

Contestants show off performing talents in Chin traditional dances



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla cordially greet members of the panel of judges for the marionette contest and Yadanabon marionette troupe representing Mandalay Region at Yinkyayhmu Yadana Hall of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture yesterday.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla enjoyed competition of relevant contending troupes from regions and states in the Chin traditional dancing contest and the Vessantara Drama marionette contest.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu

The Performing Arts Competition revitalized the art of marionette in its 23rd event to preserve Myanmar traditional cultural heritage.

Kyu Hla yesterday afternoon watched participation of contestants at the Central Level of the 25th Myanmar Traditional Cultur-

al Performing Arts Competition at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II (MICC II) in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Senior General, his wife and party viewed performances and dances in Chin styles presented by each troupe from re-

gions and states at the open level of the Chin traditional dancing contest, portraying natural

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By MIN ZAN

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Bamboo and palm products sell faster than rattan products

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Sangha Hospital in Pyinmana invites donation for free cataract surgery programme

NATIONAL



Citizens yet to be counted in Nationwide Census to be reassessed



- The 2024 Nationwide Census activities were conducted from 1 to 15 October.
- The people who have not completed census processes due to various reasons can contact the relevant ward and village census committees and township census committees to collect census data again.
- Individuals can also contact 067 431062, 067 431359, 067 431067, 067 431339. — Central Census Commission

Boosting Agriculture-Based Industries to Strengthen the State Economy and Increase Output

TO promote manufacturing and industries rooted in agriculture and livestock farming – the country's primary economic sectors – supporting the development of the State economy and enhancing product output.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with members of the Bago Region government on 30 August 2024)

Massive pilgrims flock to Bagan, Popa for Thadingyut Festival

PILGRIMS to the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone have visited Popa to enjoy nature, resulting in a dramatic increase in visitor arrivals at Popa, according to residents.

In this year's dry season, some people love the nature of the trekking tour in Popa, and some people take vacations in Bagan and go to Popa during their journey.

"During this year's Thadingyut festival, visitor arrival at Popa has quite surged. Even today, some groups would stay overnight on the mountain. The deer park at geographical zone 7 is now lively. These are ecotourism areas, so people love to visit," said Ko Tin Ko Min from Mahagiri Group.

The visitor arrival at Popa has sharply risen this year compared to previous years, and in addition to the Popa trekking



tour, a new destination of villages located at the foot of Mount Popa has been developed and it is metaphorically called the oasis of Anya (upcountry).

Besides, local tourists' arrival in Bagan has increased, even though all hotel rooms were occupied and no more e-bikes were available. Visitor arrival this year's Thadingyut was more extensive than expected, according to Bagan residents.

"Like the pagoda festival, there is a throng of visitors in Bagan. All shops traded very well from 15 through 18 October. A rise in visitor arrivals can help the livelihood of residents," said Ko Nay Myo Hlaing from Poneyaygyi restaurant. — MT/ZS

This photo shows travellers visiting an ancient temple in Bagan.

Special Weather News

Issued at 19:00 hours MST on 20-10-2024

ACCORDING to the observations at 17:30 hours MST today, the low pressure cell over the North Andaman Sea still persists. It is likely to intensify into a low-pressure area over the eastcentral Bay of Bengal and adjoining North Andaman Sea next 24 hours. Thereafter it is likely to move west-northwestwards and intensify into a Depression around 22 October 2024 and into a Cyclonic

storm around 23 October 2024.

Due to the low-pressure cell and which may form low-pressure area, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls, isolated heavyfalls and strong winds from today night up to 24 October 2024.

Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experi-

enced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 40 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 9-11 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

People should be aware the natural disasters such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, thunder, lightning, hails, flash flood and landslide in the hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flight. — DMH

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(Excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)



Chairman of the SAC Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and dignitaries view performances and dances in Chin styles presented by troupe from Magway Region at the open level of the Chin traditional dancing contest, at MICC II yesterday.

Contestants show off performing talents in Chin traditional dances

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beauties of the Chin State and traditional cultures and customs at Plenary Hall, with a Chin traditional song titled “Welcome to Chin Hills”.

After the competition, the Senior General and his wife warmly conversed with members of the panel of judges and contestants.

Also present at the competition together with the Senior General and his wife were council members and their spouses, Union Ministers, union-level dignitaries and their spouses,

the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, deputy ministers, members of the panel of judges assessing the competitions, supervisors, contestants from regions and states, ethnic brethren, as well as citizens who cherish cultural performing fine arts.

In the evening, the Senior General and his wife together with audiences enjoyed competitions of troupes in the marionette contest of the 25th

Performing Arts Competition at Yinkyayhmu Yadana Hall of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

First, Yadanabon marionette troupe representing Mandalay Region showed off their performing arts talents and skills with dances and dialogues to compete in the “Vessantara” drama contest at the amateur (first grade) level with the essence of consequences of Sila and competitiveness in Dhamma and Adhamma exercised by noble persons in serving interests of others under the nature

of Paramattha Parami.

The Senior General and his wife cordially greeted members of the panel of judges for the marionette contest and contestants.

The Performing Arts Competition commenced in 1993, and the “Vidhura” drama marionette contest was designated for marionette event in 1998. As such, the art of marionette which had faded out for some years resurged. As the Performing Arts Competition together with the art of marionette was halt for some rea-

sons, the art of marionette was rejuvenated with the presentation of Vessantara Drama which resumed at the 23rd Performing Arts Competition in order to preserve Myanmar traditional cultural heritage. Moreover, the contest of marionette aims to admire and emulate the deep Dana Parami exercised by King Vessantara, understand varieties of Parami based on Dana Parami and comprehensively accumulate knowledge about the history of Buddhism for enhancement of perception and morality. — MNA/TTA

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL



Chief Justice of the Union U Tha Htay views a narration contestant from Yangon Region.



People view a xylophone contestant from Mon State.



A mandolin contestant from Mon State.



A dancing contestant from Mandalay Region.



A traditional orchestra solo contestant from Kayin State.



A xylophone contestant from Taninthayi Region.

Seventh day of Silver Jubilee Performing Arts Competition continues

THE Silver Jubilee of the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2024 entered its seventh day in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday.

A “Song Competition for Promoting National Prestige and Integrity” took place at the Banquet Hall of the Myanmar International Convention Centre II (MICC II). Contestants from regions and states participated in the amateur-level second-grade male category, and the higher education level female category.

The basic education level (aged 10-15) female dancing contest and Chin traditional dance open-class contest took place at the Plenary Hall of MICC II.

A song-composing contest for higher education level was organized at the Yadana Hall of



People view the Jataka drama at amateur-level first-grade troupe contest from Sagaing Region at the open-air theatre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

Moreover, contestants from regions and states at different levels competed in the mandolin, xylophone, orchestra solo, narration, marionette and drama contests, respectively.

These contests were attended by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, council members General Nyo Saw and his wife, Mahn Nyein Maung and Dr Hmuh Thang, Chief Justice of the Union U Tha Htay, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Ko Ko, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister U Win Shein, Union ministers and senior Tatmadaw officers.

The awarding of the competition will take place on 23 October. — MNA/TMT

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NATIONAL



balloon ride lasts from 45 minutes to an hour. Upon landing, passengers are treated to cold drinks, wine, and banana cake and other snacks before being transported back to their hotels. Balloons usually launch from Bagan Amazing Golf Club and the hotel zone, making the ride a favourite among both foreign and local tourists, particularly those from Asian countries.

There are currently four hot-air balloon companies providing

these services in Bagan, operating from October (starting with the Thadingyut festival) until the first week of April. Additionally, a skydiving company started offering services from 16 October. Tourists flying over Bagan can enjoy a stunning aerial view of the 3,822 pagodas, temples, and statues, along with the scenic Ayeyawady River, contributing to the promotion of the region's tourism sector. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/TKO

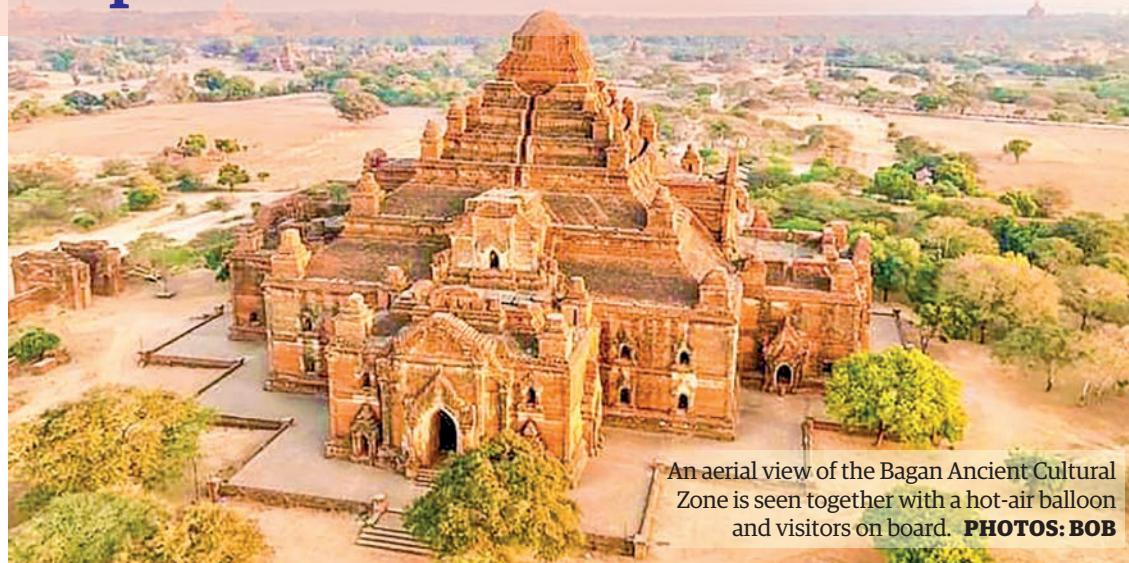
Hot-air balloon services resume in Bagan, offering tourists aerial views of ancient stupas and temples

STARTING from 16 October, a hot-air balloon company began offering services to both local and international tourists in the Bagan region, showcasing Myanmar's ancient cultural heritage, including pagodas, temples, statues, and the region's natural beauty.

