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

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Bagan introduces scenic horseback riding experiences

Plans are underway to offer horse-riding tours for local and foreign travellers in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone.

Debut of horse-riding enhances panoramic Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone.

THE Areindama Tour Company said they are making plans to offer horse-riding tours for local and foreign travellers in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone.

The Areindama Tour and Mo Riding Club will jointly develop the horseback riding trip in Bagan in the coming tourism season.

"Horse-riding is a good habit for health. Although the service was available only for foreigners previously, we expanded the service for Myanmar travellers as they showed their interest in horse-riding trips. The charges vary depending on the distance of the trip.

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YGN palm oil wholesale reference price slightly rises for week ending 30 October

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Cruise to islands and beaches of Ayeyawady planned in November

Ramayana: A Shared ASEAN Story held in Vienna, Austria

AT the ASEAN cultural reception held at the Almanac Palais Vienna Hotel in Vienna, Austria, the Myanmar Embassy presented traditional foods and displayed traditional crafts, as reported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The ASEAN Cultural Reception, under the theme of Ramayana: A Shared ASEAN Story was held in Austria to mark the ASEAN Day 2023 on 19 October. This event was organized in collaboration with the ASEAN-Vienna Committee and the Austrian Society Magazine, based in Vienna. Some 200 attendees were served traditional Myanmar food and had the opportunity to view traditional handicrafts on display led by Myanmar Ambassador U Min Thein and staff.

The Embassy of Malaysia demonstrated traditional Malaysian Silat (martial arts), while the embassies of the Philippines and Indonesia presented Ramayana performances. Traditional crafts were displayed, and traditional food was served, representing the diverse cultures of ASEAN countries. — ASH/KZW

Myanmar displays its traditional handicrafts at the event on 19 October in Austria.

NATIONAL

Mid-Year Gems Emporium 2023 continues

Gem traders evaluating jade lots at the emporium yesterday.

THE fourth day of the 2023 Mid-Year Gems Emporium was held at Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 October.

Local and foreign merchants explored the displays of pearls, jade, and gem lots within the hall and uncut jade lots outside the hall starting in the morning.

During the exhibition, 73 gem lots out of 160 gem lots were sold through an open tender system during yesterday's exhibition.

A total of 750 jade lots were on display for the fifth day of the exhibition, where they were inspected by local and foreign merchants, and bids were placed in the tender box.

Officials closed the bids for the 750 jade lots at 3 pm. The tender boxes will be opened, and the sale of jade lots will be announced at 8 am on 24 October.

Additionally, 300 lots of pearls were sold through an open tender system on 21 and 22 October.

The 2023 Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium is organized by the Myanmar Gems Exhibition Central Committee from 20 to 28 October at Maniyadana Jade Hall, aiming to generate foreign income and economic benefits for the country. — MNA/MKKS

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Heads of Service Organizations transferred and appointed

1. The State Administration Council has transferred and appointed Dr Chit Sein, Rector of Yangon University of Distance Education of the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education, as the Rector of Mawlamyine University from the date he assumes charge of his duties.
2. The State Administration Council has appointed U Aung Hlaing Moe, Deputy Director-General of the Economic Department of the Office of the State Administration Council, as Director-General of the same department on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

U Chan Aye appointed as Ambassador of Myanmar to State of Kuwait

THE Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Chan Aye, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the State of Kuwait.

Objectives of 24th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions 2023

(a) To uplift national prestige and integrity and to preserve the cultural heritage and national characteristics

(b) To explore, preserve and uplift the traditional cultural heritage of performing arts of ethnic nationals and national cultural characteristics

(c) To explore and preserve the traditional cultural heritage for the young generation and further propagate the national spirit

(d) To support measures in the field of national culture ensuring the development, peace and tranquillity of the State

COVID-19 report, 23 October 2023

NEW TESTS	2,596
NEW CASE	Nil
CASUALTIES	Nil

Myanmar's Mrs Moon wins three awards in Mrs Supermodel Worldwide 2023 Grand Final

A Myanmar beauty contestant, Mrs Moon, claimed three awards at the Mrs Supermodel Worldwide 2023 Grand Final, which took place for the second time in New Delhi, India, as reported by the winner herself.

India hosted the Mrs Supermodel Worldwide 2023 event, held in New Delhi for the second time, from 14 to 22 October.

It is noteworthy that Mrs Moon, representing Myanmar, received the Mrs Supermodel Worldwide Brand Ambassador Award, the Mrs Photogenic Award, and the 1st Place Award for Best National Costume at the Mrs Supermodel Worldwide 2023 Grand Final.

Mrs Moon is a beauty contestant selected by the Myanmar Beauty Paradise Organization, and she competed in the pageant alongside contestants from over 40 countries, including Mexico, Malaysia, Russia, Ukraine, Australia, and New Zealand. — ASH/CT

Mrs Myanmar is seen together with three awards in India.

NATIONAL

Vice-Senior General Soe Win inspects preparations for 24th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, who is in the capacity of Patron of the Leading Committee for Organizing the 24th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition, inspected preparations to hold the 24th performing arts competition yesterday afternoon.

Accompanied by Union ministers, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and deputy ministers, the Vice-Senior General inspected preparations for holding the competition at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II (MICC-II), the Yinkyayhmu Yadana Hall, the Training Theatre, the National Museum and the National Library of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture in Nay Pyi Taw. The Vice-Senior General heard reports of officials and fulfilled their needs.

State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win views preparations for the successful holding of the 24th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the Nay Pyi Taw Transit Centre, the Vice-Senior General made inspections on hostels, mess halls, kitchens, canteens and shops for the convenience of maestros who will serve as panels of judges at the competition, administrative officials, contestants and their parents in accommodation and food supplies, practices of contestants, work process of relevant subcommittees and grouping of medical teams.

After giving the necessary instructions, the Vice-Senior General cordially greeted maestros and contestants. — MNA/TTA

DPM MoFA Union Minister receives Chinese Ambassador

U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Chen Hai, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

They cordially discussed matters pertaining to the advancement of "Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership Relations" based on the existing "Pauk-Phaw" friendship, acceleration of the ongoing Myanmar-China bilateral projects under the framework of Belt and Road Initiative on the basis of mutual benefit, the maintenance of peace, stability and rule of law along the border areas between Myanmar and China, repatriation of verified displaced persons from Rakhine State and China's continuous constructive support towards Myanmar development endeavour as well as collaboration at regional and international arenas particularly ASEAN and the United Nations. — MNA

Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai calls on Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe yesterday.

MoC UM attends 3rd WCC closing event in Russia

UNION Minister for Construction U Myo Thant led a delegation to the 3rd World Construction Championship closing in Russia. On 19 October, they held an informal meeting with the Russian Deputy Minister of Construction and Housing to talk about business cooperation and human resource development.

The following day, they attended the International Conference on the Development of the Construction Industry in Russia, engaging with Russian officials and high-ranking construction figures. Union Minister U Myo Thant also had a private meeting with the Russian Minister of Construction and Housing to discuss potential business opportunities.

Later, they joined the closing and awarding ceremony of the 3rd World Construction Championship alongside Russian counterparts and international construction dignitaries. The Union minister and the Myanmar delegation returned to Yangon from Russia on 21 October. — MNA/TS

NATIONAL

Myanmar attends 2023 ASEAN-China Media Forum

MYANMAR delegation led by Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint attended the 2023 ASEAN-China Media Forum held at Guangxi New Media Centre of Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China yesterday.

