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The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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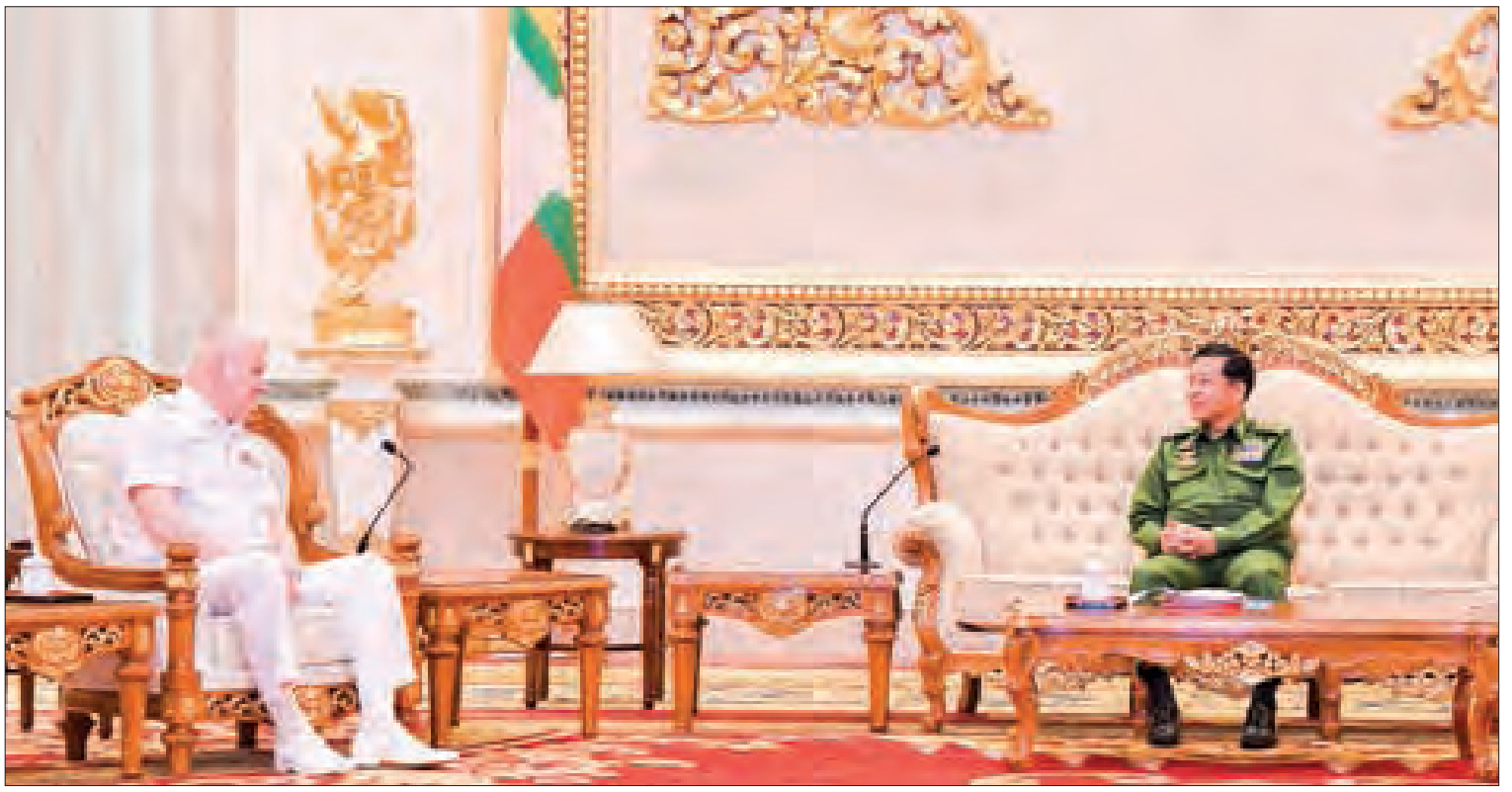
Myanmar, Russian armed forces promote friendly relations and cooperation



Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets the Russian delegation led by Admiral Nikolai A Evmenov, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Admiral Nikolai A Evmenov talked about the enhancement of friendly relations and cooperation between the two armed forces of Myanmar and Russia.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Admiral Nikolai A Evmenov, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy, at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

They also frankly exchanged views on cooperation in defence affairs between the two navies, exchanged goodwill visits of naval vessels and senior naval officers between two navies of both countries and plans

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SUNDAY EDITION

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17th PyinOoLwin Tazaungdaing Festival set for 24-28 November

Myanmar researchers discover new rare species of begonias flower

A new species of begonias flower believed to be found only in Myanmar was discovered on Kayin State's Zwekabin mountain by Native Species Conservation and Identification in Myanmar (NSCI) in 2019 and verified to be a new species in 2023.

The peculiarity of the new species named Begonia kayinensis is that the colour of the leaf changes according to the colour of the limestone mountain where it grows. The flower comes out from the tip of the stem. There are more than 2,000 species of begonias flower in the world, and more than 90 species of the flower are identified in Myanmar, according to the research. The new species of the flower found on Zwekabin mountain was identified by a group of researchers

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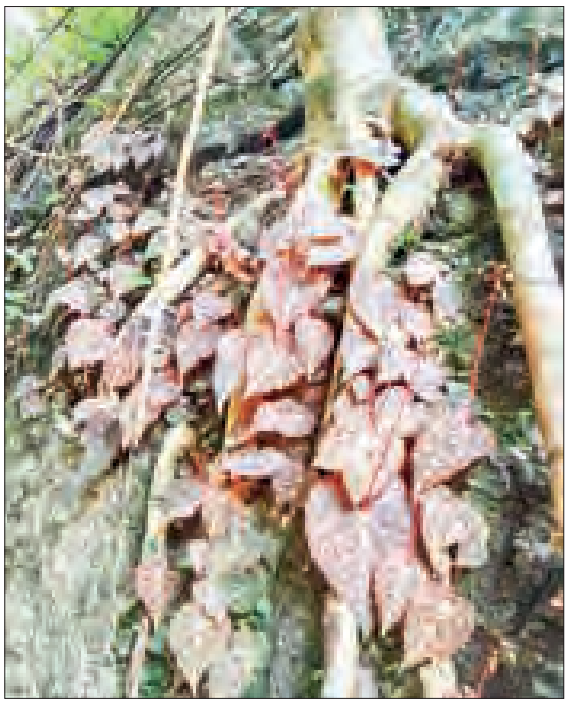

NATIONAL

Commander-in Chief (Navy) meets Russian Federation's Navy Chief

The Russian delegation led by Admiral Nikolai A Evmenov, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy, visits the Maravijaya Buddha image in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

AT the invitation of Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung, Admiral Nikolai A Evmenov, the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy, who is arriving in Myanmar, was welcomed by a guard of honour yesterday morning in front of Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw.

Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung and Admiral Nikolai A Evmenov, the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy, received the salute of the Guard of Honour and inspected the Guard of Honour.

Afterwards, the naval officers of the two countries who attended the ceremony were introduced to each other, and Admiral Nikolai A Evmenov, the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy, signed the guest record book.

Next, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung met with the Russian delegation in the reception hall of Bayintnaurg Villa.

The two navies of Myanmar and Russia openly discussed the conditions that will further enhance the existing friendship between the two navies, the training issues, the issues that will be held in Navy to Navy Talks, and the conditions that will increase the cooperation between the two navies of the two countries.

After the meeting, both sides gave each other commemorative emblems and took a photo together.

The Russian delegation visited the Memorial to the Fallen Heroes (Nay Pyi Taw), the Yadana White Elephant House, the Maravijaya Buddha Image, and the Buddha Park.

The Russian delegation arrived at Nay Pyi Taw Airport on the night of 3 November and were seen off by officials at the airport. — MNA/KZL

Dawei hosts 28 Buddha Images Festival on 23-27 November

THE procession of 28 Buddha Images Festival will be held in Dawei township of Taninthayi region on 23-27 November, according to Dawei Shwetaungsa Pagoda Board of Trustees.

The procession of 28 Buddha images festival is a famous festival in Dawei township. The festival was held for the last time in 2019 and was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, it resumes from 23 to 27 November 2023.

"It is one of the most famous festivals in Dawei township known as Dawei Tazaungdaing. The procession of 28 Buddha Images will start on 26 November (Eve of Tazaungmone Full Moon Day). The Buddha Images will return to the temples on the Shwetaungsa Pagoda on 27 November (Tazaungmone Full Moon Day), said U Hla Tin, a member of the Shwetaungsa Pagoda Board of Trustees.

The procession of 28 Buddha Images surrounded by the respective religious teams usually makes a tour around the downtown along with the designated routes. — ASH/MKKS

File photo shows the procession of the 28 Buddha Images Festival held in Dawei, Taninthayi Region.

