

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing watches participation of dancing troupes from regions and states in the ethnic traditional/folk-dance open class at MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing enjoys competitions of contestants in 24th Performing Arts Competition

The 24th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition continued for the sixth day at MICC-II and the Training Theatre of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing enjoyed competition of contestants in the relevant events.

The Senior General watched participation of dancing troupes from regions and states in the ethnic traditional/folk-dance open class, showing dancing and performances on natural beauties and traditional cultures.

He also viewed playing of Donmin event in the amateur (first class) men's Donmin contest.

The Senior General and party

watched presentation of contestants in the song contest singing the song "Myanmar's soul, Myanmar's scene" in the uplift of national prestige and integrity song contest at the men's higher education level.

The Senior General also enjoyed competition of contestants in the men's solo orchestra amateur (second class) event at the Training Theatre.

These competitions were also enjoyed

by SAC Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe, Council members General Mya Tun Oo and Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Union ministers, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers and officials.

After watching the competitions, the Senior General cordially greeted maestros from the panel of judges and contestants.—MNA/TTA

Kalaw introduces new resort to visitors, photography enthusiasts

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Contestants show off brilliant fine arts skills and talent in Performing Arts Competition



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Entry of 100% investment by Myanmar citizens, foreigners made in Q2 and Q3 of 2023-2024 FY



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Notifying Myanmar employees of taking seal at border gates on their return home



NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Statement of Myanmar Interfaith
Dialogue Group (Central)
Full moon of Thadingyut 1385 ME
29 October 2023

1. Armed insurgent terrorists attacked some townships including Chinshwehaw in northern Shan State on 27 October to cause fatality for innocent people and abducted the innocent people.
2. The Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued a statement and strongly condemned such incident.

Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central)
Executive Committee

Statement of All Myanmar Hindu
Central Council

27 October 2023

1. It was reported that armed insurgents entered and attacked some areas of townships in Shan State (North). In the incidents, some innocent people were killed and injured.
2. The All Myanmar Hindu Central Council issued a statement, strongly condemning the terror acts of those armed insurgents to cause injuries to innocent people and jeopardize peace and stability of the country.

All Myanmar Hindu Central Council

Myanmar Islamic Association
Statement

27 October 2023

1. As armed insurgents attacked and destroyed some areas of townships in Shan State (North) on 27 October, some innocent people were killed and suffered from injuries.
2. So, the Myanmar Islamic Association issued a statement, strongly condemning the destructive acts of those armed insurgents to destroy life and property of innocent people and jeopardize peace and stability of the State.

Myanmar Islamic Association

Statement of Methodist Church
(Lower Myanmar)

29 October 2023

THE Methodist Church (Lower Myanmar) issued a statement, strongly condemning the acts of armed insurgents who abducted innocent people as hostages after attacking Chinshwehaw region of northern Shan State on the morning of 27 October 2023.

Methodist Church (Lower Myanmar)

Myanmar Evangelical Christian
Alliance
Statement

27 October 2023

1. Reportedly, armed insurgent terrorists attacked some townships such as Lashio, Muse and Namphatka in Shan State (North) on 27 October, leaving some civilians dead and injured.
2. So, the Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance issued a statement, strongly condemning the terror acts of those armed insurgents to ruin innocent people and jeopardize peace and stability of the State.

Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance

Statement of Myanmar Comedians'
Association

29 October 2023

1. Reportedly, armed insurgents attacked Namphatka and Hsenwi areas of northern Shan State on 27 October 2023, abducting innocent people as hostages.
2. So, the Myanmar Comedians' Association issued a statement, strongly condemning the destructive acts of those armed insurgents to leave innocent people dead and injured and abducting those innocent people.

Myanmar Comedians' Association

Statement of Myanmar Theatrical
Association (Central)
Full moon of Thadingyut 1385 ME

29 October 2023

THE Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central) strongly condemned death of residents and abducting some locals away by insurgents in attacks on Kunlong and Chinshwehaw of Shan State (North) on 27 October 2023.

Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central)

Statement of Myanmar Artists
Organization (Central)

29 October 2023

1. Reportedly, armed insurgents entered and attacked some parts of townships in Shan State (North) on 27 October, leaving some innocent people dead and injured.
2. So, the Myanmar Artists Organization (Central) issued a statement, strongly condemning the terror acts of those armed insurgents to cause injuries to innocent people and jeopardize peace and stability of the State.

Myanmar Artists Organization (Central)

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

A slight earthquake of magnitude (4.0) Richter Scale with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about (22) miles west-southwest of An), latitude 19.69°N, longitude 93.71°E, depth (51) kilometres, about (62) miles southeast of Sittway seismological observatory was recorded at (17) hr (32) min (09) sec MST on 29 October 2023.



The photo shows the vehicle filling with fuel at one petrol station in Yangon.

Petroleum storage licence renewal allowed two months before expiry

RENEWING a licence for the storage of petroleum and petroleum products can be processed two months ahead of the expiry, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

The licence will expire on 31 December this year and the extension of licences for the coming year must be done two months (between 1 November and 31 December) before the expiry, according to the Petroleum and Petroleum Product Rules-119.

Those who fail to renew the licence during the set period must be fined two per cent of licence fee per day starting from 1 January 2024.

The application for licence extension, storage licence permit, the copy of the last survey record of the Department of Mines and the documentary photos of the condition of tank farms must be presented while renewing licence, the ministry stated. — TWA/MKKS

NATIONAL

Union Minister at Union Government Office (2) attends International High-Level Conference “Eurasian Security: Reality and Prospects in a Transforming World”

The International High-Level Conference “Eurasian Security: Reality and Prospects in a Transforming World” was held in Minsk City, Belarus on 26-27 October 2023, attended by U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister at the Union Government Office (2) together with the foreign ministers from Belarus, Russia and Hungary, deputy foreign ministers from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Iran, heads of 34 embassies based in Minsk and representatives from seven international organizations such as the UN, CSTO, SCO, EEC, CIS, EAEU and ICRC.

Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko sent a greeting message to the participants and guests of the conference, saying that armed conflicts should be resolved through prevention and protection by good-hearted people in all countries. To maintain stability and sustainable development guarantees through peaceful means; to resolve the differences of opinion that arise through diplomatic means; Confrontations he emphasized that efforts must be made to reduce the level of aggression and hatred.

The participants of the conference mainly discussed the

global and regional geopolitical necessities for the security of the Eurasian region and the issues of interaction between the countries and regional organizations in the Eurasian region.

In the Union Minister’s statement, the Union Minister emphasized the necessity of a global security framework anchored in multilateralism. Stressing Myanmar’s unwavering dedication to peace and security, the Union Minister highlighted the transformative shifts characterizing today’s international relations. Emphasizing the vital role of dialogue and collaboration between nations, he expressed concern over deepening global conflicts. Acknowledging the significance of organizations like the SCO and CSTO in crisis resolution, Myanmar reasserted its commitment to principles of sovereignty, non-interference, and mutual respect in international relations. The Union Minister underscored Myanmar’s readiness to collaborate with regional and international partners to foster a secure, prosperous, and harmonious Eurasian region. Encouraging joint efforts for peace and prosperity, he urged the diverse Eurasian populace to unite in shaping a future defined by tranquility and



The International High-Level Conference “Eurasian Security: Reality and Prospects in a Transforming World” in progress in Minsk city of Belarus on 26 and 27 October 2023.

economic well-being.

