

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Bengal Rising 3.0 exhibition invites Myanmar businesspeople

BANGLAR Nobojiagoron (Bengal Rising 3.0), the premier trade fair of the Bengal Business Council, will take place on 20-24 November 2024 at Boi Mela Prangan, Kolkata, India. Myanmar businesspeople are cordially invited to participate in this, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

This is the third edition of the exhibition, which will feature business matching, culture, entertainment, travel business, flea market, and handicraft selection. There will be fun events like Open Mic contests, from music and poetry to stand-up comedy, and a radical playground will be created in the exhibition. The organizer invites the participation of Myanmar business people as international trading partners. Myanmar exhibitors can enjoy special prices for booths (75,000 rupees per participant and 100,000 rupees (US\$1,190) for two participants). If participants want to join the exhibition as visitors, the participation price is set at 50,000 rupees, approximately \$595 per person and 75,000 rupees, \$892 for two. Food, accommodation and transport services will be provided.

Individuals who want to participate in Banglar Nobojiagoron (Bengal Rising 3.0) can register through the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization at 067 408622 and email event.td.myantrade@gmail.com. — NN/KK



Above and below photos showcase visitors and donors to the Palin Kanthaya Elephant Camp at an area of elephants to take a bath (above) and feeding a buffet to elephants (below).

Palin Kanthaya Elephant Camp prepares for Tazaungdine tourists

According to the elephant camp, preparations are underway at the Palin Kanthaya Elephant Camp for tourists who will come during the upcoming Tazaungdine festival.

“During the coming Tazaungdine, the elephant camp will provide services similar to those provided to guests. They can feed and ride the elephants. In addition, small tents have been prepared so that the guests can rest. We have also expanded the photo shooting area on the banks of the Ayeyawady River, including other necessary things. For public knowledge about elephants, the elephant museum has been opened for those who want to study. There are some examples of our preparations in advance,” said U Myo Min, head of Palin Kanthaya Elephant Camp.



Moreover, local food will be arranged for visitors to buy at a low price.

“In terms of food, for some guests from Bagan-NyaungU to eat, we have extended the service from the elephant camp, including affordable rice and curry of upper Myanmar. Tourists can rest and eat in the tents with their families. Coffee or cold drinks are also arranged,” he said.

During the last Thadingyut holidays, the number of visitors to the Palin Kanthaya Elephant Camp has increased, and it will be the same in the coming Tazaungdine festival.

“During the Thadingyut, the arrival of tourists to the elephant camp increased. It is expected that there will be increasing numbers of visitors during the upcoming Tazaungdine. As for the elephant camp, it is expected that many pilgrims will also visit here,” he said. — Thit Taw/ZN

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NATIONAL



Citizens yet to be counted in Nationwide Census to be reassessed



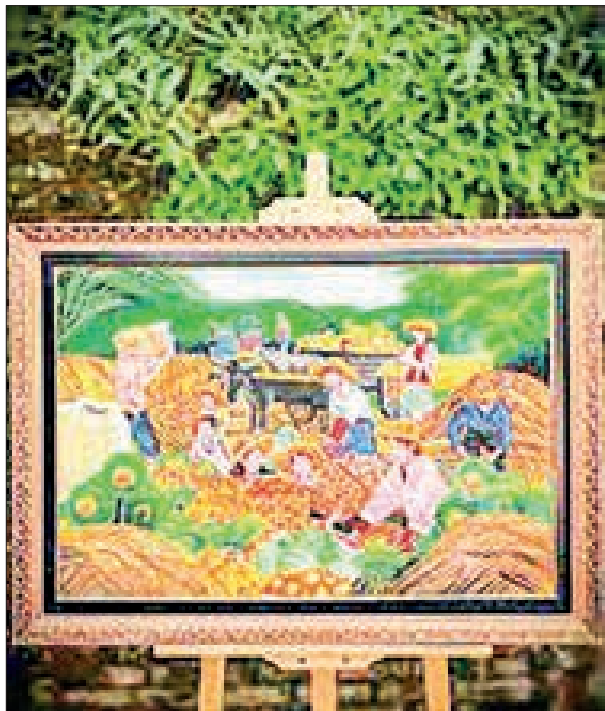
- The 2024 Nationwide Census activities were conducted from 1 to 15 October.
- The people who have not completed census processes due to various reasons can contact the relevant ward and village census committees and township census committees to collect census data again.
- Individuals can also contact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

National Prosperity: Building a Peaceful and Stable Future for All

NATIONAL prosperity involves creating a peaceful and stable country where citizens can live, learn, and work with confidence under the rule of law.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the Union government meeting 4/2024 on 22 April 2024)

Gemstone art painting sale elevates during festive season



FOR giving gifts in Thadingyut and Tazaungdine festivals, many people have purchased gemstone art paintings, leading the sale increased in Thadingyut and no likelihood to fall in Tazaungdine too.

"People buy gemstone art paintings as gift during Thadingyut. There are also buyers for coming Tazaungdine. Most of the purchases are delivered to other cities and towns, so it is required to give proper care along the journey. Price doesn't differ much," said an official from Paradise Mogok-gems painting retail and wholesale trading in Mandalay.

With advanced creativity, gemstone art paintings have become popular recently and people enjoy its durability. — Thit Taw/ZS

One of the gemstone art paintings.

Spant wear and Bagan souvenir sales surge

MANY visitors to Bagan's ancient cultural region enjoy wearing pant outfits, which are a souvenir of the ancient city, increasing sales.

According to souvenir shops in Bagan, visitors have enjoyed taking photos of them in spent clothes against the backdrop of pagodas and temples and the landscape of Bagan.

"The sale of Spant pants and blouses have been pretty good this month, dramatically increased in Thadingyut Festival. Sales are expected to increase at the forthcoming Tazaungdine Festival. There are different varieties of Spant wear- short pants, long pants, skirts and sets for men, women and kids. Visitors buy Spant wears and take photos of them in the background of pagodas and temples and the landscape,' said the owner of a souvenir shop.

During the long Thadingyut holidays, loads of visitors from different regions and states took vacations in Bagan, NyaungU and Popa, and they purchased clothes, accessories, handmade products, local food and other souvenirs of Bagan. — Thit Taw/ZS

Dependents of Myanmar worker receive compensation for workplace fatality in Malaysia

A Myanmar worker, Maung Kyaw Myint Oo (MD 372855), registered with Malaysia's Social Security Organization named Per-tubuhan Keselamatan Sosial (PERKESO), died in a workplace accident on 24 February 2023.

As per Malaysia's Social Security Act (Act - 4), PERKESO provided dependent compensation to his family, coordinated by Myanmar's Social Security Board (SSB) with the worker's relatives. On 22 October 2024, his wife, Daw San San Yin, received a payment of K24,993,528.

The Ministry of Labour and the Myanmar Social Security Board continue to advocate for the social security rights of Myanmar migrant workers employed legally abroad. In 2020, a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) was signed between the Myanmar SSB and Malaysia's PERKESO, facilitating social security benefits for registered Myanmar workers under the Malaysia's Social Security Act (Act 4). Currently, 32 Myanmar workers registered with PERKESO have received compensation for their dependent family members. — MNA/KZL



A worker's dependent receives the workplace death compensation.

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)

DPM MoFA Union Minister receives ICRC Resident Representative

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe received Ms Elena Ajmone Sessera, Resident Representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on matters related to ICRC's activities in Myanmar.

Also present at the meeting were senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr Jan Miskoc, Deputy Resident Representative of ICRC. — MNA



ICRC Resident Representative Ms Elena Ajmone Sessera calls on Deputy PM Union Minister U Than Swe yesterday.

Central Committee interviews applicants for permanent residence

REGARDING the permanent residence permit applicants in Myanmar, the interview evaluation of those who have been verified by the Central Committee on Implementation of the permanent residence system (PR system) was conducted at the Ministry of Immigration and Population in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Union Minister U Myint Kyaing, who is also chairman of the central committee, clarified the implementation of the permanent residence system (PR system), organizing of the committee, and four types of res-



Union Minister U Myint Kyaing clarifies permanent residence system.

idences by enacting the PR rule. He continued that 699 applicants were allowed out of 810 applicants, including their fam-

ilies and interview processes for those remaining due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and those who the central committee has



verified in accordance with PR rule.

Then, the director-general of the Immigration Department

reported on interview processes.

The Union minister and central committee members met applicants individually.