Each year, following the Thadingyut Full Moon Day, hot-air balloon companies provide these services, with the fare set at around K600,000 per person. However, the tourism season in 2021 was suspended due to the global pandemic. In 2022, with resumption of tourism activities, both domestic and international

visitors returned to Myanmar's top destinations, including the beaches, pagodas, and temples. Bagan saw an increase in tourist arrival numbers during the 2023 Thadingyut Festival, and the balloon rides proved particularly popular again during the 2024 festival.

Balloon operators offer convenient services, picking up passengers from their hotels and serving refreshments like coffee, tea, cookies, and snacks before the flight. The hot-air



An aerial view of the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone is seen together with a hot-air balloon and visitors on board. **PHOTOS: BOB**

Restoration of flood-affected Beluchaung No 2 Hydropower Plant in momentum

KAYAH State Chief Minister U Zaw Myo Tin visited the Beluchaung No 2 Hydropower Plant yesterday to assess the ongoing restoration work following flooding caused by rising water levels in the Belu Creek. Floodwaters began entering the plant on 30 September, which led to a suspension of generating electricity. As the water level at the plant yard has receded, efforts are being accelerated to restore operations and resume power generation.

During his visit, the Chief Minister inspected various restoration activities in the yard of the plant. These included the removal of silt and debris that had piled up due to the flood, the cleanup of the Switchyard area, and the clearing of rocks,

tree branches, and silt from the underground tunnel, all of which had caused blockages during the flooding. Heavy machinery was deployed to clear silt from key areas.

The Chief Minister also reviewed the cleaning of critical components such as the Control Panel, which had been affected by silt, and the repair work being conducted on the Main Valve and Nozzle Valves in the power generation unit. He urged officials to prioritize safety and to continue restoration efforts to bring the plant back into operation as soon as possible.

Following the inspection, a coordination meeting was held with officials from both the Beluchaung No 1 and No 2 plants to discuss the next steps



Kayah State Chief Minister U Zaw Myo Tin looks into the ongoing restoration work inside the No 2 Biluchaung Hydropower Plant (Lawpita) yesterday. **PHOTO: KAYAH STATE IPRD**

for rapidly resuming electricity production. The Chief Minister stressed the importance of addressing any remaining

requirements to facilitate the restoration process.

Once the necessary repairs and maintenance are completed

at the Beluchaung No 2 Hydropower Plant, normal electricity distribution will resume shortly. — State IPRD/KZL

NATIONAL



Members of the Sasanahita Parahita alms and rice donation group are seen during the visit.

Sasanahita Parahita alms and rice donation group arranges pilgrimage trip

THE Sasanahita Parahita alms and rice donation group went on a pilgrimage and charity tour for two days with one-night stop on 13 and 14 October.

About 50 people joined the trip, donated alms to a philanthropic school, and visited pagodas in and around Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

On 13 October, the group

went to Lewe Naga Tahtaung pagoda and Samataung pagoda. They donated rice, cooking oil and cash to the Samataung monastic school and spent the night.

Then, at 6:00 am on 14 October, the group went to the Hlaykhwintaung pagoda, Letlokaung, the Uppatasanti pagoda, Shwehlwamtaung

monastery, Shwenanthwin pagoda, Chitthu Langyar, and the Maravijaya Buddha Image, and returned to Yangon.

In September last year, the group also visited Nay Pyi Taw and Bago to donate rice, cooking oil and clothes to the flood-affected people, according to U Win Naing, the chair of the group. — MT/ZN

UNDP to aid flood victims in Shan, Kayin, and Bago with appliances

THE UNDP will provide emergency household appliances for rehabilitation efforts to flood victims in Kalaw Township of Shan State, Hlaingbwe Township of Kayin State, and Bago Township of Bago Region.

This grant is part of UNDP's Enabling Community Recovery and Resilience (ENCORE) project, which collaborates with local communities to launch relief and rehabilitation activi-

ties for future natural disasters. UNDP provides personal items, foodstuffs, solar lights, power banks, clothing, and Household Emergency Assistance Packages (HEAP) boxes, including medications, in NyaungU Township of Mandalay Region, Kanma and Sinbaungwe townships of Magway Region, Nyaungshwe Township of Shan State, and Hpa-an Township of Kayin State. — ASH/MKKS

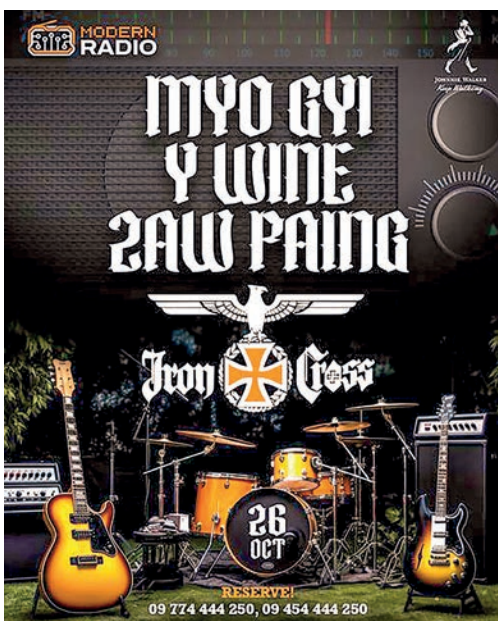


This photo depicts UNDP distributing relief supplies to impacted people in the villages.

Star-studded acoustic performance by Myo Gyi, Y Wine, and Zaw Paing at Modern Radio Star Lounge

ON 26 October, renowned singers Myo Gyi, Y Wine, and Zaw Paing will perform at the Modern Radio Star Lounge at 7 pm on 26 October, as announced by Zaw Paing.

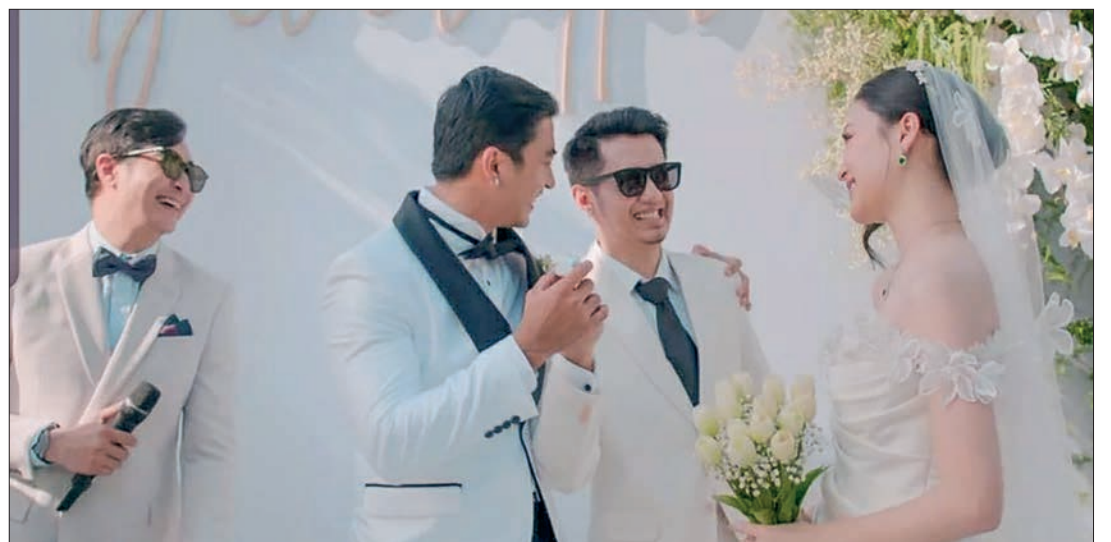
During the event, the audience will be treated to popular songs by the featured vocalists, accompanied by the Iron Cross Band. Attendees can also look forward to an excellent performance by professional lead guitarist Chit San Maung.



