

US-led bloc’s steadfast commitment raises concerns of instability across Myanmar

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addressed the meeting 5/2023 of the State Administration Council in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE bloc led by the United States of America is steadfastly committing the acts for the government/group they wish to grasp power in Myanmar, and if not, they create instability in all sectors of Myanmar, said Senior

General Min Aung Hlaing. Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech at the meeting 5/2023 of the SAC at the office of the SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi

Taw yesterday. He noted that the US itself provides aid to terrorist groups under various titles. India, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia have been maintaining fraternity with Myanmar throughout

history. However, the countries which cannot go against the influence of the US imposed trade, financial and foreign affairs sanctions against Myanmar.

SEE PAGE-3



Myanma Port Authority captures impressive panorama of Yangon Port and overseas-bound merchant vessels on the Yangon River. **PHOTO: MPA**

Myanmar’s H1 trade centred on China, Thailand, and Singapore

MYANMAR carried out trade with foreign trade partners through maritime trade and border trade channels.

China, Thailand and Singapore are the leading trade partners with Myanmar in the first half months (April-September) of the current financial year 2023-2024, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar’s foreign trade totalled

US\$16.077 billion in H1, with exports worth \$7.623 billion and imports valued at \$8.454 billion.

China stood as the main trade partner of Myanmar in H1, with the trade value reaching \$4.503 billion, comprising exports worth \$1.54 billion and imports worth \$2.96 billion, followed by Thailand and Singapore respectively.

The value of trade between Myanmar

and Thailand amounted to \$3.068 billion, with exports worth \$2.035 billion and imports worth \$1.833 billion.

The trade value with Singapore hit \$1.812 billion, with exports worth \$72.356 million and imports worth \$1.74 billion.

Myanmar carried out trade with foreign trade partners through maritime trade and border trade channels. — TWA/KK

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NATIONAL

2023 Mid-Year Gems Emporium continues its seventh day, 623 lots of jade sold

THE seventh day of the 2023 Mid-Year Gems Emporium was held at Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. Local and foreign gems merchants looked around and examined the lots of jade that were displayed at designated places outside the hall, commencing in the morning.

A total of 753 lots of jade were on sale for local and foreign merchants through an open tender system, and 623 lots of jade were sold, according to the statement.

A total of 1,000 jade lots

were on display for the eighth day of the exhibition, where they were inspected by local gems merchants, and bids were placed in the tender box.

Officials closed the bidding for the 1,000 jade lots at 3 pm. The tender boxes will be opened, and the sale of jade lots will be announced at 8 am on 27 October. The remaining jade lots, 1,792 in total, will be sold to local gems merchants at the Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw until 28 October.

— MNA/CT



A jeweller viewing uncut jade at the emporium yesterday.



Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the wife of the SAC Chairman Prime Minister, greets the judges at the event yesterday.

Wife of SAC Chairman watches 24th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition

DAW Kyu Kyu Hla, the wife of the Chairman of the State Administration Council (SAC) Prime Minister, watched a basic education level dancing competition for female (aged 10 to 15) of the 24th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition (Central Level) at Plenary Hall of MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

She enjoyed the beautiful movement of dancers' head, waist, legs, arms and hands in line with Myanmar tunes or Myanmar scale together with SAC Member Porel Aung Thein, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Tin

Oo Lwin, Deputy Minister Daw Nu Mra Zan, relevant officials and judges.

After the competition, she cordially greeted the judges and experts.

She also watched the play competition held at the training theatre of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture on the same evening.

She enjoyed the performance of Mahawthahta Play amateur level (first class) by the Sein Myanmar Group that represents Mandalay Region, together with the wives of the SAC Secretary, Joint Secretary, Senior Military Officials

of Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Service Office, Union-level officials, deputy ministers and judges.

The 24th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition (Central Level) is organized by SAC on a grand scale to explore Myanmar's traditional cultural heritages and protect the country and citizens and the dignity of national culture by the new generations. Moreover, the candidates across the nation are participating in the competitions representing their regions/states. — MNA/KTZH

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

Myitkyina-Moekaung round-trip train service to resume on 1 November

THE Myitkyina-Moekauing-Myitkyina train service in Kachin State will resume on 1 November, according to the Kachin State government.

Kachin State Prime Minister U Khet Htein Nan said at a work coordination meeting held on 24 October that the train service, which was suspended during the 2020 Covid-19 outbreak, will start operating again on 1 November.

From 1 to 7 November, travellers will be allowed to ride the train for free.



The Myitkyina-Moekaung train is pictured at the Moekaung station.

Since the outbreak of the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic, all train journeys on the Mandalay-Myitkyina Road have been suspended. — ASH/KZL

NATIONAL

US-led bloc's steadfast commitment raises concerns of instability across Myanmar

FROM PAGE-1

The Senior General recounted that the west bloc led by the US is continually interfering in Myanmar affairs, and noted that Myanmar and the US are not enemies. Both countries have never been at war. Myanmar was not involved in the Vietnamese war triggered by the invasion of the US in Southeast Asia.

Up to now, the US has regarded to Myanmar as enemy due to a bad background history. In this regard, the SEATO led by the US was formed in Southeast Asia in 1954. It primarily aimed to prevent proliferation of communism in Southeast Asia. SEATO was dissolved in June 1977. If the secession of the states mentioned in the 1947 Constitution and demanding the rights of secession for the states in 1961-62 is adjusted with the SEATO process, everybody can understand the complication of Myanmar's politics.

The Senior General continued that when they could not see Myanmar's politics as they liked,



State Administration Council Chair Premier Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presides over the SAC meeting 5/2023 yesterday.

they were hostile to the forces which protect the occurrences as they would like to see.

At present, he highlighted that the group led by the US

aims to hold up the China Containment Policy.

Although some countries recognized the elections based on the Constitution (2008), they did not recognize the declaration of the State of Emergency to take the State responsibilities under the Constitution (2008) due to voting fraud in the 2020 multiparty democratic general elections, showing exercising of their double standards.

With regard to the election, the Senior General unveiled that upon completion of the measures taken under the provisions of the State of Emergency, the government has guaranteed the country to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic election for handing over the State's responsibilities to the elected

government.

Concerning monetary affairs, the Senior General underscored that Myanmar does not rely on just a banking system in trading, and Myanmar joins hands with friendly countries and neighbouring countries.

The Senior General disclosed that Myanmar is emphasizing the use of many monetary systems similar to the international community but on a single monetary system in finance and trade measures. He stressed that it is necessary to further enhance friendly relations with neighbouring countries in addition to improving border trade.

He highlighted that if the international community needs to see the betterment of Myanmar, it needs to further cooper-

ate with Myanmar, warning that directly or indirectly encouraging terrorist groups will delay strengthening the multiparty democratic system the people aspire to and implementing the development projects of the State.

Council members reported on their field trips to relevant areas in regions and states and further plans. The Joint Secretary of the Council explained peace and stability and rule of law measures for the State in October 2023.

The meeting was also attended by SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe, Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo and officials. — MNA/TTA

Salient points from the speech of the Senior General at the SAC meeting 5/2023

- The West bloc led by the US is continually interfering in Myanmar affairs.
- The secession of the states mentioned in the 1947 Constitution and demanding the rights of secession for the states in 1961-62 can be adjusted with the SEATO process.
- Upon completion of the State of Emergency, the government has guaranteed the country to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic election for handing over the State's responsibilities to the elected government.
- Myanmar does not rely on just a banking system in trading.
- If the international community needs to see the betterment of Myanmar, it needs to further cooperate with Myanmar.

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

COVID-19 report, 26 October 2023

NEW TESTS	NEW CASE	CASUALTIES
2,557	One	Nil

NATIONAL

Russia ready to support restoring durable peace through NCA in Myanmar

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win received Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Iskander Azizov at the Credentials Hall of the Office of SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed the enhancement of friendly relations between the two countries, cooperation in ongoing work plans including tourism and education sectors, and Russia’s support regarding restoring enduring peace through NCA and cooperation in energy and technology sectors.

Also present at the event together with the Vice-Senior General were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Lwin Oo and officials. — MNA/KTZH



Russian Ambassador Mr Iskander Azizov pays a courtesy call on State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Premier Vice-Senior General Soe Win yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Government Office 1 UM attends Seminar on Belt and Road Cooperation in Yangon

UNION Minister of the Union Government Office 1 U Aung Naing Oo attended a Seminar on Belt and Road Cooperation held at the Wyndham Grand Yangon Hotel in Yangon and delivered a speech yesterday.

In his speech, the Union

minister said that the Belt and Road Initiative is not just about building roads and connections; it is a symbol of quality, unity, and shared progress. The goal of this strategy is to foster mutual respect, understanding, and trust among different nations. China

is not only a friendly neighbour to Myanmar, but it is also the country’s biggest trading partner. The yearly trade between Myanmar and China makes up more than 30 per cent of Myanmar’s total foreign trade. Our bilateral trade, investment, and

multi-sector cooperation have been flourishing due to very friendly relations between the two governments (G to G), the friendship between the business communities (B to B), and the friendship between the people of the two countries (P to P).

A significant noteworthy collaboration is the Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone, where Myanmar’s future development potential will be realized in cooperation with China’s investment. With an expansive coastline embracing the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea, Myanmar assumes a pivotal role in the BRI’s maritime initiatives through China Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC). The optimization of sea routes not only ensures faster and more cost-effective transport of goods but also stands to amplify trade activities, providing a boost to local businesses and fostering economic growth.

Moreover, the development of ports and associated infra-

structure generates employment opportunities for local communities, contributing significantly to poverty reduction and an overarching improvement in living standards. Improved air connectivity fosters people-to-people exchanges, nurturing cultural understanding and collaboration, and enriching the local cultural experience.

Upgrading the existing railways and the construction of new railways such as Muse-Mandalay and Mandalay Kyaukphyu Railway for High-Speed Trains increases the efficiency of domestic goods transport, potentially reducing costs and enhancing the competitiveness of local industries. Myanmar is committed to implementing any projects under the BRI which are beneficial for the State and the People of our country. In this seminar, Mr Chen Hai, Ambassador of the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, attended. — MNA



Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo speaks on the occasion of the BRI Seminar yesterday in Yangon.

NATIONAL

Union Ministers receive Russian Ambassador separately

SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Defence Admiral Tin Aung San received Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Iskander Azizov at the ministry office yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they openly exchanged views on issues related to military-technological cooperation and training between the two armies, as well as the conditions for further increasing defence cooperation between Myanmar and the Russian Federation.

On the same day, the Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw also received Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Iskander Azizov at his ministry office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on human resource development activities, education and research cooperation, nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, joint implementation for socioeconomic development, the Myanmar-Russia science and technology sector plus educational missions. — MNA/KZL



Russian Ambassador Mr Iskander Azizov calls on Union Defence Minister Admiral Tin Aung San yesterday.

SAC Member MoHA UM receives Russian Ambassador



Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae receives the ambassador of the Russian Federation yesterday.

STATE Administration Council Member Union Home Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae received Ambassador Mr Iskander Azizov of the Russian Federation at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They frankly and cordially discussed matters regarding Myanmar-Russia bilateral anti-narcotics and transnational crimes, and cooperation in security and rule of law. — MNA/TS

Deputy Information Minister inspects Public Relations Departments

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Ye Tint visited the Ayeyawady Region branch offices of the Information and Public Relations Department and MRTV in Hinthada Township, Ayeyawady Region on 25 October.

During his visits, the deputy minister cordially met the departmental staff.

He also visited the library of the Information and Public Relations Department office in Pyay followed by greeting with staff.

During the meeting with the staff, the Deputy Minister ordered them to carry out their main duties of information and

education activities effectively and successfully, to coordinate the development of village libraries, and to organize events and employee affairs. — Pyay IPRD/KZL



Deputy Minister U Ye Tint (C) is pictured during his inspection tours in Ayeyawady Region.

Myanmar delegation attends workshop on malaria eradication along China-Myanmar border

A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Health Professor Dr Aye Tun attended the 7th Workshop on Malaria Eradication in China-Myanmar Border Areas held from 23 to 25 October and related meetings.

The Deputy Minister said at the workshop, on 23 October, that there is a lot of traffic between the two countries along the China-Myanmar border and the elimination of malaria infection in the area is important for both countries calling for increased cooperation between the two neighbours.

Then the deputy minister met officials from China's National Institute of Parasitic Disease and Yunnan Institute of Parasitic Disease to discuss the status of the infection eradication work and the next steps to be taken between the two countries.

In the afternoon, the Myanmar delegation met Mr. Wang Hesheng, the Vice-Minister of the National Health Commission (NHC) to exchange views on the issues of cooperation between the two countries in the preven-

tion and control of other infectious diseases in addition to malaria.

On 24 October, the Myanmar delegation met Director-General Professor Shen Hongbing at the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC) and discussed technical support for malaria elimination, Myanmar-China border malaria control, public health emergencies, bilateral cooperation in the fight against HIV and Tuberculosis, short course training programmes for Myanmar staff and mentor exchange for FETP programme.

