

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Efforts made for Kyaukpyu Deep Seaport to become green, modern port

The Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone will be shaped into a green and modern port, said Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo.

The Union Minister at Union Government Office 1 who is also Chairman of Myanmar Special Economic Zone Central Working Body said during the meeting with the media in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 December.

He also pledged that the activities will be carried out strictly in accordance with Myanmar's environmental protection laws and best international practices.

Starting from 2022, not only

the initial geo-topographic survey (PGTS) and environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) for the deepsea port project were carried out, but the world-renowned Canada-based project management company HATCH was appointed as a project consultant, with its help, the contractors were selected and also managed the project area.

As the initial geo-topographic survey work (PGTS) has already been completed, the relevant geo-topographic technical reports will lay a solid foundation for the subsequent design and construction of the

project.

An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) is intended to analyze and assess the potential environmental impacts of a project's future construction and operation, and to develop measures to prevent or mitigate adverse impacts.

The project company has also appointed an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) consulting firm with local experience and international perspectives through international open tendering in strict compliance with Myanmar's existing laws.

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NATIONAL

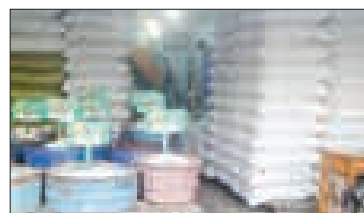
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Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone attracts 5,500+ tourists from 57 countries in 2023

NATIONAL

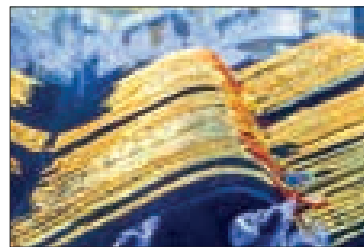
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Yangon rice market sluggish in post-Christmas

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YGEA raises gold reference price to K3.75 mln per tical following spot gold price rally

Survey for spoon-billed sandpipers begins in key southern Myanmar bird sites



Spoon-billed Sandpiper currently takes shelter as hibernation in southern part of Myanmar.

The two critical sites for winter birds in the southern part of Myanmar have been surveyed to record the arrivals of Spoon-billed Sandpiper, according to U Shein Thu Lwin from Nature Conservation Society-Myanmar (NSC).

"We survey two sites of Taninthayi Region. The exact digits for this year will be released in early February. There are many key sites where the migratory birds enter. Of them, we survey the two crucial areas, Myeik and Bokpyin. Then, we also survey the Spoon-billed Sandpiper (SBS). They flock to Asian regions from Siberia of Russia in winter. Myanmar is one of the Asian countries where they hibernate. They flock most at that time, so we are waiting for that moment to survey," he said.

The migratory birds have been late to Myanmar skies (southern part) this winter, which also shows a lowering in the numbers of migrating birds. The survey commenced in two significant sites south of Myanmar in the last week of December 2023.

Only 500 Spoon-billed Sandpipers remain in the world; of them, about 300 birds fly to mangrove forests in the southern part of Myanmar. — ASH/KTZH

NATIONAL

Five national objectives of 76th Independence Day

1. To uphold "Our Three Main National Causes" – Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and Perpetuation of sovereignty, which are national interests and national politics
2. To ensure the promotion of a comprehensive education sector that produces human resources with perfect abilities like intelligence, skills, and talents in building a Union based on democracy and federalism
3. To make efforts to hold free and fair elections under the law and ensure the right to vote across the nation
4. To foster public cooperation for state stability and strengthen the multiparty democratic system at the end of acts of terrorism
5. To promote agriculture and livestock-based MSMEs

River Cruise Harmony launches Thanlwin River expedition in Mawlamyine Township

THE River Cruise Harmony will run a maiden cruise trip on the Thanlwin River of Mawlamyine Township in Mon State starting on 29 December.

The cruise ship will depart from Dawei jetty on Strand Road in Sitsegon of Mawlamyine Township at 5 pm and arrive back at the starting point at 7 pm. While cruising the Thanlwin River, people can enjoy the spectacular scenery of the river's waterways and sunset views with a buffet package and unplugged music.

The fee for a cruise ship is K20,000 per person, K15,000 per child including food, and K5,000 per person without a food package.

Besides the cruise ship, the River Cruise Harmony will provide short trips three days per week (every evening on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) later. — ASH/KTZH



River Cruise Harmony plans to launch maiden trip in Mawlamyine Township.



International travellers seen in Bagan ancient cultural zone to visit ancient cultural monuments.

Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone attracts 5,500+ tourists from 57 countries in 2023

BETWEEN January 2023 and the third week of December 2023, over 5,500 tourists from 57 countries explored the Bagan ancient cultural zone, as reported by U Kyaw Myo Win, Director of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch).

Thailand led the list of visiting tourists during this period, with more than 2,300, followed by Russia with over 400, and Vietnam securing the third-largest number, as stated by the director.

Domestic travellers frequently visit Bagan throughout the year, not just during the tourist season, and their numbers surge on public holidays, according to reports.

The well-preserved ancient cultural heritages of Bagan, including pagodas, temples, religious structures, and palace walls, continue to captivate both domestic and international tourists due to their historical significance and remarkable state of preservation. — ASH/TKO

Sagaing Region to open Kadu Traditional Cultural Museum in Bamauk

U Than Naing, secretary of the Kadu Traditional Literature and Culture Committee, announced the upcoming opening of the Kadu Traditional Cultural Museum in Bamauk, Sagaing Region.

The construction of the museum building has been completed, and efforts are

underway to collect ancient traditional materials of the Kadu people, which will be showcased in the museum to enhance its capacity to narrate the history of these artifacts.

U Than Naing mentioned, "Currently, we are working on exhibiting the traditional ma-

terials still in use by the Kadu people. Additionally, we aim to present the ancient tools and utensils of the Kadu people in the museum."

The museum is slated to open in early 2024, offering visitors a glimpse into the rich cultural heritage of the Kadu community. — ASH/TRKM



The Kadu traditional cultural museum in Bamauk, Sagaing Region.

The Global New Light of Myanmar

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NATIONAL

Unity must be accomplished by common action for a common cause to serve the common interest. This kind of unity must be like an act of making a common endeavour for the achievement of common objective and benefit such as the independence and interest of the entire nation and people. A mere utterance of craving for unity will not be paid off. There must be common action, common interest and common objective. That is exactly what should be called as "unity".

[An excerpt from the speech delivered by Bogyoke Aung San at the Congress of AFPFL on 23 January 1946.]



Efforts made for Kyaukpyu Deep Seaport to become green, modern port

FROM PAGE-1

Since April 2022, the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) consulting company has conducted a series of analysis and public participation activities to understand the basic environmental conditions surrounding the deep seaport project, and recorded the concerns of local residents regarding environmental protection issues, he continued.

Currently, the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) has also completed the scoping phase of the project, so the Scoping Report has been approved by the Myanmar Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

In developing the Kyaukpyu deep seaport project, it will be implemented based on three basic principles of promotion of interests of people, wealth and environmental protection -PPP(People, Prosperity, Planet). While the project activities are actively being carried out, both



Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo and Mr Liang Chuanxin, Director of Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone Deep Seaport Company Limited meet media personal at signing of Addendum for deep seaport of Kyaukpyu SEZ on 26 December.

Myanmar and China are paying special attention to improving the lives of Kyaukpyu residents.

Therefore, more than 10 social benefit projects such as rural fund project in Kyaukpyu region, vocational skills training, mobile clinic project and mangrove plantation projects have been consist-

ently carried out, and thousands of local residents have benefited from these projects.

In the future construction and operational stages of the project, the local and foreign social benefit partner organizations will be invited to work together in the business, health, education, envi-

ronmental protection efforts and creation of employment opportunities that people need.

The project company contributes US dollars 1,000,000 every year for the first five years of the project construction phase and \$500,000 annually to the operational level and strive for CSR

and social welfare activities.

