

Myanmar opens doors with visa-on-arrival for Chinese and Indian tourists

The Ministry of Immigration and Population will implement a one-year trial run of visa-on-arrival service for Chinese and Indian international travellers.



Yangon International Airport's arrival hall bustling with international travellers.

MYANMAR will give Visa on Arrival (VOA) to Chinese and Indian travellers, according to the Ministry of Immigration and Population in Nay Pyi Taw.

Starting from the effective date, the ministry will carry out a one-year trial run of VOA service for Chinese and Indian tourists in line with the COVID-19 rules and regulations.

They can take out VOA applications at International Airports in Myanmar free of charge. They will be charged a visa-on-arrival fee and the application attached with two acceptable photos must be presented. Only a visa on arrival for tourist purposes is permitted so far.

Travellers need to hold a passport with at least six months of validity. They will get deported on the same flight if the passport's validity is below six months.

They need to abide by the existing laws of Myanmar and they are allowed to visit all sites apart from restricted areas for security concerns.

They can depart through any international exit. The effective date of arrival visa for Chinese and Indian tourists will be announced soon. — ASH/EM

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El Nino may affect export of crops says Union Commerce Minister

LOCAL BUSINESS PAGE-7



Myeik farmers eye investors for unrefined, refined palm oil plants

Kachin State welcomes investment: Two companies set to generate over 1,500 new jobs

ACCORDING to the Kachin State Investment Committee, two companies have received approval to invest in Kachin State, creating more than 1,500 job opportunities.

These two companies, namely Sangyoung Myanmar Investment and Sin Xin Myanmar Myitkyina, commenced their operations at the beginning of August.

Their investment focus includes the cultivation of macadamia, passion fruit, and rubber. They are committing \$0.878 million for the cultivation of macadamia and passion fruit, along with an additional \$0.10 million for rubber cultivation. Notably, Myanmar's macadamia and passion fruit are primarily purchased by China and Thailand, fetching K280,000 per kilogramme, while 75 per cent of the rubber output is also bought by China. — TWA/KZW



Photo captures the banana plantation in Kachin State.

NATIONAL

'Tourism & Green Investment' photo contest winners to be awarded on World Tourism Day

THE winners of the 'Tourism and Green Investment' Photo Contest marking the 2023 World Tourism Day will be awarded at the World Tourism Day Commemorative Event to be held on 27 September, according to the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Yangon Region).

The winners of the photo contest have already been announced.

"For the 'Tourism and Green Investment' photo contest commemorating the 2023 World Tourism Day, the photo experts have already selected the 15 winners of the contest. They will be awarded at the World Tourism Day Commemorative Event to be held on 27 September in Nay Pyi Taw," said U Nanda Aung, Director of the department.

The first prize in the photo contest goes to U Aung Myat Min for his stunning photo of the Maravijaya Buddha Image while the second prize to U Myint Than with the photo of offering alms at Dat Taw Taung and the third prize to U Kyaw Zar Min with the photo of sunrise at U Bein Bridge.

Another 15 consolation prize-winning photos are Gokteik Viaduct, December Flower Festival (PyinOoLwin), Phowintaung Cave, Yin Net ethnic people, Taw Kyal Waterfall, Naughkio Sea of Clouds, Pattupauk Village and ethnic people (Aungban), Zawka-bin Mountain and Kyaukalat, PyinOoLwin hot-air balloon festival, Meiktila pagoda festival, looms in countryside areas, Kamyawkin jetty (Dawei) and Bagan. — ASH/KTZH



People view the photos displayed at the 'Tourism and Green Investment' Photo Contest marking the 2023 World Tourism Day in Yangon.

Yadana Cave Festival held in Amarapura draws crowds



Crowds are seen at the Yadana Cave pagoda festival and Nat (deity) festival in Amarapura, Mandalay Region. **PHOTO: MAUNG AYE CHAN**

THE week-long Yadana Cave pagoda festival and Nat (deity) festival worshipping spirits held in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region, kicked off on 8 September and this fascinating festival showed arrays of stalls selling food, crafts, souvenirs, religious items and many more captivates pilgrims and those with animistic religious beliefs to worship spirits.

The last day of the festival falls on 14 September and alms will be offered to 150 monks, according to U Khin Maung Soe, secretary and a member of Yadana Cave Pagoda Board of Trustees.

"The pagoda was built in 745 ME by Inwa Mingyi Swar Saw Ke. The pagoda festival is an annual event. Nanmadaw Me Nu incorporated the Nat festival in it as a celebration of celestial beings. This year, the festival takes place as a tradition. What's unique about this year's event was the handover of appointments for the three Thoetaw Saung Queens (spirit mediums)," he elaborated.

Those who follow traditional beliefs come and enjoy the festival every year.

The pagoda and Nat festivals were derived from a welcoming ceremony for the

stopover of the Taungbyone Nat brothers en route to the Poppa Medaw shrine.

The festival is crowded with spirit worshippers and vendors selling Myanmar's traditional snacks, clothes and other goods.

The festival includes the opening ceremony of the pagoda festival, handing over of the certificate of appreciation for donations, a variety of Nat events and Poppa Medaw and other spirit mediums' assemblies on the 7th-9th waning of Wagaung. The closing event will be held at 8 pm on 14 September. — Maung Aye Chan/EM

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Low Pressure Area Condition

Issued at (19:00) hours MST on 13-9-2023

According to the observations sat 17:30 hrs MST today, the low pressure area over the Northwest Bay and adjoining Westcentral Bay of Bengal still persists, It is likely to become more marked and move across south Odisha coast (India) during next 36 hours.

NATIONAL

SAC member donates rice, oil to monasteries, Christian leaders in Bhamo



State Administration Council Member Daw Dwe Bu presents donations to members of the Sangha in Bhamo, Kachin State.

STATE Administration Council Member Daw Dwe Bu, accompanied by Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan and relevant officials, donated rice, oil and cash to monasteries and Christian leaders in Bhamo Township yesterday.

First, the SAC member and party paid homage to Township Sangha Nayaka committee Chairman Thiri Mingala KanU Monastery Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesava in Mignon ward and donated 15 bags of rice, five oil barrels and cash to the monks.

During the meeting with Christian leaders at the meeting hall of Mya Thida guesthouse, the SAC member highlighted the need for people's participation in

ensuring peace, stability and the rule of law, and the government's efforts in fulfilling the requirements in religious affairs.

Then, the SAC member and party provided 30 bags of rice, 10 oil barrels and cash to 10 religious organizations.

On 12 September, the SAC member met members of the Kachin ethnic literature and culture association who are also members of organizing committees for the opening of the Manaw ground, gateway, Manaw pole and new Manaw square.

At the meeting, the Bhamo-Kachin Ethnic Literature and Culture Association chairman reported on the requirements and the SAC member provided proper instructions. — MNA/KTZH

ICRC extends support to vulnerable communities with clothing and food aid

THE International Committee of the Red Cross-ICRC together with Red Cross societies from Myanmar, Sweden, Finland and Norway delivered foodstuffs plus clothing for 1,123 households in difficulty in Pakokku Township, Magway Region on 7 and 8 September, according to the Myanmar Red Cross Society of Mandalay Region.

The Red Cross Corps Deputy Commander U Aung Min Oo said along with the ICRC, Red Cross societies of Myanmar, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Norway donated food,

utensils, clothes and slippers to people of 1,123 households who are struggling to make a living in Kyweltae Village-tract and various quarters in Pakokku Township.

The donated items include household items, sanitary products, raincoats, blankets, mats, slippers, coats, masks, hand gel, sacks of rice and salt among others.

After the donation, a talk was given about the Red Cross. Red Cross staff and local Red Cross troops help distribute these relief items. — ASH/KZL



Local children are seen together with ICRC-donated relief items.

SAC member fulfils needs of religious organizations in Loikaw

RELIGIOUS leaders have to cooperate with each other in unison for tranquillity and stability of the nation, the rule of law, peace restoration, economic development of the State, enhancement of the capacity of youths and requirements of religions under the five-point roadmap and nine objectives of the State, said State Administration Council Member Porel Aung Thein at the meeting with members of the Interfaith Dialogue Group of Kayah State.

