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

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

Vol. X, No. 192, 12th Waxing of Thadingyut 1385 ME | www.gnlm.com.mm | Thursday, 26 October 2023

# Exchange of goodwill visits cements friendly relations between Myanmar and Russia

THE exchange of goodwill visits of delegations at the national level and the Union level between Myanmar and Russia was discussed between Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Iskander Azizov yesterday.

Ambassador designate of the Russian Federation to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr Iskander Azizov presented his Credentials to Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the Credentials Hall of the Office of SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the ceremony, they cordially discussed the progress of diplomatic relations and friendly relations between the two countries, humanitarian measures between Myanmar and Russia, cultural measures, scholarship, economic cooperation, enhancement of the tourism industry, and bilateral cooperation in all sectors, an increase of running the direct flights, endeavours for restoring internal peace in Myanmar, political developments in Myanmar, and efforts of the Tatmadaw for the firm realization of multiparty democratic system the people aspire to.

SEE PAGE-3

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing accepts the Credentials of Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Iskander Azizov at the Credentials Hall of the Office of SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw on 25 October 2023.

NATIONAL PAGE-4

Local MSMEs need to produce basic consumer goods to meet country's needs rather than imports: VSG

NATIONAL PAGE-5

Over K802 bln (US$381 mln) worth of drugs seized in joint operation by Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force, Customs Department: MoHA UM

NATIONAL PAGE-6

YCDC collaborates with Chinese experts to reconstruct new Aung San Stadium

BUSINESS PAGE-7

Russia-Myanmar trade and economic cooperation to be promoted

UMFCCI and Chongqing Government officials exchange gifts after the meeting on 24 October in Yangon.

# UMFCCI, Chongqing Govt eye trade boost on New Land-Sea Trade Corridor

VICE-PRESIDENT Dr Win Si Thu of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and Mr Zhao Yin, Director of the Foreign Affairs Office, Chongqing Municipal People's Government, China, discussed matters regarding investment and business cooperation between Myanmar and China (Chongqing) and the possibility of carrying out trade activities on the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor on 24 October at the UMFCCI's hall.

The New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor is a major trade and logistics passage connecting China (Chongqing) and ASEAN, promoting transport, trade and economic development in those regions. The meeting highlighted cooperation with Myanmar to facilitate trade and transport along the Corridor.

Both sides elaborated on collaboration for development activities on the Corridor, manufacturing, digital transformation and creating economic opportunities. — NN/EM

# NATIONAL

Gem merchants examine the jade exhibits at the 2023 Mid-Year Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

## Mid-Year Gems Emporium 2023 goes into sixth day

THE 2023 Mid-Year Gems Emporium entered its sixth day at the Maniradana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Local and foreign merchants examined the displays of jade lots within the hall and uncut jade lots outside the hall, commencing in the morning.

Throughout the exhibition, a total of 4,045 jade lots were sold through an open tender system. A total of 750 jade lots were successfully purchased through an open tender system by local and foreign merchants during yesterday's exhibition, with 601 jade lots being sold.

A total of 753 jade lots were on display for the seventh day of the exhibition, where they were inspected by local and foreign merchants, and bids were placed in the tender box.

Officials closed the bidding for the 753 jade lots at 3 pm. The tender boxes will be opened, and the sale of jade lots will be announced at 8 am on 26 October.

In the exhibition, a total of 300 pearl lots were successfully sold, and 73 gem lots out of 160 gem lots were sold from 21 to 22 October, with a total of 702 jade lots being sold out of 750 jade lots on the fifth day of the exhibition.

The remaining jade lots will continue to be available for purchase at the Maniradana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw up to 28 October. — MNA/ MKKS

## Grab EV Taxi service launched in YIA, Nay Pyi Taw Thabyaygon Market on 23 Oct

ACCORDING to the EV taxi service companies, the Grab EV Taxi service has been operating at Yangon International Airport and Thabyaygon Market (Nay Pyi Taw) since 23 October.

Passengers who want to use the Grab EV Taxi service can book a ride through the Grab Taxi Service Counters at Yangon International Airport Terminal 1 and Terminal 3 during the test run.

Grab launches new e-taxi service at Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon Airport.

The Grab EV Taxi service is not only safe to ride but also helps in reducing carbon emissions, according to Yangon International Airport's statement that it meets the standards of Yangon International Airport's commitment to reduce carbon emissions.

Currently, 10 EVs from Chindwin Shan Construction are operating as public taxis based at Yangon International Airport and 10 EVs imported from NPK Motors are operating as public taxis at Thabyaygon Market (Nay Pyi Taw). — ASH/KZL

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*News and Periodicals Enterprise*

Myanmar's Miss Ni Ni Lin Eain receives the 1st Runner Up crown of Miss Grand International 2023 in Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam on 25 October 2023.

## Ni Ni Lin Eain grabs 1st Runner-Up at Miss Grand International 2023

REPRESENTING Myanmar, Miss Ni Ni Lin Eain won the 1st Runner-Up Award at the Miss Grand International 2023 held in Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam yesterday.

She also carried off the Country's Power of the Year Award and Miss Popular Award in addition to the 1st Runner-Up title at the Grand Final.

The Miss Grand Myanmar also garnered the Miss Photogenic award by Global Beauties Award and Grand Pageant's Choice Award at the Global Beauties Contest of the Miss Grand International 2023 Rehearsal launched on 24 October.

The winner of the Miss Grand International 2023 Winner goes to Miss Grand Peru, while the 2nd Runner-up belongs to Miss Grand Colombia. The 3rd Runner-up is for Miss Grand USA and Miss Grand Viet Nam secured the 4th Runner-up prize.

Remarkably, Myanmar had a chance to host the contest of the Miss Grand International in 2024, according to an announcement during the Miss Grand International 2023.

National Director Htoo Ank Lwin will organize the 2024 Miss Grand International in Myanmar which is slated to be held on 25 October 2024. — ASH/KZL

**COVID-19 report, 25 October 2023**

| NEW TESTS | NEW CASES | CASUALTIES |
|---|---|---|
| 3,003 | Two | Nil |

# NATIONAL

## Exchange of goodwill visits cements friendly ...

Chairman of the SAC Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives the delegation led by Commandant Lieutenant-General Igor Mishutkin of the Military University of the Russian Federation under the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation at Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

FROM PAGE-1

The ceremony was also attended by Council Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe and officials.

The Senior General also received a delegation led by Commandant Lieutenant-General Igor Mishutkin of the Military University of the Russian Federation under the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation at Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Also present at the call were Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and senior military officers. The Russian Commandant of the Military University was accompanied by Russian Military Attaché to Myanmar Colonel Sergey Kurchenko and officials.

The Senior General warmly welcomed the Russian delegation.

At the meeting, the Russian Commandant expressed his pride in conferring the Honorary Professor of the Military University of Defence Ministry on the Senior General in accord with the decision of the board of the university on 23 June 2021 for his excellent performance in strengthening the relations between two armed forces of Myanmar and Russia, cooperation in military technology, sending of scholar students to cement friendly relations between two armed forces and two governments.

They cordially discussed plans to enhance cooperation between the two countries and two armed forces, academic measures of the Military University of the Russian Federation, conducting of language courses and extending the Myanmar language courses, creation of chances for learning the Myanmar language in Myanmar, and successful discharging defence duties to protect the State and the people as Myanmar Tatmadaw and Russian Armed Forces are born of the people. — MNA/TTA

## 2023 Inter-State/Region Volleyball Tourney opens

THE 2023 Inter-State and Region Volleyball Tournament was opened yesterday morning at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw, attended by State Administration Council members.

Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan first remarked that the purpose of this tournament is to bring out the new generation of athletes and to spread the sport of volleyball throughout the country.

As Myanmar has won gold medals for volleyball and has a long tradition of success, the Union minister urged the athletes to compete in the competition with full sportsmanship in the purest way and to strive to become great athletes that the State relies on.

The Union minister opened the tourney following the speech. Athletes then recited the sports oath, and SAC members and Union ministers greeted them cordially.

SAC members also watched the volleyball match played between the Ayeyawady Region Team and the Taninthayi Region Team. A total of 418 athletes from 15 men's and 13 women's teams are competing in the tourney, which will run up to 3 November. Sports enthusiasts are invited to watch the matches for free. — MNA/KZL

SAC members, Union ministers and guests enjoy the volleyball match played between Ayeyawady and Taninthayi teams yesterday.

# NATIONAL

## Local MSMEs need to produce basic consumer goods to meet country's needs rather than imports: VSG

VICE-SENIOR General Soe Win has urged the domestic MSME businesses to produce basic consumer goods to meet the domestic demands instead of importing them, and try to export them to foreign countries.

Vice-Chairman of State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, who is also Chairman of the MSME Development Work Committee, gave such encouragement at the meeting 2/2023 of the work committee at the Ministry of Industry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

He also said it should support the startups by establishing incubation centres and provide the requirements to the entrepreneurs to be more competitive and innovative in order to develop the MSME businesses.

Moreover, due to the cooperation of Thilawa Special Economic Zone Management Committee, the local MSMEs exported the locally produced products in accordance with the order lists of 28 companies from Free Zone and Promotion Zone of Thilawa Special Economic Zone, and a total of 36 MSME businesses received 33 types of orders of raw materials worth K6.562 billion and over US$ 28.4 million from January to August, 2023. Therefore, it is a first step for MSME businesses.

Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win delivers the speech at the MSME Development Working Committee meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 25 October 2023.

It is necessary to provide the MSMEs to grab more achievements and ensure their sustainability, and it can see the progress in the country's GDP by producing more products for the people in respective regions.

He also made a commitment that the government will make financial assistance to MSMEs as much as they can to start a new business and expand their operations.

Then, Secretary of committee Deputy Minister for Industry U Yin Maung Nyunt presented the implementations based on the outcomes of 1/2023 work committee meeting and current work plans of the work committee.

Then, Deputy Minister for Industry U Yin Maung Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance Daw Than Than Lin, Chairman of Fund Management Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win presented letters to be submitted to the MSME Development Work Committee.

Additionally, Vice-Chairs of the work committee Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein and Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than explained the ongoing development activities for MSME businesses.

Then, work committee members Union Ministers Dr Kan Zaw, U Tun Ohn and Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Than Tun Oo, chief ministers of regions and states, deputy ministers and other attendees discussed the functions for the development of MSME businesses.

Chief ministers of regions and states joined the meeting via video conference, it is reported. — MNA/KTZH

Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe receives newly appointed Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Myanmar Mr Iskander Azizov in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

## DPM MoFA UM receives Ambassador of Russian Federation

U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr Iskander Azizov in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister congratulated the Ambassador on his recent appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. They cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the further enhancement of the friendly bilateral relations and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries including the promotion of people-to-people contacts, and cooperation in trade, economy, education, health, culture, energy, electricity and tourism sectors, as well as closer collaboration in regional and multilateral contexts. — MNA

# NATIONAL

## Over K802 bln (US$381 mln) worth of drugs seized in joint operation by Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force, Customs Department: MoHA UM

STATE Administration Council Member Union Minister for Home Affairs Chairman of the Central Committee on Drug Abuse Control Lt-Gen Yar Pyae addressed the 1/2023 central committee meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, he said drugs are a grave threat to all mankind of the world, and there should be stability, law enforcement and public participation in solving the drug-related cases in Myanmar.

Moreover, the drug transitions are related to arms smuggling, violence, money laundering and transnational crimes and also affect the regional stability and rule of law measures.

He added that the country adopts the national strategic framework on drug control and proper strategic plans will be drafted for Nay Pyi Taw, regions and states.

He then talked about the launching of 38 operations to combat the drugs and now Operation 39 in 2023 across the nation while the man-made drug (synthetic drug) is the main threat in the world, with drug seizures worth over K802 billion (US$381 million) until 23 October 2023 during the joint operation of Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and Customs Department and close cooperation with UN, neighbouring countries, ASEAN states, Mekong regions, BIMSTEC members, international organizations in addition to Yangon-based UNODC, AFP, DEA, NNCC and ONCB to carry out anti-narcotics activities.

He then stressed the need to participate in implementing the New Drug Policy, follow the activities stated in projects for 2023 and take preventive measures for youths and entire people.

He concluded the meeting after hearing the presentations of the secretary and joint secretary of the central committee and other attendees. — MNA/KTZH

The Central Committee on Drug Abuse Control's 1/2023 meeting in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

## First coord meeting on 76th Anniversary Independence Day Reception & Dinner held

The first coordination meeting on Organizing Reception and Dinner Sub-committee on the successful celebration of the 2024 76th Anniversary Independence Day in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE first coordination meeting on the successful celebration of the 76th Anniversary Independence Day Reception and Dinner was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday and attended by Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe who is also the central committee chairman, work committee members, subcommittee members, and officials from relevant departments.

After the Deputy Prime Minister made the opening speech, measures to be taken for the 76th Independence Day Reception and Dinner were submitted to the central committee, and the subcommittees discussed sector-wise coordination matters.

The Deputy Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements and concluded the coordination meeting. — MNA/TS

## Over 200 investments enter Rakhine State

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Htein Lin said that there are more than 200 new investment companies with 100 per cent investment by Myanmar nationals and foreigners in Rakhine State.

He said this in a speech related to Rakhine economic development at the opening ceremony of the Rakhine Economic Forum at Khaing Thazin Hall in Sittway Township, Rakhine State.

In Rakhine State, most of the foreign investment sank in the oil and gas sector while the local investment is in the hotel and tourism sector.

In addition to the hotels and tourism industry and oil and gas industry, the future economy of Rakhine State has good opportunities to work in maritime trade and cross-country trade.

The Rakhine State Economic Forum 2023 was held for the first time by the Rakhine State government and it was held for the emergence of young entrepreneurs in Rakhine State.

In the economic forum, the future economic prospects of Rakhine State were discussed and roundtable business conversations were held.

In addition to this, IT-related materials, employment opportunities, educational services, branded clothing, and commercial exhibits were also included at the fair. — ASH/KZL

# NATIONAL

## YCDC collaborates with Chinese experts to reconstruct new Aung San Stadium

An aerial view of Aung San Stadium in the centre of Yangon City.

THE project team from China Architectural Design and Research Institute of Tongji University (Group) Co Ltd met officials from the Yangon City Development Committee to discuss the reconstruction of Aung San Stadium on 25 October.

During the meeting, they discussed Aung San Stadium's land, building design, water usage, and wastewater disposal. The head of the Engineering Department (Building) and officials stated that the Yangon City Development Committee will ensure compliance with the requirements outlined on the YCDC website, MNBC 2020 standards, and the Yangon City Development Law 2018 for the project team's review.