"In order to meet the needs of local people in carrying out socially beneficial CSR activities, we will invite the balanced participation of the local community and carefully listen to the opinions and suggestions of the locals," he continued.

Mr Liang Chuanxin, Director of Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone Deep Seaport Company Limited, said, "We aim to create more positive impacts to conserve the natural environment and reduce the negative impacts. Therefore, we appointed an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) consulting firm with local experience and international perspectives through international open tendering in strict compliance with Myanmar's existing laws."

In assessing the environment and social impacts, the solid foundation will be laid to ensure the greening of environment and sustainable development goals, he added.—Hein Min Soe/KTZH



A copy of the building permit along with a blueprint.

YCDC greenlights 266 construction permits, issues BCCs

BETWEEN 1 and 27 December, the Yangon City Development Committee approved 266 construction permits within the Yangon City municipal area. Additionally, the committee has issued 70 building completion certificates and forwarded a list of 183 buildings currently under construction application to the Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC).

To be able to grant construction permits, the committee has already sent recommendation letters to various departments, including the Fire Services Department, Engineering

Department (Water and Sanitation), Urban Land Management Department, Engineering Department (Roads and Bridges), and Urban Planning Department.

When applying for building permits, licensed contractors and landowners must collaborate with the YESC to adhere to standard operating procedures for electricity. Within this week, the YESC will make a meeting inviting contractors to arrange for electricity supply for the buildings that have already obtained Building Completion Certificates (BCC). — TWA/NT

NATIONAL

Kayin State Chief Minister distributes vital supplies to IDPs in Nabuhnitcha Village, Kawkareik



Kayin State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo presents aid to IDPs at Nabuhnitcha Village in Kawkareik Township on 27 December.

KAYIN State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo, along with the departmental officials, provided basic foodstuffs such as rice, cooking oil, and noodles to the internally displaced persons in

Nabuhnitcha village in Kawkareik Township on 27 December.

First, the Chief minister and party paid homage to Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Indaka of Aung Theikdhi Monastery of Nabu village and Township Sangha Nayaka Committee secretary (Shwekyin) Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sumana and donated offertories and cash to Sayadaws.

Speaking at the ceremony to provide basic foodstuffs to IDPs at religious hall of Aung Theikdhi Monastery, the Chief minister talked about the instructions given to the relevant officials to arrange safe environment for the school-aged children among the IDPs to continue their learning, public participation in regional peace whereas those intentionally

launch destructive actions will not enjoy the prosperity, efforts for the IDPs to be able return to their places and proper assistance to them while staying at the temporary shelters.

Then, the Chief minister and party presented 90 bags of rice (24-pyis each), 90 cartons of noodles, and 180 visses of cooking oil to 357 households sheltering in Nabuhnitcha village, and cordially met with the displaced persons.

They also visited the Nabu station hospital, comforted the patients, and provided nutrition.

They then provided the medical doctor, nurses, and health workers with the foodstuffs and K300,000 for overhead costs. — Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD)/KTZH

Counter-argument to false information

Fake news emerged that 83 villagers arrested in Thabeikkyin Township
FALSE news was released on social media that a total of 83 local villagers were arrested in the village's monastery in Ngathantaing Village, Thabeikkyin Township, Mandalay Region, around 9 am on 27 December.
One of the local security forces said that Tatmadaw is conducting security operations in the area, but did not arrest any villagers. Malicious media cover up the activities of terrorists, fabricating and circulating false information to instil fear in the public and mistake the security forces. — MNA/KZL

Misinformation: Tatmadaw fire heavy weapons into Bago Region's villages, killing some people

KHIT Thit Media has been spreading false information on social networking sites that one civilian was killed and three were injured due to the firing of heavy weapons in Pynmapin Village, Kyaukdaga Township, Bago Region, on 27 December.

Similarly, it spread misinformation that a clash occurred between the terrorists and the security forces in Thayagon Village and Doetan Village of Yedashe Township, and one person was killed due to the security forces firing heavy weapons into the villages on the same day.

Officials from the respective areas said that there was no shooting in these villages and no clash between the security forces and terrorists. They added that terrorists ran away and there were no injuries to the public.

The malicious Khit Thit media has been deliberately plotting to discredit Tatmadaw and the security forces through misinformation. — MNA/KZL



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Water runs dry, the impact of Eucalyptus trees

By ASH

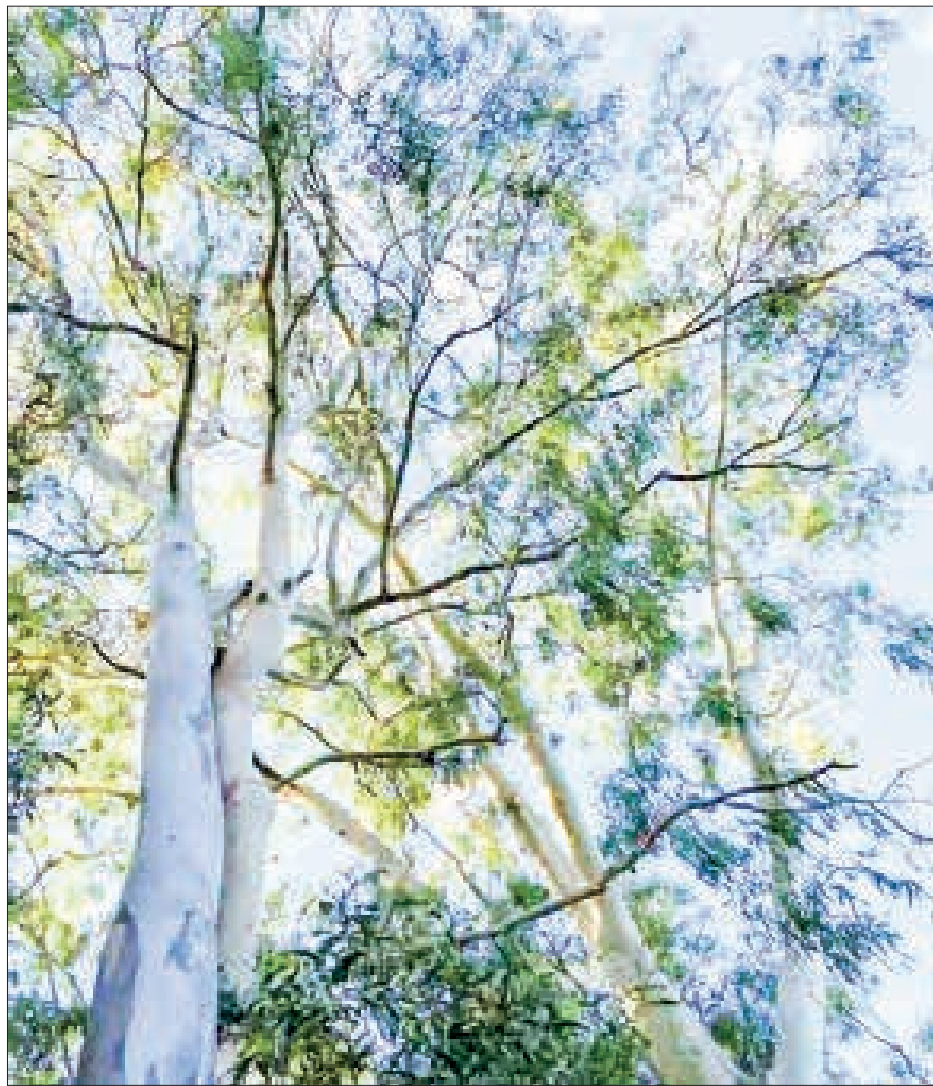
The water starts to dry up and the soil is dry and cracked in the oasis of the centre of Myanmar PyinOoLwin and Shan hill regions.

The environmentalists amplify their voices concerning the solution to a drought that might occur in the PyinOoLwin and Shan plateau region and are considering how this issue is likely to become much worse.

