

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Tazaungdine Festival draws above 1M visitors to Shan State (South)



A beautiful view of the Kalaw's Fire Tower Festival. Visitors mostly come to Taunggyi, Kalaw, Pindaya, and Inlay regions during the Tazaungdine Festival.

ACCORDING to U Htin Aung Nang, director of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Shan State), there were over one million travellers who visited the regions of Shan State (South) during the Tazaungdine Festival, making it the most visited festival in Shan State (South).

“Shan State is the most visited place

in our country. Visitors mostly come to Taunggyi, Kalaw, Pindaya, and Inlay regions during the Tazaungdine Festival. They especially enjoy the Taunggyi Tazaungdine Festival. Over 800,000 visitors came to the festival this year. Kalaw and Pindaya also welcomed the travellers. Among them, over 5,000 people are foreign visitors,” added the director.

Of over 400 hotels and motels in Shan State, 337 are currently operating, and the southern part of Shan State attracts travellers throughout the year. Kalaw is developing as a tourist town, and introductory Chinese and Russian language courses are offered to hotel staff to provide customer service without language barriers. — ASH/TRKM

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DPM MoFA Union Minister attends 8th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Beijing, China

NATIONAL PAGE-6



Coffee plantations set to expand by nearly 28,000 acres in 2024

BUSINESS PAGE-7



Myanmar ships 270,000 MT of green grams to foreign markets in 8 months

Public-private collaboration ensures safe production of Myanmar food

ACCORDING to the Union Minister for Industry, public-private cooperation in producing Myanmar foodstuffs is necessary to ensure their quality and safety. At the 12th Annual Plenary Meeting of the Myanmar Food Processors and Exporters Association (MFPEA) held on 6 December, the Union minister recommended that food should be produced keeping in line with good manufacturing practices (GMP).

During the meeting, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) president also stated that as the food industry plays a vital role in the internal economic sector, respective ministries,

UMFCCI, and its affiliated associations will coordinate to provide necessary capital, technical know-how, and market opportunities to MSME entrepreneurs so that they can produce basic foodstuffs meeting international standards.

MFPEA was established in 2016 to improve the production of food manufacturers, enable them to produce safe and high-quality food products, instil confidence in consumers regarding local products, expand into foreign markets, and issue internationally recognized certificates with the support of international-level laboratories that can enhance the development of the quality of food products. — TWA/TKO



The photo shows systematically packed Myanmar's food products.

NATIONAL

Mount Mongshu's enchanting cloud sea captivates visitors as new destination



The photo shows a breathtaking view of the cloud sea on Mount Mongshu.

ATTRACTED by a new destination, many people flocked to Mount Mongshu to enjoy the breathtaking cloud sea on the mountain, said Ma Nan Hmwe Nwun, developer of this destination.

She initiated the journey to Mount Mongshu in 2021, and it became famous this year. The cloud Sea, within a 45-minute drive from Mongshu, is located on the ascent road of the mountain, just below the Ancestors' Climbing Path Pagoda (PNO). Since October, many visitors from Lashio, Kyaukme, Mandalay and Yangon regions have flocked to this destination.

"Every morning, about 50 to 60 people come to enjoy

the cloud sea. Some even stay overnight stays to see it. Most of them are young people," she said.

The best time to see the most beautiful scene of the cloud sea is from sunrise, around 6:00 am to around 10:00 am. There are designated photo spots for enthusiasts, and the entrance fee is K4,000.

"Clouds can be enjoyed from October to February. But the area is packed with clouds until January, and they decrease around February," she added.

Overnight visitors can stay at bungalows, which cost K40,000, K60,000 and K80,000 for double, triple and quadruple rooms, respectively. — MT/ZN

Myanmar's orchid diversity: Discovering new species, ensuring conservation

ACCORDING to the Forest Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Myanmar is home to tens of thousands of flower species, with 1,040 of these belonging to the orchid family.

Staff Officer U Talun Hmon Thang of Mount Popa National Park said, "We have conducted field studies with members of the Myanmar Orchid Lovers Association and botanists from different universities to discover new orchid species almost every year since 2003. We have achieved considerable success since 2015."

The department has dispatched on-site research teams to Phonkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary, Khakaborazi National Park in Kachin State, Mount Popa National Park in Mandalay Region, Natmataung National Park in Chin State, Alaungkaw Kathapha National Park in Sagaing Region, Taunggyi Bird Sanctuary in Shan State, sanctuaries, and adjacent areas in Taninthayi Region.

Records from 2003 indicated that only 810 orchid species are native to Myanmar. However, the

department and experts discovered and documented over 230 new species between 2015 and 2020. Presently, the department has identified 1,040 orchid species in 151 genera.

The department has had to conduct numerous on-site research efforts because the current data are based on botanical findings from five decades ago. These research efforts rely on fieldwork, written records, and flower models. Follow-up studies show that 76 species are endemic to Myanmar.

Moreover, the department has warned that most orchid species are endangered. — ASH/NT



Asho Chin to host new harvest festival in Bago Region on 30 Dec



Celebration of new harvest festival by Asho Chin nationality

THE new harvest festival will be celebrated in the Bago Region on 30 December, said

Salai Aye Paing, Chairman of the Asho Chin Literature and Culture Committee. The festival

will be held in HngettawU village, Thaphancho village-tract, Paukhaung Township, Bago Region.

The Chin traditional New Year festival has been held in every village and area of Asho Chin every year since time immemorial. It is usually celebrated at the time of the harvest.

The Asho Chin people hold the festival to express gratitude to their parents and grandparents. They believe the festival will allow them to enjoy good health, have a bountiful harvest, and raise many children and domestic animals. — ASH/TRKM



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UNCAC AT 20 : UNITING THE WORLD AGAINST CORRUPTION”

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DPM MoPF UM discusses price-stability mechanism

DEPUTY Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein, as Chairman of the Union Price Stability Committee, presided over the 2/2023 committee meeting yesterday.

In his speech, the Union minister stressed that the working committees for commodity price stability are organized, and the committee held discussions with the Union ministers of focal ministries to stabilize the basic foodstuffs such as rice and cooking oil.

It also needs to inspect whether the allocated palm oil reaches the designated areas or market, and the officials discuss meeting the targeted palm oil import volumes and issuing the licences to rice exporters after their inspection processes.

Moreover, the committee met with the officials of UMFC-

CI and its brother associations in discussions to enact the Rice Law and set fair reference prices for 2023 monsoon paddy procurement.

He added that the country launched the Myanmar Rice Online (MyRO) system starting 3 November to register grain storage facilities, exporter licences and rice mill registration through digital platforms. The registration for storing 5,000 baskets of paddy or over 50 tonnes of rice at the MyRO system will support the emergence of a stable rice market and rice prices. The FDA also supervises the production, export, and distribution of refined cooking oil.

He also stressed the need to focus on the high yield of monsoon paddy, monitor the basic foodstuff prices, and report to the committee to solve the problem.

— MNA/KTZH



The Union Price Stability Committee meeting 2/2023 in progress yesterday, presided over by Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning & Finance U Win Shein.

DPM MoFA Union Minister attends 8th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Beijing, China



Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe poses for the group documentary picture at the Meeting in Beijing, China, on 7 December 2023.

AT the official invitation of Mr Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, the Co-Chair of the Mekong-Lan-

cang Cooperation (MLC), Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe attended the 8th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting (8th MLC FMM) held on 7 Decem-

ber 2023 at the Diaoyutai State Guest House in Beijing, China.

The meeting was co-chaired by Mr Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, and U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister

for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and attended by Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Mr Sok Chenda Sophea, Member of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) and Chairman of the Committee for External Relations of the LPRP Mr Thongsavanh Phomvihane, Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Parnpree Bahiddha Nukara, and Vietnamese Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Bui Thanh Son.

The Ministers reviewed the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation's progress and discussed the way forward. Moreover, they also exchanged views on the future direction of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation.

After the 8th MLC Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Mr Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, and U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, held the

Joint Press Briefing on the 8th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting and its outcomes.

The Co-Chair of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation, Mr Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, hosted a Dinner in honour of the Heads of Delegation of the MLC member countries and delegations to the 8th MLC FMM.

The Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC) is the regional cooperation mechanism established in 2016 to strengthen the socio-economic development of the region further. Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam are members of the MLC. To date, the MLC Special Fund has provided funds for implementing 106 projects in Myanmar to support Myanmar's National Sustainable Development Strategy, with a total value of US\$31.6 million. — MNA

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Notification No 242/2023

10th Waning of Tazaungmone 1385 ME
7 December 2023

THE Chairman of the State Administration Council conferred honorary titles and honorary medals on following persons for their excellent performances in serving State defence and security duties —

Gallantry title of Tatmadaw Thura Title		
1. Colonel	Aung Zayar Win	Ministry of Defence
2. Colonel	Myo Ko Ko Win	Ministry of Defence
3. Lt-Col	Sai Kabar Soe	Ministry of Defence
4. Lt-Col	Thu Rein	Ministry of Defence
Gallantry medal of Tatmadaw Gallantry medal		
1. Lt-Col	Hlaing Myo Tun	Ministry of Defence
2. Lt-Col	Ye Oo	Ministry of Defence
3. Lt-Col	Win Han Oo	Ministry of Defence
4. Lt-Col	Ye Zaw Naing	Ministry of Defence
5. Major	Ye Kyaw Thu	Ministry of Defence
6. Major	Min Thu	Ministry of Defence
7. Major	Zaw Min Thu	Ministry of Defence
8. Major	Soe Hlaing Win Thant	Ministry of Defence
9. Major	Ye Htut Han	Ministry of Defence
10. Major	Kyaw Thura	Ministry of Defence
11. Major	Thet Wai Naing	Ministry of Defence
12. Major	Tun Lwin Oo	Ministry of Defence
13. Major	Aung Myat Soe	Ministry of Defence
14. Major	Aung Soe Win	Ministry of Defence
15. Major	Khin Maung Tun	Ministry of Defence
16. Major	Nay Win Tun	Ministry of Defence
17. Major	Min Soe Kyaw	Ministry of Defence
18. Major	Kyaw Zaw Hein	Ministry of Defence
19. Major	Phyo San Aung	Ministry of Defence
20. Major	Toe Aung	Ministry of Defence
21. Major	Soe Lin Phyo	Ministry of Defence
22. Major	Tin Ko Ko	Ministry of Defence
23. Major	Zeyar Myo	Ministry of Defence
24. Major	Tin Tun Lin	Ministry of Defence
25. Captain	Naing Lin Aung	Ministry of Defence
26. Captain	Tun Win	Ministry of Defence
27. Captain	Yan Lin Naing	Ministry of Defence
28. Captain	Phyo Myint Myat	Ministry of Defence
29. Captain	Wai Lin Soe	Ministry of Defence
30. Captain	Ye Lin Kyaw	Ministry of Defence
31. Captain	Wai Yan Soe	Ministry of Defence
32. Captain	Han Min Zaw	Ministry of Defence
33. Captain	Zaw Win Shein	Ministry of Defence
34. Lieutenant	Zar Ni Htet Maung	Ministry of Defence
35. 759277 Warrant Officer Class I	Myint Zaw	Ministry of Defence
28. La 247601 Police Cpl	Moe Myint	Myanmar Police Force
29. La 256199 Police Cpl	Phyo Min Oo	Myanmar Police Force
30. Ka 31019 Corporal	Aung Naing Win	Correctional Department
31. La 185674 Police Lance Cpl	Yin Min	Myanmar Police Force
32. La 223774 Police Lance Cpl	Sonny Phone Naing	Myanmar Police Force
33. La 234090 Police Lance Cpl	Wai Lwin Phyo	Myanmar Police Force
34. La 239659 Police Lance Cpl	Arkar Min	Myanmar Police Force
35. La 256601 Police Lance Cpl	Aung Soe Min	Myanmar Police Force
36. La 258721 Police Lance Cpl	Zin Min Thet	Myanmar Police Force
37. La 271284 Police Lance Cpl	Than Aye	Myanmar Police Force
38. Ka 30280 Lance Cpl	Myo Lwin	Correctional Department
39. Ka 32113 Lance Cpl	Zaw Zaw	Correctional Department
40. La 235539 Constable	Nyi Nyi Ko	Myanmar Police Force
41. La 239708 Constable	Thein Zaw Naing	Myanmar Police Force
42. La 241335 Constable	Hein Nay Htoo	Myanmar Police Force
43. La 242743 Constable	Tin Zaw Win	Myanmar Police Force
44. La 242774 Constable	Kyaw Ye Aung	Myanmar Police Force
45. La 243189 Constable	Bo Bo Aung	Myanmar Police Force
46. La 253187 Constable	Thet Tun Aung	Myanmar Police Force
47. La 254305 Constable	San Lai Htaung	Myanmar Police Force
48. La 267484 Constable	San Lin	Myanmar Police Force
49. La 267735 Constable	Thet Paing Thu	Myanmar Police Force
50. La 269437 Constable	Htein Lin Naing	Myanmar Police Force
51. La 274311 Constable	Nyine Chan Min	Myanmar Police Force
52. La 275535 Constable	Bo Bo Tun	Myanmar Police Force
53. La 276215 Constable	Tun Aung Kyaw	Myanmar Police Force
54. La 284010 Constable	Nyein Chan Maung	Myanmar Police Force
55. La 284479 Constable	Myo Hlaing Win	Myanmar Police Force
56. La 284508 Constable	Aung Phyo Thu	Myanmar Police Force
57. La 285060 Constable	Than Soe Htwe	Myanmar Police Force
58. La 285216 Constable	Zay Yar Shein	Myanmar Police Force
59. La 285595 Constable	Myo Thant Swe	Myanmar Police Force
60. La 285870 Constable	Kyaw Htwe	Myanmar Police Force
61. La 290502 Constable	Myo Win Tun	Myanmar Police Force
62. La 291826 Constable	Phoe Thagyan	Myanmar Police Force
63. La 291829 Constable	Ar Phu Sa	Myanmar Police Force
64. La 291845 Constable	Min Min Htwe	Myanmar Police Force
65. La 292061 Constable	Arkar Kyaw	Myanmar Police Force
66. Ka 35452 Private	Chit Htwe	Correctional Department
67. Ka 38126 Private	Zin Yaw Aung	Correctional Department
68. Ka 41844 Private	Soe Aik Khun	Correctional Department
69. Ka 41845 Private	Lein Tong Hnon	Correctional Department
70. Daw Khin Moe Swe		Ministry of Defence
71. Ma Khin Myint Myint Han		Ministry of Defence
72. Daw San Aye		Ministry of Defence
73. Ma May La Min		Ministry of Defence
74. Daw Hnin Oo May		Ministry of Defence
75. Daw Khin Mar Wai		Ministry of Defence
76. Daw Khin San Yee		Ministry of Defence
77. Daw Phyu Lin		Ministry of Defence
78. Daw Nilar Win		Ministry of Defence
79. Maung Zaw Htet Aung		Ministry of Defence
80. Daw Zin Mar Oo		Ministry of Defence
81. Daw Thay Thwe		Ministry of Defence
82. Daw Thay Li		Ministry of Defence
83. Daw Nan Ei Chaw		Ministry of Defence
84. Daw Ei Ei Khaing		Ministry of Defence
85. U Thein Win		Magway Region
86. U Phoe Nyein		Magway Region
87. U Kyaw Myint Oo		Magway Region
88. U Soe Soe		Magway Region
89. U Win Min Htwe		Magway Region
90. U Ye Thiha		Magway Region
91. U Htet Zaw		Magway Region
92. U Zin Ko Maung		Magway Region
93. U Sithu Aung		Shan State
94. U Li Shin Min (aka) Aik Shan		Shan State
95. U Kyan Win Su (aka) Tin Htet Aung		Shan State
96. U Kyan Pee Hlaing (aka) Myo Min Tun		Shan State
97. U Houg Shein (aka) Naing Tin Htet		Shan State
98. U Aik Pee		Shan State
99. U Tun Hla		Shan State
100. U Aik Nap		Shan State
101. U Mong Aung (aka) Pyae Phyo Aung		Shan State
102. U Hlaing Htet Wai Yan (aka) Wai Yan		Shan State
103. U Aung Min Htet (aka) Li Chin Khwe		Shan State
Gallantry medals of Myanmar Police Force		
Ye Thura Medal		
1. Police Lt-Col	Shwe Than	Myanmar Police Force
2. Police Major	Win Naing	Myanmar Police Force
3. Police Captain	Aung Swe	Myanmar Police Force
4. Police Inspector	Naung Naung Win	Myanmar Police Force
5. Police Sub-Inspector	Aung Myint Oo	Myanmar Police Force
Ye Bala Medal		
1. U Win Naing Lin	Director	Correctional Department
2. U Thet Myo Khing	Assistant Director	Correctional Department
3. Police Captain	Naing Win	Myanmar Police Force
4. Police Inspector	Win Hlaing	Myanmar Police Force
5. Police Inspector	Kyaw Thura	Myanmar Police Force
6. Police Inspector	Thet Zaw Latt	Myanmar Police Force
7. Police Inspector	Kyaw Nyi Nyi Htet	Myanmar Police Force
8. Police Inspector	Myo Min Aye	Myanmar Police Force
9. Police Sub-Inspector	Kyaw Zin Oo	Myanmar Police Force
10. Police Sub-Inspector	Myo Myint Tun	Myanmar Police Force
11. Police Sub-Inspector	Tin Win Hlaing	Myanmar Police Force
12. La 170589 Police Sergeant	Aung Kyaw Oo	Myanmar Police Force
13. La 188687 Police Sergeant	Aung Myo Thant	Myanmar Police Force
14. La 193676 Police Sergeant	Shein Ko Ko Kyaw	Myanmar Police Force
15. La 198103 Police Sergeant	Aung Myoh Lwin	Myanmar Police Force
16. La 204974 Police Sergeant	Zaw Win Naing	Myanmar Police Force
17. La 207582 Police Sergeant	Kyaw Kyaw Oo	Myanmar Police Force
18. La 231182 Police Sergeant	Naing Lin Myint	Myanmar Police Force
19. Ka 4194 Assistant Supervisor	Thant Zin	Correctional Department
20. Ka 4211 Assistant Supervisor	Lwin Paing Soe	Correctional Department
21. Ka 4666 Assistant Supervisor	Sao Wai Lwin	Correctional Department
22. La 131633 Police Cpl	Aung Toe Lwin	Myanmar Police Force
23. La 159414 Police Cpl	Han Win Aung	Myanmar Police Force
24. La 174818 Police Cpl	Thein Win	Myanmar Police Force
25. La 191269 Police Cpl	Than Zaw Htoo	Myanmar Police Force
26. La 231868 Police Cpl	Aung Than Oo	Myanmar Police Force
27. La 235438 Police Cpl	Tun Tun	Myanmar Police Force

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

NATIONAL

Myanmar's Foreign Minister meets Cambodian and Thai Foreign Ministers in Beijing

ON the sidelines of the 8th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Beijing, People's Republic of China, U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, met Mr Sok Chenda Sophea, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia on 7 December 2023 at the Diaoyutai State Guest House.

