee.

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Ngwehsaung serves 330,000 tourists in ten months

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Chick peas trading well at fair price in Mandalay market

NATIONAL



A vendor arranges fishes at the Shwe Padauk fish market in Yangon. **PHOTO: KANU**

Seafood turnover at Yangon's Shwe Padauk fish market relatively high in Tazaungdine period

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The rise in sales of fishes and seafood at Shwe Padauk fish market is accounted for alms-giving, donations and offerings during Tazaungdine Festival.

Shwe Padauk fish market from Hline Township, Yangon is circulating over 300,000 visses of both freshwater and saltwater seafood daily in this Tazaungdine festival period. There are two main fish markets in Yangon, known as Kyimyindine Baho Sanpya fish market and Shwe Padauk fish market distributing fishes, seafood and many aquatic products within Yangon Region and across the country on a daily basis. An average input of fishery products to those two markets per day is over 600,000 visses of which 400,000 visses goes to Shwe Padauk fish market and the remaining 200,000 visses goes to Baho Sanpya fish market.

U Shin Saw, chair of Shwe Padauk Fish Market Development Committee said, "Sales and purchases this month are said to be good. Domestic consumption is moving steadily and also fish prices are stable in the market. In fact, donations and alms-giving in this period drove more seafood distribution to PyinOoLwin, Mandalay, Pathein and cities and towns in the middle of the country. Government's subsidies to the suppliers with low interest rates help them to have better businesses. We thank the relevant authorities for assisting us for ensuring a regular trade."

There were only a few commodity depots in 2014-15 when Shwe Padauk fish market was freshly opened. At the time, fishery product trade was relatively declined. In 2017, Shwe Padauk became a key fish wholesales centre which mainly delivered the aquatic products to the whole country. Shwe Padauk is also the fish wholesales centre to which fishes from freshwater farming and saltwater farming from Yangon, Ayeyawady and Bago regions delivered.

Shwe Padauk fish market is observed to be crowded daily usually from 4 am to 6 am with aquatic product merchandizers from different townships of Yangon; and fish carrier boats from Ayeyawady and Bago regions. The market is open between 4 am to 6 pm daily. There are 380 stalls and 88 shops for vendors at the market.

The prices stand at K 26,000 per viss of two-tical sized prawn; K 30,000 per viss of four to six-tical sized prawn; K 50,000 per viss of ten-tical sized prawn; K 60,000 per viss of 15/20-tical sized prawn; K 6,300 per viss of Labeo Rohita; K 10,000 per viss of large gudgeon (one viss sized); K 5,000 per viss of river-catfish (three-viss sized); K 4,500 per viss of saltwater goldfish (one-viss sized); K 5,000 per viss of platu fish; K 4,500 per viss of star fish; K 4,500 per viss of hilsa shad; K 40,000 per viss of squid; K 20,000 per viss of cuttlefish; and K 30,000 per viss of cuttle-fish. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/TMT

Onion, potato traders flock to Danyingon wholesale market

ONION and potato vendors have shown interest in doing business at the recently developed Danyingon wholesale market and some have even moved there, according to the merchants' circle.

Although the market is not as busy as the Bayintnaung wholesale, the Danyingon offers smooth, traffic-free access roads. U Myo, a truck owner at the Danyingon market, told the Global New Light of Myanmar that the surrounding area was convenient for truck drivers to stay the night.

The Danyingon has a grocery market that looks like the Thiri Mingalar market as well as a brokers' sale centre akin to the Bayintnaung wholesale. But its land area is much smaller than the Bayintnaung's.

Historically, congestion issues caused the relocation of dried goods and marine produce sale centres from Latha and Lanmadaw townships to Bayintnaung in the late 1990s. Yet, by 2010, traffic congestion-related delays emerged again. Traders attribute this to outdated loading docks designed for older six-wheelers, inad-

equate for today's prevalent container trucks.

The grant tenure of the Bayintnaung plot was extended for three years. It expired a few years ago, and there's uncertainty surrounding whether it will be extended once more. So, some vendors have migrated to the Danyingon market which was built after the Bayintnaung's model.

A sale centre project for delta-region rice was conceived a decade ago at the location next to the Dagon Ayeya terminal. Despite land sales and the building of some structures, roads and lamp-posts, the space is not yet operational, says rice trader U Maung Aye.

The Danyingon market's recent surge in activity, partly attributed to its smooth traffic flow, is promising. However, concerns loom over potential congestion. Truck owners say that moving wholesale markets to the outskirts of Yangon will not solve the problem. They emphasize the need for a dedicated terminal at Yangon to alleviate traffic bottlenecks, or congestion will follow wherever the wholesale markets go. — TWA/NT



One of the selling points of Danyingon market is its convenience for truck drivers to stay the night.

Myanmar exports nearly 1,200 tonnes of honey in first seven months of FY

MYANMAR exported a total of 1,319.02 tonnes of honey in the first seven months of the current fiscal year (April-October), according to the data released by Apiculture Division under the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.

An estimated value of over US\$1.978 million was earned from exporting honey via both maritime trade and border trade routes.

The country's private sector expanded its honey

market into the global marketplace by shipping mainly to Japan, Thailand and South Korea.

Myanmar produces sesame honey, jujube honey, niger honey, sunflower honey, lychee honey and flower honey.

Market prices for the honey produced by Myanmar in the global marketplace are ranging from \$ 2,500 to 3000 per tonne. The country exports approximately 3,000 tonnes of honey annually.

There are 31 state-owned beekeeping stations in 31 townships across the country. Relevant authorities are assisting the private sector of beekeeping businesses with advanced technologies and delivering pure pedigrees to have it developed. Myanmar mainly exports honey to Japan, Thailand, South Korea, China, Saudi Arabia, the United States, Singapore and European markets. — TWA/TMT

NATIONAL

MoEP Union Minister returns from 6th Asia-Pacific Regional Energy Regulatory Forum

AT the invitation of Mr Zhang Jianhua, the head of the National Energy Administration of the People's Republic of China, a delegation led by U Nyan Tun, Union Minister for Electric Power, visited Shenzhen and Kunming from 15 to 19 November to attend the 6th Asia-Pacific Regional Energy Regulatory Forum and learn about wind power generation.

During the visit, the delegation led by the Union Minister participated in the 6th Asia-Pacific Energy Regulatory Forum, organized by the National Energy Administration of China and the Municipal Government



Union Minister for Electric Power U Nyan Tun observes Fuyuanxi Wind Power Plant in Yunnan Province on 18 November.

of Shenzhen City, Guangdong Province, on 16 November.

Next, the Union Minister met with Head of the National Energy Administration (NEA) Mr Zhang Jianhua, and discussed development of the elec-

tric power sector.

The Union Minister and his team visited the Shenzhen Huawei Digital Power Edison Exhibition Hall and the Optical Storage and Charging & Vehicle-Grid Interaction EV car charging

station on 17 November. They also toured the Fuyuanxi Wind Power Plant with an installed capacity of 800 megawatts, built by the State Power Investment Corporation in Yunnan Province on 18 November.

During the visit, China Southern Power Grid, a Chinese state-owned company collaborating with the Ministry of Electric Power, Datang United Hydropower Development Co Ltd, State Power Investment Corporation, and Yunnan Energy Investment Group & Yunnan Machinery and Equipment Import and Export Co Ltd, as well as Huaneng Lancang River Hydropower Co Ltd, were met separately to discuss the requirements and plans for the ongoing implementation of projects. The delegation arrived back in Myanmar yesterday. — MNA/KZW



Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint inspects Information and Public Relations Department in Kyaukpadaung Township, NyaungU District, in Mandalay Region, on 19 November.

Deputy Minister for Information visits IPRD office, relay station in Kyaukpadaung

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Ye Tint visited the Department of Information and Public Relations and the Popa TV relay station in Kyaukpadaung Township, NyaungU District, in Mandalay Region, on 19 November.

He encouraged the staff members at the library at Kyaukpadaung Township IPRD to spend more time reading. He then checked the status of the library use and settings.

Since the objectives of the Information Ministry are to inform, to educate and to entertain, he instructed the staff to inform the public of the state's operations and objectives, bridging the

public with Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises through in-person interviews and reporting, offering mobile library services to the departments and schools to foster readership, educating the students for physical and intellectual growth through school lectures, and organizing summer classes for youth development.

