

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



File photo shows lorries waiting for loading and unloading containers at Yangon Port. The Yangon Port is preparing to receive 53 containers ships in September 2023.

53 container vessels slated to arrive in Sept

A TOTAL of 53 container ships are scheduled to call in September at Yangon Port, according to the Myanma Port Authority.

In September, seven container vessels each run by Samudera Shipping Line and Sealand Maersk Asia, five by COSCO Shipping Line, four each by IAL Line, MSC Line, RCL Line and SITC Line, three each by Evergreen Line and PIL Line, two each by BAY Line and BLPL Shipping Line, one each by CMA CGM Line, Land & Sea Line and Ti2 Container Line are slated to dock at Yangon Port.

This year, 52 container ships each in January and February, 55 in March, 50 in April, 56 in May, 57 in June, 53 in July and 54 in August arrived at Yangon Port.

Yangon Port handled a total of 620 container vessels this year. Following the draft extension, the international ocean liners can access the inner port for now,

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Myanmar imports over 35,000 tonnes of fertilizer worth \$14.7 mln in Aug 3rd week

LOCAL BUSINESS PAGE-7



Myanmar exports 630,000 tonnes of beans, pulses in April-August

Decline in rice price index leads to decreased social media advocacy for increased sales

THE setting of the rice price index by the authorities has recently led to a decrease in posts on social networks advocating for higher rice prices.

On 28 and 29 August, at the Wahdan rice depot in Yangon, the price per bag of the Pawsan rice variety from delta regions fell to K100,000. The Pawsan Taungpyan variety dropped to K105,000, the Shwebo Pawsan to K125,000, the Pawkywe variety to K95,000, the low-grade 90-day rice variety to K72,000, and multi-cropped rice to K69,000.

Prices of all rice varieties had skyrocketed on 24 August. As a result, starting on 28 August traders at the rice depots began selling various kinds of rice to consumers at the lower prices set by the authorities.

“Because the rice depots set the price of rice and sold it at a lower price, pages quoting the rice prices on social networks disappeared. Nowadays, news in the form of advertisements advocating for an increase in the price of rice has vanished,” said U Maung Win from Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

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Exploring a retail rice outlet in the market.

NATIONAL

Pilgrims flock to world’s tallest sitting marble Buddha image



THE Maravijaya Buddha Image, the tallest of its kind in the world ally and situated within Nay Pyi Taw’s Buddha Park, is drawing crowds of pilgrims.

Ample spaces are dedicated to reciting Gathas, and 24 special chambers offer panoramic views of surrounding pagodas from the Maravijaya

platform. Traditional Thudhamma public resthouses, Sasana Beikman Agga Dhipati ordination hall, and other religious and

leisure areas in Buddha Park have attracted pilgrims.

The health workers are providing the necessary health care services to the elderly people who come to pay homage to the Buddha image.

The Myanmar Red Cross and the fire brigade members

are also assisting the elderly people who have difficulty walking by transporting them with wheelchairs so that they can pay obeisance comfortably.

The Buddha image is open to the public from 6 am to 8 pm until 3 September free of charge. — MNA/KTZH



Devotees throng the Maravijaya Buddha Image and associated religious structures at the Buddha Park in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

China-Myanmar Agricultural Cooperation Committee holds preliminary meeting



An online meeting of the China-Myanmar Agricultural Cooperation Committee in progress yesterday.

U Kyaw Swe Lin, Director-General of Myanmar’s Planning Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, and Mr Zhang Zhenhua, Deputy Director-General of China’s Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, recently convened a high-level online meeting. The aim was to coordinate vital arrangements for

the China-Myanmar Agricultural Cooperation Committee. During the meeting, the two sides deliberated on deepening cooperation by sharing species resources, initiating joint research projects in agricultural science, and conducting practical trials of agricultural technologies for tropical crops. The discussions also encom-

passed plans for tropical crop training and collaboration in breeding fish and shrimp. The establishment of a contemporary fishery development zone and measures for transnational animal disease control were also on the table.

Furthermore, both parties expressed keen interest in partnering on animal breeding efforts and establishing an education centre for agricultural and livestock farmers. They explored the possibility of conducting joint studies on animal nutrition, disease control, and breeding measures across their universities. Another focal point of discussion was the potential establishment of an international standard molecular biotechnology research centre. — MNA/TH

Myanmar Gazette

Head of Service Organization appointed

THE State Administration Council has appointed U Kareng La Ja, Deputy Director-General (Admin) of the Department of Water Resources and Improvement of River System under the Ministry of Transport and Communications, as Managing Director of the Inland Water Transport on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

COVID-19 report, 30 August 2023

NEW TESTS	4,444
NEW CASES	5
CASUALTIES	0

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Government to emphasize development of people and the nation

Only when individuals have improved socioeconomic life will the whole country develop



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends the meeting 4/2023 of the Union Government at the SAC Chairman Office on 30 August 2023.

M SME development can help people enjoy the fruits of booming businesses with better living standards, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 4/2023 of the Union Government at the SAC Chairman Office yesterday afternoon.

Only when individuals have improved socioeconomic life will the whole country develop. It is necessary to target the development of the socioeconomic life

of each citizen.

The democratic government in the first term started a poverty alleviation project. Basically, education promotion can lead to poverty alleviation and the development of socioeconomic life. Hence, efforts must be made to ensure rural people and those from far-flung areas are literate. Only when the people are literate should the process continue for the promotion of school education.

In the industrial sector, the Senior General stressed

the need to operate industries based on agriculture and livestock farms and then to improve technologies and industries.

Micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprise is a must business to be operated across the nation with the use of raw materials available at home. If so, people can enjoy the fruits of booming businesses and better living standards.

It is necessary to re-operate the industries halted for various reasons to manufacture products depending on existing production capacity while encouraging the production of private industries at full capacity.

The Senior General gave guidance that an emphasis must be placed on boosting per-acre yield of crops more than expansion of sown acreage. Myanmar has sure market shares related to products of agriculture and livestock farms.

The Senior General underscored that only when data and statistics submitted by ministries and regions and states are correct in line with the ground situation will the State be able to adopt correct decisions and

“ Micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprise is a must business to be operated across the nation with the use of raw materials available at home. If so, people can enjoy the fruits of booming businesses and better living standards. ”

policies.

Regarding the economic sector, the Senior General highlighted that the media sector needs to catch the interest of travellers for the improvement of the tourism sector through social networks of relevant ministries. They all have to try hard to show good image of the country to international travellers.

In his concluding remarks, the Senior General stressed the need to assign the right persons in the right places to achieve success in all projects. Departmental personnel have to comprehensively understand and abide by laws, rules and procedures. They all have to prioritize the functions of relevant departments as well as the State.