Then, they find out that the root of the problem is Eucalyptus, that are much faster growing than most other trees in cultivation. Environmentalist U Sithu Lwin claimed that the main reason water is drying up in PyinOoLwin and Shan plateau region is the Eucalyptus monoculture.

Thirsty tree (or) Eucalyptus tree

The Eucalyptus trees are growing much faster than most other trees in cultivation. They can be used as raw materials in the production of marine paint, paper and wood veneer. The Eucalyptus can be supplied quickly so they are grown most. The disadvantage of the Eucalyptus tree is that it can absorb a lot of water up to eight feet below its roots just in a second. That can dry up the lakes and streams and lead to lower groundwater levels. These trees quickly absorb water from the soil, leaving other plants thirsty and malnourished. They also absorb the soil fertilizer and mineral elements. They emit toxic and the leaves that do not easily wilt produce heat. Therefore, other plants under or around the Eucalyptus trees cannot survive. The trees are not shady and are highly flammable species so they



Eucalyptus trees thriving in an area.

are very harmful to the environment, said the environmentalists.

Abandoned land

Dr Kyaw Than Tun, an environmen-

talist, pointed out that the real culprit that will dry up the fertile soil in PyinOoLwin and the Shan highlands, which rely only on fresh groundwater, is the presence of a single ring of Eucalyptus trees.

In addition, in the tropical zones such as central Myanmar and mountainous areas, the thirsty tree is very dangerous because of its excessive water absorption and heavy use of fertilizers and soil, and it can affect drought-tolerant Thanaka and palm trees in tropical regions in the middle parts of Myanmar and also tea, mulberry and silkworm farming industry in hilly regions.

The regions where the Eucalyptus trees are grown face water shortage, desert and Ecosystem changes so they should not be grown in dry and arid areas and hilly regions of the country, said the agriculturalists.

Paradise of thirsty trees

In reality, the Eucalyptus trees and forests should be established just in the low-lying areas and flood-prone areas to help retain water. If they are planted in the lower parts of Myanmar such as the Ayeyawady Region, Rakhine State and Taninthayi Region which face floods yearly, these areas will become paradise for these thirsty trees, said the environmentalists.

Therefore, the environmentalists and researchers suggested that it is no longer suitable to grow Eucalyptus trees that highly absorb water and salts in hilly regions and water-stressed areas. Today, freshwater is scarce in the world, and it should put these thirsty trees in suitable places to prevent flooding in a world where natural disasters are on the rise.

Translated — KTZH

Rare Northern Shovelers, mandarin ducks wintering in Hlawga National Park



BIRDS from the northern part of the world, including rare Northern Shovelers, were observed wintering in Hlawga National Park, located in Mingaladon Township, Yangon.

According to park officials, wintering birds from the northern hemisphere have arrived at Hlawga Park, a popular destination for enthusiastic birdwatchers during winter hibernation. This year, a rare bird species known as the Northern Shoveler was observed hibernating in the park.

The report indicates that on 23 December, personnel from Hlawga Park observed and recorded a rare Northern Shoveler wintering near the Camping Ground Lake within the park, alongside other species such as mandarin ducks and spot-billed ducks.

The Northern Shoveler is a freshwater duck characterized by a very long, broad, and flattened bill. It is noted for its huge and spatula-shaped bill, distinguishing it from other duck species.

Additionally, the report mentions that the mandarin duck, a waterfowl species with colourful sail fins on its back and a migratory bird rarely seen in Myanmar, was observed returning to the park on 17 December. Consequently, the park initiated a bird observation programme for enthusiasts starting on 25 November. — ASH/ TMT

Condition of El Nino during January to February 2024

Issued at 28-12-2023

- The Sea Surface Temperature (SST) over the Tropical Pacific Ocean near the Equator and atmosphere phenomena is strong condition. According to the Numerical Weather prediction models of the International Meteorological Agency, it is forecast continue to reach strong El Nino condition during January 2024. It is forecast that the El Nino condition may gradually decrease starting from February 2024.
- Although the El Nino condition occurs in the Pacific Ocean, the effect of El Nino may cause generally extreme weather events such as irregular rainfall patterns, rising temperature, irregular storm formation and drought.
- Therefore, it is advised to prepare in advance for all related sectors. El Nino Condition will be updated in time.

NATIONAL

State Pariyatti Sasana Universities in Yangon, Mandalay hold 29th graduation ceremony

THE 29th graduation ceremony of the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities Yangon and Mandalay took place at the convocation hall of the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) on 27 December.

Academic/Administrative Head Sayadaws of the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon/Mandalay), led by the Vice-Chancellor of the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities, Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Candhima Bhivamsa, along with recipient Sayadaws, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, and

departmental officials, attended the event.

In this 29th ceremony, there were 28 recipients of BA (Buddhism), ten recipients of MA (Buddhism), and one recipient of PhD (Buddhism), making a total of 39 Sayadaws from the respective Sasana Universities.

The Union minister, the chief minister of Yangon Region, departmental officials, and well-wishers donated alms meals to the venerable Sayadaws and recipient Sayadaws. — TWA/TMT

The 29th graduation ceremony of the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities is in progress.



Yangon rice market sluggish in post-Christmas



A rice shop offering both retail and wholesale.

YANGON'S rice market braced for declining demand in the post-Christmas holidays, said U Kyaw, a rice depot owner, told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The price of Ayeyawady Pawsan rice is down by K2,000 per sack. The traders are closely observing the upcoming market conditions in the early days of the month. At present, both retail and wholesale markets are inactive.

The prices of ordinary rice stood at K68,000-K95,000 per sack depending on the varieties. Pawkywe rice variety fetches K100,000 per sack at present, U Tin, a rice trader involved in Bayintnaung's

Padauk street shared price data.

The prices of high-grade new Pawsan rice varieties moved in the range between K110,000 and K140,000 per sack depending on the producing areas (Mawgyun, Pyapon, Bogale, and Shwebo).

The stock of old Pawsan rice is less. The high-grade old Pawsan rice from Ayeyawady is sold at K150,000 per sack and the one from Shwebo fetched K170,000-K180,000 per sack. New sticky rice price touched a low of K90,000-K110,000 per sack.

Monsoon paddy price is offered at K1.8 million per 100 baskets in delta regions,

while the paddy prices stand at K2.5 million for new Meedon (Pawkywe) and K2.8 million for Pawsan, Ko Soe Tint, a farmer from Bogale Township said.

The prevailing prices of new rice are way higher than the reasonable market price for December 2023 issued by the related non-governmental institution. Similarly, the actual market price of monsoon paddy is exorbitantly high compared to that of the set prices.

Consequently, some rice millers do not reveal the buying price of paddy amid the reference price. Additionally, the invoice of the rice shops is just a mere paper and there is no transparency with missing information of the rice shops, consumers stressed.

Consumers called for law enforcement on rice markets like the events that occurred in edible oil and fuel oil markets in 2023 to ensure fair market price as they are raising concerns over the possible price hike up to K200,000 per sack.

Yangonites bought high-grade rice at a higher price than the reasonable market rate in the two consecutive years. — TWA/KK

Yangon taxis equipped with emergency signal lights for enhanced safety

THE Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC) has initiated the installation of blue and red signal lights on taxis to facilitate calling for help during life-threatening emergencies.

The Yangon City Taxi Association (YCTA) has reported that the signal lights on the taxi boards can be activated by pressing a button inside the car, allowing drivers to request assistance in such critical situations.

Permission for the installation of emergency lights on taxis in the Yangon Region was formally sought from the Yangon Region government and various relevant authorities.

Currently, over 60 taxis have been installed with these emergency signal lights.

Taxi drivers interested in installing these lights can contact YRTC for further assistance. — TWA/MKKS

MR introduces airbag coaches on 5-Up and 6-Down trains

MYANMA Railways announced the commencement of services for the 5-Up and 6-Down trains, featuring airbag coaches, starting on 27 December.

Initially, on 26 December, both trains operated with ordinary AAR coaches, but they have since been replaced with airbag coaches for the convenience of passengers.