The SAC member invited proper suggestions from those religious leaders for peace and stability of the state at the meeting held at the Kayah State government office yesterday morning.

Kayah State Chief Minister U Zaw Myo Tin discussed public participation in restoring peace and stability of the state and aid for the Interfaith Dialogue Group of Myanmar.

The SAC member and officials presented cash assistance to 11 religious organizations which explained the



State Administration Council Member Porel Aung Thein presents cash assistance to 11 religious organizations.

undertakings of religious organizations' future plans and requirements.

Then, the state chief minister made supplementary remarks on the presentations by the leaders of the religious groups and the SAC member made suggestions to ensure coordination between them.

The SAC member and party viewed beautification tasks in Loikaw and Nawngya Lake. They also visited Thiri Mingala Central Market and viewed round trading of commodities.

In a meeting with shopkeepers, the chief minister explained assistance for the reopening of shops at the market and arrangements to stabilize commodity prices. The SAC member and party inspected the construction of market complexes and maintenance works.

On arrival at Thiri Mingala Hill (Taungkwe Pagoda), they inspected progress in the construction of Thiri Yadana Dhammayon and Abhaya Mudra Gandakuti Chamber. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

SAC member meets Paletwa officials, elders and business associations

STATE Administration Council Member Dr Hmu Htan, together with Chin State Chief Minister Dr Wong Hsum Htan, the state minister for Security and Border Affairs, directors-general, and state-level departmental officials met the district, and township-level departmental personnel, ward administrators, town elders, business people at the Kimo Hall of Paletwa Township General Administration Department on 12 September.

At the meeting, the SAC member highlighted the main requirement for the peace and stability of the region, concerted efforts of the government to strengthen the genuine and disciplined multiparty democracy system and to build a Union based on the federal system, the importance of Union spirit and friendly co-existence among each other, good potential for



State Administration Council Member Dr Hmu Htan meets officials, town elders and businesspersons from Paletwa District on 12 September 2023 for enhancing education, transport and local development.

agriculture and livestock breeding in Paletwa district and efforts to ensure regional food security.

Then, the Chin State chief minister said that Paletwa district is the most populous district among the six districts of Chin State. It boasts the highest percentage of basic education

schools opening in the region and an industrial, agricultural and livestock breeding high school was opened successfully. Knowledge is considered a fundamental asset that allows people to improve their socioeconomic status. Therefore, there should be formal education and alternative education.

The Paletwa District Administration Body acting chairperson and town elders reported on facts about the region and requirements to be fulfilled for the upgrade of Paletwa Township Hospital (100-bed), recruitment of doctors, power line connection to the national grid, sub-power station construction, ferry operation for Kyauktaw-Paletwa on every other day among others.

Then, the SAC member and officials presented gifts to town elders. — Chin State (IPRD)/KTZH

SAC members visit industrial zone of Lashio Township



Members of the State Administration Council, U Shwe Kyein and U Yan Kyaw visit “Wa” Baptist Church yesterday.

MEMBERS of the State Administration Council U Shwe Kyein and U Yan Kyaw, together with officials, inspected the land earmarked for the industrial zone in Khayhnin Village, Lashio Township, Shan State (North) yesterday morning.

SAC members went to the Lashio Nursing and Midwifery Training School, met with the trainees, gave encouragement, and presented cash for the Nursing and Midwifery Training School, which was received by the principal of the school.

Then, they proceeded to

the children’s and women’s wards of the Lashio General Hospital and gave nutritious food to residents including children receiving medical treatment and presented cash for the hospital.

Later, they visited Ashayt Khayo Pariyatti Monastery in Lashio and presented donations to the Presiding Sayadaw.

Finally, they visited at the “Wa” Baptist Church and presented cash for the Church which was received by the church’s reverend pastor U Kyaw Naing Win. — MNA/KZL



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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 454237515
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

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

NATIONAL

Myanmar delegation
heads to China for Food
Safety Conference,
China-ASEAN Expo

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung led a Myanmar delegation that departed from Yangon for China yesterday. The delegation is set to participate in the Import and Export Food Safety Cooperation Conference and the China-ASEAN Expo in China's Guangxi Autonomous Region. These events are part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and will take place in Nanning.

The Myanmar delegation, led by the Union minister and including the directors-general from the Department of planning and Livestock Breeding & Veterinary Department, along with representatives from other member countries, will attend the cooperation conference focusing on import and export food safety for countries included in BRI. Additionally, they will participate in the China-ASEAN trade



Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung leaves for China yesterday to attend the Import and Export Food Safety Cooperation Conference and the China-ASEAN Expo.

fair from 14 to 17 September.

A key highlight of the conference will be the signing of the Agreement on the Application

of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement). This agreement pertains to the export of fishery products

and farmed aquatic products to China, especially, those sourced from Myanmar's natural water. — MNA/TS

MoH UM leaves for 7th China-ASEAN
Traditional Medicine Cooperation Summit



Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win and his party pose for group photo before departing Yangon for China yesterday.

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Health Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win left Yangon for the People's Republic of China yesterday morning to attend the 7th Sino-ASEAN Traditional Medicine and Pharmaceutical Development Cooperation Summit to be held in Fanchenggang, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the People's Republic of China and a study programme for the Centre for infectious Disease Prevention and Control to be held in Nanjing, Jiangsu. — MNA/KZW

MoIP UM receives
Nepalese ambassador to
Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing received Nepalese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Harishchandra Ghimire and party in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They discussed the Myanmar-Nepal friendly relations, the exchange of visits between the people of the two countries and rescue and repatriation of Nepalese victims of human trafficking. — MNA/KZW



Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing receives Nepalese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Harishchandra Ghimire in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Electric vehicles arrive at 105th-mile Muse trade zone

GEELY Geometry E electric vehicles EVs imported by Premier Automotive Co Ltd with the approval of the Steering Committee on National-Level

Development of Electric Vehicles and Related Industries arrived at the 105th-mile Muse trade zone yesterday. These vehicles were al-

lowed to be claimed in line with required procedures and the import of these vehicles is exempted from Customs duties. — MNA/MKKS



COVID-19 report, 14 September 2023

NEW TESTS	5,517
NEW CASES	2
CASUALTIES	0

CURRENT
AFFAIRS

Palm oil distributed to nationwide retailers at wholesale reference rates



A cheerful woman is seen at a mobile shop where palm oil is sold at a fairer price.

PALM oil is being distributed to sellers across various townships in the country at a wholesale reference rate, allowing them to offer it at a retail reference rate.

During August, there was an increase in palm oil sales to consumers at the retail reference rate in the Yangon oil market. For instance, on 13

September, palm oil was sold at a retail reference price of K4,750 per viss on Mahabandula Road (near Phonegyi Road) in Lanmadaw Township. Daw Aye Myint, a resident of Lanmadaw Township, mentioned that there were long queues of people eager to purchase the oil.

Residents living near the

oil shops reported that people had started lining up to buy oil as early as 5 am in front of some oil shops in Lanmadaw Township. From 11 to 17 September, the palm oil index price stood at K4,524 per viss, representing an increase of K364 compared to the previous week.

According to the latest price calculation notice, the CIF (Cost, Insurance, and Freight) price for one tonne of palm oil at Yangon port is US\$969, with an average exchange rate of K2,513. The base price for one viss is K4,437. In Yangon, reference palm oil was sold at K4,400 per viss last week, but this week it is being sold at K4,750.

It's worth noting that 12,000 tonnes of oil arrived from abroad in the first week of September. U Myint Lwin, an oil trader in the Myingyan district township, informed GNLM that the new reference price in the villages for this week in September was K4,910 per viss.

— TWA/KZW

MoFA recruiting trainees for basic diplomacy course 44/2023

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs is reportedly recruiting trainees for the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills. Trainees are being invited to apply for Course Number 44/2023, which will take place at the MoFA (Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon). The course will last for 12 weeks, from 16 October 2023 to 5 January, 2024 and will be conducted on working days.

