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

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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International travellers at Yangon International Airport.

Foreign tourist arrivals via air soar to 880,000 in nine months

The arrival of international tourists is mainly through flights this year and when compared year on year the growth is almost five times.

From January to September 2023, more than 880,000 international tourists entered Myanmar by air, with the largest number of tourists coming from Thailand, according to U Aung Aye Han, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Hotels and Tourism.

The arrival of international tourists is mainly through flights this year and when compared to the same period last year in 2022 the growth is almost five times.

"For the entry of international tourists to Myanmar, there are ways to enter through the border entrance, by air and sea. Now, in 2023, air travel and border entry are the main entry points. Most of the tourists are from Thailand. In preparation for the upcoming tourist season, Thai and Russian tourists have also been invited to visit the country, and the number of visa-free countries with Myanmar has reached 24 countries, so more people are expected to visit Myanmar, rather than in previous years," said U Aung Aye Han.

In Myanmar, 14 destinations that can be visited by international tourists have been identified and prepared, and services will be provided by over 2,000 hotels, motels and guesthouses, over 2,000 licensed tour guides and over 500 travel companies throughout the country. — ASH/KZL

NATIONAL PAGE-2

Myanmar handicraft stores to open in Yangon shopping centres' promotion zones

BUSINESS PAGE-7

Sugar mills raise sugarcane price to K150,000/tonne for 2023-2024 season

Myawady border trade value totals US$74.643 mln in Oct

Myanmar managed trade worth US$74.643 million with Thailand through the Myawady border between 1 and 27 October 2023, comprising exports worth $17.594 million and imports worth $57.049 million.

Export items are chilli pepper, cabbage, onion, dried areca nut, black-eyed peas, black gram, dried gooseberry, crab, shrimp, minced fish, anchovy, hilsa and other fish and garment products on the CMP basis. Raw materials used in the food industry are in high demand in Thailand's market.

Meanwhile, feedstuffs, bicycles, clothes, stationery, automobile parts, construction materials, machinery, bicycle parts, electronic devices, food products, cosmetics, CMP raw materials, pharmaceuticals, footwear, various fruits, household goods, consumer goods, industrial goods, machines and equipment and fishing equipment. — TWA/KK

An aerial view of the Myawady Trade Zone in Kayin State.

NATIONAL

Myanmar handicraft stores to open in Yangon shopping centres' promotion zones

The group documentary photo of Myanmar's Arts and Crafts Association members at the Thai Myan Trade Fair held in Bangkok, Thailand, in the previous year.

MYANMAR handicraft stores will be opened to revive the market in promotion areas of shopping centres in Yangon Region, according to U Thardu, patron of Myanmar's Arts and Crafts Association.

During the COVID-19 outbreak, Myanmar's products made of timber, cane and bamboo were seriously hit, and the business restarted in 2022 but it is still struggling.

"Although our businesses was the worst situation during the COVID-19 period, it is not in good condition. It runs in its proper momentum. Last two years, Thai officials invited us to the Thai Myan Trade Fair and so we displayed Myanmar handcrafts with six booths. That was their very first fair after COVID-19 so it was not crowded with visitors. But they have a stable market and they regain their market potential. We do not stand still and we are struggling. We arrange to promote the market by opening the galleries at promotion areas of Junction Square, Junction City, Junction 8 and Myanmar Plaza in Yangon," he said.

Although there are invitations to international trade fairs to introduce Myanmar's handicrafts, the people have to consider their accommodation charges, booth rental fees and causes of low sales. — ASH/KTZH

Plan to hold 2023 inter-state/region Taekwondo competition

THE 2023 inter-state/region Taekwondo completion, conducted by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and the Myanmar Taekwondo Federation, will be held at Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium A in Nay Pyi Taw from 7 to 11 November.

A total of 15 men's teams and 15 women's teams will compete in the 2023 Inter-State and Region Taekwondo (men's and women's) competitions and those interested in Taekwondo are welcomed to enjoy the events free of charge. — MNA/MKKS

Electric vehicles arrive at Yangon Port

Officials checking new arrivals of battery electric vehicles at Yangon Port.

THE China-made Dayun Yuehu (VIP edition) EVs, the China-made MG, MG5 EVs and the China-made GAC Toyota BZ4X EVs arrived at the Yangon Port yesterday with the approval of the Steering Committee on National-Level Development of Electric Vehicles and Related Industries.

These EVs were imported by the Amazing Auto Co Ltd, the NPK Motors Co Ltd and the Innogen Myanmar Co Ltd. They were claimed by the importers today following required procedures yesterday. — MNA/MKKS

MPS to host photography talk, Tazaungdaing photo fair

THE Myanmar Photographic Society (MPS) will conduct the photography talks and Tazaungdaing Photography Fairs in November to promote photography.

The photography talk will be held once a month and the photography talk titled "Landscape Photography" will be held by U Pe Myint Oo (Hon, MPS, FMPS, ARPS) at 2 pm on 23 November.

Not only any members of MPS who are interested in the talks can join for free but also the camera and related equipment can be displayed paying K100,000 for the reception cost of the talks before the starting of talks.

In addition, the MPS's Annual Monsoon Photography Fair will be held from 25 to 27 November at the Myanmar Photographic Society Hall. The camera companies and camera-related equipment shops may join the Photography Fair and anyone is welcome to join the Fair to sell the camera and camera-related equipment.

Those who want to know more details can contact the Myanmar Photographic Society. — TWA/MKKS

COVID-19 report, 3 November 2023

NEW TESTS	NEW CASES	CASUALTIES
3,006	Four	Nil

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NATIONAL

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and congregation observe Nine Precepts from the Paukmyaing Sayadaw and members of the Sangha on 3 November in Nay Pyi Taw.

Families of Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) join 13th Kathina offering ceremony

Families of the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) held the 13th Kathina offering ceremony at Anawrahta Hall of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) yesterday morning, attended by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla who donated Kathina robes and alms.

The Senior General and wife viewed round Kathina robes and alms displayed for monasteries and paid homage to the Buddha image in the hall.

The Senior General and wife offered Kathina robes to Presiding Patron of KanU Monastery of Yezin in Zeyathiri Township Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Vilasa and Paukmyaing Monastery Presiding Patron Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Janinda.

The Senior General and wife look into Kathina robes and alms exhibited for monasteries at the event yesterday.

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe donated Kathina robes and offerings to Presiding Patron of Pali Tekkatho Mingalazeyon Monastery of Pyinmana Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Vimalabuddhi.

Senior military officers and their wives also presented Kathina robes and alms to members of the Sangha.