Both sides cordially exchanged views and discussed a wide range of topics, including strengthening the longstanding friendship, expanding mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation, particularly in tourism, religion and culture, promoting



The meeting between the Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe in progress on 7 December in Beijing, China.

people-to-people exchanges, and rendering mutual support in regional and international

arenas.

In addition, Myanmar's Foreign Minister met Mr Parn-

pre Bahiddha Nukara, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom

of Thailand on 7 December 2023 at China World Hotel in Beijing.

Both sides cordially exchanged views on the further enhancement of existing cordial relations and bilateral cooperation. Also, they discussed matters related to the maintenance of peace, stability and security along the border, promoting people-to-people contacts, the possibility of providing bilateral humanitarian assistance for the people along the border, repatriation of Thai nationals stranded in Myanmar's north-eastern border areas, promotion of legal rights and protection of Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand as well as closer collaboration in both regional and multilateral arenas including ASEAN. — MNA

103rd National Victory Day celebration convened in Nay Pyi Taw



The 103rd National Victory Day event in progress yesterday.

THE 103rd National Victory Day commemorative ceremony was held yesterday morning at the Ministry of Education meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win, deputy ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council members, permanent secretaries, departmental heads, district and township education officers, principals, teachers, students and officials attended the celebration.

Students from No 6 Basic Education High School first opened the celebration by sing-

ing "Zatiman" to honour the 103rd National Victory Day.

Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win then read the message sent to the 103rd National Victory Day by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Thadue Maha Thray Sithu Thadue Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing.

Students from No 11 Basic Education High School also sang the song "Myanmar School" to honour the 103rd National Victory Day and closed the event with group documentary photos being recorded. — MNA/TS

Passing-out Parade of 65th Intake of Defence Services Academy to be broadcast live

PASSING-OUT Parade of 65th Intake of the Defence Services Academy Cadet will be broadcast live from 7:30 am on 8 December on MWD HD Channel, MWD Variety HD Channel, MRTV HD Channel, and Skynet Up to Date Channel. — MNA

Counter-argument to false information

False information: over 50 military men on medical pensions to be sent to clashes areas

AYEYARWADDY Times Media released misinformation about Tatmadaw, saying that more than 50 military men on medical pensions from Hainggyikyun, Ayeyawady Region, will be sent to clashes areas.

The media said that military vehicles from the Panmawady Naval Region Command were sent to that area to bring the military men on 4 December.

Misinformation goes viral, and there is no evidence that any military vehicles have visited these villages and taken them away, stated by Tatmadaw. — MNA/KZL



Screenshot validates false news.

NATIONAL



A coffee farmer from Pinlaung Township, Shan State, is seen harvesting coffee.

Coffee plantations set to expand by nearly 28,000 acres in 2024

MEASURES are underway to expand coffee plantations by an additional 27,900 acres in 2024, as announced by State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

If the planned increase in coffee plantation acreage is successfully implemented, coffee production is expected to rise over the next five years. This expansion would result in a total of 300,000 acres of coffee plantation, leading to anticipated benefits within the next five

to seven years.

Despite having less arable land than Myanmar, Viet Nam currently outpaces Myanmar in coffee production. In light of this, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing encourages those with capital to invest in coffee production.

The Senior General also highlighted that plots of land have been allocated for farming, some of which remain uncultivated. He urged that the government should reclaim such

plots of land.

In Myanmar, coffee is cultivated in various regions, including Nawngkhio, Ywangan, and PyinOoLwin, as well as in Chin State and Bago Region. The lower part of Myanmar is also suitable for growing Robusta coffee.

Approximately half of Myanmar's coffee production is exported to countries such as the US, Europe, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, China, and Chinese Taipei. — TWA/ TMT

Myanmar classical vocalist-cum-actress passes away

RENOWNED Myanmar classical female vocalist and theatrical performer Nan Khin Aye died on 6 December at approximately 8 pm in her residence in Yankinaung Ward, Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region.

The 71-year-old artiste, a recipient of numerous gold medals, was the granddaughter of Alinka Kyawswa Nandawshay Saya Tin, daughter of theatrical performer Alinka Kyawswa Shwe Nan Tin and Daw Khin San Tin, elder sister of theatrical performer Nan Win and theatrical performer Nan Khin Hmwe, and the wife of acade-

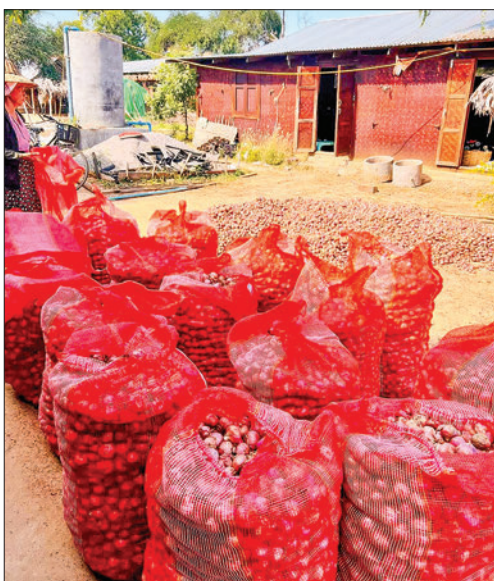
my award winner Nyein Min (U Myo Aung), a renowned writer, film director, and scriptwriter.

According to her sister, Nan Khin Hmwe, she had been unwell for an extended period and succumbed to a common illness. Nan Khin Aye, known for her classical songs, gained fame with her 1992 music album, 'A 100th Anniversary of Mandalay.' Her funeral is scheduled for today (8 December) at Yayhtwat cemetery, with the procession departing from her residence in Yankinaung Ward, Patheingyi Township, at 3 pm. — ASH/TMT



Myanmar classical vocalist-cum-actress Nan Khin Aye.

Fresh monsoon onion enters Bayintnaung Commodity Wholesale Centre



The photo depicts a dozen sacks of monsoon onions from the Myittha area.

ACCORDING to onion warehouses, newly harvested monsoon onions from the Myittha area started flowing into the Bayintnaung Commodity Wholesale Centre, Yangon Region, on 6 December.

Opening prices stood at K1,500-2,500 per viss, depending on sizes. The large size of the onion is barely seen among them.

There is a slight moisture content left in the monsoon onions. They need to be dried, U Hlaing Min, a trader, told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Old summer onions fetched K5,100 per viss on 2 December

2022. The Yangon market still sees an entry of old onions, with a supply of 150,000 visses of onions on 6 December. The price of old summer onions moved in the range between K3,900 and K4,200 per viss.

The old summer onion market will likely falter with an influx of monsoon onions in early December.

Large monsoon onions were priced at K4,700 per viss on 8 December 2022, yet the prevailing price stood only at K2,500 per viss. The figures showed a sharp drop compared to the corresponding period last year. — TWA/KK



The photo shows a drop box of the Myanma Post.

Myanma Post announces enquiry process for lost documents

INDIVIDUALS who have lost essential documents, such as CSCs, driving licences, and passbooks, can reportedly enquire about them at Myanma Post.

According to the announcement, Myanma Post retains certain vital documents discovered in the letterboxes, and owners can contact them via 067 3420630 and 067 3420888. — TWA/MKKS

Myanmar ships 270,000 MT of green grams to foreign markets in 8 months

MYANMAR exported around 270,000 tonnes of green grams to foreign markets in the past eight months of the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar aims to export 600,000 tonnes of green grams to external markets this FY, with 150,000 tonnes in each batch, the Ministry of Commerce has announced.

The green gram is exported to China, India, the Netherlands, Ireland, England and Germany by sea and border posts.

The prevailing price of green grams from the central Myanmar region is K1.53 million per tonne.

There is a wide range of foreign markets for Myanmar's green grams. More than 8,000 tonnes of



Myanmar aims to export 600,000 tonnes of green grams to external markets this FY, with 150,000 tonnes in each batch.

green grams are sent to the European Union member countries. This year, ten companies have proposed green gram export.

The Ministry of Agriculture,

Livestock and Irrigation and the Ministry of Commerce have agreed to export green grams to European countries starting from 2015. — NN/EM

MoALI reports import of over 6,400 vehicles over past seven months

THE Agribusiness and Trade Division under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation stated that Myanmar brought in more than 6,400 vehicles, including 1,400 private vehicles, over the past seven months in the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April.