Holding this conference was proposed by Alexander Lukashenko, the President of Belarus at the CSTO summit held in Yerevan on November 2022 and Belarus currently chairs the CSTO under the theme “For peace and security through unity and cooperation”.

The Union Minister visited at

the Consulate General of Myanmar in Minsk on 25 October in the evening and met with Consulate General staff, family members and the representatives of the trainees studying in Belarus.

Then, the Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing visited National Library of Belarus and Belarus State Museum of the History of

the Great Patriotic War where they were welcomed by the officials concerned.

The Myanmar delegation left Minsk at 2130 local time on 27 October and arrived back at TadaU International Airport, Mandalay on 29 October in the morning when they were welcomed back by officials from Ministry at Union Government Office. — MNA

Illegal timbers, foodstuffs, medications and vehicles confiscated

THE unregistered vehicle seizure team of No 2 Traffic Police Branch under the management of the Yangon Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force made inspections on 25 October and captured an unregistered Honda fit (approximately K5 million) in Dagon Myothit (East) township and an unregistered Toyota Mark II (estimated value of K5 million) in North Okkalapa township. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

On 26 October, the on-duty teams seized an unregistered Toyota Caldina (approximately K12 million) in Zabuthiri township and medications — 1,280 boxes of Timmus 1 and 10,545 boxes of Lodipam 5—worth K21,581,175 without Import



Officials seized illegal timber in Pyay District on 27 October.

Licence from luggage at the Yangon International Airport (Import Desk). The action was taken under the Export and Import Law and Customs pro-

cedures.

The combined teams made inspections on 27 October and impounded a Fuso truck (estimated value of K28 million)

carrying six kinds of goods worth K2.207 million including 108 bottles of Grand Royal whisky (black) without official documents in Dawei township, a total of 6.088 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K913,260 in Bokpyin township and a Mitsubishi Fuso truck and a Hino Profia truck (estimated value of K100 million), headed to Dawei from Malamyine, carrying five kinds of goods worth K9.641 million including 50 cartons of peanut oil (Two Shrimps) and 20 cartons of Rod snack without official documents at the Eainshaypyin checkpoint in Dawei township. The action was taken under the Excise Law, the Forest Law and Customs procedures.

On the same day, the combined teams nabbed 2,500 vises

of areca nut that were smuggled and carried in four boats in Maungtaung township, a total of 4.540 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K480,852 in Thandwe district, 2.597 tonnes of illegal teaks and 2.655 tonnes of illegal hardwoods worth K3,041,752 in Bago district, 1.704 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K132,762 in Toungoo district and 65.539 tonnes of illegal teaks worth K45,896,268 in Pyay district. The action was taken under Customs procedures and the Forest Law.

A total of 15 arrests were made on 26 and 27 October, with an estimated value of K248,894,069, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/ MKKS

NATIONAL

Contestants show off brilliant fine arts skills and talent in Performing Arts Competition



At the marionette troupe competition of Sagaing Region.

THE 24th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition continued for the sixth day at relevant venues in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The singing contest under the title of national prestige and integrity took place at Singing Room of MICC-II with participants in the higher education men's event and the women's amateur (second class) level. The ethnic traditional/folkdance (open) dancing contest was also held at Plenary Hall of MICC-II.

Moreover, contestants took part in the song-composing amateur level (second class), the men's and women's amateur level (first class), basic and higher education boys' and girls' Donmin



Bago Region team competes in Mahawthada drama at the training theatre of Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture in Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



contests at News Briefing Hall. In the orchestra solo contest, contestants from regions and states, boys and girls from basic education level showed off their brilliant skills. Similarly, the xylophone contest, narration of religious or historical stories, marionette troupe and drama contests also took place at relevant venues. The competitions were enjoyed by members of the State Administration Council, Union-level officials, deputy ministers, ethnic affairs and social affairs ministers from regions and states, advocate-generals and departmental personnel as well as people. During the competition period, medics provide health-care services to contestants and audiences. — MNA/TTA



Contestant from Chin State seen at the first-class amateur (men's) xylophone competition.



Contestant from Mandalay Region competes in the first-class amateur narration of stories competition.



Contestant from Yangon Region competes in the second-class amateur Myanmar orchestra solo competition.

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Kyukok garlic price surges hard

CHINESE potatoes and Kyukok garlic in stock at the Bay-intnaung Market have been sold at an increased price because the next batches of them cannot travel through the border route since the morning of 27 October. The wholesale price of Kyukok garlic and Chinese potatoes rose to over K1,000 and K500 per viss, respectively on 28 October, Ko Thein, a dealer on the Yaytama Road, told the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

It is known that most brokerage houses and truck terminals will run as usual on 28 and 30 October when the Bay-intnaung Depot will be closed.

The nature of the market, when there are some processes to increase the price rate, it is seen that the price of the goods

that are not easy to access from the entrance roads are likely to rise up in the domestic market.

The price of goods that are not easy to ship tends to be pushed up in the domestic market when some events increase the price rate.

On 26 October, the wholesale rate of a viss of Kyukok garlic was K7,700-K7,800, but on 27 October, the price rose to K8,000-K8,200 per viss and K8,500 per viss in the evening.

On the morning of 28 October, the wholesale price of garlic rose to K9,000-K9,150 at the wholesale depot. As for Shan garlic, the wholesale price of a viss still stood at K8,400-K9,800.

Although the Chinese potato price in wholesale was

K1,700-K1,750 per viss on 26 October, it went up to K1,800 per viss on the morning of 27 October, K1,900-K2,000 per viss in the evening, and K2,300 per viss on the morning of 28 October.

As a result, in the retail market in Yangon, a viss of Shan and Kyukok garlics cost around K10,000 per viss, and Chinese potatoes for around K3,000 per viss, Daw Ni Ni Win, a housewife who shopped at Mawtin Market, told the GNLM.

The prices of rice, onions, and chilli peppers in 2022 and those of black gram, pigeon peas, half of the chickpeas, sugar, and jaggery in 2023 set new records as the highest prices in the market.



Kyukok garlic being sold in the domestic market.

By the end of this year, Shan and Kyukok garlics became the commodities that set a record for the highest price, just like the commodities mentioned above. — TWA/CT

Entry of 100% investment by Myanmar citizens, foreigners made in Q2 and Q3 of 2023-2024 FY



Magway Region attracts investments of US\$220.269 million and K5,914.78 million from Myanmar citizens and foreigners during first half of this financial year.

ACCORDING to the Magway Region Investment Committee, 100 per cent of the investments of US\$220.269 million and K5,914.78 million were made by Myanmar citizens and foreigners in the period from April to September of the 2023-2024 financial year in Magway Region.

The committee approved two investments by Myanmar citizens and foreigners in the Magway Region in the first six months of the 2023-2024 financial year, according to U Tint Lwin, Chief Minister of the Magway Region.

The first investment by Myanmar nationals was approved by the Magway Region Investment Committee, and the total

investment amounted to \$1.379 million and K5,914.78 million, creating job opportunities for 74 local workers. Similarly, the Myanmar Investment Commission gave the green light to one foreign investment business worth \$218.89 million in the first six months of the 2023-2024 financial year. It generated job opportunities for 52 foreign employees and 207 local employees.

