Embrace the Future: Unfolding a New Chapter with a Fresh Vision

SUNDAY EDITION

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# Senior General graces ceremony celebrating 555th birthday of revered scholar Shin Maha Ratthasara

State Administration Council Chair Premier Senior General Min Aung Hlaing looks into the literary works of Shin Maha Ratthasara at the event yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

*Bridging religious and secular realms, masterpieces by revered scholar Shin Maha Ratthasara achieve landmark status in Myanmar's literary landscape.*

A ceremony to open a paper-reading session in commemoration of the 555th birthday of revered scholar Shin Maha Ratthasara took place at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-I in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, graced by the presence of Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla.

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## Myanmar to foster Weather Index Insurance

The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) unveiled a multi-stakeholder task force to initiate weather index insurance based on rainfall.

This weather index insurance is widely practised in agricultural-producing countries. At present, Myanmar plans to implement this weather index insurance.

A public-private partnership task force led by Myanma Insurance under the Ministry of Planning and Finance is trying to help manage risk triggered by climate change with the weather index insurance for vulnerable farmers.

Deputy Minister Dr Tin Htut of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation held a work coordination meeting with the officials of the Myanma Insurance, experts, UMFCCI vice-president, president of Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association and cold season green gram farmers on 22 September at the UMFCCI's office to conduct farmer participatory approach in crop insurance for the winter crops this year. — NN/EM

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Double earthquakes shake Bago, Yangon regions in single day

NATIONAL PAGE-7

Reduced demand, lower quality lead to onion price decline

# NATIONAL

The praying ceremony of the Christianity Peace Central Committee in progress in Kayin State yesterday.

## Kayin State aims to lead in pursuit of peace

### Conflicts and lack of peace undermine the entire nation's stability and harmony.

AS Kayin State has faced armed conflicts and is the keenest to enjoy the peace, and although the state made utmost efforts for the development of education, health, food security and regional development, it is still in difficulties due to lack of restoring peace, said Chief Minister of Kayin State U Saw Myint Oo at the praying ceremony of the Christianity Peace Central Committee yesterday.

The ceremony took place at St Peter's Cathedral Anglican Church of Myanmar National Anglican Church, with the attendance of State Administration Council's Central Advisory Body leader U Saw Tun Aung Myint and member Saw Daniel.

The Chief Minister urged all to participate in the peace process as conflicts and lack of peace hinder the peace and stability of the State.

Myanmar Anglican archbishop Steven Than Myint Oo extended greetings on the occasion.

U Saw Tun Aung Myint requested all to abandon racism and dogmatism to create a better future by forging peace as peace talks are the best way to solve the conflicts.

Those from the Hpa-an Christian Church Council, fathers, clergies and officials discussed the peace process. — MNA/TTA

## MoIP UM tours Chinese resident ID card issuance process at Jinsa Police Station in Kunming

Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing observes the activities of the Jinsa Police Station in Kunming, Yunnan Province, on 22 September.

UNION Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing accompanied by U Thawta Aung, Consul-General of Myanmar in Kunming, met Director-General Mr Hu Xiaoming of the Department of International Relations under the Ministry of Public Security of the People's Republic of China and Deputy Head of the Department of Immigration (Yunnan Province) Mr Jia Dong at the Jinsa Police Station in Kunming, Yunnan Province, on 22 September.

During the meeting, the director-general of the Department of International Relations and the in-charge of Jinsa Police Station clarified the structure and duties of the Jinsa Police Station, the machine that can fill the data of applicants for Resident ID card and losing ID card, online checking whether the information of the applicants is correct or not and processes of issuing a new card.

The Union minister also discussed the clarifications before commemorative gifts were exchanged and documentary photos were taken. — MNA/MKKS

## Myanmar vs India men's football match on live broadcast

MYANMAR and India will play their Group A's final match at 6:00 pm Myanmar Standard Time today in the XIX Asian Games in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province.

The football match will be broadcast live on MRTV-HD, MRTV Sports, MRTV Farmer's and MRTV Parliament channels and Radio Myanmar at 5:45 pm on 24 September 2023. — MNA

## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 23 September 2023)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Monsoon is weak to moderate over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weak elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 24 September 2023:** Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region and Chin, Kayin and Mon states, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Kachin, (Southern and Eastern) Shan and Rakhine states and isolated in the remaining regions and states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6-8) feet off and along Myanmar Coast.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of withdrawal of Southwest monsoon from Central Myanmar areas.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 September 2023:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 September 2023:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

■■■

## COVID-19 report, 23 September 2023

| | |
|---|---|
| NEW TESTS | 3,723 |
| NEW CASES | 3 |
| CASUALTIES | 0 |

# NATIONAL

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, his wife and dignitaries watch the musical drama in commemoration of the reverent literati monk at the ceremony yesterday.

## Senior General graces ceremony celebrating 555th birthday of revered scholar Shin Maha Ratthasara

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On the occasion, the Senior General and his wife interestingly observed biographical records of the reverent literati monk, documentary photos related to the monk, his treatises and literary works, contemporary literati monks, and articles in honour of the doyen literati monk and responded to necessary discussions to the reports of officials.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin Oo Lwin reported on the purpose of marking the 555th birthday of the venerable monk.

The Senior General, his wife and attendees enjoyed the musical drama under the title of "Grateful Fine Arts" in honour of the reverent literati monk.

At the paper-reading session, the Director of the Historical Research and National Libraries Department Dr Lei Lei Win, U Am Yu Maung (Maung Lu Hmwe-Myanmar Handicraft), Director of the Historical Research and National Libraries Department Dr Tun Tun Oo, and U Thura Zaw read the papers on literary works, poems and verses created by Shin Maha Ratthasara.

A large number of literati including venerable monks, laypersons and royal servants as well as ordinary people had emerged in the literary history of Myanmar with the creation of valuable literary works including Buddhist treatises. Of them, Shin Maha Ratthasara came out in 830 ME in the Inwa era.

The reverent literati monk composed a large number of masterpiece poems and literary works in various forms portraying religious and secular arenas. Among his masterpieces, the verses on education teaching and learning systems of Myanmar for students in daily routine were milestones of Myanmar academic history. — MNA/TTA

## MoI UM attends 7th AMRI+3 meeting in Viet Nam

Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn together with Information Ministers of ASEAN+3 attended the 7th Meeting of ASEAN Plus Three Ministers Responsible for Information (7th AMRI+3) in Da Nang, Viet Nam yesterday.

At the meeting, Vietnamese Minister of Information and Communications Mr Nguyen Manh Hung, Chinese Minister of the State Council Information Office Mr Sun Yeli, Director-General Mr Nomura Eigo of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan and South Korean Director of Culture, Sports and Tourism Ministry Mr Nam Chanwoo delivered remarks respectively.

The host Viet Nam reported on the implementation of the Work Plan on Enhancing ASEAN+3 Cooperation through Information and Media (2018-2023), and Ministers from ASEAN+3 countries discussed extending the work plans until 2025.

Moreover, they also approved the joint media statement (draft) on the 16th AMRI and related meetings.

They set the strategies to improve the quality of human resource development, to deepen the media cooperation and upgrade the media network including New Media and agreed to extend the work plan until 2025.

Next, Brunei which will host the 8th AMRI+3 declared the date and venue of the meeting and then, the ceremony successfully concluded.

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn participates in the Seventh Meeting of ASEAN Plus Three Ministers Responsible for Information yesterday.

During the trip, the delegates made a study tour of the remarkable places in Da Nang with the arrangement of the government of Viet Nam.

They visited Bana Hill over 40 km away from Da Nang downtown taking the single-track cable car that is 5,800 metres in length. There is a tourist destination resort the Old French Villas. The delegates peacefully visited the castle, 150 metres long Golden Bridge and other tourist attractions.

The delegates then joined the dinner hosted by Da Nang officials on the same evening. – MNA/KTZH

# NATIONAL

## K500,000 profit set for acre of low-grade monsoon paddy

Female farm workers are pictured planting monsoon paddy saplings in the field. **PHOTO:XINHUA**

FARMERS in the Ayeyawady Region can enjoy nearly K500,000 in profit from cultivating one acre of monsoon paddy, according to the reference prices to buy monsoon paddy issued by authorities.

Cultivation and production cost for an acre of Aemahta/Zeeya and Ngasein is K658,500 including K37,500 for paddy, K240,000 for three kinds of inputs and insecticides, K18,000 natural fertilizer, K163,000 for ploughing, K90,000 for harvesting, K40,000 for labour costs and K70,000 for general costs, according to the official data.

Paddy cultivation and production cost per acre of Ayeyawady Pawsan is K769,500 while Shwebo Pawsan stands at K840,000 and Ayeya Padaytha/Ayeyamin varieties cost K712,500.