The Senior General instructed relevant ministries to systematically supervise INGOs and NGOs under the rules and regulations. Some countries and organizations employ INGOs and NGOs to provide aid to the country. Moreover, he noted that relevant ministries have to systematically supervise the prevention of any movements from literature, music, motion picture and social networks harming the national characters and national solidarity. The government needs to focus on the development of the socioeconomic life of the people and the development of the nation. — MNA/TTA

Salient points from the speech of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the Union Government meeting 4/2023

- MSME development can help people enjoy the fruits of booming businesses with better living standards
- EDUCATION promotion can reflect poverty alleviation and the development of socioeconomic life
- HALTED industries must be operated to manufacture products depending on existing production capacity
- CORRECT data and statistics can help adopt correct decisions and policies
- RELEVANT ministries have to supervise the movement of literature, music, motion picture and social networks so as not to harm national characters and national solidarity

NATIONAL

DPM MoPF UM embarks for 5th Quality Conference in China



Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein leaves for China to attend the Fifth Quality Conference in Chengdu, the People's Republic of China, on 30 August 2023.

AT the invitation of Mr Luo Wen, Minister of the Department of State Administration for Market Regulation, a Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein departed from Yangon yesterday to attend the Fifth Quality Confer-

ence in Chengdu, the People's Republic of China. The conference is scheduled to take place from 1 to 2 September. The conference will be held under the theme of "Quality Evolution and Cooperation in Economic Recovery". During the conference, discussions will focus on var-

ious aspects of business and trade, including the ability to develop quality infrastructure and a favourable business environment. Participants will exchange views on issues related to global quality development and cooperation. — MNA/KZW

DPM MoFA Union Minister receives Chinese Ambassador

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe received Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

They cordially discussed matters pertaining to further consolidation of the existing Pauk-Phaw relations, accelerating the implementation of Myanmar-China bilateral projects on the basis of mutual benefit, the maintenance of

peace and stability along the border areas between Myanmar and China, implementation of repatriation of verified displaced persons from Rakhine State and China's continuous constructive support towards Myanmar development endeavour as well as further enhancement of mutually beneficial cooperation both at regional and international arena, particularly ASEAN and United Nations. — MNA



Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe receives Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

SPTT holds 2nd day peace talks with five NCA signatories

STATE Peace Talks Team-SPTT and five NCA-signatory representatives from EAOs (ALP, DKBA, KNU/KNLA-PC, LDU, PNLO) held a 2nd-day peace talks yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw. The implementation of humanitarian assistance to the displaced and local populace in conflict-affected areas, the cooperation of NCA-signatory

EOs, their participation in the establishment of the federal union, the promotion of the leading role of EAOs in the political arena, the holding of the eighth anniversary NCA with full political essence were thoroughly discussed. The meeting adjourned and will continue on 31 August. — MNA/TS



The 2nd-day peace talks in progress in Nay Pyi Taw on 30 August 2023.

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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.
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Youth empowerment campaign focuses on cultivating five essential strengths

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn attended the awareness campaign on five kinds of strength for youths jointly held by the Ministry of Information, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs at No 11 BEHS in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, the Union minister said the literary talks was held for the youths to gain the right knowledge and they should focus on the words of speakers at the event. The students should have self-confidence and must be brave.

He then highlighted the priority the Prime Minister had given to the students who are the leaders of the future including his instructions to hold literary talks at the schools.

He also added that the students will have to serve the State duties in the future so they should be brave and reliable citizens of the country in carrying

out their duties decisively.

Next, Sayamagyi Daw May Kyawt Shin continued the talks highlighting the proper guidelines for the students regarding their knowledge, morality, the need to read different genres, explore knowledge from outstanding ones and avoid the drugs, preserve the traditions and so on.

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn donated books and journals for the school library and Deputy Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Myo Hlaing handed over the sports-related materials to Headmistress Daw Thet Thet Thin.

The event also features colourful photo contests “Hla Pa Thayar Pyi Myanmar”, a mobile library with books and journals to develop the five strengths of students, fun games of MRTV-4 artistes, the awarding section for winners and other fun activities for the students. — MNA/KTZH



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn warmly greets the students at the awareness campaign on five kinds of strength for youths at No 11 BEHS in Nay Pyi Taw on 30 August.

Myanmar delegation visits Guizhou University



Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe and his party visit Guizhou Baling Rope Bridge Museum in Guizhou Province, People's Republic of China, on 30 August 2023.

THE Myanmar delegation, led by Dr Nyunt Pe, Union Minister for Education, currently in Guiyang, Guizhou Province, People's Republic of China, visited Guizhou University yesterday morning, where university officials gave

explanations on the library, laboratories, University Historical Museum and the campus.

The meeting between the Myanmar delegation and officials of the University took place at the university lounge, where

they discussed collaborations between Myanmar universities and Guizhou University.

In the afternoon, the Union minister and party visited Guizhou Baling rope bridge museum. — MNA/KZW

Myanmar delegation led by Nay Pyi Taw Council Chair returns to Yangon

THE Myanmar delegation, led by the Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council U Than Htun Oo, returned to Yangon from the Russian Federation yesterday evening after attending the International Transport Summit 2023 held from 24 to 26 August in Moscow.

The summit aimed to cre-

ate a platform for international experts and discussed transport challenges encountered by modern capital cities. Additionally, it aimed to strengthen relationships among these capitals in the transport sector and lay the groundwork for future cooperation. — MNA/KZW



Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council U Than Htun Oo arrives back at the Yangon International Airport yesterday after attending the International Transport Summit 2023 in Moscow.

CURRENT
AFFAIRS

Myanmar imports over 35,000 tonnes of fertilizer worth \$14.7 mln in Aug 3rd week

MYANMAR brought in approximately 35,000 tonnes of fertilizer worth US\$14.7 million in the third week of August 2023, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar imported over 24,000 tonnes from China, about 3,300 from Thailand, over 2,200 from the Republic of Korea, over 1,500 each from Germany and Malaysia, over 1,000 from Laos, over 500 each from England and Canada and about 400 from Uzbekistan through the maritime channel between 12 and 18 August. The import volume showed an increase of over 8,000 tonnes compared to the recent months.

In July, Myanmar also imported over 250,000 tonnes of fertilizer worth \$92.404 million from foreign trade partners by sea.

The prices of fertilizer moved in the range between K82,000-170,500 per 50-kg bag depending on the brand (Myanma Awba, Thai Grow How, Pale, MPE, Armo, Thai Myinpyan) and types of fertilizer in early August 2023. — TWA/EM



Fertilizer bags are seen being unloaded from the ship at Yangon Port.

The price of pigeon peas up while green gram price down

THE price of pigeon peas (also known as red gram, tur) increased by K175,000 per tonne and green gram price fell by K95,625 per tonne on 30 August alone compared to recent prices.

The prices of pigeon peas

hit K3.5 million per tonne on 22-25 August and K3.45 million per tonne on 26-28 August. The prices stood at K3.5 million per tonne before surging to K3.675 million per tonne on 30 August.

The price of green gram

produced in Pakokku stood at K3,580-3,670 per viss on 21 August and fell to K3,000-3,085 on 28-29 August and K2,830-2,920 on August 30.

However, the price of green gram (yellow) between August 10 and 30 remained unchanged and stood at K3,500 per viss. The price of black gram (RC) stood at 2.427 million per tonne on 28 August and surged to K2.491 million per tonne on 30 August. The price of black gram (RC) rising to K2.497 million per tonne on 19 August has been recorded as the highest price of its kind in the Yangon market.

The rising price of pulse and bean brings remarkable benefit to farmers and the acres of cultivation is also reported to be higher than in previous years. — TWA/TH



Various species of pulses are seen in the market.