The forum is being held under the theme "Jointly Improve Media for a Better Future Shared by All" from 21 to 25 October.

At the forum, the deputy minister said this year marks the 10th anniversary of Belt and Road Initiatives and the 32nd anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations.

The Chinese government hosted the ASEAN-China Media Week five times aiming at promoting the role of news media.

Moreover, as per the theme Jointly Improve Media for a Better Future Shared by All, it should build firm trust between media outlets of China and ASEAN countries, mutual benefits with new technologies, methods and innovations and discuss the effective media-related policies for the public through a public-centred approach.

He then highlighted the effective measures against misinformation, and effective results through deep cooperation and collaboration to seek the trust of people for Main Stream Media.

He also expresses willingness to cooperate in the media sectors of ASEAN and China standing as a good partner country actively.

He urged all to promote the media sector through a shared future and cooperation for the people of China and ASEAN countries.

The Myanmar delegation also attended the meeting and signing ceremony of Chinese media outlets and ASEAN media organizations and visited radio, television and Internet shows at Guangxi New Media Centre. — ASH/KTZH

Deputy Minister U Ye Tint and delegation view the radio, television and Internet shows at Guangxi New Media Centre in China.

The coordination meeting to review the NCA's Eighth Anniversary Celebration in progress yesterday.

Coord meeting reviews NCA's 8th-anniversary celebration measures

A work coordination meeting on reviewing the Eighth Anniversary Celebration of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his opening speech, State Administration Council Member NCA Eighth Anniversary Celebration Steering Committee Chairman Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae said the Eighth Anniversary of NCA was successfully held through the harmonious cooperation of the work committee.

It should review the advantages and weaknesses of the celebration to fix the weakness in coming events and the respective work committees also should present the budget used for the event.

Then, Secretary of National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Lt-Gen Min Naing explained the ceremony and other deputy ministers, permanent secretaries and directors-general of the relevant ministries reported on the strengths and weaknesses of the event and budget status.

Then, Steering Committee Chair Lt-Gen Yar Pyae made supplementary remarks on discussions. — MNA/KTZH

Sittway Township to host alms-offering ceremony

SECRETARY U Win Myint of the Atula Marazein Pyilonechatha Pagoda Board of Trustees said the Sittway Township alms-offering ceremony will be held in the Winkabar ground in front of the pagoda.

Starting from 17 October, donation accepting teams collect donated cash from wellshers and the ceremony will be held on Thadingyut full moon day.

"At this year's alms-offering ceremony, there will be no theatrical shows despite staging them in previous years. At present, we are collecting the donations by performance of the couple dolls," said U Win Myint.

It is a plan that a total of 550 members of the Sangha will be offered alms at the Thadingyut Full Moon Day ceremony, and the lighting ceremony will be held in the evening. — ASH/MKKS

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

NATIONAL

MoI marks Global MIL Week 2023

THE Ministry of Information celebrated the Global Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Week 2023 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn said the Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2023 has been observed in the fourth week of October by UNESCO since 2012. Myanmar also marked the Global MIL Week starting in 2018.

It intends to review the progress in media and information understanding of all across the world, improve the news coverage condition, to honour the development in understanding of media and information literacy, and it is time to raise awareness and help global citizens become informed.

This year's theme is: "Media and Information Literacy in Digital Spaces: A Collective Global Agenda". All the activities will be carried out from 23 to 25 October.

He also added that it will conduct talk shows and excursions for the people especially government staff, youths, teachers, and basic education students to improve their media and information literacy.

Such doings can also help the teachers analyze the differences between misinformation, false news and true information as they train the staff and young people to become good human resources.

Moreover, all should work together in the fight against hate speech spreading online to achieve a peaceful society.

Then, the Union minister participated in a question and answer session together with the students and presented the winner.

He then observed the displayed books, journals and newspapers at the event.

During the talk show on Global MIL Week, Deputy Director Daw Myat Kyay Mon of the Media Development Department served as moderator and writer Daw Thet Thet Nwe (Thet Thet Nwe-Yangon University), Daw Wint Wint Aye (advocate), writer Khin Lay-Pyidaungsu Nelmyay discussed under various topics regarding misinformation, disinformation and spreading online hate speech, pros and cons of social media and telecommunications.

Then, Director-General Dr Thida Tin of the Media Development Department made a concluding remark. — MNA/KTZH

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn views round the display at the event yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Indian Embassy donates books to University of Traditional Medicine, Mandalay

Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win accepts the donated books from the Indian Ambassador.

THE Indian Embassy to Myanmar donated 65 copies of books on Indian traditional herbal medicine and other 200 copies of books on India's culture, literature and history to University of Traditional Medicine (Mandalay) and they were received by Dr Thet Khaing Win, Union Minister for Health.

At the event, the Ambassador of India to Myanmar, Mr Vinay Kumar clarified the purpose for the donation of books and discussed the opportunities for cooperation between India and Myanmar in the health sector, including the traditional medicine sector.

Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win said that Myanmar and India have long-term cooperation in the health sector and expressed words of appreciation for India's donation of Covid-19 vaccines, oxygen plants and medicines as well as sending emergency food supply and medicines for cyclone Mocha victims in Myanmar. He also commented that the donation of books on traditional medicines will help develop Myanmar's traditional medicine sector and also said Myanmar will cooperate with regional countries for the development of traditional medicine.

Then, the parties toured the library of the University of Traditional Medicine (Mandalay) and discussed the conditions for developing the E-library and the issues of greater cooperation in the health sector between the two countries.

At the (Mandalay) Children's Hospital (550-bed), the Union minister inspected healthcare services at relevant departments and fulfill the needs of patients.

Next, the Union Minister proceeded to Mandalay General Hospital and observed the treatment with the new cancer radiation machine (Linear Accelerator, Elekta) and met with specialists in charge of the radiology department, nurses and paramedics.

The installation of the new radiation machine was completed in early October, and starting from 6 October, relevant specialists, doctors, nurses and staff are available during office hours as well as on weekends to lower the waiting time for the patients to receive treatments. — MNA/TH

Bagan introduces scenic horseback riding experiences

FROM PAGE-1

Visiting around the pagodas riding the horseback is such a pleasant occasion and so we arrange to resume the service in December. The horse-riding trip will be at the resort opened at Tuyin Hill in December. The resort is surrounded by mountains, so it is such a natural oasis. We are preparing to resume indoor and outdoor horse-riding trips," said Daw Aye Thida Moe, director of Areindama Tour Company.

The new tourist destinations in Bagan are Kyaukmyathmaw, rocky lake on Thetsoe Mountain, over 900-year-old Tamarind tree and Sal tree forest in Zee-O-Hla Village, Setsetyo Village in Ngathayouk, Yotesone Monastery in Thaepyintaw Village, Gemoe Pond in Legwa and Latpanaing villages in Kyaukpadaung Township and the Mount Popa.

Moreover, there were 1.3 million day-trippers to Bagan from January to September 2023 and 327,451 visitors stayed at hotels, motels and guesthouses. — ASH/KTZH

NATIONAL

Call for manuscripts: 30th Pakokku U Ohn Pe literary awards now open

THE 30th Pakokku U Ohn Pe literary awards are now open for manuscript submissions, as announced by the oversight committee of the Pakokku U Ohn Pe literary fund.

These literary awards encompass five diverse genres, including novels, collections of short stories, collections of poems, treatises/theses, and research literature. Each participant is allowed to submit entries in up to five genres but is limited to sending only one manuscript per genre.

Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn speaks on the awarding occasion of the 29th Pakokku U Ohn Pe literary awards on 9 June 2023.

The Pakokku U Ohn Pe literary award offers a first prize of K700,000 a second prize of K500,000, and a third prize of K400,000.

Those who wish to participate in the contest must send their complete resume along with two photographs to the Sarpay Beikman building, located at the corner of 37th Street and Merchant Street, Yangon Region, by 29 December. — TWA/KZW

Lancang-Mekong Cooperation offers free bakery & pastry training course

UNDER the supervision of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Yangon), a free basic bakery and pastry training course will be offered as part of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation special programme.

The course will cover 48 recipes from global countries for bakery and pastry. The number of trainees for each batch is limited to 20. Applicants for the course must be between the ages of 18 and 40 and have completed basic education at the middle school level.

Applicants will have to go through a step-by-step selection process, including screening tests and interviews. If selected, they must pay a K50,000-deposit before the training begins. The deposit will be refunded upon course completion.

The course is scheduled to run from December 2023 to January 2024, with a total duration of 120 hours. Classes will be conducted five days a week, six hours a day, from Monday to Friday.

The training course will be held at the Tourism Development Centre, located at No 40/42, Bo Soon Pat Street, Pabedan Township. Those interested in attending must submit their applications by 31 October. — TWA/CT

MoNREC designates natural area within PutaO Tsp as protected public forest

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation announced on 20 October that an area of 2,000 acres in PutaO Township, Putao District, Kachin State, had been designated as the Juuzi Protected Public Forest. The announcement was made in exercise of the powers conferred by the 2018 Forest Law.

Reserved forests and protected public forests are intended to support agricultural activities by stabilizing and balancing the climate, preserving biodiversity, meeting the basic needs of the residents, such as forest products like firewood and bamboo, ensuring the stability of the ecological system, and preserving water sources and watershed areas, such as rivers, streams, and lakes within the Juuzi Protected Public Forest.

Due to the designation of a protected public forest, the variety of trees growing in the area will be preserved. In addition, we can protect endangered plant species and wild animals and increase the habitats of wild animals, as well as gain benefits such as preserving the watershed areas of the tributaries flowing into Nantahuu Creek and properly managing forest resources. — TWA/CT

Shan State Ethnic Affairs & Vocational Training Centre upgraded into four-storey building

THE Shan State Ethnic Affairs and Vocational Training Centre is under construction in Ayethaya City, Taunggyi Township, Shan State. This centre aims to bridge the development gap among Mekong region countries, promote regional stability, law enforcement, and development, facilitate cultural exchange among ethnic communities, and offer vocational courses to enhance the socio-economic well-being of Shan State's ethnic population.

During his visit to Shan State on 22 October, the Chairman of the State Administration Council inspected the construction progress. He instructed responsible parties to maintain a clean and aesthetically pleasing environment at the training centre and ensure suitable living and dining arrangements for trainees when the courses commence. The chairman also emphasized the importance of constructing the building according to specified standards, within the allocated timeframe, and with high-quality materials.

Funded by the state in the 2023-2024 financial year, the training centre's expansion transformed it from a two-storey to a four-storey building. Upon completion, the centre will serve as a hub for vocational training and discussions on ethnic issues among the local population. — TWA/CT

The original two-storey building of Shan State Ethnic Affairs and Vocational Training Centre.

YGN palm oil wholesale reference price slightly rises for week ending 30 October

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market increased a bit for the week ending 30 October, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The wholesale price was set lower at K4,275 per viss for a week from 16 to 22 October and this week's rate was set higher to K4,395 per viss for a week ending 30 October, showing an increase of K120 per viss.

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.

Nonetheless, 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 the palm oil at high price.

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year.

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 hotline 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 on 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 wholesale prices are not higher than two per cent of the net profit margin and retail prices are not higher than 10 per cent margin.

The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at one 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

Black gram price hits new high tracking strong demand by India

WITH India's demand for black gram growing, the price hit an all-time high of over K2.8 million per tical, indicating a sharp rise of K340,000 per tonne within three weeks.

The price surged from K2.465 million per tonne on 3 October.

The FOB prices increased to US$1,045-1,065 per tonne on 23 October from $955-975 per tonne on 3 October, showing an increase of $90 per tonne, according to Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Commodity Wholesale Centre).

Nonetheless, the pigeon pea price remained unchanged at K4.075 million per tonne.

Myanmar's various pulses export earnings were estimated at over $715 million from over 860,000 tonnes in the H1 of the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April.

Various kinds of beans are organized for sale in the market.

Myanmar's pulses exports earned over US$1.47 billion from over 1.9 million tonnes in the previous FY 2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Myanmar primarily exports black gram, green gram and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Of them, black gram and pigeon peas are mostly shipped to India while green grams are exported to China and Europe.

Black grams that India primarily purchases are commonly found only in Myanmar, whereas pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia, according to the Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association said. — NN/EM

Bago Region to open MSME product sale centres in districts

ACCORDING to the Bago Region Government, MSME product sale centres will be opened district-wise to display and sell the products of micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Bago Region.

A sale centre for MSMEs products, which will be able to sell local and MSME products from all 28 townships in Bago Region, opened on 19 October at Okthathiri Market in Bago Township, Bago District, Bago Region. MSME product sales centres are scheduled to be opened in the remaining three districts.

It is also reported that more than 80 kinds of products from 28 townships in Bago Region, such as domestic food products, consumer goods, traditional medicines, kitchen equipment, and agricultural machinery are sold daily at the original prices in 37 shops at the Okthathiri Market in Bago District. — ASH/CT

An MSME product sale centre is seen being thronged with shoppers.

OPINION

Choose safe foods: First priority for consumers

IN the modern era, governments prioritize food security to ensure that their citizens never have to worry about having enough to eat. However, this focus on food security must also be coupled with rigorous food safety measures to prevent potential health disorders and diseases stemming from the consumption of unsafe foods.

Various government departments and ministries have taken on the responsibility of periodically inspecting food items in the market. They diligently enforce rules and regulations, holding those who flout these standards accountable. Their vigilance serves to protect consumers' interests, as many of them are consumers themselves. By cracking down on unethical business practices, they aim to discourage greed-driven actions and improper sales tactics in the fiercely competitive marketplace.

Numerous government bodies have joined forces. Their collective mission is to combat unscrupulous business practices in the production and distribution of consumer goods. Their efforts are particularly focused on ensuring that food items do not contain inappropriate dyes and chemicals that could pose risks to consumers' health. They also compile lists of foods that should be avoided and make them accessible to the public.

Preventing the distribution of unsafe goods and foods is a matter of national importance, requiring the cooperation of consumer awareness and the dedication of relevant government departments and ministries. Only when they work together harmoniously to combat the presence of unsafe foods will consumers be shielded from the potential dangers. It is imperative to raise public awareness regarding the importance of selecting safe foods for daily consumption. In doing so, everybody can safeguard their health and longevity.

At present, there are individuals in the business world who prioritize profit over people's health. Some of these unscrupulous businesspersons manufacture products with excessive amounts of banned chemicals and dyes, which can have long-term detrimental effects on consumers' health. They brazenly sell these unsafe foods in domestic markets and even in school canteens, with little regard for the well-being of innocent consumers and students. In response, various departments, organizations, and social groups are actively disseminating lists of unsafe foods to protect consumers' health.