The course will be hosted at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon) with 50 trainees in each location. Selection will be based on personal interviews and screenings.

Those interested in at-

tending the course can submit their applications at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon) during office hours from 4 to 15 September, along with the required documents.

The course will cover subjects related to diplomacy, international relations, international law, business, and general knowledge. These subjects will be taught by retired ambassadors, seasoned diplomats, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and various ministries, experts, and university professors, through a combination of academic and practical teaching. — TWA/CT



The opening ceremony of the Course in Diplomacy 42/2019.

El Nino may affect export of crops says Union Commerce Minister

THE Union Minister for Commerce said during the coordination meeting on increasing crop production on 12 September that due to the possibility of El Nino weather, it is necessary to prepare the conditions for the self-sufficiency of crops and the ability to export them.

First of all, he stated that this year is likely to be the strongest El Nino, and the world's meteorologists have predicted that southern ASEAN countries will be mainly affected, and Myanmar is also the target.

He pointed out that many other countries are in a position to be able to buy and collect crops, and he wants associations to constantly study the market situation and cooperate for the benefit of all.

The Union minister added



A farmer views the condition of the bean plantation.

that the farmers are requested to send a report once every two weeks to the relevant departments on the ground conditions

of the production of crops and the ability to export them.

He remarked that entrepreneurs need to know the market

situation and provide support methods and suggestions, not only the desire to make a profit in exporting but also the stability

of the market and trade to maintain international friendship.

UMFCCI President U Aye Win said that it is important to achieve balanced interests through negotiation.

Concerning the El Nino phenomenon occurring in the Pacific Ocean, a strong El Nino condition may be reached in September, and rainfall patterns will be abnormal resulting in high temperatures and storms according to the forecast of the International Meteorological Centre.

Afterwards, U Tun Lwin, chairman of Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association, presented and discussed the status of the Phytosanitary Certificate applications submitted by the export companies to the Plant Protection Division. — TWA/KZL

LOCAL BUSINESS

Entrepreneurs advocate for fisheries hub establishment in Myeik Taninthayi Region to boost revenue

BUSINESSPERSONS pointed out the need to develop the International Fish Auction Market in Myeik in order to raise revenue.

The Fish Auction Market in Myeik, Taninthayi Region, was opened more than 20 years ago, to create a major fish market in Myanmar. However, it failed to be reconstructed under the previous administrations. Lack of an international fish market might render revenue loss of over US\$30 billion for the State, a businessperson said.

“Taninthayi coastal region is the main seafood supplier to Ranong, Thailand. The seafood is

sent to the Mahachai market, the fisheries hub of Thailand with over 6,000 factories and workplaces and the market runs operations with Myanmar migrant workers and Myanmar’s fisheries. It is a loss of human capital and foreign currency earnings. I would like to request the authorities to consider this project to protect this great opportunity,” MD Daw Htay Htay Win of Myeik Fish Auction Market.

“We like to return the fish market to our home country. Developing the fish auction market is to create a big market, encourage the SMEs engaged in fisher-



The photo shows trading activities of the fish auction market in Myeik on 9 September. **PHOTO: MYINT OO (MYEIK)**

ies business, receive the revenue for the State and make a sus-

tainable investment for future generations,” she emphasized.

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) gave the green light to bring in capital of US\$70 million in the fish market.

“Our fish auction market covers over 100 acres and there is sufficient land for the construction of cold storage facilities, and jetties. There is already a jetty, fish market, and one-stop-service office complex in Myeik,” she added.

If Intl’ Fish Auction Market is developed rather than many small auctions, it will bring about a positive impact on the country and in various sectors, locals shared opinions. — Myint Oo/EM

Grapevine farming in NyaungU Township thriving



Grapevine with grapes in vineyards are seen in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region. **PHOTO: DIPALIN**

GRAPEVINE farming is prospering in Nyaung U Township, Mandalay Region, with high yield. The growers are expecting a good price at the harvest time, U Aye Ko who farms grape vines on an-acre and a half said.

There is no local origin and over 40 foreign origins are cultivated. They can be grown everywhere with an abundant irrigation supply. The climate-resilient grape varieties are chosen in the regions for a trial run. Ko Min Set Paing from Yamethin elaborated on how he shares know-how of grape vine faring methods regarding lucrative grape varieties.

A farm owner said I contacted him to start cultivating grapes of Italy origin No 3. I bought one grape seedling for K2,000, including delivery fee to the farm. The plant spacing is six feet. Bud-dings occur in ten months. About

five vissees of grapes can be harvested per plant for the first time. Three to five-year-old grape vine can produce about 15-20 vissees, a farmer who starts grape farming expressed his expectation for a high price.

The grapevines are perennial plants from 20-30 years. It can be harvested every four months. During the budding time, adequate irrigation is required. Grapes should be harvested when it is ripe. There are about 10 farmers who commenced the grapevine farming. The prices vary depending on the producing areas and grape varieties. Black Queen and Italy grape varieties are seen in Latpanchaypaw and Thittaung village-tracts in the township. The yield is pretty good in the first year so growers hope for good price. — Dipalin/EM

Myeik farmers eye investors for unrefined, refined palm oil plants

OIL palm farmers in Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region, are looking for investors to invest in unrefined and refined palm oil plants in the area, as they have to sell palm fruit bunches to factories such South Dagon Crude Palm Oil Mill in Bokpyin Township currently with expensive transport costs.

“If we have unrefined and refined palm oil plants in Myeik district, oil palm farmers will earn more profit as they can send palm fruit bunches to factories that produce crude palm oil with minimum loss and cost. And they can also focus more on boosting the yearly yield of the

fruit,” said an oil palm farmer in Myeik Township.

A total of 39 companies and nearly 40 individuals in the Taninthayi Region have invested in oil palm plantation and most of them sell their produce to crude palm oil plants in Bokpyin and Kawthoung districts with the prices of nearly K330,000 per tonne of palm fruit bunches. The farmers face losses as well as expensive transport costs on their way to sell their produce.

Taninthayi Region naturally provides farmers with a fertile ecosystem for oil palm plantations, attracting local and overseas investors to invest in

the plantation. Oil palm has been grown in the Region for more than 30 years, bringing the current total plantation in the region to some 400,000 acres.

In the Taninthayi Region, six plants produce crude palm oil — one each in Dawei and Myeik districts, and two each in Bokpyin and Kawthoung districts, according to the Department of Agriculture.

Taninthayi Region is proven to be the most fertile region in the country to grow oil palm and the farmers wish to have refinery plants that produce edible palm oil in their region. — Myint Oo (Myeik)/TH



An aerial view catches thriving oil palm plants in Taninthayi Region. **PHOTO: MYINT OO (MYEIK)**

OPINION

Elevating reading to build a lifelong reserve of knowledge

THE act of reading serves as a lifelong journey of knowledge accumulation, encompassing a vast array of subjects, from the intricacies of human nature to the mysteries of the natural world. From early childhood through adulthood, individuals must embark on this educational voyage to secure a successful life.

Reading hinges on the desire to amass knowledge nurtured through the process of learning, particularly within the structured framework of school education. Schools play a pivotal role in igniting the skills of reading, writing, and arithmetic, setting children on a path to expand their horizons. Without the guidance of teachers, the foundation for reading, writing, and calculation remains elusive. Teachers impart the skills needed to decode written words, communicate ideas effectively, and perform essential

There are no temporal or thematic constraints on reading, but individuals must choose books and subjects commensurate with their cognitive abilities to foster intellectual growth and mature critical thinking. In today's digital age, access to a plethora of reading materials is at our fingertips via social media, yet the number of dedicated readers who still hold physical books is dwindling.

act of reading diverse subjects can lead to incredible experiences. There are no temporal or thematic constraints on reading, but individuals must choose books and subjects commensurate with their cognitive abilities to foster intellectual growth and mature critical thinking. In today's digital age, access to a plethora of reading materials is at our fingertips via social media, yet the number of dedicated readers who still hold physical books is dwindling. A segment of the population still values the tangible experience of reading hardcover books, eschewing digital platforms. This group finds solace in the world of literature through printed pages rather than screens. It is imperative for everyone to recognize the manifold benefits of reading and make informed choices about the literature that best complements their reading habits. In the end, reading is a journey of knowledge, a lifelong quest that enriches our lives and empowers us to contribute meaningfully to the world.

mathematical computations, laying the groundwork for a lifetime of learning. Engaging in regular reading can lead to physiological benefits as well. It has the remarkable ability to lower heart rate and alleviate muscle tension. Proficient readers tend to approach life's challenges with maturity, displaying enhanced cognitive development and robust critical thinking abilities. They navigate difficulties with confidence and make informed decisions, embodying a noble spirit characterized by empathy, effective communication, and the ability to create conducive environments.