Aung Bar Lay lottery tickets worth about K5,300 mln sold in August

AUNG Bar Lay lottery tickets worth about K5,300 million were sold out in August 2023 but sales have decreased a little over the previous month, according to the Aung Bar Lay Branch of the Internal Revenue Department.

Both types of Aung Bar Lay lottery tickets and online Aung Bar Lay lottery tickets were sold in August earning K5,293,188 million. It is announced that more than K3,705,231 million, 70 per cent of the sales, will be awarded as lottery prizes.

The sale of lottery tickets in July brought proceeds of over K5,300 million. Compared to the previous month's sales, lottery sales in August have decreased by over K15 million.

The opening of the Aung Bar Lay lottery will be held on 1 September and there will be only



A young woman buys lottery tickets at an Aung Bar Lay lottery outlet in Yangon.

a special prize of K500 million, a prize of K200 million and a prize of K100 million and the number of other prizes will be increased. — TWA/MKKS

LOCAL BUSINESS

Bangladesh to buy 200 tonnes of Myanmar's onions this financial year

BANGLADESH will purchase 200 tonnes of Myanmar's onions this financial year, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization of the Ministry of Commerce.

With the increase in domestic consumption, the government of Bangladesh has decided to buy onions from neighbouring countries to reduce the increase in domestic onion prices. Thus, they will import more than twenty thousand tonnes of onions from foreign countries this financial year.

Bangladesh will buy 200 tonnes of onions from Myanmar, Daw Naw Mutaka Paw, Director-General of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization commented.

"Bangladesh has to buy 200 tonnes of Myanmar onions in the current financial year. When the official proposal is sent through the diplomatic channel, the two sides will negotiate until they can sign. In addition, Bangladesh

prefers the quality of Myanmar rice, so they have offered to buy it again in the current financial year. They offered to purchase the rice according to the quality criteria and set the price under contract," she added.

A total of 2025.47 tonnes of Myanmar onions were exported to Malaysia, China, Singapore, Thailand, Bangladesh, Viet Nam, India and Malaysia. Myanmar is currently exporting onions to the Philippines through the Myanmar-Philippines bilateral G-to-G system.

In Myanmar, the onion cultivation area is about 174,423 acres. Mandalay Region, which mainly grows onions, has 36 per cent of the country's onion production, while Magway Region has 26 per cent and Sagaing Region has 32 per cent of the country's production.

The onion production of the three regions together is 94% of the national production. — ASH/KZL



Onion sacks are staked at a warehouse as the Myanmar Commerce Ministry states that Bangladesh's plan to purchase 200 tonnes of onions this financial year.

Decline in rice price ...

FROM PAGE-1

The remaining rice in the domestic rice market is sufficient until the new rice comes out. However, due to the marketing tactics of those who hoard rice to stoke concern among consumers, the price of rice has risen sharply. New Pawsan rice varieties usually come in at a lower price, decreasing by around K10,000 per bag compared to old rice at the

end of the year. When the price of rice is high, people start eating the new Pawsan rice, and as a result, the demand for the old Pawsan rice tends to decrease, said a seller.

Consumers have stated that their concerns about the price of rice have decreased due to the reduced prices at the depots, and posts promoting the sale of rice on social networks have disappeared. — TWA/CT

Myanmar exports 630,000 tonnes of beans, pulses in April-August



Photo shows samples of pulse and beans in a warehouse. Myanmar earns over US\$511 million from exports of pulse and bean in the first five months of this financial year.

MYANMAR exported 630,000 tonnes of beans and pulses earning over US\$ 511 million from 1 April to 18 August of 2023-2024FY, according to Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

The country exports over one million tonnes of beans and pulses yearly and the export earning is between \$ 1.2 billion and \$ 1.5 billion, said

U Tun Lwin, chairman of the association.

"We mainly export mung bean, black gram and pigeon pea, especially to India and China. During the period between 1 April and 18 August of 2023-2024FY, we exported 630,000 tonnes of beans and pulses via sea route and border camp and earned over \$ 511 million. The country received over \$1.4 billion from

beans and pulses export in 2022-2023FY," he said.

The cultivation of pulse crops is the second largest in the country accounting for 33 per cent of agricultural produce. Bean cultivation covers 20 per cent of overall growing acres while black beans, pigeon peas, green gram and other beans occupy 72 per cent of bean acreage. — ASH/KTZH

53 container vessels slated to ...

FROM PAGE-1

according to the Myanma Port Authority's statement on 22 June 2022.

After the new navigation channel (Kings Bank Channel) accessing the inner Yangon River was found, the draft extension work was accelerated. After that, the port can now handle larger ships. The container vessel (185.99-metre LOA, 35.25-metre BOA, 29,232 GRT and 2,698 TEU) Hong-kong-based SITC Shipping Line docked at Asia World Port Terminal for the first time on 22 June.

That vessel is the largest ship that AWPT Port handled.

From May 2021, the arrival of the ships at terminals in Yangon has increased again. To fulfil the seaborne trade requirements, three new container vessels by Maersk Line Myanmar (SeaLand Maersk) started to run in 2021.

Earlier, the larger ships had draft problems preventing their sailing on the Yangon River. The draft was extended up to 10 metres, so the larger ocean liners could enter Thilawa Port.

The coast of Myanmar is 2,228 kilometres (1,260 nautical miles) including the Rakhine coastline (713 kilometres), delta region (437 kilometres) and Taninthayi coastline

(1,078 kilometres), stretching from northern Bangladesh's border to southern Thailand's border area. There are 10 seaports along the coastline, including Yangon Port, Thilawa Deep Seaport, Kyaukphyu Deep Seaport, Sittway Port, Thandwe Port, Patheingyi Port, Mawlamyine Port, Dawei Deep Seaport, Myeik Port and Kawthoung Port.

Seaborne trade accounts for 75 per cent of foreign trade. However, Yangon Port including Thilawa terminals is the only international port and the remaining ports in eight cities are designated for the domestic way only. — NN/EM

OPINION

Promote compassion during economic challenges

IN THE midst of various global crises, including economic turmoil spurred by political and military conflicts, fostering compassion has become paramount. This sentiment resonates particularly strongly in Myanmar, where people are grappling with the economic fallout of soaring inflation rates. The resulting surge in commodity prices, especially for essential food items, has affected individuals across different socioeconomic strata.

The impact of escalating commodity prices is widespread, touching workers, employees, and business owners alike. The current predicament is exacerbated by the fact that businesses are struggling in the face of high inflation, making it difficult to provide salary increases for workers. Moreover, the depreciation of the Myanmar kyat currency has compounded the issue, pushing employees

into the realm of diminished incomes. These income levels, once considered reasonable, are now inadequate due to the altered economic landscape. In this critical juncture, it is incumbent upon all citizens to contemplate ways to surmount economic challenges and reconstruct their livelihoods. For employees, several avenues present themselves: prudent budgeting in alignment with their incomes, considering additional employment opportunities to augment family earnings, and exploring employment options for all adults within households, even if they are concurrently pursuing education.

financial organizations to expand their enterprises. Simultaneously, they must channel substantial investments toward procuring raw materials for relevant industries to ramp up production. Crucially, given the prevailing crisis, entrepreneurs must explore strategies to minimize profit margins on product sales.