According to the data, the production cost for a basket of low-grade monsoon paddy is K8,780 while Ayeyawady Pawsan stands at K11,830. Shwebo Pawsan and Ayeya Padaytha/Ayeya Min varieties cost K12,923 and K10,179 for a basket.

The 2023 reference prices for monsoon paddy states that an acre of low-grade monsoon paddy can earn K975,000 to K1,125,000 while Ayeyawady Pawsan, Shwebo Pawsan and Ayeya Padaytha/ Ayeyamin varieties fetch K1,040,000 to K1,170,000, K1,170,000 to K1,300,000 and K1,120,000 to K1,260,000. The data indicates that farmers can earn a profit of K300,000 to K400,000 from an acre of low-grade monsoon paddy cultivation while an acre of cultivation of Ayeyawady Pawsan, Shwebo Pawsan and Ayeya Padaytha/Ayeyamin varieties can result in a profit of nearly K400,000.

Cultivation and production cost for an acre of paddy in many parts of the delta area in 2023 may be K100,000 less than mentioned above.

The price for a 100-basket of low-grade monsoon paddy was K1.3 million, while each of Ayeyawady Pawsan and Shwebo Pawsan was K1.5 million in 2022. The prices increased to K1.8 million for 100-basket of low-grade monsoon paddy while 100-basket of Ayeyawady Pawsan and Shwebo Pawsan climbed to K2.8 million and K3.7 million between August and September 2023, earning more profits for merchants who keep paddy than farmers. — TWA/TH

## Rakhine State continues to receive relief items, supplies

RELIEF items and supplies are being transported to Rakhine State under the directives of the National Disaster Management Committee.

MV Royal Venus departed on 21 September carrying a total of 3293.31 tonnes of supplies including 700 concrete lamp posts, 1,000 tonnes of cement, 1,543.16 tonnes of iron rods, six vehicles, construction materials, medicines and supplies provided by the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Health and Myanmar Licensed Contractors Public Company Limited.

Moreover, MV Charity vessel departed from The Myanmar Terminal (TMT) jetty to Sittway on 22 September carrying a total of 2,769.51 tonnes including 42,119 bags of rice, 633.01 tonnes of iron rods, six vehicles and one generator provided by the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Russian Federation.

It's reported that starting from 16 May, 36 vessels including Tatmadaw vessels transported over 50,332.932 tonnes of rehabilitation items including construction materials, electronic devices, medications and health equipment, consumer goods and foodstuffs, 249,762 gallons of diesel and over 199,886 gallons of octane 92 to Sittway Township of Rakhine State. — TWA/KTZH

## 15 YBS routes to adopt bus lines with 3-digit numbers on 1 October

THE 15 YBS bus lines connecting urban and suburban townships in the Yangon Region will operate with larger bus line numbers starting from 1 October.

The townships in the suburbs that will see changes in bus line numbers include Hlinethaya, Shwepyitha, East Dagon, Dagon Seikkan, Shwe Paukkan, Aungmingala highway bus terminal and Dagon Ayeya highway bus terminal.

YBS has announced that among these 15 bus lines, there have been changes to the line numbers as follows: Western University-Latha YBS-21 is now Western University-Mawtin YBS-131, Western University-Lansdowne YBS-79 has replaced YBS-132, Yadana Rose Housing-Bogyoke market YBS-4 and Yuzana City-Bogyoke Market YBS-4 have replaced YBS-133, Ward 168-Thumana Road-Latha YBS-8 has been changed to YBS-134 (minibus), Dagon University-Kangyidaunt(Thakayta) YBS-10 is now YBS-135 (minibus), Aungmingala Highway bus terminal-Latha YBS-11 has been changed to YBS-136 (minibus) and Dagon University-Pyay Road-Danyingon YBS-15 and Dagon University-Kyodada-Pauktawwa YBS-15 has replaced YBS-137.

Dagon Ayeya highway bus terminal-Shwe Paukkan (Hospital corner) YBS-17 is now YBS-138 (minibus), top of Shwe Paukkan bridge-Sule YBS-29 and Dagon University-Sule YBS-29 have replaced YBS-139, Shwepyitha (Wahtaya)-Latha YBS-39 and Shwepyitha (Hlawga Tarson)-Mawtin YBS-39 (GYCT) have replaced YBS-140, Shwepyitha (Leingon)-Thakin Mya Park YBS-40 has replaced YBS-142, Shwepyitha (Thandin)-Thakin Mya Park YBS-40 has replaced YBS-143, South Dagon (Kyauklan)-Central Women's Hospital YBS-59 South Dagon (Kyauklan)-Central Women's Hospital YBS-59 (minibus) has replaced YBS-144 and Shwepyitha (Hlawga Tasone)-Botahtaung Pagoda, previously numbered YBS-65, has been changed to YBS-145. — TWA/KZW

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# NATIONAL

## Delayed Ayeyawady fish paste businesses gearing up for resumption

ACCORDING to the Ayeyawady Region Fish-Paste and Dried Fish Entrepreneurs Association (Laputta Township), people are now preparing to restart the fishing activities to resume the Ayeyawady fish paste activities that were stopped during the rainy season.

These fishing activities usually resume during the open season every year, and this year, as the open season is approaching, they are planning to resume fishing.

"The fishing business has to stop during the rainy season. Now that the open season is approaching, we are starting to try fishing in dead water. If so, we have to say that the fish paste business has started again. If we start the business again, we have to make it convenient for customers and wholesalers. Even though the price of the transportation cost has gone up, we are prepared to adjust and make it convenient for all of us," said U Aung Ko Latt, executive member of the Ayeyawady Region Fish-Paste and Dried Fish Entrepreneurs Association (Labutta Township).

Currently, fish-paste is found in the market in the Yangon Region, and the fish paste business is starting from the Laputta side of the Ayeyawady Region. — ASH/KZL

File photo shows the scene of the 1,000 Alms Offering Festival in Paung Township, Mon State.

## Upcoming 1,000 Alms Food Offering Festival at Kyaikpaung Pagoda in Paung Township

The 1,000 Alms Offering Festival will be held on 29 September at Kyaikpaung Pagoda in Paung Ward, Paung Township, Mon State, according to U Tin Pe, a member of the Kyaikpaung Pagoda board of trustees.

It is said that the offering of 1,000 alms food donation, which is one of the Mon traditional Buddha Pujaniya Festival, is celebrated annually on the Tawthalin full moon day. The offerings such as alms food, banner, flowers, incense, fruits, betel and lights are added into a small ship which is built of wood and bamboo following the tradition of the Mon ethnic people.

"Whenever the Tawthalin full moon day, locals not only make the ship and nearly 1,000 various offertories such as alms food, banner, flowers, incense, fruits, betel and lights were added to the ship but also donate to the monasteries, pagodas and temples. Locals hold the festival intending to keep calm without danger," said U Tin Pe.

At the pagodas in every village, they built a boat with all their labour and money, and then nearly a thousand people put offerings on the boat, such as food, sticks, flowers, incense, fruit, and candles.

As a good traditional festival of the Mon ethnic people, the alms festival known as the "1,000 alms food offering festival" and the offering of Catumadu is held in Mon State annually. — ASH/ MKKS

A boat participating in the traditional boat race is seen at the PhaungdawU Pagoda Buddha Pujaniya Festival, Meiktila, Mandalay Region.

## 26 teams participate in Meiktila traditional boat race of pagoda festival

A total of 26 teams are competing in the traditional boat race flagged off on 23 September as part of the 140th PhaungdawU Pagoda Buddha Pujaniya Festival, said U Tin Hlaing, a member of the pagoda board of trustees.

"The traditional boat race is being held in the Meiktila historic Karaweik PhaungdawU Pagoda Festival. A total of 26 teams – six teams in the senior boat race and 20 teams in the junior boat race - are participating in the competition. The boat race is starting from at 9 am on 23 September," he added.

The 140th festival of the historic Karaweik PhaungdawU Pagoda in Meiktila township, Mandalay Region, will last from 23 September to 1 October in a thronged manner with offering alms-bowl and offerings to the Sangha, traditional boat race, fun events and market stalls. — ASH/ MKKS

# NATIONAL

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Ayeyawady Region seeks India's assistance for solar systems, modular housing

A virtual meeting was held, attended by officials from the Ayeyawady Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ARCCI) and Myanmar business ambassadors in Kolkata, along with representatives from the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization on the afternoon of 21 September. During the meeting, businessmen from the Ayeyawady Region expressed their interest in receiving technical assistance from India for solar systems and modular housing in the Ayeyawady Region.

