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The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Senior General Min Aung Hlaing calls for implementing nationwide ceasefire and restoring durable and sustainable peace in message of felicitations to 68th Anniversary of Kayin State Day

TODAY is the time to implement the nationwide ceasefire and restore durable and sustainable peace in order to build the Union based on democratic and federal systems the entire people aspire to, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing expressed his remarks in the message of felicitations.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing sent a message of felicitations to the ceremony to mark the 68th Anniversary of Kayin State Day which falls on 7 November 2023.

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SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing welcomed by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Nikolai A Evmenov and party together with Guard of Honour

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was welcomed by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Nikolai A Evmenov and party, currently here to join the 1st Myanmar-Russia Maritime Security Exercise (MARUMEX), together with the Guard of Honour from the Russian Pacific Fleet yesterday morning.

At MITT jetty of Thilawa Port in Yangon, the Senior General was welcomed by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Nikolai A Evmenov and Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung.

The Senior General inspected and took a salute of the Guard of Honour of the Russian Pacific Fleet to the accompaniment of national anthems of both countries.

The Senior General and party aboard the Russian naval vessel Admiral Tributs were welcomed by the commander of the naval vessel 2nd Rank Igor N Tolbatov.

The Senior General heard clarifications on machinery installed at the vessel,

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State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing being greeted aboard Russian warship Admiral Tributs by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Nikolai A Evmenov at Thilawa Port yesterday.

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NATIONAL

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing calls for implementing nationwide ceasefire and restoring durable and sustainable peace in message of felicitations to 68th Anniversary of Kayin State Day

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With regard to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA, the Senior General unveiled that as the State Peace Talks Team have held peace talks with seven NCA signatory ethnic armed organizations and three NCA non-signatory EAOs, it is expected to come out with good results for peace processes.

Currently, the Senior General underscored that residents are facing suffering and plights due to destructive acts of terror and traitors without rationality. Hence, he continued that ethnic people have to participate in counter-terrorism and restoration of peace and stability for the sake of the region and the people.

The Senior General noted that active cooperation and united strength of national brethren residing in the Kayin State become a powerful strength for restoring regional peace and stability as well as development measures.

He highlighted that the government is striving to ensure equitable development of all regions across the nation so as to prevail in regional peace and stability and the rule of law. However, he added that as regional development tasks cannot be undertaken in respective sectors of the regions due to terror acts, residents and ethnic people are facing the bad consequences in their regions lagging in development.

He disclosed that the State Administration Council has set an ultimatum mission to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election. Hence, the government will emphasize holding a general election and strengthening the democratic system, he noted, adding that State responsibilities will be handed over to the elected government from the forthcoming election he added.

Hence, the Senior General disclosed that the government is preparing to strengthen the genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system through the election system appropriate for Myanmar.

On the suspiciously commemorative day, the Senior General urged all ethnic people and national brethren from Kayin State to participate in all measures of their state in order to build the Union based on a democratic system and federalism and operate MSME businesses based on agriculture and livestock farming tasks in all parts of Kayin State to improve socioeconomic life of the people. — GNLM/TTA

Myanmar-Russia Friendship: Cultural Performances by Myanmar Tatmadaw and Russian Naval Orchestra at Zeyathiri Beikman

Bouquet exchange between Myanmar's Tatmadaw Cultural Troupe and Russian Navy's Orchestra at the performance stage yesterday.

TO enhance the friendship between Myanmar Tatmadaw and the Russian Navy, a concert featuring the Myanmar-Russia Friendship Myanmar Military Cultural Troupe and the Russian Naval Orchestra was held at the Zeyathiri Beikman in the Yangon Command Headquarters yesterday. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Zaw Hein and officials, Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Iskandar Azizov, members of the Russian delegation, along with Tatmadaw from the Yangon Command and families among others were present on the occasion.

At the concert, artistes from the Myanmar-Russian Friendship, Myanmar Army Cultural Group and the Russian Naval Orchestra performed. The Russian Naval Orchestra played Russian songs, and there were Myanmar musical performances, including dance and songs. The Myawady Band from the Myanmar Tatmadaw Cultural Troupe performed Russian songs, including 'Katyusha' and 'Kalinka,' along with an innovative Bagan dance. They played Myanmar traditional instruments and the Myanmar orchestral band and also sang and performed the Russian song 'Ar Thi Na Si Me Yar'.

After the entertainments the regional chief minister and the commander extended a warm welcome to the Russian Naval Orchestra and the Russian Ambassador to Myanmar presented honours and gifts to the Myawady Band of the Myanmar Military Cultural Troupe, which operates under the Directorate of the Public Relations and Psychological Warfare. They also had the group documentary photograph taken with cultural troupes from both countries. — MNA/KZW

Five special civil appeal cases passed judgements; five cases heard

A special appeal tribunal consisting of Chief Justice of the Union U Thar Htay and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union: U Myo Tint, U Tin Hone, Daw Thin Thin Nwet and Daw Pyone Pyone Aye was convened yesterday at the Supreme Court of the Union and passed judgements for five special civil appeal cases — Nos 18/2023 (Yangon), 58/2022 (Kayin), 5/2023 (Yangon), 16/2023 (Yangon) and 27/2023 (Magway).