In implementing the PR system, there are four types of permits: professionals, businesspeople who want to invest in Myanmar, ex-Myanmar citizens who have obtained other citizenships and will contribute to Myanmar, and foreigners who are related by blood to Myanmar citizens.

The meeting interviewed 33 applicants without their families, who had replied to interview forms out of 70 applicants. — MNA/KTZH

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and The Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

MIFER Union Minister receives Mission of Russia-Myanmar Business Council from Russia Federation



DR Kan Zaw, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, received the delegation led by Mr Shuplov Aleksei Igorevich, Chairman of Russia-Myanmar Business Council from Russia Federation at Office No 1, Nay Pyi Taw, on the afternoon of 31 October 2024.

During the meeting, both sides cordially discussed to managing the projects on environ-

mental cooperation and waste management, establishing the direct business links between the members of Russia-Myanmar Business Council and Myanmar's relevant public agencies regarding the payments on trade of agriculture and tourism and registration a new company and about the activity of Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

The meeting was also attended by the senior officials and the relevant officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations. — MIFER

The Russia-Myanmar Business Council Chair calls on Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw.

MoH Union Minister receives ICRC representative



The ICRC Resident Representative calls on Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win yesterday.

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win received Resident Representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Ms Elena Ajmone Sessera and party at the Ministry of Health yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed issues related to cooperation between the Ministry of Health and the ICRC

team in healthcare issues, providing technical assistance to prosthetics manufacturing and installation workshops and rehabilitation centres, humanitarian assistance and further cooperation.

The deputy minister and directors-general of the Ministry of Health, as well as officials and ICRC representatives, were present at the event. — MNA/TS

Shan State govt presents food donations to honour security forces

THE Shan State government, along with the families of staff members, honoured the security forces diligently carrying out national defence and security duties by presenting food donations yesterday morning. The event took place at the Eastern Command Headquarters, attended by Shan

State Chief Minister U Aung Aung, Eastern Command Commander Maj-Gen Zaw Min Latt, and relevant departmental officials.

The chief minister delivered opening remarks, after which he presented food donations valued at K20.4 million from the state govern-

ment, honouring the diligent efforts of the security forces. The Eastern Command commander accepted the donations and expressed his gratitude.

Reports indicate that the donated food items will be delivered directly to the security forces. — MNA/KZL



Foodstuffs are provided for flood victims in Shan State.

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL

Applications for patents begin in Myanmar

THE ceremony to mark rights to the patent application was held at the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Speaking at the event, Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn, who is also vice-chair of the Central Committee on Intellectual Property, said the intellectual property issue plays a critical role as the global market is applied while technologies are growing at a breakneck pace in the world. The protection system for intellectual property can promote innovation and competition and support sustainable economic development.

The Trademark Law, the Industrial Design Law and the Copyright Law came into effect in 2023 in the country, and the

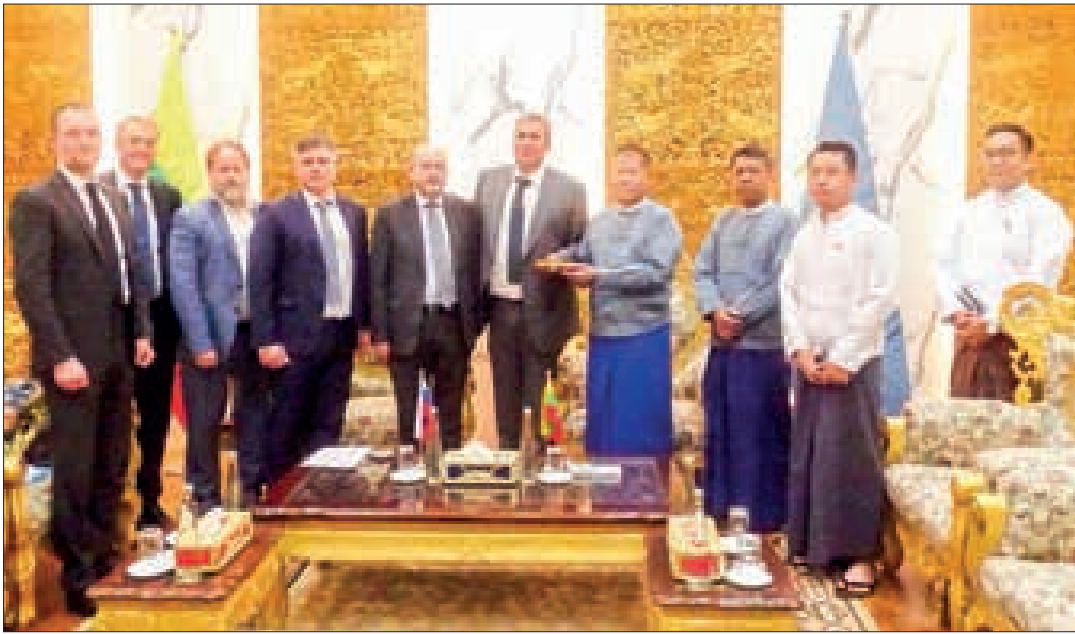
government processes the applications for rights. The Patent Law came into effect on 31 May 2024, and the applications were accepted officially on 31 October, so these four laws were successfully operated. He then mentioned benefits, including transfer of technology, promotion of innovation, increase in direct foreign investment, job opportunities, surge in revenue and manufacturing development.

The meeting was attended by the directors-general, the deputy permanent secretary, the deputy directors-general of the ministry and central committee members in person, and other officials of UMFCCI and relevant departments joined virtually. — MNA/KTZH



The rights to the patent application event in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

UCSB Chair meets Russian-Myanmar Business Council Chair



The commemorative group photo session takes place in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

CHAIRMAN of the Union Civil Service Board U Aung Thaw received a delegation led by Mr Shuplov Aleksei, Chairman of the Russian-Myanmar Business Council (RMBC), at the UCSB office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed future cooperation in social, economic, and cultural sectors, as well as the provision of humanitarian assistance, in a cordial atmosphere.

The Russian delegation also donated US \$5,000 to

support the flood victims affected by the recent Typhoon Yagi.

Other officials from the UCSB office and the Russia-Myanmar Friendship Association were also present at the meeting. — MNA/TRKM

Seafood industry grows amid bountiful fishing season

THIS year's offshore fishing season has brought substantial economic benefits due to effective fishing operations thanks to the government-provided diesel fuel. With the improved catch compared to last year, offshore fishing boats are actively operating off Yangon's coast, 15 to 20 nautical miles from the shore. From August to late October, bountiful catches of fish and shrimp were reported in waters near Rakhine State, Ayeyawady Region, Yangon, Gulf of Mottama, Dawei, Myeik, and Kawthoung.

Chairman of the Offshore Fishing Vessel Association U Maung Maung Soe shared that Rakhine's yields have been especially fruitful. Following the Ayeyawady Region's closure of fishing areas on 19 October, its vessels shifted focus, catching and selling fish and shrimp to pre-contracted company ports. He noted that operators are finally seeing improved income and expressed appreciation for

the government's diesel sales programme, which has enabled critical continuity in operations.

Seafood from offshore operations in Yangon is sold at ten local ports, with 70 per cent of the total harvest sent to China through company processing plants and cold storage facilities. Key exports include ten types of fish, such as anchovies, mackerel, and five types of shrimp. Myanmar's coastal waters currently host about 3,000 offshore and 20,000 inshore fishing vessels, with nearly 700 of Yangon's 1,000 vessels actively at sea. From the Taninthayi Region, caught seafood is also exported to Rangoon, Thailand, while seafood from Ayeyawady and Mon State reaches Yangon's ports.

The fishing season, which is suspended from April to June, resumed in July, and the high yield this year has significantly boosted both incomes and operational sustainability for fishing vessel owners. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KZL



Fishing vessels berthing at the dock.

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NATIONAL

Bago Tazaungdine to feature hot-air balloons, charity feast, and MSME showcase

THE Tazaungdine Festival in Bago Region will feature illuminated displays and hot-air balloon launches, promising a lively atmosphere. According to U Tin Oo, Economic Minister of the Bago Region government, plans include releasing 15 large balloons by day, ten by night, and 1,500 smaller balloons throughout the festival.

The celebration will take place at Shwemawdaw Pagoda, with hot-air balloon launches

and charity feasts arranged at the western entrance parking area. Highlights include a Matho Thingan robe weaving competition and other entertainment activities.

An exhibition of local MSME products from 28 townships across six districts in Bago Region will be part of the festivities, with 70 booths showcasing these goods. Additionally, Satuditha (charity food) will be served to over



A hot-air balloon floats against Bago's Shwemawdaw Pagoda and the night skyline.