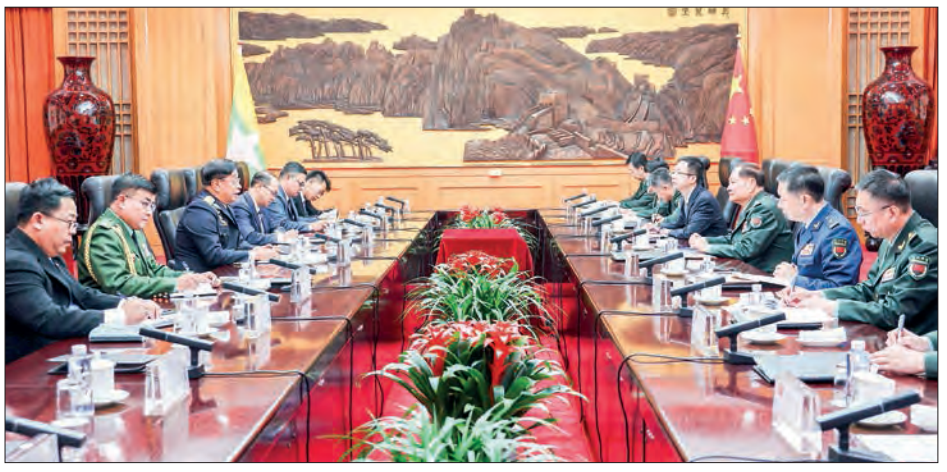
Ashin Vayama and Ashin Javana from Yezin KanU Monastery performed a question-and-answer session for the Kathina robe-offering process.

The Senior General, wife and congregation offered day meals to members of the Sangha.

Donated offerings for the 13th Kathina robe-offering ceremony were conveyed from Anawrahta Hall to Uppatasanti Pagoda.

At the ceremony, staff and families from offices and departments from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) donated Kathina robes and alms worth more than K174.2 million. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar, China vow to bolster military ties for information exchange on border security



Deputy Prime Minister Union Defence Minister Admiral Tin Aung San holds talks with the Chinese delegation led by Mr Zhang Youxia, Vice-Chairman of China's Central Military Commission on 29 October in China.

MYANMAR will continue working with the Chinese military to promote all-round cooperation between the two militaries and information exchange between the two armies to maintain stability in border areas, said State Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Defence Admiral Tin Aung San.

He said at the meeting with the Chinese delegation led by Mr Zhang Youxia, Vice-Chairman of China's Central Military Commission on 29 October before attending the 10th Beijing Xiangshan Forum in China.

During the talk, Zhang said the Pauk-Phaw friendship between China and Myanmar has grown stronger than before and China will support to development of the peace processes of Myanmar and hopes that Myanmar will work with China to ensure security and stability in border areas. Moreover, China is ready to deepen the strategic mutual trust.

The Myanmar delegation attended the opening ceremony of the 10th Beijing Xiangshan Forum at the Beijing International Convention Centre- BICC on 30 October and participated in Major Countries' Responsibility and Global Security Cooperation, the Role of Developing Countries in Global Security and the ASEAN Centrality in Regional Security Cooperation Architecture.

The 10th Beijing Xiangshan Forum was jointly held by the Chinese People's Liberation Army, the China Association of Military Science (CAMS) and the China Institute of International Strategic Studies (CIISS). It was attended by representatives at the defence minister level or higher, military high-ranking officers and experts from 62 countries and six international organizations such as ASEAN, EU and Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

On 31 October, the Myanmar delegation attended the Jointly Implementing the Global Security Initiatives for Lasting Peace and Security of the World event held at the Beijing International Convention Center (BICC).

Moreover, they visited the Myanmar Embassy in Beijing on the same afternoon and arrived back in Myanmar on 1 November evening. — ASH/KTZH

NATIONAL

SAC members attend 2023 Inter-state/regional volleyball tournament finals, awarding ceremony

(L & R) : State Administration Council members present championship trophies to the Mandalay Region team (women's) and the Shan State team (men's) respectively yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE 2023 Inter-State and Region (Men's/Women's) Volleyball Tournament Final and Awarding Ceremony was held yesterday at Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium C in Nay Pyi Taw.

State Administration Council members: Daw Dwe Bu, Porel Aung Thein, Mahn Nyein Maung, Dr Hmu Thang, Khun San Lwin and U Shwe Kyein, Union Ministers and officials attended and awarded honorary medals and prizes to the athletes.

The Mandalay Region team and the Kachin State team played in the final match of the state and region volleyball tournament (women's), and the Mandalay Region team defeated the Kachin State team by three games.

In the men's final match, the Union Territory Nay Pyi Taw Team played against the Shan State Team. The Shan State team won three games against the Nay Pyi Taw team.

After that, the awarding ceremony continued, and the winners of the Best Volleyball Athlete award were presented with honorary medals and cash awards.

And, SAC members Khun San Lwin and U Shwe Kyein, presented cash awards to the Shan State team that won the first prize in the competition. — MNA/KZW

Myanmar Dental Health Conference 2023 commences in Nay Pyi Taw

THE opening ceremony of the Myanmar Dental Health Conference (2023) was organized in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, State Administration Council Member Dr Ba Shwe highlighted the holding of the conference to enhance friendship between the dental healthcare providers, support the dental health subject, create opportunities to learn international standards, provide continuous learning opportunities, handover the skills of retired dental specialists to new generations and strengthen the cooperation between the dentists of Tatmadaw and Ministry of Health.

He also stressed the instructions of the SAC Chairman Prime Minister to save the lives of people as nothing is more important than human life, saying the government provides the needed requirements for the health of entire people and also urged to promote dental healthcare services in regions where the ethnic people are residing.

The group documentary photograph of the Myanmar Dental Health Conference 2023 held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Then, Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win talked about the recruitment of human resources for dental healthcare services for different age groups, awareness campaigns for health and dental services at schools for the students to ensure the fit and stout ones in implementing the all-round development of education system and healthcare services in remote regions provided by health stuff under the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Defence.

As pre-conference activities, cleft lip and palate surgeries and free dental implants for senior people were done as the pre-conference activities.

Moreover, the Medical Services Department of the Ministry of Health will sign an MoU with the Korean University of Medicine while the University of Dental Medicine (Yangon), and the University of Dental Medicine (Mandalay) with the Khon Kaen University of Thailand during the period of the conference.

The Ministry of Health presided over the MDHSC (2023) under the theme "Quality Dental Care for Community" on 3 and 4 November. Dental specialists from five countries including Thailand, Japan, Korea and Malaysia and local specialists will deliver quality treatment systems, and the conference will include a reading session of 32 posters and 30 papers.

In the afternoon, Deputy Minister for Health Prof Dr Aye Tun attended the opening ceremony of Academic Sessions. — MNA/KTZH

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

NATIONAL

Union Information Minister discusses GMS website establishment with China

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn received Mr Yi Hong, Chairman of Cross-border E-commerce Cooperation Platform Enterprise Alliance of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed in detail the establishment of the GMS website, chances to explore the news featuring business related articles, data of business people from 13 countries and Chinese investors, news available in 13 languages, estimation to expand to 20 languages, proper linkage with Chinese enterprises and online sales. Then, the Union minister and attendees coordinated the discussion.