The Myanmar delegation also met with Dr Boqing Deng, the Vice-Chairman of the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) on 25 October, and discussed matters related to the implementation of the plan to eradicate malaria in the China-Myanmar border area as soon as possible and cooperation on the development of Myanmar's health sector. The Myanmar delegation arrived back in Yangon yesterday. — MNA/TH

NATIONAL

MoI celebrates Thadingyut Festival with funfair, entertainment

THE Ministry of Information hosted a vibrant funfair and entertainment event in celebration of the Thadingyut festival at their Nay Pyi Taw office yesterday. The gathering featured the presence of Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn, Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, departmental heads, and enthusiastic staff members.

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn extended a warm welcome and expressed gratitude to the staff for their crucial role in the ministry's success. He emphasized the ministry's significance as a State-reliance department and recognized the staff's dedication to public welfare activities.

In honour of the Thadingyut festival, the event includ-



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn opens the celebration of the Thadingyut Festival in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

ed performances by MRTV vocalists and the MRTV modern music band, with staff members joining in the celebrations. The festivities continued with a singing competition featuring participants from various departments, including the Union Minister's Office, Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV), Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD), Printing and Publishing Department (PPD), and News and Periodicals Enterprise (NPE), showcasing Myanmar classical and Myanmar pop songs.

The event concluded with the presentation of awards, including bicycles and cash prizes, to lucky draw winners and the first, second, third, and consolation prize winners of the singing contest. — MNA/TS

24th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition (Central Level) continues

THE 24th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition (Central Level) continued for the third day at

designated venues in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The traditional cultural performing arts competitions

are being held by putting all hearts and souls into this matter bearing the sustainability of the State together with national prestige, integrity, tradition and culture in mind. Being an art competition, it can be described as an event to explore the traditions and culture based on the friendship of ethnic people and connect the elderly artistes with new generations in other words cultural integration of national brethren.

The contestants from various regions and states participated in the “Maha Gita” singing competition, “Karlapaw tay (modern song)” competition,

dance competition, composing competition, adding lyrics to melody of composing competition, piano competition, violin competition, clarinet 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 Chief Justice, 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



A cultural troupe from Kayin Region.



At the Myanmar traditional orchestra competition.



A contestant competing the Myanmar traditional clarinet competition.



At the dancing competition.

parents of contestants attended the competitions.

The singing competition includes songs promoting national prestige, and integrity in Maha Gita, classical/modern song competitions for amateur level second class and higher education level.

Moreover, the dancing competition includes male and female dance competitions for all levels, Ka-Byar-Lut dance for women (first class), 16 women group dance, ethnic cultural dance (or) folk dance and 16-member group Shan traditional dance in which candidates form regions and states will compete. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Myanmar nationals arrive back from Israel

MYANMAR'S government evacuated its citizens from Israel by EI AI Airline LY 081 from Tel Aviv to Bangkok of Thailand on 25 October under an evacuation project, and the citizens arrived in Yangon by MAI flight 8M 351 from Bangkok in the same evening.

The returnees were welcomed by officials of the Planning and Administrative Department, Consular and Legal Affairs Department of

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Disaster Management Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and their family members at Yangon International Airport.

Four returnees — Ma Moe Thida Aung, Ma Khin Hnin Ei, Daw Lamine Maing Ywar and U Aung Kyaw Oo — were transported by vehicles with their family members from the airport. — MNA/KTZH



Returnees are seen together with officials on their arrival at the Yangon International Airport on 25 October 2023.

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



Officials check and measure the confiscated illegal timbers in Bago Region.

THE Customs on-duty teams under the management of the Customs Department made inspections on 22 and 24 October and nabbed 13 kinds of goods worth K13.814 million, including 100 thick blankets, that were smuggled and piled up by the side of road near Mongmaw village at the 105th-Mile Trade Zone, 20 kinds of goods worth K230.75 million, including 500 kilogrammes of PP-R Pipe PN-20 size without Import Licence and 100,518.24 kilogrammes of Richoco chocolate cream wafer that were not declared in the Import Declaration (ID), from 21 containers

at the Thilawa Port Terminal container checkpoint, two unregistered Daihatsu Hijet cars and five unregistered Yamaha C-50 motorbikes worth K14.5 million near the detour of Moppalin- Soppanu-Ingabo road, a Mitsubishi Fuso truck, an Isuzu truck and a Mitsubishi Canter vehicle (approximately worth K75 million), headed to Yangon from Myawady, carrying four kinds of goods worth K13.72 million, including 100 sets of National double gas stove and 2,000 kilogrammes of 100 per cent cotton fabric that were not declared in the ID, at the Mayanchaung permanent

checkpoint and a Hino Ranger truck (estimated value of K30 million), travelling from Myawady to Yangon, carrying two kinds of goods worth K6 million, including 100 rolls of linoleum that were not declared in the ID, at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

On 24 and 25 October, the combined teams captured a Yutong bus (estimated value of K55 million), travelling from Yangon to Mogok, carrying 576 litres of palm oil (Two-Shrimp band) worth K2.88 million without official documents at the Letpanhla-Singu temporary checkpoint and a total of 0.557 tonne of illegal timbers worth K61,500 in Patheingyi township. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Forest Law.

The combined on-duty teams made inspections on 25 and 26 October and confiscated a total of 1.003 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K501,605 in Kanma township, 1.371 tonnes of illegal hardwood and 0.375 tonne of illegal timbers worth K2,149,578 in Ngaphe township, 1.479 tonnes of illegal teak worth K976,140 in Thawady district, 0.085 tonne of illegal teak, 0.334 tonne of illegal hardwood and 0.946 tonne of illegal timbers worth K365,160 in Toungoo district. The action was taken under the Forest Law. — MNA/MKKS

Yangon City Taxi Association starts selling city taxi boards

THE Yangon City Taxi Association (YCTA) began selling city taxi boards on 24 October, and these boards are scheduled to be installed on taxis operating in Yangon.

City taxi boards are of various sizes and colours and are installed at different locations on the taxis. The YRTC has clarified that, under Section 273 (A) of the Vehicle Safety and Motor Vehicle Management Law, taxis must uniformly display the specified sign to ensure consistency with the city's features and the prevailing rules and regulations. The fixed price for taxi boards is K12,000, but members of the YCTA are eligible to purchase them at a discounted rate of K10,000. Taxi owners interested in purchasing taxi boards can obtain them at the YCTA office located in Dagon Myothit (North) Township.

The YRTC has announced an awareness period extending until 8 December for the installation of boards on taxis operating within the city. After the 90-day period concludes on 9 December, enforcement measures will be implemented. — TWA/CT

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NATIONAL



The harvesting process is in progress at a fish farm.

MIFER plans to extend repayment period of loans issued to livestock sector

IT has been planned to extend the repayment period of the loans issued to the livestock sector by one more year from the expiry date.

This decision was made during the Remedial Action Committee Meeting on the Potential Economic Impacts of COVID-19, which took place at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations' office on 23 October.

During the meeting, the Chairman of the Working Committee, who is also the Union

Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, discussed the efforts of the regional and state supervision teams in recovering the loan capital and the repayment status of the State's rotating fund of K50 billion.

Likewise, discussions were held regarding the repayment of loans by entrepreneurs who had completed their three-year loan term. This included deliberations on whether the loan capital recovered from businesses would continue to

be paid in instalments to the general surplus fund.

Furthermore, the meeting addressed the extension of the repayment period for loans issued to the livestock sector, which includes citizen-owned fish and shrimp farming. This extension adds one more year from the loan maturity date.

A total of K7.6 billion in loans have been issued to 325 companies and industries in the livestock sector, which encompasses citizen-owned fish and shrimp farming. — TWA/CT

Reporting illegal products, unaddressed sales to FDA now feasible

SELLING products without import approval, FDA clearance and an address on social network pages can be reported, according to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under the Ministry of Health.

The Food and Drug Administration's illegal online monitoring team confirmed the excessive advertising and sale of unauthorized foods through online channels.

Selling unapproved imported foods, using a false endorsement

of the Food and Drug Administration Department, and advertising for sale without providing a complete address on online pages have been found out, according to the FDA's statement.

Consumers are advised not to purchase or consume foods advertised and sold without import certification. If they come across any suspicious products, they can report them to the Food and Drug Administration Department in Nay Pyi Taw. — TWA/KZW



The image illustrating online advertisers and consumers.

Japanese Embassy to host scholarship seminar virtually

THE scholarship seminar will take place virtually at the Japanese Embassy via Zoom from 2 pm to 4 pm on 8 November.

The seminar will be led by Dr Thin Aye Aye Ko (MAJA) and Dr Thu Thu Nwe Aye (OJEIC Associate Coordinator at the University of Hyogo), who will provide an introduction to the University of Hyogo.

As a result, attendees will have direct access to information about the University of Hyogo. Those interested in the seminar need to register at <https://forms.gle/cVKBUsdiSdQC4HVh8>. — TWA/ MKKS



The photo shows the University of Hyogo.

Pigeon pea, black gram prices hit new highs this year

THE price of black gram is K1 million higher than that in the corresponding period last year, while the pigeon pea price indicated a significant increase of K2.1 million compared to that in the year-ago period.

"The black gram price surged to K2.76 million per tonne on 26 October 2023 from K1.76 million on the same period last year. The pigeon pea price was up by K2.1 million per tonne on 26 October 2023," U Tun Shwe involved in pulses trading told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

Black gram price peaked at over K2.8 million per tonne on 23 October 2023. Thereafter, the prices declined a bit. Then, the black gram prices rebounded to K2.823 million per tonne for Fair and Average Quality and K3.113 million



The photo shows a retail outlet displaying various pulses.

per tonne for Special Quality. About 60 containers (1,440 tonnes) were transacted on 26 October 2023.

Despite the fluctuation of black gram prices, the price of pigeon peas remained unchanged at K4.075 million per tonne between 29 September and 26 October.

The figures showed an increase of K400,000 per tonne for black gram within two and a half months and K1.1 million per tonne for pigeon peas within four months.

Black gram price rise is attributed to the high demand during the festival period in India despite the harvest season in India. The black gram quality is quite low in India.

Myanmar shipped 414,469 tonnes of black gram worth US\$369 million to foreign trade partners in H1 (April-September) of the current financial year 2023-2024. The black gram's export volume was 262,687 tonnes in the same period last FY. — TWA/KK

Monsoon onion to be harvested in late November

MONSOON onions are expected to enter the domestic market in the last week of November if there is no environmental hazard. Approximately 100,000 visses of onions are likely to flow into the market in the first week of December; U Aung Moe, an onion grower told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

An influx of new monsoon onions was seen in Yangon's market in November 2022, at a high price. The demand for onions was high on the back of strong demand by Viet Nam and Thailand, pushing up the onion price to surge to a record high.

The wholesale prices of old

onions moved in the range between K4,000 and 5,100 per viss depending on quality and size on 2 December 2022. The prices of new monsoon onions surged to K3,100- K4,700 per viss on 7 December 2022, which was the highest price in history. The monsoon onion price started to fall below K3,000 per viss from the third week of December 2022.

The prices stood at K1,700 and K3,200 per viss at the Seikphyu wholesale market. The prices slumped from K3,200- K4,300 per viss recorded in the year-ago period.

Onions were stockpiled in the markets of regions outside



The photo shows a pile of onion sacks at a warehouse in the Myingyan depot on 26 October.

Yangon. The market is relying on domestic demand in the absence of foreign demand.

Only low-quality onions are mostly seen in the market. The onion price is estimated at US\$675 per tonne only.

If there is no environmental impact on onion production, there is less chance for the onion price to rise as the new monsoon onion is soon to be harvested, said an onion trader. Those traders who kept the onion stocks in their hands are likely to reap great profits as in 2022. Nonetheless, the monsoon onion prices will be higher than those of summer onions. — TWA/KK

YRIC nods eight domestic, foreign investments on 25 Oct

Those endorsed projects will invest in the manufacturing sector and create over 5,000 jobs for local residents.



Front view of the DICA office in Yangon.

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC) endorsed two domestic and six foreign enterprises in the

manufacturing sector, with an estimated capital of over US\$6.23 million and K4.55 billion at the meeting 10/2023

held on 25 October at the YRIC office, creating over 5,500 jobs for residents.

Those enterprises will execute the manufacturing of footwear, clothes, apparel, headphones and related items, paper parcel boxes, poly resin, cold cast bronze, pewter statues and sculpture, Cutting, Making, and Packing (CMP) and processing of frozen vegetable and fruits.

At the meeting, six companies raised general matters, including the expansion of capital by one enterprise and the creation of 400 job opportunities. — NN/EM

YGEA sets gold reference price higher tracking rally in spot gold price

THE spot gold price continued to rise at US\$1,985 per ounce, prompting the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) to set the reference price higher at around K3.104 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) on 26 October.