### ROK's investment expands Myanmar's dyeing, textile industries

PRESIDENT of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Aye Win and its members held a meeting with Korean garment industry entrepreneurs on 22 September. According to the UMFCCI, they will also engage in the dyeing industry and the textile industry.

### Ngwesaung Beach welcomes record number of Chinese tourists in Sept

IN September 2023, Ngwesaung Beach welcomed a total of 2,835 foreign tourists, with 1,622 Chinese nationals, 597 Indian citizens, 196 Russian citizens, 180 Japanese citizens, 131 Thai nationals, and 99 American nationals among them. This marked the highest number of Chinese tourist visited in September 2023, according to the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Ngwesaung Branch).

### Entrance fees increased for foreign visitors to Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone

THE Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch) will raise the entry fee for foreign visitors to the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region, to K30,000 per visitor starting from 1 October. Additionally, visitors staying in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone for more than three days will be charged an additional zone entrance fee.

### NSPNC, RCSS sign agreement

THE National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) continued their discussion on unresolved issues from the first day. On 22 September, after deliberating on matters related to holding a peace talks and addressing general issues, both sides signed a memorandum of understanding.

### Domestic rice prices decline by 15%

"IT'S not that the price of rice has fallen; from the first week of August until now in September, it has decreased by 15 per cent. We will continue to sell rice at a lower rate as there is an ample supply of new rice available, emphasizing that the price of rice has stabilized and decreased after August," President of the Myanmar Rice Federation, U Ye Min Aung, made these remarks during a press conference. — Htun Htun/ KZW

# Double earthquakes shake Bago, Yangon regions in single day

BAGO and Yangon regions experienced two times of earthquakes within a day.

A slight earthquake with a 3.7 Richter Scale affected a place of 10 kilometres in the depth of epicentre, 21 miles west of DaikU within Myanmar, 67 miles north-northeastward from Kaba Aye seismographic observatory station, at 17.81° north latitude and 96.34° east longitude at 17 hours three minutes and 43 seconds Myanmar standard time on 23 September, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

People are seen at an open area on a street of Kyaukmyaung, Tamway Township after an earthquake rocked yesterday night.

With regard to the earthquake, Dhammatagun Sayadaw Dhammakathika Ashin Gamani residing at Mahasi meditation centre in Hlegu recounted his experiences, "We in Hlegu faced three times of earthquakes the same day at 5 pm, 6:20 pm and 8:57 pm. The last time it seemed a moderate shake. May all people be free from danger."

Similarly, a moderate earthquake shook with a 5.1 Richter Scale at the place 10 kilometres in the depth of epicentre, some 12 miles southwest of Bago in the country, 27 miles northeast of Kaba Aye seismographic observatory station, at 17.23° north latitude and 96.32° east longitude, at 20 hr, 54 min and 35 sec on 23 September. In that case, people from the downtown Yangon area, North and South Dagon Myothit townships, and Insein and North Okkalapa townships remarkably suffered from the shaking of the earthquake.

"Duration of shaking may be about one minute, I think. Buildings are swaying in the impacts of earthquakes, causing dizzying to all. I have felt that slight earthquakes have hit here since early evening," Daw Moe Moe from a high-rise building in Sangyoung Township told the GNLM.

According to the geo-research website of the New Zealand government, a strong earthquake with a 6.2 Richter Scale hit the South Island of New Zealand at 9.12 pm local standard time on 23 September. The epicentre of the earthquake was 11 kilometres underground and 124 kilometres west of Christchurch city but it did not bear any damage or casualties. — Htun Htun/TTA

# Myanma Port Authority initiates tender for sale of Vietnamese tanker

THE Tender Acceptance and Verification Committee has announced that the Viet Nam-flagged MT Viet Tin Lucky, currently held by the Myanma Port Authority (MPA), will be auctioned on scrap sale through an open tender system.

The Vietnamese tanker has a length (LOA) of 109.09 metres, a breadth of 18.2 metres, a maximum draught of 6.71 metres, and a net weight of 4,573 tonnes with an iron shell.

Vietnamese-flagged MT Viet Tin Lucky.

The tanker is currently located at the Myanmar Terminal (TMT) jetty. According to the announcement, both local and foreign companies interested in participating in the tender can do so after conducting their own pre-purchase inspections.

Tender applications can be bought at the Central Store in Botahtaung and will be available for sale from 21 September to 20 October until 1 pm.

Under Section 11 of the Ports Act of 1908, this is considered an auction, and the Myanma Port Authority reserves the right to cancel the tender in its entirety or partially should any reason arises. — TWA/KZW

# Panko Corporation to ramp up investment in Myanmar's apparel manufacturing sector

PANKO Corporation from the Republic of Korea will expand its investment in the manufacturing of cotton, woven garments and fabric painting, beyond apparel manufacturing, according to the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The businesspersons from Panko Corporation met with UMFCCI's President U Aye Win and officials concerned at the UMFCCI office on 22 September.

U Aye Win expressed his appreciation for capital expansion in the meeting. He highlighted that the federation will negotiate with the entrepreneurs to facilitate investment matters. As the State is committed to boosting manufacturing, he was delighted to know about the capital increase in labour-intensive businesses such as garment enterprises. He believe this business will bring about benefits for the country. It will also help strengthen friendship ties between the two nations besides business interests.

Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry President U Aye Win meets businesspersons from ROK's Panko Corporation at the UMFCCI office on 22 September.

Panko Corporation set up a garment factory in Bago in 2019, creating jobs for locals.

Mr Youngjoo Choi, chairman of Panko Corporation elaborated on investments that they will execute manufacturing of cotton, woven garments and fabric paint businesses in Myanmar. They vow to promote industrial development in the country through those projects. Korean experts who will come to Myanmar have acquired skills in cotton manufacturing. They will collaborate with the UMFCCI to enhance the manufacturing businesses as well. — NN/EM

# Reduced demand, lower quality lead to onion price decline

THE onion prices plunged owing to the weak foreign and domestic demand and inflow of low-grade onion in the markets, said traders involved in Bayintnaung Commodity Centre.

The prices dropped to K2,500-2,900 per viss on 23 September from K2,65-3,150 on 19 September. Demand is quite low with 90,000 visses of onion supplies to the Bayintnaung market on 23 September.

The photo shows a worker checking onion sacks to remove onions which are going to turn bad.

The large onions fetched only K2,300-2,700 per viss in onion-producing areas (Seikphyu, Pakokku and Myingyan) on 23 September.

The onion price rose to K3,700 per viss on 29 August. About 60,000 visses of onions are transacted daily in the Yangon market on average, an onion depot owner from Yetama Street, Bayintnaung, told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

"This is a law of supply and demand. However, it is important to remove the spoiled onions. The market will be sluggish due to a lack of foreign demand. If supply exceeds demand, the price will decline further", said a depot owner.

It is hard to estimate the remaining onion stocks in the market, said a trader from a region outside Yangon.

If we buy the onions at K2,500 in Seikphyu market, the prevailing market price in Yangon cannot cover the cost when we add freight cost from Seikphyu to Yangon, a seller stressed. — TWA/KK

# MAEX set to unveil large-scale fresh produce wholesale market on 1 Oct

MYANMAR Agro Exchange Public Ltd (MAEX) will open a fruits and vegetable wholesale market with over 1,100 shops on 1 October 2023.

That fresh produce market will be located in the compound of the Danyingon wholesale market, offering seasonal and other fresh produce.

Additionally, the market is equipped with two cold storage to facilitate trading. It might help reduce the wastage of fruits and improve the shelf life of fruits and vegetables by storing them at a cool temperature.

It will be opened at the number-one market building to save transportation costs and labour wages.

The shops are nearly finished in the market. Fruit businesses from the Thirimingala market are reported to open shops here, said an official of the MAEX.

Fresh produce traders are invited to run business in the Danyingon wholesale market. For further details, traders can contact Ph: 09 261289462, 09 775435975 and 09 250493456 of the market or make enquiries at Building B 12 of Danyingon wholesale market in Insein Township, Yangon. — NN/EM

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# OPINION

## Warmly welcome Kyat-Rouble payment system for both countries

THE introduction of the Kyat-Rouble payment system marks a significant step towards strengthening the bilateral ties between Myanmar and Russia. This innovative payment system, based on the Myanmar currency Kyat and the Russian currency Rouble, has been launched with the primary aim of facilitating seamless trade between the two nations.

This initiative not only signifies the growing warmth in Myanmar-Russia relations but also promises to enhance the efficiency of their trade processes to start on 1 October 2023. Both countries recognize the need to establish a foreign exchange system that enables the use of their respective currencies for trade transactions. Both sides will find it easier to navigate the challenges of payment without being solely reliant on the US dollar.