The ministry's report showed that 1,418 private vehicles worth US\$31.14 million, 54 buses worth \$1.04 million, 855 trucks worth \$13.07 million and 4,095 heavy machinery worth \$132.38 million were imported between 1 April and 3 November this FY.

Additionally, imports of auto parts were valued at \$35.12 million then. Therefore, vehicle and automobile imports swelled to \$215.75 million over the past seven months.

Myanmar imported 118 private vehicles (\$2.92 million), 117 buses (\$1.9 million), 525 trucks (\$6.37 million), 1,253 heavy machinery (\$67.33 million) and auto parts worth \$40.24 million in the corresponding period last FY, totaling \$118.76 million.

This FY, the import quantity is up by 4,400 vehicles compared to the year-ago period. The import value of auto parts was also up by \$96.99 million.

Under the 2023 vehicle import policy, 2019 will be the oldest model to be issued an import permit for public bus and commercial vehicles, and 2014, for the machinery and ambulances, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Except machinery, all vehicles for import must be left-hand drive under the 2023 vehicle import policy. — NN/EM

Dubai Gulfood 2024 welcomes Myanmar businesspersons' presence

GULFOOD 2024, which will occur on 19-23 February 2024 at the World Trade Centre in Dubai, the UAE, cordially invited Myanmar businesspersons from the food and beverage industry.

The five-day exhibition will wel-

come over 5,500 leading companies from 127 companies that are reaching potential trade agreements, developing innovations in F&B for sustainability, building networks with top brands, trying the culinary arts of internationally recognized chefs,

and finding the latest trends.

Interested participants can make online registration at visit.gulfood.com at a fee of 595 AED. According to the Trade Promotion Division, early bird registration is granted a 60 per cent discount. — NN/EM

Imported garlic, potato prices on downward trends

THE prices of Kyukok garlic and Chinese potato imported via the border dropped further on 6 December at Yangon's market after the peaks in October and November.

The price of Chinese potato hit a high of K4,200 per viss on 15 November, and over one and a half months later, the price plunged to K2,750 per viss. Kyukok garlic price peaked at K17,000 per viss on 3 November.

The Kyukok garlic price is K10,800 per viss, whereas local garlic from Aungban, Shan State, was K11,500-13,500 per viss.

Garlic cultivation commenced in Shan State, and the

new garlic will be likely to enter the market in February 2024.

New Kyukok garlic from the border usually flows into the market in May.

There is little chance for the garlic price to decline, Daw Mar Mar Win, a garlic seller, told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Kyukok garlic's price stood at only K3,300-3,500 per viss on 6 December, and Shan garlic was worth K2,800-3,900 per viss, which is approximately three times lower than the current prices. Meanwhile, onion and chilli pepper prices hit a record high in 2022. Yet, the current prices are still lower than that. — TWA/KK

Danyingon Wholesale Market's new buildings set to open in early 2024

AS reported by Myanmar Agro Exchange Public Co Ltd, more facilities are under construction at the Danyingon fruit, vegetable, and flower wholesale market in Insein Township, Yangon Region.

The phase-2 construction project of the New Danyingon Market will include Building 5 for dry goods and Building 7 for vegetables and flowers, which are projected to open in February and March of the coming year.

Every day, over 300 trucks transport goods from various parts of the country to the new Danyingon market. Currently, the market comprises four buildings where the trading of fruits, vegetables, groceries like potatoes and onions, and seasonal fruits

occurs. There are already more than 60 housing brokerages in the four completed and operational buildings of the phase-1 project.

The Danyingon fruit, vegetable, and flower wholesale market, built through a joint venture between Yangon City Development Committee's department for markets and warehouses and Myanmar Agro Exchange Public Co Ltd, covers 80 acres of land and was initially opened in 2018. It operates daily from 3 am to midnight. — TWA/ TMT

Images show market blocks 5 and 7 of the New Danyingon Market that are under construction imperatively in November.



OPINION

Shape an educational society: The transformative power of education

Education transcends the confines of classrooms, evolving into a dynamic process that involves assimilating knowledge from both the environment and society. It serves as the cornerstone for nurturing individuals, instilling in them a passion for learning and analytical thinking. Beyond the conventional notion of theoretical studies, education plays a pivotal role in elevating one's understanding of the environment, honing problem-solving skills, and fostering creativity.

The quest for knowledge extends beyond academic boundaries, encompassing a diverse array of subjects and arenas of learning, such as science, history, and fine arts. Both formal education and self-directed study empower individuals not only to apply their acquired knowledge but also to share their expertise with the broader community. Education, therefore, transcends the mere accumulation of facts, extending to vocational courses, technological skills, and the invaluable sharing of personal experiences.

A holistic education emphasizes the pivotal role of social and mental intelligence in one's life journey. It becomes a tool for cultivating empathy, nurturing meaningful relationships, and enriching the socioeconomic fabric. Critical thinking, rationality, and the development of personal abilities are integral aspects of education, contributing to the holistic growth of individuals. Individuals aspiring to greatness must dedicate themselves to the study of subjects that resonate with their passions. Collaboration becomes imperative, as sharing knowledge and experiences with others not only enriches individual understanding but also broadens the collective scope of expertise. This collaborative spirit is essential for fulfilling the inherent responsibility of addressing societal conflicts and individual problems, transcending the narrow self-interest. Endurance in the face of criticism and the ability to objectively analyze controversies and diverse incidents is a hallmark of an educated person. Such individuals contribute to the establishment of sound foundations for robust global relations. Recognizing that no one is inherently superior, self-reflection becomes crucial for acknowledging both strengths and shortcomings. Upholding ethical standards, both in actions and thoughts, is a duty that educated individuals owe to society.

Education, therefore, emerges as a transformative journey aimed at resolving life's complexities through knowledge and experiences. Those adept at problem-solving contribute not only to their personal growth but also to societal advancement and global development. To foster an education society, individuals must extend a helping hand to others, recognizing that collective progress hinges on the shared pursuit of knowledge and the collective elevation of human capabilities.

Education, therefore, emerges as a transformative journey aimed at resolving life's complexities through knowledge and experiences. Those adept at problem-solving contribute not only to their personal growth but also to societal advancement and global development. To foster an education society, individuals must extend a helping hand to others, recognizing that collective progress hinges on the shared pursuit of knowledge and the collective elevation of human capabilities.

THESE days, there is no end to study in different branches of specialization, even in one major. New fields of study are becoming as deep and wide day after day as man can afford. In such a climate of study, reading matter is still an essential task for academics. The more the study fields, the faster the reading rate just for a scholar must know his respective field inside out like a professor so that an average person cannot compete with him with his eyes closed. Here, nine suggestions on how to read faster than before are given as follows.

Focus on keywords

When reading, we should pay attention to keywords in the subject matter by underlining, highlighting, or memorizing by heart. The keyword of a sentence or passage may be a verb, noun, adjective, adverb, phrase, idiom, or collocation. For instance, in the sentence 'He is a cute boy', 'cute' is the keyword. Frequently written words in a passage might also be the keywords. But sometimes, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections can be focused on as keywords. Focusing on keywords makes the reading rate faster as well as a reader knows subject-related words in clusters and whether the writer has a comprehensive knowledge of the subject matter written by him at one sitting.

Avoid distractions

Hesitation to read, noise, pro-

crastinating, and postponement disturb the reading rate too much. It is humorous to say some are under the illusion that lazybones will have a bad name, but this is going to put them at their ease. Nonetheless, hesitancy over reading is likely to drive readers to arrive at the conclusion, 'No reading, no knowledge'. And intelligent readers tend to look for a reading space of peace and quiet, which allows them to pay great attention to reading material. It would be better if a reader does not listen to the radio or music while reading, except at audiobook time. Also, it takes our time to read, we know. We must, therefore, not play for or put off a regular reading time, only at least 15 minutes a day, so as to read more and more from this time onwards.

Pass over rereading passages

Generally speaking, if a passage is read over three times, it is certain that this passage is much more advanced than the literacy level of a reader. Of course, the reader has to choose and read subject matter that accords with his literacy skill or is a little more advanced than the level. In the main, there are the heading or the first sentence, the body or the middle sentences, and the concluding sentence or the last sentence in a passage. The topic sentence of a passage may be one of these three kinds of sentences and let a reader get the theme of the passage. Rereading a passage unconditionally and repeatedly is a sort of wasting

How To READ FASTER

Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

Improving reading speed is crucial in the current academic environment where the depth and breadth of knowledge are expanding rapidly.

time alone, actually.