The Magway Region Investment Activities Supervisory Board conducts regular field inspections and periodic inspections of businesses in the Magway Region that are approved by the Myanmar Investment Law. — ASH/CT

Non-premium monsoon paddy varieties hit the market attracting strong demand

NON-PREMIUM monsoon paddy varieties from Bago and Ayeyawady regions are gradually flowing into the domestic market at the price of around K60,000 per bag while a bag of broken rice stands at around K48,500.

However, they are not suitable to store for a long time as they may contain some moisture, said U Kyaw, a rice merchant at the Bay-intnaung Wholesale Market yesterday.

A bag of ordinary-grade monsoon rice price in 2023 is about K20,000 more than that of late 2022. In the sec-

ond week of August 2022, a bag of low-grade rice produced by double-cropping was K34,000-K35,000 and the prices stood at K39,000-K43,000 per bag of 90-day ordinary-grade rice, K63,000-K65,000 per bag of Ayeyawady Pawsan rice and K80,000-K88,000 per bag of Shwebo Pawsan.

The price of a bag of non-premium rice has no potential to go under K60,000 this year, Ko Win, a rice wholesaler at the Bayintnaung Wholesale Market, told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

From August to October this year, a bag of non-premium rice produced by double-cropping was priced at K70,000, and the prices stood at K72,000 per bag of 90-day rice, K98,000-K100,000 per bag of Ayeyawady Pawsan, K125,000 per bag of Shwebo Pawsan, as stated on the daily rice price lists at the Wartan Commodity Depot.

In the first six months of the 2023-2024 financial year, as of 13 October, the total rice and broken rice exports were 535,508.11 tonnes, earning US\$246.114 million according to the official figures. During these six months, the average price of one tonne of rice and broken rice was \$511.6 and \$406.6.

In September 2023, one tonne of rice was priced at \$555 while one tonne of ordinary-grade rice earned around \$600 per tonne.

In the first six months of the 2022-2023 FY, one tonne of rice and broken rice were \$370.52 and \$327.26 in the export market and the prices rise by about \$141 per tonne for rice and \$79 per tonne for broken rice this year. — TWA/TH



Non-premium rice is seen being organized for sale at the market.

NATIONAL

3,600 oil lights offered to Maravijaya Buddha Image, with releasing hot-air balloons



A ceremony to light 3,600 oil lamps dedicating to the Lord Buddha took place on the platform of Maravijaya Buddha Image on the evening of Thadingyut full moon yesterday.

Organized by Nay Pyi Taw Council, Nay Pyi Taw Council chair U Than Tun Oo and wife, council members and officials together with pilgrims lit oil lights and released hot-air balloons.

Significant monuments at the precinct of Maravijaya Buddha Image were packed with pilgrims and people to enjoy ceremonies of offering oil lights and releasing hot-air balloons. — Tun Tun Win (IPRD)/TTA

People preparing to release hot-air balloons in precinct of Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Religious monuments crowded with visitors, devotees in Nay Pyi Taw

On Abhidhamma Day which falls on the full moon day of Thadingyut, capital dwellers made offerings dedicating to the Lord Buddha at the pagodas in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. Additionally, individuals seeking leisure opportunities visit recrea-

tional areas, and shopping malls become bustling the shoppers. The 15th Abhidhamma Day on full moon of Thadingyut and the 154th Pathana Recitation took place at the Uppatasanti Pagoda. Pagodas and stupas located



Religious monuments crowded with people from all corners of the nation on full moon of Thadingyut in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



Pilgrims visiting eminent pagodas in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area such as Thatta Tattaha Maha Bawdi Pagoda (Bodh Gaya-Nay Pyi Taw), Mahathakyayanthi standing Buddha image, Yanaungmyin Shwelathla pagoda, Dartusaya Datpaungsu pagoda, Perpetual Peace Pagoda, Hlaykhwintaung pagoda, Koenawin pagoda, Lawkamarazein

pagoda, Samsara Nyein Aye pagoda, and so on and monasteries across the capital were thronged with those from religious associations, local residents, and employee families. Activities include fasting, offering prayers, presenting gold foils, donating food to monks and performing meritorious deeds since yester-

day morning.

In the evening, candle light offerings were conducted at these religious monuments.

Likewise, shopping centres and park, the zoo, and the Nay Pyi Taw National Monument Park attracted crowds of people seeking relaxation. — MNA/KZW

Famous pagodas in Yangon Region packed with pilgrims on Abhidhamma Day

PAGODAS in Yangon including the Shwedagon pagoda were significantly packed with pilgrims yesterday, which is the full moon day of Thadingyut and the Abhidhamma Day, with Yangon Region's Chief Minister U Soe Thein and ministers participated in the rituals at the Shwedagon pagoda.

The events organized by the Board of Trustees of Shwedagon Pagoda at designated locations of the pagoda included alms donation, food charity by well-wishers, receiving precepts from the monks, recitation of prayers, the Abhidhamma Day ceremony and Buddha Pujaniya festivals. At night, worshipers under the supervision of the Board of Trustees illuminated 11,000 oil lamps at the designated places across the entire pagoda square. The similar events went to the Maha Wizaya Pagoda, where 11,000 oil lamps were lit.

Similarly, at the ceremony of the full moon day of Thadingyut and the Abhidhamma Day held by the Trustees of the Kaba Aye pagoda, the pilgrims received the nine precepts from



Shwedagon Pagoda. PHOTOS: ZAW LATT



Botahtaung Kyaikdaup Pagoda.



Congregation takes precepts at Shwedagon Pagoda.



Pilgrims visit Shwedagon Pagoda on Abhidhamma Day yesterday.

venerable Sayadaws. At night, 6,500 oil lamps were lit by the worshipers in dedication to the Lord Buddha. The Botahtaung Kyaikdaup Pagoda had similar events and worshippers illuminated 9,000 oil lamps. Eminent pagodas were also alive with pilgrims offering alms, water, flowers, oil lamps to the Buddha images and stupas as well as receiving precepts from the monks, with some reciting Abhidhamma prayers at pagoda squares. — Ko Ko Zaw (MNA)/TH

Lighting festival marks Thadingyut festival in Mandalay

PEOPLE joyfully celebrate the lighting festival to mark the full moon day event of Thadingyut (Abhidhamma Day) in Mandalay yesterday evening.

They also donated robes, flowers, water and candles dedicated to the Buddha images in Mandalay city during the event.

The visitors also practised meditation at famous pagodas including Shwekyeemyin, Kyauktawgyi, Kuthodaw and Candamuni pagodas.

People also flocked to these pagodas and enjoyed the Thadingyut lighting festival.

The food donation events, amusement programmes, and 5,000 candles lighting ceremony were also launched at eastern side of Mandalay City Wall, Yadanabon Garden on 66th street between 12th × 26th streets.

Some people also made lighting events at home across the country and paid respect to the elders to mark the Thadingyut event. — Maung Aye Chan/KZL



Residents enjoying lighting festival on fullmoon of Thadingyut yesterday.

Promoting a Green Economy for National Prosperity

The concept of green investment is gaining momentum worldwide, with a growing focus on fostering sustainability and environmental conservation in economic activities, especially within the thriving tourism industry. The green economy represents a multifaceted approach to enhancing the natural environment, promoting sustainable practices, and bolstering a nation's economic growth. It can have a profound impact on both economic development and the preservation of a country's natural resources.