The consumption of safe and nutritious foods plays a pivotal role in elevating the health standards of the people in Myanmar. The food safety chain encompasses various stages, including harvesting, storage, manufacturing, production, management, distribution, processing, and consumption. Despite the ongoing efforts of government departments to prevent the presence of unsafe foods in the market, many consumers still unwittingly encounter hazardous food products.

Preventing the distribution of unsafe goods and foods is a matter of national importance, requiring the cooperation of consumer awareness and the dedication of relevant government departments and ministries. Only when they work together harmoniously to combat the presence of unsafe foods will consumers be shielded from the potential dangers. It is imperative to raise public awareness regarding the importance of selecting safe foods for daily consumption. In doing so, everybody can safeguard their health and longevity.

Tea and Myanmar share a rich history, it is believed that Myanmar's first tea was cultivated on the Shan Plateau, six thousand feet above sea level during the Bagan Era. **PHOTO: ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY**

Tea

U Win Sein

ONE of the earliest accounts of tea drinking is dated back to China's Shang dynasty, in which tea was consumed as a medicinal drink. An early credible record of tea drinking dated back to 3rd century AD in a medical text written by Chinese physician Hua Tho.

The history of tea spreads across multiple culture over the span of thousands of years. With the tea plant "Camellia sinensis", native of southwestern China and northern Myanmar. From which we came across one of the earliest accounts of tea drinking dated back to China Shang dynasty in which tea was consumed as a medicinal plant drink. It first became known to the Western world through the Portuguese priests and merchants in China during the 16th century. Drinking tea became popular in Britain during the 17th century. The British introduced commercial tea production to British India was for the reason in order to compete with the Chinese monopoly on tea. Another source said, that tea drinking has become a custom for the British people, because they have cultivated a tradition of having tea-break, in the mid of their business meeting. They may continue the second- or third-time tea-breaks, together with biscuits for every tea-break for most of the British business men. These traits of habit originated specially around the intersection of latitude 29-degree North and longitude 98-degree East, where the point of confluence of the land in Southwest China, Tibet, North Myanmar, and Northeast India met. The plant of tea – Camellia sinensis – was widely introduced to more than 52 countries from this centre of origin.

On the morphological difference between the Assam and Chinese varieties, botanists have long asserted a dual botanical origin of tea; however, from the statistical cluster analysis, all appear to demonstrate a single place of origin for Camellia sinensis - the area including the Yunnan and Sichuan province of China and northern part of Myanmar. Yunnan province has also been identified as "the birth place of tea "— the first area where human beings figured out that eating tea leaves or brewing a cup of tea for drinking could be pleasant that was started in Fenggang County in Lancang City prefecture of Yunnan Province in China. It is said to be home to the world's oldest cultivated tea tree, some 3,200 years old.

According to the story of tea, it's drinking habit was likely began in Yunnan province during the Shang dynasty, (1500 BC-1046 BC) as a medicinal drink. From there, the drink spread to Sichuan and it is believed that there for the first time, people began to take boiled tea leaves consumption and drink concentrated liquid without the addition of other leaves or herbs, thereby changing to put McGhee using tea as a bitter yet stimulating drink, rather than as medicinal concoction.

The Chinese have consumed tea for thousands of years. The earliest physical evidence known to date, found in 2,016, came from the mausoleum of Emperor Jing of Han in Xian, indicated that tea was drunk by Han dynasty emperors as early as the 2nd century BC. the samples were identified as tea from the genuine Camellia sinensis particularly via mass spectrometry and written records suggest that it may have been drunk earlier. People of the Han dynasty used tea as medicine (thought to be the first used as a stimulant is known)

China considered to have the earliest records of tea consumption with possible record dated back to 10th century BC. Note however that the current word for tea in Chinese only came into use in the 8th century, therefor uncertainties as to whether the older words used as the same for tea. The word "Cha "appeared in Shining and other ancient texts to signify a kind of " bitter vegetable" and it is possible that it referred to several different plants, such as sow thistle, chicory or smart tweed, including tea in the chronicle of Huayang, it had recorded that the Ba people in Sichuan presented "Cha" to the Zhou king. The state of Ba and its neighbours Shu were later conquered by Qin, and according to the 17th century scholar Gu Yanwu who wrote in Ri Zhi Lu, it was after the Qin had taken Shu that they learned how to drink tea.

During the Suj dynasty in China, tea was introduced to Japan by Buddhist monks, tea usage spread during the 6th century AD. Tea became a drink of the religious classes in Japan.

In 1557, Portugal established a trading port in Macau and the Chinese drink "Cha" spread quickly, but there was no mention of them bringing any samples home. In the early 17th century, a ship of the Dutch East India Company bright the first green tea leaves to Amsterdam from Chinese tea was known in France by 1636.

n one popular Chinese legend, Emperor Shennong was holding a bowl of just boiled water offered from some of his subjects. suddenly a few leaves were blown from a nearby tree into the water, which changing the colour and taste. The emperor took a sip of the brew and was pleasantly surprised by its flavour and restorative properties.

Tea and Myanmar share a rich history, it is believed that Myanmar's first tea was cultivated on the Shan Plateau, six thousand feet above sea level during the Bagan Era.

One of the earliest stories heard in Yangon was tea originated from Myanmar. The tale goes that the original tea tree still grows today in the northern hills of the Shan State.

Admittedly this yarn was weaved to us by a mysterious Australian over a few too many whiskers in downtown Yangon. By the end of the evening, he had put a plan in place to heading north and find the lost tea. However sadly he slipped off into the night and never to be seen again, who knows maybe one day we may come across him searching in the hills of northern Myanmar.

Alaung Sithu (AD 1113-1167) while on a royal tour to Namshan, a small provincial town in northern Shan State, has given a handful of tea seed to the local Palaung people. Due to their favourable climate condition, the tea thrived. Today, tea bushes continue to thrive in the Namhsan and the surrounding regions.

The production rate of tea is 350-500 visses per acre. Viss is the Myanmar unit of mass equivalent to 1.6 kilogrammes. This translates to approximately 560-800 kg per acre. Tea is harvested from April through to November but the best quality leaves are those collected between late March and mid-April.

■

ARTICLE
Weather Report

Deep Depression News, No 7, 2023

23 October 2023 19:00 MST Today

Deep Depression Condition

According to the observations at 17:30 hrs MST today, the Deep Depression over Westcentral Bay of Bengal has moved North-Northeastwards and is centred at about 425 Nautical miles West-Northwest of Hainggyigyun, 410 Nautical miles West of Thandwe, 350 Nautical miles West-Southwest of Sittway (Myanmar), 150 Nautical miles South-Southeast of Paradip, 225 Nautical miles South of Digha (India), 300 Nautical miles South-Southwest of Khepupara (Bangladesh).

It is not moving towards Myanmar coasts, the present stage of the Depression is coded yellow stage.

Position of Deep Depression, centre pressure and wind

Deep Depression is located at Latitude 17.9 degree North and Longitude 87.2 degree East, centre pressure of Deep Depression is 1001 hPa and maximum wind speed near the centre is 35-40 miles per hour at 17:30 hrs MST today.

