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

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Children with a Myanmar traditional hairstyle called Yaungpaysu for boys and Sanyitwine for girls (top-knot with a circular fringe) are seen playing at the Setsetyo Village in NyaungU Township. **PHOTO : THANT ZIN**

Bagan unveils seven new destinations for domestic, international tourists

Apart from these new exciting additions, visitors can explore a variety of artefacts, utensils and ancient Buddha statues from the Bagan era.

ACCORDING to the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch) under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, seven new destinations will be developed for both local and foreign tourists.

The seven new tours include the Kyaukmyathmaw tour in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone, a trip to the rocky lake on Thetsoe Mountain in the southeast of NyaungU Township, a visit to the 900-year-old tamarind tree in Zee-O-Hla Village, exploration of the 21-acre Sal Forest conserved by the Forest Department, a tour of Setsetyo Village in NyaungU Township, which preserves Myanmar traditional hairstyles called Yaungpaysu for boys and Sanyitwine for girls (top-knot with a circular fringe), a visit to Yotesone Monastery in Thepyintaw village, located about 16 miles from the NyaungU-Kyaukpadaung road, a tour of Gemoe Pond in Legwa and Latpanaing villages in Kyaukpadaung

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MIC nods 6 investment projects including renewable energy project on 2 Oct

MYANMAR Investment Commission (MIC) greenlit six new projects to put investments in power, manufacturing, hotels and tourism sectors at the meeting 3/2023 held on 2 October at Office No 18 in Nay Pyi Taw. Among them is the renewable energy project to generate electricity.

Those projects are to pump in US$72.98 million and K314.73 billion into the country and create over 2,600 jobs for locals. At the meeting, eight existing businesses were also allowed to expand capital.

Deputy Prime Minister General Mya Tun Oo, who is also Chair of the Myanmar Investment Commission, and commission members attended the meeting.

As of the end of August 2023, out of 52 foreign countries, Singapore, China and Thailand are the leading countries with the largest foreign direct investments in the country. Of 12 sectors, the power sector accounts for 28.45 per cent by drawing the largest investments, followed by the oil and natural gas sector (24.46 per cent) and the manufacturing sector (14.38 per cent).

Myanmar drew foreign direct investments of $484.155 million in the past five months (Apr-Aug), including expansion of capital by the existing enterprises, and the power sector topped the FDI line-ups, as per the statistics of the DICA.

The Myanmar Investment Commission gave the go-ahead to 31 foreign projects from seven countries in the past five months. Singapore ranked first with five enterprises in FDI amount, followed by China with 19 enterprises. Two enterprises each from the Republic of Korea and the USA put foreign investments in the country. One enterprise each from Hong Kong SAR, India and Samoa also made investments this year. The existing enterprises from

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Mawtinsun Pagoda platform expansion set for festival season completion

Captivating Panorama: Discover the tranquil beauty of Mawtinsun Pagoda in Hainggyikyun, Ayeyawady Region.

ACCORDING to the Ayeyawady Region government, the expansion and construction of the platform of Mawtinsun Pagoda in Hainggyikyun, Ayeyawady Region, will be completed before the next pagoda festival season.

An official from the Ayeyawady Region government said that the construction of the precinct of the pagoda will be completed before the next festival season.

The maintenance of the flagstaff on the platform of the Mawtinsun Pagoda, the construction of a retaining wall between the upper and lower terraces and other repair and maintenance work will be completed before the next festival season as well.

The Buddha Pujaniya Festival of Mawtinsun Pagoda is held every year from the first waxing to the full moon of Tabaung, and the festival will be held in 2024 as usual. — ASH/CT

Bagan unveils 7 new destinations for domestic...

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Township and the Mount Popa Tour, situated approximately 11 miles northeast of Kyaukpadaung Township.

Additionally, visitors can explore utensils from the Bagan era at the Bagan Ancient National Museum. The museum features stone inscriptions from the Bagan period, standing Buddha statues, seated Buddha statues, votive tablets, four-edged daggers, and various weapons used by kings during the Bagan era. The NyaungU District Directorate of Hotels & Tourism has also developed hills for viewing the breathtaking beauty of Bagan's sunrise and sunset. — TWA/CT

Support Cyclone Victims: Make donations via SMS

IT is announced that those wishing to make donations for the victims of the cyclone that happened in Myanmar on 14 May 2023, can do so by sending a single text message with '500' to 9090 from their mobile phones. Each message sent equals a donation of K500. — MNA/MKKS

Six special civil appeal cases heard

A special appeal tribunal consisting of Chief Justice of the Union U Thar Htay and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union U Myo Tint, U Kyi Thein, Daw Thin Thin Nwet and Daw Pyone Pyone Aye was convened yesterday morning at the Supreme Court of the Union and heard six special appeal cases — Nos 43/2022 (Ayeyawady), 48/2022 (Yangon), 52/2022 (Kayin), 9/2023 (Shan), 11/2023 (Shan) and 28/2023 (Shan) as per COVID-19 prevention and control guidelines. — MNA

MIC nods 6 investment projects including ...

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Chinese Taipei, China, Hong Kong SAR, the ROK, Singapore and the UK also increased their foreign investments, the statistics showed.

The agriculture sector drew $2.578 million from three enterprises. Two enterprises put $317.178 million in the power sector. The manufacturing sector received $63.529 million of FDI from 26 projects, while the transport and communication sector attracted capital expansion of $77.82 million. Increased capital of over $23 million was pumped into the livestock and fisheries sector as well.

MIC ensures responsible businesses by assessing environmental and social impacts. The commission has been working together with the relevant departments to screen the project proposals and provide service for the investors under Myanmar Investment Law. — KK

Vice-Senior General Soe Win instructs members of Medical Corps to exchange experiences with international organizations

Vice-Senior General Soe Win urged members of the Tatmadaw Medical Crops to exchange experiences with international organizations in order to further improve the healthcare services of the country.

State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win views the cancer radiation treatment ward of the No 1 Military Hospital in PyinOoLwin yesterday.

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win delivered an address at the ceremony to mark the centennial celebration of No 1 Military Hospital (700-bed), the centennial celebration, opening of the cancer radiation treatment ward and the 30th Myanmar Tatmadaw Medical Conference at the hospital in PyinOoLwin yesterday morning.

The Vice-Senior General highlighted that researchers from the Tatmadaw Medical Research Unit, the Defence Services Medical Academy, the Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences, military hospitals and medical battalions are conducting medical research meeting international standards for providing healthcare services to Tatmadaw members and people.

Research findings were applied in diagnostic measures, treatment and preventive arenas to benefit the Tatmadaw and the State. Especially, research findings obtained during the Covid-19 pandemic period could be utilized in prevention, searching and treatment measures, securing much success, he added.

The Vice-Senior General honoured members of medical services with fine traditions who made sacrifices in medical duties at the frontlines in the military operations of the Tatmadaw. Moreover, he noted that those medical staff gave health treatments to people during the ordinary period and actively participated in the medical services during the disaster period.

He continued that they served the medical duties in Chin State and Naga Self-Administered Zone for public health care services. So, their efforts prove their activities of upholding the ethnic affairs of the Tatmadaw.

With regard to cancer treatment, the Vice-Senior General disclosed that medical equipment for radiation treatment has been installed at the No 1 Military Hospital (700-bed) in PyinOoLwin for cancer disease. As such, Tatmadaw members, families and people in the upper Myanmar will have medical treatment for cancer diseases at the hospital, he added.

The Vice-Senior General explained the history of the hospital and its significant capacity, maintenance of 100-year-old historic buildings at the hospital, and holding of the Myanmar Tatmadaw Medical Conference.

> The Vice-Senior General explained the history of the hospital and its significant capacity, maintenance of 100-year-old historic buildings at the hospital, and holding of the Myanmar Tatmadaw Medical Conference.

At the ceremony, Lt-Gen Ko Ko Oo of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Commander Brig-Gen Kyi Khine and Director of Medical Services Maj-Gen Ko Ko Lwin cut the ribbon to open the centennial celebration of No 1 Military Hospital (700-bed).

The Vice-Senior General unveiled the signboard to mark the centenary No 1 Military Hospital (700-bed) and the cancer radiation treatment ward of the hospital and comforted the patients.

The Vice-Senior General and Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye presented prizes to outstanding Tatmadaw members.

With regard to the No 1 Military Hospital (700-bed), the British established the British Military Hospital (25-bed) in 1923.