Noteworthy figures like Warren Buffett, the iconic business magnate, and Bill Gates, the tech visionary, are avid readers. Buffett delves into more than 500 pages of books daily, while Gates consumes over 50 books each year. Research suggests that a mere six minutes of reading can reduce stress levels by a staggering 68 per cent. The

IN A world where technology continues to push the boundaries of creativity, the realm of music composition and production stands at the precipice of a remarkable transformation. Imagine a future where machines not only assist but actively collaborate with musicians, pushing the boundaries of musical expression beyond anything we've ever witnessed. As we delve into the exciting possibilities that one of the currently popular technologies called AI brings to the world of music, we uncover a symphony of innovation, creativity, and the tantalizing promise of an entirely new era in musical artistry. Welcome to the future of music creation in the age of AI, where the harmonious fusion of man and machine awaits exploration.

AI, short for Artificial Intelligence, is a computer simulation of human intelligence. As Phil Tee, CEO of AIOps company Moogsoft highlights, we already use it in our daily lives. "You have AI on every device you own, from your Apple watch to your smartphone."

Truth is, for many years, the music industry has put AI to use. Ever asked a smart speaker to play a song? Or ever streamed Spotify's new DJ AI, which plays music catered to your exact taste? This is AI at work.

So maybe Terminator II was catastrophizing AI in true Hollywood fashion. Tee continues: "The truth is very mundane. It has absolutely no self-awareness or intent, it's no more malicious than the car in your garage. And, at the end of the day, every computer has an off switch!" **Technology drives musical innovation**

So, in the words of an AI expert, there's nothing to fear just yet. What's more, we need to remember that technology in music is nothing new. In fact, the past has looked kindly at the early innovators.

Born out of Birmingham in 1963, the Mellotron was one of the first mass-produced sampled keyboards. The Beatles adopted the revolutionary sound in no time. A mere four years later, in 1967, the whimsical, dreamy tones were prominent on "Strawberry Fields Forever", a song that helped to spearhead a psychedelic movement.

Talking of The Beatles, music writer Rob Bowman said



(Top) McCartney on the electric piano 1965; Kraftwerk on stage 2013; (Below) A smart speaker

PHOTO: READER'S DIGEST JULY 2023

"One of the two most influential bands in the history of postwar popular music" alongside the Fab Four was Kraftwerk — a band who embraced a full electric soundscape, changing the course of pop music forever.

Multi-platinum-selling music Producer TommyD is open to AI and believes it's the next step in the ongoing relationship between tech and music. "Electric guitars have been on sale for nearly 100 years, but not everyone is Jimi Hendrix. When the hard disk recording came in, I told all my engineer mates to buy systems or get left behind. Those who did are still in the business, those that didn't are selling insurance. Learn to use the tech or get left behind," he states.

AI to the rescue

Is it high time for musicians to consider the benefits of AI? Above all, the latest tech boom could offer a helping hand for time-consuming tasks. There's so much more than music-making needed to get your name heard. Crafting social media content to keep an online persona is a job in its own right — not forgetting the creation of music videos, artwork, and gig posters thrown onto the to-do list. With streaming royalty rates too low to supply vital funds, the money isn't available to outsource the workload. Perhaps it's time to lean on AI to help. Truth is, AI can complete these tasks in seconds. This should appeal to musicians who can then concentrate on what's most important: the music.

When probed on the use of AI in music, Tee cited plagia-



The Future of Music Creation In the Age of AI

By Yin Nwe Ko

rism as a key area. "ChatGPT is already very good at spotting when two pieces of text are the same or from the same author and it is a short step to do the same in music."

Songwriters are no strangers to lawsuits. Even one of the world's most streamed artists, Taylor Swift, found herself embroiled in a dispute over lyrics at the turn of the year. Writers Sean Hall and Nate Butler brought the case to the court having written the 3LW song "Playas Gon' Play" containing the lyrics "Playas, they gonna play And haters, they gonna hate." Sound familiar?

Swift denied lifting lyrics for her smash hit "Shake It Off". That could well be the case. It's impossible for a songwriter to know the lyrics of every song ever written. With that in mind, there's a chance of imitating phrases unknowingly when scribbling ideas in the studio. A plagiarism-detecting tool could become a vital part of a songwriter's arsenal. It would make

sure new tracks are original, plus prevent legal fees and stress from future lawsuits. If the tool

could alert plagiarized melodies, songwriters would embrace AI.

Overstepping the lines?

Speaking of lyrics, they're resistant to generative AI, right? Well, it turns out not. AI can write lyrics. We prompted ChatGPT to "write me song lyrics about lost love in the style of Leonard Cohen."

Reams of original lyrics rolled down the screen in a matter of seconds. Verses, choruses, an outro, the whole nine yards. Evidently, AI can write lyrics. Moreover, write lyrics in a similar vein to one of the world's favourite songwriters. Here's a sample of the results...

"I met her in the autumn
With leaves of gold and red
Her eyes were like the ocean
Her hair, a crown on her head
I try to fill the void
With cheap whiskey and cigarettes
But nothing can replace
The love I can't forget"

Songwriters use words to release their own emotions. When heartbroken, they'll write about their vulnerabilities and pain.

Once on record or played live, it's an insightful glimpse into their soul. The listener who shares the same sentiments takes solace, and that's one of the many beauties of music. The purity of human connection. But if AI writes the lyrics, then surely that's at risk. Furthermore, as AI becomes wiser, it'll become harder to distinguish words that come from human emotion or not.

It's a concern that resonates with Leon Luis, owner of Altar-Boy Music Publishing. "It's a loss of humanity. Songwriting is spiritual. You put pen to paper and write what the world tells you. You need heartbreak before you can write a song about lost love. You can't substitute human experience with code."

The rise of the deep fake

Artificial lyrics are the tip of the iceberg. In February this year, The (Not So) Real Slim Shady featured on a song with DJ David Guetta in front of thousands of ravers. As punters danced and rejoiced at hearing the new collaboration, most were unaware it wasn't Eminem at all.

Having asked AI to write a verse in the style of Eminem, Guetta then put those lyrics into another generative AI program to recreate the voice. The result was a close likeness, indistinguishable to most. Now, the floodgates are open and AI can rap and sing in the style of your favourite artists.

Later, an AI duet featuring Drake and The Weeknd landed on streaming platforms. It soon went viral, rattling the music industry at the same time. Drake, the golden goose of the Universal record label, had been cloned. Universal responded by banning the song off Spotify and others. A statement by the label called the song "a breach of our agreements and a violation of copyright law."

It's not only the digitized pop genre that has fallen victim to AI deep fakery. A set of songs by AIsis, an AI Oasis, complete with fake Liam Gallagher, took the internet by storm in late April. It poses an enormous question about copyright. Luis, who deals with music law, had this to say: "With AI, we're in completely uncharted territory. We're talking Wild West. Like Arizona in the 1880s during the Gold Rush."

AI has stepped into murky, dangerous waters. It's safe to say, that Universal has nailed its colours to its mast when it comes to AI deep fakes. Their statement continued with defiant wording. "Which side of history [do] all stakeholders in the music ecosystem want to be on? The side of artists, fans, and human creative expression, or on the side of deep fakes, fraud, and denying artists their due compensation?"

The death of the songwriter?

When doomsday merchants warned of an AI influx, we thought the creatives would be the last to fall. But the warning signs are there. The sophisticated nature of modern AI has the potential to take the job of songwriters.