The tourism industry, a sector encompassing hotels and various tourism services, is a key player in the green economy. It spans various domains, including accommodation, hospitality, healthcare,

Balancing the equation between opportunities and hurdles is crucial. To fully embrace the green economy, both the government and the populace must prioritize renewable energy, the development of green infrastructure, preparedness for natural disasters, resilience against unforeseen obstacles, and the prevention of destructive activities by unscrupulous individuals, all while nurturing investments and human resources.

infrastructure.

According to the World Tourism Council's report, the global tourism industry made a substantial contribution of 7.6 per cent to the world's GDP in 2022, generating employment for 295 million people, which accounts for nine per cent of the global workforce. In Myanmar, the tourism sector directly contributed K2,448 billion, equivalent to 2.1 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product in 2022. Therefore, the imperative is for all to participate in advancing peace and stability within the nation and fostering the growth of the tourism sector.

Myanmar is bestowed with unparalleled natural beauty, from majestic mountains and winding rivers to lush forests, serene lakes, and picturesque landscapes. The country's allure lies in its rich cultural heritage, the customs and traditions of its ethnic communities, vibrant forests, captivating waterfalls, snow-capped mountains, diverse wildlife, ecosystem conservation efforts, migratory bird sanctuaries, pristine beaches, and magnificent architectural wonders.

While the promise of a green economy is substantial, Myanmar must confront its share of challenges. Balancing the equation between opportunities and hurdles is crucial. To fully embrace the green economy, both the government and the populace must prioritize renewable energy, the development of green infrastructure, preparedness for natural disasters, resilience against unforeseen obstacles, and the prevention of destructive activities by unscrupulous individuals, all while nurturing investments and human resources. The collective effort of the nation is vital to traverse the path towards a sustainable green economy and the continued growth of the tourism industry under the guidance of the government.

Food Safety

By Chit Ko Pe

Food safety is a universal concern that affects everyone, regardless of their location, economic status, or development level.

As Myanmar saying goes: “A morsel of unsuitable food leads to a peril as does an imprudent footstep of outing.”

It is a gentle reminder to us to avoid any hazard that may arise from inattentive food consumption or travel jaunt. A special focus in this article is zoomed in on food to imply the commemoration of World Food Day, 16 October 2023.

Without food, we cannot survive. With improper or unhygienic food too, our health is at stake on the other hand. What matters most is food hygiene or food safety as we eat to live. Yes, we eat to live and need to be mindful of food safety.

Food safety has no boundaries. When it is compromised, no region is reserved – locally or overseas, well developed or least developed, rich or poor. Irrespective of status, the same fate is to be faced. It is food poisoning.

In November last year, there was a food poisoning case at a primary school in Thakayta township in Yangon that saw 48 children hospitalized. They had symptoms such as fever, nausea, diarrhoea and vomiting after eating fried vermicelli sold at a school food stall.

Not long ago on 3rd September this year, there was a food poisoning case at a wedding lunch reception at a renowned hotel in Singapore whereby a total of 30 people developed gastroenteritis

symptoms after consuming food there. None of them was though hospitalized. Consumers from all walks of life are equally protected when food safety is well-followed and practised.

Food Contamination

Food safety is all about the preventive control measures to do away with food contamination.

There are three sources of food contamination: (1) Physical Contamination, (2) Chemical Contamination, and (3) Biological Contamination.

(1) Physical Contamination: Food contains some foreign substances such as stalks, garbage, plastic, dust, soil, stone and metal.

(2) Chemical Contamination: When food is manufactured, some chemical agents are necessarily used in the process. They are substances, detergents, contaminants, disinfectants, etc.

(3) Biological Contamination: Unless handled properly, food is polluted with bacteria, fungi, viruses, mildew, mice and insects.

Physical, chemical or biological agents can directly cause contamination in food. Another form of indirect contamination called cross-contamination is the transmission of harmful agents from other sources to foodstuffs. For example, when the same knife is used for chopping raw meat and cutting bread, it encourages the

harmful agents – microorganisms, to cross over from raw meat to the bread.

Therefore, it is of paramount importance to find out the sources of food contamination. They can be either raw materials or stages of action such as transporting, storing, processing, packaging, distributing and consuming. Food contamination occurs and can be tracked along the food management chain. Raw materials may have been produced from contaminated soil and/or contaminated water.

Optimum temperature and time may not have been maintained when transporting or storing the raw or manufactured food. Personal hygiene or workplace hygiene may have been lacking when processing, packaging, distributing or consuming the food. These factors support the likelihood of food contamination.

Personal Hygiene

As personal hygiene plays a crucial role in preventing contamination or cross-contamination, the cooks or chefs should pay careful attention to –

- Personal cleanliness: taking a shower each day, washing their hands after using the toilet or touching garbage or contaminated materials, keeping nails neat, wearing aprons/work clothes/hats/hand gloves during work, avoid-

ing wearing pieces of jewellery – bracelets or rings that may fall into the food; and

- Personal health: no respiratory infections, no gastrointestinal disturbances, no physical illnesses or wounds such as cuts, burns, boils and skin rashes.

Workplace Hygiene

At the same time, the kitchen or the food processing area should be kept hygienic at all times –

- All utensils, tools, equipment, sinks, countertops and other surfaces in the kitchen should be well cleanable and disinfection-compatible;
- The waste disposal system should also be capable of collecting and storing the amount of waste before being disposed of;

- Sufficient temperature, ventilation and light should be provided; and

- The social facilities and toilets at the workplace should be separate from the food processing areas.

2-hour / 4-hour Rule

When serving the food, there is a two-hour/four-hour rule to be simply followed. It is the cumulative time starting from the time the food is taken out of the fridge, through preparation, storage, transport and display to the time the food is consumed, whereby food is safely held between 5°C and



Food scientists are professionals who specialize in studying and implementing measures to enhance food safety, develop new food products, and improve food production processes. ILLUSTRATION: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/FREEPIK

60°C. If the total time is:

- less than two hours, the food can be consumed or put back in the refrigerator;
- between two and four hours, the food can be consumed, but can't be put back in the refrigerator; and
- four hours or longer, the food becomes improper and must not be consumed.

Food Poisoning Symptoms

The symptoms can differ depending on the source of the infection. The symptoms of common cases of food poisoning include abdominal cramps, diarrhoea, nau-

sea, vomiting, loss of appetite, mild fever, weakness and headache. Some food poisoning symptoms that threaten the potential loss of life consist of diarrhoea that lasts for more than three days, a fever higher than 102°F (38.9°C), difficulty in seeing or speaking, severe dehydration and bloody urine. The victims with such acute symptoms should seek immediate medical treatment at a hospital. The symptoms may last as short as 30 minutes or as long as one week or more.

Food Poisoning Treatments

It can be treated at home un-

less it is critical. First of all, the victims should remain hydrated. Sports drinks such as electrolytes are effective and helpful. It is for the victims to restore carbohydrates. Fruit juices, coconut drinks and decaffeinated teas with soothing herbs are also workable to this effect. However, caffeine and alcoholic drinks should be avoided so as not to irritate the digestive tract.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), about 600 million people in the world suffer food poisoning every year with a death toll of 420,000. In addition, a new World Bank study points out that about US\$110 billion is

incurred in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMIC) due to the lost productivity and medical expenses each year as a result of unsafe food.