The hospital was reconstituted as British Military Hospital (50-bed) in 1931, No 8 Military Hospital (100-bed) in 1943, No 1 Military Hospital (Maymyo) in 1946 and Burma Army Hospital (300-bed) in 1948. The facility was renamed Based Military Hospital (500-bed) in 1963 and No 1 Based Military Hospital (500-bed) in 1963. Moreover, it was upgraded to No 1 Based Military Hospital (700-bed) in 1986 and No 1 Military Hospital (700-bed) in 2002.

The Vice-Senior General met officer trainees, officer instructors and families from PyinOoLwin Station at the convocation hall of the Defence Services Academy yesterday afternoon. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

NCA 8th Anniversary Celebration Steering Committee meets

THE third work coordination meeting of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) Eighth Anniversary Celebration Steering Committee was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

SAC Member Union Minister NCA Eighth Anniversary Celebration Steering Committee Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae gave an opening speech, saying that regarding the celebration of the eighth NCA anniversary, the working committee should carry out systematic inspections to ensure no vacuum in the work they are responsible for and it is necessary to carry out coordinated actions to successfully complete the work and to save money in the use of funds according to the committee. Col Wunna Aung, a member of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee, then explained the measures being taken for the ceremony.

The 3rd work coordination meeting of the NCA 8th Anniversary Celebration Steering Committee in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The deputy ministers and permanent secretaries from the ministries also discussed the work being carried out by their work committees, and the attendees presented the points where necessary.

Steering Committee Chair Lt-Gen Yar Pyae made supplementary remarks on discussion and presentations before concluding the meeting. — MNA/TS

MoHT welcomes Chinese package tourists

IN a warm reception held at the Nilar Hall of the ministry, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Thet Thet Khine extended a hearty welcome to Chinese tourists who arrived in Myanmar yesterday under the arrangement of International Travel Asia Travels and Tours in Myanmar, and Dehong Travel Company in Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China.

During the meeting, the Union minister expressed gratitude to the government of the People's Republic of China for including Myanmar on the list of countries permitting Chinese tourists to travel in organized groups.

In her address, Dr Thet Thet Khine also touched upon the issue of online fraud, revealing that joint security efforts between the two nations had resulted in arrests and suppression of fraudulent activities. She emphasized the ministry's commitment to addressing fake news and collaborating closely with the Chinese news agencies to disseminate accurate information. Additionally, the Union minister encouraged tourists to share their genuine experiences during their trip.

Highlighting Myanmar's rich tourism potential, the Union minister promoted 14 must-visit travel destinations for tourists. She extended her best wishes for a delightful and pleasant journey to the visiting Chinese tourists.

The leader of the Chinese travel group, Mr Dao Chengfu, shared his motivation for organizing the trip, stating his intention to counteract false narratives about Myanmar on Chinese social media platforms. He pledged to spread positive messages about their experiences and the peaceful ambience of Myanmar's destinations after the trip, with the aim of attracting more tourists. Mr Dao Chengfu reaffirmed his belief in the enduring strength of the China-Myanmar Pauk-Phaw friendship.

The Chinese tourist group is scheduled to arrive in Mandalay on 30 September 2023, after departing from Mangshi, China. In addition, arrangements are being made for the visit of tourists from Ruili, Kunming, Shaman, Beijing and Hong Kong. — MNA/TS

The package tourists from China are seen being warmly welcomed at the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism yesterday.

E-Lock eliminates need to open 9-tonne box trucks in logistics transport

THERE will be no openings for over 9-tonne box trucks under the E-lock system, according to an official of the Department of Transport Planning.

The launching of the Phase 1 Logistic Surveillance (E-lock) System on containers and box trucks commenced at Thilawa Special Economic Zone in Yangon on 19 September.

Phase 1 of the E-Lock system will begin on the Yangon Thilawa SEZ-Myawady route. Then, it will proceed to Yagon-Myawady, Yangon-Mandalay and Mandalay-Muse routes under Phase II.

The system will provide real-time monitoring of cargo movements, track and detect the activity and whereabouts of the trucks, ensure safe and secured logistics and smooth trade flow, minimize cargo delays, reduce the loss risks of the goods and save certain fees.

The E-Lock system will also support the ASEAN Customs Transit system to facilitate the movement of cargo across the borders of ASEAN countries. It can also raise the State's revenue and combat illicit trade.

The Yangon Region Transport Planning Department announces registering as a member for applying and renewing the logistics transport licence 'A' and special 'A' licence for over nine-tonne trucks at Myanmar International Freight Forwarders Association, Myanmar Container Trucking Association and Myanmar Highway Freight Transport Service. — ASH/KTZH

COVID-19 report, 2 October 2023

NEW TESTS	NEW CASES	CASUALTIES
3,352	5	0

NATIONAL

SAC Member holds public meeting in Taunggyi

MEMBER of the State Administration Council Khun San Lwin, along with members of the Shan State government, officials from state and district township-level departments, members of Pa-O and Danu self-administered zone administration bodies met town elders, ethnic literature and cultural troupes, and business people in Taunggyi yesterday.

The SAC member explained the five-point roadmap, nine objectives, preparations for a free and fair election, and the fulfilment of requirements for education, health, transport, social and economic sectors through coordinated efforts of the relevant departments.

SAC Member Khun San Lwin meets town elders, ethnic literature and cultural troupes and businesspersons in Taunggyi yesterday.

Members of the Pa-O, Danu, and Inn literature and cultural organizations, rice millers, potato growers, merchants, coffee growers, oil traders and town elders also presented their requirements and Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Zaw Aye complied with them.

SAC Member Khun San Lwin, Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Zaw Aye and State Ethnic Affairs Minister U Aung Kyi Win presented cash awards to ethnic literature and cultural organizations. — MNA/KZW

CRIME NEWS

Confiscation of illegal items: timbers, lead, consumer goods, foodstuffs and vehicles

THE combined on-duty teams under the supervision of the Taninthayi Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force made inspections on 29 September and impounded 881 kilogrammes of illegal lead worth K26.43 million in Dawei and 22,551 kilogrammes of illegal lead worth K676.53 million in Kyunsu township. The action was taken under the Myanmar Mines Law.

On the same day, the combined teams confiscated a total of 1.016 tonnes of teak and 2.012 tonnes of other wood worth about K1.272 million in Nyaunglebin and Thayawady districts and three kinds of goods worth K38.25 million, including 650 pieces of Xiaomi and Redmi phone display that were piled up by the side of the road beyond the Sinphyu checkpoint in Muse township. The action was taken under the Forest Law and Customs procedures.

Similarly, the combined on-duty teams nabbed two Nissan Diesel trucks (approximately worth K85 million), headed from Myawady to Mandalay, carrying 10 kinds of goods worth about K36.945 million, including 2,100 kilogrammes of rice vermicelli and 1,200 kilogrammes of Khian Guan biscuit in Mandalay, 1,400 kilogrammes of chicken sausage (made in China) worth about K7 million that were smuggled and piled up by the side of road near Panson village at the Yepu permanent checkpoint and an Isuzu truck (estimated value of K30 million), travelling from Myawady to Yangon, carrying four kinds of goods worth more than K4 million, including 70 Panasonic bicycles (used) at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Confiscated illegal goods in Mandalay Region on 29 September.

The combined teams impounded a Nissan Condor truck and a Hino Ranger truck (estimated value of K75 million), headed from Myawady to Yangon, carrying six kinds of goods worth about K100.893 million, including 2,609 kilogrammes of Yum Yum instant noodles that exceeded the quantity mentioned in the Import Declaration (ID), at the Ywathagyi Dry Port on 29 September. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

As a result, a total of 17 arrests were made on 29 September, with an estimated value of K1,081 million, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Rivers, including Ayeyawady, expected to exceed critical levels in early October

THE Department of Meteorology and Hydrology announced that the water levels of most major rivers, including the Ayeyawady, may rise above the alarming water level in the first week of October.

The water level of the Ayeyawady may rise by one to two feet in Myitkyina, Bhamo and Shwegu and it may increase by half to two feet in Minbu, Magway, Aunglan, Pyay, Seiktha, Hinthada and Zalun.

In addition, the water level of the Ayeyawady in Katha, Thabeikkyin, Mandalay, Sagaing, Myinmu, Pakokku, NyaungU and Chauk may drop by approximately two to three feet.

The water level of the Chindwin River may increase half to two feet in Khamti, Homalin, Phaungpyin, Mawlaik, Kalewa, Mingin, Kani and Monywa.