The 5-Up train, departing from Yangon at 5 am, is scheduled to arrive in Mandalay at around 10:30 pm. Similarly, the 6-Down train operates from Mandalay to Yangon with a similar schedule.

Both trains will make stops at Bago, Toungoo, Pynmana, Nay Pyi Taw, and Thazi during their journey. — TWA/TRKM

YGEA raises gold reference price to K3.75 mln per tical following spot gold price rally

FOLLOWING a spike in spot gold price, the Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) set the pure gold price higher at K3.758 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme).

The spot gold price rallied to US\$2,084 per ounce on 28 December. The actual market value of pure gold is approximately K3.72 million, which is over K30,000 per tical lower than the YGEA's price.

On 5 December, the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate forex exchange transactions freely as per the liberalized market rate determined

by the supply and demand dynamic. Following this move, the price gap between the YGEA's price and the market price is not that different.

Earlier, the YGEA used the interbank transaction rate set by the CBM in calculating the reference price for pure gold, indicating a big gap of K400,000-K500,000 per tical. The greenback is valued at around K3,500 at the over-the-counter market.

When the Kyat depreciated at K4,000 against the greenback in the forex market, the gold price peaked at K4 million per tical in late August 2023. — NN/EM



Gold ornaments displayed at the gold outlet in Yangon.

YRIC nods five domestic, foreign enterprises to create over 1,700 jobs

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC) endorsed five domestic and foreign enterprises with an estimated capital of K8.95 billion and US\$7.02 million at the recent meeting 12/2023 held on 27 December, creating over 1,700 jobs for residents.

Among them, three are enterprises invested by Myanmar citizens and two are wholly foreign-owned enterprises.

Those endorsed enterprises will execute

apparel manufacturing on a Cutting-Making and Packaging basis designated for absolute export, value-added rice production of international standard, various pulses milling, and processing for 100 per cent exports, cutting and trimming construction stone for the domestic market, and wearing apparel production on a CMP basis.

At the meeting, nine companies also raised general matters. — NN/EM



YRIC manages approval for investments in projects in Yangon Region with attraction of local and foreign investments.

MGMA invites Myanmar businesspersons to join VIATT

MYANMAR Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) on 27 December called for the presence of Myanmar businesspersons at the Vietnam International Trade Fair for Apparel, Textiles and Textile Technologies (VIATT) to be held at the Saigon Exhibition and Convention Centre (SECC) in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, from 28 February to 1 March 2024.

The fair is organized by Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd and Viet Nam Trade Promotion Agency (VIETRADE), the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

The fair is a one-stop sourcing for textile industry needs, consisting of a Business Matching Programme, On-Site Seminars, Panel Discussions, and Products where experts will provide ideas and knowl-

edge on textiles.

This being so, with the arrangement of the expo organizers, the MGMA asked the member factories to join the buyer delegation visit, covering Tan Son Nhat airport pickup, two-night stay in Ho Chi Minh City for free, transport to and from SECC and hotel, field trips to textile factories in the city and Business Matching and Networking events.

However, the participants need to bear flight tickets and other general costs themselves.

Thus, those enthusiastic can contact Ma Khin Thandar Aung, Event and PR officer through the phone number: 09 420036683 by 8 January 2024 for registration. Each factory is allowed to join this with two representatives, the MGMA stated. — NN/EM

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OPINION

Attention to assigned staff: Stay away from bribes

A CRUCIAL directive has been issued to the chairpersons of regional and state illegal trade eradication special task forces and officials: unequivocally distance yourselves from any involvement in the illegal trade process. The primary responsibility is supervising and ensuring that assigned staff abstain from participating in illicit trade activities and refrain from accepting bribes. Those who are found complicit in illegal trade will face legal consequences without exception.

The government is actively working to prevent illegal trade practices in order to safeguard the interests of manufacturers and exporters, aligning with a commitment to protectionism. This mandate extends not only to businesspersons but also to relevant departmental personnel, who must fully comprehend the objectives set forth by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee.

In the pursuit of eradicating illegal trade, departmental personnel stationed at relevant checkpoints and tollgates must demonstrate unwavering loyalty to the State in performing their duties. Additionally, they are expected to maintain cordial relationships with the public and business community. Collaboration between assigned personnel and citizens is imperative, as eliminating illegal trade is deemed a national duty.

During a recent steering committee meeting, the chairman highlighted instances where assigned personnel allowed the passage of trucks carrying loads in exchange for bribes, overlooking the presence of illegal and smuggled commodities. Some personnel even falsely reported the seizure of lower-value smuggled goods while intentionally neglecting higher-value items. Various unscrupulous practices were identified, necessitating stringent supervision at all levels to combat illegal trade effectively.

Assigned personnel must also exhibit politeness in their interactions with businesspersons and the public when inspecting cargo trucks and providing necessary assistance. Unpleasant interactions may not only inconvenience businesspersons but could also impede the overall trade process. The government's endeavours may be misunderstood if officials fail to execute their duties precisely.

Now is a pivotal moment for all to contribute towards building a modern and developed nation. Every individual must refrain from actions that compromise the interests of the State and its people, ensuring that the trajectory towards a democratic and federal Union remains unaltered. Only through collective efforts towards the common goal of a peaceful and developed nation can Myanmar achieve prosperity across its entire society.

By taking salaries provided by the State fund, which are supplied by the people's revenues, staff members from various departments have to be free from bribes in serving the people in work procedures. If so, they will have a reflection from the people for their lives.

From Happy New Year 2024 to Global Peace and Development

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

HAPPY New Year 2024! As we step into a new year, let's envision a world characterized by global peace and development. This year will be a catalyst for positive change, fostering unity and understanding for global peace and development. Auspiciously, we are here again with a tremendous article on New Year 2024 wishes. First of all, we would like to wish you a very prosperous and happy new year. The New Year is all set to make its impressive entry in the near future.

We are here today especially to make our readers' New Year absolutely special. The **Happy New Year 2024**



wishes that we are going to present in this particular article will definitely amaze you to the heart. It is common for all of us to exchange wishes for the New Year. In our pursuit of global peace, let's prioritize dialogue over conflict, empathy over hostility, and collaboration over division. By working together, we can overcome challenges and build a more harmonious world for present and future generations.

Simultaneously, let's commit ourselves to sustainable development. May our efforts be directed towards eradicating poverty, promoting equality, and safeguarding our environment. As individuals and communi-

ties, let's embrace responsible practices that contribute to the well-being of the planet and its residents. In 2024, let us collectively strive for a future where every individual has the opportunity to grow well, and progress is equal with compassion. May the year 2024 be a year of unity, positive transformation and the journey towards a world marked by lasting peace and sustainable development!

May the coming year be marked by progress and development on a global scale. Let us strive to address challenges such as poverty, inequality, and environmental issues, working together to create a sustainable and prosperous future for all. As individuals, let us contribute to positive change in our communities and beyond, spreading kindness and compassion. As we embark on a new chapter, let us collectively aspire for global peace and development. The 2024 will be a year of global peace and development, bringing about positive change for the benefit of all humankind.

In addition, we hope and wish that in this New Year 2024, may you have a deep understanding of global peace and development as well as every day is the best day in the year. We may respect New Year 2024 for a brighter and better world.