Bilateral trade between Myanmar and Russia has been on a steady rise, thanks to the concerted efforts of their state leaders and governments. Negotiations have taken place, focusing particularly on economic cooperation, including bilateral trade. As a new chapter unfolds, the two nations are planning to implement a card-based payment system.

> This payment system is set to go live in October, with participation from six private banks in Myanmar. These banks will be required to open accounts in Russia to facilitate the implementation of the new payment system. Business communities in both countries eagerly await the rollout of this system, which is expected to bring substantial benefits to their respective economic sectors.

The Myanmar Payment Union (MPU) has taken steps to implement the MIR Card System. In this regard, MPU has signed the National Payment Cards System Agreement 03: Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) with its Russian counterpart. Furthermore, MPU has established a network connection with MIR to conduct host-to-host connectivity testing. This collaborative effort is poised to free both countries from the compulsory reliance on the US dollar.

In Russia, the e-payment card system known as MIR operates under the supervision of the National Payment Card System-NSPK, resembling the TM cards of private banks. Full integration of the MIR system with MPU in Myanmar will enable all banks in Myanmar to offer this system, ensuring enhanced customer convenience. Myanmar has already agreed to similar payment systems with China, Thailand, and India, involving Kyat-Yuan, Kyat-Baht, and Kyat-Rupee transactions.

This payment system is set to go live in October, with participation from six private banks in Myanmar. These banks will be required to open accounts in Russia to facilitate the implementation of the new payment system. Business communities in both countries eagerly await the rollout of this system, which is expected to bring substantial benefits to their respective economic sectors.

The initiation of the Myanmar-Russia payment system was announced during the Myanmar Head of State's visit to Russia while attending the Far East Economic Forum in 2022. This milestone deserves a warm welcome from all quarters as it not only strengthens diplomatic relations but also promises to foster economic cooperation, thereby dismantling barriers in bilateral trade. ■

# ARTICLE
## BOOKRACK

## Long Covid linked to multiple organ changes, research suggests

*The study discovered that nearly a third of the Covid-19 patients exhibited abnormalities in more than one organ, on average, five months after their hospitalization.*

A THIRD of people hospitalized with Covid-19 have "abnormalities" in multiple organs months after getting infected, a UK study said on Saturday, potentially shedding light on the elusive condition of long Covid.

Millions worldwide are estimated to suffer from long Covid, in which a range of symptoms such as shortness of breath, fatigue and brain fog last long after patients first contracted the virus.

Yet much about the condition, including exactly how Covid causes such a wide range of symptoms, remains unknown.

The authors of the new study, which was published in The Lancet Respiratory Medicine journal, said it marks a "step forward" in helping long Covid sufferers.

The study is the first to look at magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans of multiple organs — the brain, heart, liver, kidneys and lungs — after being hospitalized with Covid.

It compared the organ scans of 259 adults hospitalised with Covid across the UK in 2020-2021 with a control group of 52 people who never contracted the virus.

Nearly a third of the Covid patients had abnormalities in more than one organ an average of five months after leaving hospital, the study found.

Those hospitalized with Covid were 14 times more likely to have lung abnormalities, and were three times more likely to have abnormalities in their brain, it said. However hearts and livers appeared to be more resilient, the researchers added.

Abnormalities in the brain included a higher rate of white brain lesions, which have been linked to mild cognitive decline.

Scarring and signs of inflammation were among the changes seen in lungs.

### 'Concrete evidence'

People with multiple organ abnormalities were four times more likely to report severe mental and physical impairment, making them "unable to perform their daily activities", lead author Betty Raman from Oxford University told an online press conference.

The study was conducted during an earlier phase of the pandemic, before mass immunity from vaccination and prior infection blunted the overall severity of Covid. It also did not cover the less severe Omicron variants which remain dominant around the world.

And the Covid group was slightly older and generally less healthy than the control group, though the researchers sought to adjust their findings to account for these differences.

It also did not cover the less severe Omicron variants which remain dominant around the world.

But people are still being hospitalized due to the virus across the world, the researchers emphasised.

***SOURCE: AFP***

The research utilized magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans to examine various organs, including the brain, heart, liver, kidneys, and lungs, in 259 Covid-19 patients. **ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ PIXABAY**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Book Title | - | Lan Pyauk |
| Translator | - | Po Naing Linn |
| Publishing House | - | Maha Sarpay |
| Publication Date | - | July 2023 (1st Edition) |
| Price | - | K3,000 |

## Lan Pyauk
## (In the Tall Grass by Stephen King and Joe Hill)

THE original novel was written by Stephen King and Joe Hill and published in 2012. The translator said that he happened to read the novels titled Covid-19 Opera written by writer Thitsani and In the Tall Grass written by Stephen King and Joe Hill. He not only read In the Tall Grass but also watched the movie of the novel. As he wanted to share his feelings with others, he translated the novel into Myanmar. The translator said that he did not directly translate the title, 'In the Tall Grass' as he wanted to emphasize the main characters being lost in the wilderness. Lan Pyauk means losing the way, not knowing how to get out of the wilderness.

A brother and sister enter a field of tall grass to rescue a boy but they soon realize they cannot escape and something evil lurks in the grass. In the Tall Grass is a horror novella by American writers Stephen King and his son Joe Hill. It was originally written in two parts in the June/July and August 2012 issues of Esquire Magazine. This is King and Hill's second collaboration, following 2009's Throttle.

The Tall Grass begins with a sister and brother who pull off to the side of the road after hearing a young boy crying for help from beyond the tall grass. Within minutes, they are disoriented, deeper than seems possible, and they've lost one another. The boy's cries are more and more desperate.

Brother and sister are Cal and Becky Demuth. They are inseparable siblings. Becky finds out during her sophomore year of college that she is pregnant, leading her parents to suggest she go live with her aunt and uncle until the baby is born. Since it is spring break, Cal decides to accompany her cross-country trip. They stop at numerous locations along the way.

After driving for three days, they stop at a field of grass over nine feet high after they hear a boy named Tobin calling for help. They also hear his mother Natalie yelling at him to stop making noise, warning him he will hear her. Cal thinks Tobin is just a few feet inside the field and walks into it to rescue the boy. Natalie's cries had mysteriously gone silent. Tobin sounds close so he dives for him, only to find no one there and realize that Tobin's voice now sounds far away.

Becky calls the authorities as she follows Cal into the field, but loses the signal just a few feet in. Cal and Becky get the idea to jump into the field to determine each other's position. The first attempt reveals they are only a yard from one another, but upon a second attempt, Becky sees Cal is now a significant distance from her.

The book ends relatively well for the Demuth kids. They never enter the field and have no PTSD from the horrors their other selves endured. The same can't be said for Tobin. ■

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Book Title | - | Tanyatwettar Kiletha & Collected Short Stories |
| Translator | - | Soe Thein |
| Publishing House | - | Myanmar Heritage |
| Publication Date | - | July 2023 |
| Price | - | K7,500 |

## Tanyatwettar Kiletha & Collected Short Stories
## (The New Collected Short Stories By Jeffrey Archer)

THIS is a collected short stories book by Jeffery Archer, and the translated version was published by Myanmar Heritage. The translator is known as Soe Thein. The original writer is an English novelist, life peer, convicted criminal and former politician before becoming an author. His best-selling book is Kane and Abel. Jeffery is published in 114 countries and more than 47 languages with more than 750,000 reviews with international sales passing 275 million copies. He is the only author ever to have been a number-one bestseller in fiction (nineteen times), short stories (four times) and non-fiction (The Prison Diary).

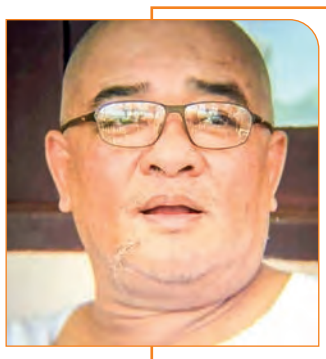
The New Collected Short Stories brings together three of Jeffery Archer's classic collections of short stories: To Cut a Long Story Short; Cat O'Nine Tales; and And Thereby Hangs a Tale, showcasing the master storyteller's skill like never before. To Cut a Long Story Short is a masterful collection of 14 riveting tales of elaborate confidence tricks, political chicanery, immoral behaviour and dangerously illicit affairs rendered with the breathtaking narrative twists that have become the Jeffery Archer hallmark.