The deputy minister was received by U Than Lwin, chairman of Kyaukpadaung Township Administration Body, departmental officials, officials and staff members from Kyaukpadaung Township IPRD and Popa TV relay station. — Nay Aung (IPRD)/NT

Myanmar transfers illegal immigrants from border areas to respective authorities

AS the government focuses on State peace, stability and rule of law, the administration bodies are transferring the illegal immigrants from the border areas of Myanmar to the respective countries after conducting necessary investigations.

After the investigation process of the foreigners illegally residing in the border areas, 935

Chinese males and 82 females totalling 1,017 were systematically transferred to the authorities of the People's Republic of China.

As the government emphasizes prevailing rule of law in border regions, people need to cooperate with relevant security force for fostering rule of law in their regions. — MNA/TRKM



Officials from Myanmar and China shake hands at the illegal immigrants transfer event.

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NATIONAL

Banking services remain convenient despite rumours

TAKING advantage of the fact that some branches of banks had to stop banking services due to an unanticipated situation, anti-government media, terrorist groups and their supporters disseminated this information on social media, pressuring people to take out more cash than they needed out of fear that they may lose it or experience a situation where they are unable to withdraw cash from the banks.

Myanmar's banking system uses

the Core Banking System, which provides interbank services, so if the service of a branch of a bank is stopped for some reason, people can still withdraw money at any branch of the bank nationwide.

In addition, they can also use services like mobile banking, internet banking, payment by bank cards as well as payments through account transfer methods.

Under the supervision of the Cen-

tral Bank of Myanmar, banks continue to provide services as per the terms and conditions. People following rumours and withdrawing more money than they need from banks can be dangerous and may lose their money, while circulating more money than needed outside of banks may lead to more inflation and higher commodity prices.

People withdrawing more money than required from banks may likely

be monitored by officials for suspicious circumstances such as their intention and the purposes they used their money.

In the current situation, there is enough cash in the banks, and the Central Bank of Myanmar is ready to provide cash to various banks, so the public should not withdraw more money than they need, and use banking services with confidence as usual, according to the CBM. —MNA

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Statement No 12/ 2023

THE Declaration of the Rights of the Child, outlining the fundamental principles of children's rights was unanimously proclaimed by all 78 member States during the United Nations General Assembly on 20 November 1959. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was adopted by the 44th United Nations General Assembly through Resolution No 44/25 on 20 November 1989. In commemoration of these significant events, 20 November was designated as World Children's Day, and today marks the 34th celebration of this occasion. The theme for this year's World Children's Day is "For Every Child, Every Right".

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), a human rights treaty, has been signed by all member States of the United Nations. Myanmar became a signatory to the Convention on 15 July 1991. Myanmar also signed two optional protocols to the Convention, repealed the Child Law 1993 and enacted the Child Rights Law 2019 in order to further prevent sexual violence against children and the worst forms of forced labour as well as to implement children's rights.

Children around the world face challenges such as poverty, malnutrition, limited access to education, child labour, premature marriage, and sexual exploitation. To ensure the future enjoyment of children's rights and well-being, it is imperative to work towards creating better conditions for them.

On the occasion of the 34th World Children's Day, observed on 20 November 2023, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission urges government organizations, civil society organizations, international organizations, and the public to collaborate on activities promoting children's rights with the aim to foster the development of well-behaved and dependable young individuals within the community.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Illegal timbers, industrial materials, foodstuffs, motorbikes and vehicles confiscated

A total of 16.079 tonnes of illegal teak and 11.483 tonnes of other woods valued at K16,281,792 in Labutta District, 1.546 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K125,400 in Patheingyi District and 4.867 tonnes of illegal timbers and a water pump worth K440,704 in Pyawbwe District were seized on 14 November. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

During the inspections on 17 November, combined teams nabbed five ONDA motherboards without CPUs and 130 computer monitors valued at K16.1 million that were smuggled and piled up by the side of road beyond Sinphyu checkpoint in Muse Township, an unregistered Toyota Mark II (approximately worth K6 million) and an unregistered Royal Enfield motorbike (estimated value of K3 million) that were parked on the detour of Moppalin-Suppanu-Ingabo and a Mit-



Officials from Forest Department measure the confiscated illegal timbers in Padaung Township.

subishi Fuso truck (estimated value of K30 million), headed to Yangon from Mawlamyine, carrying two kinds of goods worth K2.7 million, including 4,500 bottles of M-150 energy drink without official documents, at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint. The action was taken under the Customs procedures.

A total of 13.78 tonnes of illegal teak and 14.954 tonnes

of illegal timbers worth K7,014,946 were confiscated in Toungoo, Pyaw and Thayawady districts on 18 November. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

A total of 10 arrests were made on 14, 17 and 18 November, with an estimated value of K81,662,842, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. —MNA/MKKS

Global NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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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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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.

Shwezigon Buddha Pujaniya Festival begins 23 Nov for 10 days

THE 964th Tazaungdine Buddha Pujaniya Festival of the Shwezigon Pagoda will begin on 23 November, according to the pagoda board of trustees.

The 10-day festival will observe a recitation of Pathana treatise, donation of alms and cash for nine prerequisites to 714 members of the Sangha and novices in NyaungU Township and spirit dances.

On the morning of Tazaungmone Full Moon Day, the consecration ceremony will take place at the pagoda. As night falls, worshippers will illuminate the pagoda with 5,000 oil lamps.

Further, charitable donations will be extended in NyaungU and a market fair will grace the southern precincts of the pagoda compound.

Shwezigon Pagoda is located in NyaungU Township of Mandalay Region. — TWA/NT



Donation of alms and draw lots at 960th Buddha Pujaniya Festival of Shwezigon Pagoda.

Ngwehsaung serves 330,000 tourists in ten months



Beachgoers walk on Ngwehsaung Beach in Ayeyawady Region.

NGWEHSAUNG beach in Ayeyawady Region received over 329,000 local and foreign tourists during the period from January to October 2023, according to Assistant Director U Soe Win from Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Ngwehsaung branch).

Ngwehsaung, a resort

beach which can attract visitors at home and abroad alike all year round, has 37 facilities including 32 hotels and five lodges with 1,831 rooms in total.

“From January to October 2023, more than 329,000 local and foreign tourists visited Ngwehsaung beach. If compared to 207,050 visitors of cor-

responding period last year, around 120,000 more tourists visited our beach this year,” U Soe Win said.

Information Counters will be arranged to respond to queries from more visitors to come in open season and it is also under preparations to organize an awareness forum on the standards of ASEAN tourism industry.

Similarly, other initiatives like cleanliness of sandy coast areas in front of each hotel, beautification of landscapings inside hotel compounds, tidiness of hotel passages, coastal walking paths as well as public areas, and preparation of local cuisines to give catering services to the tourists at hotels are also in progress in advance at Ngwehsaung beach. — ASH/ZN



An attractive scene of Ngwehsaung Beach.

Myanmar traditional handicrafts and foods showcased at CITM festival in China

MYANMAR traditional handicrafts and foods were displayed at the China International Travel Mart (CITM) held at the Dianchi International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Kunming on 17-19 November, China, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The CITM festival participated by more than 1,000 businesses from 70 countries running some 4,000 booths was organized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China, the Department of Civil Aviation Administration of China under the Ministry of Transport and the Government of Yunnan Province.

The employees of the Consulate-General of Myanmar in Kunming and Myanmar families participated in the festival to showcase traditional food and

crafts, with the officials from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism distributing flyers and photos displaying tourism destinations as well as playing videos to promote tourism. Myanmar companies also joined the event by displaying gems and locally manufactured products.

The opening ceremony of the China International Travel Mart (CITM) festival on 17 November was attended by the Secretary of Yunnan Provincial Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, the Governor of Yunnan Province and senior Chinese officials, invited ministers from more than 70 countries, Dr Thet Thet Khine, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism, officials from Myanmar Embassy and Consulate-General of Myanmar in Kunming. — ASH/TH



The officials of the Consulate-General of Myanmar in Kunming and Myanmar families pose for photo at the China International Travel Mart (CITM) held in Kunming, China.

NATIONAL

Four doyen literati honoured with Lifetime Awards this year

AS a token of appreciation and acknowledgement by the Government for outstanding performance in writing and compiling for the sake of Myanmar literature throughout their lifetime, four literature scholars were selected and honoured with National Lifetime Awards for Literary Achievements for 2022.