1,000 visitors. Running from 14 to 17 November, the festival will feature decorative lighting

throughout the pagoda precinct and at nearby sites, including Bayintnaung Square,

Shin Saw Pu Park, Clock Tower Park, and Yankintha Park. — ASH/ MKKS



Myanmar Chargé d'Affaires in Prague Dr Tun Naung and his wife meet Mr Petr Pavel, President of the Czech Republic, and Mrs Eva Pavlova.

Myanmar Chargé d'Affaires attends diplomatic gathering and State Decoration Ceremony in Prague

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar Chargé d'Affaires ad interim in Prague Dr Tun Naung and his wife attended the gathering between Petr Pavel, President of the Czech Republic, and Mrs Eva Pavlova with the members of the Diplomatic Corps held at Roth Mayer Hall of the Prague Castle on 25 October.

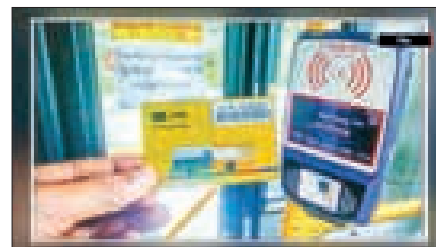
On 28 October, they also attended the Awarding Ceremony of State Decorations of the Czech Republic held at Vladislav Hall of the Prague Castel. — MNA/TMT

YPS cards now top-up enabled via mobile money apps

THE Yangon Public Transport System (YPS) cards, used for fare payments on Yangon Bus Service (YBS) routes throughout Yangon, will soon support top-up services through Mobile Money applications, according to Asia Starmar Transport Intelligent Co Ltd.

Currently, YPS card top-ups and purchases are available at designated sales counters located in popular areas such as Sule, Myanmar Plaza, Hledan, Thakin Mya Park, and 8th Mile, as well as in G & G convenience stores, Mingala Cinemas, and Capital Shopping Centre.

"To make YPS card top-ups more



A passenger makes a fare payment using a YPS card.

convenient, besides the existing counters and shops, we are planning to implement mobile money services such as KBZPay and Wave Money. This will allow users to top up directly from their

phones starting in 2025," said a spokesperson from Asia Starmar Transport Intelligent Co Ltd.

YBS riders currently benefit from convenient fare payment options, including the YPS card and QR Code system. Reports indicate that over 230,000 people are using the YPS card, while more than 2,000 have adopted the QR Code system.

As of now, YPS POS systems are installed in over 3,900 YBS buses, spanning 18 bus companies. Installation will continue on the remaining YBS buses to enhance service accessibility. — ASH/ KZL

'Jeep Car Cee Phue Thala' premieres at Thamada Cinema ahead of nationwide launch on 1 Nov

THE premiere of the film 'Jeep Car Cee Phue Thalar' (Have You Ever Had a Ride in a Jeep?), set to be released nationwide on 1 November, was attended by officials from the Ministry of Information, the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO), and other relevant groups, according to the film's director, Academy Award winner Ko Zaw (Aryon Oo).

Held on 30 October at Thamada Cinema in Dagon Township, Yangon Region, the event brought together representatives from the Ministry of Information, MMPO, the Myanmar Human Rights Commission, the Myanmar Interfaith Committee, and the Myanmar Hindu Buddhist Association.

The film, produced by Perfect Film Production, was directed by Academy Ko Zaw, with a story and script by Lwan

Wai Aung. It features a cast of celebrated actors, including Academy Award winners Lwin Moe, Khant Si Thu, Khine Thin Kyi, Shwe Hmone Yati, Tekkatho Gwan Pone, Wah Wah Aung, and Aung Khine, along with Nyein Chan, Ayine, Khin Hlaing, Dane Daung, Sin Ma, Pwint, Moe Tein, Kan Pwint, and others. — ASH/TRKM



This photo shows the premiere show of the 'Jeep Car Cee Phue Thala' film.

CAD announces reasonable market prices for Nov



Rice sacks stockpiled in a Yangon warehouse.

THE Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce stated that reasonable market prices of rice for November were released and that failing to adhere to the prices is subject to legal action.

The Ministry of Commerce issued reasonable prices for all varieties; non-premium rice (Aemahta, Ngasein, Sinthukha, Ngasein Yarkyaw, Kayinma, Yadanatoe, Tunpu, GW-11, 747, Theepu, Shweman, Nankauk, etc), locally consumed rice (Zeeyar, Ngwetoe, Min Ayeya, Hmawby-2,3, 90-day short matured rice, Manaw Thukha, etc), moderate quality rice including Magyan-

taw and Ayeyapadetha, and premium Pawsan rice (Ayeyawady Pawsan, Shwebo Pawsan). The ministry announced that retailers are not allowed to make profits more than eight per cent of the set reasonable market prices.

The ministry determined reasonable market prices by considering the following factors: fair profit for the farmers, millers and distributors, reasonable prices for consumers, last year's market price, global market prices and other commodities prices. There are separate prices for modern trade with consumer packaging at

mini-marts and supermarkets.

If individuals have difficulty buying rice, they are urged to contact the Myanmar Rice Federation. The buyers can complain about overpricing to the Consumer Affairs Department and MRF.

MRF warned that overpricing, sales with inaccurate measurement and quality and non-compliance with directives are subjected to fines, taxation and prosecution under section 5 of the Essential Supplies and Services Law. Thus, rice millers, rice shops, traders and merchants are encouraged to comply with the rules. — NN/KK

Konjac business booms at season's end

WITH the end of Konjac harvest season approaching, strong demand drives Konjac (elephant foot yam) prices to more than double of those recorded last year. Konjac businesses from Kayin State are thriving, according to the Department of Consumer Affairs (Tanintharyi).

Konjac season commences in early September and ends in early November every year. Konjac, produced from Kayin State, is sent to mills in Mawlamyine, Mandalay, and Kyaukse. The processing factories manufacture dried Konjac and Konjac powder. Those value-added products are exported to China and Japan.

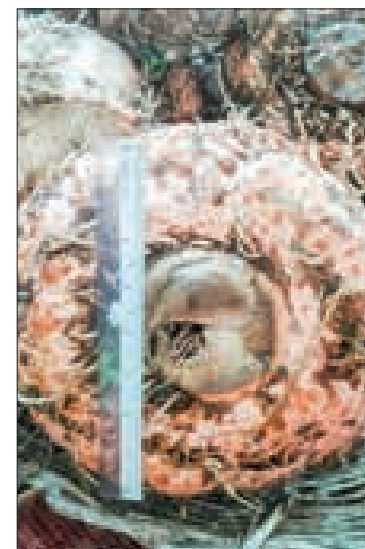
"This year, domestic demand from Konjac is unprecedentedly high, fetching good prices for those stakeholders engaged in the supply chain, including growers, traders and millers," said U Min Thu, secretary of Kayin State Konjac Producers and Exporters Association.

Konjac is rich in Glucomannan fiber. Konjac raw materials are utilized in food and beverage, cosmetics, traditional medicine and pharmaceutical industries with value addition. Even the byproducts can be used as animal feed.

Konjac from Myanmar is

of better quality than those origins from other countries in Asia. It is a cash crop for residents, generating foreign incomes. Elephant foot yam is cultivated in Kyain-seikkyi, Kyaikdon, Kawkareik, Hlaingbwe and Shwegun townships in Kayin State, with an estimated production of 700,000 viss.

Chin State is the largest producer of Konjac in Myanmar. Konjac is naturally grown in Kachin and Chin states as well as the Sagaing and Taninthayi regions. High profitability and foreign demand prompted locals to cultivate Konjac, according to the Agriculture Department. — KK



Chin State is the largest producer of Konjac in Myanmar. Myanmar's Konjac in the picture.

CBM sells \$9.5M, 2.2M yuan, 156.6M Thai baht on 30 Oct

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) pumped US\$9.5 million, 2.2 million yuan and 156.6 million baht on 30 October and \$27,550 on 29 October into the financial market.

It announced its intention to sell five million yuan and 25 million baht on 28 October and then sold \$20 million, over one million yuan and 18 million baht on that day.

CBM injected \$16 million, 800,000 yuan and 200,000 baht on 25 October and \$100,000 and 8.2 million baht on 24 October 2024 into the financial market.