In addition, a total of five special appeal cases — Nos 40/2022 (Sagaing), 8/2023 (Shan), 20/2023 (Kachin), 21/2023 (Magway) and 24/2023 (Bago) were heard under COVID-19 prevention and control guidelines. — MNA

Alms and robes donated to Buddha Vihara in Moscow

Offerings are presented to members of the Sangha.

THE staff of the Myanmar Consulate-General and departmental trainees in Minsk of Belarus donated offerings and alms to Myanmar Theravada Buddha Vihara (Moscow) Presiding Sayadaw Dr Ashin Acchariya and Ashin Nandamala at the Consulate-General, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The two Sayadaws went to Minsk on 4 November and will stay there for four days. The staff of the Myanmar Consulate-General and their family members, departmental trainees in Belarus donated alms, robes and cash to the Sayadaws. — ASH/KTZH

NATIONAL

SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services ...

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing returns the salute to the Guard of Honour of the Russian Pacific Fleet at MITT jetty of Thilawa Port in Yangon Region on 6 November 2023.

FROM PAGE-1

systems and capacity of defence weapons, installation of modern systems, and facts about the anti-submarine helicopter and asked what he wanted to know and gave necessary discussions.

The Russian and Myanmar Commander-in-Chiefs (Navy) presented a bell and an emblem to mark the exercise (MARUMEX) to the Senior General. The Senior General presented an emblem to the commander of Naval Vessel.

The Senior General and party had a luncheon hosted by the Russian Commander-in-Chief (Navy). When the Senior General left the naval vessel, the Guard of Honour saluted the Senior General.

The Russian naval vessels are led by Captain 1st Rank Aleksei Anciferov from the Russian Pacific Fleet. They will host Myanmar's Tatmadaw cultural troupe and the Russian naval orchestra entertainment for Myanmar-Russian friendly relations, pay visits to the landmarks in Yangon, hold friendly sports competitions and join the 1st Myanmar-Russia Maritime Security Exercise (MARUMEX).

The 1st Myanmar-Russia Maritime Security Exercise (MARUMEX) will be held in the area, 85 nautical miles west of Myeik, with the participation of vessels from Myanmar Tatmadaw (Navy) and the Russian Pacific Fleet of Russia from 7 to 9 November. — MNA/TTA

1st Myanmar-Russia Maritime Security Exercise (MARUMEX) launched

THE 1st Myanmar-Russia Maritime Security Exercise (MARUMEX) was launched at Thilawa Port of Yangon on the afternoon of 5 November.

Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung and Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Nikolai A Evmenov of the Russian Federation took salute of the naval parade companies of both countries. They all saluted the flags of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Russian Federation. The two commander-in-chiefs (navy) delivered opening speeches and declared the launching of the exercise. The Myanmar-Russia Maritime Security Exercise comprises prevention of air, water surface and underwater dangers and maritime security measures with participation of aircraft and naval vessels from both sides.

The documentary group photograph of the inaugural event of the First Myanmar-Russia Maritime Security Exercise (MARUMEX) at Thilawa Port in Yangon Region on 6 November 2023.

On the evening of 4 November, Admiral Moe Aung hosted a dinner in honour of the Russian naval delegation aboard the Russian naval vessel. The two naval chiefs extended greetings and had dinner together with attendees.

On the evening of 5 November, Admiral Moe Aung and party visited Russian naval vessel Admiral Tributs and attended the dinner hosted by Russian Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Nikolai A Evmenov aboard Russian naval vessel Admiral Panteleev. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

SAC members support farmers, meet ethnic troupe in Kayin State

State Administration Council members view the farming demonstration in Hpa-an Township of Kayin State yesterday.

STATE Administration Council Members Mahn Nyein Maung and Khun San Lwin attended the sunflower seed and fertilizer presentation ceremony and seeding demonstration in Hpa-an Township.

It was also attended by Ethnic Affairs Minister Jeng Phang Naw Taung, Kayin State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo, governmental and departmental officials and local farmers.

Speaking at the event, SAC Chairman Mahn Nyein Maung highlighted the need to grow the main crops in time to ensure the rice, cooking oil and bean security whereas the population is growing significantly.

He also emphasized promoting the agriculture and livestock sectors for the development of the State economy, food sufficiency and progress of meat and fish sectors as per the instructions of SAC as the Kayin State possesses the potential to produce a variety of crops such as upland and lowland crops.

Then, the SAC member and party provided the farmers with sunflower seeds and fertilizer.

They also watched the demonstration of seed broadcasting and presented cash prizes to the cultural troupe.

They also watched the boat race for the State Chief Minister Trophy.