The event was attended by Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, and Resident Chairperson Daw Aye Thinzar Thu of GMS in Myanmar. — MNA/KTZH

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn holds talks with Chairman Mr Yi Hong of the GMS's Cross-border E-commerce Cooperation Platform Enterprise Alliance yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

DPM MoFA UM receives China's Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs

Chinese Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Nong Rong calls on Union Minister U Than Swe yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe received the Co-chair of Mekong-Lancang Cooperation and Head of Delegation of China, Mr Nong Rong, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on the afternoon of 3 November 2023. During the meeting, they cordially discussed and exchanged views on matters relating to the advancement of "Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership Relations" based on the existing "Pauk-Phaw" friendship between Myanmar and China, and cooperation in regional and international arenas including the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation. — MNA

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

Myanmar-China bilateral consultations held

DEPUTY Minister for Foreign Affairs U Lwin Oo held Myanmar-China bilateral consultations with Mr Nong Rong, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

They cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the further consolidation of the existing Pauk-Phaw relations and implementation of mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries, acceleration of the ongoing Myanmar-China bilateral projects under China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) and Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the maintenance of peace and stability along the Myanmar-China border area, the continued provision of Chinese assistance for the economic development of Myanmar, intensification of collaboration between the two countries in the ASEAN and Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Mechanism frameworks and to render mutual support in regional and multilateral arenas and matters of common interests. The Deputy Minister also apprised the latest developments of Myanmar to the Chinese Assistant Minister.

In the evening, Deputy Minister U Lwin Oo hosted a dinner in honour of the visiting Chinese delegation led by the Assistant Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China at the M-Gallery Hotel. — MNA

Myanmar-China bilateral consultations in progress yesterday.

NATIONAL

Tatmadaw responds to KIA attacks on civilian infrastructures in Kachin State

KACHIN Independence Army has not only refused to accept the efforts of the government and Tatmadaw for everlasting peace but also blown off non-military infrastructures like roads and bridges in Kachin State to undermine the administrative mechanism.

In blowing up railways, the KIA blew up the 120-foot long Bridge No 555 on Myitkyina-Mandalay Railroad, two miles to the north of Morhan Village in Mohnyin Township on 17 April 2021, the 320-foot long Nanchwin Bailey Railroad Bridge about 800 metres to the north of Ngamile Village in Kyargyikwin Village-tract on 6 October 2023, the 80-foot long Yaypoutkyi railroad bridge about 2,500 metres southwest of Myotthitkalay Village in Hopin and the 40-foot long Nanthaya Railroad Bridge on 7 October 2023.

The damaged section of the Myitkyina-Mandalay railway is seen after the mine explosion by KIA.

Similarly, they blew up the 50-foot long concrete Tawetchaung bridge on the Mohnyin-Hopin-Mogoung-Myitkyina between mile-posts 356-367 4,000 metres north Hopin and 20-foot long Tawetchaung Railroad Bridge on 27 April 2021, the 50-foot long Paungnet Chaung Bridge between ward 2 and ward 3 in Shwegu on 4 May, Kaukkway creek concrete bridge between Chaungwa Village in Katha Township and Minkyaunggon Village in Shwegu Township on 9 May 2021, and the 60-foot-long steel-frame Bailey bridge No 722 on the Myitkyina-Mandalay road near Naungpon Village in Nankway Village-tract in Myitkyina on 30 November 2021 and launched ambushes on security forces along the routes.

(Above & Right) The debris and damaged sections of roads and bridges in the aftermath of mine blasts by KIA.

The debris of the 60-foot-long steel-frame Bailey bridge after the KIA's mine blast.

The destruction and blow-up of non-military infrastructures like public railroads, highways and bridges used by the travelling public cause difficulties for travelling of the national races and a lot of damage to the regional development.

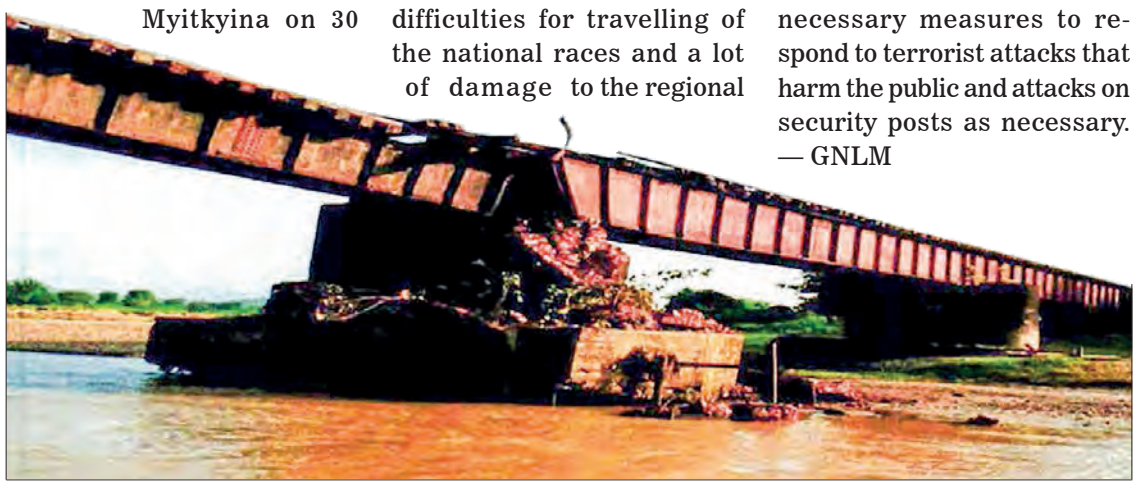
Moreover, Tatmadaw has repeatedly communicated to the KIA not to attack its bases during the peace negotiation period, the KIA ambushed the small bases commanded by platoon-level forces overwhelming forces and the KIO vice-chairman Gun Maw himself inspected the posts.

Moreover, although it has been informed not to be involved in the ongoing clashes in Shan State (North), it was found that the KIA has ignored the warnings of Tatmadaw and has engaged in the clashes.

Moreover, it is learnt that the KIA has been building arms and ammunition factories near the Myanmar-China border, using the arms and ammunition in their violent acts, providing them with destructive and violent acts and promoting domestic terrorists beyond the scene.

As a result, Tatmadaw has to reportedly take measures to respond to preventing such violent acts and will carry out necessary measures to respond to terrorist attacks that harm the public and attacks on security posts as necessary.

— GNLM



NATIONAL BUSINESS

Sugar mills raise sugarcane price to K150,000/tonne for 2023-2024 season

SOME sugar mills notified the sugarcane growers that they will hike up the offering price of sugarcane to K150,000 per tonne in the upcoming 2023-2024 sugarcane season.

The sugar mills released a notification last early August stating that the buying price would be K110,000 per tonne of sugarcane for the 2023-2024 sugarcane season. The mills set higher prices to K120,000 per tonne in early October. However, Shwenyaung Myabayin sugar mill raised the price further to K150,000 per tonne, according to its notification released on 2 November.

Additionally, sugar mills are pushing the growers to ramp up per-acre yield and expand the cultivation acres.

The company set the sugarcane floor price at K90,000-100,000 per tonne last season. This year, in addition to the price rise of sugar, the company offers higher prices to deal with high cultivation input costs of the growers and entice them to improve production, sugarcane and sugar businesspersons shared information.

However, the sugarcane growers called for the sugar mills to maximize the offering prices as much as they could amid the rocketing fuel prices and fertilizer prices this year.

Following the soaring sugar price, intending to facilitate sugarcane growers, Ngway Yi Pale Sugar Company informed the growers last year of a subsidy of K200,000 per acre in advance for the 2023-2024 season if they add new acres of sugarcane plantation.