COVID-19 report, 4 November 2023

NEW TESTS	NEW CASE	CASUALTIES
2,129	Nil	Nil

17th PyinOoLwin Tazaungdaing Festival set for 24-28 November

THE 17th PyinOoLwin Tazaungdaing Festival will be held on 24-28 November, said U Win Myint, a member of the Maha Arnthtoo Kantha Sutaungpyae Pagoda Board of Trustees. The PyinOoLwin Tazaungdaing lighting and hot-air balloon festival have been marked as the 17th festival with crowded including the weaving of Matho Thingan competition.

"This year Tazaungdaing lighting festival will take place at the platform of Maha Arnthtoo Kantha Sutaungpyae Pagoda and the hot-air balloon festival will be held in the Pagoda's hot-air balloon field. The weaving of the Matho Thingan weaving competition will start on 24 November and the Matho Thingan will be offered on 27 November (full moon day of Tazaungmone) morning. The hot-air balloon festival will start from the eve of Tazaungmone full moon day with the Day and Night hot-air balloons," said U Win Myint.

During the festival, the offering of Matho Thingan event will take place at 5 am on Tazaungmone Full Moon Day, not only the 9,000 oil lamp offering event will be celebrated on Tazaungmone Full Moon Day evening, but the Seinnaban hot-air balloons and NyaMeeGyi hot-air balloons will be released starting from 7 pm but also the various animals and mythical creatures hot-air balloons will be released as Daytime starting from 1 pm and the various sports competitions will be held daily at 8 am-6 pm in the Hot-air Balloons Field compound. — ASH/MKKS

File photo shows a hot-air balloon and revellers are seen happily cheering during the PyinOoLwin Tazaungdaing Festival.

NATIONAL

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing warmly greets the Russian Navy Orchestra in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

SAC Chairman C-in-C of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla watch concert of Myanmar Tatmadaw Cultural Troupe and Russian Navy Orchestra

The concert of the Myanmar Tatmadaw Cultural Troupe and Russian Navy Orchestra was organized in Nay Pyi Taw aiming at boosting military ties between two countries.

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla watched the concert together with the Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air), the SAC Secretary, the Joint Secretary, SAC members, Union Ministers and Senior Military Officers of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Office and their wives, the Russian delegation led by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) of Russia Admiral Nikolai A Evmenov, Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Iskandar Azizov, and officers, other ranks and their family members of Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office.

At the event, the members of the Myanmar Tatmadaw Cultural Troupe and Russian navy band performed Russian songs, and dances including Myanmar songs. Moreover, the Myawady band of Myanmar Tatmadaw Cultural Troupe played Myanma traditional orchestra for Russian songs "Katyusha and Kalinka" including for "San Thit Hla Pa Bagan Yein Aka" (innovative Bagan cultural choral dance), and sang the Russian song "Ar Thi Na Si Me Yar", and the SAC Chairman, his wife and party enjoyed the performance.

Then, the SAC Chairman and wife gave a bouquet to the Russian navy band and the Russian navy chief also presented a bouquet to Myawady music band.

Next, the SAC Chairman and wife had a documentary photo taken together with the Russian navy chief and cultural troupe members. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar, Russian armed forces ...

FROM PAGE-1

to conduct a joint exercise for maritime security between two navies of both countries.

Both sides discussed the learning of military officers from Myanmar Tatmadaw in the Russian Federation, the cultural exchange between the two armed forces, and further promotion of cooperation.

The meeting was also attended by Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung and senior military officers. The Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy was accompanied by the Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Iskandar Azizov, senior military officers from the Russian Armed Forces and the Russian Military Attaché to Myanmar. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar Dental Health Science Conference 2023 enters second day

THE second day of the Myanmar Dental Health Science Conference 2023 continued at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II (MICC-II) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

On the second day of the conference, Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win presented certificates of appreciation to the chairperson and speakers of the conference. On the same day, Deputy Minister for Health Prof Dr Aye Tun attended the signing ceremony to extend an MoU between Myanmar and the Faculty of Dentistry, Khon Kaen University, Thailand to exchange medical knowledge, and academic methods and to strengthen collaboration for research on dental health.

Similarly, on the first day of the conference, the Union Minister for Health also attended a ceremony to sign an MoU to exchange medical knowledge on cleft lip and palate surgeries between the Department of Medical Services under the Ministry of Health and the Korean University of Medicine, the ROK.

In addition, on the second day of the conference, professors from the Korean University of Medicine, Republic of Korea shared knowledge on dental implant treatments and a professor from the Japan Heart Foundation, Japan discussed cleft lip and palate surgeries followed by a discussion of face, jaw and oral surgeries contributed by a surgeon of the International Medical University, Malaysia.

Similarly, Myanmar Dental Council Chairman Prof Dr Paing Soe and a member of the council Prof Dr Myo Win discussed the ethics of dentists while Prof Dr Aung Thu Hein, Prof Dr Zaw Moe Hein, Prof Dr Aung Thein Tun, Prof Dr Kyaw Tint, Prof Dr Ko Ko Soe and Prof Dr Aung Win from the University of Dental Medicine (Mandalay) as well as Prof Dr Hla Myo Naing from the University of Medicine (1) Yangon gave lectures on jaw and oral medicine. Prof Dr Zaw Win Tun of Defence Services Medical Academy and Prof Dr Tun Ngwe of the University of Dental Medicine (Mandalay) held discussions on jaw and oral medicine.

The theme of the Myanmar Dental Health Science Conference 2023 organized by the Ministry of Health is "Quality Dental Care for Community" and 25 parallel sessions of paper reading were conducted on the second day. — MNA/TH

NATIONAL

MyRO website launching and rice storage registration system briefing held for businesspersons

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein said during the MyRO website launching ceremony and rice storage facilities registration system briefing in Nay Pyi Taw that it would be easy and fast to do the same as the company registration system and that the ceremony is the first step to digitalize the rice sector, so they would like to make an all-out effort to improve the future processes to be carried out.

Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister U Win Shein delivers the speech at the MyRO website launching ceremony and rice storage facilities registration system briefing in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In MyRO, activities such as rice warehouse registration, exporter registration, and rice mill registration will be carried out in the form of a digital platform.

The Union minister said that the process of establishing a crop insurance system for farmers is being implemented and that the national government will create a good environment in terms of policy stability and favourable investment.

Then, Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn said that his ministry is working to ensure that farmers get benefits, traders get appropriate benefits, and consumers are not burdened. With the approval of the State Administration Council, the implementation of the financial support system based on warehouse receipts was formed and the plan was drawn up to implement the financial support system based on warehouse receipts.

Starting as a pilot project, entrepreneurs who want to invest in the construction of warehouses must implement the new system successfully.

As a pilot project, plans are underway in the Union Territory of Nay Pyi Taw, Bago Region, Yangon Region and Ayeyawady Region. In MyRO, information, services and registration activities will be done in a short time with ease and simplicity for all in one place. — MNA/KZL

34 assistant surgeons hired for township social welfare clinics

THE Ministry of Labour has recruited 34 assistant surgeons to work in township social welfare clinics across six regions and three states, including the Yangon Region.

The Ministry of Labour has announced the recruitment of 34 assistant surgeons (MBBS) on a contract basis for 34 township social welfare clinics under the Social Security Board.

Applications are invited for a fixed monthly salary of K275,000. These positions are available in clinics in the Mandalay, Ayeyawady, Bago, Sagaing regions, Shan, Mon and Kayin states, as per a statement from the Department of Labour.

The Chanayethazan social welfare clinic in Mandalay.

Applicants must have a medical licence and must be able to travel to any locations and perform duties.

In the application announcement, currently serving civil servants are ineligible.

Applications can be submitted free of charge at workers' hospitals and regional and state social welfare offices, as stated by the Ministry of Labour in Nay Pyi Taw (Head Office). — TWA/KZW

Myanmar researchers discover new ...

FROM PAGE-1

from NSCI including Ma Myat Bhone Maw, Ko Khant Zaw Hein, Ko Min Khant Naing and a senior researcher, according to the organization.

"It is a unique species among the begonias flowers, so I am happy to have been able to record it. What makes it special is that it is a species included in the group that produces flowers from the top of the stem. Currently, more than 2,000 species of begonias flowers are identified in the world, but there are only five species including the new species from Myanmar that produce flowers from the top of the stem," said researcher Ma Mya Bhone Maw.

NSCI employs local and expatriate experts to conduct on-ground works to record Myanmar's biodiversity species and also to carry out services such as the identification of species and publishing articles on the conservation of biodiversity as well as myths and facts about some plants and animals. — ASH/TH

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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

Seafarers required to submit advance income tax payment certificate

MSF President U Soe Min Aung meets the media on 2 November 2023.

THE Myanmar Seafarers Federation (MSF) will request the Internal Revenue Department to reconsider the advance income tax payment of seafarers before their passport renewal, U Soe Min Aung, the federation president told the media at the MSF office on 2 November.

The Myanmar seafarers encounter delays in the renewal and extension of their passports when they receive calls from their respective companies, and they miss job opportunities, so the advance income tax payment is not convenient for them.