Upon the completion of the Aung San Stadium reconstruction, the main stadium will be capable of accommodating over 30,000 spectators, and the indoor stadium can host an audience of 3,000.

The construction of Aung San Stadium commenced in 1906, originally known as BBA (Burma Athletic Association) Ground. It was later renamed Aung San Stadium on 17 October 1953. — TWA/KZW

The oil lamp lighting festival in progress on Mandalay Hill in 2020.

## 10,000 oil lamps to illuminate Mandalay Hill on Thadingyut Full Moon Day

THE Board of Trustees of Mandalay Hill has announced that they will illuminate 10,000 oil lamps on Mandalay Hill during the full moon day of Thadingyut.

On 29 October, 10,000 oil lamps will be lit across the entire mountain. Additionally, the time for worship and prayer, initially set from 6 am to 6 pm, has been extended to 8 pm on that day.

On Thadingyut Full Moon Day, pilgrims will receive complimentary meals, and those who wish to donate food will also be welcome to do so. Pilgrims interested in offering oil lamps at Mandalay Hill can register with the Board of Trustees.

Advance security measures have been put in place to ensure the safety of pilgrims at Mandalay Hill during the holiday.

Moreover, a festival featuring the lighting of 5,000 oil lamps will take place on the eastern side of Yadanabon Park, situated on 66th Street between 12th and 26th Streets in Mandalay.

During the festival, visitors will be provided with complimentary meals and will enjoy performances by renowned singers, the Kyaukse Elephant Dance, demonstrations of Chinlone (a traditional cane-ball show), the modern music group of Mandalay City Development Committee, and unplugged bands. — TWA/CT

## 59 construction permits granted during October's third week

IN the third week of October, 59 construction permits were issued within the jurisdiction of the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).

During the week, 59 construction permits were issued, and 30 Building Completion Certificates (BCCs) were approved. Letters of recommendation for building construction permission were sent to related departments, including fifteen to the Myanmar Fire Service Department, thirty-one to the Department of Engineering for Water and Sanitation, and one each to the Urban and Housing Development Department and the Engineering Department for Water Management.

When applying for building construction permits, it is essential to include the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), which mandates that the landowner and licensed contractors coordinate with the Electricity Corporation to obtain electricity.

It has been reported that the Yangon Electricity Corporation will convene a meeting with licensed contractors this week to arrange for the installation of electricity meters in the buildings after obtaining the BCC. — TWA/KZW

## Over 10,000 city taxis now display yellow line stickers on both sides

THE Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC) has stated that more than 10,000 city taxis are currently operating in the Yangon Region, and they have completed the process of affixing yellow line stickers on the sides of their vehicles.

The YRTC issued a directive for city taxis to install these yellow stickers, which will help them stand out from other vehicles on the road. The installation process is scheduled to begin on 1 November 2023, and it will continue for three months until 31 January 2024.

City taxis that install the stickers during this specified period will receive a subsidy of K5,000 to cover the cost of the stickers, including the design and cutting.

Any taxi vehicles that do not attach the yellow line sticker to their sides during the mentioned period will face legal action under Section 96 of the Vehicle Safety and Motor Vehicle Management Law. — TWA/CT

A taxi undergoing a sticker installation process.

# NATIONAL
## BUSINESS

# Russia-Myanmar trade and economic cooperation to be promoted

ACCORDING to the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCC), trade and economic cooperation will be promoted between St Petersburg of the Russian Federation and Myanmar in the sectors of rice and pulses, aquatic products, furniture and garments.

Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the St Petersburg Government of the Russian Federation Mr Grigoriev Evgeny Dmitrievich and members met with Myanmar businessmen from these sectors at the UMFCCI office.

A business meeting between officials from UMFCCI and Chairman of the External Relations Committee of the St Petersburg Government of the Russian Federation Mr Grigoriev Evgeny Dmitrievich and party in progress.

"The visit is for Russia-Myanmar cooperation. Currently, rice, beans, corn, sesame, furniture and fisheries are profitable businesses for St Petersburg. There are special benefits for both countries. If there are any difficulties when exporting, it will be discussed," Grigoriev Evgeny Dmitrievich said.

The exporters from these sectors discussed the difficulties encountered in exporting to Russia, the payment system for direct exports to Russia, and the conditions for Russian garment factories to come and invest in Myanmar.

The St Petersburg Forum of the Russian Federation is held every year, and goods are being exchanged and sold from around 30 countries. Myanmar galleries will be allowed to show for free and trade will be possible, and the Day of Myanmar is also planned to be held in St Petersburg.

The port city of Kronshtadt has the latest technologies for the export and import of goods from waterways, the inspection of imported goods and the return of goods, saving time, the smoothness of the transportation route, and the latest technology for loading and unloading of cargo at the port.

The Russian delegation invited Myanmar businesspersons to make investments. — ASH/KZL

# Yangon Region Tourism Committee endorses nine businesses worth K23 bln

YANGON Region Tourism Committee granted licences for six hotels, one hotel construction permit, one motel licence and one motel construction permit, having 474 rooms, with an estimated capital of K23.11 billion, at the meeting (2/2023) on 24 October.

Those hotel and motel businesses are investment projects made by Myanmar citizens, creating over 180 jobs for locals.

Additionally, the committee issues 102 tour licences (inbound/outbound) and 65 tour agency licences.

After the endorsement of the projects, tourism development activities were addressed at the meeting. The committee issued six hotel licences and one motel construction permit having 217 rooms at the last meeting (1/2023), with an estimated capital of K10.067 billion, creating 120 job opportunities for residents. — NN/EM

# Sugar price heads for three-week fall in faltering demand

THE price of sugar fell to a three-week low of K3,750 per viss on weak demand, according to the Yangon Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Commodity Centre).

The price plunged from K3,820 per viss in the domestic sugar market in the first week of October.

The price of sugar fell to a three-week low due to weak demand.

However, the prevailing sugar price is still higher than those recorded in the previous years. The sugar price stayed below K1,000 per viss in the 2019-2020 Financial Year.

With the sugar price rising this year, growers are expected to expand sugarcane cultivation, according to the Myanmar Sugar and Cane Related Products Association.

The sugar mills notified the sugarcane growers that they would raise the offering price of sugarcane to K120,000 per tonne in the upcoming 2023-2024 sugarcane season.

Myanmar's annual sugar production is estimated at 450,000 tonnes. Myanmar earlier sent sugar to China and Viet Nam beyond self-sufficiency. At present, it is delivered to Viet Nam only, the association stated.

Sugarcane is commonly found in the upper Sagaing Region, followed by northern Shan State. It is also found in the western and eastern Bago Region, Yangon Region and Mandalay Region.

The sugarcane is grown in December-January. It can be harvested from November to February of the following years. The sugarcane growing rotation cycle lasts four years in Myanmar. — NN/EM

# Myanmar, Saudi Arabia enhance cooperation for mutual benefits

Myanmar Ambassador to Saudi Arabia U Tin Yu and Mr Abdulrahman Al-Rassi, Deputy Minister for International Multilateral Affairs of Saudi Arabia discuss bilateral relations between the two countries in Riyadh on 24 October 2023.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, discussions on issues related to the continued cooperation for common interests between Myanmar and Saudi Arabia took place on 24 October.

At the invitation of Mr Abdulrahman Al-Rassi, Deputy Minister for International Multilateral Affairs of Saudi Arabia, Myanmar Ambassador to Saudi Arabia U Tin Yu visited the former's office and exchanged views.