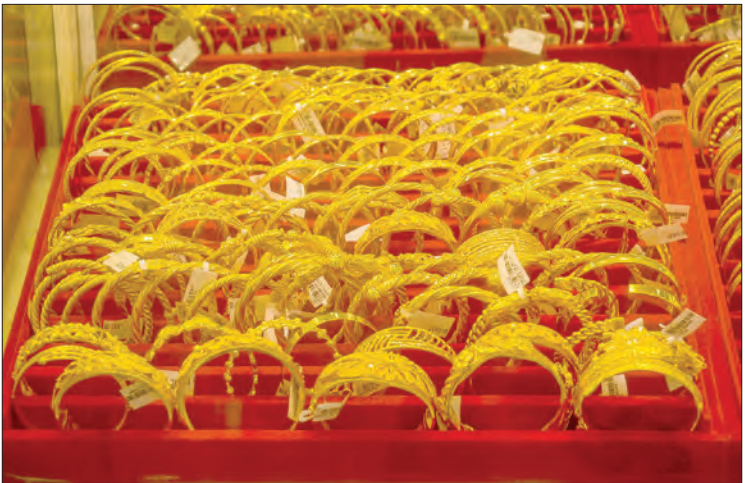
The spot gold price surged to \$1,985 per ounce on 26 October from \$1,820 in early October, indicating a significant increase of over \$165 within four weeks.

Pure gold fetches K3.43 million per tical in the grey market, showing a price difference of over K300,000 per tical between the YGEA's reference price and unofficial market value.

Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) switched to the Central Bank of Myanmar's exchange rate (K2,900) for interbank transactions in calculating the reference price for pure gold. At present, the US dollar is exchanged at K3,250.

As a result of this, the YGEA's reference price and current market value vary depending on the US dollar exchange rate.

Myanmar's gold price is highly tied to the spot gold price and US dollar exchange rate. The soaring dollar exchanging up to K4,000 drove the gold price up to a record high of K4 million per tical in late August 2023. — NN/EM



Gold jewellery is organized for sale at a gold outlet in Yangon.

Import recommendation mandatory for food importers, says FDA

FOOD and Drug Administration under the Ministry of Health notified food importing companies to seek import recommendations (IR).

They can seek IR through the FDA website <http://fda.gov.mm>. Step-by-step instructions for registration can be studied at [\[submission.fda.gov.mm\]\(http://submission.fda.gov.mm\).](http://es-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Product specification, ingredient list, food hygiene certificates (Certificate of GMP/HACCP/SO22000 etc.), original label, label translation, list of type and size of packaging and online payment receipt of K50,000 must be provided in seeking the IR.

The validity of the IR is three years and it can be extended. The extension for the IR must be done three months before the expiry date.

For further details, importers can contact 0673-403967, 09882853983 of the Ministry of Health. — NN/KK

Foster professionals dedicated to serving the community

THE various facets of the healthcare sector possess an irrefutable strength when it comes to delivering healthcare services to the population. These segments are intricately connected, working in tandem to uphold the entire healthcare system. Their collaborative efforts extend beyond the nation, having a profound impact at the national level as well.

Recently, healthcare institutions across regions and states have welcomed a fresh wave of nursing recruits. These individuals have graduated from reputable nursing training schools and universities, injecting new vitality into the healthcare sector. They are not just newcomers but repositories of knowledge, ready to glean wisdom from their more experienced counterparts.

Nurses are the linchpin in the operation of healthcare facilities, ranging from rural health centres and 25-bed station hospitals to township, district, and region/state hospitals with capacities of 50, 100, 200, 500, and even 1,000 beds. They serve as invaluable allies to doctors in all medical procedures. In facilities where medical doctors are not present, nurses are more than capable of taking the lead in implementing essential public health measures.

Qualified nurses are the bedrock of patient trust and healthcare institutions. To attain professional competence in the field of nursing, both male and female nurses must complete a rigorous curriculum of training courses, including diplomas, bachelor's and master's degrees, and even doctoral studies often pursued both domestically and abroad. Their relentless dedication ensures that they master the latest nursing technologies and techniques.

The government is currently placing a considerable emphasis on enhancing the nursing profession, striving to create job opportunities and providing paths to higher positions within hospitals. In 2023, the Ministry of Health elevated the status of 137 nurses to the rank of matron, underscoring the commitment to career progression. Hundreds of newly minted nurses from various institutions have been deployed to central hospitals and general hospitals, all ready to deliver essential healthcare services to the populace.

The government is currently placing a considerable emphasis on enhancing the nursing profession, striving to create job opportunities and providing paths to higher positions within hospitals. In 2023, the Ministry of Health elevated the status of 137 nurses to the rank of matron, underscoring the commitment to career progression. Hundreds of newly minted nurses from various institutions have been deployed to central hospitals and general hospitals, all ready to deliver essential healthcare services to the populace.

Nurses are not just tasked with applying their medical knowledge and expertise. They must also wear a smile on their lips and carry politeness in their hearts. Their skillfulness spans various levels, where they employ nursing techniques to aid in patients' recovery from various ailments. Simultaneously, they are relentless in their pursuit of advanced nursing techniques, knowledge, and experience accumulation.

The primary duty of nurses is to provide compassionate care to patients. Nurses can showcase their well-deserved skills and wealth of experience. They should never underestimate themselves but continually forge ahead in their nursing profession, unwavering in their commitment to serving the community.

The Lessons from A Band's 21-Day Musical Odyssey

By Yin Nwe Ko



The Beatles' 'Let it Be' album cover – the band's 12th and final studio album was released on 8 May 1970, almost a month after they broke up.

ney's University of Technology and author of Creative Reboot, being fun-loving and playful are fundamental traits of creative individuals.

"Play is indispensable for learning, adapting, discovering new possibilities, and connecting socially," says Professor Doran, referencing the work of prominent psychiatrist and play expert Dr Stuart Brown, who argues that society needs to reassess the role of play. "It has become something we associate with immaturity or childhood, but it is actually crucial for ongoing happiness, creativity, and vitality in our lives."

Actor and comedian John Cleese has also extensively discussed the importance of engaging in playful activities in the creative process and the significance of being in an 'open' mode, rather than being preoccupied with delivering results.

"We might be goofing around, we might be experimenting, but we are actually tuning in to all sorts of things," explains Professor Doran. "Then, when you reach a point where you must perform a task in a highly focused manner, you bring all that knowledge into those moments of action."

What The Beatles did: They immersed themselves in silly voices, danced around, and ventured into playful diversions.

What you can do: Have fun and experiment alone or with others, but refrain from passing judgement. Just go with the flow and see what emerges.

NOWHERE MAN

Equally vital as the time spent engaging in playful activities were the numerous instances when the band simply hung out during downtime, sipping cups of tea, reading newspapers, and not doing much of anything. While these moments were not the most captivating parts of the documentary, they played a critical role in fostering creativity, especially in a group setting.

"Simply having time is incredibly important," says Professor Doran. "We often consider downtime as a waste of time, but there is synthesis and connection happening within our brains, our bodies, and among each other... and things that may have occurred during the playful or focused periods of activity have an opportunity to be processed."

One notable instance of intense focus occurred when Paul McCartney began composing the song 'Get Back' seemingly out of thin air, by immersing himself in the process, singing and playing repeatedly, and almost willing it into existence.

Professor Doran describes this as entering a flow state, a concept popularized by psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi. "Being in a flow state means you are completely absorbed in whatever you are doing," she explains. "You lose track of time and become so engrossed that the world seems to merge into one. When you discover what works for you, you can easily tap into your creative abilities."

Paul McCartney has spoken about experiencing this when composing the song 'Blackbird', where words and music flowed effortlessly without conscious effort.

What The Beatles did: They interspersed moments of intense concentration, focus, and 'flow' with dedicated downtime.

What you can do: Don't work through your lunch and coffee breaks. Instead, take time to absorb your work.

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

During the initial week of rehearsals, The Beatles were feeling somewhat stagnant and struggling to find their groove. It wasn't until they invited keyboardist Billy Preston to join them that they experienced a noticeable boost. "What Billy brought to them was a surge of excitement; their songs suddenly came to life," Peter Jackson recounted on Marc Maron's WTF podcast when recalling the moment he first saw it on film.

Professor Doran suggests that seeking new stimuli is crucial for creative thinkers to find the motivation to move forward. "Being comfortable with making yourself slightly uncomfortable or introducing something that may or may not work can often be a precursor to creativity."

Billy Preston wasn't the only collaborator to join the rehearsals. John Lennon's partner, Yoko Ono, who mostly observed quietly, occasionally stepped up to the microphone for impromptu vocals. John accompanied her on guitar, while Paul McCartney happily took to the drums.

"That's serendipity," says Professor Doran, who admires the band's ability to adapt to what's happening around them. "Suddenly, you've made a discovery, and it's like, 'whoa, we've stumbled upon a new sound or a new set of lyrics...' and we would never have found it if we hadn't allowed ourselves to experiment with it."

What The Beatles did: They accepted, embraced, and welcomed new stimuli and ideas (and people).

What you can do: Seek help and look outward for fresh ideas.

MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR

The traditional Beatles lineup featured Paul and John as songwriters, Paul on bass guitar, George on lead guitar, John on rhythm guitar, and Ringo on drums. However, throughout Jackson's documentary, all four members are seen playing the piano, Paul plays the drums, and George writes songs. The band's

willingness to step outside their expertise and experiment was a crucial part of their creative genius in music and songwriting. "There's always tweaking, shifting, and modifying in the creative space, going beyond your current capabilities," Professor Doran explains.

"It's also experimenting with the materials they're working with, such as sounds, and instruments, and discovering their medium. It's all part of that creative playground."

Another example of play and experimentation in action was when the band rehearsed George Harrison's new song 'Something'. While most of us have grown up singing along to the lyrics "Something in the way she moves or attracts me like no other lover," George was struggling to complete the second line. John jokingly suggested 'a cauliflower', but George settled on a pomegranate.

This makes for an amusing moment, but Professor Doran points out that it once again underscores the importance of play

stitute of Play. "Some people are naturally drawn to being competitive, they thrive on that sense of outdoing one another."

However, she adds, there needs to be an understanding that it's a healthy, creative, and collaborative space rather than a destructive, tear-down space.

In 1992's The Making of Sgt Pepper documentary, Paul said of his and John's competitiveness, "He'd write 'Strawberry Fields'. I'd go away and write 'Penny Lane'. If I'd write 'I'm Down', he'd go away and write something similar ... you know, to compete with each other. But ... it was very friendly competition because we were both going to share in the rewards, anyway."

What The Beatles did: They used the friendly competition to spur each other on to greatness — 'getting better all the time'.

What you can do: Collaborate so you can grow and learn from your peers, colleagues, and mentors.

In the annals of music history, The Beatles' creative journey during those 21 days in January 1969 remains an enduring testament to the boundless wellspring of creativity that resides within each one of us. As we dissect the playful antics, the moments of stillness, the welcoming of new ideas and collaborators, and the friendly competition that fueled their legendary music, we uncover a roadmap to our own creative potential. The Beatles' legacy isn't just about the songs they wrote and performed; it's a blueprint for embracing the joy of silliness, harnessing the power of downtime, and daring to step out of our comfort zones. It's about fostering a collaborative spirit and understanding that competition, when healthy and constructive, can ignite our creative flames.

In brief, The Beatles showed us that creativity isn't just a gift bestowed upon a select few; it's a playful, ever-evolving journey that we can all embark upon, each in our own unique way. So, as we take inspiration from the Fab Four, let's remember that within us all, there's a melody waiting to be sung, a masterpiece waiting to be composed, and a creative spirit yearning to be set free.

Reference: Reader's Digest May 2023

ECONOMY WORLD

NEXT-GENERATION electric vehicles, flying cars and futuristic robots went on display at the rebranded Tokyo auto show on Wednesday, as automakers joined hands with wide-ranging industries to shine a light on the future of transportation.

The Japan Mobility Show, which opened to the media for a two-day run, features advanced transport technologies ranging from delivery machines to drones and robots. The event has evolved from the biennial Tokyo Motor Show and is being held for the first time in four years after a pandemic-induced hiatus.

With a shift to battery-driven vehicles accelerating worldwide, the show comes at a crucial time for Japanese automakers as they seek to catch up with overseas rivals such as Tesla Inc in the development of EVs.

A record 475 companies are participating, with Chinese EV giant BYD Co taking part for the first time. The event will be open to the public from Saturday to 5 November.

Next-gen EVs, flying cars on display at rebranded Tokyo auto show

Japan Mobility Show highlights advanced transport tech after a 4-year hiatus from the pandemic.



The Japan Mobility Show opens to the press at Tokyo Big Site in Tokyo on 25 October 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Toyota Motor Corp, the world's largest automaker by volume, unveiled the LF-ZC, a concept model for a next-generation EV under the Lexus brand set for release in 2026. The car is made with next-generation vehicle architecture and state-of-the-art software, the company said.

The new EV has a range of 1,000 kilometres, about double that of RZ, an all-electric model under the Lexus brand currently on sale, while the new software adjusts car characteristics such as acceleration and handling to the driver's preferences, according to the company.