Yet, as it stands, even AI has its limitations. Phil Tee concludes, "For all the hype surrounding ChatGPT and AI, what it is incapable of is novelty. Having the sum total of all knowledge and an excellent pattern repetition algorithm just condemns you to repeat the past. We may have a more efficient production process for music ... but making

the next Bob Dylan or predicting the 'Whispering Grass' hit is a long stretch."

With no law to abide by, the next few months will determine the future of AI in music. Questions loom over the intellectual property of AI-written lyrics while, for all intents and purposes, deep fake AI tracks appear to be on the wrong side of the law.

Moves are being made to protect the songwriter. The Human Artistry Campaign is a petition calling for the responsible use of AI in music. It has the support of powerful organizations in music and sets out seven principles where AI and human creativity can live side by side. Because, let's face it, while AI has its place in the music industry, in the wrong hands, it can do damage.

I guess we need to hear from one more "person" in this conversation. Over to you ChatGPT...

"No, AI will not destroy music making. While AI technology has advanced significantly in recent years, it is still not capable of replicating the full range of human creativity."

Maybe it's not quite "hasta la vista" for the songwriter after all.

In brief, the future of music creation in the age of AI is undoubtedly a fascinating and evolving landscape. While AI brings unprecedented tools to assist musicians and streamline certain aspects of the creative process, it also raises complex questions about creativity, authenticity, and the role of the human artist. As we navigate this uncharted territory, it's clear that AI won't spell the end of music making but rather challenge us to define the boundaries between man and machine, reminding us that the heart and soul of music will forever remain uniquely human. So, as we continue to harness the power of AI to unlock new musical possibilities, let's ensure that we do so responsibly, preserving the magic of genuine human expression in every note, lyric, and melody we create. The future may be AI-enhanced, but the heartbeat of music will always belong to us, the creators and dreamers.

Reference: Reader's Digest July 2023



CRIME NEWS

Confiscation of illegal teak, crude oil, livestock, jade, foodstuffs, industrial materials, consumer goods

A combined on-duty team made inspections on 11 September and confiscated a Toyota Voxy vehicle (approximately worth K20 million) carrying 170 gallons of crude oil worth about K510.000 without official documents and two Fuso trucks (approximately worth K50 million) carrying 24 illegal oxen worth about 13.25 million near Laypin village in Minbu (Saku) township. The action was taken under the Public Property Protection Law and the Essential Supplies and Services Law.

Two unregistered Honda Fit cars (estimated value of K28 million) were captured near the Letpanhla-Singu combined checkpoint on 11 September and the action was taken under Customs procedures.

The Customs on-duty teams conducted inspections on 11 September and nabbed two kinds of goods worth about K51.96 million, including 8734.56 kilogrammes of Salty soya-bean sauce and 1674.35 kilogrammes of Happy Kid-Lysine that ex-



Forest wardens measure the confiscated illegal timbers in Bago Region on 12 September 2023.



ceeded the quantity mentioned in the Import Declaration (ID) from seven containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint, a Mitsubishi Canter vehicle (estimated value of K25 million), headed to Bago from Mawlamyine, carrying two kinds of goods worth K8.1 million, including 1,200 litres of Crown Head pure milk without official documents, and a vehicle that was made by Myanmar Yangon Industri-

al Zone (approximately worth 30 million), headed to Yangon from Myawady, carrying two kinds of goods worth about K5 million, including 300 sets of OTTO ceramic toilet com-mo-de that exceeded the quan-tity mentioned in the ID, at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint and a Cham truck (estimated value of K25 million) that was parked near the Mile-post 93/3 on Yangon-Mawlamyine Pyidaungsu road carrying

5,500 kilogrammes of cut pieces of stone (supposed to be jade) worth K110 million. The action was taken under Customs pro-cedures.

Similarly, a combined team impounded two kinds of goods worth K3.6 million, including 60 Kashiwa electric red pans without official documents, from a vehicle travelling from Myawady to Yangon at the Ka-wkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint on the same day.

The action was taken under Customs procedures.

A total of 7.1870 tonnes of illegal teak worth K3,703,260 was seized in Bago and Toun-goo districts on 12 September. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

A total of 13 arrests were made on 11 and 12 Septem-ber, with an estimated value of K374,144,311, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steer-ing Committee. — MNA/MKKS



Suspected drug traffickers are seen along with seized stimulant tablets.



Insein Township seizes stimulant tablets valued at K900 mln

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Police Force, a total of K99 million worth of stimulant tablets were captured in Insein town-ship.

Acting on a tip-off, a com-bined team consisting of mem-bers of the Anti-Drug Police Force arrested Soe Lwin (aka)

Nuyuk and Chit Win Ko Ko (aka) Nay Zar with a total of 9 million stimulant tablets worth K900 million on Yangon-Pyay Road in Sawbwagyigon ward in Insein township at 6:30 on 12 September.

After interrogating them, the police also arrested Ma Nan

Sin Lyan, who is the trafficker of seized drugs, at the Ocean shopping mall in Tamway town-ship.

The police have taken legal action against the offenders and an investigation is underway to identify the perpetrators of the crime chain. — MNA/MKKS

Over K470 mln worth of heroin blocks captured in Pinlaung

OVER K470 million worth of 90 heroin blocks weighing 31.5 kilo-grammes was captured in Pin-laung township in Shan State, the Myanmar Police Force stated.

Acting on a tip-off, a com-bined team consisting of mem-bers of the Anti-Narcotics Task Force searched a Surf driven by Saw Htay Oo headed to Tatkon from Pinlaung on Pinlaung-Tat-

kon road in Pinlaung township at noon on 30 August.

The offender admitted the seized drugs were to be carried from Shan State to Kayin State.

The police have taken legal action against the offender and an investigation is underway to identify the perpetrators of the crime chain. — MNA/MKKS



An arrestee is pictured together with confiscated heroin blocks and a vehicle in Pinlaung, Shan State.

Billionaire US collectors to return ancient artefacts to Cambodia

These artefacts, many of which are believed to date back to the Khmer Empire, were looted during years of civil war and the Khmer Rouge rule in Cambodia.

A billionaire family in the United States will return more than 30 looted ancient artefacts to Cambodia after agreeing it “wrongfully possessed” the treasures, the Cambodian government said Wednesday.

Years of civil war followed by the genocidal Khmer Rouge rule saw historical sites looted

with near-impunity in Cambodia, which is famed for its Angkor Wat temple complex.

Many of the pieces are thought to date back to the Khmer Empire, a once-mighty dynasty that sprawled across much of modern-day Cambodia, Thailand, Viet Nam and Laos between the ninth and 15th centuries.

A trove of stolen artefacts has been sent back to Cambodia in recent years from Western museums and private collectors.

Now, 33 items from the Lindemann private collection will be “voluntarily” returned to Cambodia, its ministry of arts and culture said Wednesday.

The move “sets an excellent and proper example for other museums and private collectors... to follow and return our national treasures,” Minister of Culture and Fine Arts Phoeurng Sackona said.

The government did not say when the items will arrive in Cambodia. — AFP



Skanda on a Peacock is among the works. **PHOTO: US ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK/AFP/FILE**

Venice gives green light to ticket ‘experiment’ for tourists



This decision comes in response to concerns about the negative impacts of mass tourism. A view of the Arsenal in Venice's Sestiere di Castello district, Italy, 29 July 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

VENICE officials agreed Tuesday to test a fee on day tourists to the overcrowded historic centre, weeks after UNESCO warned it could list the city as an at-risk world heritage site.

The Venice city council voted in favour of a limited test, to begin next spring, of a long-debated ticketing system that critics say will nevertheless do little to stem the hordes of tourists who descend each year.

Day visitors will face a five euro (\$5.40) charge for entry into the historic centre.

Authorities have debated

for years -- without taking concrete action -- over how best to regulate the millions of visitors to the famous watery city, who come anxious to see sights including St Mark's Square, the Rialto Bridge and its countless picturesque canals.