Myanmar's annual sugar production is estimated at 450,000 tonnes. Myanmar earlier sent sugar to China and Viet Nam beyond self-sufficiency. At present, it is delivered to Viet Nam only, Myanmar Sugar and Cane Related Association said.

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

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

Pure gold price gains on global cues

The picture shows a gold jewellery outlet in Yangon.

THE price of pure gold surged to K3.55 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) in the grey market tracking the rise in spot gold price to US$1,990 per ounce.

Along with the Kyat depreciation against the US dollar at K4,000, the pure gold price hit an all-time high of K4 million per tical last August.

The pure gold price fell again to K3.4 million per tical with the Kyat devaluation against US dollars slowing at approximately K3,300 in the grey market.

Nonetheless, the reference price set by the Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association was only K3.1 million per tical, indicating a large gap of over K400,000 per tical between the reference price and the reference price.

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 in the grey market.

The US dollar exchange rate, therefore, weighs on the gap between the domestic gold market value and YGEA's reference gold price.

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

Myanmar businesspersons invited for 2023 Craft Villages Conservation & Development Festival in Viet Nam

MYANMAR businesspersons have been invited to participate in the 2023 Viet Nam Craft Villages Conservation and Development Festival that will be held at Thang Long Imperial Citadel in Ba Dinh District, Hanoi, Viet Nam from 9 to 12 November, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam aims to accelerate cultural exchange, cooperate for craft development and showcase the crafts and arts of the respective countries.

Those who wish to join the festival can send information about participants to the trade development division of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization through the phone number 067 3408622 and email event.td.myantrade@gmail.com. — NN/EM

The festival is introduced at a press conference held in Hanoi on 26 September 2023.

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OPINION

Build public-centred media for the interests of people and the country

IN THE realm of media, it is paramount that those who bear the responsibility of disseminating information adhere to the stipulations outlined in the Myanmar News Media Law, enacted on 14 May 2014. As a foremost duty, media personnel and news agencies must respect the intellectual property of the original creators. Equally important is the imperative to abstain from generating content that incites religious, ethnic, or racial conflicts.

The primary mission of MPC is to oversee information affairs, ensuring that media professionals enjoy the freedom to exercise their vital role in society while simultaneously safeguarding the rights of citizens to access accurate and unbiased information. Furthermore, the council is dedicated to enhancing the capabilities of media personnel and refining the functions of the media industry as a whole.

Every media professional and news agency must commit themselves to becoming a public-centred media outlet, serving the best interests of the people. Irrespective of their political or ideological inclinations, they must be resolute in combating fake news and misinformation for the sake of the nation and its citizens to become the most reliable source for the future state.

Regrettably, some individuals within the media sector and certain news agencies have strayed from the core mission and vision of serving the state and its people, as well as from the efforts of the Myanmar Press Council. Instead, they have engaged in unscrupulous practices aimed at sowing discord and intentionally maligning specific individuals.

In response to this grave concern, the Myanmar Press Council issued a resolute statement on 20 October 2023, categorically denouncing such unethical conduct. It made clear that these actions not only jeopardize the standing of the media sector but will also not be tolerated, nor will the council take responsibility for addressing the consequences that may arise from these transgressions.

People yearn for reliable and accurate news, for falsehoods and misinformation have the power to lead astray, causing undue hardships and suffering to innocent families and their loved ones. Therefore, it is incumbent upon all media personnel to steadfastly uphold their duty of guiding the public towards the path of truth and accuracy.

The government is diligently working towards the establishment of a Union based on democratic and federal systems. As the fourth estate, the media bears the profound responsibility of scrutinizing and adjusting government actions to ensure they align with the nation's ultimate goals. Media professionals approach their work with impartiality, critically evaluating all government initiatives aimed at benefiting the country and its people.

Every media professional and news agency must commit themselves to becoming a public-centred media outlet, serving the best interests of the people. Irrespective of their political or ideological inclinations, they must be resolute in combating fake news and misinformation for the sake of the nation and its citizens to become the most reliable source for the future state.

ARTICLE

Beijing Ancient Palace

Media trip to China:

Exploring Capital Beijing, dreamy Hangzhou and bustling Shanghai

By NN

TO CONDUCT Myanmar-China Media Exchange and strengthen Paukphaw friendship ties, Myanmar's media representatives were cordially invited to visit the capital Beijing, dreamy Hangzhou and bustling Shanghai of the People's Republic of China. A group of ten media correspondents from MRTV, MITV, The Global New Light of Myanmar, Myanma Alinn, One News, Swe Myo Pauk-Phaw magazine, The Standard Time Daily, Eleven Media Group, Yangon Media Group and Vidya made a media visit to China from 12 to 19 September 2023.

Capital Beijing - home to headquarters of large firms

The visit started from the capital city of the People's Republic of China, located in northern China. They stayed at the Jinglun Hotel. The city used to be called Peking and now it's called Beijing as per the current romanization system for Mandarin Chinese. The name Beijing means Northern Capital. It's also one of four municipalities directly under the Central Government. It's the most prominent city in China's history.

The capital is the second most populous city with over 2.2 million in China after Shanghai with the largest population. It is the transportation hub of northern China. It's also the political, educational and cultural centre of China. It is an ecologically sustainable city with skyscrapers and a smart transportation system.

On 12 September, a group of correspondents went on a pilgrimage to the Buddhist temple "Lingguang Temple", housing the sacred Buddha tooth relic. After learning the history of the magnificent Lingguang Temple and edifices, we paid homage to Andarelkin Pagoda built by Senior General Than Shwe, chairman of the State Peace and Development Council and spouse Daw Kyaing Kyaing at the Temple. The ancient edifices, exquisite Chinese Cement Wall arts and crafts and archives kept in the precinct of Lingguang Temple strongly depict the religious beliefs of Chinese ethnic groups, and cultural heritage preservation for generations.

We visited the ASEAN China Centre on the morning of 13 September. The officials explained the objectives, performances and future prospects of the ACC. The ACC is to promote investment, trade, education, culture, and tourism, and enhance exchanges and cooperation in information technology and media sectors between ASEAN and China. Afterwards, we left for People's Daily HQ and officials concerned showed news archives and Live broadcasting studios and also demonstrated how they broadcast Live, programmes through videos. People's Daily is the official newspaper run by the CCP, accumulating over two million copies daily. Although the rise in digital media and social media trends impacted the print media, the People's Daily can run with the largest million copies daily. This is a big inspiration to us.

We went to the China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center in the afternoon. The officials of the Centre presented environmental conservation activities. Throughout the Beijing tour, we can learn that China is committed to prioritizing environmental protection and promoting green. Green building development is remarkably found in big cities like Beijing with incredible skyscrapers and iconic buildings.

We wandered around Qianmen Street, a famous pedestrian street for shopping and sightseeing in Beijing's central axis, running from Archery Towner in the north to Tiantan Park. It is 840 metres long and 21 metres wide. It is constructed with the Chinese traditional buildings, which resemble styles of the Qing Dynasty. The handicrafts, eye-catching traditional consumer products, local food, traditional costumes, traditional footwear, traditional hand fans, and Chinese traditional medicines are capturing the attention of the tourists on this commercial street.