His first work is 'Not a Penny More, Not a Penny Less,' which sold in 17 countries within a year. He has won many literary awards, and his seven novels published between 2011 and 2017 sold the best. Clifton Chronicles sold the best. In his novel titled 'Never Stop on the Motorway,' a divorced single mother finds herself in the middle of a cat-and-mouse chase with a mysterious van after making the chilling discovery that its driver might be a serial killer on the loose. Diana, a recently divorced mom, is on her way to a relaxing weekend at her college friend's farm. This is a killer thriller which can chill the readers from the beginning to the end. Most of the novels by Jeffery Archers have simple themes but there are many twists and turns, bringing the readers to the end of the novel, making them unable to drop the book even for a short while until the end. Nonetheless, almost all of his books have a bit of dirty scenes as stated by the critics. Additionally, his novels are full of mysteries and riddles for the readers to solve as they follow the theme. Jeffery Archer writes 'edge-of-your-seat' thriller and drama books. And his writing process is all about discipline and focus. He believes that writers should have a daily routine and stick to it, regardless of whether they feel inspired or not. Jeffery is known for his meticulous approach to writing. He spends months researching his topics, often travelling to the places he writes about to ensure that his descriptions are accurate and vivid. Once he has completed his research, he outlines his plot in detail before beginning to write.

In an interview with The Guardian, Archer said, "I sit down at my desk every day, seven days a week, and I write. I don't have a fixed target of words, but I try to write at least 2,000 words a day. And I don't stop writing until I've finished the book."

# NATIONAL
## Entertainment

## Celebrity Brief



### Zagana

The Printing and Publishing Department of the Ministry of Information released the "Thahaya Saya Tin" book written by Sayagyi Nan Nyunt Swe. Regarding this, his son comedian, actor and film director Zagana posted, "The book "Thahaya Saya Tin" written by my father is published again. It has been 30 years that the book has not been released as his name is restricted. Now, it comes out due to efforts of my elder brother," on 22 September. The book is available at Sarpay Beikman.

### Lay Phyu

MYANMAR'S famous singer Lay Phyu entered into the monkhood on 17 September at Dhamma Gonyi monastery in Shwepyitha Township. Singer Lay Phyu (aka) U Viveka is a donor of Sasana Vipulakarini ordination hall at the Dhamma Gonyi monastery and Land Cruiser Model car, two-storey dining buildings and one story Santavasa building to Dhamma Gonyi Sayadaw (author Wai Mo-Kyunhla).

### Khine Hnin Wai

Khine Hnin Wai signed an agreement at the Myanmar Real Estate & Property Expo 2023 of the Royal AMT Construction Co Ltd held at YCC aiming to build another building beside her Children's Home. The Royal AMT Construction Co Ltd donated K5 million to her Children's Home.

### Nay Toe

ACADEMY Nay Toe said, "My son is over nine months old. I mostly dedicated to my character of the movie previously, but now I receive the family life and I feel more relaxed..." during the press show of "Achain Lun Moe" movie. The story is by San Ko, written by Mel Khine, and Phyo Thinzar Kyaw and directed by Director Nay Hein, starred by Nay Toe, Aung Min Khant, Moe Hay Ko, Chuu Lay and other artistes.

### Soe Pyae Thazin

ACADEMY Soe Pyae Thazin is now 31 years old and she made a donation on her birthday. She posted on her Facebook page. "I donated rice and soaps on my birthday 22-9-2023. May all Nat (spirits) and people say Sadu for my donation... I also thank those who make birthday wishes to me including We Love Fans and participants in my donation...". —Htun Htun/KTZH

*Model : Actress Soe Pyae Thazin*
*Make up : December Hinn*
*Designer : Shar Tra*
*Photo : Kansuho*

### Po Po

SONG composer and singer Po Po has opened a robe-selling industry under the name of "Thada Po Po" in South Okkalapa Township in Yangon. She said, "I want to donate a land plot to a Sayadaw in Twantay but I can't afford to do it and I think I need to run a business. I usually donate the robes and so I decided to sell the robes. I already think about profits and losses in running a business. If I get profits, I can donate. If I face losses, I can donate the good quality robe to the monks ... so, I run this business." She also offers cash for delivery services in Yangon.

## Contestants for Miss Grand Myanmar 2024 unveiled during press conference

THE media conference for candidates of Miss Grand Myanmar 2024 was held at Myanmar Plaza Promotion Area in Yankin Township of Yangon on 21 September, according to Miss Grand Myanmar 2023 Ni Ni Lin Eain.

It was also attended by Miss Grand International Owner Mr Nawat, Ms Teresa and Miss Grand International 2022 Isabella Menin and contestants of Miss Grand Myanmar 2024.

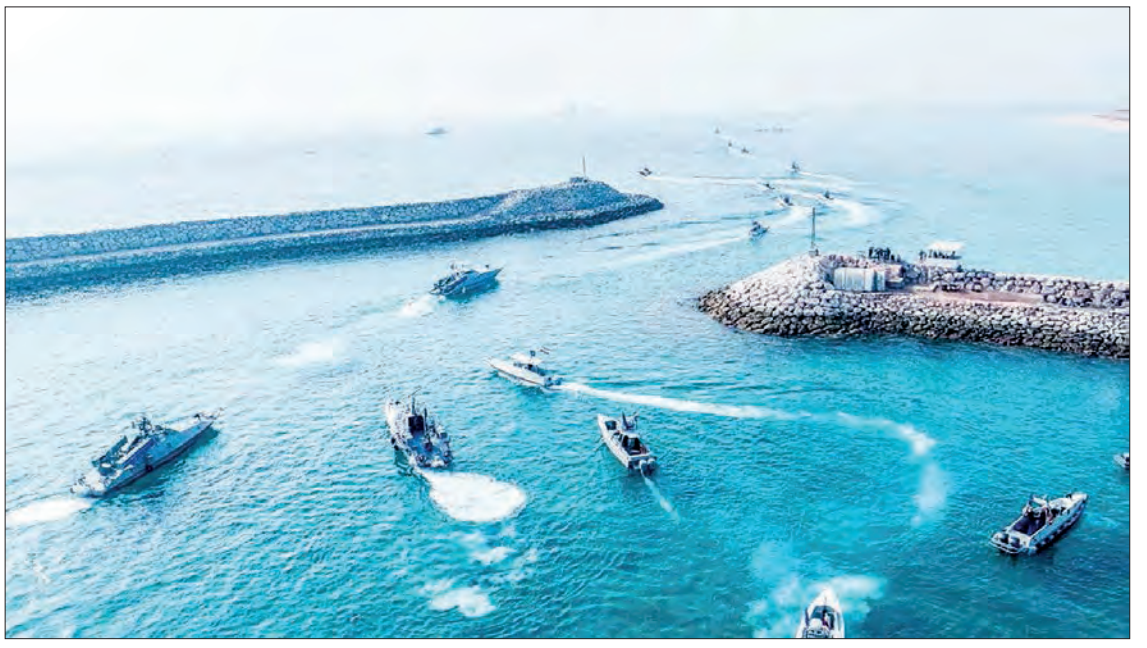
"The event is to introduce the Miss Grand Myanmar 2024 candidates to the media. The owner of Miss Grand International, Miss Grand International and Miss Grand Myanmar were also at the event. It featured a Keyword Challenge for the candidates and awarded," said Miss Grand Myanmar 2023 Ni Ni Lin Eain.

A total of 40 beauty contestants representing the big cities in Myanmar participated in the Miss Grand Myanmar 2024. Pan La Yaung, who represents Mawlamyine grabbed the Gold Medal in the Keyword Challenge while the Silver Medal was presented to Nan Khine Shwe Wah Win, representative of Myawady and the Bronze Medal to Thae Su Nyein, representative of Toungoo. —ASH/KTZH

# WORLD

## Iran protests US statement on islands dispute with UAE

*Iran's protest was prompted by a joint statement issued by the top diplomats of the United States and the six Gulf Arab states, in which they supported the UAE's call for negotiations or arbitration to resolve the island dispute.*



The dispute between Iran and the UAE centres on the islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb. Iranian Revolutionary Guard naval vessels taking part in a military drill near the island of Abu Musa, off the coast of the southern Iranian city of Bandar Lengeh. **PHOTO: IRGC/ SEPAH NEWS/AFP/FILE**

IRAN said Friday it had called in the Swiss envoy to deliver a protest over a "provocative" US statement on its decades-old dispute with the UAE over three Gulf islands.

The foreign ministry was reacting to a joint statement issued on Wednesday by top diplomats of the United States and the six Gulf Arab states backing UAE calls for negotiations or arbitration of the dispute, which dates back to the early 1970s.

"The strong protest and condemnation of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding this ill-considered position and the provocative actions of the American government were communicated (on Thursday) to the Swiss charge d'affaires who represents US interests in Iran," the ministry said in a statement.

"Iran is determined to defend its territorial integrity and protect its security and interests against any threats from the US government," it added.