Sayagyi Dr Than Oo (Pyi Soe Min), Sayamagyi Daw Khin Than Win (Kyu Kyu Thin), Sayagyi U Chit San (Chit San Win) and Dr Tun Tint (Dr Tun Tint-Myanmarsar) won such lifetime achievement awards conferred by the National Literary Award Selection Committee, Ministry of Information.

Similarly, the National Literary Award Selection Committee also announced the name list of writers and books, on 18 November, that won national literature awards for their books published for the first time during 2022.

Award winning books and writers in respective genre are “Chit Tay Thi Par Kyay Tamar Poems” (Pan Yagon Publishing House) composed by Maung Sein Naung (Lewe) in Poem (Classical) genre, “Ko Hnint Thet Ko Hnin Set Lo Yway” (Myawady Literature House) written by Wai Lwin Maung in Belle-letters genre, “Pianist Dr U Yee Nwe, the hero of Myanmar Music” (Aryon Oo House) written by Aung Shan Waing (Kyauk-maraw) in Myanmar culture and fine arts genre, “Myanmar’s Metta miracles shall overwhelm the world and other children short stories” (Sarpay Beikman) written by Wutyi Khin (Bago) in Child literature genre, “Superpower Competition and AI technology” (Sarpay Beikman) written by Dr Tin Bhone Kyaw in Translation



2021 National Literary Award winners seen along with State Leaders.

(General Knowledge) genre, “Applied Land and Administration” (Seikku Cho Cho Publishing House) written by U Kyaw Myint G A in General Knowledge (Arts) genre, “Management of Potential Bio-hazards” (U Han Myo Naung Publishing House) written by Su Hlaing Tint in General Knowledge (Applied Science) genre, “Road Map Treatise on the Sole Way of Escape for Myanmar” (Ayeyawady Publishing House) written by Thet Naing Oo (Kyikar) in Political literature genre, “My Anthology of Nation-Building Endeavours” (Aung Myo Publishing House) written by Win Thein in English Language (General Knowledge), “Let me love you for sweet smelling name” (Lin Lun Khin Publishing House) written by Myaylet Maung Myint Thu in Essay genre and “Myanmar Traditional Painting on the Buddhology” (Kyi Pwar Yay Publishing House) written by Ashin Paññasara (Maha Dhammapala Sayadaw) in Reference genre.

Winners of National Lifetime Awards for Literary Achievements will be honoured with K10 million each and National Literature Awardees with K 3 million each.

The National Literary Award Selection Committee is composed of 24 persons including literary scholars, intellectuals, intelligentsia and experienced veterans from printing and book-publishing industry and systematic selection process consists of three stages, namely preliminary, short-listed and confirmed stages, for each genre. Prize giving ceremony for the above-mentioned winners is scheduled to be held on 13 December.

Honourable literary prize winners are kindly requested to contact the secretariat and administration department at Sarpay Beikman within one week as an urgent matter and to send two coloured photos each of 5 x 7 inches and passport size together with their brief particulars. — TWA/ZN

Deadline set on 5 Jan for submitting applications to EMBF, MI master’s courses

ACCORDING to Yangon University of Economics, applications for admission to EMBF and MI master’s courses must be submitted by 5 January 2024.

For the 2024-2025 academic year, Yangon University of Economics will conduct the Executive Master of Banking and Finance (EMBF) online course and the Master of Insurance (MI) online course.

Applicants for the Master’s degree programme in EMBF (online course) must have at least five years of experiences in banking services or financial work process at advanced management level and must be at least 30 years of age.

For the Master of Insurance (MI) online training, applicants must have a minimum of two years of work experiences in the banking, insurance or financial industries.

Applicants must be graduates from relevant universities and should not be enrolled in any other courses at different universities simultaneously. They are required to attend classes according to the specified curriculum and schedules.

The entrance exam and personal interview for master’s courses will be held on 14 January 2024 at Yangon University of Economics (Kamayut campus).

Course-related documents and prescribed application forms can be submitted to Yangon University of Economics between 21 November 2023 and 5 January 2024. — TWA/KZW



Sheep and goat manageable-scale breeding farm seen in Pwintbyu Township of Magway Region.

THE Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Ministry will distribute cattle to 30 villages with the approved funds of K900 million this financial year, said Dr Aung Kyi, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation, at the meeting held at the Union Minister’s Office on 16 No-

vember. With the aim of improving socio-economic life, the establishment of emerald green livestock villages has been implemented in 681 village-tracts in regions and states, including the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area this financial year, said the Deputy

Plans to spend K900 mln of allotted fund on distribution of cattle to 30 villages

Minister, adding efforts are being made to distribute farm animals to 30 villages with an approved fund of K900 million.

In addition, out of the K400 billion national economic promotion fund, K330 billion have been allocated to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, eight regions and states and six self administered regions.

Out of the K330 billion, K100 billion has been spent on the emerald green project of agriculture and livestock breeding, and it has been operational starting this financial year. According to the ministry, the project is providing employment opportunities for rural people, increasing family income, and facilitating individual livestock farming activities. — TWA/KZW



Photo shows front wing of Yangon University of Economics, which will be a hub for EMBF and MI master’s degree courses.

Chick peas trading well at fair price in Mandalay market

ACCORDING to bean traders, chickpeas are trading well at fair prices in the Mandalay market before the Tazaungdaing festival. U Soe Win Myint, the owner of Soe Win Myint Commodity Depot in Mandalay, mentioned that the price of chickpeas was K7,200-K7,500 per viss a few days ago, and now it is K5,800 per viss.

“Chickpeas are a favorite among Myanmar people. They are nutritious, with a delicious taste. Myanmar people make many snacks of chickpeas. Cur-

rently, they are not only sold for the local market but also for the foreign market due to good trading at fair prices. There is a high demand in India,” he added.

Chickpeas are primarily grown as a winter crop in the upper regions of Myanmar and to a lesser extent in the areas around Hinthada and Bago. There are two varieties of chickpeas such as Bamar chickpea, V2, V7, 929 and so on. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)/TRKM



Merchants check quality of chickpeas and other pulses and beans in Mandalay market. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)

Chinese potatoes prices fluctuate in Yangon market



Some Chinese potato sacks are seen at a commodity market.

CHINESE potatoes are just one commodity in the Yangon market with a very variable pricing, U Hla Myo, a potato merchant told the Global New Light of Myanmar yesterday.

On 26 October, the wholesale price of Chinese potato in Yangon was K1,700/1,800 and went up to K3,000 on 31 October, K3,500 on 6 November, K4,000 on 8 November. On 15 November, the price rose to K4,200, however, on 17 and 18 November, the price dropped back to K3,500/3,600.

On 10 July, one viss of Shan

Aungban potatoes price range was between K2,800 and K3,000. On 6 November, there were no Chinese potato arrivals, making prices to rise around those days. In Yangon market this month, onion varieties stand at K2,500 to K3,600 per viss, almost the same price as Chinese potatoes. At the same time last year, when a viss of onion was around K4,000, a viss of Chinese potatoes was only K2,550, according to the listing of old prices. In November of 2023, the price of Chinese potatoes is higher than the same period

last year, but the price of onions is lower than that of same period last year.

In the middle of this year, Yangon potato market depends only on Chinese potatoes, and the price fluctuates in the market depending on the volume of potatoes imported from the border. Potatoes are a perishable commodity and cannot be stored for long periods of time, prompting the price to fluctuate quickly, Daw Myint Nwe, a potatoes seller told the GNLN. Shan potatoes entered Yangon market, but for their poor quality, they could not be sold in comparison with Chinese potatoes.

Sinphyukyun potatoes used to enter Yangon market in early months of a year, there are speculations that they may enter Yangon market in the beginning of 2024 depending on the yield. In the months leading up to the end of this year, Chinese potatoes enter Bayintnaung commodity depot as well as Danyingon wholesale market. — TWA/ TH

Manufacturing sector exports earn US\$5.5 bln in Apr-Oct

THE export value from the manufacturing sector hit US\$5.55 billion in the past seven months of the current financial year 2022-2023 beginning 1 April, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed.

The figures in the past seven months indicated a sharp drop of \$1.45 billion compared to that \$7 billion recorded in the corresponding period of the 2022-2023 FY.