The famous Laoshe Tea House was away from 10 to 15-minute walk away, showcasing Magic, cross talk, the teapot in the Universe, Beijing Folk Wrestling, the Face-Changing of Sichuan Opera, Acrobatics and puppet shows.

The tea house recreates the charm of old Beijing as visitors can enjoy splendid performances and green tea with a ticket worth 120 Yuan (around K130,000) per person.

We visited the prominent landmark in Beijing, Imperial Palace, also known as The Forbidden City in the morning of 14 September, thereby coming to know the old drainage system with an ancient architectural miracle of the Forbidden City. The drainage system in the palace complex retains ancient rain ditches up to 15 kilometres in length and 13 kilometres of them are underground. The ditches are leading to the 52-metre-wide surrounding moat outside the Forbidden City and connected to the Zhonghai-Nanhai water systems. The sound drainage system was constructed in the Ming Dynasty.

The foundation of the Forbidden City follows the sloping terrain of Beijing, which is higher in the north and lower in the south. It's also higher on the central axis and lower on both wings, which is ideal for natural drainage. The sound ancient drainage system protects the Palace from heavy rains and intense flooding.

We arrived at Xinhua, the State news agency of China in the afternoon. Xinhua is the largest organ in China, boasting a network with over 170 branches worldwide and 31 domestic branches. It's headquartered in Beijing and it distributes information related to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and Central Government, along with coverage of politics, economics, sports, cultural news and features. Its headquarters is located near the offices of the Central Government in Beijing.

Officials of the newsroom guided us to the Me Creatives' studio and we learned the technology and broadcasting facilities. The agency also provides employees with a good workspace, health facilities and recreational activities to relax.

In the evening, we went for a stroll in South Luogu Lane, the oldest alleyway in Beijing. It's filled with cafes, shops and liquor shops, preserving the traditional residential area "Hutong".

It's also a famous destination in Beijing, with a history of more than 800 years. The South Luogu Lane was recognized as one of 25 historical sites listed by the Beijing municipal government in 1990. With the impressive historical reputation and cultural influences of South Luogu Lane, it has become a famous tourist attraction in Beijing.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Beijing Night Market

Xinhua Studio

NATIONAL

MIFER holds 36th Friday Talk

Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw addresses the 36th Friday's Talk yesterday.

MINISTRY of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations (MIFER), aiming to develop human resources and to improve the capacity of staff, the 36th ceremony of Friday's Talk of Knowledge Sharing Programme (KSP) was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw attended and delivered the opening remarks.

The Union minister explained that today's topic is "The Prospect of Economic Development for Magway Region" for 36th the Knowledge Sharing Programme (KSP) and to be presented by Dr Htein Lin Aye, Director of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration from the office of Magway Region. He said that the KSP's topics include economic theories and internationally related topics as well as the economic situation of States and Regions. He emphasized that the country is constituted with 15 States and Regions that have its abundance of natural resources, locational advantages with transportation networks, the cultivation of dry farming by building dams and investment opportunities. Moreover, the Union minister highlighted that the investment promotion for the country's economic development is carried out not only by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) but also by state and regional investment committees which have been delegated decision-making for investment under law, rules and regulations. He underscored that MIFER's staff can be able to understand the volume of the investment, investment opportunities, infrastructure and business activities of Magway Region from today's discussion, and then it will be beneficial for all staff by realizing Myanmar's investment mapping, further potential investment areas and opportunities as well as the investment statistics of each and every Region and State in the upcoming KSP. Finally, he urged that the presenter systematically to share about the importance priorities of investment potential and situation of Magway Region, and staff members need to actively participate in today's discussion.

Dr Htein Lin Aye, Director of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration from the office of Magway Region presented the topic "The Prospect of Economic Development for Magway Region", and the attendees raised questions, queries and discussions.

Directors-general from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration and Foreign Economic Relations Department, the deputy permanent secretary, deputy directors-general and senior officials and 120 staff members joined this programme. — MIFER

Workshop on Streaming Technology & Content Strategy concludes

THE Ministry of Information's Myanma Radio and Television-MRTV and the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) held the closing ceremony of the Workshop on Streaming Technologies and Content Strategy yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, which was held to share the techniques and knowledge of the transition from traditional media to new media Streaming Platform in the current media landscape.

In his speech at the closing ceremony, Deputy Minister U Ye Tint said that by attending this conference, he believed that it would be a very important conference as everyone gained a comprehensive understanding of the streaming technology that the Broadcast Industry is working on to improve streaming technology, and learned the necessary knowledge and skills. He added that the results obtained from the three-day conference will be effectively used in the workplace such as daily programme production and news presentation from the online platform.

Next, AIBD Programme Manager, Mr Syed Nabeel Hassan Tirmazi explained about the workshop. Then, on behalf of those who attended the meeting, senior engineer U Bo Bo Tun, of MRTV, explained the benefits gained concerning the meeting.

Then, expert Mr Abhilash Nagabhushana presented a certificate of completion to the representatives of the trainees.

After that, Deputy Minister U Ye Tint presented souvenirs to the representatives of the trainees and took a photo together. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar hosts 10th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Senior Officials' Meeting

MYANMAR hosted the 10th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Senior Officials' Meeting on 3 November 2023 at Jasmine Naypyitaw Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Senior Officials from the Co-chair of Mekong-Lancang Cooperation, China and from other Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Member States which are Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam accompanied by their delegations arrived at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport on the evening of 2 November 2023 via Yangon to attend the 10th MLC SOM.

On the evening of 2 November, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Lwin Oo hosted a Welcome Dinner in honour of the MLC delegations at Jasmine Naypyitaw Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

The documentary photo of the 10th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Senior Officials' Meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the dinner, the artistes from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture entertained the dignitaries and guests with the Cultural Performance.

The 10th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Senior Officials' Meeting was held at Thanlwin Hall of the Jasmine Naypyitaw Hotel on the morning of 3 November. The Meeting was co-chaired by Daw Marlar Than Htaik, Director-General of the International Organizations and Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and Mr Nong Rong, Assistant Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China.

The Meeting was attended by Mr Meas Kim Heng, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia, Mr Somboun Sihanath, Director-General, Economic Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR, Ms Pinsuda Jayanama, Ambassador for Mekong Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, and Ms Nguyen Thi Bich Thuy, Deputy Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam.

After delivering the opening remarks by the Co-chairs, Myanmar and China respectively, the Heads of Delegation of MLC reviewed the progress of Mekong-Lancang Cooperation and also exchanged views on future MLC cooperation.

The Meeting was successfully concluded after delivering the closing remarks by Heads of Delegation of Co-chairs, Myanmar and China. After the Meeting, Director-General Daw Marlar Than Htaik hosted a lunch in honour of delegations to the 10th MLC SOM at the same Hotel. The delegations from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam left Nay Pyi Taw in the evening respectively.

Mekong-Lancang Cooperation was established in 2016 with an aim to assist regional efforts to achieve sustainable inclusive development and narrow development gaps in the region while promoting peace and prosperity. Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam are the members of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation. Myanmar and China have been serving as the Co-chairs of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation. — MNA

NATIONAL

MRTV's Friday Night Live Show presents Myanmar-Korea Musical Show

MRTV broadcast the live streaming of the Myanmar-Korea Musical Show for its Friday Night Live Show to exchange the Myanmar-Korea culture and for Korean K-pop lovers yesterday.