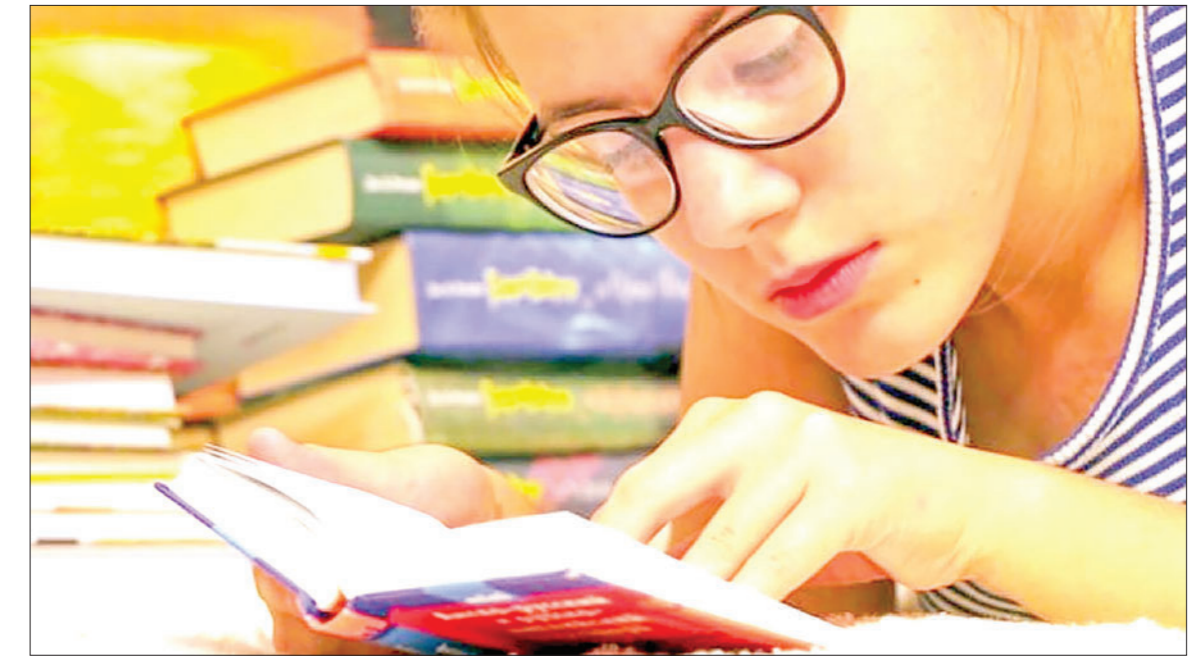
Expand our peripheral vision

Some subject matter cannot be described with words; it is expressed with figures, systematic diagrams, and coloured pictures. Thus, readers like to make themselves understood with the help of these figures, diagrams, and pictures sometimes. When they do not even understand the point of the subject matter very well, they will be able to comprehend that point only by looking at those reading aids. Besides, a reader may skip extra definitions, further explanations, additional examples, indexes, and thanks of a book

wherever necessary, apart from its contents, foreword, or preface. Often, a hypothesis is formulated in the introductory paragraph, and the key point is confirmed in the concluding paragraph of a reading passage.

Don't subvocalize

Though subvocalizing creates the expansion and extension of vocabulary in a second language, this usually turns out to be a great barrier to a reading process, as in 'The word 'unquestionable' contains four morphemes (un-quest-ion-able)'. Guessing ability and contextualized meaning should be used rather than subvocaliz-



Before diving into the actual reading, take a few minutes to glance through the headings, subheadings, and any bold or italicized text. This will give you a sense of the structure and main ideas in the material. **ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY**

ing and even looking up words in dictionaries as much as possible whenever necessary. It is believed that subvocalizing whilst reading a poem, like human anatomy, would completely destroy the beauty of the poem. Essential as the subvocalizing task is for linguists and researchers, so much time can be spent on that task, particularly by normal readers. Afterwards, subvocalization is responsible for slow reading for sure.

Set a timer

It is not always possible to read some pieces of writing in one sitting, such as novels and encyclopaedias. Accordingly, reading

a book partially, that is, by pages or chapters, may be necessary. On the other hand, some bookworms read three or four books a day and believe in themselves to speak out 45-75 per cent of the subject matter in each book off the cuff for certain. Even though a person is not able to read a few books per day, he should read at least one book a week, a month, or every six months at worst. A book reading challenge might as well be created between friends or whoever.

Brush up on our vocabulary

Memory and forgetting often go hand in hand, and this becomes apparent to adult readers. Effi-

cient reading involves recapping well-known vocabulary and rereading a great book of ours, too. A passage would possibly come across without any grammatical knowledge, but not without knowing theme-related vocabulary at all. Every reader ought to listen to daily news or read a newspaper so that he will be familiar with modern usages or trending words on a regular basis. After some books have been well read, their vocabulary usages offer words to have a good effect on other similar books' studies.

Pursue our next goal

Readers can do reading in

terms of writers, literary forms, and ages. Studying works of literature of the only writer contributes to taking notice of his writing style pretty well. The more, the better, therefore. Quite strangely, a friend of mine reads only the books of departed authors. Some people, especially future writers, read books according to literary forms they are interested in, for example, articles, essays, and short stories. In this way, almost all readers' concentration is on the same type of writing. Others are given to reading by age or year; the ancient age and the modern age categorized in general. By doing so, readers will see the evolution of a language through time and space, as well as the literary forms that have been developed or are still developing in diverse ages.

Practice

Having read enough and a lot helps reading faster in the future. After that, reading does not require much of the thinking process as regards written themes. As often as not, little reading can cause slower reading more than average, mispronounced reading, and stammering. Even if it is all but impossible to read the whole passage or book, scanning and skimming have existed as two common effective ways of faster reading. Those with reading faster will stand head and shoulders above the man in the street. For instance, students with quick reading answer the question item 'Read the passage'.

EU seeks agreement on world's first AI law

In 2021, the European Commission proposed an AI law to regulate systems based on their risk levels. Higher risks to citizens' rights or health entail greater system obligations.

THE European Union will seek to thrash out an agreement on sweeping rules to regulate artificial intelligence on Wednesday, following months of difficult negotiations in particular on how to monitor generative AI like ChatGPT.

The EU is racing to approve the world's first comprehensive AI law after the issue took on greater urgency when the ChatGPT bot burst onto the scene last year, highlighting AI's dizzying advances.

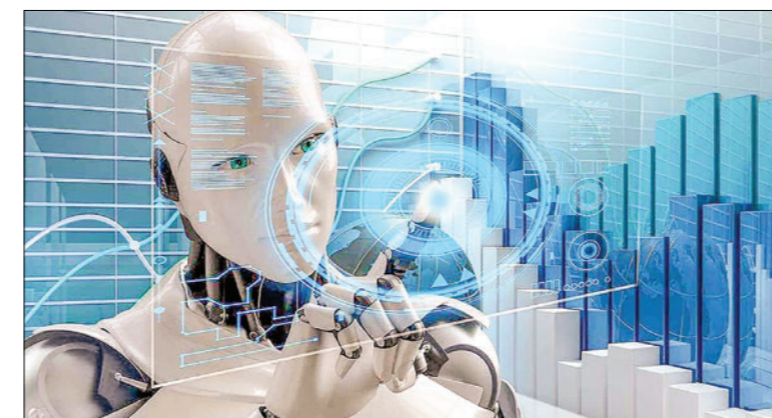
ChatGPT wowed with its abil-

ity to produce poems and essays within seconds.

AI proponents say the technology will benefit humanity, transforming everything from work to healthcare, but others worry about the risks it poses to society, fearing it could thrust the world into unprecedented chaos.

Brussels is bent on bringing big tech to heel with a powerful legal armoury to protect EU citizens' rights, especially those covering privacy and data protection.

The European Commission, the EU's executive arm, first



The main sticking point is over how to regulate so-called foundation models — designed to perform a variety of tasks — with France, Germany and Italy calling to exclude them. **ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY**

proposed an AI law in 2021 that would regulate systems based on the level of risk they posed. For example, the greater the risk to citizens' rights or health, the greater the systems' obligations.

Negotiations on the final legal text began in June, but a fierce debate in recent weeks over how to regulate general-purpose AI like ChatGPT and Google's Bard chatbot threatened talks at the last minute.

Some member states worry that too much regulation will stifle innovation and hurt the chances

of producing European AI giants to challenge those in the United States, including ChatGPT's creator OpenAI as well as tech titans like Google and Meta.

Negotiators from the European Parliament and EU member states will meet on Wednesday from 1400 GMT, with talks expected to last into the evening.

Although there is no real deadline, senior EU figures have repeatedly said the bloc must finalise the law before the end of 2023.

Chasing local champions

EU diplomats, industry sources and other EU officials have warned the talks could end without an agreement as stumbling blocks remain over key issues.

Others have suggested that even if there is a political agreement, several meetings will still be needed to hammer out the law's technical details.

And even if EU negotiators agree, the law would not come into force until 2026 at the earliest.

The main sticking point is over how to regulate so-called foundation models — designed to perform a variety of tasks — with France, Germany and Italy calling to exclude them.

"France, Italy and Germany don't want a regulation for these models," said German MEP Axel Voss, who is a member of the spe-

cial parliamentary committee on AI.

The parliament, however, believes it is "necessary... for transparency" to regulate such models, Voss said.

Late last month, the three biggest EU economies published a paper calling for an "innovation-friendly" approach for the law known as the AI Act.

Berlin, Paris and Rome do not want the law to include restrictive rules for foundation models, but instead say they should adhere to codes of conduct.

Many believe this change in view is motivated by their wish to avoid hindering the development of European champions — and perhaps to help companies such as France's Mistral AI and Germany's Aleph Alpha.

SOURCE: AFP

NATIONAL



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn (C) is pictured during his inspection tours in Kayin State.

MoI urges enhanced efforts to combat fake news

UNION Minister for Information and departmental officials of Hpa-an University and Education Degree College at Zweekabin Hall of Hpa-an Township yesterday.