During next (60) hrs forecast

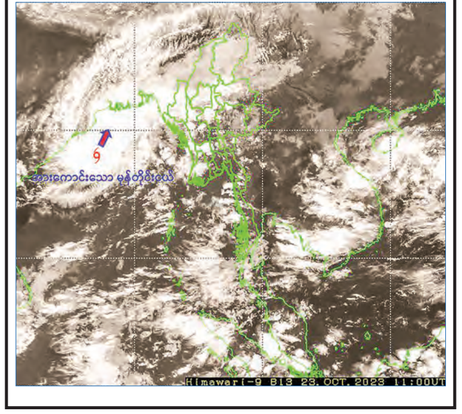
The Deep Depression is likely continue to move North-Northeastwards and further intensify into a Cyclonic Storm during next six hrs. It is likely to cross Bangladesh coast between Khepupara and Chittagong on 25.10.2023 evening.

General caution

Due to the Deep Depression, Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Chin and Rakhine states, scattered to fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions and Shan State with isolated heavy falls in some regions and states. Squalls with rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) mph. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast from commencing today noon to 25.10.2023.

Advisory

Under the influence of the Deep Depression, people should be aware of strong wind, heavy rain, flash flood and landslide in the hilly areas and near small rivers and also domestic flight, trawlers, vessels and ships Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts.



NATIONAL

Mawtinsun Pagoda to host spectacular 9,000 candles, flowers, and hot-air balloon festival

A bird's-eye view of the Mawtinsun Pagoda in Ngaputaw Township of Pathein District, Ayeyawady Region.

THE offering of 9,000 lit candles and 9,000 flowers and a hot-air balloon festival will take place on the Thadingyut Full Moon Day at Mawtinsun Pagoda in Ngaputaw Township, Pathein District, Ayeyawady Region, as announced by the Board of Trustees.

On 29 October (Thadingyut Full Moon Day), 9,000 candles and 9,000 flowers will be offered to Myat Mawtin Pagoda and the hot air balloon festival will be celebrated.

On 30 October, there will be a ceremony for food donations to the Dragon, the original donor of the Pagoda, and his relatives.

U Thaung Kyi, a member of Myat Mawtin Pagoda Board of Trustees, mentioned, "Rice and other donations will be offered to 160 invited Sayadaws from 50 monasteries near the Mawtinsun Pagoda at 6 am on 29 October. In the evening, 9,000 candles will be lit, and 9,000 flowers will be offered to the Pagoda as part of the hot air balloon festival celebration."

The expansion of the Myat Mawtin Pagoda square will be completed by the upcoming pagoda festival, which is scheduled from the 1st Waxing of Taboung to the Full Moon Day of Taboung. — ASH/MKKS

Bagan's Thadingyut Full Moon Day to attract throngs of tourists, pilgrims

THE Department of Hotels and Tourism (Bagan Branch) has reported a significant influx of tourists visiting Bagan's ancient cultural area on this year's full moon day of Thadingyut. Almost all guesthouses and hotel rooms are already fully booked.

In the days leading up to the full moon day in the Bagan region, there is typically a steady flow of foreign tourists and pilgrims from both lower and upper parts of Myanmar. The full moon day of Thadingyut holds immense religious significance for Buddhists, as they engage in meritorious deeds. Both local and foreign tourists enjoy the enchanting night scenes of Bagan during the festival period.

Due to the high number of tourists during the peak season, guesthouses and hotels are fully booked, and monasteries, pagodas, and villages in the Bagan region become crowded.

Travellers are seen in the previous Thadingyut holidays in Bagan.

On the full moon day of Thadingyut in 2022, approximately 150,000 tourists visited the famous pagodas in the Bagan cultural area. These pagodas included Shwezigon, Htilominlo, Alodawpyae, Ananda, Culamani, Dhammayangyi, Shwesandaw, Thatbyinnyu, Gadawpalin, Buu, Manuha, Mya Zedi, Lawkananda, Dhammayazika Pagodas, Ngatpyit, Tuyin and Tantkyi hills. From early morning until the evening oil-lamp offering, these sites were notably crowded with pilgrims. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/ KZW

Myanmar-Thai artistes ready for "Love with Khemarat"

MYANMAR and Thai artists will star in the "Love with Khemarat" series, set to be broadcast on Channel K, as announced during the movie series' launch ceremony.

The Myanmar-Thai cast will begin filming on 30 October in Chiang Mai and Mae Sai, Thailand. The Thai artistes will perform in their native language, while the Myanmar artists will use the Myanmar language. Director Kyaw Htin expressed, "This movie is a significant challenge for me. Some plots present challenges. It's not a typical story. It's a girl love story with a Tomboy character. Making such a film is quite a task. In Myanmar cinema, a love story involving a girl is a rarity."

The story is penned by Phyo Thinzar Kyaw and is based on the true love story of a Chiang Mai Princess and a Kengtung Prince. The film features cast members Yamin May Oo, Miss Kit Jianarat Nantanarungruang, Miss Phattaranan, Sai Wai Myo Thaw, Shun Myat Chel, and those who have completed PCC acting training. The "Love with Khemarat" series consists of 20 episodes, each lasting 30 minutes. The launching ceremony took place at Tawwin Centre in Dagon Township, Yangon, on 20 October. — ASH/KTZH

Cast artistes shine at the Myanmar-Thai TV series launch event.

NATIONAL

Upcoming craft for Yangon to Chaungtha route captured in the photograph.

Cruise to islands and beaches of Ayeyawady planned in November

MOKEN Cruise, a luxury cruise vessel, will operate a three-night cruise for 13 passengers from Yangon to Chaungtha in Ayeyawady region in November, according to Moken Cruise Company.

The company will serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner to passengers on the cruise, which has been fully booked since 18 October.

During the Yangon-Chaungtha cruise, passengers can see and enjoy the natural scenery along Twantay Canal, the natural beauty of the Ayeyawady delta areas, sunset and twilight.

In addition to this, the pilgrimage to Myat Mawtin Pagoda (Mawtinsun Pagoda), the visits to Hainggyi Island, Goyangyi Island and Chaungtha Beach will also be included. — ASH/TH

Yangon Zoo to celebrate MoMo's 70th birthday

THE 70th birthday of Yangon Zoo's well-known elephant, Momo, will be celebrated for three days from 28 to 30 October, according to the warden of the Zoo.

Mo Mo's birthday party is an annual event, and this year, it will include fairs and festivals, magic shows and games for children. The celebration will also be broadcast on Vidya, M Channel, YTV and Yangon Thar Vlog channels. — ASH/KZW

At Yangon Zoo, celebrating Elephant Momo's intelligent presene on her previous birthday.

Confiscation of illegal items: Timbers, lead, animals, foodstuffs, consumer goods, industrial materials and vehicles

THE combined teams under the supervision of the Ayeyawady Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force impounded an unregistered Toyota Wish car (estimated value of K9 million) at the Koezu checkpoint on the outskirts of Pathein township and a total of 1.208 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K604,450 in Pathein district on 20 October, the action was taken under the Export and Import Law and Forest Law.

The on-duty teams captured an unregistered Honda Wave car (estimated value of K1 million) in Kawthoung township, 6,360 kilogrammes of illegal lead worth K190.8 million in Bokpyin township on 20 October and an unregistered Kobelco excavator and an unregistered CASE excavator (approximately worth K66 million) that were used in the illegal gold mining in Bhamo township on 21 October. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law and the Myanmar Mines Law.