In addition, the water level of the Myittha river is expected to rise by one foot in the city of Kalay. The water level of the Sittoung river ranges from half a foot to one foot in Toungoo and Madauk. The water level of the Shwegyin River may increase one foot in Shwegyin. The Bago river's water level may increase by two to three feet in Zaungtu and Bago. The water level of the Thanlwin river is projected to rise by one and a half feet in Hpa-an and may increase by three feet in Myawady.

The water level of the Ngawun river may increase by one to one and half feet in Ngathainggyoung, Thaboung and Pathein. The water level of the Toe River may rise by one foot in Maubin. The water level of the Kalatan river may increase by one to two feet in Paletwa and Kyauktaw. The water level of the Laymyo river may rise by half a foot in MraukU and the water level of the Bilin river may increase by one and a half feet in Bilin.

Similarly, according to statement, the water level of the Dokhtawady river may drop by half to one foot below the current water level in Hsipaw, Shwesayan and Myitnge. — TWA/KZW

NATIONAL

The beach at the Donenyaunghmine Village of Kyunsu Township in Myeik District, Taninthayi Region.

Taninthayi Region sets sights on tourism, resort development across 40 islands

DURING a meeting with the Russia-Myanmar Association for Friendship and Cooperation on 30 September, the Taninthayi Region Chief Minister announced that the tourism and resort industries are actively being developed on 40 islands within Taninthayi Region.

Among more than 800 islands in Taninthayi Region, these 40 islands feature renowned pagodas, resort hotels, and stunning beaches, making them appealing to both local and foreign tourists.

Currently, there are 60 hotels and lodging houses offering a total of 2,433 rooms. Additionally, two companies are involved in the construction of hotels and recreational facilities on eight islands. — TWA/CT

'Mingalaba' EV taxi stand to serve in PyinOoLwin

THE 'Mingalaba' EV taxi stand will be reportedly inaugurated in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Region, to offer commuter services along the PyinOoLwin-Mandalay-Mandalay Airport route. The stand will be operated by Power-27 Business Group Co Ltd and will commence operations with an initial fleet of 15 vehicles.

In alignment with the city's unique characteristics, the new BYD E-2 (2023) electric vehicles will be systematically deployed to provide residents and visitors from all over the country with comfortable and affordable travel throughout the journey.

The taxi fares will be as follows: K10,000 per passenger for a one-way trip between PyinOoLwin and Mandalay, and vice versa, while it will be K55,000 for a charter from PyinOoLwin to Mandalay Airport and K25,000 for a charter from Mandalay-to-Mandalay Airport.

An official from the Mingalaba EV taxi stand has provided contact phone numbers for enquiries regarding trips: For the PyinOoLwin stand, you can call 09 445002004, 09 942222346, and 09 942222347, and for the Mandalay stand, you can reach them at 09 445002005, 09 942222348, and 09 942222349.

To celebrate the opening of the "Mingalaba" EV taxi stand, passengers travelling one-way between PyinOoLwin and Mandalay can enjoy a free return trip between 1 and 31 October 2023. — TWA/CT

An EV taxi that will run between PyinOoLwin and Mandalay.

Literacy initiatives scheduled for 40 days in select regions, states

The meeting for the implementation of literacy activities for rural residents and ethnic people is in progress in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 September.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Education, starting in December of this year, there will be 40-day literacy activities focusing on basic Myanmar language writing and reading and reckoning conducted in select regions and states.

People living in these regions, states, and remote areas will receive instruction in both Myanmar, the official language, and reckoning.

The programme defines the target group as youth aged 15 years and older, adults, and the elderly.

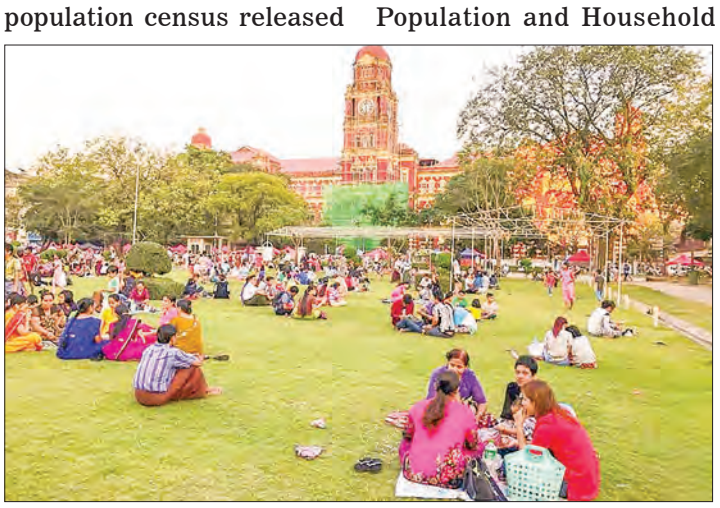
The programme is scheduled for implementation in December 2023 in townships in Shan and Kachin states, as well as in other regions and states. — TWA/CT

Yangon: Myanmar's most populous city with 9 mln people

YANGON Region is the most populous region in Myanmar with nine million residents – 4.2 million males and 4.8 million females, according to the country's estimated population census released on 1 October.

The population density of Yangon is the highest in the country.

According to the data collected based on the 2014 Population and Household Census, Myanmar has an estimated 56.2 million people — 26.8 million men and 29.4 million women on 1 October 2023.



The photo shows people relaxing and recreating at the Maha Bandoola Park in Yangon.

The population of Kayah State is the smallest with 400,000—200,000 men and 200,000 women.

There is a total of 16.6 million people – eight million men and 8.6 million women in seven states. The Shan State shows the highest population with 6.8 million people when compared with other states.

A total of 20.2 million people live in Ayeyawady, Bago and Yangon regions while 5.7 million in Sagaing Region.

Out of the 56.2 million people, about six million are abroad. — TWA/KTZH

NATIONAL
BUSINESS

Yangon Port expected to handle 49 container vessels in October

A total of 49 container vessels are scheduled to arrive at Yangon Port in October, according to the Myanma Port Authority.

In October, seven container vessels run by Samudera Shipping Line, six by Sealand Maersk Asia, five by COSCO Shipping Line, four each by One Line and SITC Line, three each by CMA CMG Line, MSC Line, PIL Line and RCL Line, two each by Evergreen Line, BAY Line, BLPL Line, Land and Sea Line and Sealand Maersk Asia and one by Inter Asia Line are slated to call at the Yangon Port.

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

Yangon Port handled a total of 620 container vessels last year. Thanks to the draft extension, the international ocean liners can access the inner port for now, according to the Myanma Port Authority's statement on 22 June.

The picture depicts a container vessel in the Yangon River.

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

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

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

The coast of Myanmar is 2,228 kilometres (1,260 nautical miles) including the Rakhine coastline (713 kilometres), delta region (437 kilometres) and Taninthayi coastline (1,078 kilometres), stretching from northern Bangladesh's border to southern Thailand's border area.

There are 10 seaports along the coastline, including Yangon Port, Thilawa Deep Sea Port, Kyaukphyu Deep Sea Port, Sittway Port, Thandwe Port, Pathein Port, Mawlamyine Port, Dawei Deep Sea Port, Myeik Port and Kawthoung Port.

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

YGN palm oil wholesale reference price set at K4,390 per viss for week ending 8 Oct

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market was set at K4,390 per viss for the week ending 8 October, showing a slight increase of K15 per viss recorded last week, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The wholesale price was set at K4,375 per viss for a week from 25 September to 1 October.

The Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia including transport costs, tariffs and banking services to issue the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly.

Yet, the market price was higher than the reference price.

To tackle the overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce apprised the consumers of lodging complaints for overcharging through the Call Centre's HotLine in late August. The Department urged consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices.

The Department is making concerted efforts to steer the high volatility in palm oil prices in the retail market and offer fairer prices to the consumers, in coordination with the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association and oil importing companies.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over Hot Line: 1535 of the Call Centre of the Consumers Affairs Department or sent to the Facebook Page of the Department and the region and state departments concerned.

Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association formed a task force for edible oil price stability and started informing the lists of wholesale/retail shops of each company on 28 August, including the address of the shops in the respective townships and the number of available barrels.

The task force will govern the market to meet the satisfaction of the end-users in the supply chain and get easy access to the consumers.

It will also supervise the market to ensure the palm oil sales at a wholesale price not higher than two per cent of net profit margin and retail price not higher than 10 per cent margin.

The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at 1 million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the domestic demands, about 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/EM

Myanmar's fishery exports to over 40 foreign countries bag US$270 mln in H1

MYANMAR conveyed fisheries worth US$270 million to over 40 foreign countries in the first half (April-September) of the current financial year 2023-2024, said U Nyunt Win, director of the Fisheries Department (Nay Pyi Taw).

