

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Diwali Festival fosters unity among Myanmar's diverse religious communities

All citizens of Myanmar must respect each other's beliefs and religions as they have all grown up together in the same motherland.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing underscored regardless of ethnicity or religion, as everybody needs to share the same land, water, and air in Myanmar, people must cultivate a love for the country and the Union spirit in order to live together peacefully.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the ceremony to mark the Diwali Festival organized by Hindus residing in Myanmar at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township, Yangon, yesterday evening.



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur exchange gifts at the ceremony to mark the Diwali Festival organized by Hindus residing in Yangon yesterday.

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the Diwali festival

1. All citizens of Myanmar must respect each other's beliefs and religions as they have all grown up together in the same motherland.
2. Citizens of Myanmar must respect each other's beliefs and religions and serve the interests of Myanmar through bilaterally friendly relations based on the Union spirit.
3. Regardless of ethnicity or religion, as everybody needs to share the same land, water, and air in Myanmar, people must cultivate a love for the country and the Union spirit in order to live together peacefully.
4. The government supports religious ceremonies of various religions in Myanmar, as well as commemorative days and events related to different ethnic groups to the fullest extent possible.

The Senior General and the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar unveiled the ceremony to mark the Diwali Festival.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and party visited the exhibitions of Hindu organizations and ethnicities.

SEE PAGE 3

In addition to TBB, TBR, PCR tires of various sizes, we also manufacture and distribute motorcycle tires.

TRISTAR
THE BEST QUALITY TYRE

Sales Department- Ph- 09 254272843, 09 453255545
 STARMART nine mile Showroom- (9)mile, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph-09 30860180
 KHA YAE PIN MART - Mingaladone, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph- 09 671443555
 STARMART MANDALAY Wholesale -Corner of 26th and 66th road, Mandalay. Ph-09 661702244
 STARMART Nay Pyi Taw Yangon- Mandalay Highway Road, Ywar Gauk Ward, Pinyinmanar. Ph- 09 685119077

Cycle Tyres

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

Empowering Youth: Nurturing Future Leaders for National Integrity and Prestige

THE youth who will serve the State are its future leaders. It is essential to systematically nurture young people to instil good morale and a strong national spirit, enhancing the State's prestige and preserving national integrity.

(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)

Members of the freefall squad bearing regional and state flags in training for 5th National Sports Festival



Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.



Kachin.



Kayah.



Kayin.



Chin.



Mon.



Rakhine.



Shan.



Yangon.



Ayeyawady.



Taninthayi.



Sagaing.

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)

Diwali Festival fosters unity among Myanmar's diverse religious communities



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and dignitaries pose for the documentary photo at yesterday's ceremony to mark the Diwali Festival.

FROM PAGE 1

At the drama hall, the Senior General and his wife, the Indian Ambassador and his wife, and officials ignited the oil light to mark the festival. Then, the Ambassador and his wife decorated the Senior General and his wife with the shawls and garlands.

The Senior General, his wife and attendees watched a solo dance, Ganesha Dhamma song and oil lamp dance presented by staff of the Indian Embassy.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General expressed his belief that Hindus beautifully illuminate their temples and homes in accord with their traditions on this festival occasion with oil lights so as to gain

strength for their lives.

He noted that this year's Diwali festival demonstrates harmony and unity among the diverse religious communities in Myanmar.

He highlighted that all citizens of Myanmar must respect each other's beliefs and religions as they have all grown up together in the same motherland, urging them to serve the interests of Myanmar through bilaterally friendly relations based on the Union spirit.

The Senior General clarified that although today's conflicts in Myanmar were based on political conditions, these have not yet been resolved in political ways. Such things depend on external instigation based on political, racist and

religious affairs. Through such instigations, terror acts are being recklessly committed within the country, implying that division among the people only leads to further conflict, he added.

He emphasized that regardless of ethnicity or religion, as everybody needs to share the same land, water, and air in Myanmar, people must cultivate a love for the country and the Union spirit to live together peacefully.

Currently, the Senior General said he is striving to implement the planned steps to guide the nation back onto the path of democracy. Therefore, he urged everyone to work together to resolve ongoing conflicts and to soon return to the

path everybody aspires to.

He continued that everybody knows that the government supports religious ceremonies of various religions in Myanmar, as well as commemorative days and events related to different ethnic groups to the fullest extent possible.

The Indian Ambassador made a remark, and the Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the festival said thanks.

The Senior General, his wife, and attendees enjoyed traditional Hindu dances and songs, dances of ethnic groups, and Myanmar traditional dances performed by traditional Hindu cultural troupes and the cultural troupes from the National University of Arts and

Culture (Yangon). Afterwards, the Senior General and his wife and the Indian Ambassador and his wife presented flower baskets to those troupes.

Later, the Senior General, his wife, and the attendees had dinner together to commemorate the Diwali Festival.

Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo and his wife, council member General Nyo Saw and his wife, union ministers and their wives, the Yangon Region Chief Minister, Ambassadors from international embassies and heads of missions, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the commander of Yangon Command, Hindu ethnicities and guests were also at the event. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Weekly Roundup

31 October

Myanmar and Laos bolster cooperation, highlighting strong relations



CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said that Myanmar and Laos have historically supported each other as good neighbours at a meeting with Lao Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Heuangseng Khamdalavong, who has completed his tour duty, at the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr Alassane Conte as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Guinea to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in New Delhi.

Victorious athletes need encouragement

Victorious medallist athletes representing ministries, regions and states who showcased their excellent skills and talents must be deservedly awarded and promoted to their ranks in the workforce as part of encouraging their efforts, said SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the meeting to organize the Fifth National Sports Festival, held at the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

1 November

Applications for patents begin in Myanmar



THE Patent Law came into effect on 31 May 2024, and the applications were accepted officially on 31 October 2024, so these four laws were successfully operated, said Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn at the ceremony to mark rights to the patent application held at the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw. — GNLM/TTA

Two-day illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth K1.058B

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to combat the illicit trade continue effectively by the law.

On 30 October and 1 November, the combined teams seized four kinds of industrial materials worth K858.495 million without official documents from 16 containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint, a Hino Profia truck (estimated value of K30 million), heading to Yangon from Tachilek, carrying auto parts valued at K16 million without official documents at the Ywathagyi Dry Port and a Scania express bus (estimated value of K70 million), travelling from Mawlamyine to Yangon, carrying foodstuffs (approximately K6 million) without official document at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint. The action was conducted as per Customs procedures.

Similarly, on 1 November, the combined teams conduct-



Confiscated illegal timbers in Bago Region.

ed inspections, resulting in the seizures of a Hino Ranger truck (estimated valued at K25 million) carrying two kinds of industrial materials and consumer goods worth K9.7 million without official documents at the Yetha temporary vehicle checkpoint, a Mitsubishi Canter truck (estimated value of K30 million) that was parked carrying foodstuffs worth K10 million without official documents in Bago and illegal teak weighing

0.606 tonne, illegal hardwood weighing 4.357 tonnes and other timbers weighing 1.004 tonnes worth K3.239 million in Bago, Nyaunglebin and Thayawady Districts. The action was taken under the Forest Law and Customs procedures.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported 16 arrests on 30 October and 1 November, seizing illegal goods worth approximately K1.058 billion. — MNA/MKKS

Myanmar migrant workers to receive EV import permits for 25% income remittance

MYANMAR overseas workers who transferred 25 per cent of their income to local authorized banks will be granted import permits for electric vehicles (EVs) and electric motorcycles, the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand, notified on 31 October.

Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand can now easily remit foreign-sourced income to their families through formal financial institutions.