"We are making battery EVs like only a true carmaker can," Toyota President Koji Sato told reporters.

The pioneer in gasoline-electric hybrid cars was once seen as reluctant to embrace all-electric vehicles but is now channeling more resources into EVs under Sato, who has been helping Toyota since April, to increase its green car lineup. — Kyodo

Gaza has experienced '16 years of de-development': UN

The 2022 report on the Palestinian economy stated that Gaza's economy had suffered greatly, with 80% of its population relying on global aid.



A Palestinian fisherman throws a rope to form a convoy with another boat, off the coastline of Gaza City, on 22 September 2021. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE Gaza Strip has lived through 16 years of de-development, the United Nations said Wednesday, adding that the economic consequences of the Israel-Hamas war were "impossible to determine".

"Gaza has experienced 16 years of de-development and suppressed human potential

and the right to development," the UN's UNCTAD trade and development agency said in an annual report on the Palestinian economy.

While the report focused on 2022, during a press conference UNCTAD officials could not ignore the current conflict.

Israel launched withering

strikes on Gaza in response to an unprecedented cross-border attack by Hamas militants who, while launching a massive rocket barrage, killed more than 1,400 people and took 222 hostages on 7 October, according to Israeli authorities.

"The economic consequences of the current and ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza are impossible to determine," Richard Kozul-Wright, the director of UNCTAD's globalization and development strategies division, told a press conference.

"What the report does document is the profound economic challenges facing a community under occupation, which in the case of Gaza is compounded by an economic blockade which began in 2007, along with intermittent military operations." — AFP

S Africa risks 15,000 deaths by 2050 if green transition delayed: study

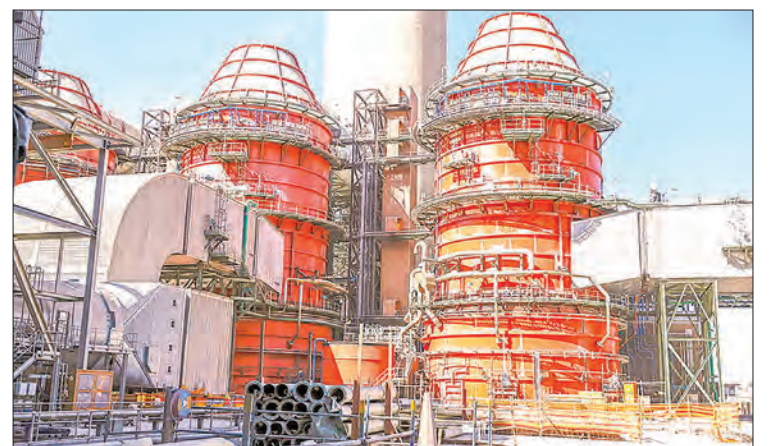
MORE than 15,000 people could die by 2050 from air pollution-related conditions if coal-dependent South Africa delays decommissioning its power plants beyond 2030, a think tank said Tuesday.

A new study by Helsinki-based nonprofit organization the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) revealed that delaying the decommissioning of South Africa's coal-fired power plants beyond

2030 "would cause a projected 15,300 excess air pollution-related deaths" between 2023 and 2050.

The delay could also cost the country's economy more than \$18 billion.

Earlier this year, the country's electricity minister Kgosientsho Ramokgopa announced plans to reschedule the decommissioning of some of the country's power plants and suggested refurbishing others. — AFP



A general view of absorbers at the Kusile Power Station, a coal-fired power plant located on the Hartbeesfontein Farm in eMalahleni. **PHOTO: AFP**

Lloyds bank profits from higher rates, lower impairments

BRITISH bank Lloyds on Wednesday posted surging net profit, boosted partly by rising interest rates and lower impairments.

Profit after tax soared 51 per cent to £3.8 billion (\$4.6 billion) in the first nine months of 2023 from a year earlier, the lender said in a statement.

Revenue increased seven per cent to £13.7 billion in the same period, aided by Bank of England interest rate hikes.

Impairments improved to £849 million, as Lloyds set aside less money for loans turning sour in a cost-of-living crisis despite higher borrowing costs.

That was down from £1.05 billion last time around.

“We remain focused on supporting our customers and helping them navigate the uncertain economic environment,” said chief executive Charlie Nunn.

“The group continues to perform well. Robust financial performance and strong capital generation in the first nine months of the year was driven by net income growth, cost discipline and resilient asset quality.”

The BoE last month left its key interest rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent, snapping a series of 14 straight hikes aimed at taming elevated inflation.

Those hikes have prompted UK retail banks like Lloyds to lift their own rates on loan products including mortgages, worsening a cost-of-living crisis in Britain. — AFP



British bank Lloyds on Wednesday posted surging net profit, boosted partly by rising interest rates and lower impairments. **PHOTO: ISABEL INFANTES/AFP**

Boeing cuts 2023 forecast for 737 deliveries as it reports loss

BOEING reported a larger-than-expected loss Wednesday as it trimmed its full-year forecast for deliveries of the 737 to address a manufacturing problem on the aircraft.

The US aviation giant, which has struggled with manufacturing and quality control issues in recent years, reported a third-quarter loss of \$1.6 billion, compared with a loss of \$3.3 billion in the year-ago period.

The latest issue with the 737 is the result of misshapen holes drilled in a part of the fuselage that helps maintain plane pressure. Boeing said the problem is not “an immediate safety of flight issue”.

However, the company is inspecting and reworking undelivered planes. As a result, Boeing now expects 737 deliveries of 375-400 this year, down from the earlier 400-450 projection.

Boeing’s bottom line in the quarter was also affected by a \$482 million loss in the Air Force One US presidential plane “related to engineering changes and labour instability, as well as resolution of supplier negotiations,” Boeing said.

Another \$315 million hit came from losses in a satellite contract, also in Boeing’s defence, space and security business.

On the positive side, Boeing reaffirmed its outlook for free cash flow, a closely watched investor benchmark, and said it was on track with a plan to boost production on another jet, the 787 Dreamliner. — AFP



Boeing reported a larger-than-expected loss Wednesday as it trimmed its full-year forecast for deliveries of the 737 to address a manufacturing problem on the aircraft. **PHOTO: JULIEN DE ROSA/ AFP**

Santander racks up another record quarter

SPANISH lender Banco Santander announced Wednesday another record quarterly profit thanks to high interest rates and a growing customer base.

Net profit rose 20-per-cent year-on-year rise in the third quarter to 2.9 billion euros (\$3.1 billion), beating analyst expectations and the 2.67 billion euros it earned last quarter. “The group achieved another record quarter...” said chief executive Ana Botin.

“We have added nine million customers, increased revenues by 13 per cent, and continue to make excellent progress in simplifying the business,” she added.

The bank, which boasts major operations in several countries in Europe and Latin America, saw its nine-month profit hit 8.14, raising the possibility it will surpass the symbolic barrier of 10 billion euros in annual net earnings.

The rise in global interest rates has been a boon for most banks, including Santander, as it has increased margins on their lending operations.

But the bank also noted it has benefitted from a growing customer base, which is up by more than nine million over the past year to 166 million. — AFP

The Global New Light of Myanmar

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC ANDERA F VOY.NO. (SB341A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC ANDERA F VOY.NO. (SB341A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-10-2023** 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 MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (111N/S)

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Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
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ADVERTORIAL



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ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

CHINA WATCH

CHINA DAILY 中国日报

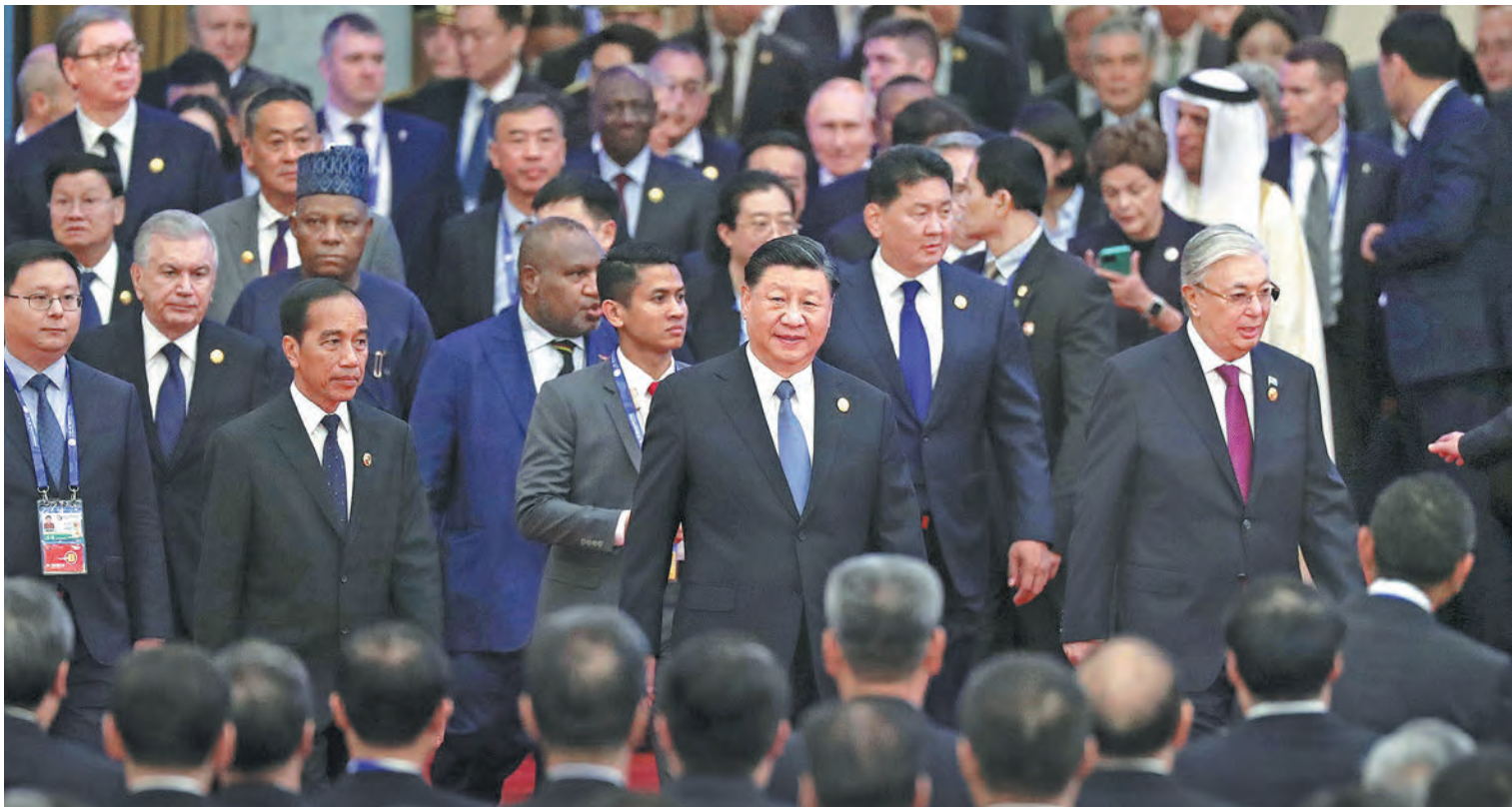


FASHION STATEMENT
TRADITIONAL ATTIRE MAKES ITS MARK AMONG YOUNG, P4

This supplement, prepared by China Daily, People's Republic of China, did not involve the news or editorial departments of The Global New Light of Myanmar.

Xi: Advance high-quality cooperation

President unveils major steps China will take to support joint building of Belt and Road; outcomes of forum highlighted. **Cao Desheng** reports



Chinese President Xi Jinping (centre) and foreign leaders walk into the venue for the opening ceremony of the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 18 October. WANG ZHUANGFEI / CHINA DAILY

Xi's quotes

- Humankind is a community with a shared future. China can only do well when the world is doing well. When China does well, the world will get even better.
- Both Chinese investment overseas and foreign investment in China have boosted friendship, cooperation, confidence and hope.
- The Silk Road spirit of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit is the most important source of strength for Belt and Road cooperation.
- The pioneers of the ancient silk routes won their place in history not as conquerors with warships, guns, horses or swords. Rather, they are remembered as friendly emissaries leading camel caravans and sailing ships loaded with goods.

CHINA will set up financing windows totalling 700 billion yuan (US\$95.8 billion) through two development banks to support projects involved in the Belt and Road Initiative, while an additional 80 billion yuan will be injected into the Silk Road Fund to promote BRI cooperation, Chinese President Xi Jinping said on 18 October.

Xi made the remarks in a keynote speech delivered at the opening ceremony of the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing. To carry out practical cooperation, he said that the China Development Bank and the Export-Import Bank of China will each set up a 350 billion-yuan financing window. "Together, they will support BRI projects on the basis of market and business operation."

More than 20 heads of state and government and senior government representatives as well as heads of international organisations were present at the event. Xi

said that cooperation agreements worth US\$97.2 billion had been concluded at the CEO Conference held during the forum.