The fisheries exports steadily flow into the markets of Japan, Middle East countries, European Union countries, Malaysia, Chinese Taipei and Australia. Myanmar Fisheries Federation and the Fisheries Department are closely collaborating to bolster fisheries exports.

"Myanmar's fisheries penetrated over 40 foreign countries in the H1 of the current FY. Myanmar swelled by $270 million from 175,000 tonnes of fisheries exports. They are sent to both maritime and border trade channels," U Nyunt Win elaborated.

Myanmar strictly adheres to good production practices so that the fisheries are free from aquatic diseases in line with the rules and standards of the respective importing countries.

Myanmar normally sends fisheries to international trade partners including Japan and European countries by sea, whereas it exports fisheries such as fish, shrimp, and crab to the neighbouring countries China, Thailand and others via Muse, Myawady, Kawthoung, Sittway, Myeik and Maungtaw border points.

The fisheries department and exporters are working together to meet the demand of each importing country, especially China which exercises strict supervision over seafood import and has sustainable exports depending on market conditions. — ASH/EM

OPINION

Uplift individual behaviours to enhance national image

EVERY Myanmar citizen is responsible for protecting religious edifices and cultural treasures that transcend the boundaries of religion and race because they belong not just to Myanmar but also to every Myanmar citizen. The preservation of these sacred properties depends on the collective efforts of all citizens, regardless of their ethnicity or faith. It is imperative that everybody carry a shared commitment in our hearts: to safeguard these invaluable treasures, never engage in destructive actions, and treat them with the utmost respect.

Respecting religious and cultural properties is a universal principle that transcends religious affiliations. Take, for instance, the Shwedagon Pagoda, a cherished symbol of Myanmar's soul. As custodians of our tangible and intangible cultural heritage, it is incumbent upon all to ensure that no inappropriate actions mar the sanctity of the pagoda and its surroundings. The board of trustees of the pagoda has also issued guidelines explicitly discouraging any behaviour that might tarnish its sanctity.

> The precincts of these religious and cultural sites should not serve as stages for noisy outbursts, impromptu dances for TikTok clips, panhandling, solicitation of donations, or boisterous singing that disrupts the tranquillity of others. These properties are not the domain of international tourists; they belong to the people of Myanmar. As Myanmar citizens, we to ensure our conduct does not disturb others and that we uphold the dignity of national heritage.

Visitors to the pagoda must exercise decorum. Inappropriate clothing and actions can inadvertently reflect negatively on their character and the nation as a whole. Those who pilgrimage to the pagoda do so with reverence and devotion, and they should not unwittingly compromise their image or that of the nation.

The precincts of these religious and cultural sites should not serve as stages for noisy outbursts, impromptu dances for TikTok clips, panhandling, solicitation of donations, or boisterous singing that disrupts the tranquillity of others. These properties are not the domain of international tourists; they belong to the people of Myanmar. As Myanmar citizens, we to ensure our conduct does not disturb others and that we uphold the dignity of national heritage.

All citizens must be mindful of their actions to avoid encroaching upon the rights of others. In doing so, everybody can create a harmonious society that cherishes cultural legacy and bolsters national pride. It is only through such concerted efforts that they can be recognized as exemplary citizens who possess the capacity to safeguard our nation and its people from the encroachment of foreign influences and attitudes.

The duty to protect our religious edifices and cultural treasures lies within the hearts and actions of every Myanmar citizen. All citizens can collectively uphold our national heritage and present a positive image to the world. It is in this commitment to the well-being of cultural legacy that everybody finds the true essence of being a responsible and proud citizen of Myanmar.

ARTICLE

First Officer Willian Murdoch (far left) and Captain John Smith (far right) of the Titanic. **PHOTOS CREDIT: READER'S DIGEST APRIL 2023**

A Profound Lesson from the Sea's Tragic End

By MIN ZAN

IN human history, there have been many events that people cannot have forgotten for centuries. Among them, the giant ship which is believed unsinkable was included. Its name is The Titanic, a vessel that has become synonymous with both opulence and tragedy. The story of this majestic ship captures the imagination, a symbol of human ambition and innovation in the early 20th century. Built to be the epitome of luxury and engineering marvel, The Titanic was a beacon of hope and promise for the future of transatlantic travel.

The origins of The Titanic can be traced back to the early 1900s, a time of burgeoning industrialization and technological advancements. Its creation marked a pinnacle of human engineering, aiming to conquer the mighty Atlantic Ocean. The ship was envisioned as a floating palace, an icon of sophistication and modernity. As the largest and most luxurious ship of its time, The Titanic was set to redefine the standards of elegance and comfort in sea travel, promising an experience akin to a luxurious hotel, sailing across the vast expanse of the ocean.

However, despite the grandeur and magnificence that The Titanic represented, it was a voyage that would be forever marred by tragedy. The opulence of the ship and the dreams it carried were overshadowed by the horrific events that unfolded on its maiden voyage. The sinking of The Titanic, deemed 'unsinkable' by many, became a stark reminder of the unforgiving nature of the sea and the hubris of human beings in the face of such immense forces. This introductory narrative sets the stage for the captivating tale that follows, one that recounts the glory and downfall of a ship that left an indelible mark on history and collective memory.

The Titanic, a marvel of engineering and luxury, embarked on its maiden voyage from Southampton, England, to New York City on 10 April 1912. This colossal vessel, the largest the world had ever seen, was considered unsinkable, equipped with double bottoms, and divided into 16 watertight compartments. Aboard the Titanic were more than 2,200 passengers and crew, ranging from wealthy elites like John Jacob Astor and Isidor Straus to hopeful immigrants in steerage.

As the ship set sail on its fateful journey, little did its passengers know that their voyage would soon turn into one of the most tragic events in maritime history.

Warnings of Ice

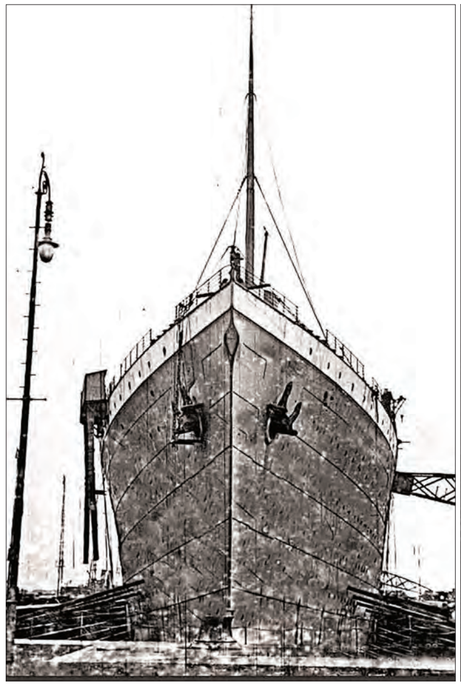
On Sunday, 14 April 1912, the Titanic was sailing through calm waters under a starry night sky. However, danger lurked ahead. Earlier in the day, the wireless operators received messages from other ships warning of icebergs in the vicinity. Despite these warnings, the ship maintained its speed of 22 knots.

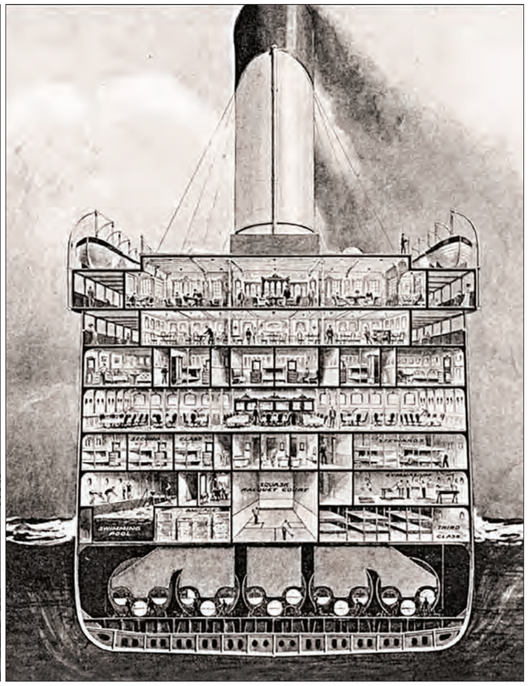
High above in the crow's nest, lookout Frederick Fleet strained his eyes in the darkness. Lookouts were not provided with binoculars, but Fleet suddenly spotted a dark mass directly ahead. It was an iceberg, and he quickly sounded the alarm by ringing the crow's nest bell and alerting the bridge through the phone.