At the core of every action should lie compassion. Both business operations and labour should be guided by compassion. Employers and employees alike need to cultivate a sense of compassion and benevolence across all spheres. By tempering greed, they can navigate challenges more effectively. A comprehensive understanding of the factors driving high inflation — global gold prices, fuel costs, and essential commodities — is crucial. Nurturing a collective spirit to safeguard the welfare of all citizens from the onslaught of exorbitant prices is imperative.

In encountering economic crises, unity is paramount. Individuals must embrace the belief that a more favourable future is attainable, where economic issues are surmounted, and prosperity becomes tangible. However, prior to reaching this endpoint, the people of Myanmar must extend compassionate assistance to one another. By doing so, they can overcome the trials of daily life and pave the way for a brighter tomorrow.

THE future of food is undergoing a remarkable transformation, thanks to the power of science. Gone are the days when our meals were limited to what nature provided. Today, scientific innovation is revolutionizing the way we grow, produce, and consume food. From plant-based meat substitutes to personalized nutrition plans, the journey from the lab to our tables is shaping a sustainable, nutritious, and exciting culinary landscape. Let's explore the fascinating ways in which science is reshaping our food system.

Cultivating a Sustainable Future:

With a burgeoning global population and environmental concerns at the forefront, sustainable agriculture has become a paramount objective. Science is leading the charge by introducing cutting-edge practices such as vertical farming, hydroponics, and aquaponics. These methods maximize crop yields while utilizing limited resources like water and land more efficiently. By embracing precision agriculture techniques, farmers can optimize inputs like fertilizers and pesticides, minimizing waste and ecological damage. As a result, sustainable farming practices are ensuring food security while mitigating environmental impact.

Redefining Meat and Dairy:

Science has set its sights on transforming the meat and dairy industries. Plant-based alternatives, meticulously crafted to mimic the taste and texture of traditional animal products, have gained immense popularity.

Revolutionized Our Food That Is From The Laboratory To The Dining Table

These creations leverage scientific techniques to derive proteins and nutrients from plants, presenting consumers with a sustainable and ethical choice. Additionally, advancements in cellular agriculture have given rise to lab-grown meat, seafood, and dairy products. By cultivating animal cells in controlled environments, scientists are able to produce meat without the need for conventional farming, offering a solution that is kinder to animals and more environmentally friendly.

Unlocking the Secrets of Nutrition:

The future of food is all about personalization. Science is uncovering the intricate relationship between our genetic makeup, metabolism, and dietary needs. Through techniques like genomics and microbiome analysis, researchers can unravel the mysteries of individual nutritional requirements.

This knowledge is paving the way for personalized nutrition plans, tailored to our specific genetic and lifestyle factors. By optimizing our diets, personalized nutrition holds the promise of improved health outcomes, disease prevention, and overall well-being.



By Yin Nwe Ko

and insect farming are transforming what would have been discarded into valuable resources. These solutions not only mitigate the environmental impact of food waste but also present

opportunities for creating bio-fuels, fertilizers, and sustainable animal feed.

Moreover, the future of food is a fascinating and rapidly evolving topic, with science playing a crucial role in shaping it. We can see

Enhancing Food Safety and Quality:

Ensuring the safety and quality of our food supply is of paramount importance. Scientific breakthroughs are bolstering food safety measures by revolutionizing food processing technologies. Techniques such as pasteurization, sterilization, and freezing have been refined to preserve food for longer periods, minimize spoilage, and reduce the risk of foodborne illnesses. Moreover, advanced scientific methods like DNA testing and spectroscopy enable more accurate and rapid detection of contaminants, pathogens, and adulterants in our food.

By employing these technologies, we can confidently enjoy meals that are not only delicious but also safe and wholesome.

Tackling Food Waste:

Food waste is a global predicament that science is addressing head-on. Research is uncovering innovative solutions to minimize waste at every stage of the food supply chain. Scientific advancements are extending the shelf life of perishable foods, designing efficient packaging materials, and optimizing logistics to reduce waste. Moreover, emerging technologies like food waste recycling, anaerobic digestion,

some key areas where science is making significant contributions to the future of food:

Sustainable Agriculture:

As the global population continues to grow, there is an increasing need for sustainable agricultural practices to ensure food security while minimizing environmental impact. Science is helping to develop innovative approaches such as vertical farming, hydroponics, and aquaponics, which maximize crop yields using limited resources like water and land. Additionally, precision agriculture techniques, including the use of drones and sensors, enable farmers to optimize inputs like fertilizers and pesticides, reducing waste and environmental

harm.

Plant-Based and Lab-Grown Alternatives:

Science is driving the development of plant-based and lab-grown alternatives to traditional animal-based products. Plant-based meat substitutes, for example, use scientific techniques to recreate the taste and texture of meat using plant proteins. Similarly, cellular agriculture involves growing meat, seafood, and dairy products from animal cells without the need for traditional animal farming. These advancements have the potential to reduce the environmental impact of food production, decrease animal suffering, and provide sustainable protein sources.

SEE PAGE-11



Science is exploring ways to enhance the nutritional value of food to address nutrient deficiencies and improve human health.



Pharma firm, labs share tech for Covid research equity: WHO

A GLOBAL Covid-19 knowledge-sharing platform has secured three new licensing agreements to transfer vaccine technologies, including one with the first private manufacturer to join the initiative, the World Health Organization said Tuesday.

A Covid-19 testing tent sits along a Manhattan street on 9 March 2023 in New York City. Three years since the outbreak of the global pandemic, which resulted in the deaths of millions of people, many parts are the world are nearly back to normal with few mask restrictions and falling hospitalization rates. PHOTO: SPENCER PLATT / AFP

The UN health agency's Covid-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP) was founded in May 2020 as a platform to share knowledge and intellectual property and ensure a more equitable distribution of Covid-fighting tests and vaccines.

C-TAP had until now secured licensing agreements with just two institutes: one with the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) for a Covid-19 antibody test, and two with the US National Institute of Health (NIH) for the development of therapeutics, early-stage vaccines and diagnostic tools.

But on Tuesday, the WHO said the number of agreements had doubled, with CSIC

providing a second one — this time for a Covid-19 vaccine prototype — and the University of Chile providing one for a test of Covid antibody neutralisation levels.

Taiwan-based Medigen Vaccine Biologics Corp, the first private manufacturer in the programme, is offering its patent and know-how for a Covid vaccine that has seen three million doses administered across seven countries, the WHO said.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus hailed the agreements, acquired through the agency's Medicines Patent Pool.

"Covid-19 is here to stay, and the world will continue to need tools to prevent it, test

for it and treat it," he said, stressing the commitment to "making those tools accessible to everyone, everywhere".

"I am grateful to the leadership shown by those license holders who have contributed technology."

The information pool was intended as a voluntary global bank for intellectual property and open-sourced data as part of a common front against Covid-19.

However, as it turned out, pharmaceutical companies have largely kept their findings to themselves rather than sharing them as global public goods.

Source: AFP

ARTICLE

NATIONAL

Myanmar Olympic Committee Chair attends 7th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports in Thailand



Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan leaves for Thailand to attend the Seventh ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports (AMMS-7) yesterday.