During the meeting, they also discussed ways to improve Myanmar-Saudi Arabia's bilateral relations and increase friendship between the people of the two countries. — ASH/KZL

# OPINION

## Expedite implementation of SEZs for the benefit of people and nation

ACROSS 145 countries worldwide, approximately 7,000 special economic zones are currently in operation, collectively providing employment opportunities to over 100 million individuals. Myanmar, in alignment with this global trend, is fervently pursuing the development of three major SEZs: Thilawa, Kyaukpyu, and Dawei. These initiatives are poised to catalyze growth in both the public and private sectors, reinforcing the country's economic foundations.

SEZs, both in Myanmar and on the international stage, play a pivotal role in drawing foreign investments, fostering job creation, augmenting export volumes, facilitating business expansion, integrating into the global value chain, and stimulating industrial output. In essence, they serve as catalysts for the enhancement of the state's economic landscape.

> The swift and strategic implementation of SEZs is an imperative step for the advancement of Myanmar's economic landscape. The benefits span from employment generation and heightened export potential to broader participation in the global economic order. It is imperative to focus on the common interests of the nation while nurturing friendly relations and mutual benefits with partnering countries. In this manner, SEZs become powerful tools for propelling the nation and its people towards a brighter, more prosperous future.

The Thilawa SEZ, initiated in 2013, has made remarkable strides, emerging as a beacon of success in the region. Presently, relevant government ministries are collaborating closely with each other and relevant organizations to ensure the seamless operation of businesses. Their collective focus is on attracting increased foreign investments and fostering further engagements with new companies.

A comprehensive strategy is being deployed, seeking to encourage both existing and new foreign companies to invest in the SEZs, including allowing transactions in foreign currencies, in addition to the US dollar, as approved by the Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank and the Central Bank of Myanmar. The CBM is actively engaged in coordinating official foreign exchange matters with partner nations.

In line with the global trend of developing comprehensive transportation systems, Myanmar is poised to adopt a multi-transport system to support the seamless functioning of its special economic zones. Notably, preparations have begun for the Kyaukpyu-Mandalay-Muse railway project, a move that promises to bolster the Kyaukpyu SEZ significantly.

The Kyaukpyu SEZ is set to realize substantial benefits through the deep-sea port project. The successful establishment of this port is expected to open doors for Myanmar to participate in the Myanmar-China corridor cooperation project. These initiatives hold the potential to offer local populations gainful employment opportunities, ultimately elevating their socio-economic well-being.

The swift and strategic implementation of SEZs is an imperative step for the advancement of Myanmar's economic landscape. The benefits span from employment generation and heightened export potential to broader participation in the global economic order. It is imperative to focus on the common interests of the nation while nurturing friendly relations and mutual benefits with partnering countries. In this manner, SEZs become powerful tools for propelling the nation and its people towards a brighter, more prosperous future.

# ARTICLE

Performing Cleft Lip and Palate Surgery.

## Appreciation for Myanmar Dental Health Science Conference 2023

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

ACCORDING to one of the objectives of the Social Affairs of the State Administration Council (SAC); "To elevate the Health and Sports sectors inclusive of all the people, improving the longevity and health of the nation", the Ministry of Health (MoH), Myanmar, laid down the two objectives, to enable every citizen to attain full life expectancy and enjoy longevity of life, and to ensure that every citizen is free from diseases.

SAC Chairman Prime Minister mentioned that in the opening ceremony of the Myanmar Health Sciences Conference in Nay Pyi Taw on 11 March 2023, "Not only the Ministry of Health and health experts but relevant departments, organizations and entire people are to join hands in ensuring the longevity of all the people and improving basic healthcare services. They all should strive to raise health awareness of the people and for them to have healthy lifestyles." The Prime Minister called on new generation health professionals and staff to effectively study the good knowledge for prevention and treatment for diseases and rehabilitation of patients, new perspectives and experiences and taking lessons from the past events for improvement of their capacity in the future. The Prime Minister stressed that all medical professionals are to uplift the health sector through collaborative efforts of medical professionals from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Defence and relevant ministries as well as private healthcare institutions.

MoH is organizing the Myanmar Dental Health Science Conference-MDHSC 2023 on Dental Health Science which is one of the leading community-based events of its kind bringing together professionals in the various dental health fields around the national and international. The MDHSC 2023 plays a crucial role in advancing dental health and science as well as MDHSC 2023 is delighted to welcome all dental health professionals to an outstanding conference dated 3 to 4 November 2023 at Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory under the main theme Quality Dental Care for Community for dental health of entire nation.

MDHSC 2023 will be held with the following objectives: To achieve warm friendship between dental health personnel in various States and Regions, To participate in learning updated information on clinical and dental public health domains by enabling dental health personnel from various dental health fields, To develop coordinated quality care platform by the interaction of dental health professionals from various dental health fields in long run, and To assist in providing quality dental care to the community.

Before the MDHSC 2023, cleft lip and palate surgeries were done as the pre-conference activities. The following points are appreciation and acknowledgement of MDHSC 2023: -

* Knowledge Exchange: Provide a platform for dental professionals to exchange knowledge, research findings, and best practices as well as help in advancing the field and improving patient care.
* Continuing Education: These opportunities for continuing education are essential for staying updated on the latest advancements in dental science and technology.
* Research Promotion: promote and showcase cutting-edge research in the dental field. This exposure can encourage researchers to share their work and potentially secure funding for future projects. More building professional relationships and collaborations and further research opportunities.
* Global Perspective: The Myanmar Dental Health Science Conference brings together professionals from around the world. This diverse perspective can help attendees gain a broader understanding of dental healthcare on a global scale.
* Inspiration: Hearing success stories, innovative ideas, and breakthroughs can motivate dental professionals to excel in their own work.
* Community Building: foster a sense of community among dental practitioners and researchers. They create a platform for like-minded individuals to come together and work towards common goals.
* Awareness and Advocacy: Address important issues and challenges facing the dental profession. They can serve as a platform for raising awareness and advocating for improvements in dental healthcare.
* Professional Development: Contribute to the professional development of attendees. Presenting research, speaking at sessions, and engaging in discussions can enhance public speaking and leadership skills as well as contribute to the betterment of dental health and, bring the overall health and well-being of the population.

Pre-Conference Activities at Pathein General Hospital

In addition, by conducting this MDHSC (2023), all dental health personnel from various dental health fields will provide better quality dental care for the community and efforts will be taken to build a significant landmark of the Ministry of Health. ■

## WHO says AI can transform healthcare if understood properly

The WHO said AI could strengthen clinical trials, improve medical diagnosis and treatment and supplement medical knowledge and skills.
**ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY**

ARTIFICIAL Intelligence has the potential to transform health treatment but rapid roll-out without fully understanding how AI performs could end up harming patients, the World Health Organization said on Thursday.

The WHO said AI held great promise for healthcare but also came with challenges, notably around privacy and the potential to entrench existing problems.

The United Nations' health agency issued a new publication detailing some of the main regulatory considerations on AI for health, so that authorities can build or adapt their guidance on using it.

"With the increasing availability of health care data and the rapid progress in analytic techniques — whether machine learning, logic-based or statistical—AI tools could transform the health sector," the organization said.

The WHO said AI could strengthen clinical trials, improve medical diagnosis and treatment and supplement medical knowledge and skills.