Captain E J Smith received Fleet's warning but didn't fully comprehend the imminent danger. He acknowledged the message and, inexplicably, took no further action. On the bridge, First Officer William Murdoch ordered a sharp turn to avoid the iceberg, but it was too late. The Titanic grazed the iceberg's side, causing ice to tumble onto the deck. It seemed like a minor collision, but the consequences would be catastrophic.

Calls for Help

Realizing the gravity of the situation, Captain Smith ordered a distress call to be sent out. Jack Phillips, the wireless operator, transmitted the international distress signal, CQD, and later the new SOS signal. The message included the Titanic's position, 41.46 N, 50.14 W, indicating the ship's desperate need for assistance.





A Gaping Wound

Below deck, in the No 6 boiler room, fireman Frederick Barrett was tending to his duties when disaster struck. A massive gash, about 90 metres long, had opened on the starboard side, shearing through compartments and letting in seawater. Barrett narrowly escaped by leaping into the No 5 boiler room just before the watertight door closed.

Passengers throughout the ship felt the impact, describing it as a grinding jolt. It was enough to rattle silverware in the dining saloon and awaken those in their cabins. But many remained unaware of the extent of the damage.

Captain Smith quickly assessed the situation and realized the dire state of the ship. The Titanic was sinking, and there was little time to spare. He ordered Chief Officer H F Wilde to uncover the lifeboats. However, there were only 16 lifeboats and four collapsible boats, which could accommodate only about half of the people on board.

Chaos and Heroism

Back on the Titanic, passengers and crew began grappling with the reality of the disaster. As the ship's bow slowly rose and the stern sank deeper into the icy water, chaos erupted on board.

Passengers were separated by class, with first-class passengers closer to the centre of the ship, second-class further aft, and third-class passengers near the stern. Boat assignments had not been made, and the evacuation process was slow and confusing.

Second Officer Charles H Lightoller, responsible for the port side, called for women and children to board the lifeboats. Some passengers were hesitant to leave the perceived safety of the Titanic for the uncertainty of a lifeboat, but the situation grew increasingly dire.

As the ship continued to sink, bandmaster Wallace Henry Hartley and his musicians played music to calm passengers' nerves. The hymn "Autumn" played just before the ship's final moments would become etched in the memory of those who survived.

The Tragic End

At 2:15 am, the Titanic's stern began to rise, and it seemed to hang momentarily upright before slowly descending beneath the waves. The ship's lights flickered and then went out permanently. A deafening roar echoed across the water as the Titanic broke apart, sending debris and passengers into the frigid sea.

The Titanic, once a symbol of opulence and engineering prowess, disappeared into the depths of the Atlantic Ocean. In the aftermath, the sea was filled with a tangled mass of wreckage and struggling passengers. The cold water claimed the lives of hundreds of men, women, and children.

Amidst the chaos and tragedy, acts of heroism and selflessness also emerged. Some passengers chose to stay behind, sacrificing their lives to ensure the safety of others. Benjamin Guggenheim, dressed in evening attire, declared, "We are prepared to go down like gentlemen."

The sinking of the Titanic remains a poignant and heartbreaking chapter in maritime history. Despite its reputation as an unsinkable ship, the Titanic succumbed to the iceberg's deadly embrace, resulting in the loss of over 1,500 lives.

The tragedy of the Titanic serves as a stark reminder of the fragility of human endeavours in the face of nature's immense power. It is a story of bravery and sacrifice, as well as a testament to the indomitable human spirit in the most dire of circumstances.

As we reflect on this tragic event, we must honour the memory of those who perished and pay tribute to the heroes who emerged in the darkest hours of that fateful night on the Titanic.

The sinking of the Titanic stands as an enduring lesson for humanity, a reminder that even the mightiest creations of human ingenuity are susceptible to the forces of nature. It underscores the importance of humility and prudence in the face of our ambitions. The Titanic's story urges us to never become complacent, even in our greatest achievements, and to always respect and understand the environments in which we operate. Hubris can blind us to potential dangers, and it's a sobering lesson that should guide us as we continue to advance and innovate.

Furthermore, the tragedy of the Titanic highlights the paramount significance of preparedness and effective crisis management. In moments of crisis, it's crucial to have a clear plan in place and the ability to swiftly adapt and respond. The lack of adequate lifeboats and an organized evacuation plan significantly exacerbated the loss of life. This compels us to prioritize safety, meticulous planning, and the well-being of all individuals in any endeavour we undertake, ensuring that everyone has a chance to survive and thrive, even in the face of unforeseen challenges.

Lastly, the Titanic serves as a poignant testament to the resilience and heroism of the human spirit in the direst circumstances. Even in the face of impending tragedy, individuals displayed extraordinary acts of selflessness, putting the welfare of others before their own. This selflessness, sacrifice, and unity in adversity should inspire us to be compassionate and courageous in our daily lives. The Titanic's legacy impels us to reach out, support one another, and find strength in unity, reminding us that even in the darkest hours, our capacity for kindness and bravery can bring light and hope to the world.

Reference: Reader's Digest April 2023

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SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

Indian spacecraft heads towards centre of solar system

INDIA'S Sun-monitoring spacecraft has crossed a landmark point on its journey to escape "the sphere of Earth's influence", its space agency said, days after the disappointment of its Moon rover failing to awaken.

The Aditya-L1 mission, which started its four-month journey towards the centre of the solar system on 2 September, carries instruments to observe the Sun's outermost layers.

"The spacecraft has escaped the sphere of Earth's influence," the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) said in a statement late Saturday.

Aditya, named after the Hindu Sun deity, has travelled 920,000 kilometres (570,000 miles), just over half the journey's total distance.

Members of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) watch the live streaming of the launch of PSLV XL rocket carrying the Aditya-L1 spacecraft, the first space-based Indian observatory to study the Sun, in Mumbai on 2 September 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

At that point, the gravitational forces of both astronomical bodies cancel out, allowing the mission to remain in a stable halo orbit around our nearest star.

"This is the second time in succession that ISRO could send a spacecraft outside the sphere of influence of the Earth, the first time being the Mars Orbiter Mission", the agency added.

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

Rover Pragyan surveyed the vicinity of its landing site but was powered down before the start of lunar night, which lasts roughly two weeks on Earth.

India had hoped to prolong the mission by reactivating the solar-powered vehicle once daylight returned to the lunar surface, but so far has been greeted by radio silence. "It is OK if it does not wake up because the rover has done what it was expected to do," ISRO chief S. Somanath said Wednesday.

In 2014, India became the first Asian nation to put a craft into orbit around Mars, and it is slated to launch a three-day crewed mission into Earth orbit by next year. — AFP

Volkswagen ID Buzz vehicles are parked outside the venue hosting the Geneve International Motor Show (GIMS) in Doha on 1 October 2023 after crossing through 12 countries to arrive in Qatar from Geneva. **PHOTO: AFP**

Swiss-led team drives electric vans from Geneva to Doha

A Swiss-led team has driven electric vans across Europe and the Arabian Peninsula to Qatar to showcase zero-emission battery powered vehicles, organizers said Sunday.

The five-strong Swiss and German team set out from Geneva on 28 August in two electric Volkswagen vans on a 6,500 kilometre (4,000 mile) journey that ended in Doha on Saturday.

"The motivation was really to do something unusual," the group's leader Frank Rinderknecht told AFP. "Certainly we did have the risk of not arriving — technical issues, health issues or an accident."

The journey aimed to raise awareness about the environmental benefits of electric vehicles, he said. "If our trip put just a little bit of rethinking, of initiative, into people's minds then I am not unhappy."

The journey started with a crossing of the Swiss Alps and included what organizers believe was the first west-to-east crossing of Saudi Arabia with electric vehicles.

The team's ID. Buzz VW vans — modelled on the German manufacturer's Combi camper-van — travelled across 12 countries, reaching Aqaba in Jordan from Türkiye by ship. — AFP

Netherlands halts extraction from Europe's biggest gas field

THE Netherlands halted extraction from Europe's biggest gas field on Sunday, which was resulting in earthquakes that have shaken local residents for decades and threaten to persist.

Authorities are keeping 11 extraction wells open at the Groningen gas field for another year, however, in case of a severe winter, before shutting its gates for good against a backdrop of geopolitical tensions.

People living near the site, which opened in the early 1960s, have complained for more than 20 years of being terrorized by quakes directly attributed to drilling operations.

The local population had been experiencing low-magnitude, near-surface quakes caused by vacuum pockets formed during gas extraction, which caused widespread damage to homes and other buildings.