CHAIRMAN of the Myanmar Olympic Committee Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan, along with deputy director U Win Htet Mon, left for Thailand to attend the Seventh ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports (AMMS-7) and related meetings. The event will take place in Chiang Mai from 30 August to 2 September. Director of the Institute of Sports and Physical Education U Aung Naing Swe, Regional Director of the Institute of Sports and Physical Education U Aung Moe and officials saw them off at the airport. — MNA/KZW

Drugs, ammunition worth K105.37 bln seized in Thazi, Thingangyun Townships

A total of K105.37 billion worth of three tonnes of Ice (Methamphetamine), 30.86 million stimulant tablets, and ammunition were seized in Thazi and Thingangyun townships, as stated by the Myanmar Police Force.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team consisting of members from the security force stopped and searched an 18-wheel Nissan truck with a trailer driven by Kyaw Zin Htun and accompanied by Htun Wai (aka) Pho Zaka near Kywaltatson village on the Taunggyi-Thazi Road in Thazi township at 10 am on 13 August.

The police confiscated a total of three tonnes of Ice, 29 million stimulant tablets, and 20,000 rounds of 7.62 ammunition that were hidden in the coal dust of the vehicle.

After conducting an interrogation, the police arrested Ko Htun (aka) Htun Min Latt and Kyaw Hlaing (aka) Ko Ko

Haing, accomplices in the drug trafficking, at the 201st-Mile checkpoint in Dekkhina Thiri township at 3 pm on 14 August.

Additionally, the police force apprehended Win Htun Oo with 1.86 million stimulant tablets and 4.8 kilograms of Ice on Inginmyine Street in Thingangyun township at 1:30 pm on 15 August.



Offenders are seen along with seized drugs and vehicles.

Confiscation of illegal items: jade, consumer goods, foodstuffs, industrial materials and vehicles

A combined team under the Shan State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force confiscated four kinds of goods worth K205.5 million, including 1800 sets of Cubic e-cigarette disposable vape, that were smuggled and piled up by the side of the main road over Asia World Tollgate in Muse township on 28 August. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Similarly, a combined team seized two kinds of goods worth K11.153 million, including 3,360 litres of refined palm olein and 4,500 bags of Yum Yum instant noodles without official documents, from a warehouse in Inlaymyine Industrial Zone in Myeik coastal township. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The Customs on-duty teams conducted inspections on 28 August and impounded five kinds of goods worth K26,094,600, including 110 kilogrammes of Preferenz P300 that exceeded quantity mentioned in the Import Declaration (ID) and electrical goods earth rods with earthing accessories without Import Licence, from two containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint, three kinds of goods worth about K2.22 million, including a KEP 8K drone worth K600,000 without official documents and 0.16 kilogrammes of spare parts for tobacco machinery without Import Licence, from luggage at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk), six kinds of goods worth about K56.794 million, including 40 baby bicycles (12 inches) that were not declared in the ID from a container, at the MITT Port, and a Nissan AD Van car (estimated value of K25 million) that was parked at the top of detour at the Yepu permanent checkpoint carrying 1,050 various sizes of bracelets (supposed to be made of jade) without official documents. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

A total of 10 arrests were made on 28 August, with an estimated value of K411,362,267, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS



Confiscated illegal goods at the Yangon Airport.

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

ARTICLE/TECH/SCI
WORLD

Indian rover confirms sulphur on Moon's south pole



India's Moon rover is on a mission to the largely unexplored south pole. PHOTO: ISRO/AFP

INDIA'S Moon rover has confirmed the presence of sulphur on the lunar south pole, the country's space agency said.

Last week, India became the first country to land a craft near the largely unexplored south pole, and just the fourth nation to land on the Moon.

"The Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS) instrument onboard Chandrayaan-3 Rover has made the first-ever in-situ measurements on the elemental composition of the lunar surface near the south pole," the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) said in a statement dated Monday.

"These in-situ measurements confirm the presence of sulphur in the region unambiguously, something that was not feasible by the instruments onboard the orbiters," it said.

The spectrographic analysis also confirmed the presence of aluminium, calcium, iron, chromium and titanium on the lunar surface, ISRO added, with additional measurements showing the presence of manganese, silicon and oxygen.

The six-wheeled solar-powered rover Pragyan — "Wisdom" in Sanskrit — will amble around the relatively unmapped south pole and transmit images and scientific data

over its two-week lifespan.

India has been steadily matching the achievements of other space programmes at a fraction of their cost, despite suffering some setbacks.

Four years ago, the previous Indian lunar mission failed during its final descent, in what was seen at the time as a huge setback for the programme.

Chandrayaan-3 has captivated public attention since launching nearly six weeks ago in front of thousands of cheering spectators, and its successful touchdown on the Moon last week came just days after a Russian lander crashed in the same region. — AFP

Japan's century of efforts to tame earthquakes

TAKASHI Hosoda was in a Tokyo skyscraper when the 9.0 magnitude quake struck on 11 March, 2011, but the trained architect was "not particularly worried" as modern Japanese buildings are designed to protect their occupants.

A century after Tokyo was destroyed in the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923, the Japanese capital today bears no resemblance to the city levelled by that 7.9 tremor, which killed 105,000 people. The low-rise, largely wooden city that was destroyed a second time by US firebombing during World War II has been replaced by a soaring megalopolis where reinforced concrete is king. The September 1, 1923, disaster marked "the dawn of seismic design of structures in

Japan", said Yoshiaki Nakano, an earthquake engineering expert from the National Research Institute for Earth Sciences and Disaster Resilience (NIED).

The following year Japan introduced its first building code for earthquake-resistant construction. These standards have been constantly expanded since then, drawing on lessons from other major tremors in the archipelago, which accounts for around 10 per cent of the world's earthquakes.

Japan's seismic building code is one of the most stringent in the world, Nakano told AFP.

"Basically, the Japanese building requires a relatively higher strength" than elsewhere, he said, stressing the importance of meticulous monitoring of compliance. — AFP



Japan's seismic building code is one of the most stringent in the world. PHOTO: AFP

Revolutionized Our Food That Is From ...

FROM PAGE-9

Nutritional Enhancement:

Science is exploring ways to enhance the nutritional value of food to address nutrient deficiencies and improve human health. For instance, biofortification involves breeding crops to increase their nutritional content, such as developing vitamin-enriched varieties of staple crops like rice or wheat.

Genetic engineering techniques can also be used to enhance the nutritional profile of crops by introducing specific traits like increased vitamin content or healthier fats.

Food Safety and Quality:

Science plays a crucial role in ensuring food safety and quality. Advances in food processing technologies, such as pasteurization, sterilization, and freezing, help preserve food for longer periods, reduce spoilage, and minimize the risk of foodborne illnesses. Additionally, scientific methods like DNA testing and spectroscopy allow for more accurate and rapid detection of contaminants, pathogens, and adulterants in food products.

Personalized Nutrition:

The concept of personalized nutrition involves tailoring dietary

recommendations to an individual's specific needs based on factors like genetics, metabolism, and lifestyle. Advances in technologies like genomics, microbiome analysis, and wearable devices enable the collection of personalized data, which can be used to develop customized dietary plans. This scientific approach to nutrition has the potential to optimize health outcomes and prevent diet-related diseases.