NEW YEAR RESOLUTION

By Maung Swe Ngae

- ❖ Ring out the old, ring in the new, Ring happy bells across the snow; The year is going; let him go; Ring out the false; ring in the true Poet Alfred Tennyson said so in his poem New Year's Day reminds us of them.
- ❖ Saying goodbye to the old year in mind Welcome the New Year with immense joy Singing 'Auld Lang Syne' in chorus Great hope we have in our hearts.
- ❖ The good and the bad in the past Will surely accompany us into the new period Transform the bad into good for the future The good into better in the New Year.
- ❖ To bring the good into the New Year Is the duty we shall perform together As we leave behind all bad things Future successes are waiting in the wings.
- ❖ Failures will become challenges to overcome And achievements will come over to everyone While finding ways to amend our mistakes Turn failure into success for people's sake.
- ❖ The hostilities we met give us no effect Hold no grudge to bury the hatchet Now, we have ushered in the New Year Be prepared to make greater progress fore'er.
- ❖ In the old year, we left enmity Action will pave the way for amity Love without grudge is really in need Cruelty and hostility must totally cease indeed.
- ❖ At midnight, when the bells chime Come around the New Year time Sirens sound, and people flock together Everyone will shout, 'Happy New Year!'
- ❖ I wish you all a very happy New Year! May the white dove bring PEACE to the world!!

Note: — 'Auld Lang Syne' (Scottish dialect) means 'old long since' or days gone by. These words are the title of a song loved by all English-speaking people. It is a traditional New Year's Eve song, especially in Scotland. (The World Book of Encyclopaedia — A.)

ARTICLE



Letter to Editor
GLOBAL NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR YANGON Sir,

Nowadays, we can see a lot of FAKE NEWS on social media throughout the world.

In the name of freedom of speech, some mischievous playboy media reported Shocking News, which proved false.

Nowadays, nations need not invade a country or wage a war with weapons to topple a government or a country. Fake News is enough to destroy a Nation.

Defame the leaders of states, accusing the person whom you hate, fabricating a story that the President of a certain country is having sex with teenage girls, or this and that country is prosecuting minorities are enough to isolate and to create disturbances.

Fake News is more dangerous than nuclear weapons. People should never believe such Fake News. Wise enough to reject such news items.

People should note down Fake News Media and should never trust such media sites.

U TIN HLA
31/2, Mingala St, Thingangyun, Yangon

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

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Promising new cancer therapy appears to be extremely potent against tuberculosis

The study, published in Biomedicine & Pharmacotherapy, utilized innovative cellular models with TB-infected human cells to expedite the screening of potential TB drugs.

A PROMISING new cancer therapy also appears extremely potent against one of the world's most devastating infectious diseases: tuberculosis (TB).

Scientists at Texas Biomedical Research Institute (Texas Biomed) found the therapy dramatically reduces TB growth, even for bacteria that are drug-resistant. The findings, reported in the

journal *Biomedicine & Pharmacotherapy*, were made in novel cellular models featuring TB-infected human cells that can help accelerate screening of potential TB drugs and therapies like this one. The therapy evaluated in this study combines two molecules – one of which is already FDA-approved for use in cancer patients, and another that is being evaluated in Phase 1/2 clinical tri-

als for cancer. The compounds help the body initiate its normal cell death processes in targeted areas, be it cancerous cells, or in this case, cells infected with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (M.tb), the bacteria that causes TB. **Drug resistance** TB accounts for more than 1.6 million deaths worldwide every year. The bacterium primarily in-

fects the lungs. Patients must take antibiotics for months to bring active infection under control; drug resistance is on the rise, making treatment even more challenging. Dr. Schlesinger's lab at Texas Biomed is focused on understanding the fundamental biological interactions between the airborne-transmissible bacteria and humans, and then using those insights to identify potential treat-

ment targets. M.tb blocks a normal cell death process called apoptosis. This allows the bacteria to grow inside immune cells in the lungs, called alveolar macrophages. This new paper shows that by inhibiting two key proteins, MCL-1 and BCL-2, M.tb can no longer hijack the apoptosis process and macrophages are able to kill M.tb. **SOURCE:** ANI



These compounds induce the body's natural cell death processes in specific areas, targeting both cancerous cells and cells infected with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacteria responsible for TB. **ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/TEXAS BIOMED/PIXABAY**

NATIONAL



A Irrawaddy baby dolphin swimming in the Ayeyawady River.

Three new Irrawaddy baby dolphins found in Mandalay

THREE Irrawaddy calf dolphins were found again on 21 December when two fishermen were fishing between Mandalay and Kyaukmyaung. Of three baby dolphins, one is approximately one elbow (1.5 feet) in length and two are approximately two elbows in length, said U Aung Thin, one of the two fishermen who witnessed the dolphins.

“Yes, we found three baby dolphins. They seem new breed this year,” said U Aung Thin.

The finding of new baby dolphins is good news for the new year, confirmed by an Irrawaddy dolphin expert and it means an increase in dolphin population, he said.

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), hotel and tourism operators, and a fishery

businessperson have now collaborated in initiating the Irrawaddy dolphin-watching tour in the Ayeyawady River between Mingun and Shwebo-Kyaukmyaung of Sagaing Region for foreign tourists who love dolphins and natural sceneries.

This plan is expected to begin in early February 2024.

To conserve the Irrawaddy dolphin population, the Fisheries Department and respective departments have been cooperating, and under Freshwater Fisheries Law, actions are being taken against electro-fishing and gillnetting to protect dolphins from injury and death, and awareness activities are being conducted in villages. — MT/ZS

MoCRD UM reveals robust strategies to prevent water shortages in villages

THE Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development has announced proactive measures to avert potential drinking water shortages in villages anticipated for the summer of 2024. The ministry is actively engaged in implementing water supply, health, and personal hygiene strategies to address the issue.

During the meeting held on 21 December to discuss pre-planning aimed at preventing drinking water shortages in villages, the Union Minister said that the ministry had completed 41,524 rural water supply projects in 30,298 villages from the financial year 2012-2013 to 2022-2023, benefiting

about 22 million rural residents.

The Union minister also outlined plans for the ongoing financial year, with the implementation of 1,195 rural water projects expected to benefit an additional 0.7 million people in 920 villages.

Furthermore, in addressing the challenge of water scarcity during the summer, the Union minister emphasized a comprehensive approach. Alongside immediate initiatives like distributing drinking water, the ministry is committed to undertaking short-term and medium-term measures to address and resolve water scarcity issues. — TWA/TKO



In 2020, the implementation of measures to ensure the availability of drinking water in Tamang village, which has a shortage of drinking water in the summer, in Thayawady District, Bago Region.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, fuel oil, crude oil, foodstuffs, consumer goods and vehicles confiscated

A combined team managed by the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force captured a Fuso truck (approximately worth K25 million) carrying two kinds of goods worth about K33.756 million, including 1,920 gallons of 92 fuel oil without official documents, at the Latpanhla-Singu temporary checkpoint on 26 December. The action was taken under Customs procedures. During inspections on 27 December, the joint teams seized 2.192 tonnes of illegal teak valued at K1,189,604 in Kyangin township, a Mitsubishi Canter

(estimated value of K25 million) carrying five kinds of goods worth K17.64 million, including 10,000 bottles of Lipovitan-D energy drink without official documents, near Hpa-an Industrial Zone in Hpa-an township, 10 gallons of illegal fuel oil (petrol) worth K115,000 in Dagon Myothit (South) township. The action was conducted under the Customs procedures, the Forest Law, and the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

Similarly, the combined teams impounded 11 gallons of illegal crude oil valued at K55,000



Barrels of fuel in truck seized in Mandalay on 26 December.

in Yenangyoung township, an unregistered Honda CBR motorbike (approximately worth K2.3 million) in Magway township, and 2.854 tonnes of illegal teak and 1.724 tonnes of other illegal timbers worth K465,340 in Lewe township on 27 December. The action was conducted under the Public Property Protection Law and the Forest Law.

Thirteen arrests were made on 26 and 27 December, with an estimated value of K105.521 million, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Fan death at Taylor Swift's Rio concert caused by heat exhaustion: report

An autopsy report reveals that the death of a fan, Ana Benevides, during Taylor Swift's November concert in Rio de Janeiro was due to heat exhaustion.

THE death of a fan during Taylor Swift's November concert in Rio de Janeiro was caused by heat exhaustion, according to an autopsy report published Wednesday by Brazilian media.