Central Bank of Myanmar announced lists of companies with remittance business licences, authorized banks and their international banking partners on its website www.cbm.gov.mm.

The exchange rates for inward remittance are declared on the websites of authorized banks with foreign exchange licences, and the banks also offer the cheapest banking service fees, as

per the statement.

Myanmar citizens, including seafarers who transfer foreign earnings to local banks, are eligible to import one electric vehicle (EV) valued at up to five per cent of an annual remittance exceeding US\$200,000. Except for those receiving monthly salaries, others were allowed to import electric vehicles or electric motorcycles, which is equivalent to five per cent of the remittance if they made inward remittance worth \$50,000 per year.

If an individual's remittance does not meet the amount of the EV or electric motorcycles, they can import them collectively. Individuals can enquire about details through 067 3408433 and email dottraining2008@gmail.com of the related department. — NN/KK

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

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

Myanmar delegation attends 17th HLTF-ACV Meeting in Vietnam

THE Myanmar delegation led by Dr Wah Wah Maung, Eminent Person (EP) of Myanmar for the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision and Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations attended the 17th Meeting of High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision (17th HLTF-ACV) and the Regional Consultation on Reviewing ASEAN Community Blueprints 2025 and Charting Directions for 2045, which were held in Hoi An, Vietnam, on 28 October-2 November 2024, accompanied by two officials from the Department of ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Drafting sessions of the High-Level Representatives were also held on the sideline of the 17th HLTF-ACV Meeting, and the third reading concluded with 92.9 per cent completion of the draft of the ASEAN Political and Security Community (APSC) Strategic Plan.

The 17th HLTF-ACV Meeting was co-chaired by Mr Chatoulong Bouasisavath, Eminent Person (EP) of Lao PDR as the ASEAN Chair and Mr Dato' Zainuddin Yahya, Eminent Person (EP) of Malaysia, as the permanent shepherd Member State, and it was attended by Eminent Persons, High-Level Representatives and officials from ASEAN Member States as well as ASE-



The 17th Meeting of High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision (17th HLTF-ACV) and the Regional Consultation on Reviewing ASEAN Community Blueprints 2025 and Charting Directions for 2045 in progress in Vietnam on 28 October - 2 November 2024.

AN Deputy Secretary-General for APSC and officials from the ASEAN Secretariat.

At the Meeting, the HLTF-ACV had an interface with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) and the Centre for Strategic Studies and International Relations Development (CSSD). The respective stakeholders have updated their works and contributions to the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, shared the priorities and challenges to be addressed in the future ahead and provided their recommendations. The Meeting exchanged views on the emerging challenges and

recommendations made by the respective stakeholders on the development of the APSC Strategic Plan in a friendly, cordial and candid manner.

At the Regional Consultation hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam, the HLTF-ACV also had a candid discussion with representatives of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), Ad Hoc Working Group on the Development of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Post-2025 Strategic Plan, and the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) on the implementation progress of the ASEAN Community Blueprints 2025, and exchanged views on matters arising during craft-

ing respective Strategic Plans and work progress. The Regional Consultation was convened with the objective of coming up with innovative ideas and a way forward for the implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 based on the best practices, experiences and lessons learned in the implementation of the ASEAN Community 2025.

During the 17th HLTF-ACV Meeting and the Regional Consultation, MIFER Deputy Minister Dr Wah Wah Maung commended the overall implementation status of the three ASEAN Community Blueprints, which stands above 95 per cent of completion on average. She stressed the importance of the

implementation of the blueprints, which is not to be merely ensured at the superficial level but to be beneficial at the grassroots level for all peoples of ASEAN. Afterwards, the vision of "people-centred and people-oriented ASEAN" laid down by ASEAN Leaders will be effectively realized. Moreover, the deputy minister highlighted the need to link the national priorities of each ASEAN Member State with the ASEAN's regional action plans and programmes to promote the efficient and effective realization of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045. Besides, she underscored the principles of equity and inclusivity in the implementation of the projects and programmes of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, as well as the necessity for further strengthening the "ASEAN Centrality" through consolidating the ASEAN's principles such as cohesiveness, unity and mutual respect.

Among the successful outcomes of the Meeting, the 17th HLTF-ACV agreed to continue to discuss the APSC Strategic Plan at the upcoming 18th and 19th HLTF-ACV meetings with a goal to finalize it together with other Strategic Plans as well as all Strategic Plans to be adopted at the 46th ASEAN Summit which will be hosted by Malaysia in 2025. — MNA

Continuous education project advances with 45 study groups

CONTINUOUS education, which includes three programmes — strengthening the habit of reading, establishing networks to increase income, and providing knowledge for overall well-being — is being implemented in designated townships in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, as well as in Ayeyawady Region and Shan State (East).

As part of the implementation of continuous education in Nay Pyi Taw, the Ministry of Education and the Nay Pyi Taw Council have collaborated to train 45 study groups involving 449 students, supported by 107 volunteer demonstrators and supervisors. These demonstrators will teach the students for an average of three hours a day, starting on 21 October, for three months.

To implement continuous education, Director-General U Kyaw Win of the Department of Alternative Education and Lifelong Learning and other officials visited the Yanaungmyin Monastery in Ohntaw Village, Dekkhinathiri Township, and the Thayagon Basic Education High School in Thayagon Village, Lewe Township. — MNA/TKO



The continuous education programme in progress at the branch of the Basic Education High School in Thayagon Village, Lewe Township, yesterday.

NATIONAL



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 2 November, 2024)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea, eastcentral Bay and south Bay of Bengal and a few cloud elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 3 November 2024: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region, fairly widespread in Bago and Ayeyawady regions, scattered in Yangon Region and southern Shan, Kayin and Mon states and isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway Region and Kayah State. Degree of certainty is 80 per cent. Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin 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: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 3-6 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in Shan and Chin states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 November 2024: Partly cloudy and isolated light rain. Degree of certainty is 80%.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 November 2024: Partly cloudy and isolated light rain. Degree of certainty is 80%.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 November 2024: A few cloud.

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar 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

EU donates US\$1.34M for flood relief through WFP



This photo captures WFP distributing EU-provided aid to flood victims in Myanmar.

ACCORDING to a joint statement released on 31 October by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the European Union (EU), the EU has announced an additional funding contribution of €1.2 million (equivalent to US\$1.34 million) to the WFP to support the people of Myanmar battered by

flooding.

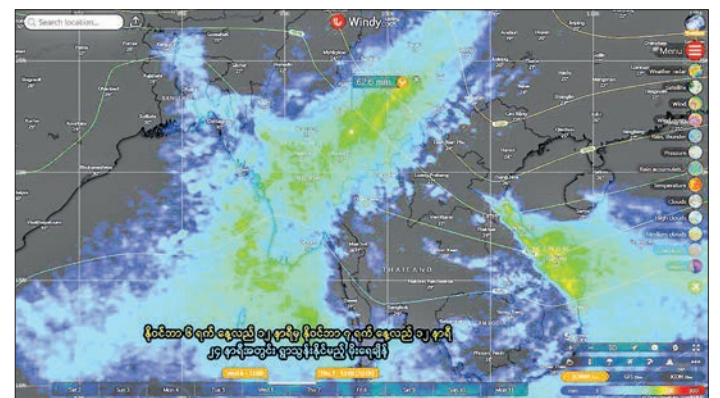
The statement notes that approximately 13.3 million people in Myanmar are currently facing food insecurity, with 2.7 million experiencing severe food insecurity, while the prices of basic food commodities have increased by 50 per cent compared to last year.