Garment export is ranked first among the top ten export items including natural gas and minerals.

Myanmar conveys agricultural produce, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods to foreign trade partners, while it brings in 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 consist of 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



This photo shows a view of the container terminal of Yangon Port. PHOTO: XINHUA

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OPINION

Nurture children to become adults with high-capacity

Children are universally acknowledged as the future pillars of any society, entrusted with the responsibility of shaping and serving their nations as adults. Therefore, it is important to conscientiously nurture those children, ensuring the enhancement of their mental and physical capacities, and ultimately moulding them into knowledgeable and well-rounded individuals.

While aspirations for children may or may not materialize, societies across the world are steadfast in their commitment to nurturing the younger generations. Whether dreams come to fruition or not, it is incumbent upon societies to invest in the comprehensive development of children, propelling them to achieve their fullest potential. Embracing the collective belief that children

are the future of the State who would be reliable for all nationalities, is paramount for fostering bright ambitions in these young minds.

This commitment to children's well-being is underscored by global communities, including the United Nations, which set World Children's Day in 1954, designating the 20th of November each year as a day dedicated to enhancing the physical and mental capacities of children globally.

Stakeholders across various levels and sectors, including young people and children themselves, play pivotal roles in annually observing World Children's Day. This observance serves as a clarion call to draw attention to the need for children to live free from perilous circumstances such as armed conflicts, poverty, drug abuse, human trafficking, forced labour, exploitation and

so on.

The theme for World Children's Day in 2023, "For every child, every right", underscores the importance of creating opportunities for children to exercise their rights and cultivating their knowledge for a sustainable and responsible life.

It is the duty of adults at different ages to impart knowledge to children, allowing them to accumulate knowledge in different forms gradually and apply the knowledge and experience deserved by them responsibly in the relevant arenas in accordance with the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, without infringing on the interests of others.

Every nation must establish and uphold the rights of children, educating them about the entitlements and responsibilities awaiting them. From early childhood, parents, guardians, and teachers should instil democratic values and public ethics in children, ensuring that they become individuals who contribute to the prestige and integrity of their nation in the future. In this way, the global community actively engages in uplifting the physical and mental capacities of children, recognizing their crucial role in shaping a better tomorrow.

■

Dinosaurs are a group of reptiles that have lived on Earth for about 245 million years. In 1842 Richard Owen coined the term — Dinosauria, derived from the Greek — deinos, meaning "fearfully great" and saurian meaning "lizard". Dinosaur fossils have been found on all seven continents.

All non-avian dinosaurs went extinct about 66 million years ago. There were roughly 700 known species of extinct dinosaurs. Modern birds are a kind of dinosaurs. Because they share a common ancestor with the non-avian dinosaurs.

The extinct animals left behind those clues to what dinosaurs were like are found in fossils — the ancient remains of an organism such as teeth, bones, or shells or evidence of animal activity such as footprints and trackways.

For centuries people throughout the world have discovered amazing fossilized bones and footprint tales, and people imagined that those bones belonged to giants or huge monsters.

Some consider Varum Brown, who began his career at the American Museum of Natural History in 1897 to be one of the greatest dinosaur hunters of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He began his career at the American Museum of Natural History in 1897. Many of his greatest discoveries including the first specimens of Tyrannosaurus Rex ever found are on display in the Museum's dinosaurs hall.

At the beginning of the age of dinosaurs (during the Triassic Period, about 230 million years), the continents were arranged together as a single supercontinent called Panacea. During the 165 million years of dinosaur exist-

ence, this supercontinent slowly broke apart, its pieces then spread across the globe into a nearly modern arrangement by a process called plate tectonics.

Tectonics is a branch of Geology concerned with the structure of the crust of the planet Earth or the moon and especially with the formation of folds and faults in it.

Today in addition to patience and sharp observation skills, palaeontologists employ new technologies to solve unanswered questions about dinosaurs and other fossils, advanced imaging technologies, such as CT scans allow palaeontologists to see the three-dimensional structure of fossils often without having to remove the matrix. Paleontologists incorporate the research of biomechanics applying the principles of both physics and engineering to reconstruct the biological movement of non-avian dinosaurs. The information gleaned from fossil bones along with observation of both the movement and musculature of living animal species help scientists to model how non-avian dinosaurs may have moved.

During the Mesozoic Era (a period of more than 180 million years that included the Triassic and Cretaceous periods), a species of avian dinosaurs evolved into species of avian dinosaurs, this avian dinosaur is the first bird and the forerunner of birds. Every non-avian went extinct 66 million years ago.

There are several theories as to what may have contributed to the mass extinction of non-avian dinosaurs and other species at the end of the Cretaceous Period, it is certain that massive asteroids or comets struck Earth during this time, causing a dramatic shift in Earth's climate. Some scientists speculate that this impact had

catastrophic consequences for life on Earth, but other factors including changing sea levels and large scale volcanic activity may also play a significant role in this mass extinction.

Dinosaur fossils and fossilization might have taken place like follows: -

- Paleontologists use fossil evidence preserved in ancient rocks to discover how long-extinct animals lived and behaved

- In most cases, a fossilized bone is actually a rock made out of minerals, with no trace of the original bone material

- Their discovery of dinosaur eggs and nests provided evidence for the behaviour of some dinosaurs.

- By comparing the skulls of Protoceratops of different ages. (In the image above) Palaeontologists can draw conclusions about how some

dinosaurs grew

- To discover how organisms lived in the past. Palaeontologists took for clues preserved in ancient rocks: the fossilized teeth, eggs, teeth marks, leaves and even dung of ancient organisms
- Fossilized jaws, teeth and

Dinosaurs

By U Win Sein

In the Triassic Period, 230 million years ago, continents formed Pangaea. Over the dinosaur era's 165 million years, Pangaea broke apart via plate tectonics, resulting in today's continent arrangement.



Plant-eating dinosaurs had teeth of various shapes designed for their particular diets. ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY

■ dung provide important clues about what non-avian dinosaurs are,

- Series of fossilized footprints, and trackways, reveal some intriguing evidence about dinosaur behaviour and locomotion

- Until recently it was believed that the feather was unique to birds. Recent discoveries, however, have unearthed evidence for feathered non-avian dinosaurs.

Palaeontologists looking for dinosaur fossils began their work by surveying areas to find sedimentary rock from the Mesozoic Era, Finding the right spot takes

experience and a keen eye. Most theropod dinosaurs, such as Tyrannosaurus, had teeth that were pointed, slightly curved backward and serrated. The sharp points pierced the meat, and serrations helped slice it by catching and tearing. Muscle fibres. Meat eater didn't chop or grind their food; they swallowed chunks whole.

Plant-eating dinosaurs had teeth of various shapes designed for their particular diets. Triceratops for example had hundreds of teeth that formed a "wall" with sharp ridges. The teeth were used to chop off vegetation. Other plant eaters such as Anatolian had wide flat teeth that they used to grind up tough vegetation. The long-necked dinosaurs, such as Diplodocus had long pencil-like teeth that they used to rake the leaves

swallowed the leaves whole, and they also ingested small stones, called gastroliths, most likely to grind up the food in the stomachs much the same way modern birds such as parakeets and chickens do today.

From an individual footprint, scientists can estimate the height

of the dinosaur that made it. A rough estimate of leg length is obtained by multiplying the print length by four. A footprint can also provide clues about the kind of dinosaur that made it. A three-toed sharp-clawed print means the footprint maker was likely a theropod, usually a carnivore, a three-toed print with rounded toes probably belonged to an ornithomimid dinosaur, a herbivore, and pairs of unequal-sized prints were most likely the work of the four-legged, long-necked long-tailed dinosaurs called sauropods, another group of herbivore.

Modern birds or avian dinosaurs have skeletal features that are almost identical to some non-avian dinosaurs, feather evolved before flight and may have functioned as isolation to keep dinosaurs warm or for display as a way to attract mates.

It was in this environment that reptiles known as dinosaurs first evolved, reptiles tend to flourish in hot climates, because their skin is less porous, for example, mammal skin, so it loses less water in the heat, reptiles' kidneys are also better at conserving water.

Palaeontology flourished fast nowadays, making the surveys of geological periods and fossils easier and more detailed in the collection than years ago. Palaeontologists may have visualized that if various kinds of dinosaurs had not become extinct 66 years ago and remained living in this world, the history of dinosaurs would have a different story to tell. With their tall and massive feature, consuming a large amount of green vegetation and roaming around this world with their gigantic body weight would be an awful scenario for us to guess.