At noon, they met the state cabinet, township-level officials and members of the Ethnic Literature and Cultural Troupe at Zwekabin Hall of Hpa-an.

At the meeting, SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung urged all to protect the ethnic literature and culture as a national task saying the 2008 Constitution said the Union shall assist in developing language, literature, fine arts and culture of the National races, to promote solidity, mutual amity and respect and mutual assistance among the National races, and to promote socio-economic development including education, health, economy, transport and communication, so forth, of less-developed National races.

Then, SAC Member Khun San Lwin underscored that the ethnic people are responsible for protecting their literature, culture and tradition. They are responsible for safeguarding not only these three aspects but also the country. The ethnic people residing in the region should help and support each other.

The SAC members and party provided K1 million each to five ethnic cultural troupes. — MNA/KTZH

Project screening meeting on small-scale development projects (SDP) by Indian grants held

A coordination meeting on SDP underway yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

BILATERAL Project Screening Meeting on Small-scale Development Projects (SDP) to be implemented by Indian Grants was held at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. The meeting is led by Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations (MIFER), Dr Wah Wah Maung on the Myanmar side and Deputy Chief of the Mission of India Embassy in Yangon, Mr Ashish Sharma on the India side.

They cordially discussed matters on bilateral economic cooperation on Indian Grant Aid and Technical Assistance Projects, project proposals and the status of the screening process, mutual consultation and suggestions, and requirements for additional information about proposed projects. The projects from the Myanmar side are proposed by nine ministries: the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Border Affairs, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Electric Power, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Construction, Ministry of Industry and Ministry of Science and Technology to be implemented under Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of Small-scale Development Projects signed between Myanmar and India. MIFER senior officials also attended the meeting.

MIFER is a focal point for cooperation and negotiation in the matters of implementing the Grant Aid and Technical Assistance Projects between the relevant ministries, organizations and development partners.

Small-scale Development Project is a quick-win grant project provided by the Indian Government with a maximum amount of US$2 million for implementing each socioeconomic development project, especially in infrastructure, health, education and community development sectors. — MNA

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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

Myanmar, India sign MoUs under Quick Impact Projects (QIP)

THE signing ceremony for three Memoranda of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Republic of India under Quick Impact Projects (QIP) was held at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Nay Pyi Taw, on 6 November 2023.

The ceremony was attended by Dr Kan Zaw, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Daw Than Than Lin, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance, U Lwin Oo, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr Wah Wah Maung, Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Dr Htain Lin Oo, the deputy minister and deputy attorney-general for Legal Affairs, senior officials from relevant ministries, Mr Ashish Sharma, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India and officials from Embassy of India.

The Memorandum of Understanding for Water Supply using Solar Power in the Drought-Affected Villages of Central Dry Zone of Myanmar and Memorandum of Understanding for Departmental E-library Project were signed by U Thein Toe, Director-General of the Dry Zone Greening Department and Environmental Conservation Department, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and Mr Ashish Sharma, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India and Memorandum of Understanding for the Electrification of Rural Villages by Small Wind Energy in Kungyangon Township, Yangon was signed by Daw Nwe Ni, Director-General of the Department of Advanced Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology and Mr Ashish Sharma, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India.

The documentary group picture of the QIP MoU signing ceremony yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Indian Government will provide a grant of 150,000 USD and this grant will contribute to the Water Supply using Solar Power in the Drought-Affected Villages of the Central Dry Zone of Myanmar, a Departmental E-Library Project and Electrification of Rural Villages by small Wind Energy in Kungyangon Township, Yangon. This assistance will support economic cooperation and strengthen the existing bilateral relations between Myanmar and India.

The Quick Impact Project (QIP) allows for a project cost of 50,000 USD each, and similar projects are to be negotiated with the Indian Government to support Myanmar's socioeconomic development. — MNA

MoI UM departs for 2023 WIC Wuzhen Summit in China

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn being seen off by Chinese Embassy officials yesterday.

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn left Yangon for Wuzhen yesterday morning to attend the 2023 World Internet Conference (WIC) Wuzhen Summit, to be held from 8 to 10 November in Wuzhen, Jiangxi Province, People's Republic of China. Minister Counsellor of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China Mr Zheng Zhihong and ministrial officials saw him off at Yangon International Airport.

This year's World Internet Conference (WIC) will revolve around the theme "Creating an Inclusive and Resilient Digital World Beneficial to All: Building a Community with a Shared Future in Cyberspace". The event will cover various topics, including digital transformation, green development, artificial intelligence, computing capacity, network, cybersecurity, data governance, youth and the digital future, digital literacy skill development, and new e-commerce formats. Additionally, 20 sub-forums will be organized with topics related to the digital economy. — MNA/KZW

MoST Union Minister joins BRI Conference on Science & Technology Exchange in China

UNION Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw yesterday participated in the opening ceremony of the "Belt and Road Conference on Science and Technology Exchange", organized by the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China in Chongqing, China. He joined fellow regional science and technology ministers at the event.