CBM sold over \$2.5 million and 16.5 million baht after announcing upcoming sales of 20

million baht to importers on the foreign exchange trading platform on 23 October. It injected over \$7.5 million and about 150 million baht into the private sector on 22 October again after the sales of 2.2 million and 1.5 million yuan on 21 October.

CBM announced the sale of \$35 million for those engaged in the fuel oil and edible oil sectors as per its notification dated 20 October.

CBM injected \$6 million and 200 million baht on 15 October; \$730,000 on 11 October; \$12.4 million and 38.7 million baht on 10 October; 660,000 yuan on 9 October and over 10 million baht on 7 October into the private sector.



The facade of the office of the Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw.

CBM also pumped \$13.1 million and 288,000 yuan on 4 October; \$780,000, 1.2 million yuan and one million baht on 3 October and over 1.2 million yuan and 10.2

million baht into the financial market on 2 October.

CBM also sold over \$76 million, 86 million baht and 4.8 million yuan in September. More-

over, CBM sold over \$190 million, 19 million yuan and 79 million baht in August.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and the currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March, it has been joining hands with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

OPINION

Protect valuable water sources for all

“WATER is the canary in the coal mine of climate change. We receive distress signals in the form of increasingly extreme rainfall, floods and droughts, which wreak a heavy toll on lives, ecosystems and economies. Melting ice and glaciers threaten long-term water security for many millions of people. And yet we are not taking the necessary urgent action,” said World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Secretary-General Celeste Saulo.

The report stated that Glaciers lost more than 600 gigatonnes of water, the worst in 50 years of observations, according to preliminary data for September 2022-August 2023. This severe loss is mainly due to extreme melting in western North America and the European Alps, where Switzerland's glaciers have lost about 10% of their remaining volume over the past two years. Snow cover in the northern hemisphere has been decreasing in late spring and summer: in May 2023, the snow cover extent was the eighth lowest on record (1967–2023). For North America, the May snow cover was the lowest in the same period.

Everyone is aware that the decline of water sources is a pressing concern, exacerbated by environmental degradation, including global warming, reduced greening initiatives, and the depletion of trees and forests. If people around the world do not prioritize sustainability, we will witness the devastating consequences of lost water sources. Therefore, all countries need to emphasize environmental conservation as a national responsibility.

waste in countries with weak management practices. Additionally, excessive water extraction for industrial use and the impacts of climate change further exacerbate the situation.

Flooding and storms accounted for 44 per cent and 28 per cent of all disasters over the past two decades. Although improvements in early warning systems have reduced the fatality rate, disasters have increasingly impacted the business sector. As a result, ensuring the availability of safe drinking water for public consumption has become challenging.

Everyone is aware that the decline of water sources is a pressing concern, exacerbated by environmental degradation, including global warming, reduced greening initiatives, and the depletion of trees and forests. If people around the world do not prioritize sustainability, we will witness the devastating consequences of lost water sources. Therefore, all countries need to emphasize environmental conservation as a national responsibility.

Currently, the entire world is facing challenges in forecasting the global water cycle due to atmospheric warming. As a result, predicting both excessive and insufficient water volumes has become increasingly difficult. Consequently, many regions around the globe are experiencing issues related to flooding and water shortages.

Although more than 70 per cent of the world is covered by water, only about 2.5 per cent of it is usable freshwater available for the global population. Usable water sources are declining year by year due to several factors, including population growth, increased water consumption driven by social development, and rising

Let's Fight Against Illegal Trade to Develop the Country's Economy

By Maung Myo Min

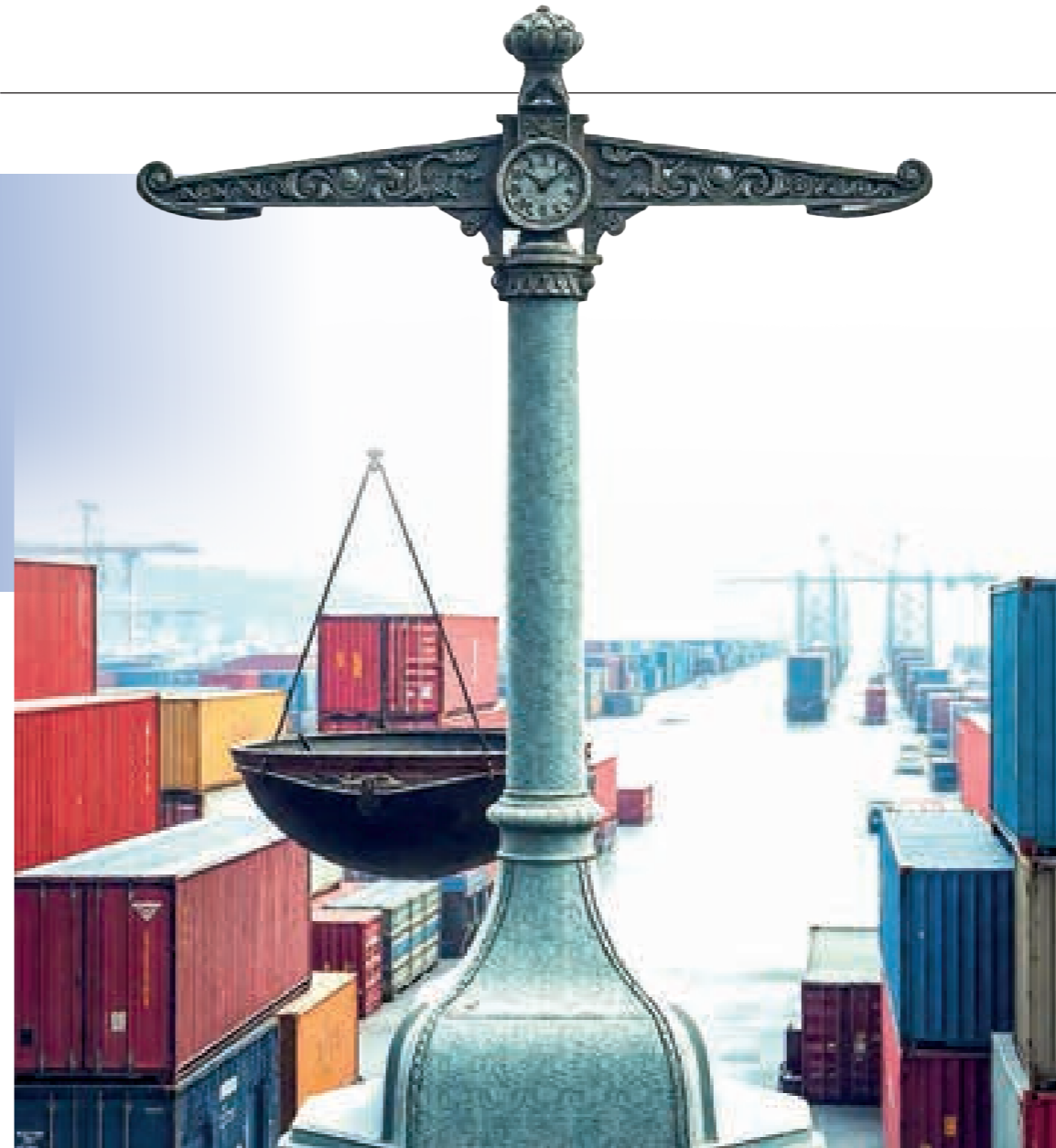
SINCE Myanmar is an agriculture-based country, the government is encouraging the development of agricultural power in accordance with the economic objectives of “To enhance development rooted in agriculture and livestock-inclusive of all ethnic people to ensure national prosperity and food security of the nation utilizing contemporary production methodologies and to promote all-round growth in other sectors of the economy.” The Economic development of

the state depends on production, trade and foreign investment. As Myanmar shares its border with Thailand, India, China and Bangladesh, border trade operations are being carried out, as well as overseas trade with foreign countries through the sea. It is very important to balance trade activities and foreign investments for Myanmar's economic development. The state is strongly asserting its all-out effort and encouraging not only the development of our domestic micro, small and medium enter-

prises – MSMEs – but also the increase in the export of domestic products to foreign countries, which are very important for a nation's economy.

For the balanced development of Myanmar's economy, effective cooperation between the government and the people is pivotal in order to reduce and eliminate illegal trade activities that delay the economic development of the country and cause many obstacles.

Due to various impacts of illegal trade, such as hindering



Illegal trade undermines sustainable development, harms ecosystems, and poses security threats; effective prevention and enforcement are essential for global stability. **ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/BLACKBOX ART**

the achievement of the country's sustainable development goals, losing revenue for public services and employment opportunities, and harming ecosystems and livelihoods, it is necessary to take effective action for prevention and enforcement. Money laundering through illegal trade, reinvesting in other illegal activities and supporting terrorist organizations may pose a threat to global security.