For example, AI could help in places with a lack of specialist, by interpreting radiology images and retinal scans, it said.

However, the WHO added that AI is being rapidly deployed, sometimes without a proper understanding of how such technologies perform, "which could either benefit or harm end-users", both patients and professionals alike.

When using health data, AI systems could be accessing sensitive personal information, so robust legal frameworks are needed to safeguard privacy and integrity, the WHO said.

### Pros and cons

"Artificial intelligence holds great promise for health, but also comes with serious challenges, including unethical data collection, cyber-security threats and amplifying biases or misinformation," said WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

"This new guidance will support countries to regulate AI effectively, to harness its potential, whether in treating cancer or detecting tuberculosis, while minimizing the risks," he added.

The WHO said AI systems depend on the code they are built with and the data they are trained on, and better regulation could help manage the risks of AI amplifying biases present in training data.

"For example, it can be difficult for AI models to accurately represent the diversity of populations, leading to biases, inaccuracies or even failure," the WHO said.

"To help mitigate these risks, regulations can be used to ensure that the attributes—such as gender, race and ethnicity—of the people featured in the training data are reported and datasets are intentionally made representative," the organization added.

***SOURCE: AFP***

# NATIONAL

## 24th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition (Central Level) continues its 2nd day

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn, his wife and dignitaries enjoin the Mahawthata play competition of the Yangon Region team at the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE 24th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition (Central Level) continued its second day at designated venues in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The competitions included amateur level (first class), amateur level (second class), higher education level, basic education level (aged 15 to 20) and basic education level (aged 10 to 15).

The contestants from various regions and states participated in the "Maha Gita" singing competition, "Karlapaw tay (modern song)" competition, dance competition, composing competition, piano competition, harp competition, Oh Si (Myanmar traditional drums) competition, Myanmar orchestra group competition, "Yotesone" theatrical group competition and Mahawthahta play competition which took place at designated venues yesterday.

State Administration Council members, Union-level officials, deputy ministers, ministers for Ethnic Affairs and Ministers for Social Affairs of regions and states, advocates-general, relevant officials, departmental staff and parents of contestants attended the competitions.

The sub-committees are organized for the 24th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition to facilitate transport, accommodation, food, health, competition-related information and security of the contestants, judges and mentors, and convenience stores, food stalls, barber shops, beauty salons and book shops are also open.

The 24th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition is the second event held in the term of SAC, and so the relevant officials make efforts to hold it on a grand scale with the government's support. — MNA/KTZH

## Illegal timbers, foodstuffs, consumer goods, industrial materials, motorbikes and vehicles confiscated

THE on-duty teams under the supervision of the Customs Department made inspections on 23 October and impounded six kinds of goods worth K8.73 million, including 50 LED office lamps that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID), from a container at the Myanmar Industrial Port, a Nissan condor and an Isuzu truck (estimated value of K50 million), headed to Mandalay from Myawady, carrying 50 cartons of Ding Fong Kiwi concentrated formula-2 and 1,080 boxes of Apple Monkey organic rice cracker worth K9.8 million that were not declared in the ID, at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint, a total of 0.397 tonne of illegal teak worth over K1.19 million that were piled up by the side of detour near Namon village at the Yepu permanent checkpoint and four kinds of goods worth K8.36 million, including 720 pairs of rubber slipper and 60 Vico rice cookers without official documents, from two vehicles that headed to Yangon from Myawady and to Mandalay from Myawady at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

The combined teams captured a total of 0.44 tonne of illegal teak and 1.299 tonnes of illegal other timbers worth K238,470 in Ottara District and three unregistered vehicles (Honda Airwave, Super Custom and Toyota Caldina) worth K40.5 million and an unregistered Honda Wave motorbike worth K450,000 in Lewe township on 24 October. The action was taken under the Forest Law and the Export and Import Law.

On the same day, the on-duty teams seized a Yutong express (approximately K50 million), travelling from Muse to Mandalay, carrying eight kinds of goods worth K20.28 million, including 50 kilogrammes of floral foam without official documents, near the detour of Lashio township. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

Confiscated illegal items in Bago Region.

In addition, the combined teams seized a Yutong bus (estimated value of K30 million), travelling from Myawady to Yangon, carrying 14 kinds of goods worth K59.06 million, including 15 sets of Epson Ecotank colour printer and 360 bottles of Penfolds Wine Bin 28 without official documents, at the Nyaungkhashay x-ray station and a total of 7.035 tonnes of illegal teak worth K2,907,680 in Toungoo and Thayawady districts. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Forest Law.

The combined teams conducted inspections on 25 October and nabbed three unregistered vehicles (Honda Insight, Nissan Vanette and Mitsubishi Outlander) worth K30 million in Dawei township and 696 bottles of Kaiser beer and 4,104 bottles of Justus beer worth K5.71 million without official documents at the Yadanabon Bridge combined checkpoint in Sagaing. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

A total of 27 arrests were made on three consecutive days from 23 to 25 October, with an estimated value of about K317.227 million, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

## Action taken against over 10,000 vehicles for violation of traffic rules

The photo shows a tollgate on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway.

THE Expressway Police reported that a total of 10,840 vehicles that violated traffic rules faced enforcement action during the nine months from January to September 2023. These cases included 9,345 instances of speeding and 1,495 instances of failure to wear a seatbelt.

On the Yangon-Mandalay expressway, private cars are limited to a speed of 100 kilometres per hour and passenger highway vehicles are limited to 90 kilometres per hour. Enforcement against speeding vehicles was carried out not only through inspections but also with the help of 11 sets of speed testing equipment.

During the period from January to August, a total of 106 traffic accidents resulted in 63 fatalities and 161 injuries on the expressway. — TWA/MKKS

# ‘Becoming Lampedusa’: Migrant arrivals surge on remote Spanish island

A group of tired migrants struggled to pull themselves up onto the harbour of La Restinga, a fishing village on the tiny island of El Hierro in Spain’s Canary islands.

Some collapsed from exhaustion and were aided by Red Cross staff. One was led away on a wheelchair as tourists ate at restaurant terraces just metres (yards) away.

“It’s incredible to see how people can continue to eat prawns and squid while a migrant boat arrives just behind them,” said Javier Iglesias, the owner of a restaurant at the port, which has a black sand beach and diving centre.

“Thousands of people have arrived in recent days, including children and babies,” he added.

El Hierro, the most westerly of Spain’s Canary Islands in the Atlantic, is grappling with an unprecedented surge in migrant arrivals from Africa which have overwhelmed its social services.

Around 6,000 migrants have arrived in this remote island — which is home to just 11,000 people — between 1 January and 15 October, according to the latest interior ministry figures.

El Hierro accounts for about one quarter of the nearly 26,000 migrant arrivals in the Canary Islands during this period, a nearly 80 per cent increase from the same period last year and close to the record levels set in 2006.

The boats keep coming. Saturday saw a wooden vessel packed tight with 321 migrants reach the island, the largest number yet to arrive in a single vessel in the seven-island archipelago located off the northwest coast of Africa. — AFP

*While the migrants were arriving and receiving assistance, tourists in the area were enjoying their meals at restaurant terraces located close by.*

A Spanish maritime rescue vessel assists a boat carrying migrants on the island of El Hierro. **PHOTO: STRINGER/AFP**

## ‘No Man’s Land’ parade of music and trash charms Johannesburg

The “No Man's Land" procession was put together by South African artist William Kentridge. **PHOTO: MARCO LONGARI/AFP**

AT first glance it looks like an ordinary street parade, with marching minstrels, baton-twirling majorettes, painted faces and glittering costumes careering down a battered, rundown Johannesburg street.