Myanmar passport issuing board made a statement on 16 October that migrant workers and seamen must bring tax clearance certificates granted by the Internal Revenue Department to renew PJ and PS passports. A similar request was also submitted to the Internal Revenue Department for the first time on 20 October, according to MSF. — TWA/KTZH

MoFA seeks lower division clerk for recruitment

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, job applications for 20 lower division clerk positions must be submitted by 30 November.

The salary range for the junior clerk position is K180,000-2000-190,000, with an increment of 2,000. The application can be obtained on the website and Facebook page.

The photo of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

Applications should be submitted either in person or by mail by 30 November 2023. It has been informed that you can come and submit during office hours. Applicants must be citizens of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and hold a Bachelor's degree in Arts, Science (Specialized Subjects), Law, Foreign Language, Business, or Computer Science. For ordinary graduates who are not State employees (permanent employees) or those who already have a master's degree, the age limit is 27 years or younger on 30 November. State employees (permanent employees) or those with a master's degree must be no more than 32 years of age on 30 November.

If you are appointed as an employee, the applicant must sign a commitment to serve for at least one year. Additionally, the applicant needs to provide the following documents: Certification (original/copy) and a copy of the resignation letter from previous department if the applicants resigned as an employee. Applicants who have been dismissed or had their appointment canceled in any government department are not eligible to apply.

For more information, candidates can contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Office No 9, Nay Pyi Taw. The applicants can reach them for enquiries. — TWA/KZW

News in Brief

Bilateral meeting between China, Myanmar

ON the evening of 3 November, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs U Lwin Oo and Assistant Foreign Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, Mr Nong Rong, met at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw. The purpose of their meeting was to expedite cooperation projects under the Myanmar-China Economic Corridor and the Silk Road Project. They also discussed other important economic matters, including the continuation of cooperation for stability and peace in the border region of both countries.

Yangon General Hospital's 7-storey construction nears 80% completion

THE advanced seven-storey building currently under construction at Yangon General Hospital in Latha Township, Yangon Region, has reached over 80 per cent completion. On the morning of 1 November, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, along with regional ministers, visited the construction site of the advanced seven-story building. They emphasized the importance of building the hospital as per international standards and ensuring the timely completion of the project.

Myanmar Embassy issues report on Myanmar citizens' arrival in Viet Nam

MYANMAR citizens residing in Viet Nam are requested to report their presence to the Myanmar Embassy, which will aid sea workers. Viet Nam has stated that the initial process of citizenship verification should be conducted to ensure legal protection and support for Myanmar nationals, including repatriation to Myanmar and the repatriation of victims of human trafficking. This information was released by the Myanmar embassy located in Hanoi.

University admission list to be announced on 7 Nov

THE Ministry of Education has announced that the list of students admitted to the first year of the current academic year will be released on 7 November. Similarly, the list of students admitted to the first-year university day courses will be announced at their respective universities and degree colleges. Additionally, the announcement will be made available on the Ministry of Education's website www.moe.gov.mm and the Department of Higher Education's website www.dhe.gov.mm.

Myanmar Navy to commence new sea exercise on 7 Nov

ON 7 November, the Myanmar Tatmadaw (Navy) will commence a series of exercises in the northern waters of the Andaman Sea. These exercises, which will include aerial and underwater drills, and maritime security exercises with live firing, will continue until 9 November. As a safety precaution, ships will be restricted within a 5-mile radius of the exercise area, and aircraft are advised not to fly below an altitude of fifteen thousand feet. Tatmadaw (Navy) has issued a warning against aircraft and helicopter flights over the exercise zone. — Htun Htun/KZW

Entertainment

Win Pe Myint

THE solo art exhibition of artist Saya Win Pe Myint is being conducted at Lokanat Galleries on Pansodan Street in Yangon from 2 to 7 November. Regarding the solo exhibition "Light, colour, figure," he said, "I always watch nature. I memorize the beauty of nature that is changing in each season, day and night. This show will present the combination of these three aspects figure, light and colour."

Ko Zaw (Aryonoo)

DIRECTOR Ko Zaw (Aryonoo) filmed the "Yaw Thama Hmway" movie with singer Thar Soe. The Premiere of this movie was held at the Thamada Cinema on 31 October and it was screened at every cinema starting 3 November. The film was made by Saung Nya Pyatho Production, and Hlwan Paing, Yair Yint Aung, Academy Phway Phway, Khin Hlaing, Phyu Phyu Htwe and other artistes participated in the comedy film.

Phway Phway

ACADEMY Phway Phway attended the Thadingyut Festival of CKC Jewellery by Win & San Diamonds & Fine Jewellery on 29 October. She said, "I am really excited when I stand in front of my fans because I haven't been in public for many years. I attended about four events per month previously, and I didn't do any activity in the last four years, so, I am very excited when I meet my fans."

Kaizar

SINGER and composer Kaing Zar served as a judge for the Music Diary singing contest organized by TV Channel K. He said, "I participate in this contest as a judge as I think it will be a fun event for providing positive comments for over 40 years old contestants with little-known secret talents."

Kyaw Htet Aung

KYAW HTET AUNG who became well-known through the Myanmar Idol event is now dedicated to acting. He told the media that he will keep working as an actor and an MC, he accepts wedding ceremony bookings three months in advance, and he will serve as MC for the wedding reception of actress Thoon Sett soon. — Htun Htun/KTZH

Enthusiastic crowds greet Miss Grand International 1st Runner-Up Ni Ni Lin Eain

Fans welcome Myanmar Miss Ni Ni Lin Eain at Suvarnabhumi Airport in Thailand on 3 November 2023.

MISS Grand International 1st Runner-Up Ni Ni Lin Eain arrived at Suvarnabhumi Airport in Thailand on 3 November evening and throngs of Myanmar fans welcomed her.

The fans residing in Thailand shouted "Myanmar... Myanmar" to support her singing the national anthem of Myanmar and gave her bouquets.

"I haven't imagined that such a crowd would welcome me. I am very happy as they love me so much. I will keep trying for Myanmar. I will be in Myanmar on 7 November," said Ni Ni.

The Top 10 contestants of Miss Grand International 2023 arrived at Suvarnabhumi Airport together with Myanmar Miss Ni Ni Lin Eain, and the Thai media and Myanmar Celebrity (MC Media) covered the news there.

Moreover, Miss Grand Myanmar National Director Htoo Ant Lwin and Miss Grand Myanmar 2022 Ei Ei Aung Tun supported Ni Ni Lin Eain at the airport. — Htun Htun/KTZH

Myanmar Miss to compete in Miss Tourism World 2023 in China

Myanmar beauty contestant Su Myat Yee will compete in the Miss Tourism World 2023 to be held in China. Beauty queens representing 80 countries including Myanmar will participate in the Miss Tourism World 2023 to be held from 1 to 18 November, but the date was pushed back.

"Although the competition is slated to be held on 1 November, the date was pushed back for certain circumstances. They told me to be ready. But I have a chance to prepare. I also compete in the Miss Grand Myanmar 2024 and I have to concentrate on it. The Miss Tourism World 2023 is held on a grand scale in China and so I will try my best and I am ready for it," said Miss Su Myat Yee. She is from Taninthayi Region and won five title awards including Miss Grand Haka 2024 and Beauty Face of Angel's Secret. — ASH/KTZH

Pigeon pea price falls below K4 mln/tonne after one month

THE pigeon pea price decreased to below K4 million per tonne in the Yangon market on weak demand after the price stayed unchanged for over one month, according to the Bayintnaung Commodity Wholesale Centre.

The pigeon pea has remained unchanged at K4.075 million per tonne since the end-September and then, the price started to decline to K3.9 million per tonne on 4 November.

The sluggish market caused the price to decrease.

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

India has growing demand and consumption requirements for black gram and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2021, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black gram and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses' annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are also entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that annual quota.

The photo shows pigeon pea crops and seeds.

Myanmar shipped more than 930,000 tonnes of various pulses, with an estimated value of over $778 million, to foreign countries in the past six and half months during the 2023-2024 financial year beginning 1 April, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's pulses exports topped over US$1.47 billion from over 1.9 million tonnes in the past FY 2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated. — NN/EM

The picture shows black grams sold in the domestic market.

Black gram price nearly reaches K3 mln per tonne

THE price of black gram (Fair Average Quality/RC) is near to K3 million per tonne in early November and the FOB price is also relatively higher than those recorded in late October.

The prices were registered at K2.972 million per tonne of black gram (FAQ/RC), K3.207 million per tonne of (SQ/RC) and K4.075 million per tonne of pigeon pea (red gram) on 2 November. Pigeon pea price has remained unchanged for over a month.

The FOB prices increased to US$1,090-1,110 per tonne of black gram on 2 November from $1,045-1,065 per tonne on 26 October.