Research shows fasting for 14 hours improves mood, sleep, hunger

Intermittent fasting (IF) restricts eating to a specific time frame, like a ten-hour window, with a 14-hour daily fast. Consistency in the eating window yields greater benefits compared to varying it each day.

According to new data from the largest UK community research study of its kind, eating within a 10-hour window has positive

health benefits in terms of mood, energy and hunger.

The trial's findings were presented at the European Nutrition Conference by researchers from

King's College London.

Intermittent fasting (IF), or limiting your meal consumption to a specific time frame, is a popular weight loss method. With a ten-

hour window, you limit your daily eating schedule to 10 hours and fast for the remaining 14 hours. For example, if you consume your first mouthful at 9 am., you must

finish by 7 pm.

Those who were consistent with their eating window had greater benefits than those who varied their eating window day to day. Despite the fact that certain intermittent fasting advocates frequently promote restrictive eating windows as short as six hours, data presented in the abstract suggest that eating within a less restrictive window of ten hours has beneficial health effects such as changes in mood, energy, and appetite.

Dr Sarah Berry from King's

College London and chief scientist at ZOE said, "This is the largest study outside of a tightly controlled clinic to show that intermittent fasting can improve your health in a real-world setting.

Positive results

What's really exciting is that the findings show that you don't have to be very restrictive to see positive results. A ten-hour eating window, which was manageable for most people, improved mood, energy levels and hunger.

SOURCE: ANI



Research indicates that constant eating isn't necessary. Restricting food to a ten-hour window can lead to satiety and weight loss for many individuals. ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/FREEPIK

ARTICLE

TECH/ENVIRON WORLD

Rich nations 'likely' met \$100 bln climate finance goal: OECD

Wealthy nations are reported to have fulfilled their commitment to provide \$100 billion in annual climate finance to poorer nations, according to the OECD, albeit two years later than promised, and the amount falls short of the "extensive needs" identified for addressing climate-related challenges.



At least 50 people have died and thousands have been left homeless after severe flooding in the southwest of the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2016. **PHOTO: SCREEN CAPTURE/FILE**

WEALTHY nations likely met their goal of providing \$100 billion in annual climate finance to poorer nations last year — two years later than promised and only a fraction of the "extensive needs", the OECD said Thursday.

The OECD report comes ahead of the UN's COP28 climate negotiations later this month in Dubai, where finance will be a major sticking point.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development is tasked with

monitoring official figures on the pledge to help developing countries fund their energy transitions and resilience in the face of accelerating climate impacts.

In 2009, richer countries promised to reach \$100 billion annually in funding for these priorities by 2020.

Failure to meet the target on time has damaged trust in international climate negotiations.

In the most up to date figures, the OECD said richer

countries reached \$89.6 billion in total funding for 2021.

"Based on preliminary and as yet unverified data, the goal looks likely to have already been met as of 2022," said OECD Secretary-General Mathias Cormann in the foreword to the latest report.

But he added experts estimate that developing countries will need to spend about a trillion dollars a year by 2025 for climate investments, rising to roughly \$2.4 trillion each year between 2026 and 2030. — AFP

US transition to electric vehicles faces delays

The US shift to electric cars faces challenges, including worries about vehicle range, charging capacity, and underlying affordability issues.

THE US transition to electric cars has hit a speed bump, with concerns about vehicle range and limited charging capacity adding to core affordability issues.

Automakers in recent weeks have pushed back EV sales targets and delayed capital projects as they seek to reduce inventories of unsold EVs at dealerships.

"The slowdown in EV sales is much more pronounced than it is for other categories of vehicles and that isn't related to the economy," said Neil Saunders, managing director of GlobalData.

"The EV has a problem attached to it," he said. "It's a much more difficult and complex purchase because of the range of the vehicles and the charging infrastructure."

American consumers are accustomed to often-lengthy road trips for holidays or to visit friends and relatives, owing to

the country's large size and limited public transit options.

But so far, the network of EV charging stations remains dodgy, with many areas either lacking infrastructure or equipped with unreliable machines.

Range, pricing concerns

More than three-quarters of drivers consider EVs reliable, according to a survey by the Consumer Technology Association (CTA), the organizer of the annual Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

But there are also significant doubts among drivers surrounding the autos over inadequate charging infrastructure (36 per cent), battery range (39 per cent) and vehicle affordability (38 per cent). In Europe, the elevated price of gasoline adds an incentive that allows consumers there to overlook the lofty upfront cost of the vehicle. — AFP



Automakers are adjusting EV sales targets and postponing capital projects to address unsold inventory issues. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ChatGPT's OpenAI sacks star CEO Sam Altman

OPENAI, the company that created ChatGPT a year ago, said Friday it had dismissed CEO Sam Altman as it no longer had confidence in his ability to lead the Microsoft-backed firm.

Altman, 38, became a tech world sensation with the release of ChatGPT, an artificial intelligence chatbot with unprecedented capabilities, churning out human-level content like poems or artwork in just seconds.

OpenAI's board said in a statement that Altman's departure "follows a deliberative review process", which concluded "he was not consistently candid in his communications with the board, hindering its ability to exercise its responsibilities."

"The board no longer has confidence in his ability to continue leading OpenAI," it added.

Altman's decision last year to release the app paid off in ways he never imagined,



Sam Altman, former CEO of OpenAI, takes photos with attendees during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Week in San Francisco. **PHOTO: AFP**

catapulting the Missouri-born Stanford dropout to household name stardom.

The launch of ChatGPT ignited an AI race, with contenders including tech giants Amazon, Google, Microsoft and Meta.

Microsoft has invested billions of dollars in OpenAI and has woven the company's technology into its offerings, including search engine Bing. — AFP

French artisan's bright idea keeps passion for Suifu lanterns burning

Jeff Rudge wants to keep the tradition alive while bringing new styles to these lanterns, historically known as "bucket lights", widely used in festivals and tavern decorations in modern times.

A craftsman from France has combined two distinct art forms to give new life to "Suifu chochin" Japanese paper lanterns made famous in Mito, the capital city of Ibaraki Prefecture in eastern Japan.

Jeff Rudge, 45, hopes his lanterns will help preserve the tradition for the future. He uses a technique that melds stained glass, a craft he learned from his German grandfather, with thin strips of bamboo and Japanese paper to create original designs that bring out vivid colors using light.

Suifu was another name for Mito in the Edo period (1603-1868), and the city is known as one of the famous production

hubs of chochin, or "bucket lights", which were used daily by Japanese people.

Today, chochin, which use electric bulbs rather than the traditional flame, are sold as souvenirs and are widely used to decorate festivals and other events. "Akachochin" (red lanterns) hang outside Japanese "izakaya" taverns as beacons drawing in thirsty and hungry customers.

"I want to bring in a new style of chochin while preserving and promoting traditions," Rudge told Kyodo News in a recent interview.

At the workshop he runs, Rudge works surrounded by many pre-painted white lan-



Artisans make "chochin" paper lanterns around the early Showa period, in Mito, Ibaraki Prefecture. **PHOTO: SUZUKI MOHEI SHOTEN/KYODO**

terns. He carefully bends bamboo strips into hoops with his well-practiced hands to construct the frames on which the Japanese paper is affixed. A subtle amount of force must be applied, depending on how challenging the bamboo is to work.

"It is difficult to deal with

natural materials, but I find it fun to work on each piece one by one," he said.

Originally from the eastern region of France, Rudge married his Japanese wife, Satoko, whom he met on a trip, and moved to her hometown in Naka, Ibaraki Prefecture, in 2005.