In his speech, Xi called for deepening high-quality Belt and Road cooperation to build an open, inclusive and interconnected world for shared growth, and he warned against "unilateral sanctions, economic coercion and decoupling, and supply chain disruption".

He announced eight major steps that China will take to support joint pursuit of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, including efforts to build a multidimensional Belt and Road connectivity network, support an open world economy, promote green development and advance scientific and technological innovation.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the BRI. Xi lauded the development of Belt and Road cooperation in the past decade, saying that a global network of connectivity consisting of economic corridors, international transportation routes and an information highway has boosted

the flow of goods, capital, technologies and human resources among countries involved in the BRI.

More than 150 countries and over 30 international organisations have signed Belt and Road cooperation documents. Based on the principle of "planning together, building together and benefiting together", Belt and Road cooperation has extended from the Eurasian region to Africa and Latin America.

It transcends differences between civilisations, cultures, social systems and stages of development, and has opened up a new path for exchanges and cooperation among countries, Xi said.

While calling for promoting win-win cooperation, Xi urged countries taking the lead in economic development to give a hand to their partners who are yet to catch up.

"We should all treat each other as friends and partners, respect and support each other, and help each other succeed," he said. "Viewing others' development as a threat or taking economic interdepend-

ence as a risk will not make one's own life better or speed up one's development."

Xi emphasised that the BRI aims to promote connectivity, mutual benefit and common development. "Ideological confrontation, geopolitical rivalry and bloc politics are not a choice for us."

As part of its efforts to expand opening-up, China will establish pilot zones for Silk Road e-commerce cooperation and enter into free trade agreements and investment protection treaties with more countries, Xi said. "We will remove all restrictions on foreign investment access in the manufacturing sector," he added.

China will further advance high-standard opening-up in cross-border service trade and investment, expand market access for digital and other products, and deepen reform in areas including the digital economy, intellectual property and government procurement, the president said.

He noted that China will hold the Global Digital Trade Expo annual-

ly. "In the next five years, China's total trade in goods and services is expected to exceed US\$32 trillion and US\$5 trillion, respectively."

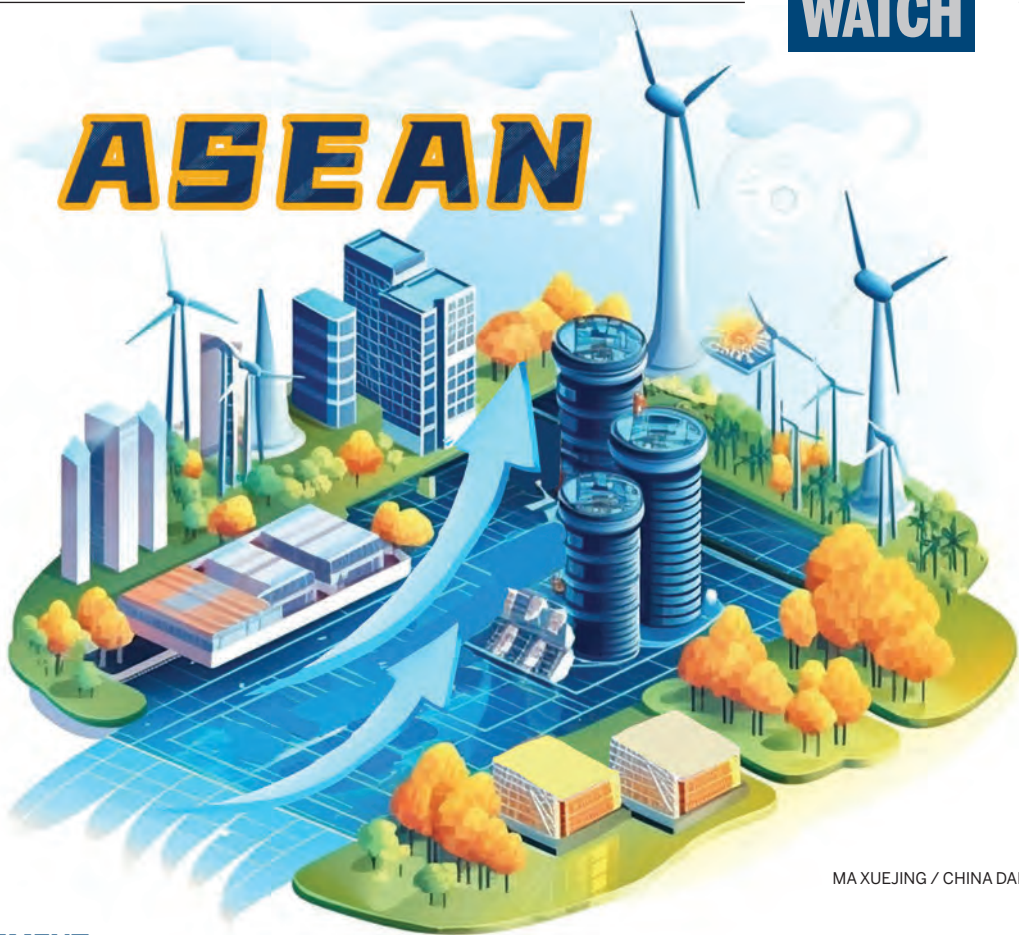
A total of 458 outcomes were delivered during the forum, including a series of international cooperation initiatives and an array of cooperation agreements, according to a statement issued after the event.

Among them, China also put forward the Global Initiative for Artificial Intelligence Governance to promote sound, orderly and secure AI development, the statement said.

Speaking at a news conference after the forum on 18 October, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi highlighted the outcomes of the forum.

He said that these demonstrate that peaceful development and win-win cooperation conform to the general trend of the times and people's aspirations, while Cold War confrontation and decoupling are against the tide of history and are doomed to fail.

Zhou Jin contributed to this story.



MA XUEJING / CHINA DAILY

COMMENT

Towards a low-carbon future with Southeast Asia

By LIXINLEI and
SHENG XUEMIN

THIS year marks the 10th anniversary of the proposal to build a closer China-ASEAN community with a shared future, and also the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative. Over the past few years, China-ASEAN cooperation on clean energy, by virtue of the platform provided by green connectivity under the Belt and Road Initiative, has not only borne fruit in industrial, economic and trade cooperation, but also advanced mechanism construction and the sharing of green development concepts, clean energy technologies and green management models.

In recent years, China-ASEAN trade cooperation has made notable progress despite sluggish global trade, becoming each other's biggest trading partner for three consecutive years. In the meantime, their common pursuit of green growth, featuring transition to low-carbon and clean energy, has advanced bilateral cooperation in green development.

The clean energy development strategies put forth by China and

ASEAN respectively have sent a positive political signal as well. Since 2020 China's investment in renewable energy projects in Belt and Road countries has remained at more than US\$2 billion annually. Between 2000 and 2020, China's total public investment allocated to renewable energy projects in ASEAN members accounted for 60 per cent of total foreign public investment in the region over that period. The Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2021-25), jointly formulated and released by the two sides in 2022, has further highlighted the importance of promoting knowledge sharing in renewable energy technologies and industrial cooperation. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership agreement, which entered into force in January 2022, has also provided a critical opportunity for the two sides to bolster cooperation on new types of low-carbon energy industries.

Meanwhile, fueled by energy security concerns and greater competitiveness of green industries, China and ASEAN countries' complementary advantages in the clean energy industry have provided immense

opportunities for bilateral cooperation in this field.

Over the past decade, China has not only strengthened dialogue and exchanges with ASEAN as a whole, but also advanced green partnerships with each ASEAN member state in accordance with their respective resource endowments and policy priorities, such as advancing a number of major hydro power projects with Myanmar and Laos as part of the Lancang-Mekong cooperation mechanism, developing offshore wind power projects in collaboration with Vietnam and the Philippines, and attaching great importance to cooperation with Malaysia in the solar photovoltaic industry.

Li Xinlei is a research fellow at the Research Institute of Contemporary Socialism and a professor with the School of Political Science and Public Administration at Shandong University. Sheng Xuemin is a research assistant with the Institute of Environmental Politics at Shandong University. This is an abridged version of an article that appeared in China Daily. The views do not necessarily reflect those of China Daily.

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Flourishing BRI
takes on healthy
shades of green

Ministry official lauds efforts China and others have made. **Hou Liqiang** reports

CHINA has made great progress in developing a green Belt and Road Initiative, a senior environmental official says.

Zhang Yujun, head of the Foreign Environmental Cooperation Centre at the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, made the remarks in an interview with China Daily before the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing this month.

In 2017 China published a plan on promoting environmental collaboration and a policy paper detailing the country's plans to develop the Belt and Road Initiative in an environmentally friendly way, he said.

The country also issued two papers on outbound investment in 2021 and last year that have provided guidance for Chinese companies in their overseas investment operations and environmental management.

With one of the focuses on climate change, last year's document includes requirements for a wide range of procedures in companies' overseas operations that take the environment into account.

Before finalising overseas mergers and acquisitions, for instance, companies should assess environmental risks created by target companies. Hazardous waste disposal and greenhouse gas emissions should also be given priority in the assessments.

"China, always adhering to the philosophy of green development, has endeavoured to ramp up the construction of multilateral cooperation platforms within the green BRI framework," Zhang said.

China and 31 other countries established the Initiative for Belt and Road Partnership on Green Development. It stresses that these countries will jointly promote green, low-carbon development, he said.

Zhang also highlighted the significant role the BRI International Green Development Coalition has played in giving environmental policies greater priority in the BRI.

The coalition, set up by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment with partners from home and abroad in 2019, consists of more than 150 partners in 43 countries, including the environmental authorities of 26 countries, he said.

The coalition has held almost 100 symposiums on green development in BRI projects, including those on tackling climate change and promoting biodiversity conservation.

In conjunction with experts in China and elsewhere it has published more than 30 policy reports, including the Green Development Guidance for BRI Projects, he said.

China, always adhering to the philosophy of green development, has endeavoured to ramp up the construction of multilateral cooperation platforms within the green BRI framework."

Zhang Yujun
head of the Foreign Environmental
Cooperation Centre at the Ministry
of Ecology and Environment

These reports have not only provided advanced development concepts and policy suggestions to governments, companies and financial institutions, but have also promoted China's ideas, solutions and expertise, he said.

The BRI Environmental Big Data Platform has gathered the basic environmental information of over 200 countries and regions involved in the initiative, he said.

It now includes environmental regulations and standards for more than 40 BRI countries. The platform has provided solutions on green, low-carbon and sustainable development, as well as ecological and environmental risk prevention, for outbound investment, he said.

"China has undergone a significant transformation from being a participant to a trailblazer in global environmental governance. Its effort in promoting a green BRI will contribute Chinese wisdom and solutions to ecological civilisation construction around the globe."

ADVERTORIAL



CHINA DAILY 中国日报 3

Zone to play bigger role in trade with RCEP

Advanced industrial development to benefit business links. **Zhong Nan** and **Zhang Li** report

WITH China supporting its pilot free trade zones to play a bigger role in facilitating its opening-up and high-quality industrial growth, the China (Guangxi) Pilot Free Trade Zone has embarked on a mission to establish itself as a pivotal nexus, advancing closer economic and trade connections with other member economies of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

The zone, in Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, will vigorously implement a strategic upgrade of its three areas: Nanning, Qinzhou Port and Chongzuo. It will enhance institutional mechanisms and optimise and solidify cross-border trade to increase both volume and quality, government officials said.

The zone is set to advance 10 significant initiatives. These encompass its enhancing of cross-border financial integration and the facilitation of fast and convenient cross-border transportation, the

regional government said.

The ultimate goal is to create a central zone that streamlines market operations for both domestic and international cycles, it said, with a specific focus on markets in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the RCEP.

The zone, established in August 2019, has attracted cumulative foreign investment of US\$1.57 billion, and the value of its imports and exports has totalled 832.88 billion yuan (US\$113.4 billion) over the past four years.

This has been accomplished with less than 0.05 per cent of the region's total land area, or 120 square kilometres, accounting for 39.4 per cent of Guangxi's foreign investment and 37.1 per cent of its foreign trade during the same period.

"We will continue to leverage reforms and innovations to drive industrial clustering, with a focus on three distinctive features — targeting the ASEAN market, serving the New International Land-Sea



Ships queue up at the Qinzhou Port of Guangxi to load and unload goods on 9 October. The port is a key platform for cross-border trade between China and ASEAN member countries. ZHANG AILIN / XINHUA

Trade Corridor, and promoting open development along the border," said Sui Guohua, vice-chair of Guangxi's regional government.

The value of Guangxi's foreign trade rose 43.2 per cent year-on-year in the first six months of 2023, with the value of trade with ASEAN rising 92.6 per cent. ASEAN has been the region's largest trading partner for 23 consecutive years, the Guangxi regional government said.

Li Fei, vice-minister of commerce, said in late August that China will comprehensively expand its collaboration with ASEAN, jointly boost the scale of trade, enhance cross-border e-commerce collaboration and continue to support investment collaboration in sectors such as steel, petrochemicals, textiles and the automotive industry.