The live performance was attended by Yangon regional ministers, the director-general of MRTV, officials, invited artistes, and students of the Yangon University of Foreign Languages and National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon).

First, the Korean male and female artistes performed the K-Pop dance, Trot, and Ballade classical songs and two Myanmar singers sang two songs respectively.

Then, eight Myanmar-Korean artistes sang the 'Thingyan Moe" song and grabbed the thunderous applause of the audience.

Then, MRTV's Director-General U Ye Naing presented a flower bouquet, certificate of honour and gifts to the Myanmar-Korean artiste troupe on behalf of Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, and the Korean artistes also gave presents in return.

MRTV presents creative and active entertainment programmes like Friday Night Live Show to entertain the public every Friday, and the replay of this week will be at 10:30 am on 5 November, Sunday. — Nyein Thu/Maung Thiha (MNA)/KTZH

The Myanmar-Korea Musical Show in progress yesterday at MRTV in Yangon. **PHOTO : ZAW MIN LATT**

Efforts to reduce river plastic waste in Sagaing Region in progress

Locals and departmental personnel carrying out collective plastic garbage collection activities in Sagaing Region.

THE Sagaing Region Environmental Conservation Department under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation is collaborating with the Sagaing Region Development Committee to remove plastic waste while restricting the disposal of plastic into the Ayeyawady River with the participation of the local people in their effort to conserve the environment, according to an official of the department.

"In Sagaing Region, where the Ayeyawady River, a lifeblood of Myanmar passes through, we are conducting awareness-raising seminars on hazards of dumping plastic waste, especially into the river, while carrying out collective plastic garbage collection activities every month. Plastic bags pollute water and soil, as well as damage the ecosystem, so we are focusing on the prevention of the disposal of waste including plastic into the river," said Daw Mi Mi Kyaw, assistant director of the Sagaing Region Environmental Conservation Department.

Currently, worldwide efforts are underway to decrease marine plastic pollution. In Myanmar, where plastic consumption is high, the Ayeyawady River is highly contaminated with microplastics due to the disposal of plastic waste into the river by businesses, residents, and watercraft workers. — ASH/TH

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

Myanmar approves K1 bln, US$0.5 mln investments in Rakhine State in Oct

TWO new local investments worth K1 billion and US$0.5 million were approved in October in Rakhine State, according to the Rakhine State Investment Committee.

These two investments are in the industrial sector and the livestock and fisheries sector, and they will create employment opportunities for more than 240 local employees.

Furthermore, during the Rakhine State Investment Committee 2/2023 meeting, the construction period of an ongoing investment project was extended.

Most of the foreign investment is in the oil and gas sector, while local investment is primarily in the hotel and tourism sector.

Likewise, more than 200 new investment companies, with 100 per cent investment by Myanmar nationals and foreigners, are expected to enter Rakhine State.

In addition to the hotel and tourism industry and the oil and gas industry, the future economy of Rakhine State offers good opportunities in maritime trade and cross-country trade. — ASH/MKKS

A fish farm near the Minbya-Pauktaw road in Rakhine State.

NATIONAL

Banks with CIPS linkage reduce Myanmar-China bilateral trade loss

Central Bank of Myanmar Governor Daw Than Than Swe addresses the launching ceremony of the cross-border inter-bank yuan payment system (CIPS).

CENTRAL Bank of Myanmar Governor Daw Than Than Swe said that the connection of the RMB Cross-border Interbank Payment System (CIPS) will increase bilateral trade and investment between Myanmar and China and reduce related losses.

She said this at the launching ceremony of the cross-border inter-bank yuan payment system (CIPS) of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) Yangon branch was held on 1 November.

ICBC Yangon branch was honoured to be a direct member bank in the CIPS system, and in 2021, the CIPS system was started to be used in Myanmar after China and Myanmar established a clearing system for cross-border trade in yuan. This is another important development in China-Myanmar cooperation in the yuan and represents further progress in the use of the yuan in Myanmar.

It is beneficial for the deepening of bilateral financial cooperation and the promotion of China-Myanmar trade and investment.

Individuals from various areas of China-Myanmar also grasped the opportunity and worked together to achieve the agreement results of the 3rd "Belt and Road" International Cooperation Summit.

Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai said he hopes to promote financial inclusion by making good use of the CIPS financial service and enhance the mutually beneficial development of the two countries' economies.

ICBC Yangon branch successfully connected to the CIPS system on 18 October. Cross-border inter-bank Renminbi payment service was launched on 23 October as Myanmar's first CIPS direct bank membership.

The implementation of the CIPS system in Myanmar is very important. ICBC Yangon Branch's participation as a direct member bank in the CIPS system means that financial institutions in Myanmar can participate in the CIPS global clearing network directly and conveniently.

China is Myanmar's largest trade partner and largest foreign investment country. Linking to the CIPS system will help increase Myanmar-China bilateral trade and investment and reduce related losses.

The central bank governor said that the Central Bank of Myanmar will continue to support the deepening and practical implementation of Myanmar-China financial cooperation. — TWA/KZL

Vehicle inspection waiver renewal deadline extended to year-end

NAY Pyi Taw Road Transport Administration Department announced the extension of the renewal period for all vehicles and motorcycles without vehicle inspection was extended by 31 December 2023.

Initially, Nay Pyi Taw Road Transport Administration Department had announced the extension until 30 September, exempting all vehicles and motorcycles, except passenger buses and the vehicles that need to do vehicle inspections, from mandatory vehicle inspections.

The vehicle licence renewals are being processed without inspecting vehicles, as implemented since the outbreak of COVID-19, and licence renewals continue to be extended without vehicle inspections. — TWA/MKKS

Vehicle inspection underway in the previous year.

Myanmar businesspersons invited to showcase products at 16th CIEGE

MYANMAR businesspersons have been invited to participate in the 16th Cambodian Import-Export Goods Exhibition-CIEGE that will be held at Koh Pich Convention and Exhibition Centre from 15 to 18 December in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

This exhibition is a platform to bolster trade, investment, tourism and businesses between Cambodian and its trade partners. It is a great opportunity to showcase Myanmar's products and services at the expo.

Two booths are provided free for Myanmar businesspersons. Yet, they have to bear flight tickets, accommodation costs, food, transport and other costs themselves. The information of those enthusiastic businesspersons who are willing to join the expo must be sent to the trade development division of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization through phone number 067 3408622 and email event.td.myantrade@gmail.com.

The exhibition booth displayed by Viet Nam seen at the 15th Cambodia Import-Export Goods Exhibition held in 2022.

The 15th CIEGE held under the theme of "Back to Business" was successfully concluded from 15 to 18 December 2022, with the participation of 181 domestic and foreign companies at more than 286 booths. — TWA/KK

Sephora ties up with Reliance Retail Ventures to transform India's beauty retail segment

SEPHORA, the world's leading omnichannel prestige beauty retailer, announced a partnership with Reliance Beauty and Personal Care Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL) to advance their shared ambition to develop and define the future of prestige beauty retail in India.