As a result, the EU's additional funding of €1.2 million (or \$1.34 million) to the WFP is aimed at assisting these vulnerable populations. WFP will work closely with local NGOs and its staff to ensure that assistance reaches those affected by the flooding directly. — ASH/TMT

Bay of Bengal low pressure may bring heavy rain to Shan State on 6-7 Nov

DUE to a possible low-pressure area in the Bay of Bengal, there is a likelihood of high rainfall in Shan State on 6 and 7 November, said meteorologist U Win Naing. It is forecast to rain around two inches in Shan State; however, it is just one-third of the rain in the last flood, and there is no danger level, he said.

“Due to the impact of the low-pressure area, it will rain on 6 and 7 November in 24 hours in northern and southern Ayeyawady and Yangon regions and later in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway, Mandalay and southern Sagaing Regions, but rainfall will be just above an inch. But rainfall will be high, above 60 millimetres or around two inches in eastern Myanmar, Shan State,” he said.



The forecast of rainfall for Myanmar, resulting from the low-pressure area.

According to updated data at noon today, a low-pressure area forming southwest of the Bay of Bengal has become strong but is not certain to transform into a depression.

“It is the latest update issued at around 1:45 pm today.

The low-pressure area will start from the whirlwind and become strong, but becoming into depression is not sure. It will go to the Arabian Sea after passing west India and the edge of western most of Sri Lanka Island,” U Win Naing added. — Thit Taw/ZS

Advertise with us/

Hotline:

09 255597511
09 454237515

Myanmar rubber exports projected to hit 320,000 tonnes in 2024-25FY

MYANMAR aims to meet a rubber export target of 326,000 tonnes in the current financial year 2024-2025 beginning 1 April, according to the Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association.

Myanmar has conveyed around 100,000 tonnes of rubber so far. Myanmar's annual rubber production is estimated at 300,000 tonnes. Seventy per cent of rubber produced in Myanmar goes to China. It is also shipped to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, the Republic of Korea, India, Japan, and other countries.

Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry,

Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association, Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, Myanmar Industries Association, Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association and Myanmar Fisheries Processors and Exporters Association are exerting concerted efforts to meet the export target and tackle challenges in export.

Global demand for rubber, rubber production in Southeast Asian nations, and the market supply influence Myanmar's rubber prices.

Rubber is commonly cultivated in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi,



File photo shows rubber sheets drying under the sun.

Bago, and Yangon regions in Myanmar. As per 2018-2019 rubber season data, there are over 1.628 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar, with Mon

State accounting for 497,153 acres, followed by Taninthayi Region with 348,344 acres and Kayin State with 270,760 acres. — NN/KK



Merchants are seen evaluating beans and pulses in the Mandalay market. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)

Brisk sales of pigeon peas at Mandalay market

THERE is a roaring trade of Myanmar's agricultural produce (pigeon pea) in Mandalay market, Mandalay traders said.

Newly harvested pigeon peas will start flowing into the market in December. Foreign solid demand drove the sales up in the Mandalay market. The pigeon peas fetch a handsome price as well," said U Soe Win Myint, a depot owner in Mandalay.

"The old stocks of pigeon peas are in high demand in the market. The growers have already cultivated pigeon peas. Fresh new ones will enter the

market soon. Pakokku's pigeon peas are of high quality in central Myanmar, and pigeon peas from Kayah State are also of good quality in the mountainous region.

Thanks to the favourable region, a good yield of pigeon peas is expected. Pigeon pea production is designated for exports as it has grasped a firm foreign market share in India.

Furthermore, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Pakistan purchase Myanmar's pigeon peas every year. It is a winter crop. Sown acreage of pigeon pea plantation might increase in

2025 on account of high prices. It is the third main crop that generates foreign incomes," he elaborated.

There are three types of pigeon peas produced in Myanmar. They are commonly cultivated in central Myanmar regions (Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing regions). They are also found in Kayah, Shan, and Chin states.

Growers are advised to ramp up pigeon pea production by increasing the number of acres. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/KK

ASEAN-Japan Centre invites Myanmar businesses to join Foodex Japan 2025

ASEAN-JAPAN Centre (AJC) invites Myanmar businesspeople to participate in Foodex Japan 2025, which will take place on 11-14 March 2025 at Tokyo Big Sight, Tokyo, Japan, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

Foodex Japan 2025 is a premier platform for businesses to expand networks and sources and import F&B products. The invitation letter stated that the Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo has been joining hands with the AJC under the trade funds of AJC to penetrate Myanmar's products to Japanese and international markets and bolster Myanmar exports, grow the presence of Myanmar business people at international exhibitions, observe the technology and manufacturing conditions of other manufacturers, improve value-addition in products and effectuate growth of the State's economy, The Foodex Japan is the largest F&B expo in Asia, attracting 80,000 visitors and participants from nearly 70 foreign countries with 4,000 booths.

The Expo is a platform to connect networks with international F&B manufacturers, retailers, wholesalers and distributors and top Japanese companies. The Expo will showcase agricultural food, including various pulses, drinks, alcohol and wine, food and ingredients, organic and wellness products, frozen meat and vegetables, fisheries, desserts, snacks, spices, canned food, vermicelli, noodle, rice, dairy products and dried food. Business matching programmes that can directly meet with buyers are also included. Therefore, this is an excellent opportunity for Myanmar entrepreneurs to link with potential buyers.

AJC contributed towards opening a national pavilion (18 by 9 square metres) for Myanmar in 2024, covering the rental and decoration of the pavilion. Businesspeople must bear transportation costs, shipment of goods and other general costs.

AJC also helped Myanmar fisheries businesspeople showcase their seafood at the 25th Japan International Seafood and Technology Expo that will be held at Big Sight East Exhibition Hall of Tokyo International Exhibition Centre on 23-25 August 2023. Interested individuals can register through the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization phone at 067 408622 and email event.td.myantrade@gmail.com if they want to exhibit Myanmar agricultural produce, seafood, F&B products and raw materials at the National Pavilion of Myanmar of Foodex Japan 2025. — NN/KK

OPINION

BOOKRACK POEM

Sustain polio immunization for the safety of children

ALTHOUGH the World Health Organization has declared that the world is free from polio, the disease can still resurge in remote areas where children lack access to the polio vaccine and where health authorities are absent. Therefore, all families with children need to be vigilant about the potential dangers of a polio outbreak.

Polio is an infectious disease caused by a virus that can damage the central nervous system, leading to paralysis of the limbs and potentially resulting in death. It primarily affects children under five years old, largely due to a lack of vaccination against polio.

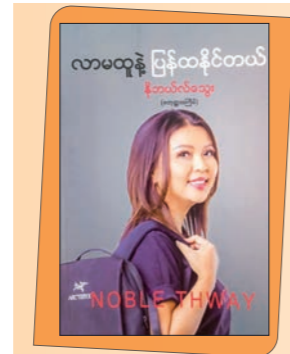
Even if a child is infected with the polio virus, all children in various countries face the threat of infection. This is because the polio virus can easily enter a polio-free country and cause outbreaks among unvaccinated children in a short period. Consequently, the WHO has warned that if global efforts to eradicate polio are not strengthened, approximately 200,000 new cases could emerge worldwide each year over the next decade.

Since 1988, the global outbreak of polio has declined by more than 99 per cent. The number of polio cases dropped from 350,000 at that time to just six in 2021, according to the WHO. However, the organization has noted that individuals in Pakistan and Afghanistan remain at risk for poliovirus transmission. Additionally, some countries that have declared themselves polio-free continue to report new cases of the virus.