Following the opening ceremony, Dr Myo Thein Kyaw engaged in a cordial meeting with young scientists during the "Belt and Road Forum", a platform dedicated to nurturing young scientific talent. Emphasizing the significance of research and creativity for the future of the world and humanity, he encouraged young scientists to unite and enhance their collective strength and capabilities. This, he noted, would enable them to contribute positively to addressing the challenges facing our planet.

Dr Myo Thein Kyaw then participated in a meeting of regional science and technology ministers. The discussions revolved around the themes of "Building Closer Cooperation on Science, Technology, and Innovation" and "Towards Innovation-Driven Development". He also attended a dinner hosted by Prof Yin Hejun, Minister of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China, along with other local science and technology ministers. — MNA/TS

The opening of the Belt & Road Conference on Science and Technology Exchange in progress in China, attended by Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Kyaw yesterday.

NATIONAL

Third round of eye surgeries begins on 7 Nov at Sitagu Sakudana Hospital in Yangon

THE third round of eye surgery donations for patients with eye diseases will reportedly take place at Sitagu Hospital in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon, from 7 to 13 November.

The report said on 25 June, 371 eye patients who had undergone surgeries were re-examined, including those who received a second round of free eye examination and treatment at the hospital.

Since January 2019, a total of 522,730 eye patients have been examined, with 100,854 undergoing surgeries at Sakudana Hospital.

These hospitals have been established and opened by Sitagu Sayadaw, and there are 37 Sakudana Hospitals opened in the nation.

Additionally, hospitals are under construction in Pulaw and Myeik in the Taninthayi Region, Khamti and Indaw in Sagaing Region, and Kume in Mandalay. — TWA/KZW

Sitagu Sayadaw encouraging an eye patient.

ME to Viet Nam issues statement requesting arrival reports from Myanmar Nationals

The Myanmar Embassy in Hanoi, Viet Nam.

MYANMAR nationals arriving in Viet Nam are required to report their residence to the Myanmar Embassy in Hanoi.

The Myanmar Embassy announced the initiation of a process that includes the rescue of fishermen, repatriation to Myanmar, and the initial verification of citizenship in order to protect Myanmar citizens by law. This process may also involve the repatriation of victims of human trafficking in consultation with the relevant country.

The consular process takes months to complete, so the Myanmar Embassy has issued a statement asking Myanmar nationals to report that they are living in Viet Nam.

Sending information to Myanmar citizens can expedite consular activities, including legal protection and the safeguarding of citizen's interests, resulting in faster completion.

Myanmar citizens, if they wish to report, can contact the Myanmar Embassy. According to the release, citizens can send information to the consular department by emailing mehanoiconsular@gmail.com. — TWA/KZW

Union National Race Village (Yangon) jetty construction set to be completed in Nov

THE construction of the jetty at the Union National Races Village (Yangon),

For the convenience of visitors to the Union National Race Village (Yangon) in Thakayta Township of Yangon Region through the Bago River, a jetty construction will be completed in November.

The visitors can enjoy the picturesque scene of rivers, mangroves and jetties during their sea journey, and they can also take a cruise. They can also get to Botahtaung and Pansodan jetties, and those from the upper part of the Bago River can also visit there by boat. The jetty construction was developed in 2022-2023 FY using K449.505 million.

Although it was scheduled to be completed in February 2023, the construction will be completed in November. The jetty is 96 feet in length and 12 feet in width, and it also includes an 80-foot steel truss bridge. — TWA/KTZH

The photo shows the jetty construction site at Union National Race Village in 2022.

Exporters mandated to allocate one rice bag as reserved stock for every 3-tonne rice export

EXPORTERS will have to provide one bag of rice as reserved rice for exporting three tonnes of rice, according to the statement of Myanmar Rice Federation.

The statement said the export-based reserve rice collection system will be adopted in November 2023. It must pay one bag of rice as reserved rice for every three-tonne rice while applying for export licences, to give 25 per cent of reserved rice for three tonnes of rice to the specific warehouse as physical provision within one week, to apply as earmark for 75 per cent and to fix the price of reserved rice bag at K62,000 (November) for physical payment. Starting 1 November, the companies that complete the pre-licence inspection process shall submit the rice reserve form in applying for the export licence, it stated. — TWA/KTZH

NATIONAL
BUSINESS

Fuel prices see slight dip in early Nov

FUEL prices posted a slight decline in the domestic market.

Fuel prices were K2,080 per litre of Octane 92, K2,190 for Octane 95, K2,240 for diesel and K2,350 for premium diesel on 5 November. Then, the prices decreased a bit to K2,060 per litre of Octane 92, K2,160 for Octane 95, K2,195 for diesel and K2,315 for premium diesel on 6 November.

The price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in southeast Asia, influences the domestic fuel prices, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil.