“This is a new programme from Modern Radio, aiming to deliver the best possible performance for our audience. It’s a show not to be missed, as we will be performing our most popular songs in an acoustic version,” said Zaw Paing. — ASH/TRKM

Poster on show of Myo Gyi, Y Wine and Zaw Paing.

Sai Sai Kham Leng releases new music video “Latt Htet Kya Mel”



A scene from Sai Sai Kham Leng's “Latt Htet Kya Mel” MV.

ACADEMY award-winning artiste Sai Sai Kham Leng has released his latest music video titled “Latt Htet Kya Mel”. The song, composed by Sai Sai Kham Leng who also sang the song together with Maung Maung Pyae Sone, was directed by Win

Lwin Htet.

Sai Sai Kham Leng explained, “This is the third single song from my original album, and it features Maung Maung Pyae Sone. The title ‘Latt Htet Kya Mel’ (Let’s Get Married) was chosen to reflect the simplicity and joy

of the song. It’s my gift to my audience. I hope you enjoy it”.

The music video also features performances by Htoo Aung, May Grace, San Htut (as the wedding host), and models from Stars & Models International, led by John Lwin. — ASH/TKO

Bamboo and palm products sell faster than rattan products

IN the handicrafts market, products made of bamboo and palm are selling faster than products made of rattan, according to the handicraft stores.

The products made from rattan are expensive, so the fair-priced products made from bamboo and palm are more popular.

“During this period, the products made from bamboo and palm are more popular than rattan products. There are many consumers for products such as easy chairs and desks. The price is low and reasonable, and the rattan is expensive in tens of thousands. Price is one reason. And it is not easy to make it. But sales are not bad as it has its own market. Palm products should be preserved as they are among the

traditional handicrafts. Due to a recent shortage of labourers, the output has decreased,” said the owner of Thitsar Nwe rattan, bamboo and palm products shop in Htonbo on the ascent road to PyinOoLwin.

Rattan, bamboo and palm accessories include sunshades, bamboo rolls, rattan covers, various rattan stools, various bamboo baskets with slings, fine-textured mats, lamp covers, rattan canes of various sizes, wheat hats, cane hats, and different baskets.

“People usually buy small tissue boxes, flower baskets, and small pen holders to give as presents. Recently, we see more interest in rattan-made items. It is more expensive and has its own demand,” he said. — Thit Taw/ZN



A rattan, bamboo and palm products shop.

Strong market demand boosts chickpea prices in Mandalay after Thadingyut festival



Traders are pictured evaluating varieties of beans and pulses in the Mandalay market.

SOURCES from Mandalay report that prices of chickpea have risen following the Thadingyut festival due to increased demand from both foreign and domestic markets. Varieties available in the Mandalay market include V2, V7, 929, and Burmese Benge gram. A 3-basket bag of V2 chickpea is priced at K312,000, while V7 chickpea is priced at K330,000, reflecting strong market activity.

U Soe Win Myint, the owner of Soe Win Myint commodity centre, noted: “Sales of various types of Indian Bengal gram are thriving. Compared to last year, farmers are securing better prices, and this year’s harvest is

promising. India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan are key importers. Chickpea is a popular ingredient in Myanmar cuisine, valued for its nutritional content and flavour. With the cultivation season underway, farmers are actively growing it, and the strong prices should encourage more production”.

Chickpea in Myanmar are primarily grown in Mandalay, Sagaing, and Magway regions, with the current harvest benefiting from strong demand, both locally and internationally, boosting market prices. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)/TMT

Automobile trade slows as prices drop by 20%

THE automobile trade has been slow, and prices have fallen about 20 per cent depending on the type, said Myanmar Automobile Assembler and Distributor Association’s general secretary U Kyaw Swa Tun Myint.

Depending on the exchange rate, some new cars have been traded at lower prices, and medium-grade and old car prices have declined as well, he said.

“At present, prices have declined about 10-20 per cent. It is up to the exchange rate overall. New automobile prices will need to drop to some extent when the exchange rate falls. Because prices were raised when the

exchange rate rocketed,” he said.

Automobile prices started declining in August and continued to decline in September and October, and the trade has slowed.

“It doesn’t mean the trade stops completely. People who need cars buy. The trade has slowed down fairly. Cars worth between K50 million and K100 million are being traded now,” he added.

Currently, some vehicles whose prices were raised have been traded at lower prices, and prices are likely to decrease further. He said the auto trade would return to normal over the following months. — MT/ZS

Betel leaves’ price falls slightly, and orders for Yangon betel received from Tachilek, Kengtung, Myitkyina

THE price of betel leaves has decreased slightly, and the betel leaves in Yangon Region are being ordered by buyers from Tachilek, Kengtung, and Myitkyina, according to the information collected from the market.

Betel leaves are mainly produced in Mandalay and Ayeyawady regions, and those from the former are mostly supplied to Yangon Region.

“Ayeyawady mainly focuses on selling only to Yangon market, so we have to call Yangon betel leaves. From the Yangon market, they are transported by plane to Tachilek, Kengtung, and Myitkyina. It has to look at Mandalay market. If Mandalay market can’t

send it, they’ll send it back from Yangon,” said a betel retail and wholesale dealer in Dagon Myothit (North) Township.

In addition, the betel price is still at the highest level, although it has come down after a record high due to the bad weather in the last six months.

“If it’s cold in the cold season, betel production will decrease. If it’s very cold in the cold season, the price will go up. If it’s not cold, but it’s warm and humid, betel yield will be good. In the cold season, the betel price is usually better. In the last six months, betel price increased to a record high level due to the weather. Now it’s back down a little. Even



A betel plantation is seen in a betel farm.

so, it’s still in the highest price range. The betel price in the next six months will depend on the weather,” he said. — Thit Taw/ZN

OPINION

Consider the use of mobile phones for youths' future

THE widespread use of mobile phones, particularly among students, has raised concerns about their impact on mental health and learning. In response, some U.S. states and countries like France, Finland, Sweden, Australia, and Russia have enacted laws banning mobile phone use in schools. These measures aim to reduce distractions and safeguard the well-being of students.

Initially designed for communication, mobile phones have evolved into powerful devices with advanced applications, making them essential in daily life. Youth, in particular, are drawn to these technologies. However, the increasing reliance on mobile phones, computers, and other digital devices among school-age children

has created several issues. Excessive mobile phone use can lead to social problems, mental health challenges, and harmful behaviours such as cyberbullying and cybercrime. These issues often occur in schools, disrupting students' learning, health, and well-being.

Currently, countries around the world are striving to improve communication technologies to enable smoother and more efficient connections. Technological advancements benefit society by reducing the time needed to accomplish tasks and enhancing socioeconomic conditions. However, it is important to ensure that young people do not overuse smartphones, as excessive reliance on applications can lead to negative consequences.

In Myanmar, although mobile technology is not as advanced as in other countries, there is still a need to address the potential threats posed by mobile phone misuse among students. Proactively educating students on the responsible use of mobile phones and limiting their access during school hours can help mitigate the negative impacts of these devices. If done correctly, the younger generation will be better equipped to use mobile phones efficiently in their daily lives without succumbing to harmful effects.

A 2023 report by the PEW Research Centre revealed that 95 per cent of teenagers aged 13 to 17 worldwide use smartphones. Surveys indicate that teenagers spend an average of 4.8 hours per day on social media platforms. Studies show that using mobile phones for more than three hours a day can lead to mental health issues. Despite these risks, the number of young people using smartphones continues to rise.

Given these trends, it is crucial to consider how mobile phones are used in schools carefully. Restricting phone use during school hours is essential to ensure that students can focus on their education and avoid the adverse effects associated with excessive screen time. By limiting mobile phone access, schools can create an environment that fosters learning, protects mental health, and prepares students for a balanced future.

Currently, countries around the world are striving to improve communication technologies to enable smoother and more efficient connections. Technological advancements benefit society by reducing the time needed to accomplish tasks and enhancing socioeconomic conditions. However, it is important to ensure that young people do not overuse smartphones, as excessive reliance on applications can lead to negative consequences.

STEPPING into the vibrant world of Bassein Arts and Science College (now Patheingyi University) as a first-year student, I was eager to explore every new opportunity that came my way. From engaging lectures to a wide array of extracurricular activities, college life promised a wealth of experiences. Whether it was learning Japanese, trying my hand at Karate, or picking up a tennis racket for the first time, I was determined to make the most of it all. However, it was rowing that ultimately captured my heart. This demanding yet rewarding sport quickly became my passion, symbolizing not just physical strength but the endurance of the mind and spirit. Little did I know, however, that unforeseen events would soon bring an abrupt and heartbreaking end to my rowing journey.

Everything in the new environment of Bassein Arts and Science College (now Patheingyi University) seemed exciting to me. It was my first time stepping into the college as a first-year student, and the atmosphere was full of new experiences. The lectures and practical work were captivating, but it wasn't just the academics that drew my attention. The extracurricular activities were equally enticing, especially the Japanese language course, Karate training sessions in the evenings, and sports like tennis and rowing.