On 27 March 2024, the WHO declared Myanmar a polio-free country. However, due to lapses in immunization efforts, particularly in remote areas, polio has reappeared among children. In June 2019, a derived Poliovirus Type 1 was detected in a child residing in Papun Township, Kayin State. In response, the Department of Public Health initiated extensive immunization campaigns in 12 townships to curb the spread of the infection.

Polio can be effectively controlled through the immunization of children with the oral polio vaccine. It is essential for parents to ensure that their children receive this vaccination consistently to prevent infection from the polio virus. Moreover, people need to raise their health knowledge and awareness about polio infection measures and ways to avoid the infection of such a virus with the help of health staff. In fact, polio is caused by a highly contagious virus, and oral polio immunization is crucial for keeping Myanmar's children safe from infection.

Polio can be effectively controlled through the immunization of children with the oral polio vaccine. It is essential for parents to ensure that their children receive this vaccination consistently to prevent infection from the polio virus. Moreover, people need to raise their health knowledge and awareness about polio infection measures and ways to avoid the infection of such a virus with the help of health staff. In fact, polio is caused by a highly contagious virus, and oral polio immunization is crucial for keeping Myanmar's children safe from infection.



Book Title - Lar Ma Htu Ne Pyanhta Naing Dai
Writer - Noble Thway
Publishing House - Kaung Hsu Thar
Publication Date - October 2024 (4th Edition)
Price - K8,500

Lar Ma Htu Ne Pyanhta Naing Dai

MAY I go so far as to say that this book under review is a best seller in terms of printing frequency: this book has been published four times in 18 months with three impressions in a year. In my opinion, this book sells well because people, particularly the youth, are lost in the wilderness these days. They do not have the vaguest idea as to how to come back with the word 'resilience' when they are deprived of their diary. As the writer herself has touched the bottom, facing the worst hardship, but she has been able to come back, she has a burning desire to share her own experience with all people, especially the younger generation.

She confessed, saying, "I have fallen to the ground, and I have had to exert strenuous ef-

forts to get up and stand upright. To be honest, I have not asked other people to help me get up. I have struggled hard to be able to get up again. When this happened, an idea struck my mind: I ought to share my own experience of tips for resilience. This desire has driven me to write articles on resilience. Gradually, I have become an ardent writer of success stories, which are based on the true events."

All human beings are indeed leading difficult lives irrespective of their social status, wealth, power, and educational qualification, and this is in accordance with the law of nature – we are all born to struggle hard for survival until we breathe out last. Overcoming the bitter situation and solving the challenging issues, people have

learnt how to adapt their lives to suit the prevailing situation. In this way, people have become mature, enduring hardship, and becoming able to resolve the most challenging issues, not adversely affected by depression. In other words, people have learnt how to face the eight vicissitudes of life or eight-point Lokadhamm or the eight worldly winds.

Matter-of-factly, this ill-balanced world is not absolutely rosy. Nor is it totally thorny. The rose is soft, beautiful and fragrant. However, the stem on which it grows is full of thorns. What is rosy is rosy; what is thorny is thorny. Because of the rose, one will not meddle with the thorns, nor will one disparage the rose on account of the thorns.

To an optimist, this world is absolutely rosy; to a pessimist, this world is absolutely thorny. But to a realist, this world is nei-

ther absolutely rosy nor absolutely thorny. From a realistic standpoint, it abounds with beautiful roses and prickly thorns as well.

An understanding person will not be infatuated by the beauty of the rose but will view it as it is. Knowing the nature of the thorns well, he will view them as they are and will take precautions not to be wounded.

Like the pendulum that perpetually turns to the right and left, four desirable conditions and four undesirable conditions prevail in this world, which everyone, without exception, must face in the course of one's lifetime.

Businesspeople, as a rule, are subject to both gain and loss. It is pretty natural to be complacent in obtaining a gain or a profit. In itself, there is nothing wrong. Such righteous or unrighteous profits produce some pleasure that average men seek. Without pleasurable moments, though temporary, life would not be worth living. The problem arises, however, in case of loss. More often than not, losses can lead to mental derangement. Thus, we should always be prepared for losses. Then, there will be less disappointment.

This book really deserves a due place on your bookshelf.



Book Title - Thawka Go Si Man Khant Khwe Gyin (101 ways to be less stressed) by Dr Caroline Leaf
Translator - Kyi Shun
Publishing House - Wisdom House
Publication Date - September 2024 (1st Edition)
Price - K12,000

Thawka Go Si Man Khant Khwe Gyin (101 ways to be less stressed) by Dr Caroline Leaf

THE writer commences his tips with intention. She advises the readers to set their intentions for the week, to be open and honest with their intentions, to learn what their body needs, and to make it a priority. Regarding panicking, she said, "When you are panicking about something, focus your attention on one thing."

Concerning thinking, he urged the readers to incorporate more "thinker moments" into their day, avoiding claiming panic attacks as part of their identity. To reduce stress, we need good sleep, and thus, he urged the readers to take a warm bath or show-

er before bed. To be creative, people must know how to keep their brains young and healthy, make sure they are getting enough omegas, and be aware of their thoughts.

In order to reduce stress, we need to practice deep breathing. Additionally, people need to engage in conversation with people who have different points of view and practice "purposeful procrastination". A good therapy the writer has recommended is red light therapy, which can potentially help improve your mental and physical health. In this regard, we must note that we need to be careful of relying

too much on "self-help".

The interesting tips she recommends are to walk more, give yourself time to forgive, focus on facts rather than emotions, not suppress your anxiety, improve your nutrition and boost your mental health. What also counts is acceptance, and it is also essential to work on your insecurities, not to let your failures define you, be careful of basing your words and actions on assumptions, watch how you judge situations, and chase curiosity, not passion.

We are also advised to start each morning by reminding ourselves of three things

– to recognize the difference between reacting and responding, to be vulnerable with those you love, and to join a community. It is also of high value to freak out in the "love zone". What is more, we are not to assume we know what someone is thinking or feeling, but we are to watch what we think and say about ourselves.

Another factor of stress is that we are eager beavers sometimes. We cannot always be the workaholics. As the saying goes, to err is human; we need not regret making mistakes in front of our children. In our endeavour to learn how to manage stress, we have to use our free time to build our brain in order not to be afraid to argue, to take measures against cognitive decline and to be proactive in creating human connections.

Last but not least, we must focus on the "now", living in the present because the future is not for us to see as people say, "Que sera sera". Let's appreciate the journey of life.

၁၁၀

Life

By Chit Ko Pe

လဲကျ ပြန်ထ လှမ်းရ ရှေ့ဆက် မနက်ပြန်ချိန် အကြိမ်ကြိမ်ဖြတ် တန်ရပ်မပြီး ဤခရီး။

ချစ်ကိုဖေ

One would stand up and walk forward after stumbling and falling off the path.

With days of tomorrow going past and ahead, The journey is kept far and has no end yet.

My Lovely Pussy

By Mya Thae (Research)

- His fur is yellow in colour.
- He likes sweet milk powder.
- It has a curve and a long tail.
- So, I give his name 'Quea Quea' (ကွေးကွေး)
- He understands human talk.
- Sometimes, he talks a few words.
- At night, he looks after our house.
- He peeps and chases the mouse.
- Oh! My lovely pussy, where do you disappear.
- I will always love and miss you forever.