A small boy in a torn T-shirt takes in the sunny scene, eyes wide open and fists on his hips. He was one of several children following the parade, unsupervised and fascinated by the festivities in the gritty neighbourhood. But unlike the traditional minstrel parades in South Africa, this procession was joined by some of the poorest of the poor — the “recyclers” who rummage through garbage in hopes of finding something that will earn a few pennies.

The display, titled “No Man’s Land”, was a creation of “The Centre for the Less Good Ideas”, co-founded by William Kentridge, a South African artist famous for his drawings and animated films. — AFP

## ‘Happy Grandmas’: Women weave to protect Kyrgyzstan’s ancient shyrdak rug

*The labour-intensive process will ultimately create a shyrdak, but the art is endangered as the number of skilled artisans, mainly elderly, dwindles, raising concerns of its potential extinction.*

TASHKAN Khakimova, 77, crouched over a wooden weaving machine, wool speeding through her fingers, using a traditional rug-making technique in Kyrgyzstan’s remote mountainous region of Batken.

A young schoolgirl held the remaining wool next to Khakimova, dressed in a white headscarf and a velvet jacket with traditional embroidery on it.

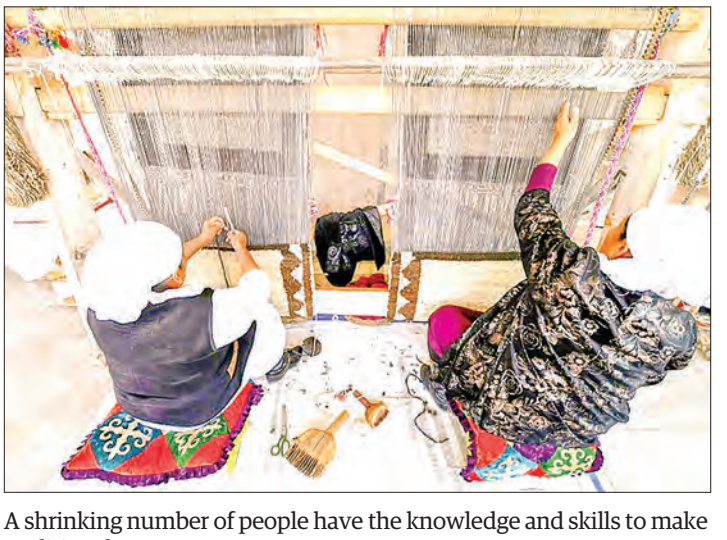
After several hundred hours of work, the wool will be transformed into a shyrdak — a traditional Kyrgyz rug.

Khakimova is one of a shrinking number of mostly elderly people living in the Central Asian country’s mountainous areas who know how to make a shyrdak.

Many worry the ancient art will die out.

“Our parents taught us the technique, but people are forgetting it,” Khakimova told AFP. She is part of a group of older women calling themselves the “Happy Grandmas” who meet in the small town of Kadamjay — nestled between the Alay mountains — to preserve the endangered craft and boost their meagre pensions.

UNESCO has warned that the skill of making the unique rugs is “in need of urgent safeguarding”, with an abundance of synthetic carpets and the young being mostly disinterested. — AFP



A shrinking number of people have the knowledge and skills to make traditional Kyrgyz carpets. **PHOTO: VYACHESLAV OSELEDKO/AFP**

# ECONOMY
## WORLD

# Germany business morale up, Mideast crisis casts shadow

*Analysts have cautioned that the Israel-Hamas conflict poses new risks to Germany's efforts to recover from an economic downturn.*

GERMAN business sentiment improved slightly in October, a survey showed Wednesday, but analysts warned the Israel-Hamas conflict posed new risks as Europe's top economy struggles to emerge from a downturn.

The Ifo institute's closely watched confidence barometer, based on a survey of 9,000 companies, rose to 86.9 points from 85.8 in September, the first increase in six months.

Analysts surveyed by financial data company FactSet had expected a smaller rise to 85.9.

"Sentiment in the German economy has improved," said Ifo president Clemens Fuest, adding there was a "silver lining ahead".

Companies were less pessimistic than in September about the outlook for the months to come and more satisfied with their current business situation, the survey found.

Volkswagen employees work on a Golf VII car at an assembly line at a VW plant in Wolfsburg, Germany, on 9 March 2017. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ RONNY HARTMANN/AFP/FILE**

There were improvements in the manufacturing sector, the service sector, and construction. But when it came to trade, the confidence index fell.

The increase in the Ifo "confirms the impression that the cyclical low point has finally been passed", said Fritzi Koehler-Geib, chief economist at public lender KfW. She noted in particular that wages were rising again, which could boost private consumption, a key pillar of the economy.

However she warned: "Besides the immeasurable human suffering... the violence that has flared up in the Middle East means a new risk to the economy." The possibility that the Israel-Hamas conflict, which started earlier this month, could spiral into a broader Middle East war has already caused jitters in stock markets and pushed up oil prices. — AFP

# Kenya's central bank chief says currency overvalued

KENYA'S central bank chief has said that the country's currency, currently trading at record lows, has been overvalued for several years.

The Kenyan shilling this week slipped to more than 150 to the dollar, a decline of almost 24 per cent over a year, and compared to around 100 in October 2018.

"I think for several years now we have had an overvalued exchange rate," Central Bank of Kenya governor Kamau Thugge told a parliamentary committee on Tuesday. He said that five or six years ago, financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank had considered the shilling overvalued by 20 to 25 per cent.

"We tried to maintain a fairly artificially strong exchange rate but also at a cost of a loss of international reserves," said Thugge, who took office in June this year.

He said Kenya's foreign exchange reserves had dropped to the equivalent of about 3.7 months of import cover.

"It is still sufficient to address any emergencies but there has been that decline in the level of reserves trying to defend perhaps an overvalued exchange rate," he added.

The shilling's sharp depreciation has added to the economic hardship of Kenyans who have been suffering a cost-of-living crisis and the imposition of a range of new or increased taxes.

Anger over rising prices, particularly for basics such as food and fuel, led to a series of sometimes deadly protests against the government of President William Ruto earlier this year.He has been accused of breaking promises made during the 2022 election campaign that he would look out for the interests of Kenya's poor. — AFP

The shilling's sharp depreciation has added to the economic hardship of Kenyans. **PHOTO: SIMON MAINA/AFP**

# Some S African miners return to surface after underground dispute

*The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), one of the two unions involved, reported that 107 of the trapped workers have safely returned to the surface.*

Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU) mineworkers gather inside the premises of the Gold One Modder East operation mineshaft in Springs on 25 October 2023. **PHOTO: GUILLEM SARTORIO / AFP**

SOME of the miners who stayed underground for more than two days in a standoff between rival South African labour unions began returning to the surface Wednesday, their representatives and police said.

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), one of the two unions involved, said 107 of the more than 500 workers who had failed to emerge from the Gold One mine in Springs, east of Johannesburg, after a night shift on Monday morning "have come back to the surface". "They are currently at the medical station for further check-ups," NUM spokesman Livhuwani Mammburu told AFP. — AFP

# Chip device firm Kokusai Electric 28% rise on Tokyo bourse debut

*Shares of Kokusai Electric briefly reached 2,436 yen and closed the first trading day at 2,350 yen, well above the IPO price of 1,840 yen.*

JAPANESE chipmaking equipment firm Kokusai Electric Corp debuted on the Tokyo Stock Exchange Wednesday in Japan's largest initial public offering this year, ending nearly 28 per cent above its IPO price.