We, global citizens, shall join hand in hand with each other to improve food safety by taking preventative measures. We shall not sit on laurels of what is acquired with mere law compliance. It is suggested to raise the bar of food safety culture with proactive action to achieve multiple sustainable development goals.

We eat to live. Yes, we deserve to eat safe food to make a living!

■

Simple blood test may aid in diagnosis of bipolar illness: Study

The blood test can identify up to 30% of individuals with bipolar disorder on its own, but it becomes even more accurate when combined with a computerized mental health assessment.

A simple blood test to discover biomarkers associated with bipolar disorder has been developed by researchers as a fresh way for better diagnosing the condition.

The University of Cambridge researchers utilised an online psychiatric

examination and a blood test to diagnose people with bipolar disorder, many of whom had previously been misdiagnosed with major depressive disorder.

According to the researchers, the blood test may diagnose up to 30 per cent of individuals with bipolar illness on its

own, but it is even more successful when paired with a computerised mental health assessment.

Biomarker Testing

Biomarker testing could aid physicians in distinguishing between major

depressive illness and bipolar disorder, which have overlapping symptoms but require separate pharmaceutical treatments.

Although the blood test is still in its early stages, the researchers believe it might be a useful supplement to current psychiatric diagnoses and help researchers understand the molecular basis of mental health issues. The findings were published in the journal JAMA Psychiatry.

“People with bipolar disorder will experience periods of low mood and periods of very high mood or mania,” said first author Dr Jakub Tomasik, from Cambridge's Department of Chemical

Engineering and Biotechnology. “But patients will often only see a doctor when they're experiencing low mood, which is why bipolar disorder frequently gets misdiagnosed as major depressive disorder.”

“When someone with bipolar disorder is experiencing a period of low mood, to a physician, it can look very similar to someone with major depressive disorder,” said Professor Sabine Bahn, who led the research.

“However, the two conditions need to be treated differently: if someone with bipolar disorder is prescribed antidepressants without the addition of a mood stabiliser, it can trigger a manic episode.”

SOURCE: ANI



While the blood test is in its early stages, it has the potential to complement existing psychiatric diagnoses and contribute to a better understanding of the molecular aspects of mental health. ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY

NATIONAL



The photo shows those who fell into the water when U Bein Bridge collapsed.

23 visitors plunge into water in broken U Bein Bridge, resulting in injuries

ACCORDING to the report of the Fire Brigade, a total of 23 visitors fell into the water and sustained minor injuries when the U Bein Bridge in Taungthaman village of Amarapura Township collapsed. The U Bein Bridge in Taungthaman village collapsed because it couldn't bear the weight of the visitors at around 2:10 pm on 29 October. "Two spans of the bridge were broken on the eastern side, causing those in that section falling into the water. This incident occurred on a day with many visitors. Various relevant and social organizations carried out rescue measures," U Tun Hla from Sagaing, a bridge visitor told to the GNLM. Members of the Amarapura Township Fire Station and other related organizations rushed to the scene for providing assistance. As a result of the incident, 15 male and eight female visitors fell into the water and received injuries (not serious). — TWA/KZW

Notifying Myanmar employees of taking seal at border gates on their return home

MYANMAR workers who are employed in Thailand under the MoU system will require taking the necessary seals at the relevant border gates between Myanmar and Thailand if they return their home at the end of the contract period, as per a press release issued by the Myanmar embassy to Thailand. When crossing the Myanmar through the border stations of the two countries, the immigration teams from both countries seal exit/entry marks and conduct rejects on the passports. Some Myanmar workers who did not re-enter through the border gates or camps will be included on the over-stay list of the Immigration Department in Thailand. As for these Myanmar workers, when they re-enter Thailand under the MoU system, if they are found as over-staying their residence permit during the inspection by the border gate immigration team of Thailand, they need to pay a fine. Reportedly, they are currently facing entry restrictions. Hence, MoU workers have been instructed to return to Myanmar through designated border gates/stations after their term expires and to obtain an exit seal from Thailand on their passports. — TWA/KZW



The photo shows Myanmar workers arriving at workplaces in Thailand under the 2022 MoU system.

Passengers on domestic flights required to complete departure/arrival forms

STARTING from 1 November, Yangon International Airport has issued a press release stating that passengers on domestic flights must complete arrival and departure forms. Passengers who will fly between Yangon and Mandalay are informed that they will need to fill in arrival and departure cards. According to regulations, passengers flying from Yangon to Mandalay are required to fill out a departure card, while those arriving from Mandalay to Yangon must complete an arrival card. Additionally, passengers are advised to carry their citizenship scrutiny card



Passengers seen in the airport lounge at Yangon International Airport.

and ensure their travel documents are valid for a seamless domestic flight experience. Passengers are grateful for their cooperation on the new system of domestic flight regulations and can also contact the respective airlines for detailed information. — TWA/KZW

Special EPS-TOPIK winners to submit job applications from November

THOSE who have passed the Korean Language Proficiency Test: Special EPS-TOPIK can submit job applications starting from November, according to a statement from the Public Overseas Employment Agency-POEA-EPS. Those who pass the Special EPS-TOPIK and health test will be processed for employment at the Public Overseas Employment Agency in Dagon Myothit (North) Township in November. The government overseas employment agency-POEA has notified in advance to submit the job application on time and to pay special attention to health. Special EPS-Topik was conducted from 4 to 20 October and out of 1,697 candidates, 1,495 passed the exam. The Korean Language Proficiency Test is specially designed for ex-employees who have worked in South Korea for three years or more and are returning to Myanmar. — TWA/KZL

NATIONAL

Rakhine ethnic singers to join fundraising concert on 5 November



A fundraising concert for Mocha-affected Rakhine State will be organized by We Love Rakhine Group from 6 pm to 9 pm on 5 November at The Heart of Rangoon-THOR Bar in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, according to singer Yadana Mai.

The Rakhine ethnic singers will participate in the concert and will make donations to rehabilitation process of Cyclone Mocha-affected Rakhine State.

"This is an encouraging event that will involve in the rehabilitation works of Mocha-affected victims after the Mocha period in Rakhine State. It's an event to honour the generosity of donors and held with a good purpose," said singer Yadana Mai.

The Rakhine ethnic star singers — Myat Khaing Kyaw, Win Ko Khaing, Nyi Min Khaing, Yadana Mai, Wai Gyi and Mi Chaw — will perform at the fundraising concert, and the tickets will be set at K40,000. — ASH/MKKS



Aphaychan resort attracts travellers for enjoying scenic beauties in Kalaw Township.

Kalaw introduces new resort to visitors, photography enthusiasts

APHAYCHAN resort and nursery located at the foot of Manawhla Hill was formally inaugurated in Kalaw Township of southern Shan State on 28 October 2023 for the travellers to enjoy this picturesque destination, enjoy breathtaking scenery and capture beautiful photographs, according to Aphaychan resort owner U Aung Hlaing Htoo. Covering 30 acres of land plot, the resort decorates itself with a coffee farm and over 100 species of local and foreign flowery plants. Additionally, a restaurant has also been established on the campus.

"The entrance fee to the resort is just K1,000 per person and allowing vacationers to explore the resort, join in the mountain's brilliant scenes and taste foods at the on-site restaurant.