The islands of Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tunb lie near the Strait of Hormuz, the strategic seaway between the Gulf and the open ocean through which a fifth of world oil output passes.

Iran gained control of the islands when still under the rule of the Western-backed shah in 1971, as Britain withdrew from the Gulf protectorates that now make up the UAE.

In Wednesday's statement, US and Gulf diplomats "reaffirmed their support for the UAE's call to reach a peaceful solution to the dispute over the three islands, through bilateral negotiations or the International Court of Justice". — AFP

## Spain livestock farmers raise alarm over rise in wolf attacks

SPANISH livestock farmers on Wednesday raised the alarm over increasing wolf attacks on their herds, demanding the government reverse a 2021 ban on hunting this protected species.

Last year, farmers across Spain recorded 12,898 attacks, up from 10,560 a year earlier, equating to a 20 per cent increase, the COAG farmers' union said, citing data collected from regions with the highest number of wolves.

Farmers rely on their agricultural activities for their livelihoods. Wolves, while important for the ecosystem, can sometimes pose a threat to livestock. **PHOTO: AFP**

"There are 35 wolf attacks every day," COAG said in a statement that blamed the rising number of attacks on the hunting ban which was brought in exactly two years ago by the government of Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez.

Until then, four northern regions — Cantabria, Castilla y Leon, Asturias and Galicia, where the vast majority of wolves roam — had practised controlled hunting to keep the numbers down under rules allowing them to cull a certain percentage of them.

But the government decided to extend the hunting ban that was in place across the rest of Spain, following similar moves in France and Italy.

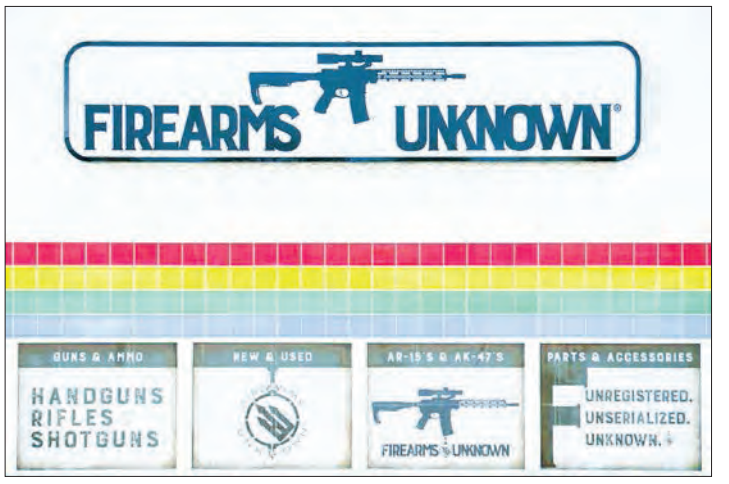
At the time, Ecology Minister Teresa Ribera said the aim was "to preserve the coexistence between farmers and the Iberian wolf", saying the move was based on scientists' recommendations. — AFP

## Kamala Harris tasked with new role fighting US gun violence

*The White House lacks the unilateral power to significantly restrict gun use in the United States, including the banning of assault weapons; substantial actions would require congressional involvement.*

US Vice-President Kamala Harris took on a new role Friday fighting gun violence, a job likely to give her more visibility ahead of the 2024 election.

The 58-year-old Democrat will head up the new White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention, which will provide coordination on the issue but largely lacks any kind of enforceable power to tackle the scourge in a country that has more firearms than people.




The silhouette AR-15 style rifle is displayed on signage for the Firearms Unknown Guns & Ammo gun store, in Yuma, Arizona. **PHOTO: PATRICK T. FALLON/AFP**

"We know true freedom is not possible if people are not safe," Harris said in a statement announcing the new office. "We do not have a moment to spare nor a life to spare" while the United States is "torn apart" by gun violence, she said at the White House on Friday.

"After every mass shooting, we hear a simple message, the same message all over the country," she added, saying Americans are begging for their leaders to "'do something, please do something.'"

Despite the new push, the White House does not have unilateral power to meaningfully limit gun use in the United States, such as by banning assault weapons.

Any substantial moves would have to come from Congress, where fiercely anti-gun regulation Republicans control the House of Representatives. — AFP

# ECONOMY
## WORLD

# US, China announce new economic working groups

*The Economic Working Group will address macroeconomic matters, and the Financial Working Group will concentrate on regulatory and financial stability issues, with regular meetings at the Vice-Minister level.*

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen shakes hands with Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng during a July 2023 meeting in Beijing. **PHOTO: PEDRO PARDO/AFP**

THE United States and China on Friday announced two new working groups on economic and financial policy, in the latest effort to stabilize fraught relations between the world's biggest economies.

The formation of the groups was agreed during talks in July between US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng in Beijing, the Treasury Department said.

Chinese state broadcaster CCTV also announced the launch of an "Economic Working Group" and "Financial Working Group", saying both will hold "regular and irregular meetings to strengthen communication and exchange on relevant issues".

"My trip to China aimed to establish a durable channel of communication between the world's two largest economies, consistent with President (Joe) Biden's guidance following his meeting with President Xi (Jinping) in Bali," said Yellen in a social media post announcing the new groups.

"It is vital that we talk, particularly when we disagree."

The Economic Working Group will discuss macroeconomic issues, while the Financial Working Group will focus on regulatory and financial stability issues, a senior US Treasury Department official said.

"The two groups will meet at the Vice-Minister level on a regular cadence and report to Secretary Yellen and Vice-Premier He," said the Treasury Department.

The economic group will be led by the US Treasury and China's finance ministry, while the financial group will include the Treasury and the People's Bank of China, the US statement said. — AFP

# Libya's flood-hit Derna to host reconstruction conference: authorities

LIBYA'S eastern-based administration said on Friday that it would host an international conference next month in the flood-hit port city of Derna to aid reconstruction efforts.

A tsunami-sized flash flood broke through two ageing dams upstream from Derna after a hurricane-strength storm lashed the area on September 10, razing entire neighbourhoods and sweeping thousands of people into the sea.

"The government invites the international community to participate in the conference planned for October 10 in Derna to present modern, rapid projects for the reconstruction of the city," the administration said in a statement.

It said the conference was being held in "response to the demands of residents of the stricken city of Derna and other towns that suffered damage" during the flooding.

Wracked by divisions since a 2011 NATO-backed uprising toppled and killed veteran dictator Moamer Kadhafi, Libya has for years been ruled by two administrations vying for power.

A UN-backed, internationally recognized administration in Tripoli is run by Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dbeibah, while a rival administration in the east is backed by military strongman Khalifa Haftar.

Haftar's forces seized Derna in 2018, then a stronghold of radical Islamists, and with the reputation as a protest stronghold since Kadhafi's days.

The official death toll from the flood stands at more than 3,300 -- but the eventual count is expected to be far higher, with international aid groups giving estimates of up to 10,000 people missing. — AFP

Flash floods in the eastern Libyan city of Derna razed entire neighbourhoods. **PHOTO: MAHMUD TURKIA / AFP/FILE**

# UK opposition leader denies he will try to undo Brexit

Keir Starmer has stepped into the international limelight this week. **PHOTO: ANDY BUCHANAN / AFP/FILE**

THE leader of the UK's opposition Labour Party on Friday denied he wanted to rejoin the European Union after recent comments led the ruling Conservatives to accuse him of wanting to "unpick Brexit".

Keir Starmer, whose party has for months been consistently well ahead in opinion polls, has just completed a foreign tour aimed at boosting his international stature.

On his return to London, he was quizzed about remarks made several days ago, which largely went unnoticed at the time. At a centre-left forum in Montreal, he declared that he did not want to "diverge" from European Union rules, sparking reaction from heavyweights in the ruling Tory party.

Chancellor Jeremy Hunt accused him of wanting to "unpick Brexit" while Foreign Secretary James Cleverly said he "wants to rejoin the EU in all but name".

The issue remains highly sensitive in the UK, particularly in traditionally Labour leaning areas of northern England that voted in favour of leaving the EU.

Starmer insisted on Friday that there was no case for returning to the EU, its customs union or the single market.

"But that does not mean that a Labour government wants to lower standards on food, lower standards on people's rights at work," he said. — AFP

# Ex-Australia PM says Murdoch leaves legacy of division

FORMER Australian prime minister Malcolm Turnbull said Friday that retiring News Corp and Fox Corp chairman Rupert Murdoch had done "enormous damage" to the democratic world.

Turnbull, a renowned News Corp critic, said he expected the 92-year-old Australian-born media boss to remain "extremely influential" despite his announcement that he is stepping down as boss of the sprawling media group and handing over to his son Lachlan.