Last August 2022, the oil prices hit the highest of K2,605 per litre for Octane 92, K2,670 for Octane 95, K3,330 for premium diesel and K3,245 for diesel.

The committee is therefore steering the fuel oil storage and distribution sector effectively so as not to have a shortage of oil in the domestic market and to ensure price stability for energy consumers.

The Petroleum Products Regulatory Department, under the guidance of the committee, is issuing the daily reference rate for oil to offer a reasonable price to energy consumers. The reference rate in Yangon Region is set on the MOPS's price assessment, shipping cost, premium insurance, tax, other general costs and health profit

Cars are seen being refuelled at the petrol station with a sign displaying fuel prices in Yangon.

per cent.

The rates for regions and states other than Yangon are evaluated after adding the transportation cost and the retail reference rates daily covered on the state-run newspapers and are posted on the media and official website and Facebook page of the department daily starting from 4 May.

The committee is inspecting the fuel stations whether they are overcharging or not. The authorities are taking action against those retailers of fuel stations under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law 2017 if they are found overcharging rather than the set reference rate.

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. The domestic fuel price is highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss between the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices compared to that of Myanmar. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies and the prices are about 60 per cent cheaper than that of Myanmar. Every country lays down different patterns of policy to fix the oil prices. Myanmar also levies only a lower tax rate on fuel oil and strives for energy consumers to buy the oil at a cheaper rate. — NN/EM

High demand pushes up some rice prices

SOME rice varieties fetch higher prices on the back of strong demand at Wahdan Rice Wholesale Depot on 6 November, Ko Kyaw Kyaw involved in Bayintnaung rice wholesaling told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

The prices of old stocks of 90-day short-mature rice and Pawsan rice have risen slightly. New ordinary-grade rice prices were K62,000-62,500 per sack on 6 November. The prices of old rice grown under the inter-cropping system remained unchanged at K69,000-70,000 per sack. The prices stood at K81,000-83,000 per sack of Pawkywe, K80,000-81,000 per sack of 90-day rice, K122,000 for Myaungmya Pawsan, K115,000 for Pyapon Pawsan and K125,000 for Shwebo Pawsan.

The prices of high-grade old Pawsan rice stayed above K100,000 per sack in November. Non-premium new monsoon rice fetched only K40,000 per sack in 2022. This year, the price is up by K20,000 per sack.

The purchase paddy prices stood at K1.6 million per 100-basket of Pawsan, K1.26 million for Hnankar, K1.3 million for Thukha, K1.43 million for Leikmalay, K1.35 million for Hnankartun, and K1.4 million for Ayeya Padaytha on 18 November 2022, as per a rice mill from Wakema Township.

The rice prices were registered at only K52,000-77,000 per sack of high-grade Pawsan from Ayeyawady and Shwebo areas, K55,000-60,000 for Kyaphyan, K35,000-37,000 for 90-day rice in Yangon's market on 3 August 2022.

The price surged to K94,000-120,000 per sack of Pawan and K60,000-65,000 per sack of Aemahta varieties (10 per cent broken and 25 per cent broken) on 7 August 2023.

Reference paddy prices in 2023 were K1.3-1.5 million per 100-baskets of Ngasein/Aemahta varieties, K1.6-1.8 million for Ayeyawady Pawsan, K1.8-2 million for Shwebo Pawsan and K1.6-1.8 million for Ayeyamin/Ayeya Padaytha varieties, a rice non-governmental organization notified on 19 September 2023.

A leading group for protection of farmer rights and enhancement of their benefits announced on 10 October 2023 paddy reference price at K750,000 per 100 baskets (a basket is equivalent to 46 pounds) for monsoon paddy produced this year and summer paddy that will be produced in the summer next year.

However, the market price is too high. The market price of high-grade Pawsan paddy still touches a high of K3.7 million per 100 baskets, which is nearly double of the reference price notified on 19 September.

Although new Pawsan rice supply to market is approaching, old Pawsan rice prices remain high. The sellers did a roaring trade as well on 6 November, Ko Win Naing, a rice trader from Arthawka Street, told the GNLM. — TWA/KK

Black gram, pigeon pea prices back in decline

THE prices of black gram and pigeon peas have begun to fall in the domestic market, tracking a slide in FOB prices.

The prices stood only at K2.972 million per tonne of black gram and K4.075 million per tonne of pigeon pea on 2 November and dipped to K2.867 million per tonne of black gram and K3.9 million per tonne of pigeon pea on 6 November, indicating a sharp drop of over K100,000 per tonne for black gram and over K170,000 per tonne for pigeon pea within five days.

The FOB prices were US$1,070-1,090 per tonne of black gram and $1,320-1,340 per tonne of pigeon pea on 6 November, according to Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Wholesale Depot).