India's Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare notified that black gram output is expected to fall by 15 per cent and green gram yield is down by 18 per cent in 2023 compared to those in 2022 while pigeon pea production is likely to increase by 3.3 per cent.

Despite the harvest season of black gram (urad in India), the inferior quality is found. Demand for Myanmar's black gram surpasses the supply, raising the CNF price in India by $55 compared to the previous days.

The black gram prices stood at 95 rupees per kilo in the Chennai market and 97 rupees in the Deli market at the end of October. Pigeon pea (tur) fetched 177 rupees per kilo in October 2023, which surged from 117 rupees in the corresponding period last year. — TWA/KK

Spice prices: Imported Kyukok garlic price jumps after border transport hurdle

KYUKOK garlic imported by China doubled after a week of transport obstacles at the border.

On 26 October, Kyukok garlic fetched K7,800 and Shan garlic's price was only K9,000-9,800. The prices reached a two-time high after one week of trade situation.

The price of Kyukok garlic in the domestic market went up amid the low stocks.

The price gap between Kyukok garlic and onion nearly quadrupled this week ending 3 November.

Housewives mostly consume onion rather than garlic. The exorbitant price of garlic does not pose a big burden on the food cost of the housewives.

Onion prices stood at K2,900-K3,800 per viss at the Bayintnaung market on 3 November. Meanwhile, Kyukok garlic prices moved in the range between K16,000 and K17,000 per viss and Shan garlic prices were K12,000-K15,000 per viss, Ko Thein Myint, a garlic seller, told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The retail price of Kyukok garlic at Lanmadaw market was K17,500 per viss, Ko Kyin Thein from Lanmadaw told the GNLM.

In the corresponding period last year, garlic prices were K3,000-K4,100 per viss and K3,700-K3,800 per viss, whereas onion prices were K3,200-K3,900 per viss.

Shan garlic price followed the price rise of Kyukok garlic yet it has not reached the level of Kyukok garlic, said a trader.

The imported Kyukok garlic has grasped a firm market share in the domestic market for over two decades. It is mostly used in the food industry as it is easier to peel. Local garlic is primarily grown in Taunggyi and Aungban, Shan State. It is also found in Pakokku and Mandalay areas.

The local garlic flows into the market in February while Kyukok garlic floods in the market in May and June. The high price of garlic might prompt the growers to expand the cultivation acres. — TWA/KK

Kyukok garlic imported by China is seen in the domestic market.

OPINION

Restore peace and build a peaceful and prosperous nation

THE pursuit of peace is a shared aspiration for all, yet the means to achieve it vary. To have the most effective solution, it is imperative that everybody needs to evaluate conflicts based on various reasons with unbiased political and military outlooks.

Generally, both politicians and military personnel in all global countries ultimately share the same goal of restoring peace. Regardless of the approach, a fundamental requirement for achieving peace is a commitment to impartial, bilateral reviews. By doing so, wars can be brought to a halt, and peace can be restored for the benefit of all living beings. The resulting peace will then blossom across the world.

Currently, conflicts and wars persist worldwide, resulting in the loss of numerous civilian lives and the devastation of cities, both large and small. It is vital to reflect upon whether wars genuinely lead to peace when they also claim the lives and limbs of military personnel and civilians.

Those engaged in conflicts often claim that their actions are necessary to bring about peace for all, yet they accidentally cause harm to innocent civilians. Prior to achieving peace, it is essential to consider how much loss of life and limb is acceptable as a means to that end. The focus should be on the goal of ensuring the peace and prosperity of the people without any loss of life or limb.

In an ever-changing world, leaders must carefully consider and select the most effective path to forge peace for all. The global population desires the benefits of peace and the absence of casualties. Thus, all stakeholders must work tirelessly to relieve the burdens borne by people.

Presently, the people of Myanmar aspire to achieve a nationwide ceasefire. The government has made strides in amending the Constitution of 2008 to promote unity and enhance the nation's image. A peaceful Myanmar would allow its citizens to stand tall among those from various countries worldwide. If wars come to an end, entire generations will no longer be subject to the impacts of conflict and will have ample opportunities to experience and enjoy the fruits of peace.

The pursuit of peace should be an unwavering commitment for all. The approach may differ, but the common goal should be to cease wars, restore peace, and ultimately build a peaceful and prosperous nation that preserves the lives and limbs of all its citizens. ■

Presently, the people of Myanmar aspire to achieve a nationwide ceasefire. The government has made strides in amending the Constitution of 2008 to promote unity and enhance the nation's image. A peaceful Myanmar would allow its citizens to stand tall among those from various countries worldwide. If wars come to an end, entire generations will no longer be subject to the impacts of conflict and will have ample opportunities to experience and enjoy the fruits of peace.

AI anxiety as computers get super smart

FROM Hollywood's death-dealing Terminator to warnings from genius Stephen Hawking or Silicon Valley stars, fears have been fuelled that artificial intelligence (AI) could one day destroy humanity.

Tech titans are racing toward creating AI far smarter than people, pushing US President Joe Biden to impose emergency regulation and the European Union seeking major legislation to be agreed by the end of this year. A two-day summit starting Wednesday in London will explore regulatory safeguards against AI risks such as those below.

Job stealer?

The success of ChatGPT from OpenAI has ignited debate about whether "generative AI" capable of quickly producing text, images and audio from simple commands in everyday language is a tremendous threat to jobs held by people. Automated machinery is already used to do labour in factories, warehouses, and fields. Generative AI, however, can take aim at white-collar jobs such as lawyers, doctors, teachers, journalists, and even computer programmers. A report from the McKinsey consulting firm estimates that by the end of this decade, as much as 30 per cent of the hours worked in the United States could be automated in a trend accelerated by generative AI. Boosters of such technology have invoked the notion of a universal basic income in which machines generate wealth that is shared with people freed of the burdens of work. But it is also possible companies would reap profits of improved efficiencies, leaving those out of work to fend for themselves.

Copycat?

Artists were quick to protest software such as Dall-E, Midjourney and Stable Diffusion that are capable of creating images in nearly any style on demand.

Computer coders and writers followed suit, critiquing AI creators for "training" software on their work, enabling it to replicate their styles or skills without permission or compensation.

AI models have been taught using massive amounts of information and imagery found online.

"That's what it trains on, a fraction of the huge output of humanity," OpenAI co-founder Sam Altman said at a conference in September. "I think this will be a tool that amplifies human beings, not replace them."

Disinformation tools?

Fake news and deepfakes have been around for years but being able to easily crank it out using generative AI raises fears of rampant online deception.

Elections run the risk of being won by those most adept at spreading disinformation, contends cognitive scientist and AI expert Gary Marcus.

SOURCE: AFP

Hare-brained Scheme

By Phone-Mee-Nay-La (Upadei)

တနေ့ပ်စားဥာဏ်
ဘုန်းမီးနေလ (ဥပဒေ)

အသီးကိုလိုချင်၍ အပင်ကို ချိုင်လျှင်
အသီးကုန်ဆုံး အပင်ပြုန်းမှ
အဆုံးဘဇာ ကျန်မည်နည်း

if you cut down the tree
coz you want the fruit
what if the fruit is gone
the tree is finished
and in the end, nothing is left behind.

(This poem appeared by the late Tin Htay Aung, (pseudonym Phone-Mee-Nay-La roughly meaning Sun's and Moon's glory and brightness) then a first-year law student at Rangoon Arts and Science University appeared in the January or February 1971 issue of Thint-Ba-Wa magazine. An alternative or literal translation of the title would be 'One-off gimmick'. Ko Tin Htay Aung was so pleased with the publication of his poem that he treated me to a drink of lime juice to celebrate it.)

Translated by Myint Zan

ARTICLE
BOOKRACK

Each Value

By Chit Ko Pe

A broken watch is twice right,
each time day and night.

A dried fallen leaf on the ground,
fluttering in a breeze with a song.

Little stars defy the waning night,
travellers get aid with dim light.

Though trivial situations stand,
each has its own value at hand,
let's collectively beautify our land!

Book Title	-	Pipithatha Thantthant Pyantpyant Buddhabathar
Writer	-	Minn Nan (Mawgyun)
Publishing House	-	Wuncha Taung
Publication Date	-	October 2023 (1st Edition)
Price	-	K6,000

Pipithatha Thantthant Pyantpyant Buddhabathar

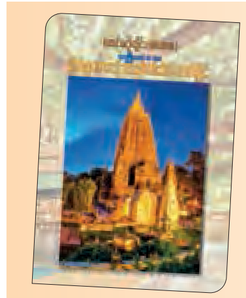
SAYA Minn Nan (Mawgyun) is writing articles on Buddhism in such a way as to enable people of all ages to understand Buddhism, which is too profound to understand. He is an ardent writer of Buddhist literature which is so difficult to understand that hardly any writer chooses to write about.