Some of my friends and I joined the Japanese language classes. These were taught by Saya U Saw Hlaing and Sayama Daw Cherry, both of whom had lived in Japan. The classes started at 4 pm and ended at 5 pm, and while we didn't complete the course, the reason for dropping out escaped my memory. Perhaps it was the allure of another activity

– the Karate training. I remember envying the students in their Karate uniforms, proudly displaying yellow, green, and black belts. Intrigued by their progress, one of my roommates and I decided to join the Karate course. However, we didn't last long. Our instructor, Ko Myint Sein, a black-belt Karate master and final-year student at the time (later becoming a tutor in the Geography Department), was quite strict and often scolded us. After just a few days, we abandoned the training.

Before coming to college, I had been a badminton player in my hometown during my high school days. At Bassein College, I saw my two roommates, Ko Saw Lwin (from Pyay) and Ko Than Nyunt (from Okpo), both skilled tennis players. They owned tennis rackets and wore smart tennis uniforms as they headed to the court every evening. I was envious once again and thought I could easily pick up tennis since I had experience with badminton. One

Rowing Through Life's Storms

By Min Zan

day, I joined them at the tennis court, eager to show my skills. However, I quickly realized that playing tennis was not as easy as I had imagined. I could barely serve the ball across the net. To make matters worse, a group of girls from Myintzu Hall, whose windows overlooked the tennis court, laughed at my awkward attempts. That was the end of my tennis adventure.

Soon, my attention turned to the rowing club. Fortunately, Kan Thon Sint Lake, located right in front of the college, made rowing activities very accessible. The rowing club at Rangoon Arts and Science University (RASU) had shared four four-oared boats and other necessary equipment with us. I recall that the head of the

rowing club was Saya U Minn Than Thauang, a lecturer from the Physics Department, while other trainers included Saya U Tun Hyke (Geography Department), Saya U Thein Win (Geology Department), Saya U Soe Myint (Botany Department), and Sayar U Thet Oo (Geology Department), who also happened to be our hall tutor.

Before we could get into the boats, we had to do hours of warm-up exercises. Instead of rowing on the water, we were trained on fixed rowing machines, where the hours spent were carefully registered. Only after completing a sufficient number of training hours were we allowed to step into the actual boats. These boats were Western-style four-oared vessels, and

the rowing commands were all in English. Though my memory is a bit hazy, I still remember a few of the commands:

"Stand by, Crew!"
"One foot in!"
"In together!"
"Push away!"
"Toucher!"
"Next stroke, Row!"
"Harder!"

In rowing, the "Cox" is the leader who sits at the back, steering the boat and giving commands. The crew consisted of four rowers, with the "Bow" being the rower farthest from the Cox and the "Stroke" sitting closest. I found the sport captivating, and within a month, I was rowing well. The tutors and trainers, all highly skilled,

shared their knowledge generously, and I felt deeply committed to the sport.

The rowing club had a motto written above the entrance to the boat-keeping house: "Row Till You Are Dead." I found it inspiring, as it symbolized the dedication and perseverance needed to excel in rowing. In this sport, unity is key – each crew member must synchronize their movements perfectly. If even one rower is out of sync, the boat's performance suffers, and the whole team can lose in a tournament.

There was a popular saying among university students about rowing: "If you don't have a girlfriend, join the rowing and hiking clubs." (မကြည့်တောင်တက်မရလေ့ ရှိသည်) Although it was meant as a joke, I didn't find any romance during my time at the rowing club, but that didn't stop me from becoming a dedicated rower. I enjoyed every moment on the water.

Sayar U Minn Than Thauang often gave some briefings about rowing to the new trainees. Some were forgotten, but some have been vivid in my mind up to now. In Western-style boat rowing, the rowers have to follow a set of key disciplines to ensure smooth and efficient movement of the boat. Some of the essential disciplines include:

Unity and Synchronization: The most critical discipline in rowing is for all crew members to row in perfect unison. Each movement of strokes to the power applied, to avoid disrupting the balance and

speed of the boat.

Proper Technique: Rowers must maintain proper form and technique. This includes correct posture, grip, and stroke execution to maximize efficiency and minimize injury.

Endurance and Stamina: Rowing is physically demanding, requiring rowers to build their endurance and stamina to sustain high-intensity efforts over long distances without faltering.

Listening to Commands: The crew must strictly follow the Cox's commands. The Cox steers the boat and directs the crew's actions, and rowers must respond immediately to instructions like "One foot in," "In together," "Next stroke Row," and "Harder."

Coordination of Power: The rowers need to balance power output, ensuring each stroke is forceful enough to propel the boat but not so uneven that it disrupts the boat's glide.

Focus and Mental Toughness: Rowing requires sustained concentration, as distractions or loss of focus can break the rhythm. Rowers must also have mental resilience, especially during long or competitive races.

These disciplines combine to create the precision and teamwork required in Western boat rowing, where even a small deviation by one crew member can affect the entire boat's performance.

However, 1975 brought unexpected misfortune. In that year, a major crisis hit Rangoon Arts and Science University (RASU), forcing all universities and colleges in the country to close. We were all sent home for what turned out to be a long holiday of several months. When the situation eventually calmed down, the authorities decided to reopen the universities and colleges.

But bad luck struck again, this time in the form of a devastating cyclone. On 7 May 1975, a powerful cyclone with winds reaching 120 miles per hour tore through the Ayeyawady Division. It caused widespread destruction, blowing off roofs and collapsing buildings, including many at our college. The rowing club's boat-keeping house was utterly destroyed, along with all the boats inside.

That storm marked the end of our beloved rowing club. The boats were gone, and with them, my dreams of rowing till the end. The motto above the entrance, "Row Till You Are Dead," still resonated with me, but circumstances had changed everything. I wanted to row for as long as I lived, but life had other plans.

The devastation of the cyclone not only swept away the boats but also took with it a piece of my spirit. The motto "Row Till You Are Dead," which had once inspired me to push beyond my limits, now felt like a bittersweet memory, a reminder of the dreams that circumstances had taken away. Yet, despite the tragic end to my rowing journey, the lessons I learned – unity, perseverance, and mental toughness – stayed with me. Life, much like rowing, is unpredictable and filled with storms, but the discipline to endure remains. Though I could no longer row on the waters of Kan Thon Sint Lake, the resilience it had instilled in me continued to steer my life's course. While the boats may be gone, the spirit of rowing lives on in my heart, reminding me that sometimes the journey matters more than the destination.

(This article is written in honour of the Bassein College Rowing Club.)



Pancreatic cell stress limits linked to type 2 diabetes risk

Jackson Laboratory research links pancreatic cell stress limits to type 2 diabetes, highlighting genetic variations affecting insulin production and cell survival.

RESEARCH from The Jackson Laboratory reveals that pancreatic cells have a stress tolerance limit, which, when exceeded by factors like inflammation and hyperglycemia, can lead to type 2 diabetes.

The study highlights a correlation between genetic variations that elevate diabetes risk and how pancreatic cells respond to stress.

Specifically, researchers focused on how islet beta cells react to two types of molecular stress: endoplasmic reticulum (ER) stress and cytokine stress. They found that sustained stress can overwhelm these cells, impairing insulin production or causing cell death.

The team, led by Michael L. Stitzel and Dugyu Ucar, examined

over 5,000 genes in healthy human islet cells subjected to chemical stressors.

They discovered significant changes in gene expression and DNA regulatory regions, particularly noting that 86 regions linked to genetic variants in diabetes-prone individuals were affected by stress.

This suggests that genetic

predisposition may compromise the ability of islet cells to cope with stress, potentially increasing diabetes risk.

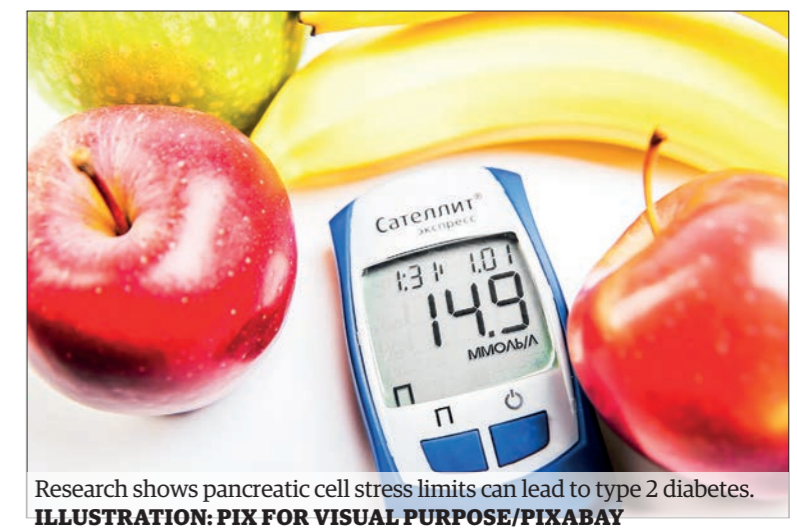
Stitzel's research also pinpointed the MAP3K5 gene, which, when overexpressed, led to higher islet cell death under stress.