Shares of Kokusai Electric jumped to 2,436 yen at one point before ending the first trading day on the Tokyo market's top-tier Prime Market at 2,350 yen, or $16, compared with its IPO price of 1,840 yen. Based on the closing price, Kokusai Electric is valued at 541.4 billion yen. Upon its debut on the Tokyo Stock Exchange in the morning, it took about 30 minutes to get its initial price of 2,116 yen. "Our technologies can be used in manufacturing logic chips for artificial intelligence," said Kokusai Electric CEO Fumiyuki Kanai at a press conference in Tokyo, adding he hopes to boost its sales in the next three to five years. Kokusai Electric, formerly a Hitachi Ltd unit, is owned by US private equity giant Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co, which acquired the unit and spun off the semiconductor device manufacturing business in 2018. Kokusai Electric produces machines that deposit films on silicon wafers.

It has a manufacturing base in the central Japan prefecture of Toyama and is constructing another factory there. — Kyodo

Undated photo shows Kokusai Electric Corp's manufacturing base in Toyoma, central Japan. **PHOTO: KOKUSAI ELECTRIC /KYODO**

# Off-duty US pilot who tried to shut down engines was on mushrooms: documents

The control tower at Hollywood Burbank Airport stands over an Alaska Airlines plane as it taxis on 25 September 2023 in Burbank, California. **PHOTO: AFP**

*Emerson claimed he had not slept for 40 hours and tried to open an emergency exit during the flight.*

THE off-duty US pilot who tried to shut down the engines of a plane mid-flight over the weekend had taken magic mushrooms and thought he was having a nervous breakdown, court documents showed Tuesday.

Pilots wrestled Joseph Emerson out of the cockpit on Sunday after he lunged for handles that would have starved the engines of fuel and turned the plane into a glider.

Emerson, who told police he had not slept in 40 hours, also tried to open an emergency exit in the rear of the aircraft and had to be restrained by the cabin crew during an emergency landing. — AFP

## STEADY GROWTH

### China's air cargo industry highlights resilience, dynamics

CHINA'S air cargo industry has been making constant progress and unleashing potential for industry players at home and abroad.

Airlines, airports, and other players in the industry are making intensive moves by expanding freighter fleets, launching new routes, adding infrastructure, enhancing operation efficiency, and more.

SF Airlines, China's largest cargo airline in terms of fleet size, has taken a major step towards its target to become a world-class large-scale cargo carrier by expanding its fleet to 86 freighters.

The freighter fleet and air-route network will boost air-express delivery efficiency in the upcoming Double 11 shopping spree and other logistics peaks. – Xinhua

# Heineken warns of slowdown in consumer demand

DUTCH brewing giant Heineken said Wednesday that it sold less beer in the third quarter, noting that higher prices and the poor economic outlook was affecting consumer demand.

The company, whose stable of brands includes Amstel, Sol and Tiger, sold 63.2 million hectolitres of beer in the three months to end of September, a drop of 5.4 per cent.

Like many firms, Heineken raised prices as inflation hit the cost of its inputs, so overall revenues still rose, edging 2.0 per cent higher compared to the same quarter last year to 9.6 billion euros ($10.1 billion) during the quarter. — AFP

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
**M.V WISDOM GRACE VOY.NO. (0UV4EE1NC)**

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V WISDOM GRACE VOY.NO. (0UV4EE1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-10-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE**

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
**M.V ASIAN ACE VOY.NO. (340W)**

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ASIAN ACE VOY.NO. (340W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-10-2023** 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.**

# ROLLING UPDATES
## WORLD

# Latest developments in Israel-Hamas war

FIGHTING in the war-torn Gaza Strip raged into its 19th day on Wednesday more than two-and-half weeks after Hamas militants launched a surprise attack on Israel, killing at least 1,400 people, mostly civilians, according to Israeli officials.

Since the 7 October attack, Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry says more than 5,700 Palestinians have been killed by Israel's relentless retaliatory bombardments.

An Israeli soldier jumps off a Merkava tank at a position in an undisclosed location on the border with Lebanon, 22 October 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

### UN warns of aid collapse

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees has said it will be forced to stop its work in Gaza unless it receives fuel by Wednesday.

Six Gaza hospitals have already shut down because of a lack of fuel, the World Health Organization has said. A small number of aid trucks have entered Gaza since the weekend, but they are only a fraction of the usual flow across the border.

### Gaza, West Bank tolls mount

The United Nations said Tuesday's death toll, which Gaza's health ministry said was more than 700 people, was the highest reported in a single day since the war began.

Overnight, at least 80 more people were killed and hundreds injured, the ministry said on Wednesday. In the occupied West Bank, 101 Palestinians have been killed since 7 October in mounting violence with Israeli troops and settlers, the Palestinian Authority's health ministry has said.

### Israel strikes Syria

Israeli strikes killed eight soldiers in southern Syria early on Wednesday, Syrian state media said.

The Israeli army said it hit Syrian military infrastructure and mortars in response to rocket fire on Tuesday.

### Hezbollah meets Hamas, Islamic Jihad leaders

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah met with leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Lebanon to discuss ways to support the Palestinian militant groups in their war with Israel, the Lebanese group said on Wednesday. — AFP

# California suspends tests of GM's Cruise self-driving car

*California suspends GM Cruise autonomous car tests due to safety concerns after accidents.*

Anti-car activists have targeted self-driving vehicles such as Cruise models, voicing concerns about their safety. **PHOTO: JOSH EDELSON/AFP**

CALIFORNIA authorities on Tuesday suspended testing of Cruise driverless cars put to work in the US state as robotaxis by General Motors, citing safety concerns following a series of accidents and other problems.

"When there is an unreasonable risk to public safety, the DMV can immediately suspend or revoke permits," the California Department of Motor Vehicles said in response to an AFP enquiry.

The move came just weeks after a self-driving car operated by Cruise ran over a woman after she was first knocked in front of it by a hit-and-run driver in San Francisco.

Cruise paused operations of driverless autonomous vehicles Tuesday after getting word of the permit suspensions, spokesperson Hannah Lindow told AFP.

"We are devastated by what happened to the victim, and are committed, as always, to continuously improving our safety -- including in response to extremely rare scenarios such as this," Cruise said in an analysis of the accident posted Tuesday.

Video presented to AFP by Cruise showed the self-driving car and another vehicle slightly ahead to its left moving through an intersection with a green light when the second car hit the woman. — AFP

# Japan's top court says surgery need for gender change unconstitutional

THIS ruling has significant implications for transgender rights and the recognition of gender identity in Japan.

Japan's Supreme Court on Wednesday declared in a historic ruling that a law requiring surgery to remove a person's reproductive capabilities to register a gender change was unconstitutional in a case brought by a transgender woman.