"This Manawhla mountain of Kalaw is renowned for its scenic beauty, with numerous yards, like Aphaychan resort, offering fantastic photo opportunities. Nevertheless, the resort is the exclusive location for strawberry cultivation among these yards. The resort provides a beautiful setting for photography enthusiasts with Ozi Hill and Manawhla Hill in the backgrounds and those seeking relaxation," said U Aung Hlaing Htoo.

Currently, the foot of Manawhla mountain in Kalaw Township is established some 20 recreation parks and resorts where visitors can enjoy the beautiful sunrise and sunset views while capturing memorable photos. — ASH/KZL

Miss Kyi Phyu Khin to vie for Miss CosmoWorld 2023 Crown in November

MISS Kyi Phyu Khin representing Myanmar and misses from around 30 countries will compete in the Miss CosmoWorld 2023 from 15 to 29 November in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

"I have make detail preparations for competition. I have applied for visa and arranged dressing. I prepare to show off Myanmar crafts and arts to the world," she explained.

She serves as an environmental consultant, freelance MC, and vice president of the 2023-2024 Rotaract Club of Central Yangon which is a global organization of Central Yangon, while actively participate in social welfare work.

She had competed in the Miss Universe Myanmar 2023, representing Pyinmana. — ASH/KZW



Digital & Learning Platform Committee of MYANWEN to host cyber security awareness seminar



THE Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Network (MYANWEN) will host a cyber security awareness seminar at the Awei Metta Hotel in Yangon Region,

according to the Digital & Learning Platform Committee.

The discussion scheduled for 31 October 2023 will offer online participation for those who prefer to join the seminar.

In the current digital era, the importance of cyber security for both businesses and individuals has grown significantly.

In celebration of cyber security Awareness month, a seminar is being organized to raise awareness of the people.

The cyber security awareness seminar was organized by the Digital & Learning Platform Committee of the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Network (MYANWEN) with the sponsorship of the Myanmar Digital Economy Association (MDEA), Yoma Bank and Wave Money. — ASH/KZW

COVID-19 report, 29 October 2023	
NEW TESTS	1,938
NEW CASE	NIL
CASUALTIES	NIL

ECONOMY
WORLD

G7 agrees to bolster supply chains with trusted partners



Japanese Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura (front, L) and Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa (front, R) attend the first day of a two-day meeting of trade ministers of the Group of Seven countries in Osaka on 28 October 2023. PHOTO: KYODO

THE Group of Seven economies agreed Saturday to create resilient supply chains of crucial minerals such as rare earth elements used in electric vehicles with trusted partners, Japan's Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura said.

Nishimura, co-chair of the two-day G7 meeting among trade ministers in Osaka Prefecture, disclosed the agreement after an opening day outreach session, in which emerging and devel-

oping countries were invited for discussions for the first time within the ministerial framework.

The G7 ministers aim to boost cooperation with resource-rich nations, including those within the so-called Global South, as the role they play in building stable supply chains is seen as increasingly crucial in the recent geopolitical environment.

India, the chair of the Group of 20 gatherings this year, and Australia, Chile, In-

donesia and Kenya, as well as international bodies such as the World Trade Organization, took part in the session with the G7 members — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States, plus the European Union.

Nishimura and Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa, a co-chair of the latest G7 ministerial talks, are expected to release a joint statement on the outcome of the meeting on Sunday. — Kyodo

Türkiye delivers new rate hike as inflation outlook deteriorates

TÜRKIYE'S central bank on Thursday delivered a fresh interest rate hike of 500 basis points to 35 percent, the fifth in a row since June, as analysts expect the country's inflation outlook to deteriorate in the coming period.

The move comes as the country grapples with high inflation and the weakening Turkish lira. The central bank's monetary policy committee said in a statement that it decided to continue the monetary tightening process in order to establish the disinflation course as soon as possible, and "geopolitical developments have posed risks to the inflation outlook."

"This hike is in line with expectations," Senol Babuscu, a finance professor from Ankara's Baskent University, told Xinhua.

He said Türkiye's inflation

outlook for the year-end and 2024 has worsened, considering this rate increase a measure to tame the persistent inflation.

The analyst also stressed that the central bank's monetary tightening process "is coming to an end" this year with possibly one more interest hike in November. Mahfi Egilmez, a former undersecretary of the Treasury, hailed the hike as a rational move by the central bank while stressing that monetary tightening "should be accompanied by structural reforms" to strengthen the economy.

Despite a U-turn in monetary policy following the general elections in May, Turkish inflation has seen a resurgence over the past three months, standing at 61.53 per cent in September. — Xinhua



People withdraw money from an ATM machine in Ankara, Türkiye, on 26 October 2023. PHOTO: MUSTAFA KAYA/XINHUA

Can factory chicken really help save the climate?

According to the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), chicken has the smallest carbon footprint of any meat, producing less than half the CO2 of pork and only 30 times less than beef.

STEPHANE Dahirel doesn't exactly say eat chicken and save the planet, but that is what he's hinting at as he opens a shed door on his intensive farm in Brittany, western France.

The 30,000 chickens inside will more than triple in size in less than a month and their meat will have a low carbon footprint.

"The objective is to produce the best meat possible, in the least amount of time,

with the least amount of food," Dahirel said.

The two million snow-white chickens he produces every year — bred mostly for McDonald's nuggets — will reach their slaughter weight in less than half the time it takes on a traditional farm.

At 20 days they already weigh one kilo (two pounds) — 20 times heavier than at birth. By the time they are slaughtered at 45 days, they will weigh over three kilos.



The chickens on the intensive farm are bred mostly for McDonald's nuggets. PHOTO: DAMIEN MEYER/AFP

Chicken has the smallest carbon footprint of any meat, according to the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), less than half the two kilos of CO2 produced for a kilo of pork, and 30 times less than that of beef.

While cows produce a lot of planet-warming methane, chickens emit very little. As much, in fact, as rice, the FAO says, or even less if they are intensively farmed. — AFP

Cheeses face the heat at Raclette World Championships

The competition features nearly 90 cheeses from small-scale producers, taking place in Morgins, a village in Wallis, the region known as the home of raclette.

UP in the Swiss Alps, the air hangs thick with the funk of hot cheese as the planet’s best melt away the competition at the inaugural Raclette World Championships.

The Swiss native dish dates back centuries to a time when mountain herdsman would heat their cheese on an open fire and scrape off the melted part to keep them going.

But never before have producers, experts and restaurateurs come together under one roof to determine which cheeses make the world’s finest raclette.

Nearly 90 cheeses were being put to the test this weekend in Morgins, a village in Wallis — the southwestern region considered the home of raclette.

“All these guys are small-scale producers who go up into the mountain pastures with their cows at the start of summer,” said the event’s founder Henri-Pierre Galletti.

“It’s a way of validating their work, which is a hard job but a truly beautiful one,” he told AFP.

Morgins — more than 1,300 metres up in a wooded valley before the Alpine pass reaches France — welcomed thousands of raclette enthusiasts to witness the three-day contest, which culminates on Sunday with the winners crowned as champions.

Smooth and creamy

In the village hall’s kitchen, cheese half-wheels are grilled under electric raclette heaters. The grilling can take from 30 seconds



The Swiss native dish dates back centuries to a time when mountain herdsman would heat their cheese on an open fire. **PHOTO: VALENTIN FLAURAUD/AFP**

onds upwards, depending on the cheese.