Conversely, blocking this gene increased cell resilience. Promisingly, Selonsertib, a drug

targeting MAP3K5, is in clinical trials and may offer preventive benefits for those at risk of diabetes.

The findings aim to pave the way for new therapeutic strategies that enhance islet cell resilience and potentially prevent diabetes onset in susceptible individuals.

SOURCE: ANI



Research shows pancreatic cell stress limits can lead to type 2 diabetes. ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY

NATIONAL

ANCIENT inscriptions dating from the 11th to 14th centuries, spanning the Bagan to Pinya periods, are housed at the Shwegugyi Pagoda in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Region. During extended holidays, pilgrims have the opportunity to observe these remarkable artifacts.

King Anawrahta, recognized as the founder of the first Myanmar Empire and a fervent supporter of Buddhism, established 11 districts, collectively known as Ledwin areas comprising Pinle, Pyimana, Myittha, Ramone, Myingontaing, Panan, Tamoke, Thintoung, Makkhara, Tapyaktha, and Khanlu, as fortress towns in the Kyaukse plain, where the Samon, Sama, Zawgyi, Panlaung, and Dokhtawady rivers flow. Among these fortress towns, there are three in Myittha Township, five in Kyaukse Township, and three in Singaing Township currently.

Historical records reveal that the ancient town of Tamoke, surrounded by a 25-acre brick wall in shape of a horseshoe, was one of these 11 districts. It is located near Nyaungpinzauk village in the Kyaungpangon village-tract, to the east of the Pan-



Ancient Buddha image seen at Tamoke Shinpin Shwegugyi Pagoda. PHOTO: THET MAUNG (KYAUKSE)

Ancient inscriptions and artifacts of Tamoke Shinpin Shwegugyi Pagoda open to pilgrims

laung River. Tamoke Shwegugyi Temple lies near Nyaungpinzauk village along the Kyaukse-TadaU Road, six miles north of Kyaukse and southeast of the old town of

Tamoke.

This temple is one of nine constructed by King Anawrahta along the banks of the Panlaung River during the early Bagan

period. In the late 12th century, King Narapatisithu transformed it into a double-spire temple. Its exterior boasts intricate inscriptions depicting animals, birds,

humans, and figures such as Nat, Brahma, and Kinnara. According to a pagoda history compiled by historian Maung Win Maung (Tampawady), a new temple was built during the reign of King Ujjana in the 684 ME of the Pinya period, complete with stupas and various artifacts.

The Tamok Shinpin Shwegugyi Pagoda has been reconstructed, revealing mural paintings and artifacts inside. It features a two-foot-six-inch head and a ten-foot-high concrete Buddha image in the second Gandakuti chamber. The pagoda is adorned with floral designs in shapes of ogre and base-relief sculptures created by King Anawrahta. Floral motifs can be found at the four backdrops in four dimensions of the pagoda. Additionally, there are representations of a cock, elephant, deer, horse, crocodile, fish, and sculptures illustrating 550 Buddhism Jataka tales. The temple showcases concrete scriptures, stupas, and designs from the 12th century, highlighting ancient arts from the 11th to 14th centuries during the Bagan-Pindaya periods. — Thet Maung (Kyaukse)/TH

Illegal trade crackdown results in seizure of goods worth over K596 million



Personal goods seized on Kengtung detour on 19 October.

EFFORTS to combat illegal trade, overseen by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, are being carried out effectively in accordance with the law.

On 16 October, industrial materials valued at over K380 million were seized at the Asia World Port Terminal checkpoint due to a lack of official documentation. Subsequently, on 18 October, two types of consumer goods worth K10.08 million were confiscated from a Hino Profia Truck, estimated at K40 million,

at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint, with action taken under Customs procedures.

On 19 October, a combined team led by the Shan State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections near the Kengtung detour, seizing three types of illegal consumer goods valued at K37.4 million from another Hino Profia Truck, valued at K80 million, also under Customs procedures.

Furthermore, on 20 October, a combined team from the Sagaing Region Illegal Trade

Eradication Task Force confiscated two unregistered vehicles valued at K28 million near the Yadanabon combined checkpoint, following the Export-Import Law.

Additionally, a team from the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force seized 19.095 tonnes of illegal teak, valued at over K16.8 million, under the Forest Law.

Overall, on 16, 18, and 20 October, a total of nine arrests were made, leading to the seizure of illegal items worth approximately K596.5 million. The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee has reported that illegal trade poses a major obstacle to the country's economic development and significantly impacts the socio-economic sector. Consequently, the committee has stated its commitment to intensifying efforts against illegal trade.— MNA/TRKM

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 20 October 2024)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at 17:30 hours MST today, a low-pressure cell over the north Andaman Sea still persists. Weather is cloudy over the Andaman Sea, south Bay and eastcentral Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 21 October 2024: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Sagaing Region and northern Shan and Kayah states, scattered in Kachin and Chin states, fairly widespread in Mandalay, Magway and Bago regions and Rakhine State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay, Magway, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions. Degree of certainty is 100%.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The Cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and (northern and southern) Shan, Rakhine, Kayah and Mon states. The area along the Cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 40 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 9-11 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts. — DMH

NATIONAL



Spectacular hot-air balloons were seen during the 2023 Taunggyi Tazaungdine Hot-Air Balloon Festival.

Taunggyi Tazaungdine hot-air balloon festival to light up the skies in November

THE famous Taunggyi Tazaungdine hot-air balloon festival will be held for seven days in Taunggyi, Shan State (South), from 9 to 15 November, according to the Traditional Hot-Air Balloon Artists Association of southern Shan State. The event will take place at the Aawayya Hot-Air Balloon Ground, featuring grand celebrations.

An official from the association stated, "The festival aims to boost tourism in southern Shan State while offering locals the chance to sell traditional foods and crafts".

After a three-year pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the festival resumed in 2023. It is a significant cultural event that attracts locals from Shan State, visitors from across Myanmar, and international tourists, making it one of the most eagerly awaited traditional festivals in the region. — ASH/KZL

Four Russian corvettes arrive in Yangon for joint exercise and friendly visit

IT is reported that four corvettes from the Russian Pacific Fleet, namely Gromky, Rezky, Tsydenzhapov, and the logistic vessel Pechenga, arrived at Thilawa Port in Yangon yesterday afternoon.

The vessels are in Myanmar to join the second Myanmar-Russia joint maritime security exercise and a friendly visit. They were welcomed by senior officers from Tatmadaw (Navy), Tatmadaw members of the Myanmar Navy, as well as the Russian Military Attaché to Myanmar and officials.

The corvettes were led by Captain 1st Rank Antsiferov Alexey Vitalievich of the Russian Pacific Fleet. During their visit, they will tour notable landmarks in Yangon, participate in friendly sports competitions between the two countries and conduct harbor phase exercises. — MNA/TRKM



Officials from four corvettes from the Russian Pacific Fleet being welcomed at Thilawa Port in Yangon yesterday.

Myanmar reaffirms commitment to tackling online scams at UNTOC conference in Vienna

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar's Permanent Representative based in Vienna, U Min Thein, addressed the nation's ongoing efforts to combat online scams and collaborate internationally at the 12th conference of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), held in Vienna from 14 to 18 October.

Ambassador U Min Thein emphasised Myanmar's commitment to protocols and UNTOC, which the country joined in 2004, the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP), and the COMMIT Memorandum



Myanmar Permanent Representative-cum-Ambassador U Min Thein discussing at the conference.

of Understanding. He acknowledged the growing issue of online scams and gambling in the region, prompting the Myanmar government to take action and foster collaboration with international

partners.

The representative also highlighted the importance of raising public awareness about the risks associated with online scams. He called for stronger cooperation across sectors and the need for international support in providing advanced technology and capacity-building initiatives. This would facilitate improved cooperation and information sharing to counter transnational organised crime. Myanmar reaffirmed its dedication to combating such crimes and expressed its willingness to further collaborate with the UNODC and other global partners. — ASH/TMT

Sangha Hospital in Pyinmana invites donation for free cataract surgery programme

DR Than Min Htut, the medical superintendent of the hospital, said that a free cataract surgery programme is being started at the Sangha Hospital in Pyinmana, and donations can be made.

This programme will provide free surgery to patients from all over the county who have financial difficulties for eye sight, he wrote on Facebook. The necessary support was provided by the Fred Hollow Foundation from Australia and the programme started on 4 September 2024 with the first surgical operation on 15 September.

So far, they have examined 193 outpatients, and provided surgical treatment to 54 eye patients. The

programme schedules are outpatient examination on Wednesday, surgery on Sunday, and post-surgery examination on Monday every week.

It is expected to provide free surgical treatment to 250 patients by the end of this year and it plans to extend this surgical treatment to the number of patients in thousands in the following years.