Suifu chochin manufacturing is said to have spread during the Edo period as a side job for low-ranking samurai who were living in poverty and began to flourish when it became an industry backed by the Mito domain, the governing body at that time. — Kyodo

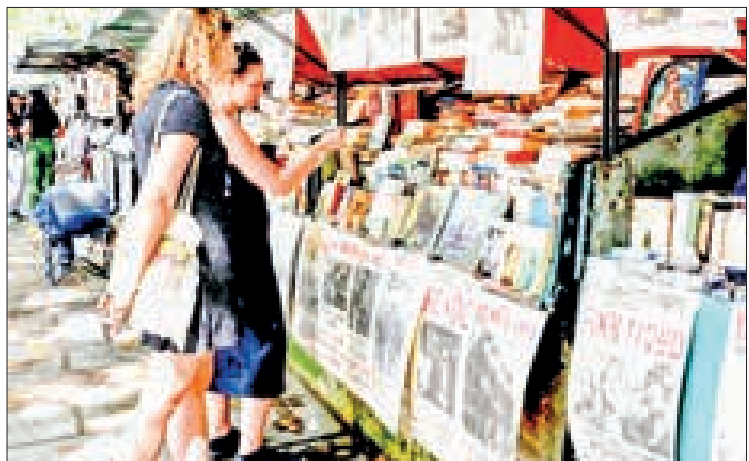
Paris booksellers flay call to remove them for Olympics

PARIS booksellers, who have operated from little dark green kiosks on the banks of the Seine for some 150 years, are incensed by plans to remove them for the opening ceremony of the 2024 Olympics.

In a test run on Friday, four of the stands were lifted by a crane three metres above the ground — drawing consternation and anger from a small group of booksellers gathered nearby.

"It's like a tooth extraction!" Michel Bouetard, general secretary of the Cultural Association of Booksellers of Paris, told AFP.

"All this for a four-hour ceremony! The Olympic Games have achieved what the wars (World Wars I and II) have not been able to do — to make us disappear," he fumed. — AFP



The stands have been operating on the Seine for around 150 years. **PHOTO: AFP**

Nicaraguan Sheynnis Palacios wins crown at Miss Universe 2023

Sheynnis Palacios won Miss Universe 2023 in El Salvador, the first victory for Nicaragua, with Thailand's Anntonia Porsild and Australia's Moraya Wilson placing second and third.

NICARAGUA'S Sheynnis Palacios was crowned Miss Universe 2023 on Saturday at the 72nd edition of the pageant, held this year in El Salvador.

Palacios, 23, received the crown and sash from her predecessor, R'Bonney Gabriel from the United States. This is the first time a contestant from Nicaragua has won the contest, with Thailand's Anntonia Porsild and Australia's Moraya Wilson rounding out the top three.

Palacios, who said she considers humility and gratitude for little things as her main qualities, won among 84 contestants who participated during a week of competitions



The newly crowned Miss Universe 2023, Sheynnis Palacios from Nicaragua, waves after winning the 72th edition of the pageant. **PHOTO: MARVIN RECINOS/AFP**

that included posing in swimsuits, evening gowns and traditional dresses. In her final answer to the jury, Palacios

emphasized the importance of equal pay regardless of gender so that women can "work in any area." — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Under fire, undermanned: Israel's wartime economy soldiers on

In times of conflict, Rav-Bariach, a company specializing in security products like heavy-duty locks and filtration systems, experiences high demand due to the continuous threat of Hamas rockets and the need for protective measures in Israel.

WHEN rocket sirens echo on the factory floor of Rav-Bariach Industries, Israel's biggest maker of security doors, workers rush to take refuge in bomb shelters fitted with their own kit.

As the wailing subsides, they get back to the production line, making more blast-proof safe room hatches as Israel's econ-



Rav-Bariach Industries, Israel's largest security door maker, operates in Ashkelon, near the Gaza Strip. **PHOTO: AFP**

omy adapts to the uneasy rhythm of life in wartime.

"This is part of our reality," said CEO Idan Zu-Aretz in Ash-

kelon, 10 kilometres (six miles) from the Gaza Strip where combat rages between Israel and Hamas.

Since war broke out, barrages of Hamas rockets — and the response of Israel's "Iron Dome" anti-missile system — punctuate

the working day at Rav-Bariach, which produces heavy-duty locks and filtration systems, as well as security doors.

"The demand for those products is skyrocketing," 51-year-old Zu-Aretz told AFP.

But he wants the operation in Gaza to eliminate the threat. "This reality will change," he said. "It must change. There's no other way."

Situation is tough

On October 7, Hamas militants surged over the militarised border from Gaza into Israel, killing some 1,200 people — mostly civilians — according to Israeli officials. Three days after the attack, the worst since Israel was founded in 1948, a missile crashed through the roof of Rav-Bariach's factory. No one was hurt. — AFP

EU needs bold actions to advance capital markets union, says ECB president

EUROPEAN Central Bank (ECB) President Christine Lagarde on Friday called for bold actions to advance the capital markets union (CMU) in the European Union (EU).

In a speech at the European Banking Congress in Frankfurt, she said the CMU is essential for raising the money needed to respond to the challenges presented by deglobalization, ageing of the population and climate change. Having a stronger securities and markets authority would be a step in the right di-

rection, she said.

"Addressing all these challenges at the same time will require a generational effort — and massive investment is needed in a short space of time," Lagarde said, adding that the EU was "at a critical juncture."

Lagarde urged all stakeholders to show "unwavering determination" toward the CMU.

"So, what we need today is for all parties to rally around this project, recognizing that the future prosperity of Europe depends on it," she said. — Xinhua

Second Global Digital Trade Expo to take place in east China

With extensive preparations, the expo has garnered participation from 68 international organizations, foreign business associations, and over 800 enterprises for the offline exhibition.

THE second Global Digital Trade Expo will take place in Hangzhou, the capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, from 23 to 27 November.

The expo is well-designed and fully prepared, said He Yadong, spokesperson of the Ministry of Commerce, at a press conference on Thursday.

Sixty-eight international organizations and foreign business associations have confirmed their attendance, and over 800 enterprises will participate in the offline exhibition, said He.

He said the exhibition area of the expo will be around 100,000 square metres, while about 15,000 professional purchasers have registered to attend the event.

Over 100 activities will be held during the expo, and over 100 cutting-edge products and

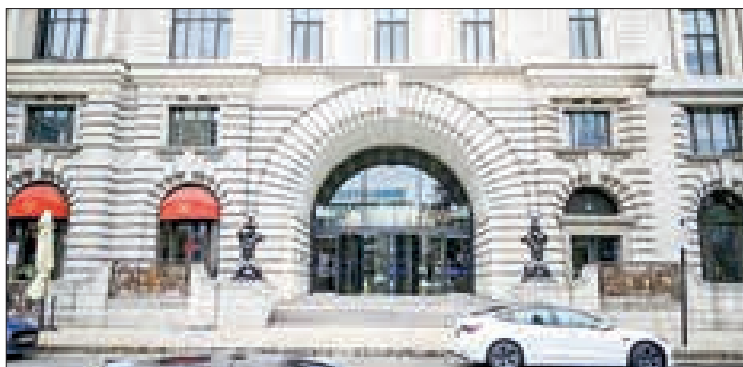


This photo taken on 12 December 2022 shows an interior view of a smart driving cab of a car during the first Global Digital Trade Expo in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province. **PHOTO: XU YU/ XINHUA/FILE**

services in areas of digital trade will make their debut.

At the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, China announced the launch of the Global Digital

Trade Expo annually. The first Global Digital Trade Expo was held in Hangzhou last year, with over 5 billion US dollars of tentative deals reached. — Xinhua



The Alphabeta Building, where the offices of Silicon Valley Bank UK (SVB) are based, is pictured in London on 12 March 2023. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ AFP**

Booming instant retail fast-tracks consumption evolution

China, despite not having the most convenience stores per capita, offers the most convenient 24/7 shopping experience through Meituan's instant retail services. Meituan's flash shopping business, partnered with 4,600 large chain retailers and 370,000 stores, plays a significant role in this convenience.



Staff members sort and pack the ordered groceries at the outlet division of Meituan Maicai in east China's Shanghai, 12 April 2022. **PHOTO: JIN LIWANG/XINHUA**

HOW many items would one need to pack for a week-long holiday? The answer for a

growing number of young Chinese travelers is nothing but a cellphone.

Following an order placed on one of many online shopping platforms like Meituan by

using a cellphone, the likes of a toothbrush, medicine, beer, instant noodles and other daily-use items can be delivered to the consumer in about half an hour, making up part of the scope of a popular shopping model known as instant retail or on-demand retail.

"China might not be the country with the most convenience stores in per capita terms, but it's able to offer the most convenient around-the-clock shopping experience for many thanks to instant retail services," said Xiao Kun, vice president of Meituan and head of the e-commerce giant's flash shopping business, which has partnered with over 4,600 large chain retailers and 370,000 stores to offer related services.