Speaking at the event, the

Union minister said that the malicious media outlets spread false information, especially about government activities, to mislead the people.

Therefore, everyone should consider whether the spreading of news on social media is accurate or not.

He then highlighted the attacks of terrorists in some regions and states and the fighting launched by armed organizations in Shan State (North) for their interests that affect the locals and the image of the country.

He said that the country would maintain China-Myanmar bilateral relations and achieve mutual benefits despite the attempts of insurgents that would destroy the bilateral relations of the two nations.

Then, the state chief minister clarified the measures to tackle the false information and provide trustworthy information.

On the same morning, the Un-

ion minister inspected the kids' reading room, museum, public library, mobile library truck of Hpa-an District IPRD, and the Community Centre (Hpa-an) compound.

During the tour, the Union minister met the staff and stressed the need to promote the media industry as New Media and explore innovation. In contrast, other countries have initiated AI technologies for information technology services.

He also that he appreciated the efforts of the Kayin State government to construct a community centre as a supportive action of youth development. He advised offering mobile library services for the public and stimulating the public on media ways to fight against acts of terrorism.

Then, the Union minister inspected the MRTV retransmission station (Hpa-an) and provided cash assistance to the staff. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar joins 12th HLTF-ACV meeting

MYANMAR representatives attended the 12th High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community Post-2025 Vision Meeting at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 4 and 5 October.

Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Wah Wah Maung, also a leader of the high-level working group on developing the ASEAN Community 2025 Vision of Myanmar, put forward a presentation at the meeting.

U Zaw Zaw Soe, Deputy Director-General of ASEAN Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the officer in charge of the subject also attended the meeting as a support group.

The meeting discussed the 2045 ASEAN Community Vision Strategic Plans, extensive consultation and coordination with relevant ASEAN organizations, and the schedule and process to be done.

Deputy Minister Dr Wah Wah Maung said that in the development of the strategic plans of the 2045 ASEAN Community Vision, due to the development gap be-

tween the ASEAN member countries, narrowing the gap should continue to be a priority.

"More cooperation should be exerted due to gaps in economic, intellectual, organizational, and digital technology development between ASEAN member countries and people. According to the state of discussion and coordination between the relevant ministries and organizations in the country, Myanmar will fully cooperate in the strategic process as it is a responsible member of ASEAN," she said.

The 2045 ASEAN Community Vision, drawn up with the theme of "A vibrant, robust and innovative people-centred ASEAN", was finalized at the 11th HLTF meeting of the High-Level Working Group and approved by the 43rd ASEAN Summit.

The vision will continue to be implemented between 2025 and 2045. ASEAN Political. Security Community (APSC), the Economic Community (AEC), the Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) and the ASEAN Integrated Communication Coordinating Committee (ACCC). — MNA/KZL

Myanmar-India Foreign Office Consultations held in India

A Myanmar delegation led by U Lwin Oo, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, arrived back in Yangon on 7 December 2023 after attending the 20th round of Myanmar-India Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) in New Delhi, India, from 4 to 6 December 2023.

Deputy Minister U Lwin Oo and Mr Vinay Mohan Kwatra, Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, co-chaired the Foreign Office Consultations Meeting held on 6 December 2023 at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi.

Both sides cordially discussed a wide range of bilateral issues on the enhancement of bilateral relations and cooperation, boundary matters and border cooperation, security and defence cooperation, development of ongoing projects of India in Myanmar, trade and commerce cooperation, consular and cultural cooperation, capacity building in various



The Myanmar-India Foreign Office Consultations underway in India from 4 to 6 December 2023.

sectors and potential areas of future collaboration between the two countries.

The FOC meeting was also attended by U Moe Kyaw Aung, Myanmar Ambassador to India, Mr Vinay Kumar, Ambassador of India to Myanmar and responsible officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, the Myanmar Embassy in New Delhi and the Ministry of External Affairs of India.

Later, the deputy minister called on Dr S Jais-

hankar, External Affairs Minister of the Republic of India, at the Ministry of External Affairs of India. They cordially exchanged views on the promotion of long-standing friendly bilateral relations between Myanmar and India, collaboration for the maintenance of peace and stability, development of the border areas between the two countries, and expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation, including connectivity. — MNA

NATIONAL

Taunggyi Tazaungdine hot-air balloon Festival gains State-level intangible cultural heritage status

ACCORDING to U Kyaw Kyaw Aung, Director (Administration) of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, the Taunggyi Tazaungdine hot-air balloon festival in southern Shan State is now officially recognized as a national-level intangible cultural heritage.

The report notes that 63 decorated hot-air balloons were released during this year's festival, both day and night. This recognition elevates the celebration from its previous status as a regional-level intangible cultural

heritage to the national level.

Traditionally, festivals held in states/regions annually are considered regional-level intangible cultural heritages of the country, with some being included in the State-level list. The report also mentions that additional efforts will be made to nominate the Taunggyi Tazaungdine hot-air balloon festival as a World Cultural Heritage.

The Taunggyi Tazaungdine Festival typically begins in Taunggyi City on the day near the Tazaungmone Full Moon Day every year. — ASH/ TMT

PRC's Lijiang Publishing House to translate, print Ponnya Khin's novel



Writer Ponnya Khin (R).

MYANMAR'S female novelist and writer, Ponnya Khin, has announced that her novel, 'Time to Wait for Blooming Flowers', will be translated and published by Lijiang Publishing House from the People's Republic of China, with plans for global distribution.

It has been revealed that Ponnya Khin and Lijiang Publishing House have already signed an agreement.

"Lijiang Publishing House contacted me in 2022, expressing their intention to translate and publish my novel. After numerous discussions and negotiations over a year, we signed an agree-

ment on 6 December. Daw Nwet Kabya, the third secretary of the Chinese Embassy, represented Lijiang Publishing House in our discussions," she explained.

Lijiang Publishing House is a prominent publishing agency in mainland China providing books in both Chinese and foreign languages. In 2013, the publishing house earned recognition by being listed among the top 10 literature and art publishing houses in China and among the top 100 Chinese publishing houses with worldwide influence. — ASH/ TMT

Myanmar, China deliberate on transporting sacred Buddha Tooth Relic to Myanmar

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that Myanmar and China discussed the fifth conveyance of the sacred Buddha tooth relic from the People's Republic of China to Myanmar.

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe and Chinese Foreign Minister Mr Wang Yi held discussions on this matter during the 8th Mekong-Lancang Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Beijing on 6 December.

In their conversation, both officials agreed to extend an invitation for the Buddha tooth relic from China to be brought to Myanmar at a suitable time. This gesture aims to enhance mutual trust, understanding, and friendship between the two countries. Myanmar had previously conveyed the Buddha



Scenes of the conveyance of Buddha sacred tooth relic in the fourth invitation to Myanmar in 2011.

tooth relic from China on four occasions — in 1955, 1994, 1996, and 2011.

The relic was displayed at the Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill for eight months during its first sacred invite to Yangon. The second invitation was transferred to various locations for one and a

half months, including Yangon, Nyaunglebin, Toungoo, Pyinmana, Meiktila, and Mandalay. The third sacred invite involved transporting the relic to Yangon and Mandalay for nearly three months. The fourth sacred conveyance of the relic covered Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, and Mandalay. — ASH/ TMT

Special counters opened in Magway's hotels to showcase MSME products

DIRECTOR Daw Su Su Khaing of the Department of Small-Scale Industries in Magway Region said special counters were opened to sell MSME products at hotels and motels in Magway Region so visitors could purchase local MSME products.

The purpose of opening and selling MSME products at hotels and motels in Magway Region is to develop tourism in the region and attract tourists and local

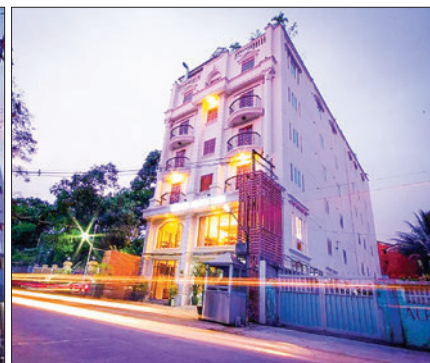
visitors.

"We are selling products of MSMEs registered with the Department of Small-Scale Industries at hotels such as Pale Shweyee Hotel, Kaung Kaung Hotel, Nang Htike Thu Hotel and My Riverview Hotel in Magway. There are 1,190 MSMEs registered in our Small-Scale Industries Department.

"MSMEs local products selling there are groundnut oil, sesame oil, peanut jam,

sesame jam, food products made of tamarind, cotton and coconut-based handicrafts," said Daw Su Su Khaing.

In Magway Region, a total of 57 hotels, motels and guesthouses are operating, and nearly 1.5 million tourists visited the destinations in Magway Region from January to October 2023. During October 2023, domestic and international tourist arrivals reached 0.87 million in Magway Region. — ASH/KZL



Hotels guesthouses are seen in Magway Region.

ECONOMY WORLD

China-Laos Railway paves way for socioeconomic development of Laos

The China-Laos Railway, launched on 3 December 2021, has transformed Laos into a land-linked hub in the Indo-China Peninsula, overcoming development barriers and enhancing livelihoods for the Lao people.