Donation can be made at K 200,000 per cataract eye during Thadingyut holidays by transferring to KPay 09788202 602, KBZ Bank account 034511334 00077401, and sending a screenshot after making donations.

Patients who want to visit can contact 09 422288551,



Patients who would undergo free eye surgery were seen at Sangha Hospital in Pyinmana.

Sangha Hospital reception section, and 09 787 317 267, U Pyae Phyoe Aung, assistant admin manager, to make an appointment. — MT/ZN

ECONOMY WORLD

Financial authorities crack economic hard nuts with targeted tools

More policies will be introduced to tackle ongoing challenges, particularly in the real estate sector and capital market.



The country's major cities continued to see a price decline of commercial residential homes in September. An aerial drone photo taken on 9 November 2023 shows a newly-built residential complex in Feixi County of Hefei City, east China's Anhui Province. **PHOTO: ZHOU MU/XINHUA**

CHINA'S financial authorities on Friday reiterated their resolve to keep the world's second-largest economy on track by implementing and rolling out more policies aimed at addressing outstanding

challenges.

Head of the country's central bank, along with the leaders of China's top securities watchdog and top financial regulator gathered once again in less

than a month following their joint participation in a high-profile late-September press conference that unveiled an expectation-beating raft of pro-growth policies.

"There are still prominent contradictions and challenges in the current economic operation, mainly in the real estate sector and capital market," Pan Gongsheng, governor of the People's Bank of China, said in his address at the Annual Conference of Financial Street Forum 2024. The country's major cities continued to see a price decline of commercial residential homes in September, along with improved expectations for the property sector, official data showed Friday. "Based on international experience and China's past practices, targeted policies need to be introduced to address these issues," Pan said. In the past month, the country has cut the reserve requirement ratio, reduced the interest rates for existing mortgage loans and introduced a swap facility to channel more cash into the stock market, among others. The roll-out of incremental policies indicates Chinese authorities' "firm determination to ensure economic stability, stabilize expectations, promote consumption, and improve people's well-being," Pan said. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

US budget deficit widens to \$1.8 tln, third highest on

THE United States on Friday reported a budget deficit of \$1.8 trillion for the past year, widening from 2023's level on greater spending, including for interest on the public debt.

The overall deficit expanded by \$138 billion for the year ending 30 September, said the Treasury Department. The nation's debt remains a key concern for voters ahead of November's presidential election. This year marks the third highest US deficit, behind 2021 and 2020, according to the Treasury.

In the 2020 budget year, the deficit hit a record of \$3.1 trillion as spending soared to help the economy weather the Covid-19 pandemic. In the latest fiscal year, there was a near 30 per cent rise in spending on interest on the public debt, largely due to higher interest rates, the Treasury noted. It topped \$1 trillion.

But the department added that the widened deficit overall was partly due to a reversal of over \$330 billion in costs last year, when President Joe Biden's student loan forgiveness program was struck down by the Supreme Court. — AFP

Indian FM participates in India-Mexico Trade and Investment Summit

FINANCE Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Mexico City on Saturday participated in India-Mexico Trade and Investment Summit 'Enhancing Trade and Investment Collaboration'. Sitharaman is in Mexico from 17 October till 20 October to interact with political and business leaders from various sectors in both Guadalajara and Mexico City.

The Summit was organised by the Trade & Commerce Council of India. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in collaboration with the Embassy of India in Mexico and Department of Economic Affairs.

The Minister of Economic Development for Mexico City, Manola Zabolza Aldama, and for the State of Mexico Laura

Gonzalez along with Immediate Past President of the CII, Ramachandran Dinesh, and President of Consejo Coordinador Empresarial Francisco Cervantes Diaz were also in attendance.

Earlier in Mexico's Jalisco state, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the Guadalajara (city in Mexico's Jalisco state) has thriving IT ecosystem with presence of major IT firms.

FM Sitharaman was referring to mutual collaborative opportunities especially in cloud computing, AI and FinTech, as she met Governor-elect of the state of Jalisco Pablo Lemus Navarro, at the Universidad Panamericana Guadalajara. —ANI

Japanese sake, shochu firms eyeing Indian market



Photo taken in May 2024 shows Hamada Syuzou shochu being loaded onto a truck for export in Ichikikushikino, Kagoshima Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO**

FOR the first time earlier this year, a renowned Japanese shochu distillery shipped four of its products to India – a destination previously never on the company's itinerary due in part to that country's strict religious beliefs.

Boasting the world's largest population with over 1.4 billion people, the South Asian country is gradually garnering attention as a potential expanding market for sake and the distilled spirit shochu, Japan's two signature alcoholic

drinks with mass global appeal.

Hamada Syuzou Co., founded in 1868 in Kagoshima Prefecture in southwestern Japan, delivered the containers of shochu to India in May, among them the company's premium sweet potato Daiyame brand, popular for its lychee aromas.

A "honkaku shochu" ("authentic shochu"), Daiyame includes some 49 ingredients such as potato, as well as barley, rice and other grains, that are fermented with koji mold spores and yeast, and later undergo distillation before being bottled in Kagoshima.

The company believes it has a "rich flavor profile" that appeals to Indian consumers. "We want more people to know about shochu, which is a big part of Japanese culture," an official of the company said. — Kyodo

Japan's trucking regulations aim to improve driver conditions but risk delivery delays

As logistics companies share resources and negotiate fee increases, experts suggest that consumers may need to pay higher prices to support the industry.

FUJIO Uemura faces new trucking regulations in Japan that limit overtime and breaks, aimed at improving conditions for an overworked and underpaid workforce.

With 90 per cent of goods transported by road, these changes have sparked concern within Japan's logistics sector, as truck drivers like Uemura often work long hours for lower pay—approximate-

ly 4.5 million yen (\$30,000) annually, about 10 per cent less than average workers.

Since the regulations took effect in April, companies struggle to meet demand, leading to delivery delays.

The Japan Trucking Association warns that the country could face a significant shortfall in cargo transport capacity by 2030 without meaningful reforms.

As logistics companies share resources and negotiate fee increases, experts suggest that consumers may need to pay higher prices to support the industry.

Despite the challenges, Uemura's son is following in his father's footsteps, reflecting the ongoing demand for truck drivers in Japan, even as industry conditions remain tough. — AFP



In Japan, 90 per cent of goods are transported by road. PHOTO: AFP



Google's Android mobile operating system powers most smartphones, and the US tech giant strives to make its Play Store the go-to place for buying games and other digital goods. PHOTO: AFP

A US judge on Friday let Google delay opening Android-powered smartphones to rival app shops,

suspending a 1 November deadline ordered in an anti-trust case brought by Fortnite-maker Epic Games.

Google wins delay in opening Android app store to rivals

Google was pleased by federal judge James Donato's decision to "temporarily pause the implementation of dangerous remedies demanded by Epic", a company spokesperson said, as an appeals court considers permanently blocking the order stemming from Epic's argument that the tech titan's Android Play store is an illegal monopoly.

Epic Games responded to Google's appeal regarding a ruling that restricts its app store practices, calling the appeal "meritless." A judge found Google's Play store practices anticompetitive, stating it must stop making the Play store the exclusive payment method for third-party apps for the next three years. — AFP

Indian pharmaceutical firms lag behind global counterparts in R&D and publications

INDIAN pharmaceutical firms are falling behind their global counterparts across key performance indicators, including R&D intensity, the proportion of PhD employees, and the number of patents and publications generated per billion USD of revenue, according to a report by the Foundation for Advancing Science and Technology (FAST India) in collaboration with IIFL Securities.

The largest disparity was observed in the number of publications per billion USD revenue, with global firms producing 8.4 times more publications than Indian firms, the report noted.

Global firms generated 5.6 times more patents and 8.4 times more publications per billion USD of revenue compared to Indian firms. — ANI

Boeing and workers reach tentative deal to end strike

BOEING and its striking Seattle-area workers have reached a tentative deal to end a more than month-long stoppage, the union said Saturday.

Boeing confirmed a tentative deal was reached and said it includes a 35 percent pay raise over four years and a one-time signing bonus of \$7,000.

Union members will vote Wednesday on the proposal. The strike began 13 September in



Jon Holden, president of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) District 751, leads a cheer during a strike rally 15 October 2024 in Seattle, Washington. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

a dispute over pay and other compensation issues, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers said on social media platform X in a message to its members.

A strike by 33,000 IAM Union District 751 workers in Washington state halted production at two Seattle-area Boeing plants, significantly affecting the 737 MAX assembly. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BUKITTINGGI VOY.NO. (028N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BUKITTINGGI VOY.NO. (028N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-10-2024 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Indian diaspora celebrate Diwali in US



As Diwali approaches, the Indian diaspora in New York's Times Square gathered in large numbers for celebrations, joined by community leaders like Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and NYC Mayor Eric Adams. **PHOTO: ANI**

With around 4.4 million members, the Indian-American community significantly contributes to US politics and strengthens India-US relations.

WITH Diwali around the corner, the Indian diaspora is gearing up for celebrations and at New York's Time Square the Indian American community gathered in large numbers for festivities.