Residents welcomed the news in 2018 that the field would be closed, but have been warned by experts that the earthquakes could continue for years.

Although gas extraction from the field has been almost cut to zero over the last few years, the government kept the site operational due to the global energy uncertainties prompted largely by Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

"An enormous number of people in the province are suffering psychological problems due to the extraction of gas," Jan Wigboldus, president of an association representing local people, told AFP.

Many have also been caught in bureaucracy, receiving only a trickle of compensation.

A report by a parliamentary commission in February accused the Dutch authorities of having paid "barely any attention to the long-term risks" while extraction was successful, adding that the government had a moral obligation to remedy the situation.

Around 2,300 billion cubic metres (81,223 billion cubic feet) of gas have been extracted from the field over the years, according to Shell.

Groningen gas generated some 429 billion euros ($450 billion), adjusted for inflation, between 1963 and 2020, 85 per cent of which went into state coffers.

For months, mountains of debris of old pipes have littered the site from sections of the field already dismantled.

Many houses in the Groningen area have now been renovated or rebuilt to incorporate earthquake-resistant structures. — AFP

Dutch resident Daan Schoolland, 41, shows the damage to his home two weeks after an earthquake measuring 3.2 on the Richter scale, in Garelsweerd, Groningen, on 23 November 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

LIFESTYLE WORLD

The 10-year-old fashion influencer

TAYLEN Biggs has close to 1.5 million followers across TikTok and Instagram, a wardrobe full of designer clothes and 15 fashion weeks under her belt — and she's 10 years old.

Taylen arrived at last week's Balmain show, one of the hottest tickets of Paris Fashion Week, in a luxurious white jacket-and-skirt combo by the French label, black boots and bag by Karl Lagerfeld and her favourite Vintage Frames shades.

She was followed, as always, by her cameraman. Also keeping a discreet distance was her "bodyguard", as she calls him, who also happens to be her father.

"I love fashion and I love meeting new people and interviewing them and seeing what they have to say," she told AFP, before getting down to business with her microphone. Taylen, who lives in Miami, has interviewed the likes of DJ Khaled, popstar Kali Uchis and American Football star Patrick Mahomes, as well as a huge number of models, designers and fellow fashionistas.

She is practically a veteran of red carpets, appearing at everything from the MTV Music Awards to the Superbowl, a regular at New York and Miami fashion weeks, and all over Milan and Paris for the past fortnight. — AFP

(FILES) Instagram sensation Taylen Biggs arrives for the Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards Slime Soiree, 22 March 2019 at the Wave House in Venice, California. **PHOTO: AFP**

Holy camel! Parade of pets blessed at New York cathedral

NEW York worshippers celebrated mass at St John the Divine Cathedral on Sunday alongside hundreds of animals — including a camel, a pony, snakes, ostriches, geese, cats and dogs — which all queued up for blessings of their own.

The Manhattan Episcopal church invited its four-legged guests — or no-legged, in the case of the snakes — to mark the feast of St Francis of Assisi, known as the patron saint of pets and animals.

Sunday's ceremony was a special milestone for the parish, which has not held a traditional first-weekend-of-October animal blessing since 2018, due to a fire and then the Covid-19 pandemic.

Animal-lovers of many faiths brought their furry friends to receive a little extra grace, including Jon Shweky, who is Jewish, and Christine Cookman, who is Catholic. They brought their black labrador, who is training to become a guide for the blind starting in November.

"We wanted to bring him for a blessing before he went in (to become a guide dog), for a good health and good luck," Cookman told AFP.

"It's such a spiritual (and) amazing thing to be involved with a church that recognizes the soul of animals," she added. — AFP

People take part in the Procession of Animals before the Blessing of the Animals during the St. Francis Day Service at the Cathedral of St John the Divine in New York City on 1 October 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Chinese films screened at Asian film festival in Chicago

CHINESE film Hachiko by Xu Ang is screened at the Chicago Cultural Centre on Sunday to a fully booked audience. It tells a heartrending tale of a faithful dog who continued to wait for his owner at a cable car station after the owner's death.

It is one of the three Chinese films screened at the 17th Asian Pop-Up Cinema Film Festival. The other two, Ripples of Life by Wei Shujun and The Best is Yet to Come by Wang Jing, were screened Saturday in a theater in downtown Chicago.

Ripples of Life depicts the odyssey following a Beijing film crew to a small town in rural China where everyone seems longing for escape. The Best is Yet to Come is a social drama based on the life of a journalist who exposed the stigma against people with Hepatitis B. — Xinhua

This aerial photo shows the Lac-Simon community, in western Quebec, on 20 September 2023. The community was evacuated in June, because of wildfires. Although Indigenous communities only represent five per cent of Canada's population, they nevertheless constitute one in two evacuees. **PHOTO: AFP**

Wildfires upend Indigenous Canadians' balance with nature

HER house survived Canada's record wildfires this year, but everything that made her and many other Indigenous people in the area feel at home — the spruce forests that enveloped her town, providing not just food but protection, everything from game to medicinal plants — is gone.

"An evacuation in the middle of the night, with sirens blaring... it was a great shock," the former leader of this Anishinaabe tribe told AFP. "Children were crying and didn't want to leave their mothers."

As they recover from this summer's fires, isolated Indigenous communities surrounded by vast forests and often reachable only by air or a long, winding road are now facing big questions about their ability to maintain traditional ways of life.

"The forest that protects us has disappeared," Jerome says in a quavering voice.

"Our pantry has disappeared. There are no more small game animals, no hares, no partridges. All of the medicinal plants have burned."

All that remains now are blackened trunks.

A record number of wildfires, topping more 6,400 at last count, scorched almost 18 million hectares (nearly 70,000 square miles) this year, and forced thousands of Indigenous people to flee for their lives. Although they only represent five per cent of Canada's population, they nevertheless constitute one in two evacuees. — AFP

ECONOMY
WORLD

Tourists visit the Angkor Wat temple complex, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in Siem Reap province on 16 January 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Cambodia's famed Angkor attracts nearly 540,000 intl tourists in first 9 months

CAMBODIA'S famed Angkor Archaeological Park had recorded 539,561 foreign tourists during the first nine months of 2023, a year-on-year increase of 302 per cent, said a news release on Monday.

The ancient site earned 24.95 million US dollars in revenue from ticket sales during the period, a year-on-year rise of 365 per cent, according to the news release from the state-owned Angkor Enterprise.

Ministry of Tourism's Secretary of State and Spokesman Top Sopheak expressed his strong belief that the number of international tourists to Angkor will increase significantly when the Chinese-invested Siem Reap Angkor International Airport commences operations later this year.

Located in northwest Siem Reap province, the 401-square-km Angkor Archeological Park, inscribed on the World Heritage List of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1992, is the most popular tourist destination in the Southeast Asian nation. — Xinhua

UK finance minister to announce boost for lowest earners

THE UK minimum wage will go up next year, finance minister Jeremy Hunt will announce at the Conservative party's annual conference Monday, as the country gears up for a general election.

The rise from April next year comes amid the worst cost of living crisis in a generation, with the government battling stubbornly high inflation and industrial unrest across the economy.

The boost for the UK's lowest earners will see wages rise to at least £11 an hour ($13.4) — an annual increase for a full-time worker of over £1,000, Hunt will tell party members in the northwestern city of Manchester.

The chancellor of the exchequer will also announce proposals for a crackdown on people claiming out-of-work benefits payments while failing to look for work.

"Work must pay," Hunt was expected to tell the conference, according to extracts of his speech released in advance.

"Whilst companies struggle to find workers, around 100,000 people are leaving the labour force every year for a life on benefits.

"It is a fundamental matter of fairness. Those who won't even look for work do not deserve the same benefits as people trying hard to do the right thing," he was due to say. — AFP

Viet Nam's manufacturing PMI falls back to below 50 in September

VIET Nam's manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) posted 49.7 points in September, back below the 50.0, no-change mark following a reading of 50.5 in August, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence's report released on Monday.

The index signalled a deterioration in business conditions for Vietnamese manufacturers, the report found.

After improving in August, overall business conditions in the Vietnamese manufacturing sector declined marginally in September.

Underlying data pointed to a strengthening demand environment and growing business confidence, but also a degree of spare capacity in the sector which led to reductions in output and employment, according to the report.

The most positive aspect of the S&P Global Market Intelligence's survey was a second successive monthly increase in new orders, with the rate of expansion broadly in line with that seen in the previous survey period.

A number of respondents signalled that strength in new export orders, particularly from other Asian economies, had helped to boost total new business.