THE China-Laos Railway has bolstered its transport capacity and efficiency since it was launched two years ago, opening up opportunities for Laos' economic development, boosting tourism, and improving people's livelihoods in Laos. Since its operation on 3 December 2021, the China-Laos Railway has turned the land-locked country into a land-linked hub in the Indo-China Peninsula, helping Laos effectively overcome its development barriers and improving the Lao people's livelihoods.

The railway marks a monumental and historic milestone in developing modern infrastructure for Laos, Lao President



Lao staff members greet passengers taking the first cross-border passenger train from Kunming in southwest China's Yunnan Province to Lao capital Vientiane at the Boten Station of the China-Laos Railway in Luang Namtha, Laos, 13 April 2023. **PHOTO: KAIKEO SAIYASANE/XINHUA**

Thongloun Sisoulith told the launching ceremony, calling it "a proud moment and the dream of all ethnic groups of Laos". Marking the first anniversary of the operation of the railway last year, Lao Deputy Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone hailed the quality service for passenger and freight transportation of the cross-border railway and its contribution to the socioeconomic development of Laos.

Speaking at an event marking the second anniversary of the China-Laos Railway in Vientiane on Friday, Lao Minister of Public Works and Transport Ngampasong Muongmany appraised the strong performance

of the Laos-China Railway Co Ltd (LCRC) in terms of safety, natural disaster surveillance, passenger and goods transport, the training of Lao employees, and its social responsibility performance over the past two years. The railway has become an important route connecting Southeast Asia with China, Asia and Europe. It is a route of development and friendship that benefits the Lao and Chinese peoples, he added.

The railroad has greatly enhanced Laos' international strategic position, thus turning Laos into an important hub for transportation in the region. — Xinhua

UN slams COP28 'posturing' as fossil fuel debate sizzles

The UN negotiations hosted by the UAE are facing pressure as Europe's climate monitor predicts 2023 to be the hottest year in recorded history.

UN climate chief Simon Stiell on Wednesday accused nations of "posturing" at the COP28 talks in Dubai, raising the temperature on negotiators sparring over the thorny issue of fossil fuels.

Pressure is mounting near the end of the first week of the UN negotiations hosted by the oil-rich UAE, with Europe's climate monitor confirming that

2023 will be the hottest year in recorded history.

The European Union called for COP28 to "mark the beginning of the end" of planet-warming fossil fuels.

The latest draft of a global climate agreement is "probably" expected on Wednesday before it is finalized — in theory — on 12 December, according to two people familiar with the

negotiations, but a definitive timeline remains unclear.

The fate of oil, gas and coal — the main drivers of human-caused planet heating — has been the biggest sticking point on the agenda, and divisions around their future have dominated the conference.

"We have a starting text on the table, but it's a grab bag of ... wish lists and heavy on posturing," Stiell said.

"At the end of next week, we need COP to deliver a bullet train to speed up climate action. We currently have an old caboose chugging over rickety tracks", he told reporters.

Orderly and just

Battle lines have previously been drawn on whether to agree to "phase out" or "phase down" fossil fuels.

However the latest text includes a new phrase calling for an "orderly and just" phase-out. — AFP



Environmental activists stage a protest with a globe during a demonstration at the venue of the COP28 United Nations climate summit in Dubai on 6 December 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**



Members of the Mexican Navy and National Guard patrol the tourist beach area of Cancun on 18 March 2023. **PHOTO: ELIZABETH RUIZ/AFP**

US Treasury chief seeks to step up fentanyl fight in Mexico trip

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen is seeking to further the fight against fentanyl during a trip to Mexico this week, with planned meetings on Wednesday involving financial institution leaders and the central bank governor.

The synthetic opioid has caused tens of thousands of deaths in the United States, with US President Joe Biden and Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador pledging last month to work together to

tackle the crisis. "We're meeting with a number of the entities in Mexico that are providing us with information," Yellen told reporters at the start of her three-day visit, which ends on Thursday.

She noted that these entities have been "increasingly helpful" when it comes to tracing financial flows tied to the drug.

The United States will also be announcing further action Wednesday to crack down on fentanyl, she said. — AFP

China to grant zero-tariff treatment to 6 least-developed African countries

From 25 December, 98 per cent of taxable products from Angola, The Gambia, DR Congo, Madagascar, Mali, and Mauritania are tariff-exempt when entering China, as per the commission.

CHINA will provide zero-tariff treatment for six least-developed African countries, the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council said on Wednesday.

Starting from 25 December, 98 per cent of taxable products from Angola, The Gambia, the Demo-

cratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Mali and Mauritania will be exempt from tariffs when entering China, the commission revealed in a statement.

The move aims to embody the spirit of China-Africa friendship and cooperation, and facilitate a high-quality China-Africa

community with a shared future, the commission said.

In the next step, China will expand its zero-tariff treatment to all the least-developed countries with which it has established diplomatic relations, according to the commission. — Xinhua



This aerial photo taken on 29 November 2023 shows the Luoyu Port in Meizhou Bay of Putian City, southeast China's Fujian province. PHOTO: XINHUA

McDonald's eyes speedy ramp-up to 50,000 restaurants by 2027

McDonald's is now the largest fast-food chain globally, narrowly surpassing Starbucks and Subway.

MCDONALD'S announced an aggressive expansion roadmap Wednesday to reach 50,000 restaurants worldwide by 2027, in the fastest growth plan in brand history.

The fast-food behemoth, which had 40,275 restaurants at the end of 2022, will seek to effectively grow its network of sites by about one quarter.



McDonald's is planning to expand its global footprint by 25 per cent. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

McDonald's, which spread quickly in mid-century America, is already the biggest chain in the fast-food universe, slightly ahead of Starbucks and Subway, two other global brands. The company is planning about \$2.5 billion in capital expenditures in 2024 and will add \$300 million to \$500 million each year thereafter through 2027. — AFP

US October trade deficit widens further on decline in exports

THE US trade deficit continued to grow in October due to a fall in exports, according to government data published Wednesday.

The overall trade gap of the world's biggest economy rose by 5.1 per cent to \$64.3 billion, up from a revised \$61.2 billion in September, the Commerce Department said in a statement. October's widening trade deficit was the result of a \$2.6 billion decline in the value of US exports to

the world, while imports rose by \$500 million.

This was slightly below market expectations for the deficit to grow to \$64.4 billion, according to Briefing.com. Like much of the world, US consumers and businesses have been grappling with higher interest rates since the Covid-19 pandemic, as policymakers have looked to tackle inflation by tightening monetary policy. — AFP

<p>The Global New Light of Myanmar www.gnlm.com.mm</p> <p>သတင်းစာ မှာယူလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ် 09 454 237 515</p> <p>သတင်းစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နိုင်ငံတကာခံချိန်ခွဲ ပို့ဆောင်လိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ် 01 860 4530</p> <p>ကြော်ငြာခွင့်များနှင့် ကြော်ငြာခေ့ဂျင်စီများ ကြော်ငြာ ထည့်သွင်းလိုပါက ထိုက်ရိုက်ဆက်သွယ် ဆွေးနွေးနိုင်ပါတယ် 09 974 424 848</p>	<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V MSC ANDREA F VOY.NO. (SB347A)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MSC ANDREA F VOY.NO. (SB347A) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-12-2023 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p>Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A</p>	<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V HANSA HARBURG VOY.NO. (346W)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HANSA HARBURG VOY.NO. (346W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-12-2023 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p>Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD.</p>
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ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Türkiye's Erdogan in Athens in 'new chapter' bid



Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, left, meets Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly 20 September 2023. **PHOTO: GREEK PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE/AFP**

Turkish President Erdogan's visit to Athens on Thursday aims to establish a "new chapter" in the historically tense relationship between NATO allies.

TURKISH President Recep Tayyip Erdogan travels to Athens on Thursday in a keenly watched visit billed as an attempted "new chapter" between the NATO allies and historic rivals after years of tension.

In meetings with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and President Katerina Sakellaropoulou, the fiery Turkish leader is expected to discuss trade, regional issues

and the perennially thorny issue of migration.

In an interview with Greek daily Kathimerini a day before his five-hour visit on Thursday, Erdogan said he was seeking a "new chapter" in relations on the basis of "win-win" principles.

Ankara has served as a migration bulwark since a 2016 deal with the European Union, which Mitsotakis and fellow EU

leaders hope to update.

A retinue of diplomats accompanying Erdogan are also broaching with Greek counterparts the longstanding issue of Greek-Turkish territorial disputes in the Aegean Sea.

Erdogan has questioned century-old treaties that set out Aegean sovereignty, and Turkish and Greek warplanes regularly engage in mock dogfights in disputed airspace. — AFP

Fatah in freefall as Hamas and Israel wage war

FATAH, the largest Palestinian party, has seen its popularity plunge during the war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, from where the Islamists violently ousted rivals Fatah in 2007.

Fatah's chosen path of negotiations has not brought about the Palestinian state promised by the Oslo Accords of 1993, and Hamas — after choosing violence instead — has seen its popularity soar.

Fatah chief Mahmud Abbas has led the Palestinian Authority — which has partial

administrative control in the Israeli-occupied West Bank — since its creation in 1994.