On 21 October, the on-duty teams nabbed a Zhong Tong express (approximately worth K40 million), headed to Yangon from Hpa-an, carrying three kinds of goods worth K3.865 million, including 128,000 kilogrammes of 108 grammes of detergent powder without official documents, at the Thanlwin Bridge (Tayokhla) and a Nissan Condor vehicle (estimated value of K25 million), travelling from Myawady to Mandalay, carrying 180 Kashiwa cooking pans (red) without official documents at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures. The combined teams made inspections on 22 October and confiscated an Isuzu truck (estimated value of K26 million) carrying eight oxen worth K4.8 million without official documents at the Milepost 51/52 on Yangon-Pyay road in Taikkyi township, an Isuzu Giga truck (estimated value of K40 million), headed to Mandalay from Muse, carrying 200 lawnmowers worth K14 million that exceeded the quantity mentioned in the Import Declaration (ID) at the Milepost 21/5 on Muse-Mandalay road and 10,080 ownerless bottles of Justus black beer, 14,400 bottles of hand and body lotion and 960 bags of crackers (with Chinese label) worth K35.04 million at the Milepost 22/1 on PyinOoLwin-Mandalay road. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The combined team seized a Higer bus (approximately K30 million), travelling from Mawlamyine to Yangon, carrying 2,000 litres of vegetable oil worth K16.1 million without official documents at the Nyaungkhashay X-Ray station on 23 October. The action was taken under Customs procedures. A total of 17 arrests were made on four consecutive days from 20 to 23 October, with an estimated value of K507,609,450, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

Confiscated unregistered excavators in Bhamo, Kachin State.

ECONOMY
WORLD

Equities rattled by Mideast conflict, US bond yield rise

STOCK markets slid on Monday, extending last week's sell-off Monday on fears of a regional conflict in the Middle East and worries that US interest rates will remain elevated for longer than initially thought.

The concerns about US interest rates have also been affecting bond markets, with the yield on 10-year US government bonds rising above 5.0 per cent for the first time since 2007 during the height of the subprime mortgage crisis.

It stood at 5.02 per cent in midday European trading according to Factset data.

"The trajectory of US Treasuries is not merely a question; it is the only question for financial markets," said Stephen Innes, managing partner at SPI Asset Management, in a note to clients.

"US government bonds are the critical benchmark reference point against which virtually all other global assets are ultimately priced off," he added.

US Federal Reserve officials have indicated that interest rates may need to stay higher for longer than previously thought to push down persistent inflation as the US economy remains buoyant.

"The rise in long-term yields is due in part to the resilience of the US economy and the fact the the Fed, even if it plays the prudence card, continues to emphasize the possible need of further tightening of monetary policy," said Sebastian Paris Horvitz, director of research at LBP Asset Management.

Traders works the floors at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York on 11 October 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Innes said that investors have also been worrying about the substantial US federal deficit, the Fed's withdrawal from the government and corporate debt markets, as well as selling pressure from China and other large holders of US government debt.

"Hence, the latest leg higher in yields has been driven by factors beyond improving growth expectations, making the carnage in the bond markets far more challenging for businesses to absorb," added Innes.

The yield on 10-year Treasuries serves underpins much commercial borrowing, so the rise will filter through to higher borrowing costs for businesses and consumers, which is negative for risk assets like stocks. — AFP

S Korea's economy expected to continue moderate recovery

SOUTH Korea's economy was expected to continue its moderate recovery amid lower headline inflation, the country's central bank said Monday.

The Bank of Korea (BOK) said in its report to the National Assembly for parliamentary inspection that the economy saw a gradual recovery on the back of slower export fall, which offsets weaker private consumption.

The BOK forecast that the economy would continue its moderate recovery next year, predicting a sustained current account surplus, affected by recovering information technology (IT) industry.

The central bank projected headline inflation to slow down on lower demand-side inflationary pressure and stable farm goods prices, but it noted that uncertainties remained over geopolitical risks in the Middle East. — Xinhua

US oil giant Chevron to buy rival Hess for $53 bln

A customer pumps gasoline into a vehicle at a Chevron gas station in Santa Monica, California on 20 March 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

US energy giant Chevron will buy its rival Hess for $53 billion in an all-stock deal, the companies announced in a joint statement on Monday.

The mega-acquisition is the latest consolidation in the US energy sector, coming less than two weeks after the announcement that ExxonMobil would acquire Texas shale producer Pioneer for about $60 billion.

Chevron's deal values Hess's equity at $53 billion, while the total enterprise value of the transaction, including debt, is $60 billion, according to the statement. The acquisition will further diversify Chevron's interests, with Hess's assets including an offshore exploration scheme in oil-rich Guyana and a major shale project in North Dakota, along with assets in the Gulf of Mexico and Gulf of Thailand. — AFP

Viet Nam targets GDP growth rate of over 5% in 2023: PM

VIET Nam targets gross domestic product (GDP) growth of over five per cent in 2023 with an inflation rate of about 3.5 to four per cent, Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh said on Monday.

He made the remarks while delivering a government report at the sixth plenary session of the 15th National Assembly of Viet Nam, which opened in the capital city Hanoi on Monday.

According to the report, a target GDP growth rate of between six per cent and 6.5 per cent for 2024 was proposed by the Vietnamese government. GDP per capita in 2024 is set to reach 4,700 to 4,730 US dollars.

The Vietnamese government has also set the target of controlling the consumer price index at around four to 4.5 per cent in 2024, Vietnam News Agency reported.

Chinh emphasized that the government will continue to pursue monetary policy in a proactive and flexible manner, focusing credit on growth drivers like investment, consumption, export, while accelerating the implementation and disbursement of public investment capital. — Xinhua

British Steel planning to cut 2,000 jobs: report

BRITISH Steel is preparing to axe up to 2,000 jobs as part of a cost-cutting programme, according to a report, even as its Chinese owners seek large subsidies from the UK government.

The potential staff cuts, reported by the Sunday Times, are said to be a key plank of plans to replace its coal-powered blast furnaces with electric arc furnace (EAF) technology producing "greener" steel.

The switch could unlock new funding for Chinese group Jingye, which has owned British Steel since 2020, including up to £300 million of taxpayer funding, according to the report.

A spokesman for British Steel said the firm was committed to "providing long-term, skilled and well-paid careers for thousands of employees and many more in our supply chains". — AFP

Toyota to fully resume production on Thurs as parts crunch eases

TOYOTA Motor Corp said Monday it will fully resume production in Japan on Thursday following disruption caused by an explosion at a parts supplier's factory, bringing an end to its latest supply chain crisis that lasted for more than a week.

The automaker said that among the affected factories, operations will be resumed at five locations in central Japan on Tuesday, with the final plant in the region set to restart on Thursday, as it has now secured the parts it needs.

The world's largest automaker by volume restarted operations at production lines in four factories in northeastern and central Japan on Monday. The supply issue led to 13 lines at eight of the automaker's 14 assembly plants in the country being halted at one point.

The explosion occurred on 16 October at a factory belonging to Chuo Spring Co in the city of Toyota, Aichi Prefecture, which makes suspension springs.

The parts shortage disrupted the production of flagship Toyota cars, including its RAV4 and Land Cruiser sport utility vehicles.

Chuo Spring said it restarted the production of springs at its factory on Saturday after fixing the affected equipment. — Kyodo

Photo taken on 23 October 2023 shows workers walking towards Toyota Motor Corp's Takaoka plant in Toyota, Aichi Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Japan's antitrust watchdog probes Google for pushing search default

The Japan Fair Trade Commission holds a press conference in Tokyo on 23 October 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN'S antitrust watchdog has begun an investigation into technology giant Google LLC for allegedly pushing smartphone makers to use its search platform by default on their devices, the fair trade body said Monday.