According to a joint release issued on Friday, the partnership gives RRVL exclusive rights to build and enhance Sephora's presence in India across channels.

Since its first foray into India in 2012, Sephora has leveraged its unique brand and product curation capabilities and strong point of view on beauty and experiential retail to cater to the beauty needs of India's vast consumer base.

"We are tremendously excited to partner with the largest retail group in India to step-change our business. Rising affluence, increasing urbanization and the proliferation of social media have driven greater awareness of self-care and beauty, unlocking major opportunities for prestige beauty. — ANI

Sephora ties up with Reliance Retail Ventures to transform India's beauty retail segment. **PHOTO: RRVL/ANI**

Maersk to slash 3,500 jobs as profits, revenue plunge

DANISH shipping giant Maersk said Friday it would slash 3,500 jobs as net profit and revenue plunged in the third quarter due to a sharp fall in freight rates.

Maersk's net profit nosedived to $521 million between July and September against $8.9 billion a year earlier.

"Our industry is facing a new normal with subdued demand, prices back in line with historical levels and inflationary pressure on our cost base," CEO Vincent Clerc said. The company had already begun to cut costs, reducing staff levels from 110,000 at the start of 2023 "to around 103,500 today".

"Maersk is intensifying those measures and today introduce plans to further decrease the workforce by 3,500 positions, with up to 2,500 to be carried out in the coming months and the remaining to extend into 2024," the company said. — AFP

Maersk had already begun cutting costs and reducing staff levels. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

"TRADEMARK CAUTION"

NOTICE is hereby given that PARADISE PRODUCTS COMPANY LIMITED, Company Register No.(160507144) situated at No.(260), Zaykabar, 6th street, Yangon Industrial Zone, Mingalardon Township, Yangon is the owner and Sole Proprietor of the trademark mentioned below registered at Yangon Deeds Registration Office.

Herbal ACTIV

Deed No. 8684 / 2023 (Date 2-10-2023)

The above trademark "**Herbal Activ**" is used in respect of – cosmetics, household products, shampoos, soaps products produced by the company.

Any unauthorized use, imitation, infringements or fraudulent intentions of the above mark will be dealt with according to Law.

Under instruction of Paradise Products Company Limited,

Daw Aye Min Min Theint (LL.B, D.B.L, D.I.L, D.M.L) Advocate (Sr. 14537)
Daw Khaing Su Wai (LL.B) Higher Grade Pleader (Sr. 52065)
No.(19), 9th Shwegabar Housing Street, MinDama Road, Mayangone Township, Yangon.
Ph: 09-5098942, 09-795921932

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3320S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3320S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-11-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V KOTA RUKUN VOY.NO. (0119N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA RUKUN VOY.NO. (0119N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-11-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ALMAR VOY.NO. (35)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALMAR VOY.NO. (35)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-11-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S RAFFLES SHIPPING INTERNATIONAL PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Norway inaugurates satellite launch site

The date of the first launch is not yet known, but Isar Aerospace says it is targeting sending a first launcher to Andoya "within this year" with a first test flight "as soon as possible". **PHOTO: ANDOYA SPACE**

Isar Aerospace plans to complete Europe's first operational orbital spaceport at Andoya, north of the Arctic Circle.

NORWAY on Thursday joined the race to launch satellites from the European continent by inaugurating a new spaceport on the island of Andoya, north of the Arctic Circle.

Isar Aerospace said the "Andoya Spaceport" was to "become the first operational orbital spaceport in continental Europe to finalise the construction of the launch site".

It was inaugurated at a ceremony attended by Norway's Crown Prince Haakon nine months after the inauguration of the Esrange spaceport in neighbouring Sweden.

The launch base, which eventually will have several launch pads, was built by Norwegian public company Andoya Space, on a site which until now has only been used for firing suborbital scientific experiment rockets.

Spectrum, a two-stage craft capable of carrying up to one tonne and developed by the German start-up Isar Aerospace, is scheduled to be the first rocket to be launched from island which is located near the idyllic Lofoten archipelago. — AFP

APOLLO 13 ASTRONAUT, KEY TO SAFE RETURN

Apollo astronaut Thomas K Mattingly dies aged 87

A NASA astronaut who was removed from the ill-fated Apollo 13 mission but helped bring its crew back home safely thanks to his problem-solving efforts from ground control has died at the age of 87.

Thomas K. "TK" Mattingly passed away on 31 October, the space agency said in a statement Thursday.

His most dramatic role came when he was assigned as command module pilot for the Apollo 13 flight but was grounded 72 hours prior to launch due to exposure to rubella, NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said.

After an explosion crippled the spacecraft on its way to the Moon, Mattingly, who did not in fact get sick, went to Mission Control and devised procedures to conserve power so the vehicle could successfully re-enter the atmosphere, ensuring astronauts James Lovell, Jack Swigert, and Fred Haise survived.

The mission was dramatized in the 1995 film "Apollo 13" in which Mattingly was played by Gary Sinise.

Mattingly began his career as a US Navy pilot before being selected to the astronaut class of 1966.

He later took on the role of command module pilot on the Apollo 16 mission and was the spacecraft commander in two Space Shuttle missions.

"TK's contributions have allowed for advancements in our learning beyond that of space," said Nelson. — AFP

32 killed, 16 injured after fire breaks out at drug rehabilitation centre in Iran

NEARLY 32 people died and 16 injured after a fire broke out at a drug rehabilitation centre in Iran on Friday, Iran's local media reported.

The incident happened in Iran's Caspian Sea province of Gilan, reported Iran Wire.

The injured were taken to hospitals in Langroud city, located about 200 kilometres northwest of Tehran.

According to Iran Wire, the first responders were called shortly before 6 am (local time).

Moreover, the fire was later extinguished and the investigation is underway.

The centre's managers and officials are also under investigation, Iran Wire reported citing the judiciary's Mizan news agency.

It further added that the centre's capacity was about 40 people. — ANI

Latest developments in the Israel-Hamas war

HERE are key developments from the past 24 hours:

Blinken in Israel

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in Israel on Friday at the start of a new regional tour, telling reporters before leaving that he would seek "concrete steps" from Israel to minimize harm to Palestinian civilians in Gaza.

Türkiye 's Recep Tayyip Erdogan also called for an immediate ceasefire, saying "crimes against humanity" were being committed in Gaza, and that Ankara was pushing for an international peace conference.

Troops encircle Gaza City

Fresh Israeli strikes hit northern Gaza on Friday, with the health ministry reporting at least 15 deaths in Gaza City's Zeitun neighbourhood and seven in the Jabalia refugee camp. Late on Thursday, the army said troops had encircled Gaza City, with Hamas militants warning Gaza would be a "curse" for Israel whose soldiers would go home "in black bags".

Israel deports workers back to Gaza

Israel on Friday sent back thousands of Gazans who had been working in Israel when the war erupted. — AFP

An ambulance arriving at al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City. **PHOTO: DAWOOD NEMER/AFP**

SPORTS

Diaz can decide availability for Liverpool after parents' kidnap: Klopp

LUIS Diaz will decide whether he wants to be involved in Liverpool's Premier League match against Luton after the kidnapping of his parents in Colombia, manager Jurgen Klopp said on Friday.