Return from Golden Mandalay

By Zaw Gyi, Translated by Myint Zan

After returning from Golden Mandalay 'What is the style of the Zawgyi (figure)' so they asked:

the golden, famous capital of Mandalay of old times is depicted as though thru a painting

in the old, golden palace I wandered aimlessly alone hither ... thither until the Sun sets - staying the whole day (so that) I was tired myself verily, I did state that

ရွှေမန်းက ပြန် 'ဇော်ဂျီဟန်' ဘယ်လိုသို့ ရယ်လို့ သူတို့က မေး။ မန်း ရွှေမြို့မော် ခေတ်ဟောင်းကို ပန်းချီဖော်၍ ရွှေနန်းတော် အိုအိုကြီးမှာလ ကိုယ်ထီး ယောင်လည်လည် နှင့် နေ့ကွယ်အောင် နေ့ကုန်မောတယ်လို့ ပြောခဲ့တယ်လေး။ ။

ဇော်ဂျီ

First published in the vernacular in *Gantha Lawka* magazine Number 141, Volume 22. October 1936.

Translator's note: Saya Zaw Gyi (1907-1990) was posted at Mandalay Intermediate College as a tutor in Burmese from 1936 to 1938. Saya composed this poem apparently while he was in Mandalay. I have used the spelling Zaw Gyi for the poet's pseudonym. In the second line, I spelt it differently as Zawgyi for it could denote both the mythical Zawgyi of folklore and the poet himself who is the 'speaker' of the poem.

NATIONAL Entertainment

Guitar Naing Zaw

GUITARIST NAING ZAW, known for his active role in social welfare, visited and comforted Soe Thiha, the manager of Spectrum band, following his liver surgery at Shwelamin Hospital on 28 October. His Art Robots Band and Ko Phoe Si provided K230,000 for Soe Thiha. Moreover, he also announced that those who want to donate can transfer money to his KPay 09 5110432 or Soe Thiha's KPay 09 785173316.



Kyaw Htoo

COMEDIAN KYAW HTOO returns to the screen with the 'Kyaa Kyaa Nwet Nwet' movie. At the premiere show, he said, "I have been apart from the movie field for my health condition. As the news spread like 'Kyaw Htoo passed away', frequently, it seems to have positive ritual power for my health".

Khant Sithu

THE name of the new movie screened on 1 November was changed to 'Jeep Car See Phuu Thala' for rising criticism. Regarding this, actor Khant Sithu said, "Although it is a comedy movie, we do not laugh at others. The movie's name will be 'Jeep Car See Phuu Thala'. All the costumes are transformed into Myanmar dresses for posters, too".



Chaw Yadana

ACTRESS CHAW YADANA made a post indicating the book of Ngwe Ti Oo, "I'm quite interested in the name of the book called Beauty with Clarity. Before receiving the book, I discussed the clear face with a positive vibe. I'm also keen on how I can stay in a positive mood. So, I was thrilled when I received this book as a present. I will read and value it. Thank you". Chaw Yadana won an Academy Award in 2012, and she recently posted her photos with an Acade-

Soe Moe Kyi

ONE of the best supporting actresses Soe Moe Kyi made a positive comment on her social network, saying, "The anger disappears when we think all people will depart one day. We should have empathy, as we also make mistakes when we see others' mistakes. If so, we don't have negative emotions. In fact, the cause of feeling is just your attitude." She starred in the 'Shal Pae' series.



Ngwe Ti Oo

DR NGWE TI OO, sister of Academy Pyay Ti Oo, is a writer and businesswoman. Her book 'Beauty with Clarity', coauthored by AD, ranked at the top of the best-selling book list in October. She also talked about her niece Pyay Thudra, "Thu Thu is so cute in an advertisement made in Bangkok. She is now 13 years old, and we can't know exactly about her talented genes." - Htun Htun/KTZH



CELEBRITY BRIEF

Vocalist donates food to mark third wedding anniversary



SINGER MI SANDI and her husband offered the Mohinga donation to 1,000 people in Dagon Myothit (North) Township in Yangon, marking the third anniversary of their marriage. The donation is on Eden Street of Ward 48 in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, and singers Hein Thit, Aung Htet and other musicians joined the event.

"Today marks our signing day and our third anniversary. Therefore, we arrange to donate. We usually make donations at the monastery in previous years. I organized food donations in the past. At first, I arranged to donate to 500 people this year, but the Mohinga culinary family donated to a 500 more people, so it reached 1,000. I am so delighted about my donation, and I plan to make donations every year," said Mi Sandi. She will release a new album in 2025. - ASH/KTZH



NATIONAL



Making offerings around the pagoda with the Padethabin.

Shwedagon hosts 13th Kathina offering ceremony

THE Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees, in cooperation with other religious organizations, held the 13th Kathina donation ceremony at the pagoda on 31 October,

resulting in a total of over K25.4 million offered to 14 monasteries.

The donation was made to the Arhat Ordination Hall Monastery (totalling K11.369

million) and to 13 other monasteries (totalling K14.087 million) on the grounds of the Shwedagon Pagoda, which was selected by drawing lots. — ASH/MKKS

Online applicants can collect test vouchers for Dec 2024 JLPT examination

THE JLPT Examination Organizing Committee of the Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA) has informed that those who have applied online for the December 2024 JLPT examination will be able to collect their test vouchers from 1 November.

On the examination day, test vouchers printed in colour must be brought. It cannot be shown over the phone, and test vouchers can be accessed and retrieved from the website link: <https://jlpt-maja.org.mm/>.

To extract a test voucher, the applicant needs to copy the above link first, open it in the browser; click the login button, fill in the login ID and password, click the application data button, and click the “Download all PDF” button.

The test voucher consists of three pages, and the number, date, time and place to take the examination are described on page 1, and the

test centre location map is on page 3. All three pages must be printed out and brought.

It is necessary to keep the Application Form (Form C) and to view the online result; students must enter the 8-digit passcodes that were filled in Form C. If the login ID is not remembered, the applicant can enter “Login” > “Forget Password & Login ID”, input the email address, and click on “Show Login ID” to get it.

If the applicant does not have any of the identification cards (original) such as national scrutiny card (either 10 or 18 years old), valid passport, valid driver’s licence (motorcycle licence with no date of birth is not valid), birth certificate (only for those under 10), religious identification cards (only for novice, monk, nun), along with the test voucher print on the day of the examination, they will not be allowed to take the examination, it said. — MT/ZN



This photo reveals candidates to take the JLPT examination in July 2024.

Kyaikmaraw to host annual festival honouring Shin Uppagutta



Celebrants are seen performing the annual Shin Uppagutta festival and citywide alms bowl offering in 2023.

THE annual festival to honour Shin Uppagutta by setting alms bowls adrift in the Attaran River will be celebrated in Kyaikmaraw Township on the full moon of Tazaungmone, according to Daw Mi Shwe Sin Thein, Secretary of the festival’s organizing committee.

Traditionally held along the banks of the Attaran River, the alms bowl offering ceremony will take place in the morning. This traditional event attracts not only locals from Kyaikmaraw’s urban wards and village tracts but also Mon people from nearby townships.

Daw Mi Shwe Sin Thein shared insights on the significance of this event, stating, “The alms bowl offering ritual honours

the venerable Shin Uppagutta, a saintly figure believed to reside on a bronze throne in the Southern Ocean. Alms bowls are ceremoniously set adrift in the Attaran River at dawn, symbolizing a timeless Mon cultural tradition that we proudly celebrate every year. On the same day, at Kyaikmaraw’s revered Sutaungpyae Pagoda, devotees will offer robes to the pagoda.”

During the festival, offerings of assorted delicacies in alms bowls are presented to the venerated image of Shin Uppagutta at a pavilion by the Attaran River. Following this, the alms bowls are released into the river, continuing a tradition of honouring Shin Uppagutta with sacred offerings. — ASH/KZL

Counter-argument to false information

Fake news: Security forces blaze villages in Kanbalu Tsp

SUBVERSIVE media are fabricating phoney news and spreading propaganda to the public, accusing security forces of setting fire to monasteries, schools, and homes and of abducting residents in villages of Kanbalu Township.