Myanmar's various pulses export earnings were estimated at over $800 million from over 950,000 tonnes over

Merchants evaluating beans and pulses at the Mandalay market.

the past six months of the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April. Myanmar's pulses exports earned over US$1.4 billion from over 1.9 million tonnes in the previous FY 2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

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

Black grams which India primarily purchases are commonly grown only in Myanmar, whereas pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia, stated the Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association. — NN/EM

OPINION

Enhance personal capacity through the pursuit of knowledge in society

IN the grand tapestry of human existence, reading occupies a pivotal role, securing its place as the second most important endeavour in our lives. For the literate populace, literature becomes the bridge to amassing knowledge and experiences, generously shared by others. This knowledge is a valuable currency, ready to be invested in personal interests and the collective good.

Engaging with both fiction and non-fiction texts grants individuals the power to shape the trajectory of their lives. As readers immerse themselves in the printed word, new ideas, thoughts, and knowledge seamlessly flow into the depths of their souls, unfettered by any barriers. However, the extent of this knowledge accrual hinges upon an individual's capacity, a quality intertwined with their analytical skills and the maturity of their mind.

It is within the pages of literature that readers cultivate the maturity of their souls, an indispensable attribute for individuals aspiring to gain a broader perspective on the world. Mature individuals possess a heightened capacity to analyze the world around them, enabling them to not only improve themselves but also contribute to the betterment of the world at large. Consequently, they embark on a journey of self-improvement, continually expanding their capacity.

High-capacity individuals approach challenges with a strategic mindset, preemptively mitigating worries before embarking on the path to resolution. In stark contrast, low-capacity individuals grapple with problems, unable to devise effective approaches or muster the confidence necessary for problem-solving.

In the realm of practicality, individuals with higher capacity navigate challenges with greater ease and efficacy than their low-capacity counterparts. Their approach to problem-solving is distinguished by its uniqueness, in contrast to the more conventional strategies employed by those with lower capacity. This disparity underscores the critical role capacity plays in the maturation of human beings, distinguishing leaders from followers.

High-capacity individuals approach challenges with a strategic mindset, preemptively mitigating worries before embarking on the path to resolution. In stark contrast, low-capacity individuals grapple with problems, unable to devise effective approaches or muster the confidence necessary for problem-solving.

The act of reading serves as the crucible where souls mature, and minds expand. The blend of formal education within the classroom and the collective wisdom gleaned from society offers a reliable foundation for novices. Nevertheless, it is the determination to nurture one's maturity and capacity that allows individuals to secure prominent positions within society, fortifying their stance.

Each individual enjoys their unique place, but these positions are not easily attainable. Aspiring individuals must tirelessly accumulate knowledge from the vast pool of books they read, investing countless years in their personal growth. There is no magical shortcut, but instead, an unrelenting commitment to seeking knowledge within the embrace of the reading society.

ARTICLE

The Burma Circle of the Geological Survey of India and their Contributions to the Geology of Myanmar

By THAN HTUN (GEOSCIENCE MYANMAR)

EPISODE:23

WILLIAM Dixon West was born on 27 January 1901, in Bournemouth, England. He spent his childhood at Jess Elton, British North Borneo, where his father A J West, constructed the first railway, and the town of Weston there was named after him. West was educated at the King's School, Canterbury, where he became Captain of the School and Vice-Captain of the football team. Even at school, he was interested in geology and used to prepare thin sections of rocks given to him by Harker – the well-known metamorphic petrologist.

This early hobby later developed into his main pursuit when in 1920 he joined St John's College, Cambridge University, where he was very much influenced by teachers like Harker, Woods, and Marr At Cambridge, he made a mark in geology with the award of the Winchester Prize in 1922. This was followed by a brilliant performance with First Class in Natural Tripos to be crowned with the Harkness Scholarship in 1923.

On his arrival in India in 1923, as Assistant Superintendent in the Geological Survey of India, West joined the camp of L L Fermor who introduced him to the well-known Sausar Series in Nagpur and Chindwara Districts in the Central Provinces and Berar. In fact, this early interest led him to discover in 1936, the 'Deolapar Nappe' in the Sausar, and also the structure of the 'Shali Window' near Simla in 1939. He also excelled in petrological and petrogenetic studies of the Deccan lava flows of western India. This area later became his main field of investigation.

West played a vital role in a wide range of geoscientific activities in India. He was a founder fellow of the National Institute of Sciences in India, in 1935, and became its Vice-President in 1945. He had a close association with the Indian Science Congress and was its General Secretary from 1932 to 1938, and later in 1972 became its General President. In recognition of his services, the British Government in 1974, honoured him with CIE (Companion of the Indian Empire). In 1947, West became President of the Mining, Geological, and Metallurgical Institute of India. In 1950, he became President of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, which awarded him the P N Bose Memorial Medal in 1959.

W D West took up his duties as permanent Director on 29 December 1945. The Government of India had by then already announced its intention to expand the Geological of India permanently. His Five-Year Plan for Expansion and Reorganization was submitted to the Government in July 1946. He supported Dunn's previous scheme for the formation of separate sections for Mineral Development and Engineering Geology and Ground Water. He clearly emphasized that mapping should continue to be the basis of all sound geological work and that reconnaissance for economic minerals without such a scientific background would lead to disappointment.