Shi Guowei, president of Guangxi Xinzhong Industrial Investment Co Ltd, a logistics and warehouse service provider in Nanning, said

incentives offered by the Guangxi free trade zone have greatly benefited businesses operating in the China-Singapore Nanning International Logistics Park.

Global companies and Chinese logistics companies, such as Global Logistic Properties Ltd of Singapore and Zhuhai Wanwei Logistics Development Co Ltd, have built a presence in the park and have cumulatively handled more than 3.15 million metric tonnes of freight.

The value of invested capital in the construction projects of the China-Singapore Nanning International Logistics Park is about 7.8 billion yuan, Shi said.

China, eager to boost its foreign trade and attract more global capital, issued a key work list in June for its pilot free trade zones (2023-25) aimed at promoting high-quality growth.

The list, formulated by the Ministry of Commerce in collaboration

with a number of central government departments and local authorities, outlines 164 key initiatives to be autonomously implemented by Chinese free trade zones.

The work list provides a clear and itemized outline of the construction directions and key areas of focus for the next three years, based on the strategic positioning and development goals assigned by the central government to each pilot free trade zone, said Chen Zhenchong, director-general of the Department of Free Trade Zone and Special Control Area that is part of the General Administration of Customs.

For example, free trade zones in Guangxi and Yunnan province are encouraged to make the most of their advantageous border locations. They will promote border residents' cross-border trade and processing businesses for imported commodities, fostering innovative development in border trade.



Customers select jewellery at the Myanmar Pavilion of the China-ASEAN Expo in Nanning, Guangxi, on 19 September. ZHANG AILIN / XINHUA

Better relations with ASEAN lift farm product sales

By **ZHENG YIRAN**
and **SHI RUIPENG**

CHINA and member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations are deepening their trade ties to make the most of rising demand for regional farm products such as durian, a fruit whose popularity in China is soaring.

Signs of such demand were in evidence at the four-day China-ASEAN Expo that was held in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, in September.

Standing behind a refrigerator at the Malaysian pavilion, David Chen, a

Malaysian exhibitor, wrapped a bagful of durian-flavoured mooncakes for Xu Feng, a customer. Chen duly informed Xu of the storage method and the best-before date. Before their transaction ended, more visitors thronged the pavilion to buy fresh Musang King durian.

"These mooncakes cost 25 yuan (US\$3.40) each," Xu said. "They taste so yummy I want to buy more."

Durian, mostly grown in Malaysia and Thailand, has emerged as a prominent symbol of both flourishing China-ASEAN collaboration and China's vast market potential.

China accounted for 91 per cent of

the world's demand for durian in the past two years, an HSBC report said.

"During the expo we sold seven cartons of durians," Chen said. "All the durian products we brought here were sold out. There were also expressions of interest from potential buyers in China."

Sharon Yan, executive deputy general manager of Guangxi Mayi Imported Goods Supply Chain Management Co Ltd, a domestic exhibitor at the expo, said: "We brought seven durian varieties to the event. In the past, improving living standards and consumption upgrade in China had created an appetite for

the delicious durian despite its smell.

"Consumption increased year after year, and now durian ranks among the top fruits with the highest import value in China. However, its price remains relatively high, giving it the tag of a luxury fruit. That's why we entered the durian business, hoping to reduce intermediary procurement processes and thereby the price."

The firm offers finance, customs clearance, warehousing and logistics services for the durian supply chain. It established a 50,000-square-metre cold chain warehouse in the Qinzhou Port Area in China (Guangxi) Pilot Free Trade Zone and a central kitchen in the China-Malaysia Qinzhou Industrial Park, where durian is processed and made into byproducts.

The company's inspection teams travel to ASEAN member states regularly to enrich its durian import channels and stabilise product quality and prices. Mayi imported 5,000 metric tonnes of durian and durian raw materials last year, with an import value of 400 million yuan, up 100 per cent and 60 per cent year-on-year, respectively.

At the Special Summit to Commemorate the 30th Anniversary of China-ASEAN Dialogue Relations in 2021 China announced that it planned to import US\$150 billion worth of farm products from ASEAN member states in the next five years.

That encouraged ASEAN member countries to strive to export more farm products with higher quality, including durian, coffee and palm oil.

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10
BRI YEARS ON

Love for *hanfu* binds people together

Video bloggers help promote traditional Chinese attire to wider audiences.

Liu Jianqiao reports

HANFU, the traditional Chinese attire, has gained popularity as a symbol of Chinese culture, captivating enthusiasts worldwide.

For example, Rian Neves, 29, a Brazilian, was fascinated by China's vibrant history and diverse culture when he arrived in the country more than five years ago.

Growing up with his grandparents in Rio de Janeiro, he joined the military after completing his education. However, he soon felt the need for a change in his life, prompting him to make a life-changing decision to move to China.

Knowing little Chinese, and the stark differences in culture, cuisine, environment and way of life sent him into culture shock.

"At the time my English was not good, and I could barely speak anything in Chinese. I felt very lonely as a new arrival."

To overcome this disorientation Rian engaged with Chinese friends who introduced him to various facets of Chinese culture. Through their companionship and frequent outings his interest in Chinese culture gradually increased, and he began to feel more at ease.

In 2019 he and his friends stumbled upon a group of young Chinese individuals dressed in *hanfu* near picturesque West Lake in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province. Impressed by the flamboyant *hanfu* style, he developed a fascination for this costume.

He later moved to Xi'an in Shaanxi province, the starting point of the ancient Silk Road, where he discovered a multitude of people donning traditional costumes while exploring historical sites, taking pictures and shooting short videos.

"My friends told me: 'Rian, just have a try. And what if we make a channel about you dressing up in *hanfu*, and let's see where we can go.' So I began to do the makeup and shot my first video."

Encouraged by his friends, he decided to try this experiment and document his experiences. He embarked on his first video shoot last year, applying makeup and presenting himself in a *hanfu* ensemble on Chinese social media platforms, receiving words of encouragement



Foreign and local models walk down the runway in *hanfu* at an event held in Luoyang, Henan province, on 28 September. ZHANG YIXI / FOR CHINA DAILY

from several Chinese viewers.

Rian now has more than 15,000 followers on Xiaohongshu, a lifestyle platform popular with young people in China.

"We now have a team of three partners for creating *hanfu* videos, a producer responsible for researching topics, a cameraman for shooting and myself as the character."

"Whenever we come across an intriguing subject we devote several days to conduct research, find the appropriate *hanfu* style and then spend three to four days on shooting and editing."

Initially he had only a broad understanding of China's extensive history and profound culture, he said, but now he has a more intricate understanding of such matters.

"Throughout this journey I have gradually enhanced my knowledge of *hanfu* and China. Now I can distinguish between various *hanfu* styles from different dynasties, and I particularly adore the Tang Dynasty (618-907)."

Living in the city that was once the Tang Dynasty capital, the Brazilian vlogger expressed his love for Xi'an.

Rian's *hanfu* videos have drawn numerous positive comments from Chinese viewers, and these act as a source of inspiration for this *hanfu* enthusiast to continue his endeavours.

"One day a Chinese follower messaged me saying he and his friends have started watching Brazilian TV series because of me."

He eventually plans to explore various locations in China and delve into diverse local cultures, particularly those of ethnic groups, he said.

"In addition to creating *han-*

In addition to creating *hanfu* videos like before, I intend to showcase more Chinese cultural elements. For example, I want to reveal how traditional costumes are made by Chinese people, and share the historical significance behind the process."

Rian Neves
a Brazilian blogger



Scan
code to
see the
video

fu videos like before, I intend to showcase more Chinese cultural elements. For example, I want to reveal how traditional costumes are made by Chinese people, and share the historical significance behind the process."

Initiative delivers a treasure trove of rich history

By **WANG KAIHAO**

GREAT achievements have been made in joint archaeology programmes involving China over the past 10 years thanks to the Belt and Road Initiative, and the highlights of these are on display in an exhibition in Beijing.

Thriving in a Collaborative World: "Belt and Road" Cooperation in Cultural Heritage and Archaeology opened in the Shenwumen (Gate of Divine Prowess) Gallery at the Palace Museum recently, with 84 artefacts from 17 institutions at home and abroad on display.

Hu Heping, minister of culture and tourism, said China has conducted 44 collaborative archaeological projects involving 24 countries over the past 10 years. The country has also taken part in 11 international historical monument conservation programmes in six countries.

"Cultural heritage conservators from China and the rest of the world joined to safeguard the shared treasures of humanity," Hu said at the opening ceremony of the exhibition. "They've written an alluring chapter of people-to-people connectivity."

Many artefacts in the exhibition, on until January, were excavated in China-foreign joint archaeological programmes in recent years along the land and maritime Silk Road.

Cultural heritage research institutes in countries including China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and the United Arab Emirates are also presenting their key collections reflecting communication among civilisations along the ancient trade routes.

For example, the exhibits include a rubbing of a stone tablet, discovered by Chinese and Saudi archaeologists at Al-Serrian, the ruins of a port near Mecca.

Wang Guangyao, a researcher at the Palace Museum and a curator of the exhibition, said the blue-and-white imperial porcelain pieces from the early Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) found in the UAE may have come from one of the voyages across the Indian Ocean made by the fleets of the great Chinese mariner Zheng He.

At the opening ceremony, Saida Mirziyoyeva, presidential assistant of Uzbekistan, recalled the westward journey of the Chinese monk Xuanzang during the Tang Dynasty to connect China and Central Asia. The exhibits dating back to Xuanzang's time would inspire more collaboration in modern times, she said.

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Latest developments in the Israel-Hamas war

FIGHTING in the war-torn Gaza Strip raged for a 20th day Thursday. Here are key developments from the past 24 hours.

Gaza raid, Lebanon strikes
The Israeli military said troops entered Gaza with tanks and infantry in an overnight “targeted raid” striking “numerous terrorist cells, infrastructure and anti-tank missile launch posts” before retreating to home soil.
Late on Wednesday, its aircraft also struck Lebanon in retaliation for the earlier launch of a surface-to-air missile, the military said.

International concerns
The United Nations warned



A Palestinian man gestures at a closed petrol station in the aftermath of Israeli strikes on the Rafah refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip on 25 October 2023. PHOTO: SAID KHATIB / AFP

Thursday that “nowhere is safe” in Gaza as Israel stepped up its bombardments in preparation for a widely expected ground

offensive.
Gaza aid shortage
Israel has cut off Gaza’s normal supply corridors for water, food and other necessities, and fewer than 70 relief trucks have entered the impoverished territory since the war began.
The UN says 12 of the territory’s 35 hospitals have closed due to damage or insufficient fuel, and its UNRWA agency for Palestinian refugees said it “began to significantly reduce its operations”.

Security Council divisions
The UN Security Council on Wednesday again failed to take action on the Israel-Hamas war, with Russia and China vetoing a US-led draft resolution and a text led by Moscow drawing insufficient support.
The US proposal supported “humanitarian pauses” without calling for a full ceasefire, whereas Russia’s sought “an immediate, durable and fully respected humanitarian ceasefire”.

EU leaders meet
EU leaders will on Thursday debate calling for humanitarian “pauses” in Israel’s war with Hamas, with the 27-nation bloc divided between more pro-Palestinian members such as Ireland and Spain, and staunch backers of Israel like Germany and Austria. — AFP

Sudan peace talks resume in Jeddah: Saudi statement

Since April, a conflict between army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his ex-deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who leads the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), has caused over 9,000 deaths and forced 5.6 million people to flee their homes.

SUDAN’S warring parties on Thursday resumed talks in Saudi Arabia aimed at ending a conflict that has raged for over six months and left thousands dead, the Saudi foreign ministry said. Since April, the war between forces loyal to army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan

and his former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who commands the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), has killed more than 9,000 people and displaced over 5.6 million.
“The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia welcomes the resumption of talks between represent-

atives of the Sudanese Armed Forces and representatives of the Rapid Support Forces in the city of Jeddah,” a statement said. Both sides announced Wednesday they had accepted an invitation to resume US- and Saudi-brokered negotiations in Jeddah. — AFP



A military convoy on the way to Port Sudan on 30 August 2023. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE / AFP/FILE



Newly elected US House Speaker Mike Johnson speaks during a press conference after his election at the US Capitol in Washington, DC on 25 October 2023. PHOTO: OLIVIER DOULIERY/AFP

Untested new leader of US House faces daunting first days

Johnson, aged 51, became the Republican leader almost by accident after a tough three-week competition left him as the last viable option.