The move by the Japan Fair Trade Commission comes after European and US authorities tightened regulations on Google, which is said to hold around a 90 per cent share of the global search market.

"We have not confirmed any illegal activities at this point," a fair trade official told a press conference, adding the commission will gather information widely and take opinions of outside parties, including smartphone users.

The tech giant is suspected of making the device makers feature its search application and Google Chrome browser app by default and specifying where those apps should appear on the device screens in exchange for allowing them access to the "Google Play" app store, according to the antitrust watchdog.

It is also suspected of signing contracts with smartphone makers that would guarantee a cut of revenues earned from search-linked advertisements on condition they do not install rival firms' apps on their devices by default, among other conditions.

The Digital Markets Act was legislated in the European Union last year to strengthen regulations on big technology companies with the aim of improving competition by facilitating the entry of new firms and providing more choice to consumers. — Kyodo

Qatar announces 27-year gas deal with Italy's Eni

QATAR has agreed to supply Italian firm Eni with natural gas for 27 years, the Gulf emirate's state-owned energy company announced Monday, the latest in a series of major deals.

Doha will supply one million tonnes of gas a year under the deal, QatarEnergy said, following an agreement with Eni for a share of Qatar's huge North Field gas expansion project.

In the wake of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine last year, European nations have rushed to replace lost deliveries of natural gas from Russia.

"Today, we are taking another important step in strengthening our partnership with Eni that will foster our mutual cooperation for many years to come," Qatari Energy Minister Saad al-Kaabi said.

"Together, we will continue to demonstrate commitment to the European markets in general, and to the Italian market in particular," he added. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3319S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3319S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-10-2023** 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0306-755N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0306-755N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-10-2023** 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 EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V KOTA RUKUN VOY.NO. (0118N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA RUKUN VOY.NO. (0118N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-10-2023** 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Chinese premier, Japanese PM exchange congratulations on 45th anniversary of peace, friendship treaty

CHINESE Premier Li Qiang and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Monday exchanged congratulations on the 45th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship Between China and Japan.

In his message, Li said that 45 years ago, the older generation of leaders and statesmen from both countries made a strategic decision to sign the treaty, which has charted the course for peaceful coexistence and everlasting friendship between the two neighbours in legal terms with an emphasis on opposing hegemonism, and has become an important milestone in the development of bilateral relations.

Over the past 45 years, Li said, China-Japan relations have made hard-won progress, which has enhanced the well-being of the two peoples and made contributions to regional and global peace, stability and prosperity.

Masakazu Tokura (C), head of the Japan Business Federation, addresses a ceremony marking the 45th anniversary of a bilateral friendship treaty between Japan and China on 23 October 2023 in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO**

China, he said, is willing to work with Japan to relive the spirit of the treaty, stay the course in steering bilateral relations, and commit to building China-Japan relations suited to the requirements of the new era.

In his message, Kishida said that the treaty stipulated the development of bilateral relations featuring lasting peace and friendship, which has, over the past 45 years, served as a guidance for the two sides, laid the foundation for the growth of bilateral ties and safeguarded and advanced their peaceful and friendly relationship.

Shouldering an important responsibility of maintaining regional and world peace and prosperity, Japan and China share cooperation potential in a wide range of fields, Kishida said, adding that it is significant for the two sides to work together to build a constructive and stable Japan-China relationship.

The Japanese side is willing to relive the spirit of the treaty with China and push for greater progress in Japan-China relations, Kishida said. — Xinhua

Israeli defence minister says ground operation in Gaza may last months

ISRAELI Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said Israel's upcoming ground offensive in the Gaza Strip may last months, Israeli media reported Sunday evening.

"This needs to be the last maneuver in Gaza, for the simple reason that after it, there will be no Hamas. It will take a month, two months, three, but in the end, there will be no Hamas," Gallant was quoted as saying at the Israeli Air Force's command centre in Tel Aviv by the Times of Israel.

Last week, Gallant said Israel's military operation against Hamas will have three main phases.

"We are in the first phase, in which a military campaign is taking place with (airstrikes) and later with a (ground) maneuver with the purpose of destroying operatives and damaging infrastructure in order to defeat and destroy Hamas," the Times of Israel quoted Gallant as saying on Friday.

He noted the second phase will be continued fighting but at a lower intensity and the third step will be the creation of a new security regime in the coastal enclave.

The latest round of Israel-Hamas conflict that broke out on 7 October has killed over 1400 people in Israel and wounded 5,431 others, according to official statistics.

Meanwhile, the death toll of Palestinians from Israeli airstrikes on the Gaza Strip has risen to 5,087, the Hamas-run Health Ministry said on Monday. — Xinhua

EU debates Gaza truce call, as top diplomat urges more aid

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell on Monday urged faster aid deliveries to Gaza, and said the bloc was debating calling for a "humanitarian pause" in Israel's conflict with Hamas.

"What's important (is) more, quicker, and in particular to enter the basic things that make water and electricity supply being restored," Borrell said, ahead of a meeting of European Union foreign ministers.

Borrell said that the few dozen trucks of humanitarian aid that had been allowed into Gaza from Egypt was "not enough" and said fuel to produce power and drinking water was particularly needed.

He said ministers would discuss calls from United Nations' secretary-general Antonio Guterres for a "humanitarian ceasefire" and the issue would be on the table at an EU leaders summit on Thursday.

"Personally, I think that a humanitarian pause is needed in order to allow the humanitarian support to come in and be distributed, seeing that half of the population of Gaza has been moving from their houses," Borrell said. He said "the attacks of missiles, rockets from Hamas, from Gaza, has to stop and the hostages, people who have been kidnapped, have to be released".

Josep Borrell, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, speaks to the press after attending the International Peace Summit in the New Administrative Capital (NAC), about 45 kilometres east of Cairo, on 21 October 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

"It is part of any step towards de-escalation."

The 27-nation EU bloc has long been split over its policy on Israel and the Palestinians.

It has struggled with conflicting messaging since the surge in violence following the 7 October attack by Hamas and Israel's reprisals against Gaza. — AFP

SPORTS

Myanmar secures one bronze medal in track & field event at 4th Asian Para Games

An official presents a bronze medal to Myanmar athlete Soe Pay.

Myanmar athlete Soe Pay taking part in the men's 200-m (T64) event.

MYANMAR sports contingent won one bronze medal in the track and field event at the 4th Asian Para Games held in Hangzhou of the People's Republic of China from 22 to 28 October, according to the Myanmar Paralympic Sports Federation.

At Hanglong Sports Stadium in Hangzhou at 9 am Chinese standard time, Soe Pay of Myanmar bagged a bronze medal in the men's 200 metres (T64) race. Itani Shunsuke of Japan stood first and Oshima Kengo of Japan, second.

Myanmar men's volleyball team falls in Group A together with South Korea, Japan and host China. At 2 pm CST, Myanmar lost to host China whereas South Korea beat Japan at Linping Sports Centre Gymnasium.

On today's standing chart, host China, Iran, Uzbekistan, India, Thailand, Japan, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Indonesia, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Jordan and Chinese (Taipei) swept gold medals.