According to an on-ground report, PDF terrorists expelled monks from monasteries in villages of Kanbalu Township, such as Kyisu, Kyauktai, and Wattoe, taking control of the religious compounds and schools. As a re-

sult, security forces implemented necessary security measures in the area, identifying and seizing bunkers, trenches, handmade guns, rockets, and various hand tools used in mining.

Security forces continued their security measures to ensure that no terrorists took control of neighbourhoods and villages. Malicious media outlets spread false information to cover up the truth and to mislead the public about the security forces’ necessary actions. — MNA/TKO

ECONOMY WORLD

AI to accelerate new deposit discoveries, boost efficiency, Saudi Minister affirms

Saudi Arabia's economy, historically reliant on oil and gas, is undergoing a transformation as officials announce plans to develop the mining sector.

THE 8th Future Investment Initiative conference was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 29-31 October dubbed 'Infinite Horizons: Investing Today, Shaping Tomorrow'.

Saudi Arabia's Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources Bandar Alkhorayef highlighted the importance of developing all sectors of economy in an interview with Sputnik on the sidelines of the 8th Future Investment

Initiative conference. "For the past 70 years, our economy has been based on oil and gas. And we have achieved great success in this field. But we need to move on. According to [the] Vision 2030 project, we will launch and develop other sectors of our economy, including mining. We are already engaged in research, and we are launching a programme of extensive geological surveys. This is a new direction for us, we have not



Saudi Arabia's largest gold mine. PHOTO: ADNAN RAHIM / ISTOCK

been involved in it before," Bandar Alkhorayef said. He pointed to the substantial global demand for

mineral resources that are essential for the operation of emerging production sectors. Without these

resources, the manufacturing of electric vehicles and batteries would be unfeasible. — SPUTNIK

US hiring slowest since Biden took office, on strikes, hurricanes

US job growth slowed drastically in October, hit temporarily by hurricanes and labor strikes, in

a final major economic snapshot at the end of a razor-edge presidential election campaign

where cost-of-living worries dominated voter concerns.

The world's biggest economy added 12,000 jobs last month, far below expectations and down from a revised 223,000 in September, said the Department of Labour. The unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.1 per cent.

The hiring and unemployment data will be scrutinized by the teams of both presidential candidates — Democrat Kamala Harris and Republican Donald Trump — but employment numbers would have been higher if not for devastating hurricanes and worker strikes. — AFP



The impact of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, alongside labour strikes, could lower US job growth by up to 100,000 roles, by some estimates. PHOTO: AFP

UK budget brings 50-year record tax hike in pursuit of stability

THE British government unveiled its much-anticipated budget on Wednesday, aiming to bring more certainty to the country's economy through increased borrowing and one of the largest tax hikes in five decades.

Market reactions were mixed: Britain's domestically-focused FTSE 250 index rose by one per cent initially after Chancellor Rachel Reeves' address before levelling out. Meanwhile, the 10-year gilt yield hit a high

of 4.362 per cent, indicating concerns about government debt and spending, though some economists suggested the global interest rates might be influencing the rise more than domestic policy. — Xinhua

Bolivia's breadbasket squeezed by pro-Morales blockades

IN Cochabamba, Bolivia, farmer Damaris Masias watches in despair as 10 tonnes of her tomatoes, which she fought to transport through roadblocks, are discarded.

These blockades, instigated by supporters of ex-president Evo Morales to protest against his potential arrest on rape charges, have turned an eight-hour journey from her hometown of Omereque into a nine-day struggle, leading to the rotting of her produce.

Since 14 October, when Morales was accused of rape, politi-

cal tensions have escalated. The former president, who denies the allegations, claims to be a victim of political persecution.

In response to the blockades, President Luis Arce ordered an immediate cessation, citing the blockades' estimated cost of over \$1.7 billion and their damaging effects on food and fuel prices. With 24 roadblocks established across the country, food producers are now resorting to air transport to save their goods, leading to long queues at the state airline's parcel office. — AFP



Food producers have begun shipping their food by plane, such as these at the Boliviana de Aviacion parcel office in Cochabamba. PHOTO: AFP

Nvidia to join Dow Jones Industrial Average, replacing Intel

Nvidia will join the Dow Jones Industrial Average on 8 November replacing Intel, highlighting the growing significance of artificial intelligence in the US economy.

CHIP giant Nvidia will join the Dow Jones Industrial Average, the iconic Wall Street index announced Friday, underscoring the importance of artificial intelligence in the US economy. The addition of Nvidia, which will take effect on 8 November, also marks a historic moment for the semiconductor industry, as the AI chip leader replaces

struggling rival Intel, which has been on the Dow index since 1999.

S&P Dow Jones Indices, the company that runs the index, also said it would add paint manufacturer Sherwin-Williams, replacing chemical giant Dow.

Shares of Nvidia have climbed over 180 per cent this year as tech giants clamour for its powerful

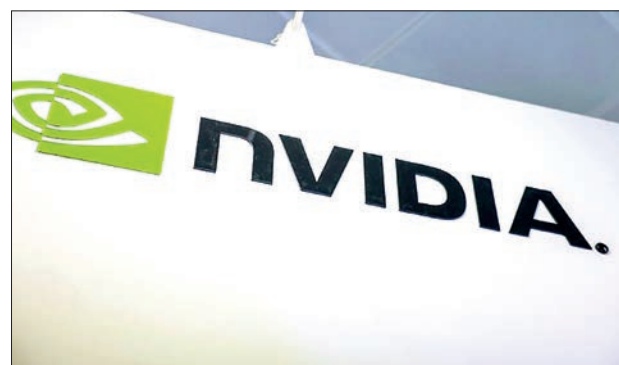
and high cost processors that power generative AI, the technology that is widely seen as the next phase of innovation.

Intel, one of Silicon Valley's most iconic companies, has seen its shares fall 50 per cent so far this year as the company struggles to meet the AI boom.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average, created

by Charles Dow in 1896, is often used as a bellwether for the state of the US stock market, the biggest in the world.

Unlike the S&P500 that weighs companies by market capitalization, the 30-stock Dow is price-weighted, meaning higher-priced stocks have more influence on its movements. — AFP

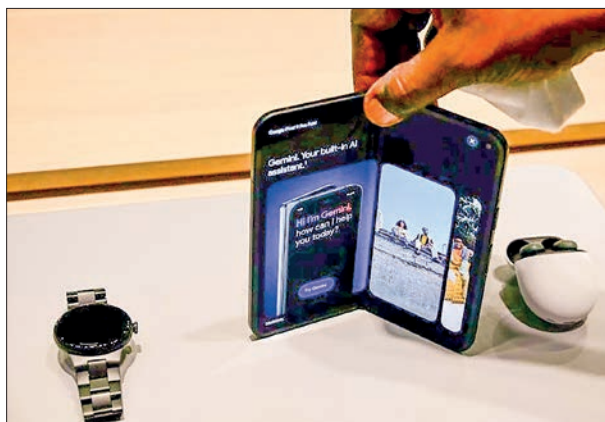


Nvidia is joining the Dow Jones Industrial Average. PHOTO: AFP

Indonesia adds Google Pixel phones to ban list with iPhone 16

INDONESIA has banned the sale of Google Pixel phones over the tech giant's failure to meet investment regulations, its industry ministry said, days after blocking sales of Apple's iPhone 16. Jakarta is seeking to boost investment from foreign tech companies with restrictive measures that require their phones to be 40 per cent sourced from parts in Indonesia.