But the ticketing plan has been repeatedly postponed over concerns it will seriously dent tourist revenue and compromise freedom of movement.

UNESCO, the cultural arm of the United Nations, warned in July that Venice risked “irreversible” dam-

age due to a string of issues ranging from mass tourism to climate change, and recommended it be put on its endangered list.

“It's a first step,” said Mayor Luigi Brugnaro, who engaged in a shouting match with a crowd of a few dozen people in the council chambers ahead of the vote, calling them “violent and fascist”.

His administration -- which he said had shown “courage and practicality” -- agreed last week to what he described as an “experiment”.

— AFP

France goes (a bit) veggie for Olympics

WITH France slowly weaning itself off its traditional obsession with meat, the top chefs in charge of feeding the sporting masses at the 2024 Olympic Games are emphasizing a more vegetarian approach.

Michelin-starred chef Akrame Benallal serves plenty of steaks, burgers and other meat in his restaurants, but his flagship dish for the Games will be muesli with quinoa.

“When there are 40,000 meals per day, I don't want anyone to be let down. I want people who eat kosher to eat with me, people who eat halal, the Christians and Buddhists too,” he said.

“It's vegetables that unite everyone,” he added.

He is one of three award-winning chefs overseeing the French food for the 15,000 athletes of the Olympic Village

next summer.

Another is Alexandre Mazzia, a former professional basketball player, who is offering recipes based around chickpeas, peas and smoked beetroot, and smoked fish with chard.

They are working with a big food group, Sodexo Live!, that is running the restaurants and has made it a key objective to reduce the carbon footprint of its menu and use less animal protein.

It claims that a third of the protein across its 500 dishes will come from vegetables, and one of its signature dishes will be a dal of green lentils from the Paris region with skyr (a type of yoghurt), coriander and corn oil.

French people on average consume 113 kilos of meat annually -- more than most European countries and almost double the global average -- according to Our World in Data. — AFP



This shift reflects changing dietary trends and a commitment to inclusivity in Olympic Village dining. Hélène Defrance (centre) won a bronze medal in Rio and is now a nutritionist working on the Paris Olympics. **PHOTO: WILLIAM WEST / AFP/FILE**

ECONOMY
WORLD

Saudi, Russian oil cuts to cause big supply shortfall: IEA

The collaboration between Saudi Arabia and Russia is seen as a significant challenge for oil markets, and these supply cuts were extended in an effort to stabilize oil prices that had previously fallen after Ukraine war.

OIL cuts by Saudi Arabia and Russia will cause a “significant” global supply shortfall through the end of the year, raising the risk of further market volatility, the International Energy Agency said Wednesday.

The warning in the IEA’s monthly market report comes a day after oil prices jumped following OPEC’s own update showed that the gap between global supply and demand would be the widest since 2007.

“The Saudi-Russian alliance is proving a formidable challenge for oil markets,” the IEA said.

Oil prices had been slumping in recent months after surging following Ukraine war last year.

In an effort to prop up prices, Saudi Arabia and Russia, its ally in the wider OPEC+ group, announced earlier this month that they would extend voluntary cuts until the end of the year.

“From September onwards,



In an effort to prop up prices, Saudi Arabia and Russia announced earlier this month that they would extend voluntary cuts until the end of the year. **PHOTO: SAUDI ARAMCO/AFP/FILE**

the loss of OPEC+ production, led by Saudi Arabia, will drive a significant supply shortfall through the fourth quarter,” the

Paris-based IEA said.

“Oil stocks will be at uncomfortably low levels, increasing the risk of another surge in vola-

tility that would be in the interest of neither producers nor consumers, given the fragile economic environment,” it added.

Saudi Arabia has extended an oil production cut of one million barrels per day, which began in July, to the end of the year.

Russia has decided to prolong a reduction in exports of 300,000 bpd over the same period.

Oil prices have been rising in recent days, raising fears that they will push inflation higher and prompt central banks to keep interest rates higher for longer, which could in turn push economies into recession.

‘Substantial’ deficit locked in

Last week, the price of Brent North Sea crude, the international benchmark, rose above \$90 per barrel for the first time since November 2022.

The IEA said world oil demand remains on track to grow by 2.2 million bpd to 101.8 million bpd this year, partly due to resurgent Chinese consumption and jet fuel. — AFP

EU seeks ‘fair and just’ green transition

THE EU aims for a “fair and just transition” to a carbon-neutral future, balancing the climate change fight with the concerns of business and farmers, European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen said Wednesday.

In her annual State of the Union speech to the European Parliament, she said she was “convinced that agriculture and protection of the natural world can go hand in hand — we need both”.

She also railed against “heavily subsidised Chinese competitors” that were squeezing European companies in the clean-energy sector, emphasising that “fairness in the global economy is so important”.

In a fightback, she said Brussels would ensure a “fast-track” of permits for wind power installations.

And she said it would engage farmers in dialogue on the changes in store. — AFP



Brussels would make it quicker to get permits for wind power projects. **PHOTO: AFP**

High costs push home ownership out of reach of younger Americans

WHEN Jennie Luhmann started searching for her family’s “forever home”, she found herself in a perfect storm — few properties were available, buyers were making all-cash offers and interest rates were climbing.

Outbid by others and pressured by soaring mortgage rates, Luhmann and her husband decided to rent, before temporarily moving into her mother’s house.

The 37-year-old is not alone.

Homeownership feels increasingly out of reach for younger generations of Americans, who are squeezed by student debt and childcare costs in an era of slower economic growth.

The pressures come as President Joe Biden struggles to tackle negative sentiment about his handling of the economy, as he campaigns for



Prospective home buyers leave a property for sale in Clarksburg, Maryland on 3 September 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

re-election.

The Biden administration has sought to narrow America’s housing shortfall, in part by lowering barriers to building, but it is not a quick solution.

Millennials, born between the early 1980s to late 1990s, formed the biggest share of homebuyers between 2014 and

2022 according to the National Association of Realtors (NAR).

But they lost the position this year to baby boomers, who can fork out cash for their home purchase.

NAR’s Jessica Lautz highlighted that there’s a severe shortage of affordable housing inventory, which is challenging for millennials. — AFP

France orders Apple iPhone 12 sales halted over radiation

FRENCH regulators on Tuesday ordered Apple to halt sales of the iPhone 12 for emitting too much electromagnetic radiation, and to fix existing handsets. The French agency that regulates radio frequencies, the ANFR, said testing found that the model emits more electromagnetic waves susceptible to be absorbed by the body than permitted.

The ANFR said it “ordered Apple to remove the iPhone 12 from the French market from 12 September due to the model exceeding the limit” for electromagnetic ab-

sorption by the body.

It said accredited labs had found absorption of electromagnetic energy by the body at 5.74 watts per kilogramme during tests simulating when the phone was being held in the hand or kept in a pocket.

The European standard is a specific absorption rate of 4.0 watts per kilogramme in such tests. “Concerning phones already sold, Apple must in the briefest of delays take corrective measures to bring the affected phones into compliance,” said the ANFR in a statement on its website. — AFP

Zara owner Inditex posts record first-half profit

ZARA owner Inditex reported a record net profit in the first half of 2023 on Wednesday due to strong sales as the world’s biggest fashion retailer raised prices. The Spanish group posted a net profit of 2.51 billion euros (\$2.7 billion) in the first six months to 31 July, beating its previous record of 1.79 billion euros in the same period a year earlier.

This result was higher than the 2.42 billion euros predicted by analysts from financial analysts at FactSet. Inditex attributed this momentum to the strong growth in sales, which reached 16.85 billion euros, 13.5 per cent higher than in the same period a year earlier, demonstrating “very



Inditex, the owner of Zara and the world’s largest fashion retailer, achieved a record net profit of 2.51 billion euros (\$2.7 billion) in the first half of 2023. PHOTO: AFP

satisfactory development both in stores and online”. Its pre-tax earnings (EBITDA) rose by 15.7 per cent to 4.66 billion euros, the company said. In a complicated global context, the record first-

half figures reflected the “determined progress” made by the retailer, Inditex chief executive Oscar Garcia Maceiras said in the statement. Inditex, which owns seven brands including

upmarket Massimo Dutti and teen label Stradivarius, has been hit by the war in Ukraine that forced it to close its 514 shops in Russia, at the time its second-biggest market after Spain. — AFP

Auto Show opens as Detroit weighs possible strike

THE Detroit Auto Show, normally a cheery showcase of latest models from the three legacy US car giants, is taking second fiddle this year to a looming auto workers’ strike and its mounting odds.