The Consulate General of India in New York celebrated Diwali with Indian-American community leaders, including Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and NYC

Mayor Eric Adams, organized by Neeta Bhasin.

Similar festivities occurred in Pennsylvania, where Deputy Consul General Varun Jeph participated alongside local officials, reinforcing ties with the Indian diaspora.

The Indian-American community, numbering approximately 4.4 million and the third largest Asian eth-

nic group in the US, excels in various fields, particularly politics, and plays a vital role in strengthening India-US relations.

Major cities like New York, San Francisco, and Chicago have significant Indian populations.

In 2023, New York City designated a public school holiday for Diwali, recognizing the festival's cultural significance. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has referred to the diaspora as a "living bridge," highlighting their contributions to fostering connections between India and America. — ANI

BRIEF: WORLD

Charles makes first public appearance on Australia tour

KING Charles III attended church Sunday as he began an Australian tour in earnest, giving antipodean admirers the first glimpse of their reigning monarch. The 75-year-old sovereign arrived in Sydney late on Friday evening, but had kept a low profile as he balances cancer recovery with royal duties.

King Charles III made his first official public appearance in Sydney, attending a Sunday morning service at St Thomas' Anglican Church, a historic site associated with British colonial settlers.

Prominent figures, including Edward Wollstonecraft, are buried nearby. Enthusiastic royal supporter Lynton Martin traveled nine hours from Melbourne to express his allegiance, donning a union flag jacket and multiple royal lapel pins. Following the service, Charles addressed the New South Wales state parliament and held closed-door meetings at Admiralty House, the governor-general's residence. This visit marks the king's first major foreign tour since his coronation, though health concerns have led to a scaled-back itinerary, with fewer public events compared to typical royal visits. Protests occurred nearby, calling for the decolonization of Australia, reflecting the complex sentiments toward the monarchy. While Australians remain generally supportive of the monarchy, enthusiasm has waned since the peak in 2011, signaling a more cautious reception this time around as Charles navigates his royal duties amidst health challenges. — AFP

Pandemic Fund to boost pandemic preparedness in 50 countries

CONCLUDING its second funding round, the Pandemic Fund's Governing Board approved US\$ 418 million in new grants designed to bolster pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (PPR) capacities in 40 countries across six geographical regions.

These grants will provide much-needed investments to strengthen disease surveillance and early warning systems, upgrade laboratories, and build a health workforce.

This latest allocation is in addition to the US\$ 128.89 million approved on 19th September for five fast-tracked projects to support 10 countries impacted by the mpox Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), bringing the total funding awarded under the second round to US\$547 million, which will mobilize an additional US\$4 billion for investments in PPR in benefiting countries.

Over 50 per cent of the funds awarded under the second round are for countries in sub-Saharan Africa, the region with the highest demand for Pandemic Fund grants. — ANI

WTO to support COP29 in Baku through trade-focused events

THE World Trade Organisation will support and participate in the COP29 Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan through various trade-focused events.

"The World Trade Organisation's Secretariat, led by Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, will support and collaborate on various trade-focused events scheduled during the conference," the WTO said in a statement. The Director-General will participate in the World Leaders Climate Action Summit on 12 and 13 November, as well as several high-level events planned at the COP29 Trade and Investment House and other venues.

The 29th UN Conference of the Parties (COP29) on climate change will take place in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 11 November to 22 November, featuring a dedicated portal on the WTO website for event information. — AFP

Future conflicts will center on resources, says Italian Minister

FUTURE wars will be fought over rare earth metal deposits and water sources, said Italian Defence Minister Guido Crosetto.

"In the coming years, we will face wars aimed at rare earth metal deposits and lithium," he stated during a press conference following the G7 defence ministers' meeting in Naples, which was broadcast by Italian television channels. Crosetto added that military conflicts will also be waged over water, energy production, and that artificial intelligence will play a major role in determining who wants to control the world. — SPUTNIK



Rare earth oxides are critical components in advanced technologies, including electronics, renewable energy systems, and electric vehicles. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

SPORTS

Messi's Inter Miami to play in FIFA's Club World Cup in 2025

LIONEL MESSI and Inter Miami will feature in next year's expanded FIFA Club World Cup, FIFA president Gianni Infantino announced on Saturday. Messi and his team-mates will kick-off the tournament in the opening game at Hard Rock Stadium, home of the NFL's Miami Dolphins, on Sunday, 15 June Infantino added.

The FIFA president was speaking on the field at Inter's Chase Stadium moments after Messi scored a hat-trick as the team broke the MLS regular season points record with a 6-2 win over the New England Rev-

olution. Miami, who this month won Major League Soccer's Supporters' Shield for the best regular season record, will take the qualification slot designated for the host nation.

"Inter Miami qualifies as the host country representative team on the basis of the club's outstanding and consistent 34-match campaign that saw them secure the shield with two MLS matches to play," FIFA said in a statement. The official champions of MLS are determined by the MLS Cup playoffs which begin next week and conclude with the final on 7 December. — AFP



Lionel Messi and Inter Miami will feature in FIFA's Club World Cup next June, FIFA announced on Saturday. PHOTO: AFP

Daw Win Min Thu
83 years
Vice Principal (Retd)
(HTTC, Kandawgyi Palace Hotel)

Elderest daughter of (U Ba Thu, Retired Director General and Daw Khin Nyunt) of 46D, Thirimingalar Road, Kamayut. Sister of (U Khin Maung Thu), (U Khin Maung Win) + Daw Nilar Hla and Daw Myo Min Thu. Wife of (U Myint Swe, Research officer (Retd) DCPT), beloved mother of U Htin Lin Aung (S'pore) + Daw Mie Mie Thu and beloved grandmother of Hay Mahn Lin Thu passed away on 21.9.2024 at 6:09 am of Grand Hantha International Hospital. Cremated the same day at Yayway Crematorium.

Bereaved Family



IBF super welterweight world champion Bakhram Murtazaliev knocks down Tim Tszyu on the way to a third-round technical knockout in their world title bout. PHOTO: AFP

Murtazaliev punishes Tszyu to retain IBF super welterweight crown

UNBEATEN IBF super welterweight world champion Bakhram Murtazaliev destroyed Tim Tszyu on Saturday, knocking the Aussie down four times en route to a third-round technical knockout in Orlando, Florida.

Tszyu, back in the ring for the first time since he fell to Sebastian Fundora in March, hit the canvas three times in the second round as Russian Murtazaliev used his powerful left hook to supreme effect.

Tszyu tried to shake off the punishment, continuing to come forward and even landing a few damaging blows.

But when he was knocked down a fourth time in the third round his corner threw in the towel at 1:55 of the round.

Murtazaliev improved to 23-0 with 17 knockouts, defending the title he won with a knockout of Jack Culcay in April.

Tszyu, a former WBO world champion, had hoped the bout would be a triumphant return after he suffered an ugly gash on his forehead that hindered his vision against Fundora.

Instead the 29-year-old fell to 24-2 as his aggressive tactics backfired. "The better man won tonight," said Tszyu, whose father, former world champion Kostya Tszyu, was ringside. "No excuses there." — AFP

Thitsar Arman secures crucial win in MNL relegation battle

IN a pivotal match for the 2024-2025 Myanmar National League relegation encounter, Thitsar Arman FC thrashed Myawady FC with a 4-3 victory at the Thuwunna Youth Training Centre on 20 October.

Both teams, sitting in the bottom line of the standings, fiercely contested the match, but Thitsar Arman emerged victorious, improving their chances of escaping the relegation zone. Myawady FC, currently in 11th place, faces continued relegation and must fight on.