INEXPERIENCED and untested, the new speaker of the US House of Representatives faces a baptism of fire as he contends with a pile-up of deadlines, a razor-thin majority and a raucous right wing that is unlikely to allow him an extended honeymoon period.
Mike Johnson — a committed Donald Trump acolyte and an instinctive fiscal and social conservative to his core — almost certainly harbours ambitions to drastically rein in spending and government regulation.
But his first days as speaker are brimming with more immediate business, chiefly averting a government shutdown that will bite on 17 November unless he can find a compromise with the Democratic-controlled Senate.
Johnson, 51, was far from anyone’s first choice for the job, having stumbled into his unlikely leadership role almost by default as the last credible Republican standing in a bruising three-week contest. — AFP

SPORTS



Manchester United have reported record revenues. PHOTO: ANDREW YATES / AFP/FILE

Man Utd report record Premier League revenues

MANCHESTER United on Thursday reported a Premier League record revenue figure of £648.4 million (\$784 million) for the year ending 30 June 2023.

It is 11 per cent up on the preceding year and beats the previous record of £627 million set by United in 2019, but the 20-time English champions still reported a loss of £42.1 million.

The record earnings come despite the fact United played in the Europa League, rather than the more lucrative Champions League, last season.

During the 2022/23 campaign the men's team finished

third in the Premier League and won the League Cup, ending a six-year trophy drought.

The women's team finished second in the Women's Super League and were runners-up in the FA Cup.

The club have predicted revenue for the 2023/24 period will be between £650 million and £680 million.

United's wage bill for 2022/23 was down £52.8 million to £331.4 million, which the club attributed to "squad turnover" and their absence from last season's Champions League.

The club reported long-term debt at £507.3 million. The

figure was given as \$650 million in the accounts, unchanged from the previous year, but the report said the year-on-year change in the exchange rate meant the figure in sterling was a lower amount this year compared with last.

The report confirmed no dividends had been paid to the Glazer family, who own the club.

Thursday's fiscal results come at a time when the founder of the INEOS chemicals company, British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe, is reported to be close to securing a stake in the club. — AFP

Swiss probe into FIFA chief Gianni Infantino dropped

SWISS prosecutors announced Thursday they have dropped their three-year criminal proceedings against FIFA president Gianni Infantino over suspected collusion with officials concerning the corruption scandal that engulfed world football's governing body.

Infantino declared a "full and clear victory" in the case and demanded an apology from what he called the "envious and corrupt" people out to tarnish his reputation.

A probe was opened in July 2020 to investigate suspicions of collusion between Infantino and Switzerland's then attorney-general Michael Lauber, the coun-

try's top prosecutor.

Lauber was in charge of Switzerland's probe into the towering corruption scandal that exploded at the heart of Zurich-based FIFA in 2015.

But he was forced to recuse himself from the investigation in June 2019, following media revelations that he had held several undeclared meetings with Infantino during the probe.

Two special prosecutors were assigned to the case, but in a statement Thursday, they said the investigation had closed, with the allegations refuted.

"The criminal proceedings... are discontinued," the statement said. — AFP



Infantino declared a "full and clear victory" in the case and demanded an apology from what he called the "envious and corrupt" people out to tarnish his reputation. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Newcastle's Tonali banned 10 months for betting: Italian federation

NEWCASTLE United's Italian international midfielder Sandro Tonali has been banned for 10 months for betting, the Italian football federation (FIGC) said on Thursday. The 23-year-old was found to have gambled on matches involving his former club AC Milan before he joined Saudi-owned Newcastle in July in a 56-million-pound (\$68 million, 64-million-euro) move that made him the most expensive Italian player in history.

The ban means Tonali will miss the rest of the Premier League season and next summer's European Championship, if holders Italy qualify.



Sandro Tonali signed for Newcastle from AC Milan in the summer. PHOTO: OLI SCARFF / AFP/FILE

He is the second Italian player to be banned from football in a betting scandal which

came to light during the recent international break.

Juventus' Nicolò Fagioli was suspended for seven months by the FIGC's disciplinary tribunal earlier this month and agreed to therapy of at least six months to treat his gambling issues.

Fagioli's debts exceeded three million euros and left him exposed to threats of violence from those organising his bets, the probe found.

Tonali's agent has claimed his client has a gambling addiction. He faced a potential ban of three years for betting on matches. — AFP

Bellingham can cap sublime Madrid start in first Clasico

JUDE Bellingham is loving life at Real Madrid, even before getting the chance to play in the club football's biggest match, the Clasico.

The England international will lead Los Blancos into battle at Barcelona's temporary Olympic Stadium home on the Montjuic hill on Saturday, having become Carlo Ancelotti's key player within three months.

Bellingham has begun the season in extraordinary form, with 11 goals in 12 games for the club across all competitions.

It is a spectacular start that nobody could have envisaged, even the Madrid coach himself, despite deploying Bellingham in a more attacking number 10 role. His goals are making up for the departure of Ballon d'Or winner Karim Benzema and the failure to sign Kylian Mbappe from Paris Saint-Germain.

"This is the club I want to be at for the next 10 to 15 years of my life, I am loving it," Bellingham told reporters while on international duty last week. Madrid fans have fallen head over heels in love with Bellingham, but they are notoriously fickle. Nobody has escaped the Santiago Bernabeu's whistles forever, including all-time top scorer Cristiano Ronaldo. — AFP



CHINA on Thursday launched the Shenzhou-17 manned spaceship, and the three astronauts aboard will be sent to stay in orbit for about six months on a space station mission.

The spaceship, atop a Long March-2F carrier rocket, blasted off at 11:14 am Thursday (Beijing Time) from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China, according to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA).

About 10 minutes after the launch, the Shenzhou-17 spaceship separated from the rocket and entered its designated orbit. The crew members, consisting of Tang Hongbo, Tang Shengjie and Jiang Xinlin, are in good shape and the launch is a complete success, the CMSA said.

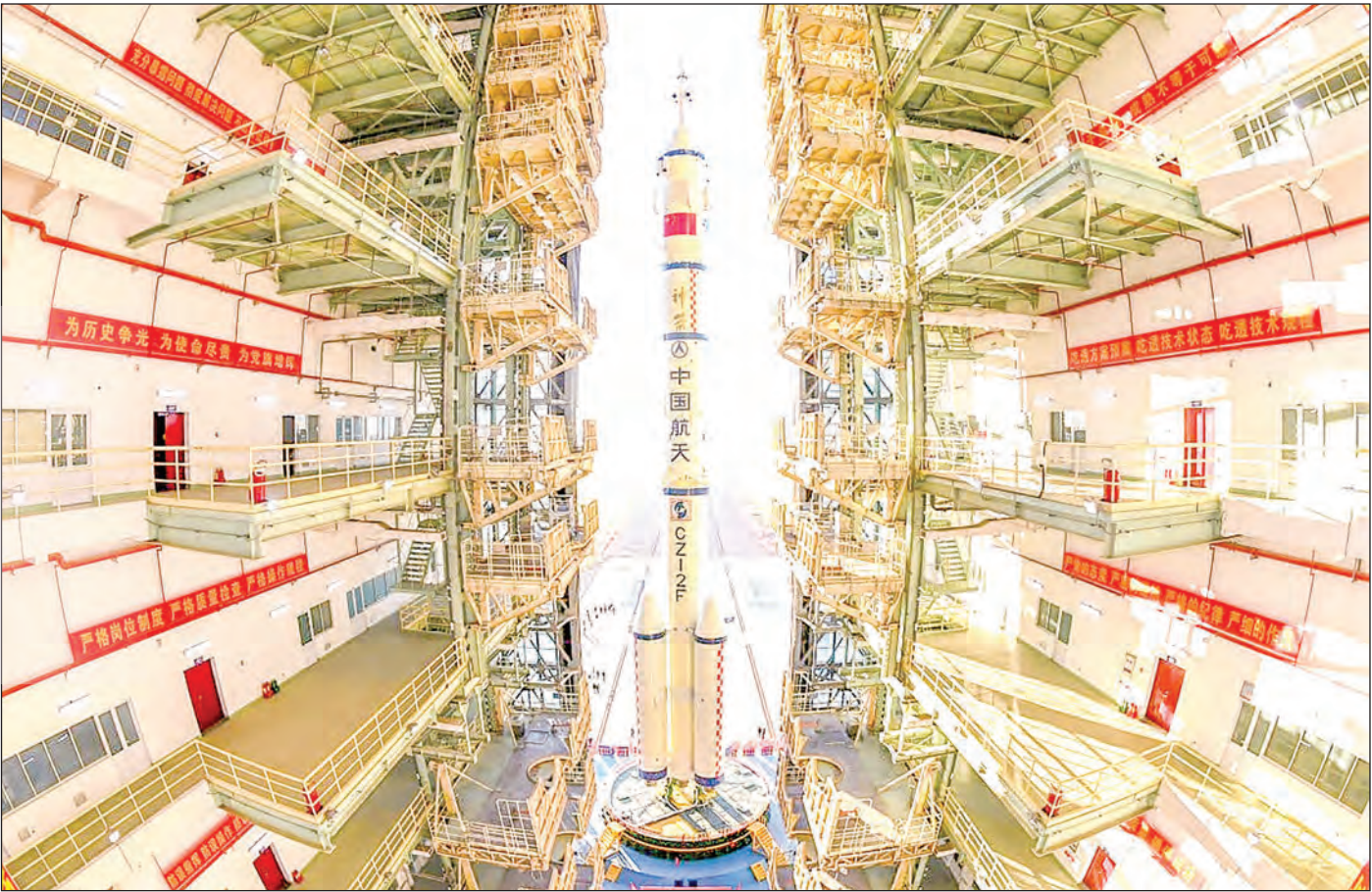
The Shenzhou-17 crew represents the youngest lineup of astronauts since the construction of China's Tiangong space station began.

After entering orbit, the Shenzhou-17 spaceship will make a fast, automated rendezvous and docking with the space station combination. The Shenzhou-17 crew will rotate with the Shenzhou-16 crew in orbit.

The Shenzhou-17 crew has the youngest lineup since the construction of China's Tiangong space station started.

Tang Hongbo, born in 1975, is the mission commander and a veteran astronaut once launched into orbit on the

China launches Shenzhou-17 astronauts for new challenging work in space station



The three former PLA pilots, whose average age is 38, are set to begin six-month mission when Shenzhou-17 launches on Thursday. The Shenzhou-17 spaceship, mounted on a Long March-2F carrier rocket, is set for a Thursday launch from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China. PHOTO: XINHUA

Shenzhou-12 mission in June 2021. Tang Shengjie, born in 1989, is a new face and also the youngest astronaut to enter China's space station. Jiang Xinlin, born in 1988, is also a newcomer to space. — Xinhua

Seoul creates memorial at site of deadly 2022 crowd crush



A man looks at flowers and notes left in memory of victims at the site of the 29 October 2022 crowd crush that killed more than 150 people during Halloween celebrations, in the popular Itaewon nightlife area in Seoul on 25 October 2023. PHOTO: ANTHONY WALLACE / AFP

THE narrow alleyway in South Korea's capital where nearly 160 people were crushed to death during Halloween festivities a year ago was designated a "Memorial Alley" on Thursday, victims' relatives said.

Tens of thousands of people -- mostly in their 20s and 30s -- had been out to enjoy the country's first post-pandemic holiday celebrations but the night turned deadly in Seoul's Itaewon district with no effective crowd control and bungled official responses to calls for help.

On Thursday, the site of the crush, now decorated with hundreds of paper notes filled with messages of grief and tribute for the victims, was officially designated the "29 October Memorial Alley" -- although no senior government officials

attended the event. "This is a place to remember the people who became stars in the sky in an alleyway in the middle of Seoul while enjoying their daily lives on the night of 29 October 2022," said Lee Jung-min, a representative of bereaved families, at a ceremony unveiling a memorial street marker. "It is also a place to pledge safety so that something like this does not happen again in the future," he added.

One of the Post-it notes at the site read: "It's been a year but I still sometimes think of you. I hope you can enjoy your youth in heaven, even though you could not enjoy it here."

Lee, who lost his then 28-year-old daughter to the crowd crush, said families of the victims were still looking for answers since the disaster. — AFP

US police launch huge manhunt for shooter who killed at least 22

A massive manhunt was underway Thursday for a gunman who a local official said killed at least 22 people and wounded "many" more in mass shootings in the US state of Maine, the deadliest such incident this year.

Police said Robert Card -- seen in surveillance footage pointing a semi-automatic weapon with an extended clip as he walked into a bowling alley in the town of Lewiston -- "should be considered armed and dangerous". — AFP



Let's conserve the natural environment for the interests of people

By Aung Kyaw Thant

THE environment is the origin of the society which is home to living and non-living beings including humans. In fact, the environment treats the nature of the world and the life of humans. In this regard, forests, water sources, geographical conditions, safe use of chemicals and carbon emission, and other various reasons are basic factors in the conservation of natural environments as well as these factors are interrelated with one another.

Conservation of forests is a primary factor in protecting the natural environment. Gradual deforestation triggers a shortage of food, clothing and shelter for humans, followed by climate change. In Myanmar, the

government's efforts to conserve the natural environment resurged greening the barren areas. Once, the country faced deforestation as well as undisciplined extraction of timbers along the west and middle mountain ranges of the nation showing climate change and global warming effects. According to the statistics issued by the relevant ministries and international organizations in recent years, Myanmar's forest coverage area surged to 42 per cent, starting to give a green light for the environmental situation of Myanmar.