But the PA is now weakened like never before, and Palestinian political divisions run deeper than ever since the Israel-Hamas war began on 7 October.

The old guard in the West Bank where Fatah holds sway wants calm to prevail so talks can take place — and so they do not jeopardize the positions and advantages they enjoy under the PA. — AFP



Palestinians in Ramallah, the Israeli-occupied West Bank, wave Fatah flags while awaiting the release of prisoners in exchange for Israeli hostages held by Hamas — but support for the Fatah party has plunged. **PHOTO: AFP**

World's 1st 4th-generation nuclear power plant goes into commercial operation in China

Over 500 companies participated in the nuclear power plant project, covering design, development, engineering, construction, and equipment manufacturing. The equipment localization rate exceeded 90 per cent.

THE world's first fourth-generation nuclear power plant, China's Shidaowan high temperature gas-cooled reactor (HTGR) nuclear power plant, has officially gone into commercial operation, according to the National Energy Administration and China Huaneng Group Wednesday.

The project, located in Shandong Province and with China owning fully independent intellectual property rights, is jointly developed by China Huaneng Group, Tsinghua University and China National Nuclear Corporation.

HTGR is an advanced type of reactor that features fourth-generation nuclear power technology, and a key development direction of nuclear power, said Zhang Zuoyi, chief designer of the major program of HTGR nuclear power station and dean of the nuclear energy and new energy technology institute of Tsinghua University.

With "safety" as a key characteristic, the reactor can



The first reactor pressure vessel of Shidaowan high temperature gas-cooled reactor nuclear power plant is hoisted in place on 20 March 2016. **PHOTO: MA YUEJUN/XINHUA**

maintain a safe state and steer away from a meltdown or leak of radioactive materials. This capability is maintained even in the event of a complete loss of cooling capacity, without any intervention actions, Zhang added.

More than 500 companies majoring in design and devel-

opment, engineering construction, equipment manufacturing, production and operation participated in the project. The localization rate of the equipment of the nuclear power plant reached more than 90 per cent, said Zhang Yanxu, a person in charge of the project. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Villa climb above Man City as Bailey rocks reeling champions

Guardiola's fourth-place team, without a win in four league games, trails leaders Arsenal by six points.

ASTON Villa dealt a major blow to Manchester City's Premier League title challenge as Leon Bailey clinched a 1-0 win against the reeling champions on Wednesday.

Bailey's deflected second-half strike at Villa Park moved Unai Emery's side above spluttering City into third place.

Pep Guardiola's fourth-

placed team have gone four league games without a win and sit six points behind leaders Arsenal.

After draws with Chelsea, Liverpool and Tottenham, the treble winners desperately needed to beat Villa to keep in touch with the Gunners.

Instead, they produced their worst performance of the damaging run and could easily have lost by more than one goal. City looked weary for long periods but with a trip to Saudi Arabia for the FIFA Club World Cup looming before the hectic Christmas schedule, there is little respite in sight.

Reacting to questions this week about City's blip, Guardiola boldly proclaimed his team will definitely retain the Premier League title. — AFP



Aston Villa's Leon Bailey celebrates after scoring against Manchester City. PHOTO: AFP

Klopp slams 'ignorant' TV presenter after kick-off comment

JURGEN Klopp blasted an "ignorant" television presenter for making a joke about Liverpool's next game after Wednesday's 2-0 win at Sheffield United being on a Saturday lunchtime.

Klopp was furious when Amazon Prime Video presenter Marcus Buckland mentioned to the Liverpool boss that his team

were next in action against Crystal Palace in the early kick-off on Saturday.

The German was speaking in a post-match pitchside interview following Liverpool's 2-0 success against United in the Premier League on Wednesday.

Goals from Virgil van Dijk and Dominik Szoboszlai at

Bramall Lane moved Liverpool within two points of leaders Arsenal.

But Klopp's mood soured when Buckland joked about Liverpool being back in action in the manager's "favourite kick-off time" against Crystal Palace for the 1230 GMT kick-off. — AFP



Luis Suarez celebrates after scoring the second of two goals in his farewell appearance for Gremio in a 3-2 win over Fluminense at the Maracana Stadium. PHOTO: AFP

Suarez fires farewell double to end Brazilian adventure

LUIS Suarez scored twice in his farewell match for Gremio as the Brazilian side defeated Fluminense 3-2 at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro on Wednesday.

The 36-year-old Uruguayan football icon, who has been linked with a move to join close friend Lionel Messi at Inter Miami, scored in the 43rd minute and then bagged a second with a cheeky panenka from the penalty spot in the 64th minute.

The victory ensured Gremio finished second in the Brazilian championship, two points behind champions Palmeiras as the season drew to a close on Wednesday.

It marked a fitting finale to what has been a dazzling season in Brazilian football for Suarez, who cut short his two-year deal with Gremio after one

season saying the calendar was too much for his aging body.

Leading Gremio as captain, Suarez played in 54 of the club's 64 matches in 2023, scoring a total of 29 goals.

He ended the year as the second-highest goal scorer in the Brazilian league, with 17, inspiring down-on-its-luck Gremio to an unexpectedly solid season.

Suarez has declined to comment on rumours linking him to a move to join former Barcelona team-mate Messi in Miami, saying he wants to focus first and foremost on his family and his health.

"I love this job, but it's hard waking up in pain every morning," he said last weekend. "I'm hard-headed and I want to keep playing, but I don't know what comes next". — AFP



Rory McIlroy is one of golf's biggest hitters. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Golf ball changes will bring back skills, says McIlroy

RORY McIlroy says golf ball rules announced on Wednesday aimed at taming the biggest hitters will bring certain "skills" back to the sport and make it more entertaining.

The longest hitters are expected to lose up to 15 yards in driving

distance under regulations relating to ball specifications set out by the game's governing bodies, the UK-based R&A and US Golf Association.

The new rules will apply at elite level from 2028 and for recreational players from 2030.

"I think it'll just bring back some skills into the pro game that have maybe been lost and I actually think it'll make the pro game more entertaining

to watch," McIlroy, a four-time major winner, told Sky Sports.

"I think you're going to see a different variety of games succeed."

The R&A and USGA said they wanted to protect the integrity of golf courses, including their overall length, and ensure that a variety of skills were required for success.

A joint statement added: "Longer golf courses require

additional resources such as water, the cost of renovating or moving elements like tees and bunkers continues to rise and other long-term impacts have been identified as a result of increased distance."

The change will have less of an impact in women's professional golf and a "minimal distance impact" for most recreational golfers. — AFP



Alliance with Russia as 'ambassador of new world order' can help Iran 'prosper'

Russia, a proponent of the new world order, could enhance ties with Tehran, offering economic and technological prosperity amid shared opposition to American hegemony.

AFTER brief visits to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia on 6 December, Russia's President Vladimir Putin's agenda for Thursday was set aside time for extensive talks with visiting Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi's visit to Moscow for bilateral talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin is both regionally and internationally significant, political scientist Ruhollah Modabber told Sputnik.

"Russia, as the main ambassador of the new world order, can become an even greater friend for Tehran, while for Iran, as a country opposing American hegemony, an alliance with friendly countries can lead to economic, scientific and technological prosperity," Modabber underscored.

Earlier, the Kremlin announced that after visiting the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia on Wednesday, Vladimir Putin would receive the Iranian president in Moscow on Thursday. The president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ebrahim Raisi, will arrive in Russia on a working visit accompanied by a high-ranking delegation. — SPUTNIK



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi hold a meeting in Tehran on 19 July 2022. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

World's biggest plane successfully lifts hypersonic vehicle in first captive-carry test

The Roc is renowned as the world's largest flying manned aircraft, boasting a colossal 385-foot wingspan, making it one of the largest flying machines ever constructed.

IN another milestone test, the world's largest aeroplane conducted its first "captive carry" test with a hypersonic

vehicle in tow, which the company is calling a "significant" step towards the Mach 5-capable vehicle's first solo flight.

Seattle-based aerospace company Stratolaunch announced on Sunday that its Roc carrier plane had successfully flown with a fully-fuelled-up Talon-A hypersonic vehicle slung under its massive central fuselage for the first time.

"Talon-A's propulsion system supports a liquid-propellant rocket engine that provides the thrust needed for Talon-A to reach hypersonic speeds.

"While we have conducted several successful ground tests fueling and igniting the system, we needed to evaluate how the system performs in the flight environment prior to release," Stratolaunch CEO Zachary Krevor said in a news release. — SPUTNIK



Stratolaunch, the Seattle-based aerospace company, achieved a milestone with the world's largest aeroplane, Roc, conducting its first "captive carry" test with the Talon-A hypersonic vehicle. **PHOTO: STRATOLAUNCH / FACEBOOK/SPUTNIK**

TIGER TRAPPING AND RELOCATION

Malaysia trapping tigers after three people killed

MALAYSIA has started trapping and relocating tigers after three people were killed by the critically endangered creatures in the past two months, officials said Thursday.

Eleven cage traps and 20 cameras have been installed in recent weeks in the forested area of Gua Musang district, in the northeastern state of Kelantan, where the deadly attacks happened.

There have been five attacks resulting in four deaths in Gua Musang since 2021, Mohamad Hafid Rohani, director of the Wildlife and National Parks department in Kelantan, told AFP. — AFP