The World Trade Organization constantly monitors and controls the risk of illicit trade in cooperation with member countries through the provision of the Agreement on Facilitation of Trade, the Customs Agreement, the provisions of the Agreement on Technological Barriers and Trade-Related Intellectual Property Agreements.

In fact, businessmen do not wish to make illegal trade when conducting international trade activities and manufacturing with market competitiveness in accordance with existing procedures and laws. Entering counterfeit goods into the markets through illegal trade channels could lead to the loss

of consumers' trust in the domestic market and their desire to consume good quality and safe products and reduce the revenue that the state deserves as well as harming the ethnic entrepreneurs who are doing business honestly, necessary actions are needed to apply to combat illegal trade.

In order to effectively prevent and combat illegal trade, the Steering Committee to Combat Illegal Trade, comprising relevant committee members, the Customs Department and a special team of Region and State, has been formed and carried out the activities. The state is honouring and awarding rewards to responsible citizens who participate in fighting against illegal trade.

Therefore, in order to effectively prevent and combat illegal trade, we would like to urge citizens to cooperate responsibly in the fight against illegal trade by sending accurate and timely information through Mobile phone: 09 404339969, Auto Telephone: 067 409883 and email antiillegaltradeinfo@gmail.com.

Key Notes on Patient-Centred Approach in Public Hospitals



A patient-centered approach prioritizes understanding patients' needs, values, and preferences in public hospital care. **ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE**

A PATIENT-CENTERED approach in public hospitals emphasizes the importance of understanding and respecting patients' needs, preferences, and values. We would like to suggest the key elements and strategies to implement this approach effectively:

✓ Key Elements of a Patient-Centred Approach

- ❖ Respect and Dignity: Treat patients with respect, recognizing their individuality and rights. Ensure that their preferences and values are integrated into care decisions.
- ❖ Patient Engagement: Encourage active participation of patients in their care. This includes sharing information, involving them in decision-making, and respecting their choices.
- ❖ Comprehensive Care: Address not only the medical needs but also the emotional, social, and psychological aspects of health. Consider the whole patient, including their background and circumstances.
- ❖ Communication: Foster clear, open,

and honest communication between patients and healthcare providers. Please use language that is understandable and ensure that patients feel comfortable asking questions.

- ❖ Coordination of Care: Ensure seamless communication and collaboration among healthcare teams to provide consistent and coordinated care across different services.
- ❖ Access to Information: Provide patients with easy access to their health information and educational resources that empower them to manage their health effectively.
- ✓ Strategies to Implement a Patient-Centred Approach
- ❖ Training and Development: Provide staff training on patient-centered care principles, effective communication, and cultural competence to enhance their ability to connect with patients.
- ❖ Feedback Mechanisms: Implement systems to gather patient feedback through surveys, focus groups, or suggestion boxes. Use this information to make continuous improve-

ments.

- ❖ Patient Navigators: Employ patient navigators or coordinators to help patients understand the healthcare system, navigate appointments, and access resources.
- ❖ Personalized Care Plans: Develop individualized care plans based on patient preferences, goals, and medical history. Regularly review and update these plans.
- ❖ Interdisciplinary Teams: Create teams that include various healthcare professionals who work collaboratively to address all aspects of a patient's care.
- ❖ Flexible Visiting Hours: Allow flexible visiting hours and policies that accommodate families and caregivers, recognizing their role in the patient's support system.
- ❖ Telehealth Options: Expand telehealth services to improve access to care, especially for those with mobility challenges or in remote areas.
- ❖ Medico-social work: addressing the complex needs of patients. It

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

involves integrating medical care with social support to ensure holistic treatment.

- ❖ Support Services: Offer psychosocial support services, such as counselling and support groups, to help patients cope with their health challenges.
- ❖ Community Engagement: Engage with the local community to understand their health needs and incorporate their feedback into hospital policies and practices.
- ❖ Evaluate and Adjust: Regularly assess the effectiveness of patient-centered initiatives and be willing to make adjustments based on patient feedback and outcomes.

In addition, by prioritizing these elements and strategies, public hospitals can create an environment that truly centres around the patient, leading to improved satisfaction, better health outcomes, and a more positive healthcare skill.

NATIONAL

Nearly 200 out of more than 500 passport extension applications by post found incomplete data

THERE were more than 500 passport extension applications in the next month by post, and nearly 200 are found to have incomplete data, the Myanmar Embassy to Japan said in a statement.

The statement said the

Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo has worked on the prosperity of Myanmar nationals and consular service in accordance with law and regulations.

Necessary documents and applying methods for passport extension are fully provided on



Arrivals of Myanmar nationals in Japan.

its website myanmar-embassy-tokyo.net/2023/consular-revised/revised-2023.htm, it said.

However, many applications by post are found to have incomplete information and the embassy has sent notifi-

cations individually. But some cannot be contacted, causing unnecessary delays for the commencement of the service, it said.

In order to avoid unnecessary delays, the embassy will

send back incomplete applications by post to their address and individuals concerned are to send them back again to the embassy after refilling data completely, with effect from 1 November 2024. — MT/ZS

Crackdown on illegal trade seizures over K484M in goods

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

On 30 October, the combined on-duty teams captured a Nissan UD truck (worth approximately K25 million) carrying two kinds of industrial materials and a kind of consumer goods worth K9.46 million in the Yethaya temporary vehicle checkpoint, seven kinds of industrial materials valued at K12.85 million without official documents at the Maeyan joint checkpoint in Tachilek Township. The action was taken as per Customs procedures.

Similarly, the combined teams supervised by the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force conducted inspections and seized a Nissan Diesel truck (worth approximately K55 million) carrying 17 kinds of consumer goods and nine kinds of industrial materials (worth about K32 million) without official documents at the Yadanabon Bridge (Mandalay) checkpoint, two trucks (worth approximately K98 million) carrying three kinds of industrial materials, consumer goods and a kind of foodstuffs worth K68.8 million without official documents at the Kywetseton checkpoint, a Mitsubishi Fuso truck (worth approximately K25 million) carrying a kind of industrial materials (worth K14.4 million) without



Confiscated items in different state and regions.

official documents at the Myitnge checkpoint, a Changlong truck (estimated value of K50 million) carrying 11 kinds of industrial materials and two kinds of consumer goods (worth K46.7 million) without official documents in Singaing Township and a Nissan Condor truck (estimated value of K33 million) carrying four kinds of industrial materials and a kind of consumer goods (worth about K14 million) without official documents on the Kyaukse. The action was carried out in line with Customs procedures.

Furthermore, the combined on-duty teams nabbed illegal charcoal weighing 5.31 tonnes (worth K98,448) in Magway and Thayet Districts, an unregistered motorbike (worth K100,000) in Yenangyoung Township and illegal teak weighing 0.566 tonne (worth K240,000) in Ingapu Township. The action was conducted under the Forest Law and the Export-Import Law.

Overall, on 30 October, 18 arrests were made, seizing illegal items worth approximately K484 million. — MNA/MKKS

Counter-argument to false information

Claims of village burnings in Kanbalu Township dismissed

REPORTS emerged that security forces in Kanbalu Township, Sagaing Region, allegedly burned down two entire villages on 30 October, detained over 30 residents from Aipaung Chaung village, and bombed a Christian church in Monhla village using drones.

These claims were disseminated by malicious news me-

dia, reportedly aiming to incite unrest with fabricated stories.

According to statements from relevant security officials, these reports are entirely unfounded. Officials confirmed that security forces had not conducted any operations in the vicinity of these villages on the mentioned date. Malicious news media are circulating

these false stories on social media, aiming to distort public perception and spread misinformation. — MNA/KZL



False claims of extortion by prison officials at Mohnyin Prison

A Facebook page under the name "Khit Thit Media" recently reported false claims that political prisoners at Mohnyin Prison were being extorted and threatened by prison officials. The page also alleged that inmates were denied medical treatment if they are ill and that Meiktila Prison lacked access to clean drinking and bathing water. However, an investigation revealed that these accusations were unfounded.

Mohnyin Central Prison officials clarified that there are no political prisoners held there. Only those convicted of criminal offences under existing laws are housed in the facility. Officials stated that strict policies are in place to prevent any staff from soliciting money from inmates, and any confirmed cases of bribery will be prosecuted under the law.