Ana Benevides, 23, died during Swift's first "Eras Tour" show in Brazil on 17 November after the heat index had risen to 59 degrees Celsius (138 degrees Fahrenheit) in the Brazilian beach city that day.

Benevides, who was one of



Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and singer Taylor Swift. PHOTO: COMBO/FACEBOOK/CRIS DELA OSTIA LEOCARIO/AFP

60,000 fans attending the concert, died from "thermal exhaustion due to diffuse exposure to heat", the autopsy report read. It also determined that the young woman suffered from "cardiovascular shock" and bleeding of the lungs, which resulted in "sudden death".

The report by Rio de Janeiro state's Civil Police was published by local media. Reached by AFP, the agency declined to comment or confirm the report.

Swift said she was "devastat-

ed" by the death, and postponed her second show scheduled for the following night. Organizers of the show have faced criticism after fans said they were forbidden to enter the Nilton Santos stadium with water bottles despite the overwhelming heat.

The company organizing the show, Time For Fun, said the young woman was quickly treated by first responders after feeling unwell, and then transferred to the hospital an hour later. — AFP

Eiffel Tower closes as staff go on strike

The union accuses SETE, the tower's operator, of pursuing an unsustainable business model with inflated visitor estimates and underestimated construction costs, leading to a potential disaster.

THE Eiffel Tower, one of the world's prime tourist attractions, was closed Wednesday after staff went on strike, the tower's operator said.

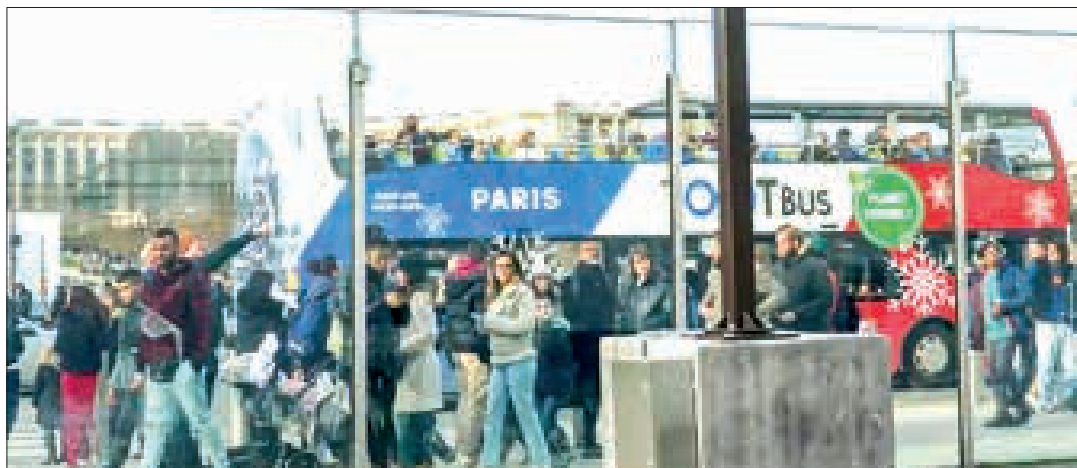
The strike on the 100th anniversary of the death of engineer Gustave Eiffel, who built the

tower, was to protest about "the current way it is managed", the hard-left CGT union said in a statement.

The tower's operator SETE was "headed for disaster", it said.

The CGT said manage-

ment was running the Eiffel Tower according to a business model that was "too ambitious and unsustainable" and that it said was based on an inflated estimate of future visitor numbers, while under-estimating construction costs. — AFP



The Eiffel Tower, a major global tourist attraction, closed on the 100th anniversary of Gustave Eiffel's death due to a strike protesting the management by the CGT union. PHOTO: AFP

US-Canada military centre 'tracks' Santa for 68th year

A joint US-Canadian military monitoring agency continued this year its decades-long Christmas tradition of tracking Santa's whereabouts, helping children around the

globe find out when his reindeer-powered, present-filled sleigh would be coming to town.

A 3-D, interactive website at www.noradsanta.org

showed Santa Claus and his reindeer on their imagined worldwide delivery route, allowing users to click and learn more about the various cities along the way. — AFP

Ivory Coast chefs cook up new twist on African food

In Abidjan, Ivory Coast, chef Charlie Koffi and a growing number of chefs are blending the country's rich tropical ingredients with fine French culinary techniques.

IN the kitchen of his Abidjan restaurant, Ivory Coast chef Charlie Koffi prepares his country's staggering tropical bounty with the techniques of fine French cuisine. And he's far from alone.

A growing number of his fellow chefs in the West African nation are retouching local specialities with cooking skills picked up elsewhere.

One of Koffi's signature dishes is an adaptation of gouagouassou sauce, a local specialty.

In his version, a rabbit is stewed with African eggplants, spicy oil, powdered akpi seeds

and local fefe pepper.

"It is one of the dishes I really loved as a child," Koffi told AFP. "As a chef, it was almost an obligation to come back to it."

Koffi was trained in France before opening his Abidjan restaurant, Villa Alfira, in 2017 to showcase his country's cuisine.

In the well-lit main dining room overlooking a pond where fish on the menu swim, Eric Guei tucked into a gouagouassou casserole.

"I find taste and audacity in this dish," the happy customer said. "It mixes Western know-how with local flavours." — AFP



Ivorian chef Charlie Koffi (C) shops for ingredients for his gouagouassou sauce. PHOTO: SIA KAMBOU/AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Asia-Pacific leads global recovery amid disruptions in 2023

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) yielded substantial benefits, and high-quality Belt and Road cooperation entered a new phase.



A worker displays a freshly harvested durian at an orchard in Chumphon, Thailand, 18 September 2023. PHOTO: WANG TENG/XINHUA

THE year 2023 saw the Asia-Pacific region leading global recovery with strengthening multilateralism and strong momentum despite disruptive factors.

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) delivered increasingly prominent dividends and the high-quality Belt and Road cooperation has entered a new

phase. As the second-largest economy in the world, China has played its part in its sound development and strong commitment to regional cooperation to usher the Asia-Pacific into another “golden 30 years.”

Momentum for recovery

In the past three decades, development in Asia-Pacific has embarked on a fast track of growth, turning the region

into a powerhouse for world economic growth, an anchor of stability for global development, and a pacesetter for international cooperation. Per capita income in Asia-Pacific has more than quadrupled, and one billion people have been lifted out of poverty. This is an important contribution to human progress and global sustainable development. — Xinhua

Palestinians in West Bank boycott Israeli products

Posters and slogans like “By us, for us” encourage Palestinians to choose “Made in Palestine” items, prominently featured in supermarkets.

SINCE the war in Gaza began, plenty of posters, stickers and leaflets in the occupied West Bank have urged Palestinians to boycott Israeli products and buy local.

“By us, for us,” reads the slogan of the new campaign that has spread across towns in recent weeks, as calls to ban Israeli goods also grow in other countries. The slogan is everywhere at one well-known supermarket chain in the West Bank, where “Made in Palestine” fare like water, milk and toilet paper take

pride of place.

“It’s all about highlighting Palestinian products,” said Omar Bawatneh, manager of a branch in Ramallah.

The chain estimates that sales of Israeli products at its stores have dropped by 30 per cent since the outbreak of the war between Israel and Hamas.

On 7 October, Hamas militants stormed into southern Israel in an attack that left around 1,140 people dead, most of them civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official figures. — AFP



Screens identifying local products hang above shoppers at a supermarket in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank on 26 December 2023, as part of a wider campaign urging Palestinians to boycott Israeli products and buy locally made goods. PHOTO: JAAFAR ASHTIYEH/AFP

Morocco, in first, hands out welfare benefits

NEARLY a million low-income Moroccan families are due to receive government aid, authorities announced on Monday, launching the kingdom’s first and much-awaited social benefits programme.

Beneficiaries will receive a direct monthly payment starting at 500 dirhams (\$50), Prime Minister Aziz Akhannouch told a government meeting, according to an official statement.

The first payments under the new scheme will be made on Thursday, it said.