"He has done enormous damage to the democratic world and in particular the United States," said Turnbull, a former conservative Liberal Party prime minister who was ousted by hardline conservatives in a 2018 party coup supported by the Murdoch press.

Fox News had left the United States angry and divided, he said, alleging it had "knowingly spread lies", including about former president Donald Trump's loss in the 2020 US presidential election.

Fox News is a prominent cable and satellite television news channel owned by Fox Corp. **PHOTO: AFP**

Murdoch's media had also been the loudest to "deny the reality of global warming and delay action to address it", Turnbull said in an interview with Australian public broadcaster ABC.

The former Australian leader said he had known Rupert Murdoch and his son Lachlan for a long time.

"I think Rupert has always been fascinated by power, that he's drawn to it like a moth is to a flame," Turnbull said.

"My impression is that Lachlan is more ideologically conservative than Rupert," he said.

"I don't think there is going to be any change for the better, that's for sure. — AFP

# UK's colossal HS2 project in danger of going off the rails

HS2, the UK's second high-speed train line after the one leading to the Channel Tunnel, has suffered spiralling costs despite the route being cut short, raising fears the project could be further derailed.

Designed to bring the major cities in the north of England closer to London, its cost was estimated at £37.5 billion ($46 billion) in 2013. It has since soared to around £100 billion.

"It's one of the most expensive railway projects in the world, in cost per mile," said Sam Dumitriu, head of policy for the economic growth group Britain Remade, which has compared infrastructure projects in 14 countries.

The 134 miles (215 kilometres) of track between London and Birmingham, the first section of the line, will cost £396 million per mile (£247 million per km), more than eight times as much as the Tours-Bordeaux high-speed line that entered service in 2017, the organization estimated.

Dumitriu pointed out that building railways, tramlines and roads is much more expensive in the UK than in other European countries.

This is partly due to the broad opportunities given to local residents and environmentalists to make objections, which "are often taken onboard", he explained.

In the case of HS2, this has led to an increase in the number of tunnels.

There is also a lack of qualified personnel due to the rarity of major projects (HS2 is the first line to be built in north London in 150 years), and projects are often more ambitious — and therefore more expensive — than in other countries. "Why is it more expensive to build in Britain than in say China?" asked HS2 chairman Sir Jon Thompson in a Daily Telegraph article published in February. — AFP

# EU set to veto Booking purchase of Etraveli: source

THE EU is expected to block US online travel agency Booking's 1.63-billion-euro ($1.8 billion) bid to buy Sweden's Etraveli Group, a source close to the matter told AFP Friday.

The European Commission, the bloc's powerful antitrust enforcer, launched an investigation in November last year amid concerns the acquisition would allow Booking to become too dominant in the market for finding hotels and other accommodation online. A decision could come as soon as Monday, the source said.

Booking.com is headquartered in Amsterdam but it is a subsidiary of Booking Holdings, which is based in the United States. **PHOTO: AFP**

Booking.com is headquartered in Amsterdam but it is a subsidiary of Booking Holdings, which is based in the United States.

It is one of the largest online travel agencies in Europe.

Gotogate and MyTrip are just some of Etraveli's online travel agencies.

In June, the European Commission had already expressed multiple concerns about the purchase in 2021 including worries over its impact on competitors and whether the deal would lead to higher costs for hotels or customers. — AFP

# Adidas boss apologizes for controversial Ye comments

THE head of Adidas has apologized after speculating that Kanye West did not "mean what he said" with anti-Semitic remarks that put an end to his collaboration with the German sportswear brand.

Bjorn Gulden, who joined Adidas at the beginning of 2023 after the scandal erupted, made the comments last week in an interview with the podcast "In Good Company".

Bjorn Gulden, who joined Adidas at the beginning of 2023 after the scandal erupted, made the comments last week in an interview with the podcast "In Good Company". **PHOTO: AFP**

West — now formally known as Ye — had made "some statements, which wasn't that good", Gulden told the podcast. "Very unfortunate, because I don't think he meant what he said and I don't think he's a bad person — it just came across that way," Gulden said. The Norwegian CEO subsequently apologized for his remarks, after they provoked a public uproar. — AFP

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**
**M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (052N/S)**

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (052N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-9-2023** 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:

**(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE**

# ROLLING UPDATES
## WORLD

# World leaders commit to end tuberculosis by 2030 at UN high-level meeting

*One of the targets is to reach 90 per cent of people with TB prevention and care services, indicating a commitment to expanding access to healthcare for those affected by TB.*

WORLD leaders at the United Nations General Assembly's high-level meeting on the fight against tuberculosis (TB) on Friday approved a political declaration to advance efforts to end the disease by 2030.

The document lays out ambitious new targets for the next five years, which include reaching 90 per cent of people with TB prevention and care services, providing social benefit packages to those who have the disease, and licensing at least one new vaccine. "I congratulate all member states on the approval of this draft political declaration, which I will submit to the General Assembly for its formal adoption at a later date," said UN General Assembly President Dennis Francis.

"We come together today with a purpose or resolve and try to reinvigorate commitments and accelerate progress towards ending tuberculosis, a millennia old disease, but it's one of the world's top infectious killers," said Francis. — Xinhua

A doctor goes through medical files at a Doctors Without Borders (MSF) clinic that treats people with drug-resistant tuberculosis in Mumbai, India, 22 March 2022. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ AFP**

# Australian protesters fight Indigenous rights reform

*Despite over two centuries since British colonization in Australia, Indigenous Australians, comprising approximately four per cent of the population, continue to face significant challenges, including limited access to quality education and a heightened risk of fatalities in police custody.*

An Indigenous elder (R) watches a young boy perform at a rally in Sydney on 23 September 2023 to show their opposition to landmark Indigenous reform ahead of a 14 October referendum. **PHOTO: DAVID GRAY / AFP**

HUNDREDS of protesters rallied in Sydney on Saturday against a plan to adapt Australia's constitution to enshrine Indigenous rights, ahead of a referendum next month.

The crowd gathered in the city's Hyde Park railed against the proposal, which if it passes on 14 October, would give Indigenous peoples the right to be consulted on policies that affect them, a measure dubbed the Voice.

"I'm here because I believe that everyone should be voting no. This Voice is causing so much division in the whole of Australia. And we don't need it," Faye Bevan, who attended the rally, told AFP.

Some protesters held signs with slogans such as "Vote no to the Voice of division" and "I don't trust the Voice, I'm voting no". Others carried placards referring to a range of conspiracy ideas, such as about human trafficking and corporate interests. The rally in Sydney was not part of the official anti-Voice campaign, but was instead linked to Australian anti-vaccination and pro-Putin activist Simeon Boikov — also known as "Aussie Cossack" — who has protested government action on Covid-19.

The "No" campaign group, "Fair Australia", has distanced itself from Boikov and any affiliated demonstrations.

More than 200 years since British colonization, Indigenous Australians make up less than four percent of the population and face an array of disadvantages, including poorer education and a greater chance of dying in police custody. — AFP

# Netanyahu at UN issues 'nuclear' threat to Iran, later retracted

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday warned Iran at the United Nations of a "nuclear threat" in what his office quickly walked back as a slip of the tongue.

The hawkish prime minister said that alarm over Tehran's clerical leaders was driving Israel closer to the Arab world, with his government on the "cusp" of a historic breakthrough with Saudi Arabia. Netanyahu, who has repeatedly used the UN stage to issue dark warnings about Tehran, briefly gave pause at the General Assembly when he appeared to threaten nuclear attack if Tehran pursues its own atomic bomb.—AFP

# Hopes rise for end to Hollywood writers' strike as talks extend

HOLLYWOOD WRITERS AND studios will meet for a fourth consecutive day of high-level talks Saturday, as the industry hopes to end the costly 145-day Writers Guild of America strike.

The two sides "met for bargaining on Friday and will meet again on Saturday", the WGA said in a message to its members Friday evening. "We continue to work towards a deal that writers deserve," it added.

Thousands of film and television scribes downed their pens back in early May over demands including better pay for writers, greater rewards for creating hit shows, and protection from artificial intelligence.

They have manned picket lines for months outside offices including Netflix and Disney and — having been joined by striking actors in mid-July — have brought the entertainment industry to a costly standstill.—AFP

Striking writers and actors have brought the entertainment industry to a highly expensive standstill. **PHOTO: FREDERIC J. BROWN / AFP/FILE**

# SPORTS

## Sheffield United's Maddy Cusack passes away at 27

SHEFFIELD United women's midfielder Maddy Cusack has died at the age of 27, the club announced on 21 September.

Details of why she died were not released. Maddy was appointed vice-captain of the Sheffield United women's club last month. In addition, she has extended her contract with the team since last July as she is starting her sixth season with the club.