This is the 23rd book published by Wunchataung Publishing House. The book under review is a collection of articles on Buddhism. The introduction of this book deals with two types of Buddhists – the traditional Buddhists and the devout Buddhists who are pious enough to do meritorious deeds regularly with ultimate faith in Buddha, not expecting any secular benefits. The traditional Buddhists also perform good deeds, say the prayers and count the rosary beads but they are doing these good things to have their prayers fulfilled by Lord Buddha. They do noble deeds but with the expectation to earn a good income, win the lottery and succeed in worldly affairs. This traditional type of Buddhist believes in astrology, palmistry, the guardian spirits and the angels etc. They would do yatra to ward off the evils and to bring the good things to them. They are very superstitious, and they believe that certain days are lucky while other days are unfortunate. Even about the pagodas, they think that pagodas have different powers with certain pagodas having greater power. The writer went so far as to say that if a survey is conducted to find out which type outnumbers the other type, it will be the first type – the traditional Buddhists who do not believe in karma and karmic effects.

The writer has exerted great effort to make the traditional Buddhists perfectly understand Buddhism. He explains that Buddha is not a saviour, that people have to rely on themselves, that astrology or palmistry or saintly people can do nothing for the people, and that all the effects have related causes and as long as people do not believe in karma and its effects, they are said to be holding the wrong view.

In the article titled, "Weinnyin Leikpya Shi Tha Lar," the writer explains that there is no such thing as the spirit that leaves its body upon physical death in this existence only to rest on another body in the next existence, that such a belief is held by the Hindus, that when a person dies, both his body and soul die and that according to Buddhism, both the physical death and spiritual death occur at the same time with the one losing his life in this existence having a new body and new soul in the next existence. What follows the dead one is his karma and karmic effects. The one in his previous existence and the one in the next existence are in fact two different persons. In this regard, it must be remembered that karma is an energy, and so, according to the Law of Conservation of Energy, it cannot be eliminated; the energy is always conserved. It will never be lost, but it can exist in another form.

In a nutshell, the writer must be said to have exerted his utmost effort to get the traditional Buddhists rid of wrong beliefs or the wrong views – the Ditthi. ■



Book Title	-	Majjhimadesa MyatBuddhalokathoe Ahle Takhauk Yaukshi Gyin
Writer	-	Maung Yin Hline (Hinthada)
Publishing House	-	Ko Lat
Publication Date	-	October 2023 (1st Edition)
Price	-	K8,000

Majjhimadesa Myat Buddhalokathoe Ahle Takhauk Yaukshi Gyin

THIS book is the third work of the writer. Despite being a book with good physical quality, the price is quite fair. This is a travelogue, depicting the pilgrimage to India and Nepal. Saya New Oo Hlaing, the writer of the foreword to this book, said that this book will bring benefit to the readers as they can pay homage to Buddha while reading. Additionally, the readers will have a chance to behold the sacred places in India and Nepal. Despite being a travelogue, the writer can compose it attractively and entertainingly, bringing the readers to the end of the book in a sitting.

Maung Yin Hline (Hinthada), the writer of this book, said that the Buddhist monks have learnt by heart the sermons delivered by Lord Buddha, handed down from generation to generation what they have listened to His preachings and put the preachings on record in the Pitika texts. In those days, the Pitaka texts, and the Buddhist canons are inscribed in the palm leaves. These days, people can read them on the mobile phones.

The writer also said that the preachings have come into existence from the sacred mouth of Lord Buddha. There is a saying that one word is tantamount to one Buddha, and so, there will be a lot of Buddhas as there are more than 8,000 pages in Pitaka texts. This being so, cherishing the Pitaka texts suggests paying homage to the Triple Gems – Buddha, His Teachings and Monks. The writer also said that he has had to take great risks in having this kind of book published at a time of crisis. He said that he would be happy if the readers learned something from his book.

This book has 13 episodes. Episode 1 deals with four places of Samvejaniya – the place where Buddha was born; the place in which Buddha attained His Buddhahood; the place in where Buddha delivered the very first sermon known as Dhammacakka Pavattana Sutta; and the place where Buddha entered Parinibbana.

Episode 2 is about the arrival to Gaya in India and the visit to Seven Sattahtana places in the precinct of Maha Bodhi Pagoda whereas Episode 3 depicts the visit to Rajagaha City, which the readers are already familiar with because certain life stories of Buddha occurred in the City of Rajagaha while Episode 4 is about the Nalanda Buddhist University where the Buddhist monks have been pursuing the Pitaka texts since the time of Gotama Buddha. The readers will learn things in Pattana in Episode 5 and Vesali where the Second Great Synod convened in Episode 6.

The readers will also be able to read the visit to Lumbini Garden in Nepal where Lord Buddha was born. Additionally, the readers will have a chance to learn about Varanasi City, Zaytawun Monastery, the place where Devadat was sunk underground, Sawuthti Monastery, Migadawun, the Deer Park where the very first sermon was delivered and the visit to Dhammekha Ceti which was consecrated to mark the delivering of Anatta Lakkhana Sutta. The writer has not forgotten to mention River Ganges, the Uruvela Forest and the Neyyinzaya River. ■

TECH/ENVIRON WORLD

Iraq inches towards solar-powered future

Solar panels are being used on most homes in this village as an effort to harness solar energy.

IN a small village in the mountains of Iraqi Kurdistan, solar panels adorn most homes, part of a small but growing effort to harness the sun's energy in Iraq, where electricity is scarce.

"Solar covers all our needs: the refrigerator, television, air cooler, washing machine, vacuum cleaner," said Daniar Abdallah, 33, a resident of Hazar Merd who converted to solar and hasn't looked back.

"It has helped us a lot," said the father of two, who spent $2,800 in 2018 to install photovoltaic panels for his family home.

Despite its vast oil wealth, Iraq struggles to provide enough electricity to its 43 million people after decades of conflict and sanctions, as well as rampant corruption and crumbling infrastructure.

And even though it is blessed with more sunshine than most other countries, it has proved difficult to wean Iraq's economy off fossil fuels — one of the themes of the upcoming COP28 climate talks in Dubai.

Although it receives a third of its energy needs from neighbouring Iran, there are still daily power cuts, which worsen in the hot summer months when temperatures approach 50 degrees Celsius (120 Fahrenheit).

The tranquil silence of Hazar Merd is striking in a country where the roar of large neighbourhood generators used to provide back-up power is ever-present. "Before, we had a generator that broke down all the time" to overcome power cuts which can sometimes last 12 or 13 hours a day, said Abdallah, who works as a soldier for local Kurdish forces. — AFP

Residents like Daniar Abdallah are experiencing the benefits of solar energy. **PHOTO: AFP**

Plastic waste in rivers may carry dangerous microbes: study

Plastic litter in rivers can serve as a breeding ground for microorganisms, potentially carrying disease-causing bacteria and viruses downstream

An aerial view shows men collect waste of plastic residues, glass and other materials at the Cerron Grande reservoir in Potonico, El Salvador, on 9 September 2022. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ AFP/**

PLASTIC litter in rivers might be allowing dangerous pathogens to hitch-hike downstream, a new study published Wednesday found. The research, which focused on one UK river, found that dumped plastic, wooden sticks and the water itself were a breeding ground for communities of microorganisms, potentially providing a reservoir for bacteria and viruses known to cause human diseases and antibiotic resistance.

"Our findings indicate that plastics in freshwater bodies may contribute to the transport of potential pathogens and antibiotic resistance genes," said lead author Vinko Zadjelovic of the University of Antofagasta in Chile.

"This could have indirect but significant implications for human health," he told AFP.

Antibiotic resistance is a growing public health threat. In 2019, infections related to antibiotic resistance are estimated to have killed 2.7 million people worldwide.

By 2050 they are predicted to cause 10 million deaths worldwide, according to the study, published in the journal Microbiome.

When plastic ends up in water its surface is overrun within minutes by nearby microbes.

The researchers submerged samples for a week in the River Sowe in Warwickshire and West Midlands England, downstream from a wastewater treatment plant.

They found significant differences in the microbe communities depending on the material sampled.

Water worries

Wastewater is required to be treated and disinfected to reduce microbial hazards and any adverse impacts they might have on human and environmental health. — AFP

Mexico announces recovery plan for hurricane-hit Acapulco

MEXICO'S government announced Wednesday an aid and reconstruction plan worth nearly $3.5 billion for victims of a hurricane that devastated the beachside city of Acapulco.

"Together we will very soon be able to put the beautiful and nostalgic port of Acapulco back on its feet," President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said at his daily news conference.

Otis smashed into Acapulco a week ago as a scale-topping Category 5 hurricane packing winds of 165 miles (270 kilometres) per hour. The storm left a trail of destruction and at least 46 people dead, with 58 others unaccounted for. The 61.3-billion-peso recovery plan includes the delivery of groceries to nearly 250,000 affected families for three months, as well as cleaning, painting and rehabilitation of damaged homes, Lopez Obrador said.

The government will provide interest-free loans for small businesses and a budget for improving urban services such as water, drainage and lighting.