Diaz's mother was rescued hours after the abduction in the northern town of Barrancas last weekend but his father Luis Manuel Diaz is still missing.

The Colombian government on Thursday accused the ELN guerrilla group of being behind the kidnapping, which took place in their home town.

The ELN and the government of leftist president Gustavo Petro are in the midst of peace negotiations and a six-month ceasefire, which entered into force in August.

The ELN, or National Liberation Army, has not claimed responsibility for the kidnapping.

Klopp said 26-year-old winger Diaz had trained this week ahead of the match at Luton on Sunday.

"We must wait," he told his pre-match press conference on Friday. "If he feels right, he will be here and train with us.

"The session he had with us, you can see when he is with the boys he is fine, he is OK, but you could see he didn't sleep a lot. — AFP

MFF Women's Futsal Championship aims to produce many good futsal women players across Myanmar. **PHOTO: MFF**

MFF Women's Futsal Championship 2023 to kick-start in December

THE MFF Women's Futsal Championship 2023 is scheduled to be held at the Myanmar Football Federation Futsal Stadium from 3 to 12 November, but due to the insufficient number of teams participating in the tournament, it will be held in the first week of December.

The competition will launch with 10 teams, and the teams that will enter the competition must pay a membership fee of K150,000 and a deposit of K100,000.

After the completion of the team registration process, the selection of the coaching staff members and players must be done. In the MFF Women's Futsal Championship 2023, the coaching staff members must be at least three to a maximum of five, and the players will be allowed from a minimum of 14 to a maximum of 16.

The MFF Women's Futsal Championship 2023 will be held with 10 teams divided into two groups, as stated by the Myanmar Football Federation. — KZL

Quality of top Premier League teams 'unprecedented', says Arteta

MIKEL Arteta says there is "unprecedented" quality at the top of the Premier League as he prepares to take his unbeaten Arsenal team to face in-form Newcastle at St James' Park on Saturday.

Arsenal, last year's runners-up, are second in the table, two points behind pacesetters Tottenham after seven wins and three draws in 10 games.

Champions Manchester City are level on points with Arsenal, with Liverpool just a point further back and Aston Villa and Newcastle rounding out the top six.

"What has happened in the last five years is unprecedented," said Arteta. "It never happened with the amount of points and level of the teams.

"Now it's the amount of teams with that level that is increasing and increasing. That's why comparing to the past in this league is a waste of time.

"It's very different to what it used to be, and that puts the demands of what we do every single day in a different scope."

"A much-changed Arsenal team suffered a chastening 3-1 midweek defeat at West Ham in the League Cup, on the same evening that Newcastle, also with multiple changes, beat Manchester United 3-0 at Old Trafford.

"Arteta said St James' Park was one of the "toughest places" to win.

"We've done it and there is nothing new to it, we know what we're expecting," he said. "It is very clear what they do, what their strengths are, and where the opportunities are for us. We will try to take the game where we want." — AFP

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta. **PHOTO: AFP/ FILE**

Manchester United defender Diogo Dalot during their loss to Newcastle. **PHOTO: AFP**

Troubled Man Utd urged to stick together as Spurs face Pochettino reunion

UNDER-FIRE Manchester United boss Erik ten Hag cannot afford another damaging defeat when his troubled side face Fulham on Saturday.

Tottenham's Premier League title challenge will get an intriguing test as the leaders' former boss Mauricio Pochettino returns with Chelsea.

Arsenal also harbour title aspirations, making their showdown with top-four contenders Newcastle one of the weekend's marquee match-ups.

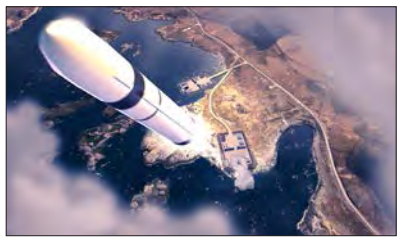
Crisis-torn Man Utd have to 'stand up' Erik ten Hag urged his Manchester United flops to "stand up" to the pressure as the Dutch coach battles to stop their season imploding. United have made their worst start since 1962-63 and a loss against Fulham at Craven Cottage could push Ten Hag to the brink of the sack after less than two seasons in charge.

Hammered 3-0 by Manchester City last weekend, United were brushed aside by the same score against Newcastle in the League Cup fourth round on Wednesday.

Ten Hag's men have lost eight of their 15 matches in all competitions this term, leaving them eighth in the Premier League and in danger of failing to reach the Champions League last 16. — AFP

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Norway inaugurates satellite launch site
PAGE-14



China, US to hold talk on climate change

The two sides will exchange in-depth views on actions and cooperation against climate change, as well as support for the United Nations climate change conference in Dubai

XIE Zhenhua, China's special envoy for climate change, will hold a talk with US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry in California from 4 to 7 November, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment announced Friday.

The two sides will exchange in-depth views on actions and cooperation against climate change, as well as support for the United Nations climate change conference in Dubai, said the ministry. — Xinhua

A medium-capacity hydrogen fuel cell-powered public bus (R) approaches a hydrogen refuelling station in Lingang new area of Pudong New Area in east China's Shanghai, 15 December 2022. **PHOTO: FANG ZHE/XINHUA**

Students ordered to wear masks in smog-hit Lahore

Punjab government ordered action due to a "smog emergency" declared by the High Court.

AUTHORITIES in Pakistan ordered schoolchildren in the smog-smothered city of Lahore to wear masks during lessons starting Thursday, an effort to protect against hazardous levels of polluted air.

The Punjab state government issued the mandate after the High Court declared a "smog emergency" and asked officials to take steps to help mitigate health problems.

On Wednesday night, private and public schools sent out messages to parents via text and WhatsApp, stating that children must come to school wearing masks for a month.

"Parents whose children suffer from asthma or eye problems often stop sending their children to school. So this is a good step by the government," said Madeeha Hassan, a secondary school teacher in the city.

Globally, South Asia is the region worst hit by air pollution, according to the Air Quality Life Index report from the University of Chicago.

Air pollution has worsened in Pakistan in recent years, as a mixture of low-grade diesel fumes, smoke from seasonal crop burn off and colder winter temperatures coalesce into stagnant clouds of smog.

Lahore, the country's second-most populous metropolis and close to the border with India, is consistently ranked in the top 10 cities globally with the worst air quality by monitoring firm IQAir. — AFP

Students wearing facemasks arrive at a school in Lahore on 2 November 2023, following Punjab's government announcement to use facemasks due to severe smoggy conditions. **PHOTO: ARIF ALI / AFP**

DDOS ATTACKS TARGETING WEBSITES AND NETWORKS

Singapore public health services under cyberattack: agency

PUBLIC healthcare institutions in Singapore were under cyberattack on Friday but there was no evidence that data had been accessed, a government-owned agency said.

The so-called distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks, which make websites or network resources unavailable by flooding them with malicious traffic, began on Wednesday, national health IT agency Synapxe said in a statement.

Internet access at public healthcare institutions was disrupted for about seven hours that day before the affected services were restored, according to Synapxe.

The DDos attacks continued on Friday and there may be "occasional disruptions in internet services as a result", it said, adding investigations were underway. — AFP