While Mohnyin Central Prison does not have a medical superintendent, a doctor in charge and a nurse provide daily medical care to inmates. In cases requiring hospital treatment, prisoners are transferred to Mohnyin General Hospital, and departmental funds cover all necessary medical expenses.

Moreover, repairs and maintenance of Mohnyin Central Prison's facilities are funded by official budgets, not by inmate contributions. In cases where minor repairs are needed, such as mending worn-out furniture, inmates contribute their labour under close supervision in accordance with established rules and regulations.

Within Meiktila Prison, adequate water is supplied daily from Meiktila Lake, which is pumped into an 8,000-gallon water tank and distributed twice daily for both drinking and bathing. During power outages, a generator ensures an uninterrupted water supply. The prison also has a water purifier to provide approximately 3,000 litres of drinking water per day, distributed across cells in 20-litre containers.

Additionally, Meiktila Prison employs a doctor and nurse to provide daily healthcare services. It conducts regular checks to ensure cleanliness in living spaces to prevent skin infections and other health issues. Contrary to the allegations made by "Khit Thit Media," these practices demonstrate a commitment to health and hygiene that is in line with regulations.

This statement refutes the false accusations made by "Khit Thit Media" and underscores that the page's claims were misleading and aimed at causing misunderstanding about standard prison procedures and policies. — Thitsa/KZL

‘New wave’ as start-up sweeps up Thai ocean plastic

AS a long-tail boat arrives at a fishing village on the southern Thai island of Koh Chang, residents gather to sell their wares — not seafood, but plastic.

The villagers, members of the semi-nomadic Moken people, are selling to Tide, a start-up attempting to create new value from old plastic collected from or near the sea. Recyclers have long scooped up some of the over six million tonnes of plastic that the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development estimates enters the ocean each year.

But Tide works directly with everyone in the process, from collectors in remote Thai fishing villages to carpet manufacturers in the Netherlands. Its plastic is traceable and certified as “ocean-

bound” — a process that involves annual audits by an NGO.

Tide, a Swiss company founded in 2019, processes about 1,000 tonnes of plastic annually, aiming to produce recycled materials comparable to virgin plastic.

Co-founder Marc Krebs emphasizes the importance of utilizing existing plastic rather than creating new. On Koh Chang, villagers like Mimi collect vast amounts of ocean debris, including fishing nets and plastic waste, but face challenges with complex recycling needs and increasing trash. Tide partners with companies like Condor Group to incorporate recycled materials while advocating for sustainable practices and transparency as it expands internationally to combat the global plastic crisis. — AFP



Plastic waste collected by Tide must be certified as ‘ocean bound’ by an NGO auditor. PHOTO: AFP

‘CEO of supercute’: Hello Kitty turns 50

HELLO Kitty, the cute, enigmatic character that adorns everything from handbags to

rice cookers, turns 50 on Friday — and is still making millions for her Japanese creators.



Hello Kitty marks its 50th anniversary on 1 November, adorning everything from handbags to rice cookers and raking in millions of dollars for the Japanese creators Sanrio. PHOTO: AFP

The simple design of the character — who is not a cat, but a little girl from London according to Sanrio, the company behind Kitty — has mileage as a money-spinner for years to come, experts say.

One woman in the US state of California has amassed so much Hello Kitty merchandise that her husband built her a pink so-called “she-shed” to keep it in.

Stuffed inside are thousands of toys and other items featuring Kitty and her eye-catching red bow, including rows of sunglasses, a swivel chair and novelty gumball dispensers. — AFP

Alzheimer’s patient ‘relieved’ at Quebec’s assisted suicide policy shift

SANDRA Demontigny, a 45-year-old Quebec resident diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer’s, feared becoming a prisoner in her own body and burdening her loved ones.

However, she now feels “relieved” after Quebec approved

advanced requests for medical assistance in dying (MAID), allowing individuals with neurodegenerative diseases to outline their end-of-life wishes in advance. This new policy gives her a sense of control over her future.

MAID has been available to the terminally ill in Quebec since 2015 and is broadly accepted in the province. By allowing advance requests, Quebec joins countries like the Netherlands and Belgium in this practice. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Faker: eSports legend and South Korea ‘national treasure’

Lee Sang-hyeok, known globally as Faker, has transformed from a typical teenager wanting a “normal” life into a multi-millionaire eSports icon in South Korea.

At just 28, he has been dubbed a “national treasure”, alongside sports and music legends like Son Heung-min and BTS. Earning an estimated 10 billion won (\$7.2 million) annually, Faker is the most recognizable name in professional gaming.

His journey began in high school with the popular game League of Legends, leading to his signing with SK Telecom (now T1).

Faker has won numerous titles, including a fifth world championship. Despite facing setbacks, like a crushing defeat in 2017, he persevered and recently secured a championship in front of a home crowd. His influence has inspired many young South Koreans to pursue gaming careers, solidifying his legacy with installations like the “Faker Temple”, where fans celebrate his achievements. “Everyone knows Faker,” reflects his immense impact on eSports. — AFP

In Tennessee, the despair of gun control advocates

AFTER a deadly school shooting in the southern US state of Tennessee last year, Democratic voters, lawmakers, and even some Republican mothers called for stricter gun control laws. But the state assembly blocked any progress, dashing hopes for change in a state that deeply values firearm rights. “We’re single-issue voters, with guns being the number one issue,” said Melissa Alexander, a real estate agent, gun owner, and mother who takes pride in her son’s hunting skills.

Despite grassroots advocacy by liberals, conservative resistance to gun control has deflated the issue to the point that it barely registers in the US presidential campaign. Democrats have often championed gun reform — but this time around even Kamala Harris, the Democratic presidential candidate, has emphasized her gun ownership in a country seemingly numbed to mass shootings. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

China's first "smart factory" for offshore oil, gas equipment fully operational



An aerial drone photo taken on 30 October 2024 shows a view of an intelligent manufacturing base under China Offshore Oil Engineering Company in north China's Tianjin. **PHOTO: ZHAO ZISHUO/XINHUA**

China's first intelligent manufacturing base for offshore oil and gas equipment has officially opened in Tianjin, spanning 575,000 square metres.

CHINA'S first intelligent manufacturing base for offshore oil and gas equipment was put into full operation on Wednesday in north China's Tianjin Municipality.

Covering an area of about 575,000 square metres, this base built along the coast of the Bohai Sea focuses on producing offshore oil and gas platforms and high-end offshore products such as liquefied natural gas modules, according to its con-

structor China Offshore Oil Engineering Company (COOEC), a subsidiary of the China National Offshore Oil Corporation.

The base consists of four intelligent production workshops, eight production auxiliary centers, 16 final assembly stations and core facilities such as docks facilitating product transportation via large ships. There are also over 600 intelligent production machines at this base. — Xinhua

India's core industries see growth of 2% in September 2024

INDIA'S Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) registered a two per cent growth in September this year, compared to

the same month last year, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry reported on Wednesday. According to the release, this

growth was primarily driven by increased production in the Cement, Refinery Products, Coal, Fertilizers, and Steel sectors. The eight core industries, which constitute 40.27 per cent of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), provide a crucial overview of India's industrial health.

The ministry's data reveals mixed sectoral performance. The Coal sector, which holds a weight of 10.33 per cent in the ICI, rose by 2.6 per cent in September 2024, with a cumulative growth of 5.9 per cent from April to September 2024-25 compared to the same period last year. — ANI



India is the world's fourth-biggest crude refiner. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Riyadh Air orders 60 Airbus planes

SAUDI Arabia's new national airline, Riyadh Air, announced on Wednesday it has ordered 60 narrow-body aircraft from Airbus, as it prepares for takeoff next year.

The carrier, created last year, has reached "an agreement to purchase 60 Airbus A321neo single-aisle aircraft in the latest step towards its maiden flight in 2025", it said in a statement. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman sees aviation as a key component of his "Vision 2030" reform agenda to remake the petroleum-centred country, aiming to more than triple annual traffic to 330 million passengers by the end of the decade. He announced the creation of Riyadh Air in March 2023. It is owned by the Saudi sovereign wealth fund, the Public Investment Fund. The deal announced on Wednesday is Riyadh Air's second major purchase after it agreed last year to buy 39 wide-body Boeing Dreamliners, with options for 33 more jets.

The new "multi-billion dollar" deal brings the firm's total aircraft orders to 132 and "positions the airline for efficient flight operations by having an optimal fleet mix to fulfil its network ambitions of 100 destinations by 2030", the statement said. — AFP

Olympics helps French GDP to 0.4% boost in third quarter

THIS year's Olympic Games boosted the French economy with gross domestic product rising 0.4 per cent in the third quarter, the INSEE statistics agency said Wednesday.