There will also be support for hotels and money to rehabilitate roads connecting Acapulco with Mexico City and surrounding municipalities. — AFP

Cars lay partially underwater in the aftermath of Hurricane Otis at "Zona Diamante" in Acapulco, Guerrero State, Mexico, on 27 October 2023. **PHOTO: RODRIGO OROPEZA/AFP/FILE**

WORLD

Death toll from earthquake rises to 128 in western Nepal

THE death toll from a strong, shallow earthquake in western Nepal has risen to 128 as the rescue operation is going on, government officials said on Saturday.

The 6.4-magnitude quake hit Jajarkot and Rukum West districts in western Nepal at 23:47 local time on Friday night (1802 GMT), killing 128 people in the districts and wounding 140 others, Nepal Police spokesman Kuber Kadayat told Xinhua.

It is difficult for the rescue teams to reach some places as bridges were damaged, and roads were blocked by landslides triggered by the quake, he said.

Damaged houses lie in ruins, in the aftermath of an earthquake at Pipaldanda village of Jajarkot district on 4 November 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

The depth of the earthquake is between 10 to 15 kilometres, and an additional four aftershocks above magnitude 4.0 have been recorded by Saturday morning, according to Lok Bijay Adhikari from Nepal's National Earthquake Monitoring and Research Centre.

"The aftershocks continue," he added.

The Nepali government is focusing on the rescue and treatment of the injured after the earthquake.

"The rescue and treatment of the injured is the first priority," Home Ministry spokesman Narayan Prasad Bhattarai told Xinhua.

Nepali Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal went to the affected area Saturday morning along with health workers, and helicopters were being mobilized for the rescue operation, he said.

"We have not yet taken details about houses and other infrastructure damaged as the focus is to rescue," said Bhattarai. "So far, there is no report of casualties from other districts". In October, three quakes above magnitude 4.0 jolted the Dhading district in central Nepal, with one measuring 6.1-magnitude. A 7.8-magnitude earthquake in 2015 killed some 9,000 people and damaged more than half a million houses in the mountainous country. — Xinhua

FRAUD CASE AS A WASTEFUL CHARADE

Donald Trump 'fired up' to testify in New York fraud case: son

DONALD TRUMP'S son Eric wrapped up his testimony on Friday in the civil fraud case against the family business empire and said his father is "fired up" to take the stand next week.

The 77-year-old former US president is expected to testify on Monday in the trial in which the Trump Organization is accused of inflating the value of its assets by billions of dollars to obtain more favourable bank loans and insurance terms.

Leaving the Manhattan courtroom after concluding his second day of testimony, Eric Trump denounced the case as a "big charade" and a "huge waste of taxpayer money".

"We've done absolutely nothing wrong," he told reporters. "We have a better company than they could have ever imagined." Eric, 39, and his elder brother Donald Jr, 45, are executive vice presidents of the Trump Organization, a sprawling network of companies managing residential buildings, office skyscrapers, luxury hotels and golf courses around the world. — AFP

Tunisian prison escapees suspected of robbing bank

TWO of the five convicts who escaped from a Tunisian prison this week are suspected of staging an armed bank robbery near the capital, police said on Friday.

The robbery took place at a bank branch in the southeastern Bou Mhel suburb of Tunis. A police statement said initial evidence showed it was likely that two of five from the jailbreak were probably involved in the bank heist. Five prisoners the interior ministry said were serving sentences "related to terrorist cases" escaped from Mornaguia prison outside Tunis at dawn on Tuesday.

The five are considered "dangerous" and have affiliations with the jihadist groups Ansar al-Sharia and Al-Qaeda, the ministry said. — AFP

Latest developments in the Gaza war

HERE are key developments from the past 24 hours:

Blinken in Jordan

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was in Jordan on Saturday for talks with counterparts from five Arab countries, after visiting Israel in his efforts to secure humanitarian "pauses" in the war.

Amman said the foreign ministers of Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates as well as a representative of the Palestinian Authority — led by president Mahmud Abbas, a rival of Hamas — would meet Blinken about the conflict.

South Gaza incursion

The Israeli army said Saturday its forces carried out an overnight "targeted raid" in southern Gaza, where it has struck before but rarely sent in troops.

Soldiers "operated to map out buildings and neutralize explosive devices", the army said without specifying the location.

It said "troops encountered a terrorist cell exiting a tunnel shaft. In response, the troops fired shells towards the terrorists and killed them."

Nasrallah blames US

Hassan Nasrallah, leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah movement, a Hamas ally, on Friday said the United States was "entirely responsible" for the Hamas-Israel war as he broke his silence on the conflict amid concerns of a broader regional conflagration. — AFP

Palestinian health ministry ambulances cross the gate to enter the Rafah border crossing in the southern Gaza Strip before crossing into Egypt on 1 November 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

ECONOMY
WORLD

Portuguese economy grows 1.9% in Q3

The country's GDP experienced a 0.7 percentage point decrease, following a 2.6 per cent growth in the previous quarter, primarily due to a notable drop in exports caused by reduced external demand.

A street is decorated with red lanterns for the upcoming Chinese Lunar New Year in Lisbon, Portugal, on 16 January 2023. **PHOTO: PEDRO FIUZA/XINHUA**

THE Portuguese economy grew by 1.9 per cent year-on-year in the third quarter (Q3) of 2023, the National Institute of Statistics (INE) said on Tuesday.

There was a slowdown of 0.7 percentage points in the country's gross domestic product (GDP), compared to a 2.6 per cent increase recorded in the second quarter. This slowdown resulted from a "significant slowdown in exports of goods and services", due to reduced external demand, INE said.

"Conversely, imports of goods and services recorded a moderate reduction," it added.

Portuguese Finance Minister Fernando Medina said that the latest GDP data reinforces the importance of stimulating domestic demand.

Speaking in the Portuguese Parliament about the proposal for the State Budget for 2024, Medina said that the GDP figures reflect "the recession abroad" that affects "external demand".

In the forecasts underlying the proposal for the State Budget for 2024, the government expects 2.2 per cent growth in the economy for the entirety of this year. — Xinhua

People shop at an open-air market in Ankara, Türkiye, 8 May 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

Turkish inflation rate nears 61%

TÜRKIYE'S annual inflation rate held steady near 61 per cent last month, official data showed Friday, highlighting government efforts to ease a historic cost of living crisis.

The rate inched down to 61.36 per cent in October from 61.53 per cent in September, the TUIK state statistics agency said.

The pace of month-on-month increases also slowed to 3.43 per cent from 4.75 per cent.

Central bank chief Hafize Gaye Erkan said Thursday that the rate will likely peak between 70 and 75 per cent next May.

She expects inflation to reach 65 per cent by the end of the year and drop to 36 per cent by the end of 2024.

Türkiye is suffering the worst bout of inflation of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's two-decade rule. The official annual inflation rate peaked at 85 per cent in October last year and climbed back up above 60 per cent in September.

After winning a May election, Erdogan appointed a new team of market-friendly economists that was given the freedom to sharply hike its policy setting rate.

Analysts blame Erdogan for provoking the crisis by forcing the nominally independent central bank to slash borrowing costs far below the rate at which prices were rising.

Erdogan had been a long-time supporter of the unorthodox theory that the high interest rates cause — rather than cure — consumer price spikes.

Erkan has lifted the bank's policy rate to 35 per cent from 8.5 per cent since the May vote.

Most analysts expect her to raise rates to 40 per cent or higher in the coming months. — AFP

Poland extends Slovak border checks to curb migration

Slovakia reported that it has identified over 46,000 undocumented migrants within its borders in the current year.

POLAND'S government is to extend border checks set up to curb migration via neighbour Slovakia, a senior minister said Thursday, as the official journal of laws announced a 20-day extension.

"These checks have been yielding results," Polish Deputy Interior Minister Maciej Wasik told public radio on Thursday.

"They are also making Slovak authorities aware that they need to take action — which they have been," he added.

The move came in response to a recent rise in Slovakia in the number of migrants and asylum seekers, largely from Serbia via Hungary, heading to wealthier Western European countries.

Austria, the Czech Republic and Poland introduced checks on their border with Slovakia in early October, then extended them to 2 November. Poland's official Journal of Laws showed that the border checks, which had been to expire Thursday, had been extended to 22 November. — AFP

Refugees wait to continue their journey after they crossed the border in Vysne Nemecke, eastern Slovakia, on 26 February 2022. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ PETER LAZAR/AFP**

Uber, Lyft to pay $328 mln to drivers after New York state probe

Uber and Lyft will pay $328 million to settle allegations that they mistreated drivers in New York.

UBER and Lyft will pay $328 million to settle a New York probe alleging that the companies "cheated" drivers, in an accord that also establishes paid sick leave, state officials announced Thursday.

The agreement follows state investigations that concluded the companies improperly deducted sums from drivers that should have been charged to passengers, according to New York Attorney-General Letitia James, whose office brought the case.