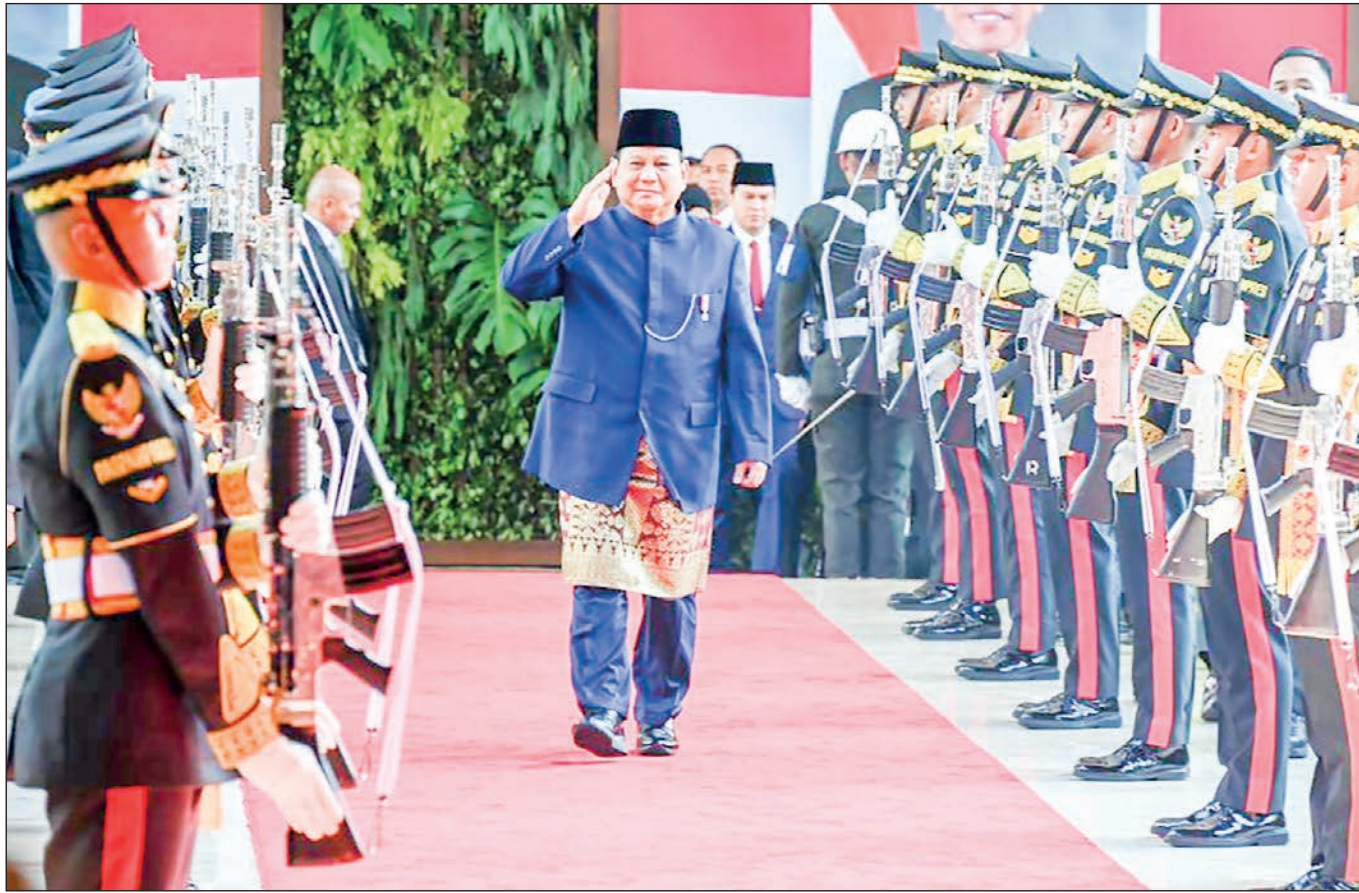
Both teams, needing crucial points, fielded strong line-ups, making for an exciting game. Thitsar Arman quickly took a 2-0 lead through Lin Htet Oo in the 5th minute and Min Maw Oo in the 10th minute. However, Myawady showed its response with goals from Kaung Sithu in the 21st minute and Saw Aung Myo Tun in the 33rd minute, bringing the score to 2-2.

The intensity grew as the game progressed, and Thitsar Arman regained the lead with a second goal from Lin Htet Oo in the 38th minute, followed by Min Maw Oo scoring again in the 65th minute, making it 4-2. Myawady fought back and managed to score a third goal in stoppage time (90+2) through Saw Aung Myo Tun, but it wasn't enough to avoid defeat. Min Maw Oo of Thitsar Arman FC was named Man of the Match for his excellent performance in securing the win. The final fixtures of Match week 12 will take place today, with Dagon Star



Thitsar Arman FC and Myawady FC in action during their thrilling match. PHOTO:MNL

United facing Rakhine United at Thuwunna YTC, and ISPE FC going up against Yadanabon FC at Yangon United Sports Complex. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto arrives at the parliament building to attend the presidential inauguration ceremony in Jakarta, Indonesia, 20 October 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

Prabowo Subianto sworn in as Indonesian president

INDONESIA'S former army general, Prabowo Subianto, was sworn in as the country's eighth president on Sunday morning at the parliament building, succeeding Joko Widodo, who led the world's fourth most populous nation for the past decade.

Prabowo, who had been serving as defense minister, and his running mate, Gibran Rakabuming Raka, Widodo's

Prabowo, 73, previously served as defense minister; Gibran, 37, is Indonesia's youngest vice president.

eldest son and former mayor of Surakarta, won the 2024 presidential election held on 14 February.

In his inauguration speech, Prabowo pledged to serve all Indonesians. "We will prioritize the interests of the nation and state above all else," he stated in his address to the nation.

Following the ceremony, 73-year-old Prabowo and 37-year-old Gibran, Indonesia's youngest-ever vice president, will be greeted by cheering crowds as they make their way to the state palace. — Xinhua

TOP-SECRET INTELLIGENCE

US probing intelligence leak on Israel's preparations to attack Iran

THE United States is investigating a leak of its top-secret intelligence on Israel's preparations to strike Iran, which includes Israeli Air Force exercises using air-to-ground missiles, CNN reported citing three people familiar with the situation.

The documents dated 15 and 16 October began to circulate online on Friday, 18 October. According to the broadcaster, they are marked "top secret" and have a marking indicating that only members of the Five Eyes intelligence alliance, which also includes Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Australia, can access the information.

Documents from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency reveal Israeli military preparations, including munitions movements and air-to-ground missile exercises, potentially targeting Iran.

Following these developments, Iran launched a significant missile attack on Israel, marking a rare escalation in conflict, claiming it was an act of self-defense. The Israeli military reported that around 180 ballistic missiles were intercepted, with no Israeli casualties, though one fatality was reported in the West Bank. Both nations exchanged claims about the impact of the missiles, with Israel asserting minimal damage.

— SPUTNIK

Chinese researchers develop "lunar bricks" for future lunar base construction

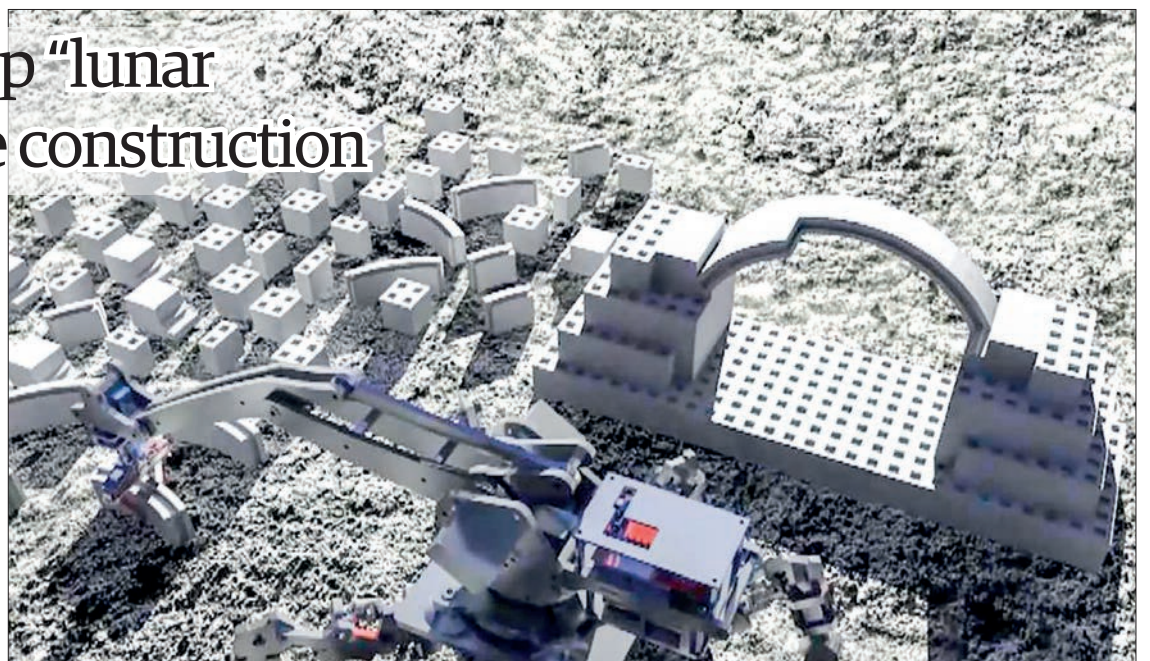
CHINESE researchers have developed bricks from a material that has a similar composition to lunar soil, with the hope that they can be used to build a lunar base in the future.

According to a recent video clip provided to Xinhua by the Huazhong University of Science and Technology, a team of researchers led by Ding Lieyun used a lunar soil simulant to make "lunar bricks" that are more than three times stronger than standard red bricks or con-

crete bricks.

The team also developed another construction option using additive manufacturing technology. The researchers invented a 3D-printing robot to print houses using lunar soil.

According to China Central Television, the lunar bricks will be sent to China's space station aboard the Tianzhou-8 cargo spacecraft to verify their mechanical and thermal performance, as well as their ability to withstand cosmic radiation. — Xinhua



Lunar bricks will be sent to China's space station via the Tianzhou-8 cargo spacecraft for performance verification. PHOTO: XINHUA GLOBAL SERVICE