Food Waste Reduction:

Food waste is a significant global challenge, and science is contributing to innovative solutions. Scientific research helps

identify methods to extend the shelf life of perishable foods, develop efficient packaging materials, and optimize supply chains to reduce waste. Additionally, emerging technologies like food waste recycling, anaerobic digestion, and insect farming can convert food waste into valuable resources such as biofuels, fertilizers, and animal feed.

The future of food is here, and science is at the forefront, revolutionizing our culinary experiences. From sustainable agriculture practices to plant-based alternatives and personalized nutrition plans, science is reshaping the food landscape in profound ways. By embracing scientific innovation, we can ensure a more sustainable, ethical, and nutritious food system. As we sit

at our tables, we can marvel at the transformative power.

In addition, it is also being shaped by scientific advancements aimed at addressing sustainability, nutrition, safety, and personalization. By leveraging science and technology, we can develop more efficient, environmentally friendly, and healthier food systems to meet the growing demands of a changing world.

Oh, my esteemed readers, you all have read many terms and technical vocabularies about food and its association with science improving all the time. However, for Myanmar people, we bear in mind one thing which is the old saying "Food is also medicine and vice versa."

Reference: Reader's Digest Jan 2023

ECONOMY WORLD



Iran's South Pars oil field is one of the world's largest natural gas condensate fields and the Islamic republic's largest. **PHOTO: IRANIAN PRESIDENCY/AFP**

Iran inaugurates last phase of mega-gas field

The South Pars gas field is one of the largest natural gas condensate fields globally and is the largest in Iran.

IRANIAN President Ebrahim Raisi inaugurated on Monday the last phase of the South Pars gas field, one of the world's largest natural gas condensate field and the country's biggest.

Iran shares the gas field with energy giant Qatar and there are 24 platforms on the side of the Islamic republic which has been developing it

in the Gulf since the 1990s.

Oil Minister Javad Owji said around 50 million cubic meters of gas will be extracted daily from phase 11 of the project "after the completion of the wells", during a ceremony in the southern port city of Asalouyeh broadcast live on state television.

Raisi meanwhile complained that foreign compa-

nies, including French energy giant Total, "had not fulfilled their obligations to complete the 11th phase of South Pars", leaving Iranian experts to do the job.

Total was due to develop phase 11 of South Pars along with China's National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) and an Iranian firm, under a 2017 deal worth \$4.8 billion. — AFP

Japan gasoline price hits record 185.60 yen per litre

THE average retail gasoline price in Japan has climbed for the 15th straight week to its highest-ever level, industry ministry data showed Wednesday, as subsidies given to oil wholesalers taper off towards the end of September.

The average price for regular gasoline stood at 185.60 yen (\$1.3) per litre as of Monday, up 1.90 yen from a week earlier and the highest since comparable data became available in 1990, reflecting higher crude oil prices and the effects of a weaker yen.

In response to instructions from Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party drew up proposals Wednesday to extend subsidies for oil wholesalers as well as subsidies for electricity and gas

beyond September.

Based on the proposals, the government is expected to contain regular gasoline price below 180 yen for the time being to alleviate the impact of high fuel costs on households and businesses.

Other factors driving the gas price to an all-time high in Japan include recent cuts of oil output by major producers like Saudi Arabia and Russia.

The previous high for the average retail gasoline price was 185.10 yen recorded in August 2008, according to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

The nationwide average retail price for premium gasoline on Monday stood at 196.50 yen per litre, up 1.90 yen from a week earlier, while diesel rose 2.00 yen to 165.10 yen per litre. — Kyodo



A price board at a gas station in Tokyo shows regular gasoline at 186 yen per liter on 30 August 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Kenya Airways losses deepen on weaker shilling

KENYA'S struggling national carrier Kenya Airways on Tuesday reported a surge in losses in the first half of the financial year due to increased foreign exchange and borrowing costs.



Kenya Airways last posted a profit in 2012. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

The airline, which is part owned by Air France-KLM, is labouring under a mountain of debt and has been running losses for years despite numerous government bailouts.

Pre-tax losses for the period ended 30 June more than doubled to 22 billion shillings (\$151 million) from 9.9 billion shillings a year earlier, the airline said.

This was despite a marked improvement in revenues that was gobbled up legacy debt and a weaker shilling which has lost more than 14 per cent of its value since January.

"The devaluation of the Kenyan shilling has a significant negative impact on our financials as a majority of our transactions are carried out in the major foreign currencies," said the airline's chief executive Allan Kilavuka. — AFP

Global dividends hit record \$568 bln in second quarter

DIVIDENDS paid by the world's biggest listed companies soared to a record \$568.1 billion in the second quarter, with payouts to shareholders expected to grow further despite economic uncertainty, a study showed Wednesday. Payments by the 1,200 biggest public companies rose more than expected, increasing by 4.9 per cent compared to the same April-to-June period last year, according to the report by asset management firm Janus Henderson.

Banks accounted for half of

the world's dividend growth as their margins were boosted by interest rate hikes, the report said.

Automakers represented one-seventh of the increase.

Firms in Europe, excluding Britain, led the pack with payouts rising by 9.7 per cent to \$184.5 billion. North American companies paid out \$165.3 billion, a 4.2 per cent increase.

Swiss food giant Nestle was the world's biggest dividend payer, followed by British bank HSBC and German automaker Mercedes-Benz. — AFP

Britain delays post-Brexit border checks until 2024



The UK has repeatedly delayed implementing post-Brexit border checks on food and animal products from the EU.
PHOTO: AFP

THE British government said Tuesday it will delay introducing post-Brexit border controls on food and fresh produce from the European Union, postponing the start date to January 2024. The UK had delayed implementing the checks several times since leaving the EU's customs union and single market in

January 2021, but British exports have faced controls for products heading in the opposite direction. The UK was planning to finally roll out its new import controls in phases over 12 months from 31 October this year. "Having listened to the views of industry, the government has agreed

to a delay of three months for the introduction of remaining sanitary and phytosanitary controls, as well as full customs controls for non-qualifying Northern Ireland goods," the government said. It added that further controls for EU imports will also have a revised timetable "to give stakeholders additional time to prepare for the new checks". This includes physical checks and safety declarations, which will be introduced in stages throughout 2024. The Financial Times reported last week that the UK's finance minister Jeremy Hunt backed another delay to the border checks amid fears it would push up food prices during a cost-of-living crisis. — AFP

Staff to strike at Chevron gas facilities in Australia

WORKERS at two of Chevron's major natural gas plants in Australia are set to go on strike next week, the US energy giant said Tuesday, threatening up to five percent of global LNG supplies. Chevron has been told the strikes will start 7 September at its Gorgon and Wheatstone facilities in Western Australia, an announcement that has

spooked markets already upended by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The company said it would "continue to take steps to maintain safe and reliable operations in the event of disruption at our facilities". "We will also continue to work through the bargaining process as we seek outcomes that are in the interests of

both employees and the company," it told AFP in a statement. The Offshore Alliance, which represents Chevron's highly unionised workforce, said the strikes would "escalate each week until Chevron agrees to our bargaining claims" and that the company's efforts to date had been "inept and incompetent". — AFP

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development (MCRD) Department of Rural Development (DRD) Project Title: "Initiatives for Establishment of Innovation Model on Village Level Poverty Reduction among LMC Countries" National Project Consultant (Lump-Sum) - (1 Post)

The Department of Rural Development (DRD) is looking to hire a National Project Consultant for their project titled "Initiatives for Establishment of Innovation Model on Village Level Poverty Reduction among LMC Countries." The consultant will assist DRD in implementing the project. Here are the major requirements for the position:

- A Bachelor's Degree or Post Graduate Degree (Master's Degree preferred) in a relevant subject such as development studies, social science, political science, management, or related fields.
- At least 15 years of general working experience in development projects funded by international organizations is preferable.
- Demonstrated experience in Monitoring and Evaluation for International Funded Projects.
- Strong English language skills and computer skills are a must.
- Report writing, presentation, dissemination, and publication skills are required.