"We declared that as



Around 22,000 Google Pixel phones had entered Indonesia this year, according to industry ministry data. PHOTO: AFP

long as those products don't...meet the scheme we have required, they cannot be sold in Indonesia," industry ministry spokesperson Febri Hendri Antoni Arif told a press briefing Thursday. "For Google Pixel, they have not obtained the TKDN certificate," he added, using the acronym of the scheme that imposes the 40 percent rule. Google Indonesia did not immediately respond to an AFP request for comment. — AFP

ExxonMobil profits dip as it gives back almost US\$10 bln to investors

ExxonMobil reported a dip in third-quarter profits Friday on lower earnings from its refining business, but the results were strong enough to enable nearly US\$10 billion in shareholder distributions.

The big US oil company, which saw upstream oil production rise following its acquisition of Pioneer Natural Resources, pointed to the benefits of \$11.3 billion in "structural cost savings" as a driver of the results.

The oil giant returned \$9.8 billion to investors in the three-month period, up from \$9.5 billion in the second quarter. ExxonMobil lifted the dividend by four per cent, in addition to making share repurchases.

Net profits in the third quarter were \$8.6 billion, down 5.1 per cent from the year-ago period.

While earnings were higher in upstream and chemical products, ExxonMobil saw a big drop in energy products results due to weakened refinery margins. — AFP

Heavy rain briefly halts all Tokyo-Hakata shinkansen bullet trains



Footage from a webcam shows a river in Sasebo, Nagasaki Prefecture, on the morning of 2 November 2024. PHOTO: THE TRANSPORT MINISTRY / KYODO

HEAVY rain briefly halted all shinkansen bullet train services between Hakata in southwestern Japan and Tokyo on Saturday morning, with the weather agency urging caution as the intense rainfall is forecast to continue during the first half of the three-day weekend. The Japan Meteorological Agency said atmospheric conditions are likely to be unstable in the west on Saturday and

in the east the following day, warning of the risk of landslides, overflowing rivers, lightning strikes and tornadoes.

JR West, the operator of the Sanyo Shinkansen Line, said rain gauges in some sections had reached their maximum levels for safe operation, adding services resumed later Saturday after safety checks were completed. — Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL TRUST VOY.NO. (1411S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL TRUST VOY.NO. (1411S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-11-2024** 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST

Russia's pipeline gas exports to Europe rise 15%



Ukrainian President Zelensky stated Ukraine would not renew its transit deal with Gazprom, expiring this year. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

2 NOVEMBER

In 2023, Russia's gas exports to Europe via Ukraine reached 12.85 billion cubic metres, increasing 7%.

RUSSIA'S pipeline gas exports to Europe rose by over 15 per cent to 26.52 billion cubic metres in the first 10 months this year, Russia's TASS news agency reported on Saturday.

For the entire year of 2023, the figure amounted to about 28.15 billion cubic metres, said the report.

In the first 10 months this year, Russia's pipeline gas exports to Western and Central Europe via Ukraine totalled 12.85 billion cubic metres, up by seven per cent year on year.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky announced that Ukraine would not renew its transit agreement with Russia's gas giant Gazprom, which is set to expire at the end of this year. Experts suggest EU countries may secure Russian gas through auctions and capacity bookings despite tensions. – Xinhua

1 NOVEMBER

Roof collapse in Novi Sad kills 12

SEVERAL people were killed Friday after part of an outdoor roof collapsed at a train station in the Serbian city of Novi Sad.

The death toll from the roof collapse in Novi Sad has risen to 12, according to Serbian Interior Minister Ivica Dacic, who warned that the number could increase. Three individuals pulled from the debris are in serious condition, with two undergoing surgery. Rescue operations remain ongoing

and challenging, involving over 80 responders and heavy machinery.

The Serbian government announced an official day of mourning on Saturday, and the Blood Transfusion Institute urged residents to donate blood.

Prime Minister Milos Vucevic emphasized the need for an investigation into the accident's cause, expressing condolences to the victims' families. – AFP

31 OCTOBER

Strasbourg university cuts ties with Israeli institution

A French university has severed ties with an Israeli higher education institution accusing it of "warmongering" stances over the Gaza war, French media has reported, sparking criticism from Paris.

The move comes after students at several French universities have, like some of their peers in the United States, protested or held sit-ins demanding a ceasefire in Gaza over the past year.

The Political Studies Institute in Strasbourg severed ties with Israel's Reichman University due to perceived warmongering stances related to the Gaza conflict.

Students and faculty initiated the decision, criticizing the university's lack of a humanist perspective. Despite opposition from the institute's director, a board vote led to the split. – AFP

30 OCTOBER

Dubai Police launches council for digital transformation

THE DUBAI POLICE has announced the establishment of the 'Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence Council', which aims to accelerate digital transformation within the force by enhancing digital capabilities and boosting global competitiveness.

The Council will be overseen by Lieutenant-General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri, Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, and chaired by Major-General Khaled Nasser Al Razooqi, Director of the General De-

partment of Artificial Intelligence, with Brigadier Turki Abdul Rahman Bin Fares serving as Deputy Chairperson.

The Council will also include senior officers from various departments and police stations and representatives of private technology companies.

Al Razooqi emphasised that the Council's establishment aligns with the Dubai Digital Strategy, which aims to digitise life in Dubai. – ANI

29 OCTOBER

US repatriated over 1,100 Indian nationals in 2024

THE UNITED STATES repatriated over 1,100 Indian nationals in fiscal year 2024, which concluded at the end of September, marking a notable rise in deportations of Indian nationals over recent years, according to US Assistant Secretary for Border and Immigration Policy Royce Bernstein Murray.

"In fiscal year 2024 which just concluded at the end of September, the United States repatriated over 1,100 Indian nationals. That has been part of a steady

increase of removals from the United States of Indian nationals over the past few years, which corresponds with a general increase in encounters that we have seen of Indian nationals in the last few years as well," Murray said during a media briefing on Tuesday.

This cooperation with India aims to reduce irregular migration and human smuggling. She warned that unlawful entry into the US carries serious consequences. – ANI

28 OCTOBER

China launches International Programme on Synthetic Cells

THE CHINESE ACADEMY of Sciences (CAS) announced on Monday that it has launched an international programme on synthetic cells in Shenzhen, south China, to promote frontier research in life sciences and biotechnological innovation on a global scale.

Leveraging the scientific prowess of the CAS Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technology, the programme aims to tackle

groundbreaking research questions in the field of synthetic biology. Additionally, the initiative seeks to pool expertise worldwide and establish a cooperative paradigm to tackle common challenges faced by humanity, according to the CAS, China's top institution in terms of natural sciences.

Synthetic biology involves creating systems that replicate living cells' structure and function. – Xinhua

27 OCTOBER

Philippines' Tropical Storm Trami death toll reaches 110

AFTER Tropical Storm Trami swept through the Philippines, leaving hundreds of thousands displaced, rescue teams are diving into lakes and combing isolated villages to locate people still unaccounted for.

Rescuers in the Philippines searched a lake and scoured isolated villages on Sunday to locate dozens of missing people as the death toll from Tropical Storm

Trami hit 110.

Typhoon Trami struck the Philippines on 24 October displacing over half a million people and causing at least 110 fatalities. President Ferdinand Marcos pledged ongoing support for affected regions, particularly in Camarines Sur, as rescue efforts continue amid missing persons reports. – AFP

SPORTS

IN the 2024-25 AFC Challenge League, Myanmar's Shan United ended the group stage on top, progressing to the quarterfinals following a 2-2 draw with Chinese Taipei's Tainan City yesterday at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre. Both teams had already qualified for the next round, but the draw allowed Shan United to advance as group winners.