All 15 justices of the top court's Grand Bench agreed on the unconstitutionality of a legal provision requiring sterilization for a gender change on a family registry, marking a turnaround from a 2019 top court decision that had found the clause constitutional. — Kyodo

People attend the Tokyo Rainbow Pride parade in April 2023 to show support for members of the LGBTQ community. **PHOTO: AFP**

# SPORTS

## Ronaldo stunners edge AFC Champions League seven-goal thriller

*The Saudi side's performance secured their third consecutive win in the group stages of the premier Asian club competition.*

Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring against Al-Duhail in Riyadh. **PHOTO: FAYEZ NURELDINE / AFP**

CRISTIANO Ronaldo rolled back the years to score two stunning goals and propel his Al Nassr side to a thrilling 4-3 victory over Al Duhail of Qatar in the AFC Champions League.

Former Liverpool striker Sadio Mane and Anderson Talisca also scored for the Saudi side late Tuesday as they made it three wins from three in the group stages of the premier Asian club competition.

Talisca opened the scoring in Riyadh from the edge of the box in the 25th minute after being teed up by the 38-year-old Ronaldo's clever back-heeled flick as the Portuguese talisman went through his full repertoire of tricks.

Mane turned and drilled home to add a second 11 minutes after the break and Al Nassr appeared to be cruising when Ronaldo curled home a sumptuous third from outside the box to make it 3-0 five minutes later.

But the Qatari side, inspired by former Barcelona and Liverpool winger Philippe Coutinho, scored twice in the next six minutes through Ismail Mohamad and Almoez Ali to leave the game on a knife-edge.

With nine minutes remaining, Ronaldo appeared to have had the final say as he sprinted on to a long ball from Sultan Al Ghannam and lashed home a superb left-foot volley without breaking stride.

There was still time for another twist as Michael Olunga pulled it back to 4-3 in the 85th minute to ensure a nervous final few minutes. — AFP

## Arteta 'worried' after Jesus injury mars superb display

ARSENAL coach Mikel Arteta said he was "worried" about Gabriel Jesus after the Brazilian forward was taken off with a hamstring injury in the 2-1 Champions League win over Sevilla on Tuesday.

The Brazil international scored a stunning goal and created another for compatriot Gabriel Martinelli as the Gunners got their European campaign back on track after a defeat at Lens. Arteta lavished praise on the forward but admitted his concern over the injury which forced him off late in the game.

"He hurt something in his hamstring and he had to come off, I'm worried about that," Arteta told reporters in Seville. Jesus started the season with a knee injury and only made his first start late in September, looking for his best form. – AFP

## Brooksby banned for 18 months over whereabouts failures

US tennis player Jenson Brooksby has been banned for 18 months after missing three drug tests in a 12-month window, the International Tennis Integrity Agency said in a statement on Tuesday.

The 22-year-old from California, who reached a career high world ranking of 33rd in 2022, will be eligible to return to competition in January 2025.

The ITIA said in a statement Brooksby's suspension had been confirmed following a meeting on 10 October involving the player and witnesses including a doping control officer.

Brooksby admitted missing the first and third drug tests, but had challenged the validity of the second test he was judged to have missed.

However the tribunal dismissed his arguments and imposed an 18-month sanction.

"Having considered the evidence, the tribunal found that Brooksby's degree of fault for the missed test was high," the ITIA said in a statement.

The panel said a doping control officer who attempted to carry out the second test had taken "all reasonable steps" to locate Brooksby at the time. — AFP

US tennis player Jenson Brooksby has been suspended for 18 months over three missed drug tests © Kevin C Cox. **PHOTO: AFP**

## 'Monster' Inoue targets second undisputed crown against Tapales

Japan's Naoya Inoue announces Marlon Tapales of the Philippines will be his next opponent in a super-bantamweight world title unification bout on 26 December. **PHOTO: PHILIP FONG / AFP**

JAPAN'S Naoya Inoue announced Wednesday that he will attempt to become an undisputed world champion in a second weight division by fighting Marlon Tapales in December when all four super-bantamweight belts will be at stake.

The boxer known as "Monster" last year became the first undisputed bantamweight world champion in half a century, before vacating his belts to move up to super-bantamweight.

He beat American Stephen Fulton in his first fight at the new weight to claim the WBC and WBO titles in July and he will try to complete the set in Tokyo on 26 December against the IBF and WBA champion Tapales, from the Philippines.

"I want to show my overwhelming power and win, even in a fight like this where becoming undisputed champion in a second division is on the line," the undefeated 30-year-old said.

"I want to knock him out," added Inoue, who has a perfect 25-win record with 22 KOs.

The 31-year-old Tapales (37-3, 19 KOs) upset Uzbekistan's Murodjon Akhmadaliev by split decision in April to win the IBF and WBA titles.

Inoue welcomed him into the ring after he knocked out Fulton and the Japanese fighter said he would not be taking his next opponent lightly. — AFP

# WORLD

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Latest developments in Israel-Hamas war

PAGE-14

Officials will look at a prominent statue of former New South Wales governor Lachlan Macquarie. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Sydney to review plaques on colonial statues

*These figures are significant in Australian history, but their legacies and actions have generated varying opinions and discussions, especially regarding their impact on Indigenous communities.*

AUSTRALIA'S oldest city, Sydney, is reviewing statues of its colonial figureheads after an Indigenous leader raised concerns about "offensive" plaques ignoring historical atrocities.

As part of the review, officials will look at a prominent statue of former New South Wales governor Lachlan Macquarie, who is described as a "perfect gentleman" — despite once authorizing troops to shoot hostile "natives" and hang them in trees. City councillor Yvonne Weldon has been pushing for the measure after a national referendum overwhelmingly rejected a proposal to recognize Indigenous Australians in the constitution.

Weldon, the first Aboriginal Australian to sit on Sydney's city council, said many of the plaques "feature inaccurate, misleading and offensive accounts of the feats of those commemorated".

The review will not look at replacing the statues, only whether their plaques should be amended to reflect modern understandings of Australia's complicated colonial history. — AFP

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

## Laos to debate urgent issues, challenges of country's development

THE Lao National Assembly's ninth legislature will convene for its sixth ordinary session from 31 October to 21 November to discuss and seek solutions to ongoing problems that are hindering the country's development.

During the session, Lao Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone will report on the progress made under the National Socioeconomic Development Plan for 2021-2025, outline the plan of work for the next two years until the end of 2025, summarize the work done in 2023, and inform members of the plan for 2024, Lao national radio on Wednesday quoted Secretary of the National Assembly Pingkham Lasasima as telling a press conference on Tuesday. — Xinhua

## Catastrophic arrival: Bird flu strikes Antarctic for first time, threatening unique wildlife

*Experts have raised concerns after Avian influenza, or bird flu, was detected in the Antarctica region for the first time. British experts say that the deadly virus could pose a threat to penguins and other local species.*

THE virus was discovered in brown skuas on Bird Island, part of the British overseas territory of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, and experts fear this could lead to a "catastrophic breeding failure" for the region's vulnerable wildlife.

The deadly avian flu has breached the Antarctic, raising grave concerns for isolated penguin and seal populations that have never encountered this lethal virus at any time prior.

The British Antarctic Survey (BAS) conducted tests after noticing unexplained mortality in the bird populations on Bird Island. BAS science manager Ashley Bennison expressed sadness over the confirmation of the virus's presence, stating that the full impact remains uncertain. Bird Island, known as one of the planet's richest wildlife sites, hosts numerous endangered bird species, along with 50,000 pairs of breeding penguins and 65,000 pairs of fur seals. — SPUTNIK

Bird Island is renowned for its significant penguin colonies, particularly the King penguin and Gentoo penguin populations. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ SARAH DAWALIBI/AFP**