Interested candidates should submit their updated curriculum vitae, highlighting their personal and technical skills, qualifications, and experience in similar assignments. The draft Terms of Reference (TOR) can be obtained from the provided website or by email.
<https://www.drdmyanmar.org/index.php?page=YW5ub3VuY2VtZW50c19kZXRhWwmaWQ9MQ==>.

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a written form to the address below (in person, by mail, or by e-mail) before 13th September 2023 (4:00 PM).

Attn: U Kyaw Swa Aung (Director),
Department of Rural Development,
Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development
Office No. 36-B, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Tel: +95 67418637
Email address: mlc.drd.myanmar@gmail.com
Provide carbon copy (cc) to procurement@ncddpmyanmar.org

Changing Trade Names of Pesticides

Aventine Limited would like to change the trade names of the following pesticides which are registered by Zibo NAB Agrochemicals Limited, China.

No.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Reg. No.
1.	NAB-Oxy 23.5 EC	Armo Pandora	Oxyfluorfen 23.5 % EC	F2021-3251
2.	NAB-Canna	Armo Myo Luu Bayin	Fludioxonil 1.1% + Metalaxyl-M 1.7% + Thiamethoxam 22.2% FS	P2023-4967

And we would like to invite any objection for the above changing trade names within (14) days of the publication of this notice to the Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogon, Insein.

Distributor : Aventine Limited
No.126(A), Kabaraye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V SITC YUANMING VOY.NO. (2316S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC YUANMING VOY.NO. (2316S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-8-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V ASIAN ACE VOY.NO. (332W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ASIAN ACE VOY.NO. (332W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-8-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. 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 SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V VALOR SW VOY.NO. (2307)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V VALOR SW VOY.NO. (2307)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-9-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIPLT** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S ELDER TRIUMPHANT SHIPPING LINES PTE., LTD

WORLD

Gabon: What you need to know

Military officers in the oil-rich central African state of Gabon announced on Wednesday they had seized power following disputed elections in which President Ali Bongo Ondimba, in power since 2009, had been declared victor.

FIVE key facts about Gabon, where military officers on Wednesday announced that they had taken power following elections that, according to official results, were won by President Ali Bongo Ondimba.

The Bongos

The small central African state has been ruled by the same family for more than 55 out of its 63 years since independence from France in 1960.

Bongo, 64, who was seeking a third term in Saturday's election, took over when his father Omar died in 2009 after nearly 42 years in power.

Bongo senior, who took office in 1967, had the reputation of a kleptocrat — one of the richest men in the world, with a fortune derived from Gabon's oil wealth.

His son grew up the carefree scion of a wealthy ruling family and was once known by his initials of ABO, Ali B — or, less flattering, “Monsieur Fils” (Mr Son).

In October 2018, Bongo suffered a stroke that sidelined him for 10 months. The episode stoked claims he was unfit to rule and fuelled a minor attempted coup.

Oil powerhouse

Gabon is one of the richest



The address was read by an officer flanked by a group of a dozen army colonels, members of the elite Republican Guard and regular soldiers. **PHOTO: GABON 24/AFP**

countries in Africa in terms of per-capita GDP, thanks largely to oil revenues and the small population of 2.3 million.

In the 1970s, the country discovered abundant oil reserves offshore, allowing it to build a strong middle class and earn the moniker “central Africa's little emirate”.

Oil accounts for 60 per cent of the country's revenues.

But a third of the population still lives below the poverty line of \$5.50 per day, according to the World Bank.

Africa's 'Eden'

Forests cover 88 per cent of the surface of Gabon, providing

a haven for gorillas, buffalo, panthers, elephants, chimpanzees and other species.

The country, which markets itself as the “last Eden”, has become a major advocate for conservation in a region where wildlife is being battered by wars, habitat destruction and the bush-meat trade. — AFP

Russia's Defence Ministry repel drone attack on airport in Pskov Region – Governor

THE Russian Defence Ministry repelled an overnight drone attack on the Pskov airport in Russia's Pskov region, Governor Mikhail Vedernikov said early Wednesday.

“The defence ministry is repelling a drone attack at Pskov's airport. I have been personally on the scene since the incident began. According to preliminary information, there are no casu-

alties. The scale of destruction is being clarified,” Vedernikov said on Telegram, adding that he will provide more information after an operational headquarters meeting. — SPUTNIK

Australia to hold Indigenous rights referendum on 14 Oct



Supporters of the YES campaign set up a barbecue in the centre of the Northern Territory city of Darwin on 30 August 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

AUSTRALIA will hold a historic Indigenous rights referendum on 14 October, the prime minister said Wednesday, setting

up a defining moment for the nation's relationship with Aboriginal minorities.

“On that day, every Austral-

ian will have a once-in-a-generation chance to bring our country together,” Anthony Albanese said as he announced the date for the compulsory and binding vote.

“14 October is our time. It's our chance. It's a moment calling out to the best of our Australian character.”

If passed, Indigenous Australians — whose ancestors have lived on the continent for at least 60,000 years — would be recognized in the constitution for the first time. They would also gain a constitutionally enshrined right to be consulted on laws that impact their communities, the so-called “Voice to Parliament”. — AFP

Hollywood strikes sap glamour of Venice Film Festival



Jessica Chastain is due to return to Venice with 'Memory' from Mexican director Michel Franco. **PHOTO: MIGUEL MEDINA / AFP**

HISTORIC Hollywood strikes have robbed the Venice Film Festival of some of its usual glitz as it launched its 80th edition Wednesday, but a raft of big-name — and controversial — directors are keeping the film world buzzing.

The world's longest-running film festival was due to start with “Challengers”, a tennis romance with one of the biggest stars of her generation, Zendaya.

But it was replaced at the last minute by an Italian war

drama, “Comandante”, due to the ongoing strikes by Hollywood actors and writers — primarily over pay and the threat of AI — that has barred them from publicity work.

The rest of the line-up was largely unaffected: the festival will see Emma Stone as a Frankenstein-like creature in “Poor Things” and Bradley Cooper as legendary conductor and composer Leonard Bernstein in “Maestro”, among several Oscar contenders. — AFP

SPORTS

Best Athletes Award to be given for Year 2022



Ar Ti (Alias) Bhone Mying Kyaw and Thaw Zin Htet won gold medals in the XXXII SEA Games 9-Ball Pool Doubles Tournament.