After registering growth of

0.2 per cent in each of the first two quarters, the economy was "boosted by the Olympics" in July and August, the agency said.

Household consumption, which accounts for half of GDP, rose by 0.5 per cent during the

quarter. "A large part of this increase (around half) is linked to the consumption of recreational services in connection with the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games," INSEE said in a statement. — AFP



The French economy will catch some air thanks to the Olympic and Paralympic Games. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Direct all-cargo air route links China's Hubei, Hong Kong

The route will operate three round-trip flights weekly, providing approximately 100 tonnes of air transport capacity each week.



A cargo plane flies over the Ezhou Huahu Airport in Ezhou, central China's Hubei Province, 17 July 2022. PHOTO: XIAO YIJU/XINHUA/FILE

A direct all-cargo air route between Hubei Province in central China and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region was launched on Wednesday, according to SF Airlines.

On Wednesday morning, a Boeing 737-400 freighter took off from the Ezhou Huahu International Airport in Hubei,

China's first cargo-focused airport. It is also the airport's first all-cargo route to Hong Kong, said the cargo airline.

Three round-trip flights are scheduled to shuttle on this route every week, providing about 100 tonnes of air transport capacity weekly.

This direct air route will provide air

express capacity to this year's Double Eleven online shopping festival, also known as the Singles' Day shopping festival and a Chinese version of Black Friday.

It will help facilitate transport of e-commerce express and enhance consumption experience for customers, said

SF Airlines.

Headquartered in Shenzhen, SF Airlines is China's largest air cargo carrier in fleet size. To date, it has cultivated an international route network from Ezhou Huahu International Airport to totalling more than 60 destinations at home and abroad, said the cargo carrier. — Xinhua

Japan's ANA logs 13% drop in 1st-half net profit despite record sales

ANA Holdings Inc. said Thursday its net profit dropped 13.3 per cent from a year earlier to 80.78 billion yen (\$530 million) in the six months ended September as heavier aircraft maintenance costs more than offset record sales growth.

The parent of All Nippon Airways Co posted a record-high 1.1 trillion yen

in sales the first half ended 30 September, up 9.7 per cent from a year earlier, with booming inbound tourism boosting international flight passengers. Operating profit declined 16.5 per cent to 108.37 billion yen.

"We will keep boosting sales while controlling costs," President and CEO Koji Shibata said at a press

conference.

For the current business year through March, the company raised its net profit outlook to 120 billion from an earlier projection of 110 billion. It now plans to book compensation income related to aircraft.

Still, the latest figure represents a 23.6 per cent drop from the last fiscal year.

The full-year sales forecast was lifted to 2.22 trillion yen from 2.19 trillion yen, with the carrier aiming to increase the number of passengers on international flights by 10 per cent from the previous year while newly introducing routes to Milan, Stockholm, and Istanbul from Tokyo's Haneda airport. — Kyodo

Siemens acquires AI specialist Altair Engineering



This move reflects Siemens' ongoing transformation from traditional heavy industrial manufacturing to a stronger emphasis on digital technology and factory automation. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

GERMAN industrial giant Siemens announced Wednesday it had acquired software specialist Altair

Engineering, valuing the US company at around \$10 billion, with the aim of strengthening its position

in artificial intelligence.

"With the acquisition, Siemens strengthens its position as a leading technology company and its leadership role in industrial software," the Munich-based group said in a statement.

Siemens, whose sprawling global business has long been a producer of heavy industrial equipment, has in recent years sought to shift its focus towards digital technology and factory automation.

"Altair's competencies in simulation, high-perfor-

mance computing, data science and artificial intelligence" will boost the company's reach into AI and simulation, Siemens CEO Roland Busch said.

The digital industry division, which includes software for industry and factory automation, has become the driving force behind the group's growth in recent years.

The acquisition "will create the world's most comprehensive AI-powered design and simulation portfolio", Busch said. — AFP

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

Central Committee for Holding Myanmar Gems Emporium
The Information about Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2024

1. The significant **Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2024**, under the supervision of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, will be held from November 18 to 27, 2024 at Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. Genuine Myanmar pearl, gems and rough jade lots will be sold at the Emporium.
2. The local gems entrepreneurs who got the permit and the local gems merchants who got the license to operate in the finished gemstone making and dealing under the Myanmar Gem Law, will be allowed to attend and purchase the Lots at **Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium, 2024** according to the terms and conditions.
3. For further information in detail about granted admission to purchase Lots at **Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium, 2024**, any merchants can inquire and keep contact with Emporium Central Committee, Myanmar Gems Enterprise (Head Office), Myanmar Pearl Enterprise (Head Office) in Nay Pyi Taw.

Emporium Central Committee

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (134N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (134N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-11-2024** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

New Hezbollah chief says open to truce with Israel if offer is made



An Israeli Navy corvette patrols along the coast of the northern port city of Haifa. **PHOTO: AFP**

HEZBOLLAH'S new leader on Wednesday said the beleaguered Lebanese movement could agree to a ceasefire under certain terms, as Israeli forces expand their bombardment of the group's bastions. Naim Qassem's statement came as Israel's security cabinet met to discuss a possible truce, but also as Israel attacked the eastern Lebanese city of Baalbek and said it had killed another senior Hezbollah commander.

Following the assassination of Hassan Nasrallah, Naim Qassem has assumed leadership of Hezbollah and expressed a willingness to negotiate a ceasefire under certain conditions.

Lebanon's premier Najib Mikati said he was "cautiously optimistic" about a ceasefire in "the coming hours or days".

Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati reported that U.S. envoy Amos Hochstein suggested a potential ceasefire before the US elections on 5 November.

Following the assassination of Hassan Nasrallah, Qassem has

taken leadership of Hezbollah.

In his inaugural speech, he affirmed Hezbollah's resilience against Israeli attacks but indicated openness to a negotiated truce if Israel presents a credible offer.

Israeli Energy Minister Eli Cohen stated that the security cabinet is deliberating on terms for a truce, while Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with ministers to discuss demands, including Hezbollah's withdrawal from areas near the Israeli border and deployment of the Lebanese army. — AFP

BRIEF: WORLD

Trump's election fraud claims raise alarms of 2020 repeat

DONALD Trump is exploiting isolated irregularities identified by US election officials to allege widespread "cheating", raising fears he may again reject the outcome if he loses next week's vote. The Republican candidate has avoided committing to accept the election results, echoing his unfounded claims from 2020 about a rigged loss.

In Pennsylvania, he denounced what he termed "large-scale cheating", following a report of a criminal investigation into 2,500 suspicious voter registration applications. State officials warn that misinformation is spreading online, undermining democracy.

With polls showing a tight race, Pennsylvania remains a crucial battleground, echoing the tensions of the previous election. — AFP

Greece raises WWII reparations issue during German President's visit

GREEK political leaders raised the issue of World War II reparations and a forced occupation loan with German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier on Wednesday during his three-day visit to Greece.

"For Greece the matter of reparations and especially the forced occupation loan are issues that are still very much alive and we hope that at some point we will resolve them," Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said during their meeting in Athens in remarks broadcast on Greek national broadcaster ERT.

The outstanding issue is of great importance to Greek people, Greek President Katerina Sakellariopoulou said during separate talks with Steinmeier according to a press release. — Xinhua

Germany to bury nuclear waste but toxic dispute unresolved

DEEP beneath Germany, an elevator descends nearly a kilometre to the Konrad repository, a nuclear waste facility designed to entomb radioactive materials for eternity.

Engineers and visitors traverse underground tunnels to reach a vast, concrete-lined hall where future atomic waste will be encased to prevent contamination.

Project manager Ben Samwer emphasizes the safety measures required for this multi-billion-euro project, which will serve as the final resting place for waste from shuttered nuclear plants. After decades of protests, Konrad remains the only approved



Work is underway to convert a former iron mine into a final storage for more than 300,000 cubic metres of low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste. **PHOTO: AFP**

site for nuclear waste disposal in Germany, set to open in the early 2030s.

Yet the project faces ongoing

challenges. Environmental groups, like Nabu, argue that Konrad is outdated and inadequate for safe storage. — AFP

Halloween crowd control tight in Tokyo's Shibuya

WHISTLES shrilled and LED batons motioned pedestrians to keep moving in Tokyo's buzzing Shibuya district Thursday amid a crackdown by local authorities to prevent overcrowding for Halloween.