Andrew Harker, Economics Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said, "The picture was mixed in the Vietnamese manufacturing sector during September."

This photo taken on 26 August 2022 shows electric vehicles at the VinFast electric automobile plant in Haiphong. **PHOTO: AFP**

"On a positive note, firms continued to see demand pick up, with a particularly encouraging rise in new orders signalled. This fed through to greater confidence in the year-ahead outlook," he said.

"On the other hand, there is clearly still some excess capacity in the sector, which meant that firms continued to lower employment and also scaled back output slightly, opting to use the inventories that had been building up in recent months to help meet new orders," he added. — Xinhua

Business confidence up among Japan's big manufacturers

CONFIDENCE among Japan's largest manufacturers rose as business conditions improved for the second-straight quarter, a key survey showed Monday.

The Bank of Japan's closely watched quarterly Tankan survey is considered the broadest indicator of how Japanese businesses are faring.

It reports the difference between the percentage of firms that are upbeat and those that see conditions as unfavourable.

A positive figure means more businesses feel optimistic than pessimistic.

Among major manufacturers, business confidence rose to plus nine from plus five three months earlier, the survey showed.

The headline figure — the highest level since June last year — came after the first improvement in seven quarters in July, and beat market expectations of plus six. Optimism also grew among non-manufacturers, from plus 23 to plus 27, which was the sixth-straight quarterly improvement and the highest level since November 1991 and against market expectations of plus 24. — AFP

Afghanistan exports 150 tonnes of dried tomatoes to Europe

AFGHANISTAN exported 150 tonnes of dried tomatoes to Europe on Sunday, local official Abdul Ahmad Nazari said on Monday.

Nazari, a member of Public Relation Office of state-owned Spinzar Shirkat, told Xinhua that the shipment had been sent to Europe via central Asian states.

The Kunduz-based corporation was reactivated after decades of war in late March, and it has been engaged in production of cooking oil and soap besides vegetable processing.

Afghanistan also exports a variety of soft drink, dried and fresh fruits, coal, pine nuts and saffron to several countries, including China, Pakistan, India, and Saudi Arabia. — Xinhua

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

We, **Jiangsu Mindleader Crop Science Co.,Ltd**, would like to change the Distributor of the following products, from **Nawarat Myay Co.,Ltd** to **Buffalo Agro Science Co.,Ltd**. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Yangon, from here to next (2) weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Pilargold	S-Metolachlor 45% CS	Provisional Registration	P2022-5055

Buffalo Agro Science Co.,Ltd
Tel: 09-250406611

Solar panels and wind turbines are pictured near Lichtenau, western Germany on 31 May 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Climate goal reliant on massive new private sector investment: IMF

THE private sector must drastically increase its climate-related investments, most crucially in developing countries, for the world to reach net zero carbon by 2050, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in a report published Monday.

To attain the 2050 goal, $2 trillion would need to be invested annually by 2030, according data from the International Energy Agency (IEA) cited in the report.

But this is far above the estimated $400 billion planned for the next seven years, the IMF said.

The report warns that countries, especially ones with emerging or developing economies, will not be able to increase their debt levels by an average of 45-50 per cent.

"We consider this as fiscally unsustainable," Ruud de Mooij, deputy director of the IMF's fiscal affairs department, said in an online press conference.

The good news, he said, is that 90 per cent of the technologies needed to reduce emissions by 2030 already exist.

But to reach sufficient deployment, according to the report, private sector must double its contribution from 40 per cent to 80 per cent.

The report is part of the fund's Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR), which will be released in full at the IMF and World Bank's annual meetings, beginning 9 October in Marrakesh.

While some emerging countries, such as China and India, have a well-resourced private sector, this is not the case elsewhere, which means creating the conditions to attract international investment will be necessary, according to the IMF.

Fabio Natalucci, deputy director of the IMF, said more work had to be done to improve developing nations' credit ratings. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MAERSK VALENCIA VOY.NO. (337W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAERSK VALENCIA VOY.NO. (337W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-10-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V KOTA HAPAS VOY.NO. (KHPS0397N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA HAPAS VOY.NO. (KHPS0397N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-10-2023** 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 PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V LI XIANG VOY.NO. (104264)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V LI XIANG VOY. NO. (104264)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-10-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-4** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO LTD

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Pope to publish follow-up to landmark climate text

EIGHT years after warning in a landmark thesis of the devastation of man-made climate change, Pope Francis is publishing an update Wednesday to take stock and offer ideas for action.

The short follow-up to the 2015 encyclical "Laudato Si" ("Praise Be To You") comes just weeks before the next round of UN climate talks kick off in Dubai amid warnings that the world is perilously off course in meeting its goals on reducing carbon emissions.

The new papal text, "Laudate Deum" (Praise to God), will be "a look at what has happened and say what needs to be done", Francis, 86, said last month.

The original document, which ran to almost 200 pages, was aimed not just at the world's 1.3 billion Catholics but everyone on the planet, a call to global solidarity to act together to protect "our common home".

Pope Francis leads an ecumenical prayer with Protestants and Orthodox at St Peter's square in The Vatican on 30 September 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Grounded in climate research, it clearly stated that humanity was responsible for global warming, and warned that the rapid pace of change and degradation had brought the world to near "breaking point".

But it also had a strong moral message, with Francis blaming consumerism, individualism and a pursuit of economic growth for leading to "the planet being squeezed dry".

The pontiff also argued that rich countries must accept they are most responsible for the climate crisis and help poorer countries who are suffering the most.

The document sparked a global debate unprecedented for a religious text, including commentaries in scientific journals.

Months later, there was a breakthrough in UN climate talks in Paris, in which experts said the Vatican played a significant behind-the-scenes role.

Nearly every nation on Earth committed to limit warming to "well below" two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

But the UN warned last month that the world is not on track to meet these goals, while climate monitors predict 2023 will be the hottest in human history, with the Northern Hemisphere's summer marked by heatwaves, droughts and wildfires.

"It's time to work together to stop the ecological catastrophe before it's too late," Pope Francis said last month in a video address to the UN General Assembly. — AFP

Trump business empire under threat as New York fraud trial opens

FORMER US president Donald Trump will appear in a New York court on Monday as a civil fraud trial against him and two of his sons kicks off, with the case threatening the Republican's business empire as he campaigns to retake the White House.

In Monday's case, Judge Arthur Engoron has already ruled that Trump and his sons Eric and Don Jr committed fraud by inflating the value of the real estate and financial assets of the Trump Organization for years.

New York Attorney-General Letitia James is now seeking $250 million in penalties and the removal of Trump and his sons from management of the family empire.

Trump said late Sunday he planned to be present for the start of the trial on Monday morning.

"I'm going to Court tomorrow morning to fight for my name and reputation," the 77-year-old wrote on his Truth Social platform. "This whole case is a sham!"

In addition to this civil case, Trump also faces several major criminal proceedings in the months ahead. — AFP

(FILES) Former US President and Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump speaks during the Pray Vote Stand summit at the Omni Shoreham hotel in Washington, DC, on 15 September 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

This aerial photo taken on 30 September 2023 shows a high-speed electric multiple unit (EMU) train of the Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway running in Purwakarta, Indonesia. Indonesian President Joko Widodo declared the official operation of the Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway (HSR) at Halim Station in Jakarta Monday morning. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Indonesian president declares operation of Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway

INDONESIAN President Joko Widodo declared the official operation of the Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway (HSR) at Halim Station in Jakarta Monday morning.

At the ceremony, Widodo said the HSR, with a speed of 350 kilometres per hour, is the first high-speed train in Indonesia and Southeast Asia, marking the modernization of Indonesia's transportation mode.

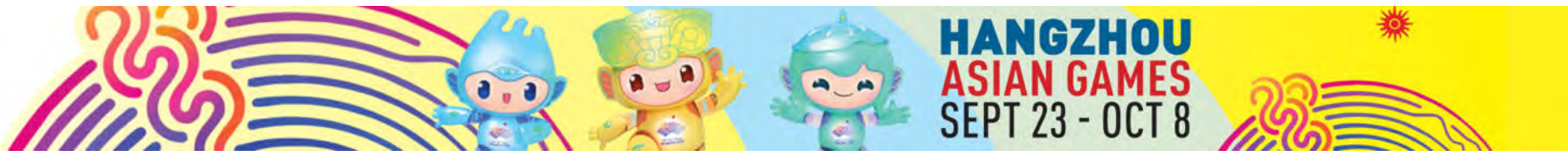
He announced the name of the HSR, "Whoosh," inspired by the sound of the train, and declared that "Whoosh" was ready to be operated.