U Nyan Tun, chairman of the Myanmar Sports Media Federation, said at the executive meeting held at the office of the Myanmar Sports Media Federation yesterday that the award will be given to the best male and female athletes in 2022.

“The 2022 male and female sportsperson awards will be presented in October. In November, there will be a kick-off ceremony to pay tribute to veteran sports writers over the age of 70. In addition, the federation will meet and encourage the men’s and women’s soccer teams and the wushu and row-

ing athletes who are currently training for the Asian Games,” the chairman added.

For the year 2022, the winner of the best male and female athlete award will be given K1 million by the Myanmar Sports Media Federation and another K1 million by the Myanmar Olympic Committee totalling K2 million.

In addition, a courtesy payment of K300,000 for veteran sports writers over the age of 70, will be delivered to their homes, and for those who are far away, money will be transferred via Kpay or Wave Pay. — Bala Soe/KZL



Saudi Arabia's Abdullah al-Qahtani (L) beat US fighter David Zelner (R) in a Professional Fighters League bout in New York last week.
PHOTO: AFP

Saudi fund grabs stake in US mixed martial arts league

SAUDI Arabia’s sovereign wealth fund has acquired a minority stake in the Professional Fighters League (PFL), the two entities said Wednesday, the latest example of the kingdom’s sports investment push.

It is the first deal sealed by SRJ Sports Investments, a new company unveiled earlier this month by the Saudi fund known as the Public Investment Fund (PIF), that aims to draw “major global events” to Saudi Arabia.

Sports have been a major component of the oil-rich Gulf kingdom’s effort to rebrand as a global business and tourism destination under the Vision 2030 reform agenda pursued by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the PIF chairman.

“Today marks a new milestone for SRJ as we make our

inaugural investment,” SRJ chairman Bander Bin Mogren said in a statement. “This investment aims to nurture the local and regional talent pool in martial arts, promote gender equality in sport, and bring new opportunities directly to Saudi Arabia and the wider MENA region.”

Combining elements of everything from boxing to judo and Muay Thai, mixed martial arts (MMA) had a limited following in Saudi Arabia just a decade ago, but that started to change when the kingdom hosted the popular regional Desert Force competition in 2014.

The sport’s popularity has since soared with the rise of fighters from across the Middle East and the establishment of a national MMA foundation to develop Saudi talent. — AFP

Frankfurt’s Kolo Muani skips training to force PSG move

FRENCH international forward Randal Kolo Muani skipped training with Eintracht Frankfurt on Wednesday morning, as he continues to try to force a move to Paris Saint-Germain.

The German club on Wednesday confirmed Kolo Muani, 24, had chosen to miss the training session due to “his desire to be transferred to an-

other club before the transfer window ends on Friday evening.” The club confirmed Kolo Muani would not play in Thursday’s Europa Conference League qualifier at home to Levski Sofia.

The away tie in Bulgaria finished 1-1, with Kolo Muani scoring Frankfurt’s goal. Frankfurt sporting director Markus Kroesche said in a

statement “we know Randal differently and know his real character”, saying “the behaviour has no influence on transfer activities.”

The forward’s contract in Frankfurt runs until 2027. Frankfurt are reportedly holding out for a bid of 100 million euros (\$108 million) from PSG for the forward. — AFP

Alcaraz keen to deflect pressure of US Open title defence

CARLOS Alcaraz said retaining the US Open title was not on his mind as he began the defence of his crown Tuesday with a swift win over injured German opponent Dominik Koepfer.

The world number one moved into the second round when the 75th-ranked Koepfer retired because of an ankle injury with the Spaniard leading 6-2, 3-2 under the lights on Arthur Ashe Stadium.

“That’s not the best way to get through into another round,” said Alcaraz, “but I have to say on my side I was playing great.”

“I started pretty well. Really focused. Honestly, I didn’t expect to play such a great level the beginning, the first round, here in the US Open.

“I am very, very happy with the level, even if Domi had to retire. Have to see myself and hopefully to keep that level into the next round.” — AFP



Carlos Alcaraz had a short night as his first round opponent retired with injury at the US Open. PHOTO: AFP



CHINESE Premier Li Qiang met with visiting US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo on Tuesday in Beijing, calling on both sides to enhance mutually beneficial cooperation.

Li said the economic and trade relations between China and the United States are mutually beneficial and win-win in nature. Politicizing economic and trade issues and overstressing the concept of security will not only seriously affect bilateral relations and mutual trust, but also undermine the interests of enterprises and people of the two countries, and will have a disastrous impact on the global economy.

Noting that China is the largest developing country and the United States is the largest developed country, Li said the two sides should strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation, reduce friction and confrontation, and jointly promote world economic recovery and cope with global challenges.

Li said a sound and stable China-US relationship benefits both countries and the world, and China is glad to see that the United States has recently repeatedly said it is committed to returning to the agenda set by the two heads of state in Bali.

“Mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation are the right ways for China and the United States to get along. We hope that the US side will work with China to take more practical and beneficial actions to maintain and develop bilateral relations,” he added.

Li said China is willing to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with the United States on the economy and trade, and to promote the sound development of bilateral economic and trade relations. He said he hopes that the United States will work with China in the same direction. — Xinhua

Chinese premier meets US commerce secretary, calling for enhanced cooperation

Premier Li's meeting with US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo focused on reinforcing the mutually beneficial nature of China-US economic relations and urging both sides to work together for the betterment of their citizens, businesses, and the global economy.



Chinese Premier Li Qiang meets with visiting US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, 29 August 2023. PHOTO: RAO AIMIN/XINHUA

Pakistan ex-PM Khan's detention extended over leaked documents



Security personnel stand guard outside the Attock prison, where former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan is being held. PHOTO: AFP

A Pakistan court on Wednesday ordered that former prime minister Imran Khan be kept in jail over allegations he leaked classified documents, a day after a judge granted his release in a separate graft case. Since being ousted from power last year, Khan — Pakistan's most popular politician — has been tangled in a slew of legal cases he says are designed to stop him from contesting upcoming elections.

Following a brief hearing inside the jail on Wednesday, Khan's lawyer Salman Safdar told AFP his detention was extended for two weeks under the colonial-era Official Secrets Act. Khan's three-year prison term for graft was suspended on Tuesday, but authorities kept him in custody at Attock prison, around 60 kilometres (37 miles) west of Islamabad, over the leaked documents case. — AFP

TOP HEADLINE

Russian Ambassador to US: Russia will not be first to resume nuclear testing

RUSSIA will not be the first to resume nuclear testing but will be ready for a “mirror response” if the United States resumes such tests first, Russian Ambassador to the US Anatoly Antonov said Tuesday. “The US State Department blatantly distorted the essence of [Russian] President Vladimir Putin's February address to the Russian Federal Assembly,” the Russian Embassy quoted Antonov as saying on Telegram. “The Russian leader made it clear: the US policy is disruptive. In case the United States resumes nuclear testing, we will be ready with a mirror response. However, we will not be the first ones to take such a step.” — SPUTNIK