The cooking is done by eye,

with a feel for how each cheese melts. Once it bubbles up — but just before it starts to brown —

the melted cheese is scraped onto the plate, then whisked out to jurors. — AFP

Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance to offer AI security camera service



Photo taken on 1 August 2023, shows the headquarters of Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPANESE insurance giant Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co. will begin offering next month

an industry-first security service that pairs cameras and artificial intelligence to detect possible home intruders, according to people familiar with the matter.

The plan comes as the firm seeks to expand from its mainstay property insurance business and move into smart home services.

With Japan’s insurance market expected to decline in line with the shrinking population, the firm intends to diversify its revenue sources and expects demand for home security services to grow, the sources said.

The company plans to set monthly fees for the service

at 2,980 yen (\$20), below what providers of conventional home security services charge. The lower fees are made possible by not dispatching a security guard in the event of a disturbance as major residential security service firms do, they said.

Initial costs will be around 100,000 yen per unit, which will include the camera and installation costs.

The AI security camera will be able to identify humans, animals and vehicles and notify users of possible disturbances via their smartphones. Users can talk to a person near the camera via a built-in speaker or trigger a siren. — Kyodo

Kazakhstan mourns for 42 dead in ArcelorMittal mine disaster

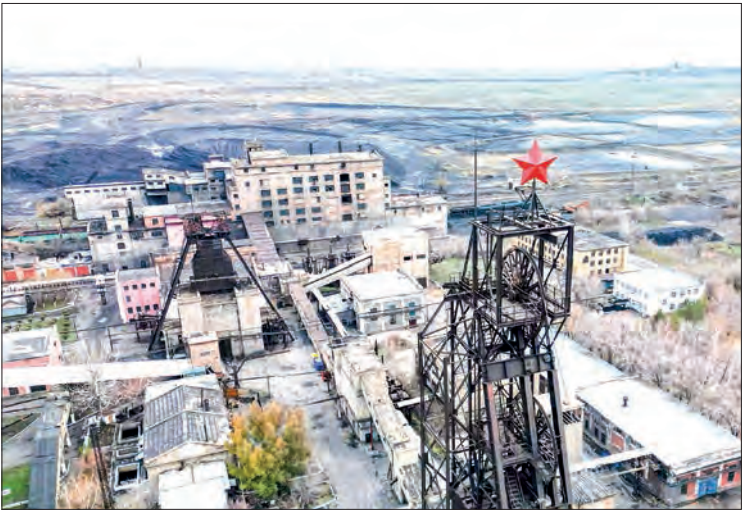
KAZAKHSTAN held nationwide mourning on Sunday after 42 people died in a blaze at an ArcelorMittal mine, the worst accident in the Central Asian country’s post-Soviet history.

The tragedy, which struck at the Kostenko coal mine in the Karaganda region Saturday, came after a series of deadly incidents at ArcelorMittal mines and has prompted the nationalisation of the company’s local affiliate.

“As of 3 pm (0900 GMT) the bodies of 42 people were found,” Kazakhstan’s emergency services said on social media.

“The search for four miners continues.”

Rescuers earlier warned that finding the remaining miners alive were “very low”, due to the lack of ventilation and the force of Saturday’s explosion, which spread over two kilometres (1.2 miles). — AFP



ArcelorMittal’s Kostenko coal mine in Karaganda where 42 miners died in a fire. **PHOTO: STRINGER / AFP**

Stellantis, striking US auto union reach tentative deal

STELLANTIS and the striking United Auto Workers union have reached a preliminary agreement on a new labor contract, the two sides said Saturday, allowing members to go back to work at grounded factories.

The tentative deal, reached after 44 days of strike action that simultaneously targeted Detroit’s “Big Three” automakers, is similar to one struck earlier this week with Ford, the union said. “Once again, we

have achieved what just weeks ago we were told was impossible,” UAW President Shawn Fain said, adding that “we have begun to turn the tide in the war on the American working class.” — AFP

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Israel expands ground offensive in Gaza

These airstrikes are part of an intensified ground offensive in the Gaza Strip.



The Israeli military fires mortar shells toward the Gaza Strip on 28 October 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

ISRAEL is expanding its ground offensive in the Gaza Strip with intensified airstrikes, the Israeli army said Sunday.

The Israeli military said in a statement that it carried out more than 450 airstrikes, targeting sites belonging to Hamas, "including opera-

tional command centers, observation posts, and anti-tank missile launch posts".

An Israeli officer was severely injured by a mortar shell in the northern Gaza Strip, and a soldier was moderately injured while engaging with militants, the army said. The two were evacuated to a hospital in Israel to receive medical treatment.

Palestinian media reports said some of the airstrikes targeted the Shifa Hospital, Gaza's largest medical center where tens of thousands were hospitalized or seeking shelter from the Israeli bombardments.

At least 7,703 people have been killed in Gaza by the Israeli attacks, according to the Gaza-based Health Ministry.

Israel is now preparing for a massive ground operation in the Gaza Strip, as stated by Israeli leaders and senior military officials. — Xinhua

Deceased Maine shooter had mental health problems: police

POLICE in Maine said Saturday that the man who gunned down 18 people at a bar and a bowling alley and later committed suicide, suffered serious mental health issues, but was able to buy weapons legally because he had never been forcibly committed to treatment.

The body of Robert Card, a 40-year-old army reservist, was discovered Friday night inside a tractor trailer near a recycling center where he used to work, said Maine public safety commissioner Mike Sauschuck. Card had shot himself.

Investigators are still struggling to determine Card's motive for carrying out Wednesday's massacre in the town of Lewiston.

However, Sauschuck said that Card had reportedly been hearing voices and suffering from paranoia.

"Clearly there's a mental health component to this," Sauschuck told reporters.

Investigators found a "paper-style" note that Card had left to a loved one which contained a password to his phone and bank account information, Sauschuck said, adding that the note had the tone of a suicide letter.

Card was found in possession of three weapons, one of them a long gun, all purchased legally because he had never been forcibly committed to a mental institution.

Despite the apparently clear mental health issues and a reportedly recent psychiatric evaluation undergone by Card, "a background check is not going to ping that this individual was prohibited," Sauschuck added. — AFP



A sign reading "Lewiston Strong" is seen in Lewiston, Maine, after a mass shooting at a bowling alley and bar left 18 people dead. **PHOTO: ANGELA WEISS/AFP**

1.5C goal on the line as countries gear up for key climate talks

Ministers will convene next week in the United Arab Emirates to address critical issues, such as the role of fossil fuels and financial support for nations most affected by climate change.

FACING record-shattering temperatures and a geopolitical tinderbox, countries are scrambling to lay the groundwork for crucial UN climate talks next month tasked with salvaging global warming goals laid out in the landmark Paris deal.

Ministers meet next week in the United Arab Emirates to grapple with flashpoint issues, including the future of fossil fuels and financial solidarity between rich polluters and nations most vulnerable to the devastating impacts of climate change.

World leaders meeting in Dubai for the COP28 summit between 30 November and 12 December will also have to respond to a damning progress report on the world's commitments under the Paris Agreement. — AFP



Participants to the UAE Climate Tech Forum in Abu Dhabi are shown in this picture taken on 10 May 2023. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Republican Mike Pence withdraws from US presidential race

FORMER vice president Mike Pence announced Saturday that he is withdrawing from the US presidential race, saying, "this is not my time."

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Republican Jewish Coalition in Las Vegas, Pence — the first major 2024 candidate to suspend his campaign, said: "It's become clear to me: this is not my time."