Myanmar is implementing 11 points of the environmental conservation and forestry policy to protect the natural environment and biodiversity species, con-

servation of natural forests and establishment of forest plantations in order to ensure favourable weather and to contribute to the agriculture sector, providing basic forest product requirements of rural people, organizing the people to participate in environmental conservation and forest management measures, supply of timber for the people to build houses, extraction of timbers with minimizing loss and waste, emergence of wood-based industries, high capacity for forestry and environmental sector, implementation of environmental protection, harmonization of environment in development tasks, production of geographical maps for the State and exactly demarcation of State territory. **SEE PAGE-C**

Fostering sustainable business practices:



The photo shows the colonial building "Mount Hope" where Colonel Sladen stayed.

The hospitality industry in Mon State to replace single-use plastic with glass from upcoming tourism peak season

HOTELS AND MOTELS in the Mon State will transition from single-use plastic to reusable glass bottles in the upcoming tourism peak season to reduce environmental impacts through green practices, emphasized U Zay Yar Tun, director of the Mon State's Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

There are a total of 88 hotels and motels having 3,141 rooms in the Mon State and holding business licences issued by the Mon State Tourism Committee. Those sustainable hotels will promote local products such as cotton clothing with a view to supporting MSME development in the State. They will ditch single-use plastic and provide reusable glass bottles and jars for their service as a dedication to sustainable business.

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C O N T E N T S

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Monkeys at Mann Shwettaw Pagoda to be captured and released into forests
PAGE-C
'Plastic-free seas' programme to be carried out near Thandwe, Gwa
PAGE-D
Essential drinking water sources to be conserved in Mount Popa areas



and ceilings in the premises. Not all of them are caught and released, but some monkeys will naturally remain in the temple forever,” Chairman U Win Htay of the Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda Board of Trustees told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

At present, there are between 300 and 500 monkeys at Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda, and there are many donors for monkey food during the pagoda festival since pilgrims donate food, but there are few people who come and feed monkeys during non-festival times.

The 179-square-mile Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary has been developed in Minbu Township in Magway Region. The protected area is a host



Monkeys at Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda to be captured and released into forests

Not all of them will be caught and released, but some monkeys will naturally remain in the pagoda forever.



According to the Mann Shwe-settaw Pagoda Board of Trustees, for the preservation of the ancient Buddhist buildings in Minbu Township, Minbu District in Magway Region, monkeys in the pagoda will be caught and released back into the forest away from the pagoda.

“To prevent the destruction of electricity cables, CCTV cables, and ancient Buddhist buildings and to make them sustainable, we have to plan to release monkeys back into the forests away from the pagoda to reduce the number of monkeys since they reproduce every year and the number of monkeys increases, so the monkeys run and play on the temple buildings and roofs



to the most research and is home to Myanmar's famous golden deer. The birds and wild animals of the area are interesting attractions for tourists, as is the experience of meeting the locals. In addition, one will be able to visit the Buddha's footprint.

The Mann Shwesettaw area in Minbu Township, Magway Region, is implemented in cooperation with regional government department officials and tourism operators to improve the tourism industry throughout the year and encourage homegrown and foreign tourists to come and study. — Maung Maung (Minbu)/CT

Fostering sustainable business practices:

FROM PAGE-A

“With an attempt to create a new tourism destination in Mon State, the department is planning a City Tour to over 100-year-old colonial-era buildings in the State to explore a unique colonial architecture. We have provided healthcare services for tourists through private hospitals in the State, except for criminal injuries. Another eco-friendly practice is that hotels, motels and guesthouses will serve drinking water in glass bottles and jars instead of plastic bottles. The hospitality industry will initiate going plastic-free from November simultaneously,” U Zay Yar Tun highlighted. Additionally, under the supervision of the Mon State government and guidance of Mon State's Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, 76 hotels and motels are accredited regional-level Enchanting Myanmar Health and Safety Protocol certificates to ensure hotel safety and security functions.

Also, 29 of them have received the State-level Enchanting Myanmar Health and Safety Protocol certificates and three hotels are proceeding to be awarded the title through digital platforms. Stakeholders in the tourism industry including officials from the department concerned, hotel chains, healthcare service providers, transport operators, restaurants, MSME business persons and locals are moving towards sustainable tourism development. — ASH/EM



The photo shows the Tower House of Mr Maraе who was a Dolson ship company owner from colonial times.

According to Dr Maung Maung Kyi, secretary of the Rakhine State Environmental Protection Organization, the cleanup of ocean plastic will be carried out in Thandwe and Gwa townships in Rakhine State.

Currently, the presence of ‘microplastics’ in the seawater of the Rakhine coastal region, one of the coasts of Myanmar, is increasing.

According to a survey conducted by Dr Fridtjof Nansen's team from Norway, who visited Myanmar's coastal area for research in 2018, the Rakhine coastal area has more plastic particles.

To clean the seawater of Thandwe and Gwa townships in Rakhine State, permission has been requested from the Rakhine State government, and once the permission is received, the work will start.

“Once the permit comes down, we will survey to see how much general knowledge people have about plastics. According to the survey, we will work to educate the people. Then, we will do what the public should know about the marine fisheries law,” said Dr Maung Maung Kyi.

If this programme is successful, officials will work in cooperation with environmental protection organizations in Rakhine State. At present, the whole world is carrying out the process of reducing plastic from the sea. Rakhine State's plastic consumption is high, and due to local people throwing garbage in the sea via fishing boats, the presence of microplastics in the coastal waters of Rakhine is increasing. — ASH/KZL

'Plastic-free seas'

programme to be carried out near Thandwe, Gwa



A garbage collection campaign is seen near the sea of Thandwe Township in 2021. PHOTO:

Let's conserve natural environment ...

FROM PAGE-A

Global countries are seeking the best ways and means for the conservation of forest resources through the advancement of forestry science techniques. Meanwhile, Myanmar enacts laws related to preventing the illegal extraction of forest products as a prohibition to prevent possible impacts of environmental degradation.

Despite striving for improvement of the natural environment, Myanmar is still suffering the bad impacts of deforestation of the nation and desertification based on the loss of forests and water sources. As such, the government adopts effective timber extraction management strategies so as to protect forest sources and reestablish forests as much as possible.

Impacts of environmental degradation have proved terrible incidents such as landslides, soil and water erosions, forest fires, floods and so on. In a tragic incident which happened in May 2008, severe cyclonic storm Nargis swept many parts of the Ayeyawady and Yangon regions, leaving more than 130,000 people dead and hundreds of thousands of people injured with a large number of missing. Fortunately, the lives of a few numbers of people were saved by mangrove forests along the seaside areas. If so, everybody can understand the value of forests including mangrove forests in protecting the life and limbs of living beings including humans.

Taking a valuable lesson, local authorities in regions and states emphasize the establishment of forests in all parts as well as mangrove forests along the coastal lines and banks of rivers and creeks to protect the life and property of the people in addition to letting people extract

necessary timbers under the rules and regulations.

Currently, the government establishes forest areas on some 32,000 hectares per year. It aims to meet the bio-fuel demand of the people and improvement of watershed areas. In this regard, public participation plays a key role in the establishment of forests and growing trees. Moreover, businesspersons set up commercial



A file photo shows a general view of the Pawle-Watchipa-protected public forest in Gangaw Township, Magway Region.

teak plantations in relevant blocks under the permission of the government. Whatever it may be, the emergence of forest areas will be a situation for the safety of people in the society with the resilience of natural disasters to some extent.

Moreover, authorities need to take care of the slush and burn system of farmers. Such a system can dreadfully harm the environment. So, agriculturists and environmentalists have to disseminate applicable knowledge to farmers on how to reclaim farmlands and what are

dos and don'ts for reclamation to avoid environmental degradation. So, farmers need to reclaim new farmlands and croplands in the hilly farmlands, highland farmlands and conventional farmlands as they like. If so, their acts will not affect the environmental degradation.

To improve the activities of environmental conservation, the government has been cooperating with the Botanical Gardens Conservation International-BGCI, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora & Fauna-CITES, the Global Tiger Forum-GTF, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development-ICIMOD, the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan-INBA, the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing-ISPERS, the International Tropical Timber Organization-ITTO, the Regional Community Forestry Training Centre-RECOFTC, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity-UNCBD, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification-UNCCD from 1988 to date.

Everybody can notice tree-growing ceremonies across the nation from the early monsoon to the late monsoon every year. All strata of the people participate in these ceremonies in growing millions of saplings in all parts of the nation. However, most of the saplings lose the chance of nurturing for their thriving. Actually, if someone or some organizations take responsibility to nurture these saplings, the whole country can be placed under the shade of trees all year round. Consequently, the entire nation can avoid natural disasters as much as possible. So, let's conserve the natural environment for the interests of the people and their future.

Essential drinking water sources to be conserved in Mount Popa areas



THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation said they will conserve the sources of spring water that is an essential drinking water source of watershed areas of Mount Popa, Popa region and Kyaukpadaung township.

The ministry emphasizes the greening of Popa Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary and its vicinity areas, the conservation of tropical ecosystem and biodiversity.

Moreover, they will also conserve the sources of spring water that is an essential drinking water source of watershed areas of Mont Popa, Popa region and Kyaukpadaung township, according to U Hla Maung Thein, director-general of the Environmental Conservation Department.

"Mount Popa possesses six different types of forest that boast Popa langar and different species of mammal, bird, butterfly, herb and orchid, and it is

a key place for ecotourism and research. Moreover, the Popa region has significant geosites, and it also arranges to establish national geopark," he said.

It will also conduct educating programmes to ensure public participation in greening programmes and sustainability of Mount Popa region. Officials currently establish a museum to conserve the golden deer and herbal plants in the herbal park. — ASH/KTZH

Nobody will think that certain cute ornamental fishes usually found in aquarium glass boxes are detrimental to human foodchain while posing a threat to aquatic lives. Now the war between those ornamental fishes and the fish species native to the Ayeyawady river has been waging for two decades.

Problematic ornamental fish

The problem is that this species of ornamental fish *Hyposynges plecostomus* commonly known as suckerfish may destroy other aquatic lives and the environment in Myanmar. These sucker fish are not native to Myanmar, but their origin is from South America, and they are one of the species of fish imported to Myanmar by ornamental fish importers, according to the Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association-BANCA.

Those who breed the fish have difficulty maintaining them when they grow up, so they release them into the nearby rivers and lakes next to monasteries, and the majority of them are growing quickly in many parts of Myanmar.

U Aung Myint Oo, Project Coordinator of the BANCA said that these problematic fishes were first found in fish breeding ponds in Yangon Region's Thanlyin Township around 2010. Afterwards, by 2018, thousands of these suckerfish had arrived in



Detrimental impact by a certain type of ornamental fish

By ASH

the fish breeding ponds in Yangon Region's Twantay Township.

As of today, these problematic sucker fishes are not only found in fish breeding ponds in Yangon Region's Thanlyin and Twantay townships but they are also reported in Bago Region's Waw Township and Moeyungyi Wildlife Sanctuary. And it has already spread to Inlay Lake in Shan State. As the suckerfishes are also inhabiting in rivers and creeks, some environmentalists start thinking the ways to tackle the issue.

Detrimental impact by suckerfish fishes

Although it is listed as an

ornamental fish, the suckerfish is not so beautiful to look at. A sucker fish is usually 16 to 18 inches in length from the tail to the tip of the head. Some aquariums have suckerfish that grow up to 20 inches. Each one weighs between 46 and 48 ticals (one tical = 16.33 grammes (0.576 ounce)). The length of the front fin is usually up to 8.9 inches.

Fishery workers in fish farming ponds often call them viper catfish because they have small poisonous spines along their body and if other creatures come and contact with them, they may accidentally injure them. But the injury is not too serious.

Fish-eating birds, such as

cormorants and waterfowls and carnivorous fish such as snakehead or Murrel fish and boal fish do not catch and eat them, making the suckerfish population increase. In addition, they prey on other fish's food, such as food capsules, scaring farmed fishes with their poisonous fins to steal their food. So, the farmed fishes are deprived of food and many of them die later.

In natural lakes, ponds and fish breeding ponds, if these types of fish have arrived, the population of existing fish species that people use to eat will gradually become less and less and only suckerfish will be left there. And if the problem of this fish spe-

cies cannot be tackled, then many problems may come next.

The future of fish species native to the Ayeyawady

There are a total of 388 species of fish living in the Ayeyawady River basin, of which 311 species are found only in Myanmar. Among them, 193 fish species are found only in the Ayeyawady River basin, and 100 fish species are native to Myanmar, according to a report published by Fauna and Flora International-Myanmar Programme.

If suckerfish population continues growing in the Ayeyawady River, the population of other fish species will be reduced, with BANCA calling for urgent solutions to take place.

Translated by TH
Source: Fauna & Flora International- Myanmar Programme
BANCA Suckerfish