"For years, Uber and Lyft systematically cheated their drivers out of hundreds of millions of dollars in pay and benefits while they worked long hours in challenging conditions," said James in a statement.

"These settlements will ensure they finally get what they have rightfully earned and are owed under the law."

Uber praised the agreement as a "landmark" that would advance the company's flexible employment system, while Lyft characterized it as a welcome "win" for drivers that "we are proud to have achieved with the New York Attorney-General's Office." "That's $328 million back into the pockets of drivers!" said the New York Taxi Workers Alliance on X. — AFP

The settlement also includes provisions for paid sick leave and comes after investigations found that the companies wrongly deducted money from drivers that should have been paid by passengers. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Anti-obesity drugs fatten Novo Nordisk profits

Ozempic has been hailed as a weight-loss wonder drug. **PHOTO: MARIO TAMA/AFP/FILE**

DANISH drugmaker Novo Nordisk reported Thursday a sharp rise in third quarter sales and profits driven by the success of its anti-diabetes and anti-obesity treatments Ozempic and Wegovy.

Net profit rose to 22.5 billion kroner ($3.2 billion) in the period from July to September, a 56 per cent increase from the same time last year. Sales meanwhile rose 29 per cent to 58.7 billion kroner.

The results came in slightly better than analyst forecasts of a net profit of around 21.5 billion kroner on sales of 57.7 billion.

Over the first nine months of the year, sales rose by 33 per cent to 166.4 billion kroner at constant exchange rates, with a 58 per cent jump in sales for Ozempic and a near five-fold increase for Wegovy.

"We are very satisfied with the sales growth in the first nine months of 2023, which is reflecting that more people than ever are benefiting from our innovative diabetes and obesity treatments," chief executive Lars Fruergaard Jorgensen said in a comment. — AFP

BMW profits slide despite better sales

GERMAN car giant BMW said Friday its third quarter net profit slipped 7.7 per cent year-on-year despite improved sales, as interest rate hedges hurt earnings.

Net profit for the three months ending September stood at 2.9 billion euros ($3.1 billion) as "fair value assessment in interest rate hedging transactions" trimmed the bottom line.

Revenues for the third quarter meanwhile rose 3.4 per cent to 38.46 billion euros compared to the same period last year.

BMW chairman Oliver Zipse said the result "puts us right on track to meet the higher targets we set ourselves in August".

Growth in car deliveries reached 5.8 per cent, said the group, which manufactures vehicles of the eponymous BMW brand, as well as Mini and Rolls-Royce. — AFP

BMWs on display at a car show in Chicago, USA. **PHOTO: SCOTT OLSON /AFP**

The Global New Light of Myanmar
www.gnlm.com.mm

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0307-756N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI-ACTIVE VOY.NO. (0307-756N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-11-2023** 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 EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (056N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CONTRIVIA VOY.NO. (056N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-11-2023** 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:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

World agrifood conference in Beijing focuses on innovation

People visit an expo featuring agrifood science and technology during the 2023 World Agrifood Innovation Conference in Beijing, capital of China, 2 November 2023. **PHOTO: REN CHAO/XINHUA**

The three-day event will facilitate sharing of agricultural technology, discussing global agricultural modernization, and fostering new science and tech cooperation in agriculture.

AN international conference on agrifood innovation opened in Beijing on Thursday, drawing more than 300 scientists and entrepreneurs from over 60 countries. With the theme of "Food Security and Future Agrifood", the 2023 World Agrifood Innovation Conference consists of one main forum, four thematic forums, an expo featuring agrifood science and technology, as well as multiple sub-forums and parallel forums.

The three-day event will serve as a platform for participants to share the latest agricultural technology achievements, discuss the development of world agricultural modernization and create a new pattern of agricultural science and technology cooperation, said He Xiongkui, a professor at the China Agricultural University (CAU).

At the expo, a German technology company called PETKUS presented its innovative solution for seed processing.

"China has more and more professionals in the seed industry innovation field, and we are looking forward to in-depth cooperation in the sector," said Henning Hoeppner, chief financial officer of the company. — Xinhua

'Mother of all reforms': Italy seeks to directly elect premier

The bill aims to enable direct elections for the prime minister to address Italy's ongoing political instability.

The proposed reform seeks to establish a five-year term for the prime minister and increase their governing authority for greater political stability. **PHOTO: ANDREAS SOLARO/AFP /FILE**

ITALIAN Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni presented a constitutional reform bill Friday that would allow voters to directly elect the premier, a move designed to curb chronic political instability.

Meloni's right-wing government, which has been in office for a year, is Italy's seventh in the past decade — a fact the premier said should justify the change in the constitution.

"This is the mother of all reforms," Meloni told journalists after a cabinet meeting introducing the bill, which would fix the office of prime minister at five years and increase its power to govern.

That would favour "the stability of the government and (its) political direction", said a statement.

Currently, Italian voters choose party lists, with the head of government — who does not necessarily need to be a politician — then chosen according to results and parliamentary alliances.

The government also wants the list linked to the prime minister to be assured of at least 55 per cent of seats in parliament "so as to ensure governability".

No technocrats

Should the prime minister need to be replaced, in case of sickness or death, for example, he or she could only be replaced by a parliamentarian from the majority, and "only for the purpose of continuing the implementation of the same government programme", said the statement.

Meanwhile if the elected prime minister receives two consecutive votes of no confidence in parliament, the body will be dissolved and new elections organized. — AFP

Storms kill three, displace thousands in southern South America

In Paraguay, two elderly individuals and an 11-year-old girl died due to house collapses caused by extreme weather linked to the El Niño phenomenon.

THREE people have died and thousands have had to leave their homes due to heavy rains and flooding in southern South America this week, according to officials who pointed to the El Nino weather phenomenon.

All three deaths — of two elderly people aged 70 and 84 and an 11-year-old girl — were reported due to collapsed homes in two towns in Paraguay, which has been battered by downpours accompanied by tornadoes and rainstorms.

"We are doing our best to reach families in need. We have reports of major damage in about 40 locations," the head of the national emergency office Arsenio Zarate said Friday. — AFP

Evacuations by boat in Ayolas, Paraguay. **PHOTO: VALERIE MACON/AFP**

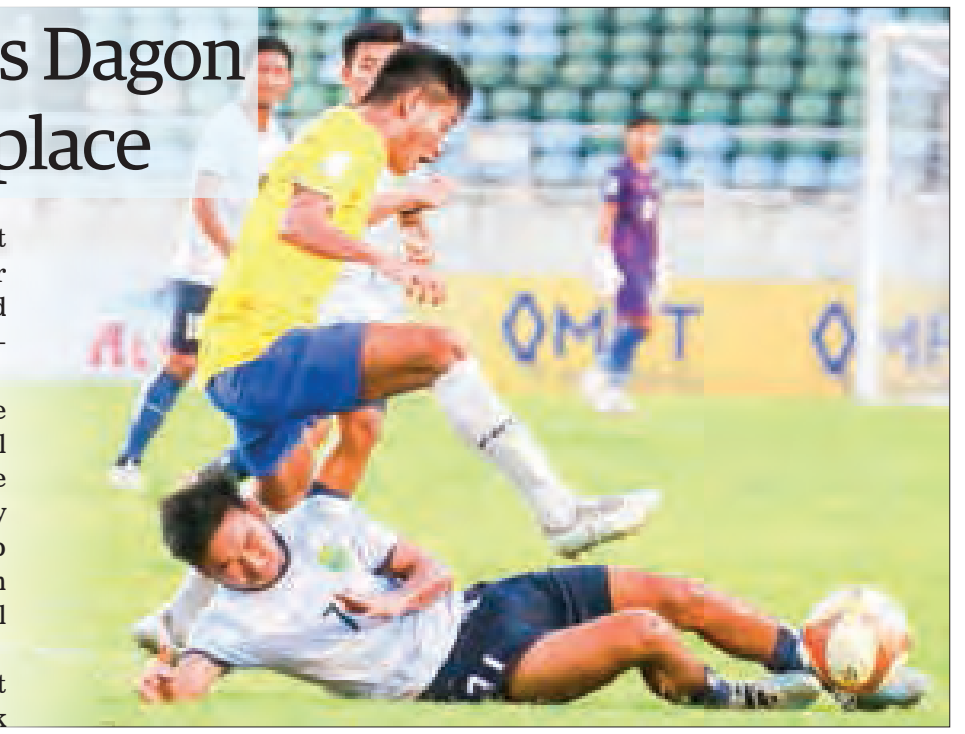
SPORTS

Djokovic beats Rune to reach ninth Paris Masters semi-final

NOVAK Djokovic edged out Holger Rune on Friday to avenge his defeat in last year's Paris Masters final and reach the last four, while Stefanos Tsitsipas set up a meeting with Grigor Dimitrov. World number one Djokovic missed a match point in the second set but eventually claimed a 7-5, 6-7 (3/7), 6-4 win over Denmark's Rune in the quarter-finals after more than two-and-three-quarter hours on court at Bercy Arena. The Serbian star is playing in his first ATP Tour event since lifting a record 24th Grand Slam title in New York in September. Djokovic, the record six-time Paris champion, will face Andrey Rublev for a place in the final after the Russian defeated Alex de Minaur 4-6, 6-3, 6-1.