Representatives from the Chinese Embassy in Indonesia, China Railway International Group, and PT Kereta Cepat Indonesia-China (KCIC) attended the ceremony.

The Indonesian Transportation Ministry issued an operating licence to the KCIC last Friday, a joint venture consortium between Indonesian and Chinese firms that constructs and runs the HSR. The high-speed line, spanning 142.3 km and connecting Indonesia's capital city Jakarta and the fourth largest city Bandung, is a flagship project that synergizes the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative and Indonesia's Global Maritime Fulcrum strategy, and also a signature project of pragmatic cooperation between China and Indonesia.

It was the first time that Chinese railway systems, technology and industrial components were fully used in HSR construction project overseas. — Xinhua

SPORTS



Myanmar men's team advances to Sepak Takraw semifinal; Myanmar archers leave their events

MYANMAR men's team sailed into the semifinal after the second day of group matches (a team of four) in the Sepak Takraw event of the Asian Games yesterday.

Despite losing to Indonesia 1-2, the Myanmar men's Sepak Takraw team won over the Vietnamese team 2-1 in a decisive match to reach the semifinal. Myanmar was defeated by Indonesia 22-20 and 21-19.

Myanmar lost 22-20 to Vietnam in the first match but threshed Viet Nam 21-19 in the second match and 21-19 in the third. Myanmar secured two wins over Laos and Viet Nam and one loss to Indonesia. So, Myanmar stood second in the group. The semifinal matches will take place on 3 October (today).

Myanmar archers Pyae Sone Hnin competes in the Archery women's recurve individual event at Fuyang Yinhu Sports Centre in Hangzhou, China on 2 October 2023.

Myanmar men's Sepak Takraw team advance to the semifinal.

In the women's event, Myanmar lost 0-2 to Indonesia in the last match of the group. Myanmar women's team missed the chance for the semifinal with one win and two losses in the group matches.

Two Myanmar archers competed in the Recurve individual events, and in the women's individual competition, Pyae Sone Hnin reached the Round of 16, after beating Al Lali from the UAE by 6-5 points during the Round of 32. In the Round of 16, she lost 6-2 against Chinese Taipei player Li Chai Ying and was eliminated from the tournament.

Thiha Htet Zaw, who competed in the men's individual event, faced Nepalese player Pon Maga in the round of 32 and was defeated by a score of 7-1. — Ko Nyi Lay/TTA

Japan sweeps titles at Asiad triathlon

JAPAN clinched the mixed relay gold medal in triathlon at the Hangzhou Asian Games on Monday, marking their third consecutive victory in this event following triumphs at Incheon 2014 and Jakarta 2018.

This win also marks the third gold from as many events won by Japan in this Asiad, as they previously secured the men's and women's individual titles.

In Monday's mixed relay, Japan showcased remarkable teamwork and consistent performance, completing the race in a time of one hour, 26 minutes, and 21 seconds. China came in second with a time of one hour, 27 minutes, and 48 seconds, while Hong Kong, China, clinched the bronze.

"I was a bit asthmatic, but I was fighting for the team today, so it was a special moment. I gave it everything and it was a good leg," said Kenji Nener. "The Japanese team did very well and we are all happy with the performance."

The race included four athletes in each of the 12 teams, comprising two men and two women, with each athlete covering a 0.3-kilometre swim, a 6.67-kilometre bike ride, and a 1.86-kilometre run. — Xinhua

DPRK weightlifters collect 2 golds, set world record at Hangzhou Asiad

Kim Ilgyong of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) competes during the Women's 59 Kg Group A match of Weightlifting at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, 2 October 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

DPR Korean weightlifter Kim Il Gyong won gold in the women's 59-kilogramme category of weightlifting competition at Hangzhou Asiad on Monday, lifted 111 kg in the snatch and 135 kg in the clean and jerk for a total of 246 kg, and set a world record in the snatch, one kilo better than the previous mark, held by Chinese Taipei's Olympic gold medallist Kuo Hsing-chun.

Rim Un Sim from DPRK, who took gold medal in the women's 69 kg at the Jakarta Asian Games five years ago, collected gold in the women's 64 kg, lifted 111 kg in the snatch and 140 kg in the clean and jerk for a total of 251 kg later on the day.

In an absorbing contest, Kim set a new world record in the snatch, raising 111 kg above her head on her third lift, four kilogrammes more than her Chinese opponent Luo Shifang. The 20-year-old DPR Korean girl kept her momentum in the clean and jerk to lift 135 kg, two kilogrammes more than Luo.

Luo won a silver with a total of 240 kg.

A coach from team DPR Korea introduced that the country had missed many competitions during last four years, including the delayed Tokyo Olympic Games from which they withdrew ahead of the opening.

"All weightlifters of the team train hard for Hangzhou Asiad," said the coach.

"It is really a challenge that participating the Asiad after world weightlifting championships within a month," said Luo, adding that she would keep on practicing and focus on the Paris Olympic Games next year.

29-year-old Chinese Taipei's Kuo Hsing-chun, gold medallist in the women's 59 kg category at the Tokyo Olympic Games, took the bronze with 227 kg in the event.— Xinhua

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Kariko, Weissman win Nobel for mRNA Covid vaccines

A screen at the Karolinska Institute shows this year's laureates Katalin Kariko of Hungary (L) and Drew Weissman of the US during the announcement of the winners of the 2023 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm on 2 October 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

KATALIN Kariko of Hungary and Drew Weissman of the United States won the Nobel Medicine Prize on Monday for work on messenger RNA (mRNA) technology that paved the way for Covid-19 vaccines.

The pair, who had been tipped as favourites, were honoured for "for their discoveries concerning nucleoside base modifications that enabled the development of effective mRNA vaccines against COVID-19," the jury said.

"The laureates contributed to the unprecedented rate of vaccine development during one of the greatest threats to human health in modern times," it added.

The pair will receive their prize, consisting of a diploma, a gold medal and a $1 million cheque, from King Carl XVI Gustaf at a formal ceremony in Stockholm on 10 December the anniversary of the 1896 death of scientist Alfred Nobel who created the prizes in his last will and testament.

Last year, the Medicine Prize went to Swedish paleogeneticist Svante Paabo, who sequenced the genome of the Neanderthal and discovered the previously unknown hominin Denisova.

The Nobel season continues this week with the announcement of the winners of the Physics Prize on Tuesday and the Chemistry Prize on Wednesday.

They will be followed by the much-anticipated prizes for Literature on Thursday and Peace on Friday. — AFP

Bangladesh dengue deaths top 1,000 in worst outbreak on record

MORE than 1,000 people in Bangladesh have died of dengue fever since the start of the year, official figures showed, in the country's worst recorded outbreak of the mosquito-borne disease.

Dengue is a disease endemic to tropical areas and causes high fevers, headaches, nausea, vomiting, muscle pain and, in the most serious cases, bleeding that can lead to death. The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned that dengue — and other diseases caused by mosquito-borne viruses such as chikungunya, yellow fever and Zika — are spreading faster and further due to climate change.

Figures from Bangladesh's Directorate General of Health Services published on Sunday night said 1,006 people had died, among more than 200,000 confirmed cases.

The agency's former director Be-Nazir Ahmed told AFP Monday that the number of deaths so far this year was higher than every previous year combined since 2000.

Women receive treatment as they suffer from dengue fever, at the Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital in Dhaka on 2 October 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

"It's a massive health event, both in Bangladesh and in the world," he said.

The new figures dwarf the previous highest total from 2022, when 281 deaths were recorded for the full year.

Among the dead are 112 children aged 15 and under, including infants. — AFP

Oil industry 'central' to climate solutions: COP28 head

THE president of the upcoming COP28 climate talks told an Abu Dhabi oil conference on Monday that the fossil fuel industry would play an essential role in addressing the climate crisis.

"For too long, this industry has been viewed as part of the problem, that it's not doing enough and in some cases even blocking progress," said Sultan Al Jaber, the president-designate of the COP28 talks, who is also the head of UAE oil giant ADNOC.

"This is your opportunity to show the world that, in fact, you are central to the solution," he told the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition Conference.

"This industry can change the global debate... It is time to silence the sceptics by applying scale, capital and technology to deliver outcomes." Jaber urged industry leaders to curb emissions associated with energy production and expand use of renewable energy sources. He also encouraged them to embrace "low carbon solutions" like carbon capture and storage, tools that climate experts say distract from the urgent goal of slashing fossil fuel pollution.— AFP