The showcase kicks off one day before the Thursday night deadline when existing United Auto Workers (UAW) contracts at General Motors, Ford and Stellantis expire.

New UAW president Shawn Fain has for months vowed a tough approach to negotiations, demanding significant pay hikes in light of record profits and saying a strike could potentially extend to all three companies. In recent days, Fain has acknowledged that automakers have begun negotiating in earnest, while criticizing the companies for leaving little time to hash out a deal. — AFP



Ford shows off its updated F-150 pickup truck, for decades the most popular vehicle in the United States. PHOTO: JEFF KOWALSKY/AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC CHUNMING VOY.NO. (2316S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC CHUNMING VOY.NO. (2316S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-9-2023** 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 MSC FORTUNE VOY.NO. (SB335A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC FORTUNE VOY.NO. (SB335A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-9-2023** 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.

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No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0303-752N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0303-752N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-9-2023** 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.

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No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
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Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY.NO. (N161)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (N161)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-9-2023** 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 INTER ASIA LINES

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

China seeks dialogue for stable ties as Japan revamps Cabinet

China emphasizes the mutual interest in maintaining healthy bilateral relations and the need to manage conflicts and differences.



Former Japanese Justice Minister Yoko Kamikawa has been appointed the country's new foreign minister (R), with former prime minister's aide Minoru Kihara named Japan's new defence minister. (L). **PHOTO: KYODO**

CHINA urged Japan on Wednesday to strengthen dialogue and jointly foster a constructive and stable relationship in the wake of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's reshuffling his Cabinet, which included the appointment of veteran female lawmaker Yoko Kamikawa as the new foreign minister.

Foreign Ministry spokes-

woman Mao Ning said maintaining the healthy and stable development of bilateral relations is "in the common interest of both countries and the region" and stressed the importance of managing conflicts and differences.

Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida named new foreign and defence ministers on Wednesday in a major reshuf-

le that raised the number of women in the cabinet to five.

The 66-year-old will stand for re-election next year as president of the fractious Liberal Democratic Party, which has dominated politics for decades, and experts said the cabinet reshuffle was an attempt to shore up his approval ratings.

Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi was replaced by Yoko Kamikawa, one of five women in the new cabinet, chief cabinet secretary and government spokesman Hirokazu Matsuno told reporters.

Kamikawa, 70, is Japan's first woman foreign minister in 19 years.

She was justice minister five years ago when Japan executed the leader and members of the Aum Shinrikyo cult for their role in the deadly 1995 sarin attack on the Tokyo subway.

Minoru Kihara, 54, succeeded Yasukazu Hamada as defence minister. — Kyodo/AFP

China says media have exposed iPhone security incidents

CHINA said Wednesday it had noted "many media reports exposing security incidents involving iPhones".

"The Chinese government attaches a great importance to information and cybersecurity, and treats both domestic and foreign-funded enterprises in the same way and on an equal footing," foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a regular press conference.

Mao denied there was any ban on officials purchasing or using foreign phones, including iPhones.

"China has not issued any laws, regulations, and policy documents prohibiting the purchase and use of foreign brand smartphones, including iPhone," she said. "We always have an open attitude towards foreign-funded enterprises."

Apple shares fell sharply last week following reports of significant Chinese restrictions on iPhones at government offices and state-backed entities. The Wall Street Journal first reported that China had barred the use of Apple smartphones in central government agencies. — AFP



China denies imposing a ban on officials buying or using foreign phones, including iPhones. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Swiss students break world record for electric car acceleration



The 'Mythen' electric vehicle broke a Guinness World Record. **PHOTO: ETH ZURICH/AFP**

FROM zero to 100 kilometres per hour in less than a second: a racing car built by students has broken the world record for electric vehicle acceleration, a Swiss university said Tuesday.

Students from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ) and the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences designed and built the "Mythen" vehicle that achieved

the feat, ETHZ said in a statement.

"Now, Guinness World Records has confirmed that Mythen broke the previous world acceleration record for electric vehicles," it said.

Covering a distance of 12.3 metres (40.4 feet) at the Switzerland Innovation Park in Duebendorf, opposite the students' workshop, the car was powered from zero to 100 kilometres an hour (zero to 62.15 miles per hour) in 0.956 seconds.

"This beats the previous world record of 1.461 seconds, set in September 2022 by a team from the University of Stuttgart by more than a third," ETHZ said. — AFP

TOP HEADLINE

Sweden's 'normal' king celebrates 50 years on throne

PORTRAITS of Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf, who celebrates his 50th jubilee on Friday, plaster the walls of ardent royalist Kenth Lundqvist's apartment, adorning plates, posters and medallions.

"My interest in royalty began when I was around six years old when the king and queen got married... I sat in front of the telly, I was amazed," recalled the 44-year-old organist, who lives in the small central town of Timra.

Sweden celebrates the golden jubilee from 13 September to 16, feting a monarch who has earned the respect of his subjects over the years.

One of the Royalist Association's several thousand members, Lundqvist expects a large crowd to cheer on a royal cortege through Stockholm's city centre on Saturday, in a country normally known for its reserve.

The king and his wife Queen Silvia will wave to crowds from a horse-drawn carriage, escorted by 3,000 troops from the army, air force and navy.

"He represents continuity, traditions and Christian values," said Lundqvist.

"To be able to be around 500,000 people and celebrate him, it's a huge feeling," he said. — AFP

SPORTS



Erling Haaland rose above the rest to give Norway the lead over Georgia. PHOTO: NTB/AFP

Spain and Italy step up chase of runaway Euro leaders

SPAIN crashed in six in Euro 2024 qualifying on Tuesday while Belgium were also big winners as Italy revived their campaign and Austria and Switzerland stayed on course for qualification.

Substitute Ferran Torres struck twice for Spain, while Gavi, Mikel Merino, Joselu and debutant Alex Baena were also on target as they beat Cyprus 6-0 in Granada.

Spain closed to six points behind runaway Group A leaders Scotland with a game in hand. The two teams meet in the next round in Seville on 12 October.

“Our objective is clear — win the rest of the games,” coach Luis De la Fuente told Spanish broadcasters TVE.

“We want to finish top of the group.”

Norway kept alive their faint chance of catching either Scotland or Spain while ending Georgia’s hopes of qualifying with a 2-1 victory in Oslo.

Erling Haaland gave Norway the lead with his seventh goal in five competitive matches this season and his 25th in 26 internationals. Martin Odegaard added a second before Budu Zivizvadze responded deep in added time. Davide

Frattesi ensured that Italy got their Euro 2024 qualifying campaign back on track with a brace in an entertaining 2-1 win over Ukraine which moved the Azzurri second in Group C.

Inter Milan midfielder Frattesi rifled in two low finishes in the first half-an-hour at the San Siro to give Luciano Spalletti his first success on his home debut as coach of the European champions.

Italy moved level on seven points with Ukraine, who scored through captain Andriy Yarmolenko four minutes before half-time, and North Macedonia. — AFP

Man Utd announce new shirt deal with US firm Qualcomm

MANCHESTER United have announced a bumper sponsorship deal with US-based Qualcomm Technologies, whose Snapdragon brand will replace the TeamViewer logo on their shirts from next season. The Premier League club, who did not reveal the financial details of the deal, were reportedly targeting an agreement worth £60 million (\$75 million) per year.

It is understood the figure equals or even surpasses the previous biggest shirt deal in football history. Qualcomm has been one of United’s global partners since last year. “Manchester United plc has agreed to an expanded strategic collaboration with Qualcomm Technologies, Inc, that will see the Snapdragon brand displayed on the front of the club’s famous shirt,” the club said in a statement confirming the agreement.