Consisting of online ordering, offline distribution

and speedy delivery, instant retail has been developing fast across China as digital-savvy consumers become inclined to trade money for time due to their need for speed.

"Instant retail is an evolutionary version of online shopping that has not only met consumers' demands, but also created new demands," said Pei Liang, head of the China Chain-Store & Franchise Association. "It's the iconic model of the fourth retail revolution."

This emerging retail business has maintained an average annual growth rate of more than 50 per cent in recent years, with its market size topping 504 billion yuan (about 70.3 billion US dollars) in 2022, according to a report by the Ministry of Commerce (MOC). — Xinhua

Austrian property tycoon's troubles rattle investors

THE Austrian property group that co-owns New York's iconic Chrysler building has warned of an imminent "restructuring" that has cast a spotlight on several precarious projects — and the wealthy tycoon behind the company.

Rene Benko, one of Austria's richest people, with a net worth of \$6 billion according to Forbes, has grown his Signa group into a real estate giant since founding it in 2000. But as the sector is hit by higher borrowing costs and surging material prices, a growing number of developers are filing for bankruptcy. Several Signa projects, including the construction of a landmark high-rise in Germany, have ground to a halt, making investors jittery about their money.

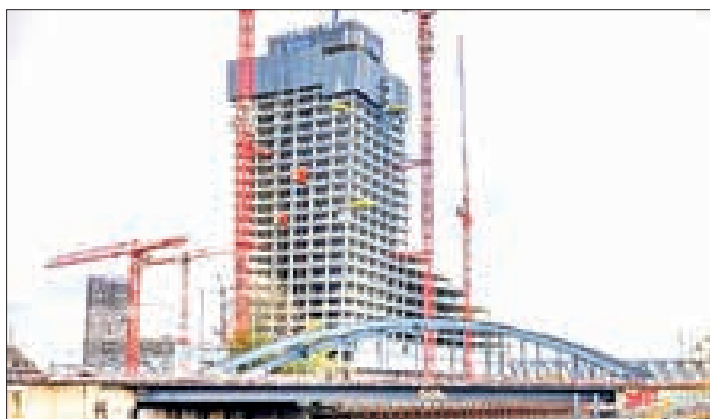
Confirming its troubles, Signa announced last week that Benko was stepping down from its advisory board as the group prepares a "plan for essential

restructuring steps" by the end of November.

"Signa symbolises the real estate boom of recent years, in which cheap money was readily distributed for every project, no matter how daring," the Austrian daily Die Presse wrote in an editorial this month. "A perfect environment for Benko, who took out dizzying amounts of loans without shame. Sustainability didn't play a role," it said.

Born in 1977 in Innsbruck,

Benko founded Signa after dropping out of school, initially transforming a department store into a modern shopping center. Signa, under Benko's leadership, expanded its portfolio to include significant acquisitions like the Chrysler Building and Berlin's KaDeWe shopping gallery. The company diversified into media and other sectors, once using slogans like "It was never so boring to get rich" to attract investors. — AFP



Construction of Signa's Elbtower in Hamburg was suspended in October. **PHOTO: AXEL HEIMKEN/AFP**



Dancers perform during a cultural dance show to promote tourism in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 25 March 2022. **PHOTO: AJITH PERERA/XINHUA**

74,664 tourists arrive in Sri Lanka in 1-15 Nov

ALTOGETHER 74,664 foreign tourists arrived in Sri Lanka in the first 15 days of November, according to the latest statistics released by the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA).

According to SLTDA data, this is the highest number of tourist arrivals recorded within the first two weeks of any month of 2023.

The previous highest arrivals in the first 15 days were in March 2023, with 60,882 international visitors.

The SLTDA has forecast that 204,114 tourists will arrive in November as peak tourist season starts.

The total number of tourist arrivals from 1 January to 15 November is 1,200,119, with an income of 1.59 billion US dollars having been generated, official data shows. Sri Lanka's tourism industry is aiming to attract two million visitors in 2023. — Xinhua

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Iceland PM says no country more prepared for volcano threat

Iceland's Prime Minister asserts the country's exceptional preparedness for natural disasters, especially volcanoes. The evacuation of Grindavik's 4,000 residents on 11 November was prompted by seismic activity signaling a potential volcanic eruption southwest of Reykjavik.

NO other country than Iceland is better prepared for volcanoes and other natural disasters, its prime minister said Saturday, as authorities brace for a potential lava eruption southwest of the capital Reykjavik.

The roughly 4,000 residents of Grindavik, a fishing port around 40 kilometres (25 miles) from the capital, were evacuated on 11 November after magma shifting under the Earth's crust caused hundreds of earthquakes — a warning of a likely volcanic eruption.

Thousands of smaller tremors have since shaken the area along the Reykjanes peninsula, with several homes and other structures suffering severe damage.

"No country is better prepared for natural disasters than Iceland," Prime Minister Katrin Jakobsdottir said at a press conference.

"We have long experience in dealing with volcanic eruptions. We know that it's not necessarily a sound decision to build for example defence mechanisms when you have such a great uncertainty where an eruption can come up," she said.

The Reykjanes peninsula had not experienced an eruption for eight centuries until 2021.

Since then, three eruptions have struck — all in remote uninhabited areas — and volcanologists say this could be the start of a new era of activity in the region. — AFP



Fears of a volcanic eruption in Iceland remain amid thousands of earthquakes reported in the Grindavik area. **PHOTO: VEGAGERDIN/FACEBOOK**

First French ski resorts open, but only at high altitude

Despite recent storms, some high-altitude French ski resorts, like Tignes and Val Thorens, opened early. Bessans' cross-country trails started on 4 November, and Les Saisies opened a short loop with stored snow from last winter.

A few French high-altitude ski resorts opened ahead of schedule Saturday, just days after storms in the northern Alps wiped out some early snows.

Tignes and Val Thorens, which have many runs above 2,000 metres, were the first downhill resorts to open. Cross country trails opened in Bessans on 4 November while Les Saisies did the same Saturday, but just for a short loop using snow stored since last winter.

"It is the moment to have fun," said Vincent Lecluyse as he shimmied down a run at Val Thorens.

He had come with two friends from the South of France because "there's not yet much of a crowd and the chalets are cheaper" than in high season.

Other resorts will have to



Many resorts will have to wait after mild temperatures and heavy rains hit the Northern Alps. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

wait. Mild temperatures and heavy rains hit the Northern Alps earlier this week, washing out much of the snow that had fallen in previous weeks.

"It was important to reassure our clients and tell them that we have snow and that they can come," said Jerome Grellet, director of Val Thorens.

Changeable conditions

After the recent storms, "there is no more snow below 1,500 and 1,700 metres altitude and there has been a decline between 1,500 and 2,500 metres," said Gilles Brunot, director of the Chamonix office of Meteo France, the national weather service. — AFP

Israel again strikes deep into Lebanese territory

ISRAEL on Saturday struck an aluminium factory deep in Lebanese territory, state media in Lebanon said, a week after its furthest strike since border skirmishes began last month.

"An enemy (Israeli) drone fired two missiles at an aluminium factory on the road between Toul and Kfour, setting it on fire," Lebanon's official National News Agency (NNA) said, without specifying whether there were casualties.

But Kfour mayor Khodr Saad told AFP two wounded civilians were transported to a hospital in the village.

The factory is about 15 kilometres (nine miles) from the Israeli frontier.

Weeks of deadly skirmishes between Israel and armed factions in Lebanon, mainly Hezbollah, have largely been limited to border areas since the Israel-Hamas war began on 7 October.

NNA said it was the first strike in the Nabatiyeh region of Lebanon's south since the 2006 war between Israel and the Iran-backed Hezbollah movement.

It also reported Israeli artillery strikes and air raids against several areas in Lebanon's south. — AFP



A picture taken from Lebanese town of Marjeyoun shows smoke billowing in the contested border area of Shebaa Farms on 14 October 2023, during a cross-border exchange between Lebanon and Israel. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

SPORTS

Djokovic eyes ATP Finals record after last-four demolition of Alcaraz

NOVAK Djokovic closed in on a record-breaking seventh ATP Finals title on Saturday after sweeping past Carlos Alcaraz 6-3, 6-2 in a dominating semi-final display he hailed as his best of the tournament.