"It was quite a similar match to last year's final, it was anybody's game in every set," Djokovic said. — AFP

Victory moves Dagon Star FC to 6th place



A Dagon Star FC player (bluish white) blocks the attack of ISPE during the Week-19 match of the Myanmar National League 2023 at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 4 November 2023. **PHOTO: MNL**

DAGON Star FC beat ISPE FC 1-0 at the Week-19 match of the Myanmar National League 2023 season played at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

The Dagon Star team won the match with defender Nyein Chan's goal in the second half and was able to move up to sixth place. As for ISPE FC, they suffered another defeat, and the gap with the third-placed Hanthawady team was reduced to nine points, and they will have to try to enter the top five.

Both teams came out with a full set of core players and were able to attack each other with similar skills. The winning goal for the Dagon Star team was scored by Nyein Chan with a header in the 52nd minute.

ISPE FC had more than three chances to score in this match, but failed to capitalize on them and suffered a defeat. Nyein Chan, who scored the winning goal, won the best player award for this match.

The MNL tournament will be suspended due to the November International Week and will resume from 24 November. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Myanmar wins 11 golds at ASEAN Badminton Championship

MYANMAR Badminton team won 11 gold medals, four silver medals and two bronze medals at Badminton Asia Junor Under 15-17 (Southeast Asia) Regional Championships 2023 hosted by Cambodia from 30 October to 3 November.

Teams from host Cambodia, Laos, Brunei, Timor-Leste and Myanmar participated in the tourney.

Myanmar's Nyi Zayya won one gold medal while Ye Lin Htet grabbed one bronze medal at the U-15 Boy's Single event,

Next, Nyi Zeyya and Ye Lin Htet also secured another gold medal at the Men's Double event, while Lin Lin Htet won one more gold and Thada Htet Kyaw earned one silver at the women's single event. Bhone Htet Zaw and Eain Chit Phoo also picked another gold for Myanmar at the Men's and Women's Mixed Event.

Next Myanmar teams won further gold and silver medals at the respective events by passing the opponents.

Team Myanmar returned to Myanmar yesterday with 11 gold medals, four silver medals and two bronze medals. — Bala Soe/KZL

Bhone Htet Zaw and Eain Chit Phoo compete for the gold medal during the Men's and Women's Mixed Event of the Badminton Asia Junor Under 15-17 (Southeast Asia) Regional Championships 2023 in Cambodia.

Sabalenka downs Rybakina to reach WTA Finals semis

Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus plays a backhand on the way to a group stage victory over Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina at the WTA Finals. **PHOTO: AFP**

WORLD number one Aryna Sabalenka defeated Elena Rybakina 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 in a rain-disrupted group match on Friday to book a semi-final clash with Iga Swiatek at the WTA Finals.

The Belarusian, who finished second in her group behind unbeaten American Jessica Pegula, kept her bid for the year-end number one ranking on track with a victory that took two days to complete.

She had won the first set but was trailing in the second when play was halted Thursday night after multiple rain delays.

Some 16 hours later, she and Rybakina returned to the outdoor hardcourts in Cancun, where fourth-ranked Rybakina of Kazakhstan calmly served out the second set to level the match in a matter of minutes.

Australian Open champion Sabalenka dug deep to halt Rybakina's momentum in the opening game of the third set, surviving nine deuces and two break points to hold serve.

She used a pair of ferocious forehands to break Rybakina in the fourth game.

World number two Swiatek then downed sixth-seeded Ons Jabeur 6-1, 6-2 in just 67 minutes to finish top of her group with a perfect 3-0 record.

US Open champion Coco Gauff closed out group play with a 5-7, 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 victory over Wimbledon winner Marketa Vondrousova and advanced to the semi-finals — her place secured after Swiatek's win. — AFP

YouTube takes aim at teens bingeing on body image videos

YOUTUBE on Thursday said it tweaked its recommendation system in the United States to prevent teens from bingeing on videos idealizing certain body types.

The move comes about a week after dozens of US states accused Facebook and Instagram owner Meta of profiting "from children's pain", damaging their mental health and misleading people about the safety of its platforms.

YouTube's video recommendation engine has been targeted over time by critics who contend it can lead young viewers to dark or disturbing content.

Teens are more likely than adults to form negative beliefs about themselves when seeing repeated messages about ideal standards in content they consume online. **PHOTO: FREEPIK**

Google-run YouTube has responded by ramping up safety measures and parental controls on the globally popular platform.

Working with an advisory committee, YouTube identified "categories of content that may be innocuous as a single video, but could be problematic for some teens if viewed in repetition," YouTube director of youth and kids product James Beser said in a blog post Thursday.

Categories noted included "content that compares physical features and idealizes some types over others, idealizes specific fitness levels or body weights, or displays social aggression in the form of non-contact fights and intimidation."

YouTube now limits repeated recommendations of such videos to teens in the United States and will extend the change to other countries over the coming year, according to Beser.

"Teens are more likely than adults to form negative beliefs about themselves when seeing repeated messages about ideal standards in content they consume online," Beser said. — AFP

Footballer Cantona has a new goal as singer-songwriter

Eric Cantona performs at the Comedie Odeon Theatre in Lyon. **PHOTO: AFP**

On his "Cantona sings Eric" tour, he's performing his own rock music with a melancholic touch, accompanied by a pianist and cellist, and recently held a concert in Lyon.

ERIC CANTONA, football great, painter and lead actor, is adding rock star to his repertoire as he embarks on a concert tour to share his "emotions".

Cantona won league titles with Marseille and Leeds before arriving at Manchester United in 1992 and elevating the club to the top of English football. Since retiring he has appeared in a string of films, television series and commercials.

He is also a song writer and is taking his music, rock with a melancholic flavour, on the road, with a pianist and a cellist accompanying his husky vocals.

After dates in England and Ireland, the "Cantona sings Eric" tour reached Lyon on Friday. Cantona in red sports shoes and trousers, a long black coat and a small hat and making an effort that left him drenched in sweat, performed about 20 of his own compositions to a largely sold-out audience in the small Comedie Odeon theatre.

"I do this to be on stage and for the audience. That's what I enjoy," he told AFP before the concert. "On stage, I become someone else through the interaction" with the audience. He said he is "interested" first and foremost in "this moment of sharing". His tour kicked off at the end of October in Manchester and will soon take him to Geneva, Marseille and Paris, before a second tour scheduled for spring 2024. — AFP

Elon Musk issues warning about 'humanoid robots' in AI 'age of abundance'

Elon Musk, owner of SpaceX and Tesla, foresees an AI-driven future marked by universal high income and the possibility of humanoid robots, believing that a time may come when jobs are no longer necessary.

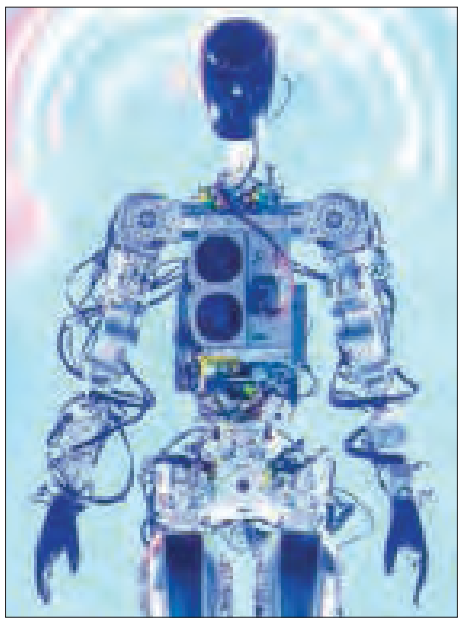
THE owner of X Elon Musk on Thursday predicted the future with AI would be an "age of abundance" with a "universal high income" instead of a universal basic income but warned of "humanoid robots" that might chase humans.

Musk was speaking during a conversation with British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak following a world-first AI summit at Bletchley Park in the UK. The SpaceX and Tesla CEO said there would come a point when "no job is needed" in the one-to-one with Sunak which was held later in London. Jobs instead would be just for those who wanted one for "personal satisfaction".

AI was like "a magic genie" that gives you any wishes you want, Musk added, quipping however that those fairy tales rarely end well. "One of the future challenges is how do you find meaning in life?" he said. Musk cautioned that "we should be quite concerned" about humanoid robots that "can follow you anywhere".

The tech billionaire stressed the importance of having a physical off switch.

"A humanoid robot can basically chase you anywhere," he said. — AFP



Musk expressed concern about the potential development of "humanoid robots" that could pose a threat to humans. **ILLUSTRATION: SCREEN CAPTURE OF THE OPTIMUS PRESENTATION**