Government spokesman Mustapha Baitas said in late October that the aid to families was expected to cost Morocco

25 billion dirhams through 2024.

The launch comes a decade after the programme was proposed, and as part of an overhaul of social services announced in 2020 by King Mohammed VI.

The king’s agenda also introduced in 2021 basic health coverage for all Moroccans.

Once reserved only for civil servants and private sector employees, the health care scheme provided coverage for 3.8 self-employed Moroccans and their families, official news agency MAP said, based on data for September. It also provided free health care to about 10 million low-income Moroccans, paid for by the state. — AFP

Ghana’s economy rebounding: President

GHANA’S economy is rebounding following three difficult years, President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo has said.

In his Christmas message late Monday, Akufo-Addo said

Ghana has turned the corner. “Inflation is being reigned in. We are experiencing a relatively stable exchange rate, and growth in our economy is rebounding.”

“The country is not yet completely out of the woods, but there is a growing confidence that with hard work and determination, Ghana will make it,” the president said. “Collectively, we will secure our future.”

Akufo-Addo called on Ghanaians to exhibit their hospitality toward tourists flocking to the West African country during the festive season to boost the tourism sector for socio-economic and cultural growth. Once a model of economic growth in Africa, Ghana has been grappling with economic crises over recent years. — Xinhua



Vendors are seen at a market in Accra, Ghana, 11 January 2023. PHOTO: SETH/XINHUA

Norway fund drops Saudi Aramco, 11 other Gulf firms

NORWAY'S largest pension fund said Thursday it has divested from Saudi Aramco due to the oil giant's lack of climate action and from 11 other Gulf companies over human rights concerns.

KLP, which manages over 700 billion kroner (\$70 billion), said the exclusion amounted to \$15 million. The fund dropped 11 companies in the telecommunications and real estate sectors from Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates "over unacceptably high human rights violations' risks".

Saudi Aramco was blacklisted due to its ties to the Saudi state and for "contravening expectations over climate and energy transition plans", the fund said.

"The overall rationale for these exclusions is that Gulf states remain characterised by authoritarian systems of government that restrict freedom of expression and political rights, including of critics and human rights activists," Kiran Aziz, head of responsible investment at KLP, said in a statement. — AFP

Shipping giant CMA-CGM joins Maersk in Red Sea return

FRENCH shipping giant CMA-CGM has resumed some transit through the Red Sea, days after Danish group Maersk announced it would return as a US-led naval coalition is now policing the maritime route against Yemeni rebel attacks.

The attacks prompted shipping companies to reroute vessels around the southern tip of Africa earlier this month — a longer and more expensive trip than the Red Sea route that links up with the Suez Canal. The United States launched a multinational task force last week to counter the Huthi missile and drone attacks along the



Yemen rebel attacks had prompted shipping giant CMA-CGM and others to suspend transit through the Red Sea. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

route, which carries up to 12 per cent of global trade. The Huthis say they

are targeting Israel and Israeli-linked vessels to push in the Gaza Strip, where Israel is battling Hamas militants. — AFP

UAE's Air Arabia to launch daily flights to Kabul

Air Arabia, the second Emirati airline, plans daily non-stop flights to Kabul from 10 January, following flydubai's lead in resuming Afghanistan flights post the 2021 US forces withdrawal, showcasing the UAE's dedication to affordable air travel and new destinations



Air Arabia, the second Emirati airline, announced daily non-stop flights to Kabul starting from 10 January. PHOTO: NASSER YOUNES /AFP

AIR Arabia announced daily flights to Kabul on Wednesday, becoming the United Arab Emirates' second airline to serve the Afghan capital.

The Sharjah-based budget carrier will fly non-stop to and from Kabul once a day from

10 January, it said in a statement.

The service is "a testament to our ongoing dedication to providing passengers with value-driven and affordable air travel, as well as new destinations to explore", said group CEO Adel Al Ali. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC ANDREA F VOY.NO. (SB350A)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MSC ANDREA F VOY.NO. (SB350A) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-12-2023 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.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (061N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (061N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-12-2023 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.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PETKUM VOY.NO. (0UV5EE1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PETKUM VOY.NO. (0UV5EE1NC) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-12-2023 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3324S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3324S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-12-2023 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.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

South Korea's President Yoon orders immediate retaliation in case of enemy attack

President Yoon orders South Korean forces to retaliate immediately against enemy attacks, stressing the need to counter provocations, with a specific focus on North Korea's potential threats, including the right to a preemptive nuclear strike and invasion.



In this photo taken on 9 May 2023, South Korean soldiers stand guard as they face North Korea in the Joint Security Area of the Demilitarized Zone separating North and South Korea. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE /ANTHONY WALLACE/AFP /FILE**

SOUTH Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol ordered the

armed forces during his visit to a front-line army unit on Thursday to respond to enemy attacks by retaliating first and only then reporting.

"In case of provocations, I ask you to immediately retaliate in response and report it later," Yoon was quoted as saying by South Korean news agency Yonhap.

Yoon added that such a measure was necessary to "smash the enemy's desire for provocations." He specifically pointed to North Korea, saying it can undertake provocations at any time and is the only country in the world that reserves the right to a preemptive nuclear strike and invasion under its constitution. — SPUTNIK

Israeli government approves expansion of Haifa airport

Israel's government has given the green light to a Ministry of Transport plan for the expansion and development of Haifa's airport, the country's first international airport established in 1934, to accommodate increased international flights, building on its history of serving destinations such as Egypt, Jordan, and Cyprus over the decades.



Haifa Airport terminal. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

ISRAEL'S government approved a plan of the Ministry of Transport for the development of the airport in Haifa.

The development is intended to allow for the expansion of the airport to handle more international flights.

The airport in Haifa was established by the British in 1934 and was the first international airport in Israel.

During the decades that have passed since its establishment, international flights have also been made from Haifa, mainly to nearby destinations including Egypt, Jordan and especially Cyprus, which is only a 50-minute flight away. — ANI

Steam pipe failure engulfs New York avenue in vapour

A bustling central New York street was shrouded in vapour when a pipe carrying steam for heating homes and businesses unexpectedly failed on Wednesday, partially closing the busy tourist area.

Plumes of steam escaping the centralized heating and hot water system that runs under the city's streets are not uncommon, but New York Mayor Eric Adams said local people were recommended to wear masks as a precaution.

Some steam pipes are lined with asbestos, an insulating material associated with lung can-

cer and other life-threatening diseases. "The cause of the leak is still under investigation... we don't have any reported injuries thank God," he told journalists.

"We have a pretty big area we need to clean," said the city's emergency management commissioner Zachary Iscol, referring to the risk of asbestos contamination. The Manhattan district known as Midtown East is speckled with bars and restaurants popular with tourists and visitors and sits close to the city's hugely popular Rockefeller Center Christmas tree and lights display. — AFP



Plumes of steam escaping the centralized heating and hot water system that runs under the streets of the Big Apple are not uncommon. **PHOTO: CHARLY TRIBALLEAU/AFP**

TOP NEWS

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un orders military to 'accelerate' war preparations

NORTH KOREAN leader Kim Jong Un has instructed the military, including its nuclear programme, to 'accelerate' war preparations in response to what he described as unprecedented hostile steps by the United States, according to Al Jazeera.

The North Korean leader "set forth the tasks for the People's Army and the munitions industry, nuclear weapons, and civil defence sectors to further accelerate war preparations" at a meeting of the country's ruling Workers' Party on Thursday, according to the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). — ANI

Iranians mourn Guards' commander killed in Israeli strike

THOUSANDS massed Thursday in the Iranian capital for the funeral of senior Revolutionary Guards commander Razi Mousavi, three days after he was killed in what Tehran says was an Israeli strike.

The crowd in Tehran's central Imam Hossein square chanted "Death to Israel" and "Death to America". Many waved yellow flags imprinted with the message "I am your opponent" — a reference to Israel — in both Persian and Hebrew. — AFP

SPORTS



The photo shows the upcoming event of the Myanmar-Thai traditional Lethwei championship to be held on 4 January 2024.