World number one Djokovic will face home favourite Jannik Sinner on Sunday in the final in Turin, as the 36-year-old attempts to cap an age-defying year with yet another major triumph.

“The best match of the tournament for me, without a doubt. It came at right time really, after spending a lot of hours on the court in the first three matches,” said Djokovic.



Novak Djokovic is hunting a record breaking seventh ATP Finals title. **PHOTO: AFP**

“Tonight, from the very beginning, I felt the ball well. I approached the match with the right attitude, the right mentality.” The Serb came into the Finals at the end of a year which has brought three Grand Slams, taking his total to an all-time best of 24, and a 40th Masters 1000 title.

Now only Sinner stands between Djokovic and victory, which would take him past his old foe and retired great Roger Federer for season-ending tournament titles. Sunday’s final promises to be a tough proposition for Djokovic as he lost to Sinner in the group stage and will have to deal with a partisan Italian crowd that, unusually for him, won’t be on his side.

“He’s been playing fantastic tennis, arguably the best tennis of his life. On this stage, against top 10 players,” added Djokovic. — AFP



WC Qualifiers: Myanmar to take on North Korea on 21 November

Myanmar national football squad is seen posing for a group training. **PHOTO: MFF**

MYANMAR will face North Korea at home stadium (Thuwunna) in Yangon on 21 November as a second round qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup. The North Korean team arrived in Yangon on 18 November and is taking their training ahead of the qualifiers.

The North Korean team, which will play against team Myanmar, lost to the Syrian team in the first match of the group by 0-1.

In turn, Myanmar faced 0-5 loss to Japan in the previous

group match for the qualifiers.

“The game we will play against North Korea will be completely different from the game our team played against team Japan. We will face our opponent with a different approach. We will play in a different style, not in a defensive style like the game against the Japanese team. We will try to get points from North Korea. This is our hope,” said Myanmar head coach Michael Feichtenbeiner.

The Myanmar vs North Ko-

rea match will begin at 4:00 pm Myanmar Standard Time and tickets are priced as K5,000 for grand stand and K2,000 for ordinary stand, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

Fans can grab the tickets at the Myanmar Football Federation headquarters in Yangon between 10 am to 4 pm on 20 October, between 10 am to 2 pm on 21 November. The grand stand tickets can also be purchased at Gate-2 of the Thuwunna Stadium and ordinary stand tickets

at Gate-8 of the stadium starting from 2 pm on 21 November, as stated by the MFF.

The press conference for North Korea team will begin at Thuwunna Stadium at 3:45 pm on 20 November while team Myanmar’s press conference will start at 5 pm on the same day. Photography permission for both of the press conferences has been allowed as 15 minutes, as stated by the Myanmar Football Federation. — Ko Nyi Lay, Htun Htun/KZL

France smash records in 14-0 win, Dutch, Swiss and Romania qualify for Euro 2024

Kylian Mbappe scored a hat-trick in France’s 14-0 victory over 10-man Gibraltar, contributing to a record-breaking win.

KYLIAN Mbappe scored a hat-trick in France’s record-breaking 14-0 thrashing of 10-man Gibraltar

as the Netherlands, Switzerland and Romania booked their places at Euro 2024 on Saturday.

Les Bleus set a new record margin of victory in European qualifying and a national record



France’s forward Kylian Mbappe kicks and scores a penalty during the UEFA EURO 2024 Group B qualifying football match against Gibraltar at the Allianz Riviera stadium in Nice, southeastern France, on 18 November 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

in Nice. Ethan Santos’ own goal and Marcus Thuram had already opened the floodgates before 17-year-old Warren Zaire-Emery scored. That was Zaire-Emery’s last contribution as the PSG midfielder was forced off with an ankle injury but a red card for Santos after just 18 minutes allowed the World Cup finalists to run amok. Mbappe’s penalty made it 4-0 and Jonathan Clauss, Kingsley Coman and Youssouf Fofana all scored before half-time.

Adrien Rabiot, Coman again and Ousmane Dembele kept the score ticking over before Mbappe struck twice to seal his hat-trick in style. The France captain lobbed Dayle Coleing from just inside the Gibraltar half to register his 300th career goal aged just 24. Olivier Giroud then came off the bench to grab the final two goals and ensure the history books were re-written. — AFP

Iceland PM says no country more prepared for volcano threat

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WORLD

HEAT INDEX
AS HIGH AS 59 °C

Swift postpones Rio show due to extreme heat after fan death

AMERICAN superstar Taylor Swift on Saturday postponed a show in Rio de Janeiro due to extreme heat, after a fan died at the singer's concert the previous night.

Saturday's postponement came after the heat index in the city had risen to as high as 59 degrees Celsius (138 Fahrenheit) Friday, when a 23-year-old fan in the crowd of 60,000 died during the first "Eras Tour" show in Brazil.

"I'm writing this from my dressing room in the stadium," Swift posted on Instagram Saturday. "The decision has been made to postpone tonight's show due to extreme temperatures in Rio."

"The safety and well-being of my fans, fellow performers and crew has to and always will come first," she added.

The concert has been moved to Monday. Swift could be seen in videos posted to social media from Friday trying to help fans by dispatching aides to pass out water bottles and even throwing one to the audience herself.

"It's with a shattered heart that I say we lost a fan earlier tonight," Swift said in a post on Instagram to her millions of followers earlier Saturday. "I can't even tell you how devastated I am by this."

The Rio Health Secretariat reported that Ana Benevides died Friday evening after suffering cardiorespiratory arrest in the Nilton Santos stadium during Swift's concert. — AFP



Liu Limin, president of China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE), addresses the opening ceremony of the Tongzhou Global Development Forum in Beijing, capital of China, 18 November 2023. **PHOTO: JU HUANZONG/XINHUA**

Experts pool wisdom to address global development challenges at forum

Uncertainty is a prominent feature of this era, Wu said, adding that finding opportunities for development is a challenge for the whole world.

THE development of the world must be achieved through the process of globalization, while de-globalization is not helpful, according to experts attending the Tongzhou Global Development Forum on Saturday in Beijing.

The two-day event, hosted by Renmin University of China (RUC) and co-organized by the People's Government of Tongzhou District, brought together more than 400 attendees from over 30 countries around the world.

Four parallel sessions featuring topics including Chinese modernization and the global governance system, and several academic dialogues were also held during the forum.

"To address the issue of global common development, I still believe that

economic globalization, investment facilitation and trade liberalization are fundamental approaches," said Wu Xiaoqi, dean of the National Finance Research Institute of RUC.

Uncertainty is a prominent feature of this era, Wu said, adding that finding opportunities for development is a challenge for the whole world.

Adrian Nastase, a former Romanian prime minister, noted the necessity of building international consensus to promote development and strengthen the objectives of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to create a favorable international environment.

It is also important to achieve a partnership or development in which

developed countries should pay their obligations and developing countries strengthen their cooperation, Nastase said.

Filip Vujanovic, former president of Montenegro, said that multilateralism does not have alternatives, and called for international cooperation to cope with the challenges to globalism that "exist and will exist in the future."

Speaking of the role of the China-proposed initiatives represented by the "Belt and Road" in addressing global development, Chen Wenling, chief economist with the China Center for International Economic Exchanges, said that these initiatives are solutions offered by China to the world, which is also a new type of global public good. — Xinhua

Starship explodes after reaching space

SPACEX'S Starship spacecraft triggered its automated termination system, according to the company's broadcast on Saturday.

SpaceX's Starship was forced to abort its launch before reaching orbit. It was expected to leave and reenter the Earth's atmosphere later this morning, before splashing down near the coast of Hawaii.

The spacecraft successfully separated from the Super Heavy Booster, which exploded several seconds after the hot-state separation. The booster was expected to touch down after separating in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Starship is the centerpiece of SpaceX's efforts to develop a fully reusable transportation system designed to carry humans to the Moon and on long-duration flights to Mars... and beyond. The system is designed for in-space refueling and the ability to land at destinations across the solar system, before returning to Earth.

Starship's first test flight took place in April and ended in failure when the rocket's two stages did not separate as planned. The rocket ended up disintegrating shortly after its automated termination system was activated, and crashed into the Gulf of Mexico. — SPUTNIK



SpaceX's huge Super Heavy-Starship sits on the launchpad at Starbase in Boca Chica, Texas on 17 November. **PHOTO: AFP**