With the assistance of P K Ghosh, he reinstated the pre-war setup of the Records which had consisted of four parts including the General Report and the Annual Review of Mineral Production. The Quinquennial Review of Mineral Production, last published for the years 1929-33, was to be restored, and in the meanwhile, the data for the period 1934-1946 have been collected and are already in the press. He also introduced a new series of Bulletins: Series A-Economic Minerals, and Series B-Engineering Geology and Ground-Water, the first few numbers of which have either already been published or are in the press. In addition, the semi-popular journal "Indian Minerals", contemplated by Dunn, was introduced. The first volume of the third edition of the Manual of the Geology of India, by E H Pascoe, in the preparation

W D West (1901-1994). **SOURCE: GSI**

of which West, assisted by Ghosh, had taken considerable pains, was published at last in 1950.

West reorganized the scientific work of the Department on the basis of five mapping Circles, one Mineral Development Division, and one Engineering Geology and Ground Water Division. The coordination of work at headquarters was carried out through two Deputy Directors, one for administration (P K Ghosh) and the other for technical duties (V P Sondhi), the latter being in charge of the Mineral Development Division. A new section on Palaeobotany under K Jacob was initiated. The main difficulty that West had to face was the shortage of senior officers. Of the team of officers with whom Fox had begun his period of Directorship, thirteen seniors had gone and West had only 17 left. Serious efforts were therefore made to train the junior officers by means of the Training Camp already brought into being by Clegg in 1944; by improvement of the geological education in the Indian Universities, for which a committee was set up consisting of D N Wadia, P Parija and West.

During his tenure (1945-1951), he planned, organised, and expanded the Geological Survey with a vision and foresight which is reflected in the way he prepared the first and second five-year plans for the scientific growth and development of this organisation in the new areas. In 1951, West admirably organised the Centenary celebrations of the Geological Survey of India, and for this achievement, he was awarded the Lyell Medal by the Geological Survey of India from where he retired in 1951. He was elected as a foundation fellow of the Geological Society of India in 1958 (Nayak, 1994).

While he was in England, Dr R P Tripathi, the then Vice-Chancellor of, the University of Saugar, invited him to join the University as Professor and Head of the Department of Geology. He accepted this invitation and joined the University in January 1955. As a visionary, West laid the foundation of a course in Applied Geology which was in keeping with the future needs of teaching, research, and field training of Indian geologists to face the challenges of the country. Recognizing the excellent performance and all-around progress made by the Applied Geology Department, the UGC raised the status of the Department to one of a Centre of Advanced Study in Geology in 1963. In the same year, Prof West was elected Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology of the University and in January 1971, he was elevated as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Saugar, which position he occupied with distinction.

Prof West was a first-rate field geologist and believed in the development of individual personality. He supervised and guided the Doctoral Dissertations of 18 students who occupy high positions in the country. Prof West was held in high esteem and in 1971, a commemorative volume prepared by his colleagues, students, and admires from all over the world, was presented to him in recognition of his long-dedicated service to research and teaching of earth science in India.

Although he supervised some publications of the Records of Geological Survey of India no direct field activities in Burma by the West were found. I would like to take the opportunity to mention "The Bird's-Nest or Elephant Islands, Mergui Archipelago" by Commander Alfred Carpenter, "Investigator" in 1888 as follows: -

The Bird's-Nest or Elephant Islands, the Mergui Archipelago

This remarkable group called the Burmans Ye-ei-gnet-thaik (literally sea birds' nests) is located on the south-east side of Domel Island one of the largest of that chain forming the Mergui Archipelago at the southern extreme of British Burma. It is a small group of six marble rocks, the highest and largest of which, 1,000 feet in altitude, and about one mile in length, is oval-shaped and rises very abruptly out of a depth of only five fathoms.

They present a very appearance, particularly if the weather is hazy when they are not seen until within five or six miles; for then they gradually loom out through the mist like some huge misshapen monsters that have stayed away from civilization.

Their sides are partly clothed with vegetation wherever a break in the limestone has left a cleft in which moisture and dust can lodge. Conspicuous because of its leaning attitude is a species of tree fern that appears content to grow in any jungle, but only above a height of 200 feet from the water.

The face of the rocks is reddish, partly from soil; and where cliffs exist the most beautiful though uncouth stalactitical formation is at work, showing grotesque and snake-like patterns varying in hue and shape, till one feels as on some ogre-enchanted land. But the great feature of the group is the bird's nest caverns which, as a rule, open into the sea, the entrance being below the high water mark; fortunately, I visited them at spring tides and had plenty of leisure to examine each cavern in two days' low waters.