"Sheffield United Football Club is saddened by the passing of Maddy Cusack," club officials said in a statement.

Former Sheffield United women's midfielder Maddy Cusack.

Sheffield United competes in the second tier of the English Women's League. Maddy, a former England women's youth international, was at the prime of her career when she died suddenly. The club's chief executive Stephen Bettis said: "This is very sad news for everyone at Bramall Lane". Maddy was in a position to say that she was a part of Sheffield United and everyone who came into contact with her will miss her in a way that will never be forgotten in her social life and football. — Htun Htun/KZL

## China's Xi declares biggest-ever Asian Games open

Delegation of Myanmar parade into the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Stadium during the opening ceremony of the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, 23 September 2023. **PHOTO:XINHUA**

CHINESE President Xi Jinping opened the 19th Asian Games in a colourful ceremony in Hangzhou on Saturday, launching a two-week sporting extravaganza that boasts more athletes than the Olympics. After being delayed by a year because of China's now-abandoned zero-Covid policy, more than 12,000 competitors from 45 nations and territories will battle it out in 40 sports. In front of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and other visiting leaders, Xi officially opened the Games at the 80,000-capacity Hangzhou Olympic stadium, also known as "the Big Lotus".

Xi was given a rapturous reception by spectators waving mini Chinese flags.

Assad, on his first visit to ally China since the civil war erupted in Syria in 2011, stood up and applauded as his country's team entered the arena and the crowd cheered when his image flashed up on a big screen. International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach was also among the dignitaries. Leaders from Cambodia, Kuwait and Nepal, among others, had all been expected to attend. "Finally we can gather for the 19th Asian Games," Raja Randhir Singh, acting president of the Olympic Council of Asia, told the crowd to more cheers.

"The one-year postponement was unprecedented in OCA history," he added.

The theme of the ceremony was water and it also celebrated Hangzhou's ancient history and landscape, while giving a nod to the city's reputation as the unofficial home of China's tech industry. A "digital torch bearer" strode into the stadium and was projected onto a large screen behind the Games cauldron at the climax. "I feel very happy and excited," a 35-year-old woman spectator surnamed Zhang said.

"I feel it's a great honour for the city."

Jung-Woo Lee, sport policy expert at the University of Edinburgh, told AFP the Games were "China's post-pandemic soft-power exercise". China's status as a sporting and business destination took a severe hit during the pandemic, when snap lockdowns and strict travel rules saw almost all international events cancelled in the country. The event has been rocked by a row between New Delhi and China over three Indian martial arts fighters, with a trip to the city by India's sports minister cancelled on Friday. China denied Indian claims that the trio had been barred from entering the country. — AFP

## Asian Games Men's Football: Myanmar to play decisive match against India today

MYANMAR men's football team will take on a crucial match against the Indian team today for the next round of the XIX Asian Games men's football event.

The final matches of the Group A will be played at the same time. Myanmar will fly in the face of India at 6:00 pm Myanmar Standard Time while host China will face Bangladesh at the same time.

At the end of the second day, the Chinese team advanced to the next round early with six points, while India and Myanmar shared three points each and Bangladesh had no points.

Myanmar footballers are seen cheering in an international football match. **PHOTO: MFF**

The Myanmar team has the same score and goal difference as the Indian team, but is in third place due to fewer goals scored. Therefore, only if the Myanmar team wins against India, they will be allowed to advance to the next round from second place in the group. In case of a draw or loss, Team Myanmar will have to watch the other group results for the best third-placed team.

The Men's Football tourney is divided into six groups, but with only two teams in Group C, only five teams will have to compete for the four spots of the Best Third-placed Team, and the Myanmar team has a chance.

In the past, Myanmar has won two gold medals in the Asian Games football tournament and has a fabulous record as the only team in Southeast Asia to have won a gold medal.

Despite having a decent record, Myanmar returned to compete in 2018 after not competing for a long time. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

SUNDAY EDITION

# Lifestyle

A photo from 22 September 2023, features DEEP Robotics' X30 robot dog navigating stairs in Hangzhou, the host city of the 2022 Asian Games. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Hi, Robot: machines take over at China's Asian Games

*The city, a hub for China's tech industry, deploys robots and innovative gadgets for various services, entertainment, and security for visitors.*

From autonomous bug zappers to android pianists and driverless ice-cream trucks, machines rule the world — at least at China's Asian Games.

The Games open Saturday after a one-year delay because of Covid with about 12,000 athletes and thousands of journalists, technical officials and spectators descending on Hangzhou.

The city is the unofficial home of China's tech industry and robots and other mind-boggling gadgets are set to serve, amuse and police visitors.

An automated mosquito trapper roams the vast Games Village, zapping the pests after luring them in by mimicking a human's body temperature and breathing. Robot "dogs" that can run, jump and flip over patrol power-supply facilities. Smaller versions dance while a bright-yellow android plays the piano.

Driverless minibuses will transport visitors to Shaoxing for baseball and softball events. Athletes can compete against a table-tennis "Pongbot," and a robotic receptionist handles banking at the media center. Construction robots aided venue construction. Hangzhou, with its tech startups and robotics industry, aims to compete with the US and Japan. China promotes the theme with three robot mascots, Congcong, Lianlian, and Chenchen. — AFP

## Freddie Mercury auction highlights his deep love for Japan

Screenshot shows an impression of Utagawa Hiroshige's "Sudden Shower over Shin-Ohashi Bridge and Atake", previously owned by Freddie Mercury. **PHOTO: SOTHEBY'S/ KYODO**

Legendary "Queen" singer-songwriter Freddie Mercury's love for Japanese art and culture was one of the highlights of a monthlong exhibition of his personal belongings put on by London auction house Sotheby's ahead of their auction in a series of events that started earlier this month. At the "Freddie Mercury: A World of His Own" exhibition that wrapped up on 5 September on what would have been the British rock star's 77th birthday, approximately 60 kimono were on show alongside some of his iconic stage costumes.

Other items in Mercury's extensive Japanese art collection, rubbing shoulders with paintings by Picasso and other giants of Western art and luxury items such as a Tiffany & Co mustache comb, included lacquerware, ceramics and ukiyo-e woodblock prints. The collection was put up for sale by Mercury's close friend and estate heir, Mary Austin, as part of six auctions that kicked off with the "Evening Sale" on 6 September. A Yamaha piano, linked to Queen hits, sold for $2.2 million, and "Bohemian Rhapsody" lyrics, with an early title "Mongolian Rhapsody", fetched $1.7 million. Freddie Mercury's Japanese culture interest began during Queen's 1975 tour; he collected kimono and woodblock prints. Sotheby's specialist Jon Adjetey found Mercury's ukiyo-e collection impressive; the highlight was an Utagawa Hiroshige print selling for £292,100. — Kyodo

## In sleepy Montenegro, competitors shatter records at the 'Lazy Olympics'

Ms Lidija Markovic, a 23-year-old beautician, takes part in the annual "lie in" competition on 20 September. **PHOTO: AFP**

FOR more than a month, leisure has been taken to a new level in Montenegro, where an annual competition celebrating the country's languid ways has seen participants going to the mattresses, literally. "I've been here for 800 hours," said Lidija Markovic, a 23-year-old beautician from the nearby town of Niksic.

"I'll get up when I get bored, and I don't know when that will happen." To celebrate its relaxed ways and poke fun at stereotypes of laziness, a traditional bed and breakfast in northern Montenegro's Brezna has been hosting an annual "lie in" competition for the past 12 years — where participants sprawl on mattresses and do next to nothing. Competitors risk disqualification for standing or sitting but can use mobile phones, read, and have visitors. This year, a 15-minute break every eight hours was allowed. — AFP

Kendall Jenner and Vogue's Anna Wintour attend Gucci's Milan Fashion Week show on 22 September 2023. **PHOTO: GABRIEL BOUYS / AFP**

## New-look Gucci goes back to the classics

GUCCI'S new creative director made his long-awaited debut in Milan on Friday, offering a timeless, feminine collection with the aim of relaunching the luxury brand. French owners Kering brought in Sabato de Sarno in January to replace star designer Alessandro Michele, who transformed Gucci over seven years with his eccentric, gender-fluid designs and offbeat shows.

But while Michele reached out to a younger and more diverse audience, sales lagged behind those of Gucci's rivals. De Sarno, who spent more than a decade at Valentino, unveiled his first collection in front of an A-list crowd including actors Julia Roberts and Ryan Gosling. The event got off to a tricky start after the catwalk had to be moved from the streets of Milan to inside Gucci's headquarters due to a forecast of rain. The show featured minimalist settings with models wearing a range of colors. — AFP