"After much prayer and consideration, I have decided to suspend my campaign for president."

Pence, along with most of his rivals seeking to be the Republican Party's nominee for next year's White House race, never gained momentum in a contest overwhelmingly dominated by former president Donald Trump.

The New York billionaire has over-

come scandals and two impeachments and is currently battling multiple criminal prosecutions, yet retains fervent support from the party faithful.

Pence's surprise exit marks a key moment in the campaign, underscoring the difficulty for even Trump's loyal lieutenant in overcoming his former boss in the race to see who challenges Democratic President Joe Biden. — AFP

SPORTS



Rakhine United player (white) attempts to score during the Week-18 match of the Myanmar National League 2023 against Myawady FC at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 29 October 2023. **PHOTO:MNL**

Rakhine United smash Myawady 3-2 in MNL Week-18

RAKHINE United beat Myawady United 3-2 at the Week-18 match of the Myanmar National League 2023 at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

As it was an important match for both teams, they played to their full potential and Rakhine United won by one goal. With this win, Rakhine United

moved up to the middle of the table.

Since it was an important match, both teams used star players, and Thant Zin Aung scored the lead for Myawady FC in the 11th minute of the match. However, Rakhine United equalized seven minutes later with the score of Kaung Sithu.

After the goal, Rakhine United was able to pressurize the opponents and Maung Maung Soe scored the second goal in the 21st minute and Traore translated the penalty kick into the goal in the 52nd minute.

Thaw Zin Htway added an equalizer for Myawady FC in the 78th minute, but

Rakhine United held on to win the match. Maung Maung Soe from Rakhine United won the best player award for this match. After the match, Rakhine gains 20 points as Myawady possesses 19 points.

Shan United will take on Dagon Star FC at YUSC Complex today. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Fury, who earlier this week laughed off his opponent as a "big fat sausage", afterwards acknowledged that the 37-year-old Cameroonian had effectively kept him off-balance. **PHOTO: FAYEZ NURELDINE / AFP**

Tyson Fury wins split decision against MMA fighter Ngannou

Fury, who remains undefeated, acknowledged that Ngannou, the 37-year-old Cameroonian fighter, effectively kept him off-balance during the match.

WORLD heavyweight champion Tyson Fury beat mixed martial arts fighter Francis Ngannou in a split decision after their boxing bout went the distance in Saudi Arabia on Sunday. Ngannou knocked Fury down in round three but the 35-year-old British fighter, though shaken, was able to continue. The undefeated Fury, who earlier this week laughed off his opponent as a "big fat sausage", afterwards acknowledged that the 37-year-old Cameroonian had effectively kept him off-balance.

"He's a very awkward man, and he's a good puncher and I respect him a lot," Fury said of Ngannou, adding that it was "probably my toughest fight in 10 years". Fury was the overwhelming favourite against boxing novice Ngannou. "This was my first boxing match, great experience — I'm not giving any excuse," Ngannou said in a ringside interview. "I know I come up short, I'm going to come back and work harder... now I know I can do this." Fury came out swinging in the first round with a hard right hand but sustained a cut to the forehead in the second round and looked especially sluggish after hitting the mat in the third. — AFP

Parents of Liverpool winger Luis Diaz kidnapped in Colombia

Luis Diaz, a professional football player, has been in the spotlight due to this family's abduction, with ongoing efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of his parents.

THE mother of Liverpool winger Luis Diaz was rescued from kidnappers on Saturday but a search remains ongoing for his father, Colombian President Gustavo Petro said.

Petro posted on X, formerly known as Twitter, that Diaz's mother was rescued in Barrancas, in the north of Colombia.

"We continue in the search

for the father," he added.

Colombia's attorney general's office said it had been working intensively on the case.

"From the moment the attorney general's office learned of the kidnapping of the parents of the Colombian player Luis Diaz, in the Barrancas sector of La Guajira, a specialised team of prosecutors,

police and military personnel have been working to find the location of these people, clarify the facts and find those responsible," the office said on X.

Local media reports said that Luis Manuel Diaz and Cilenis Marulanda were at a service station when armed men on motorbikes kidnapped them.— AFP



Fans of England's Liverpool football star Colombian Luis Diaz look at a mural depicting him, in Barrancas, Guajira province, Colombia, on 22 May 2022. **PHOTO: DANIEL MUNOZ / AFP/FILE**



WORLD

Thousands march for Palestinians in UK, France, Switzerland

In the UK, tens of thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters marched, urging a ceasefire, as Israel escalated its Gaza Strip assault.



About 100,000 people joined the 'March for Palestine' in London according to British media. PHOTO: HENRY NICHOLLS / AFP

TENS of thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters marched in Britain Saturday calling for a ceasefire as Israel's army

intensified its assault on the Gaza Strip. Thousands more demonstrated in France and Switzerland.

As Israel's intense strikes provided cover for its ground forces to step up fighting in Gaza, the United Nations warning

thousands more civilians could die. Israel unleashed its bombing campaign after Hamas gunmen stormed across the Gaza border on 7 October. It was the third consecutive weekend that London hosted a large rally in support of Palestinians. One marcher, Dani Nadiri, 36, said UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's call for a "humanitarian pause" in the fighting to allow aid into Gaza and hostages to leave was not enough. "A full ceasefire needs to happen," Nadiri told AFP. "It's time now to do something rather than let it escalate any further."

The demonstrators gathered at a central point by the River Thames at midday, before making their way to the UK parliament in Westminster. 'It can't go on like this' Noori Butt, from Luton in southern England, said she just wanted the war to end. "It can't go on like this. The world is dying and I want lasting peace for everybody. That's the way it should be," said the 38-year-old teacher.

About 100,000 people joined the "March for Palestine" in London according to British media, which also reported scuffles with police. — AFP

THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY
OF A FATAL
HALLOWEEN CRUSH

Families to hold mass commemoration for Seoul 2022 crush

VICTIMS' families, survivors and activists will hold a mass commemoration in Seoul on Sunday to mark the first anniversary of the deadly crush that killed nearly 160 people during Halloween festivities last year. Last Halloween, tens of thousands of people — mostly in their 20s and 30s — had been out to enjoy post-pandemic holiday celebrations in Seoul's Itaewon district, but the night turned deadly with no effective crowd control and bungled official responses to calls for help. A year on, families of the victims say they are still seeking answers to what went wrong and who was responsible for the deadly crush. — AFP

Mouse embryos grown in space for first time: Japan researchers

Astronauts on the ISS thawed the early-stage embryos using a specialized device and allowed them to grow in microgravity conditions on the station for four days.



Astronauts thaw early-stage mouse embryos as part of experiments to grow them on the International Space Station. PHOTO: JAXA/NASA / VIA KYODO

MOUSE embryos have been grown on the International Space Station and developed normally in the first study indicating it could be possible for humans to reproduce in space, a group of Japanese scientists said. The researchers, including Teruhiko Wakayama, professor of University of Yamanashi's Advanced Biotechnology Centre, and a team from the Japan Aerospace Space Agency (JAXA), sent frozen mouse embryos on board a rocket to the ISS in August 2021. Astronauts thawed the early-stage embryos using a special device designed for this purpose and grew them on the station for four days. "The embryos cultured under microgravity conditions developed" normally into blastocysts, cells that develop into the foetus and placenta, the scientists said. — AFP