Athletes from 44 countries are taking part in 22 sports events at the 4th Asian Para Games. Myanmar athletes participate in track & field, swimming and sitting volleyball events. On 24 October, Myanmar swimmers will compete in the 50-m backstroke (S5) (Heat) event and will play against South Korea in the third match of the Group A in volleyball event. — Bala Soe/TTA

China's canoeist Xie wins 1st gold of Hangzhou Asian Para Games

CHINA'S canoeist Xie Maosan claimed the first gold medal of the Hangzhou Asian Para Games on Monday when she won the women's KL1 canoe final in 55.478 seconds.

Monika Seryu from Japan secured the silver in 1 minute 7.802 seconds and Iran's Sara Abdolmaleki took the bronze in 1 minute 13.594 seconds.

"I'm extremely thrilled to have won this gold medal. It's an honour to bring glory to my homeland," said the 37-year-old Xie.

When Xie Maosan was admitted to the national canoeing team, she was 29 years old. With an unyielding spirit and willingness to endure hardships, she finally stood on the top podium.

Xie Maosan of China competes during the Women's KL1 Final of Canoe during the 4th Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, 23 October 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

"As for me, canoeing is a rebirth, it gave me confidence and a new life," said Xie.

Xie's coach Li Daiyuan said, "Xie is very determined and isn't afraid of hardships or exhaustion. Even when she feels discomfort in her back during training, she insists on completing the training tasks."

Xie, who finished fifth in the women's KL1 canoe final at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics, revealed her plans to win a medal at next year's Paris Paralympics.

"I will try my best to raise our national flag on the international stage," she said. In today's other canoe finals, Chinese paddlers Yu Xiaowei and Zhong Yongyuan won the silver medals in the Men's KL1 and Women's VL3 respectively.

KL1 is for paddlers with highly affected movement in the trunk and legs. VL3 is for paddlers with full function of their arms and trunk, and partial function in the legs. — Xinhua

Legend Charlton a constant inspiration for Man Utd, says Ten Hag

MANCHESTER United manager Erik ten Hag said on Monday that Bobby Charlton set the standards of what players should deliver at Old Trafford as the Red Devils prepare to honour one of their greats.

Charlton, who died aged 86 on Saturday, will be remembered at United's first home game since his passing against FC Copenhagen in the Champions League on Tuesday.

A World Cup winner with England in 1966, Charlton played 758 games and scored 249 goals for the club between 1956 and 1973. He is immortalized outside Old Trafford in a statue alongside George Best and Denis Law.

Christened the club's "Holy Trinity", the trio helped rebuild United as a force in England and Europe in the aftermath of the Munich air disaster. Charlton was the last remaining survivor of the plane crash that killed 23 people, including eight United players in 1958.

"He is in front of Old Trafford with Denis Law and George Best, he is always with us," said Ten Hag at his pre-match press conference on Monday.

"A huge inspiration for us every day so in every game."

United badly need a win on what is expected to be a highly emotional evening after losing their opening two Champions League group games for the first time.

"Definitely tomorrow after the passing of Sir Bobby Charlton, their hero, the legend, the giant, I'm sure they will be even more emotional," added Ten Hag on the United support. But he called on his players to follow Charlton's example on the field after a poor start to the season.

United have also lost four of their opening nine Premier League games and needed a late winner to beat bottom-of-the-table Sheffield United 2-1 on Saturday.

"Bobby was a legend, a giant not only for Manchester United, but for football," said Ten Hag.

"His legacy, what he left were the standards, the high standards. We have to live it every day.

"First of all our thoughts are with his family, his wife, his children, his grandchildren, but also what he meant for Manchester United, and the standards he set.

"The last couple of days, they were emphasized."

A minute's silence was held before United's press conference and the club are still finalizing details with the Charlton family and UEFA over further commemorative plans. Ten Hag and the United squad have contributed to a book of condolence, which was opened on Sunday for fans to pay their respects. — AFP

Chinese premier, Japanese PM exchange congratulations on 45th anniversary of peace, friendship treaty

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WORLD

Refugee applicants to Japan surge in 2023, may reach record high

THE number of refugee applicants to Japan is surging this year, increasing the chances of applications hitting a record level last seen in 2017, sources familiar with the matter said Monday.

The current record high is 19,629 applicants, according to government data. The figure topped 11,000 from January through September this year, partly due to Japan's complete lifting of its COVID-19 pandemic border restrictions in April, the sources said.

This year's upswing is also partly due to the occurrence of a series of conflicts across the world, including in Africa, the sources said. The number of people seeking asylum in Japan increased after 2010, when the government permitted them to work six months after submitting applications for refugee status. — Kyodo

People protest in front of the Diet building in Tokyo in June 2023 against a bill revising an immigration and refugee law to enable authorities to deport individuals who repeatedly apply for asylum status. **PHOTO: KYODO**

A convoy of Israeli army trucks carrying mortar shells advances on a road near the southern city of Sderot on 23 October 2023 amid ongoing battles between Israel and the Palestinian group Hamas. **PHOTO: AFP**

US urges Israel to defer Gaza ground offensive – report

TEL Aviv has repeatedly promised a full-scale ground invasion of Gaza to root out Hamas after the Palestinian militant group's surprise attack on the Jewish state in early October, which escalated Palestinian-Israeli tensions.

Washington wants Israel to delay its ground offensive into the Gaza Strip in order to buy time for talks on hostages and to allow more humanitarian aid into the territory, unnamed US sources were quoted as saying by an American newspaper.

The sources claimed that the "fast-moving events" since the Palestinian militant group Hamas freed two American women last week "have spurred the Biden administration to more urgently suggest that the Israelis allow time to negotiate the release of 212 other hostages".

When asked if the United States was requesting Tel Aviv to postpone the ground offensive, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken evaded giving a direct response.

He spoke as Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant visited troops on the Gaza border, saying they "see Gaza now from a distance" and "will soon see it from inside".

"I am tasked with leading us to victory. We will be precise and forceful, and we will keep going until we fulfil our mission," Gallant said, voicing "confidence ahead of the next stage (of Israel's current military operation), which will come soon". In another development, Hamas said Saturday that it planned to release two more hostages on "humanitarian grounds", but the Israeli side reportedly rejected the offer.

The first of two convoys of humanitarian aid has now arrived in the Palestinian enclave, with the White House claiming that Israel had agreed "that there will now be a continued flow of this critical assistance". — Sputnik

China-ASEAN FTA provides enormous benefits to enterprises, peoples in both regions

THE China-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Free Trade Area (CAFTA) agreement has provided tremendous advantages to enterprises and peoples in both regions, a Cambodian official and experts said on Monday.

Cambodian Ministry of Commerce's Secretary of State Tat Puthsodary said the CAFTA has greatly boosted trade and investment volumes between the two sides.

"The potential benefits (from the CAFTA) are enormous," he said in a speech during a seminar on capacity building for implementing the rules of origin of the upgraded CAFTA.

The CAFTA came into effect on 1 January 2010, leading to the liberalization and facilitation of trade among the 11 countries.

Currently, China and the 10-member ASEAN are actively pushing forward the version 3.0 CAFTA negotiations, which will provide new opportunities for trade and investment cooperation between both sides.

Official data shows the bilateral trade volume between China and ASEAN had increased from about 100 billion US dollars in 2004 to 975.3 billion dollars in 2022.

For Cambodia, Puthsodary said within 13 years of CAFTA implementation, bilateral trade between Cambodia and China has increased more than 10 times from 1.25 billion dollars in 2010 to 11.69 billion dollars last year. — Xinhua