Myanmar-Thai traditional Lethwei championship to be held in January

ORGANIZED by Yangon Region Government and Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation, the MLWC-Myanma traditional Lethwei championship commemorating the 76th Independence Day will be held on 4 January 2024 (1 pm local time) at National Indoor Stadium-1 with six rounds.

Myanmar's Kyaw Swa Win will face Fonsari (Thailand) in the main event while Myanmar's Rahman will take on Worletchalit (Thailand) in the co-main event.

Other bouts will feature fights of Ko Ko (Cement Factory) vs Taing Kyaw (M2K), Moe Hein (Cement Factory) vs Naing Aung Shin (Lethwei Warriors), Thu Ye Kaung (Cement Factory) vs Kaung Sett Naing (Yoeyar Kyar) and Saw Ba Hein (Cement Factory) vs Aphoe Thway (Lethwei Warriors).

"Originally, it was planned to have Kyaw Swa Win fight with

Wijit. But Wijit fought in January, so we changed a boxer. Fonsari has played Lethwei in Myanmar and was tied with Soe Lin Oo. He is currently playing in the ONE championship," said the match organizer.

"Similarly, Rahman was scheduled to fight Awathan, but Awathan broke a bone in his hand during the one championship match on 8 December, so he missed two months. So he was replaced by Thai Fight and Max Muay Thai champion Worletchalit," he added.

The event will be held at the National Indoor Stadium-1 (Thuwuna) with a capacity of 10,000 people for all Lethwei fans to watch. Only 100 tickets worth K50,000 and 100 tickets worth K30,000 will be sold for those who want to watch near the ring. All the other fans can enjoy the whole event for free. — Bala Soe/KZL

Son leads South Korea squad 'ready' to win Asian Cup

Tottenham Hotspur's Son Heung-min, named in South Korea's Asian Cup squad, aims to end their 64-year continental title drought, with coach Jurgen Klinsmann emphasizing the team's readiness for the tournament.



Tottenham Hotspur's Son Heung-min will captain South Korea at the Asian Cup next month. PHOTO: AFP

TOTTENHAM Hotspur's Son Heung-min was named in South Korea's Asian Cup squad on Thursday and coach Jurgen Klinsmann said it was "about time" they ended their 64-year continental title drought.

Wolves forward Hwang Hee-chan, who scored his 10th Premier League goal of the season against Brentford on Wednesday, was also among Klinsmann's 26-man selection for the tournament, which kicks off in Qatar on 12 Jan-

uary.

Son will captain a squad that includes Bayern Munich defender Kim Min-jae and 22-year-old Paris Saint-Germain attacking midfielder Lee Kang-in.

South Korea have not won the Asian Cup since 1960 and Klinsmann said: "It's all about timing now and I think we are ready for this big, big competition. "It's 64 years — 64 years is a long time for Korea. It's about time that we get this done."

South Korea have been drawn in Group E and will face Malaysia, Jordan and Bahrain in the first round.

They lost 1-0 to eventual champions Qatar in the quarter-finals of the 2019 Asian Cup in the United Arab Emirates.

Klinsmann, a World Cup winner with Germany in 1990, will have one of the strongest squads in the tournament in Qatar and he said he could "see it in their eyes that they are hungry for it". — AFP



Victorious Cricket teams celebrate their success.

U-19 Men's & Women's Cricket Championship concludes

THE final matches plus the awarding ceremony for the Inter-School U-19 Men's & Women's Cricket Championship was held at Kyaikkasan Sport Grounds in Yangon yesterday.

The Alaung Phaya team won the trophy for the U-19 Men's Cricket Championship while the Bayint Naung team secured

the trophy for the U-19 Women's Cricket Championship.

Officials presented the trophy and medals to the winners. Next players of Highest Wicket Taker, Highest Run Scorer, and Player of the Tournament grabbed individual medals for their talents. — Ahkar Maung/KZL

South Korea's President Yoon orders immediate retaliation in case of enemy attack

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EU assistance to Ukraine comes at expense of European economy – Kremlin

Kremlin spokesman Peskov argued that this allocation negatively impacts EU member states' economies, industries, and future prospects, emphasizing the strain on nations already facing economic challenges.

KREMLIN spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Wednesday that the European Union's assistance to Ukraine came at the expense of the bloc's economy and industry that was already facing difficulties.

On Tuesday, the Financial Times reported that the EU was working on a backup plan to help Ukraine, which would require member states to issue national financial guarantees, enabling the European Commission to borrow up to 20 billion euros (\$22 billion) for Ukraine in 2024. The scheme does not require that all member states issue guarantee and will allow the participants to circumvent Hungary's objections.

"The money is allocated at the expense of the EU members' economies that are already going through a rough time. The money is allocated to the detriment of the EU states' industries and to the detriment of the EU countries' future," Peskov told reporters, commenting on the EU's backup mechanism plan.

In mid-December, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban vetoed an increase in the EU budget for 2024-2027, including 50 billion euros in macro-financial aid to Kyiv.



EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell speaks to the press following the EU-Ukraine foreign ministers' meeting in Kyiv, on 2 October 2023. **PHOTO: SERGEI SUPINSKY/AFP**

After Russia launched its special military op in Ukraine in 2022, first the US, and then shortly after Europe, adopted comprehensive sanctions against Russia. However, the anti-Russian re-

strictions failed to yield the desired effect, as Moscow managed to withstand external economic and political pressure, showing steady economic growth over the period of the conflict. — SPUTNIK

UNAUTHORIZED USE OF ARTICLES

New York Times sues OpenAI, Microsoft over copyright infringement

THE New York Times sued ChatGPT-maker OpenAI and Microsoft in a US court on Wednesday, alleging that the companies' powerful AI models used millions of articles for training without permission.

Through their AI chatbots, the companies "seek to free-ride on The Times' massive investment in its journalism by using it to build substitutive products without permission or payment", the lawsuit said.

Copyright is becoming a major battleground for the much-hyped generative AI sector, with publishers, musicians and artists increasingly lawyering up to get paid for technology that is being built with their content.

With the suit, The New York Times also chose the more confrontational response to the sudden rise of AI chatbots, in contrast to other media groups such as Germany's Axel Springer or the Associated Press that have entered content deals with OpenAI.

"If The Times and other news organizations cannot produce and protect their independent journalism, there will be a vacuum that no computer or artificial intelligence can fill," said the Times' complaint.

"Less journalism will be produced, and the cost to society will be enormous."— AFP

World's highest bridge to be completed in mid-2025 in SW China

The Huajiang Grand Canyon Bridge in Guizhou Province, southwest China, anticipated to be the world's highest bridge with a designed height of 625 metres, is set to be completed by June 2025, with half of the construction already finished.

THE Huajiang Grand Canyon Bridge in southwest China's Guizhou Province, currently under construction and set to be the world's highest bridge, is expected to be completed by June 2025, according to a press conference held on Wednesday.

Half of the construction has been completed, nearly two years after the construction was kicked off in a deep gorge in southwestern Guizhou.

The 2,890-metre-long steel girder suspension bridge will be part of an expressway in Guizhou, boasting a designed height of 625 metres from the bottom of the gorge to the bridge deck.

The bridge will significantly reduce the crossing time of the canyon from approximately 70 minutes to just about a minute.

A set of bridge-themed sightseeing and recreational programmes are being planned, according to the press conference held by the provincial government. Situated among rolling mountains and gorges, Guizhou is home to nearly half of the world's 100 highest bridges. The Beipanjiang Bridge on the border of Guizhou and Yunnan provinces is currently the world's highest bridge, sitting about 565 metres above a valley, equivalent to the height of a 200-story building. — Xinhua



This aerial photo taken on 24 October 2023 shows a main tower of the Huajiang grand canyon bridge in southwest China's Guizhou Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**