— AFP



Manchester United have agreed a new shirt sponsorship deal with US-based Qualcomm Technologies. PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE

Asian Games will be ‘new beginning’ for biggest-ever South Korea team

THE Asian Games will be a “new beginning” for South Korean sports, a top official said, with badminton world number one An Se-young spearheading the country’s largest-ever team at the competition.

The Games start in the Chinese city of Hangzhou on 23 September and South Korea will take 867 athletes to the Olympic-sized event. South Korea has consistently finished second in the medals table behind China at the Games, but slipped to third in 2018, with China and Japan ahead of them. “This year’s Asian Games will mark

the new beginning for South Korean sports,” Yonhap news agency quoted Lee Kee-heung, president of the Korean Sport And Olympic Committee, as saying on Tuesday in Seoul.

“We have been making progress in many different sports and have seen the emergence of young athletes. “I can’t wait to see our athletes tackle challenges at this year’s Asian Games.”

Chief among South Korea’s hopes for gold is the 21-year-old An, who has enjoyed a breakout year, rising to number one in women’s badminton and winning the world title. — AFP

Team Myanmar trounce Lin Latt FC in Futsal Friendly

THE preliminary Myanmar national futsal team, which is preparing for the Asian qualifiers, played a second warm-up match against the Mandalay-based Lin Latt team on the evening of 13 September as a pre-tournament preparation and won by 14-3.

The friendly match was played in three parts of 30 minutes.

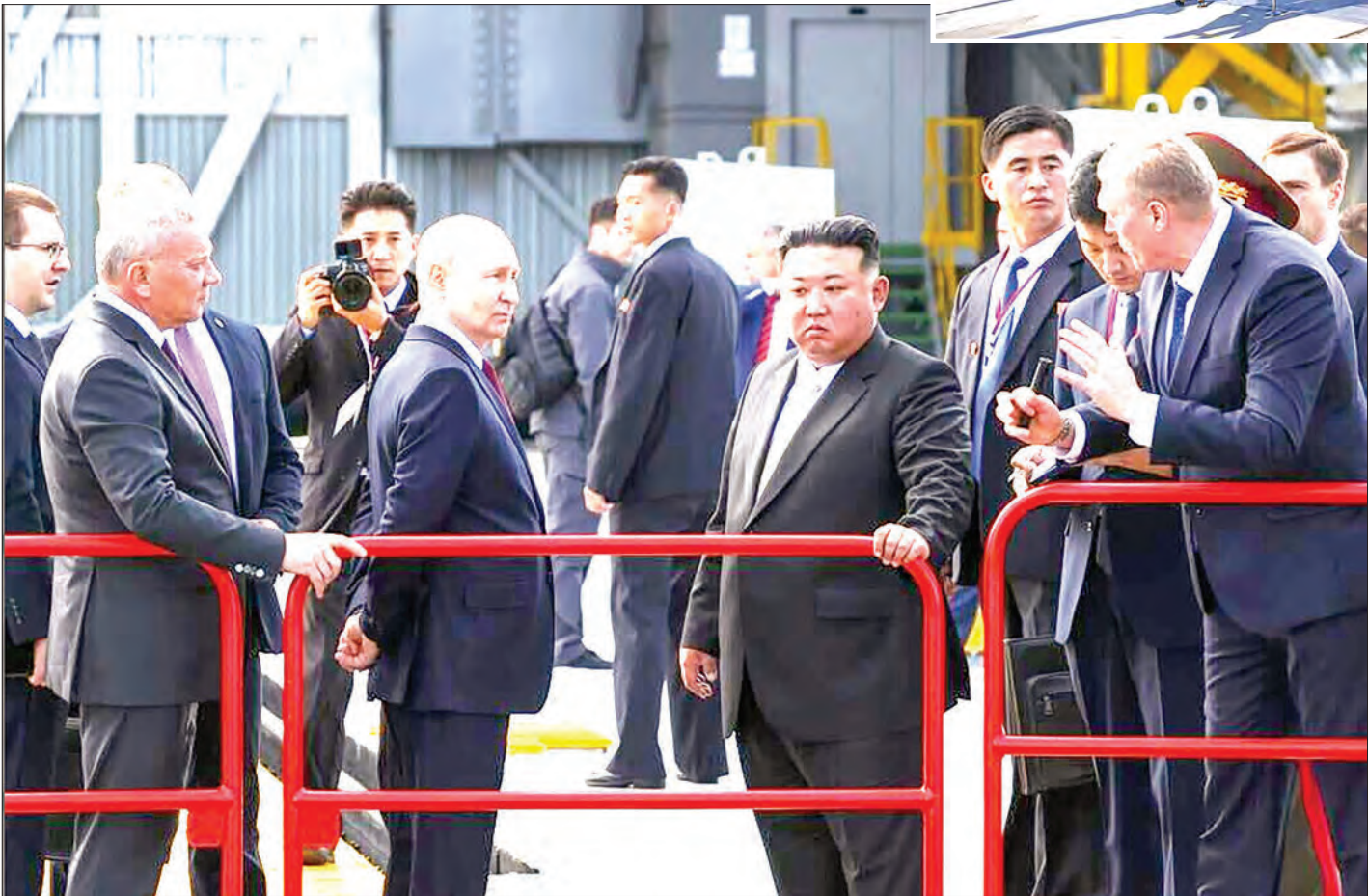
Team Myanmar won their first friendly match against Lin Latt FC with a score of 7-1. — KZL

A Myanmar futsal player (blue) twists and turns away from the rival player during the domestic friendly match against Lin Latt FC on 13 September 2023. PHOTO: MFF





Vladimir Putin meets with North Korean Kim Jong Un at Vostochny Cosmodrome



During a meeting at the Vostochny Cosmodrome, Vladimir Putin mentioned discussing Russia's aid to North Korea in building satellites. He also expressed pride in Russia's progress in the field of space development while meeting with Kim Jong Un. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin sits down with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un near the town of Tsiolkovsky

in the Amur region of Russia's Far East to discuss a range of issues pertaining to mutual interests.

Asked whether military and technical cooperation would be talked about, Putin said that he and the North Korean leader

will address all issues and would not rush discussions, as "they have time".

The Russian president added that they had come to the Vostochny Cosmodrome to discuss, in particular, the issue of Russia's assistance to North Korea in satellite construction. During a meeting with Kim Jong Un, Vladimir Putin said that he is proud of how the space field is being developed in Russia. Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un started their meeting with a tour of the Soyuz-2 space rocket launch facility at the Vostochny Cosmodrome in the Russian Far East's Amur region.

The two leaders were briefed on the progress in the assembly of a new Angara booster, as well as on the characteristics of the Soyuz-2 launch vehicle.

Soyuz 2 Rocket

Putin noted that apart from the Vostochny and Plesetsk spaceports, Russia also continues using the Baikonur Cosmodrome to launch the Soyuz-2 rockets.

Kim, in turn, was interested in the characteristics of the Soyuz rockets, including their engine power. He was told that the lifting capacity of the rocket to low orbits is nine tons if the booster is launched from the Vostochny Cosmodrome. — SPUTNIK



“Re-globalization” more promising than fragmentation: WTO

International economic interdependence, which has driven growth and reduced poverty for 75 years, is now at risk. WTO's Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala urges global cooperation to safeguard the open and predictable global economy.

RE-GLOBALIZATION, which means increased international cooperation and broader integration, can support security, inclusiveness and environmental sustainability, the World Trade Organization (WTO) said in a flagship report published on

Tuesday.

In the 2023 edition of the “World Trade Report”, the trade organization presents new evidence of the benefits of broader, more inclusive economic integration as early indications of trade fragmentation threaten to

unwind growth and development.

“The post-1945 international economic order was built on the idea that interdependence among nations through increased trade and economic ties would foster peace and shared prosperity. — Xinhua



A press conference is held upon the release of the 2023 edition of the “World Trade Report” at the World Trade Organization (WTO) headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, 12 September 2023. **PHOTO: LIAN YI/XINHUA**