Celebrations were markedly toned down and

few were seen wearing costumes, with police guiding people away from the area and a newly implemented year-round alcohol ban in full effect. The occasion had gained notoriety for unruliness in recent years in one of Tokyo's most popular tourist spots. — Kyodo

SPORTS

Shan United secures place in AFC Challenge League Quarterfinals

SHAN United, along with three other clubs, has qualified for the quarterfinals of the ongoing 2024-2025 AFC Challenge League following the conclusion of the second group stage matches.

The tournament is being held in two parts: three groups in the West Asia zone and two groups in the East Asia zone.

In Group C of the West Asia zone, Oman's Al-Seeb club is currently leading, while Shan United, a Myanmar club, along with Chinese Taipei's Tainan City team and Cambodia's Svay Rieng team in Group E, have

also secured their spots before the final matches. Shan United achieved victory in their first match against Laos' Young Elephants with a score of 2-0, which enabled them to advance to the quarterfinals. If they perform well in their final match, they could secure the top position in their group.

As of now, in Group A, Lebanon's Nejmeh team leads with six points, followed by India's East Bengal with four points, Bhutan's Paro with one end, and Bangladesh's Bashundhara Kings yet to score.

In Group B, Tajikistan's

Akademia also leads with six points, while Kyrgyzstan's Abdysht-Ata Kant and Kuwait's Al-Ahli have three points each. The Maldives' Mazyar team has yet to score.

In Group C, Oman's Al-Seeb holds six points, while Palestine's Hilal team has two points, and Bahrain's Al-Ahli and Syria's Al-Fotuwa have one point each.

In Group D, Shan United and Chinese Taipei's Tainan City each have three points from one match, while Laos' Young Elephants have not yet scored after two games.



Shan United celebrates their victory in the opening match of the group stage. **PHOTO: THAW GYI**

In Group E, Cambodia's Preah Khan Reach Svay Rieng has three points from one match, Indonesia's Madura United has one point from one match, and Mongolia's Khetul

has one point after playing two matches.

Shan United's final group match will be against Chinese Taipei's Tainan City on 2 November. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Man Utd set to announce Amorim as new manager

RUBEN Amorim is expected to be confirmed as Manchester United's new manager on Thursday after the club reached an agreement with Sporting Lisbon, reports said.

The Athletic said the 39-year-old would stay with the Portuguese league leaders for their next three games, including next week's Champions League match against Manchester City.

He is expected to take charge at Old Trafford during the November international



Ruben Amorim appears to be on the brink of becoming Manchester United's new manager. **PHOTO: AFP**

break, with his first game set to be United's away trip to Ipswich on 24 November. Sky Sports said it was understood the Premier League club had paid Sporting an extra one million euros over and above his 10 million euro (\$11 million) exit clause for an early release. — AFP

Australian rising golf star loses sight in eye after freak accident

AN Australian rising golf star who made his US PGA Tour debut last month vowed Thursday to play on despite losing sight in one eye after a freak on-course accident.

Jeffrey Guan, 20, was hit in the face by a ball at a tournament south of Sydney in late September, suffering a serious fracture to his left cheekbone and eye socket.

The PGA of Australia revealed he had "permanently lost vision in his left eye". In his first statement since the accident, Guan — a former Australian junior amateur champion like Adam Scott, Jason Day and Cameron Smith — said he was "utterly distraught".

"During my nights in hospital I almost drowned in thoughts about the injury and my future in the sport," he said.

"Not only was I utterly distraught by the news I had received, but the whole situation made me very depressed and somewhat angry. — AFP

ANOC General Assembly opens with focus on global unity, Olympic innovation

THE 27th General Assembly of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) opened on Wednesday, with a strong emphasis on Olympic solidarity and a forward-looking vision for sports innovation.

IOC President Thomas Bach addressed delegates from over 200 National Olympic Committees (NOCs), underscoring the role of the Olympic Movement in fostering peace and unity amid geopolitical challenges.

Reflecting on the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, Bach

commended the Organizing Committee's efforts, calling the Games "a symbol of peace in a world increasingly marked by tension and conflict".

"In a world with growing tension, the Olympic Games are among the few places where humanity can come together in peace," he said, adding that Paris 2024 exemplified the inclusivity and diversity central to the Olympic vision.

Bach applauded the organizing team for delivering Games that were "younger, more urban, and more sustainable",

reflecting key reforms from the Olympic Agenda 2020+5.

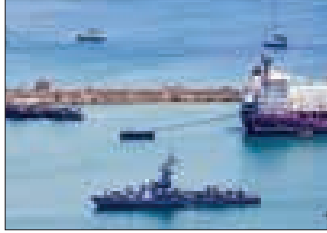
The IOC president's remarks also highlighted the impact of the Olympic Solidarity Fund, which saw a 10 per cent budget increase this year to 650 million US dollars.

He explained that this expansion aims to ensure athletes from all backgrounds can access training and competitive opportunities, noting that the Paris Olympics saw 91 NOCs earn medals, with several countries winning their first-ever Olympic golds. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 30 October 2024 shows the exterior of the Estoril Congress Centre, venue for the 27th Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) General Assembly in Cascais, Portugal. **PHOTO: MENG DINGBO/XINHUA**

New Hezbollah chief says open to truce with Israel if offer is made
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Putin announced imminent treaty signing with Iran during the BRICS summit in Kazan. Pezeshkian (C), inaugurated in July as a reformist.
PHOTO: AFP

Updated Russia-Iran agreement to pay significant attention to defence issues: Lavrov

The treaty aims to establish a comprehensive strategic partnership, enhancing cooperation between the two nations in areas related to peace and security at both regional and global levels.

AN UPDATED partnership agreement between Russia and Iran will be signed in the near future, with significant attention paid to defence issues, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Thursday.

“A major factor in strengthening Russian-Iranian relations will be the treaty on comprehensive strategic partnership

between Russia and Iran that is being prepared for signing in the near future. It will confirm the parties’ desire for closer cooperation in the field of defense and interaction in the interests of peace and security at the regional and global level,” Lavrov told the second Minsk International Conference on Eurasian Security.

On 23 October, during the BRICS

summit in Kazan, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the imminent signing of the treaty at a meeting with Iranian President Massoud Pezeshkian. The Islamic Republic’s ambassador to Russia, Kazem Jalali, said earlier that the document would be signed during a separate visit of the Iranian president to Russia. — SPUTNIK

CELEBRITY GREETINGS

Visiting temples, bursting crackers, South India celebrates Diwali

PEOPLE in South Indian states on Thursday celebrated the festival of Diwali by bursting crackers through temples and having family gatherings. Political leaders and celebrities wished people on this occasion.

Actor Rajinikanth greeted fans outside his residence in Chennai on the occasion of Diwali.

Actor Vijay, chief of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, extended heartfelt Diwali wishes, emphasizing themes of love, peace, and prosperity. He urged everyone to celebrate safely and joyfully.

In Tamil Nadu, devotees flocked to temples like Manicka Vinayagar in Trichy and Kanchi Kamakshi Amman in Kanchipuram for special Diwali poojas.

The festival’s significance varies regionally; in South India, it commemorates Goddess Satyabhama and Lord Krishna’s victory over the demon Narakasura, while in North India, it marks Lord Rama’s return to Ayodhya.

Union Minister L Murugan celebrated by bursting firecrackers, highlighting this year’s Diwali as particularly special following the Ram Mandir’s dedication. Across Tamil Nadu, people enjoyed festivities with crackers and sparklers, while temples like Shri Bhagyalaxmi near Charminar in Hyderabad were beautifully decorated.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also shared Diwali greetings, wishing health and prosperity for all. — ANI

Kim Jong Un says N Korea’s ICBM launch shows ‘counteraction will’

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un has confirmed the launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), and said this demonstrates its “counteraction will” against its rivals, South Korea’s Yonhap news agency

reported, citing North Korea’s state news agency KCNA.

According to the report, Kim said the DPRK will never change its policy of bolstering its nuclear forces. Earlier reports said the DPRK launched a long-range ballistic missile, presumably an ICBM, from the Pyongyang

area towards the Sea of Japan at approximately 7:10 am (2210 GMT Wednesday). According to the Japanese government, the missile flew 1,000 kilometres at an altitude of 7,000 kilometres. Its altitude and flight duration were the highest for all launches — SPUTNIK



A file photo of a North Korean intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) being prepared for launch in 2023. **PHOTO: KCNA/FILE**