Shan United, adjusting their lineup from the previous match against Laos, faced an early challenge as Tainan City's Matheus Port scored in 12 minutes. Shan United responded with a goal from Sa Aung Pyae Ko in 42 minutes, bringing the score to 1-1 at halftime. In the second half, Shan United raised their offensive pressure, with Ye Yint Aung scoring in 70 minutes to give them a brief lead. However, Tainan City's

Shan United tops group, secures AFC Challenge League quarterfinal spot



Ye Yint Aung scores Shan United's second goal as Tainan City's goalkeeper fails to block the shot. **PHOTO: THAW GYI**

Toninho equalized in 87 minutes, ending the game in a 2-2 draw. With the group stage concluded, Shan United topped Group D based on goal difference, while Tainan City took second place. In East Asia, Myanmar's Shan United, Chinese Taipei's Tainan City, Indonesia's Madura United, and Cambodia's Preah Khan Reach Svay Rieng advanced to the quarterfinals. In West Asia, India's East Bengal, Turkmenistan's Arkadak, Oman's Al-Seeb, and Kuwait's Al-Arabi secured their spots.

The quarterfinals, scheduled for March 2025, will see zonal face-offs, with Shan United facing Cambodia's Preah Khan Reach Svay Rieng, while Tainan City goes up against Madura United. West Asia's matches include Al-Arabi facing Al-Seeb and Arkadak competing against East Bengal. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Wasteful Leverkusen held by Stuttgart as Liverpool loom

BAYER Leverkusen were made to pay for wasting several chances in a scoreless home draw with Stuttgart on Friday, dropping more points in their Bundesliga title defence.

Leverkusen dominated the duel between last season's top two sides in the league but failed to break through, with Victor Boniface, Florian Wirtz and Jeremie Frimpong all



Don't look now: Bayer Leverkusen's German midfielder Robert Andrich. **PHOTO: AFP**

spurning opportunities.

The draw means Leverkusen, who dropped just 12 points last season in an unbeaten title charge, have already dropped 11 this campaign and could finish the weekend seven points behind the league leaders. Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso was surprisingly upbeat, telling DAZN: "I'm very satisfied with the performance and the attitude from the lads - we were only missing the goals". — AFP

Yangon Region to compete in 24 sports at 5th National Sports Festival

YANGON Region will participate in 24 sports at the upcoming 5th National Sports Festival, according to the Department of Sports and Physical Education. After hosting the Yangon Region Sports Festival from 14 to 24 September 2024, outstanding athletes have been selected for intensive training camps to win medals in all events and target at least one-third of the top awards.

Yangon's strengths include swimming, Taekwondo, futsal, and table tennis, alongside other sports. Training is held at 15 locations across the region, divided by sport, with athletes training daily except weekends. The festival aims to foster new talent for Myanmar's participation in the 33rd Southeast Asian Games in Thailand in 2025. "This national festival is essential for developing the next generation

of athletes and preparing them for the SEA Games, making it an important event for our teams and the country," said U Kyaw Min Than, Director of Yangon Region Department of Sports and Physical Education.

In total, 620 representatives from Yangon Region, including officials, coaches, and athletes, will participate in the festival. Myanmar held national sports festivals in 1992, 1994, 1997, and 2015. This Fifth National Sports Festival, organized under the State Administration Council, will be held in Nay Pyi Taw from 9 to 20 December 2024 to revitalize Myanmar's sports standards. The event will feature six sports from various ministries, 23 sports from regional levels, and para-sports, with over 200 medals awarded. — Arkar Lin/KZL

Paris Olympics sparks unprecedented sports passion in France, says CNOSF chief

WHAT Olympic legacy has Paris 2024 left on France? For French National Olympic and Sports Committee (CNOSF) President David Lappartient, it's not only about the upgrades in sports facilities or the country's image and cultural showcase on the global stage, nor even about the French team's top-five finish in the medal rankings. More profoundly, he sees the legacy as an unprecedented surge in sports enthusiasm across the country.

"France already had a rich sports culture, but hosting the Paris Olympics brought this enthusiasm to a new height," Lappartient said in an interview with Xinhua.

"In a post-Olympics survey, 82 per cent of French people expressed a positive attitude towards hosting the Games. More tangibly, our sports clubs and associations have seen a 20 per cent increase in registrations across various disciplines." — Xinhua



Yangon Region's Taekwondo athletes are under training.



The Mt Fuji 5th Station is a popular starting point for hikers attempting to reach the summit of Mt Fuji. Located at an elevation of about 2,300 metres (7,546 feet), it serves as a base for climbers and offers facilities like shops, restrooms, and information centres. **PHOTO: EXPEDIA**

Planned Mt Fuji light rail line to transport 3 mln hikers per year

A proposed light rail transit service connecting the foot of Mount Fuji to its 5th station would be capable of transporting 3.36 million passengers annually, a recent report by a local government showed.

Yamanashi Prefecture is proposing a double-track line operating two-car trains every six minutes for 10 hours per day to disperse the summer influx of tourists while reducing vehicle emissions, according to its interim report.

The line would run along the Fuji Subaru Line, the toll road to the 5th station that serves as the starting point to one of the mountain's most popular hiking trails.

The prefecture projects capital investment would total 148.6

The plan includes a double-track line with two-car trains running every six minutes for 10 hours daily, aimed at managing summer tourist traffic and reducing emissions.

billion yen (\$970 million), deeming it optimal for the prefectural government to construct the tracks while a private company operates the trains.

Assuming three million passengers per year at 10,000 yen per person, the transit system is expected to yield a profit of 184.8 billion yen for the prefecture and 420.7 billion yen for the operator

over a 40-year period, according to the report. Due to opposition from local residents, the prefecture plans to outline the project's future direction by the end of the year after receiving feedback.

"There are challenges, but it is achievable," Yamanashi Governor. Kotaro Nagasaki said at a press conference in late October. — Kyodo

100 couples tie knot in mass wedding ceremony in N Afghanistan

Economic challenges, high dowries, and unemployment often delay weddings in Afghanistan.



The event was funded by a wealthy individual. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

AROUND 200 grooms and brides tied the knot at a mass wedding event in northern Afghanistan's Sari Pul province on Friday, the provincial information and culture department said in a statement on Saturday.

The ceremony was funded by a wealthy individual, and each newlywed received household appliances valued at about US\$600, the statement added.

Unemployment, the economic crisis, the high cost of lavish dowries and expensive gifts often force young people to wait for years to hold their wedding ceremonies in the impoverished country.

The Afghan caretaker government has called on people to prevent irrational marriage customs and avoid wasting money on wedding ceremonies. — Xinhua

French brushmakers pivot to luxury markets for survival

Facing rising costs, French brushmakers are shifting to luxury markets to preserve their craft and attract a new clientele.

FRENCH brushmakers are adapting to survive rising costs and the threat of extinction of their centuries-old craft by shifting focus to luxury and niche markets. Daniel Desjardins, who operates a family workshop that has produced brushes since

1834, emphasizes that competition from cheaper synthetic alternatives and imports from Eastern Europe poses significant challenges.

"It's becoming a lost craft," he laments, as the industry struggles to attract younger artisans.



Brushmaking companies say their expertise and craftsmanship is at risk of being lost. **PHOTO: AFP**

The brushmaking tradition flourished in the northern Oise valley, benefiting from proximity to Paris, but has dwindled drastically.

Frederic Brigaud notes that in his grandfather's time, there were 12 brush shops in his village; now only three remain in all of France. These surviving manufacturers are pivoting toward high-end clients, including luxury shoemakers like Berluti and Weston, which Desjardins credits as crucial for their survival. — AFP