At the south end of the largest island stands a ninepin of grey marble, 370 feet high, almost separated from the rest. It is hallow-like a huge extinguisher, and the polished light blue and light yellow sides of the interior seem to point to its having been hollowed by the swell of the sea, which on entering the cave would probably expend its force vertically, the mouth of the cave being open to the direction of the strongest seas.

This ninepin forms the western point of a nearly circular cove 360 yards in diameter which runs back into the big island, and the sides of the cove rise steeply though not perpendicularly from it. At the head of the cove is a perpendicular wall of rock over which can just be seen the 1,000-foot summit in the distance.

At half tide, a tunnel opens under the wall of rock at the head of the cove, and a canoe can go through; but it requires to be within an hour of low water springs for a ship's gig to go through. This tunnel has a roof covered with large stalactitical knobs, except at its narrowest part where it is apparently scoured smooth by the action of the tidal rush. It is about 250 feet long and four feet deep at low water, the rise and fall are 16 feet long and are covered with dripping marine life, corallines, small corals, sponges, and sea horses. Passing through this submarine drain one emerges into another circular basin with perpendicular sides, which gives the impression of volcanic action, so like it is to a crater. This basin is only open to the sky; caves here and there open into it, some of which may perhaps lead by long tunnels to other basins. Water was running freely into it from the foot of the cliffs in several places as the tide fell, showing that water spaces existed, and strange gurgling sounds, as of air taking the place of water, could be heard now and again. The first thought that strikes a European is "What a famous place for smugglers." There were hardly any signs of the place being utilized, except here and there the worn ropes of bird's nest climbers. It was either not the season for the swallows or they had deserted the islands, for none were seen. There was a little reddish guano in some of the caves. There was evidently but little traffic through the tunnel by which we entered, for the delicate growth on its sides was hardly injured.

On the west side of the northern large island, a lofty cavern opens at half-tide into another nearly circular basin of about the same size as that we have just described, but in this case, the basin also opens into the sea on the east side of the Island. After contemplating the cliffs that surround these basins, the general circular contour of the high ridges of these islands, and the undermining action of the sea at the water line, causing in some places an overhanging of 20 to 25 feet, and the softening of the marble surface of the cavern roofs by moisture; the impression gradually forces itself on one that these circular basins were themselves at one time the floors of huge caverns, and that in days gone by the islands were far higher, with cavern piled on cavern, and that the work of disintegration by moisture is slowly going on, pulling down these marble monuments of a giant age. Indeed, here and there a fall of blocks has occurred lately, and from there being no shoal off the slip the dissolving action, if such really occurs, must be rapid.

A small oyster covers the rocks at the water line. A handsome kingfisher was secured and sent to the British Museum. A few doves and an eagle or two were the only other birds seen, besides a small bat in the caves. By the position of the nest seekers' ropes, the swallows appear to build only on the roofs of the caves. The Island appeared to be entirely composed of blue-tinted marble. A vessel could be alongside them and lower the cut blocks straight into her hold, but it is probably of too poor a quality to be worth shipment.

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ARTICLE

Media trip to China: Exploring Capital Beijing, dreamy Hangzhou and bustling Shanghai

Shanghai bustling and thriving metropolis

By NN

Shanghai Night Market.

Continued from yesterday.

We went on a road trip to Shanghai from Hangzhou in the afternoon of 17 September. Shanghai is the biggest city in China having a population of over 2.5 million. Shanghai sits on the Yangtze River delta along China's eastern coast, directly controlled by the Central Government.

Once, Shanghai was a fishing village. According to the Treaty of Nanjing (1842) between China and the British, Shanghai became a port opened for international trade. The Chinese Communist government started the Open Door Policy and moved towards a market economy system in the 1990s. Thereafter, Shanghai experienced an economic boom. It was listed as the largest and busiest container port in 2005.

An impressive collection of Colonial-era buildings to European-style heritage old buildings, Oriental Pearl Tower and skyscrapers attract the attention of tourists. Shanghai is China's busiest container port and trade and commercial hub. It's one of the top ten major and attractive cities in the world.

We went for a stroll to a night market near the old buildings and stayed at Jin Jiang Tower. Cruising on the Huangpu River gave us a fantastic experience. A ticket is worth 159 Yuan (over K68,000). Huangpu River, also known as Huangxiepu or Chunshen River, divides Shanghai into east and west parts, Pudong and Puxi. Huangpu River is 113 km long and is the mother river of Shanghai. There are Yangpu and Nangpu sister bridges that resemble twin dragons lying across the Huangpu River. Oriental Pearl Tower is surrounded by two bridges. An interpreter mentioned that a cruise on the Huangpu River in the evening would give an awe-inspiring view of the river and landscape. It's so delightful to see the astonishing views of the riverbanks during a one-hour cruise tour. I felt spectacular seeing neon light radiating the skyscrapers at night.

On 18 September, we visited the Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Hall, located in People's Square. It has an area of 3,600 square metres and 43-metre height, five floors above the ground and two underground. It was opened to the public in 2000, displaying the achievement of urban planning and construction.

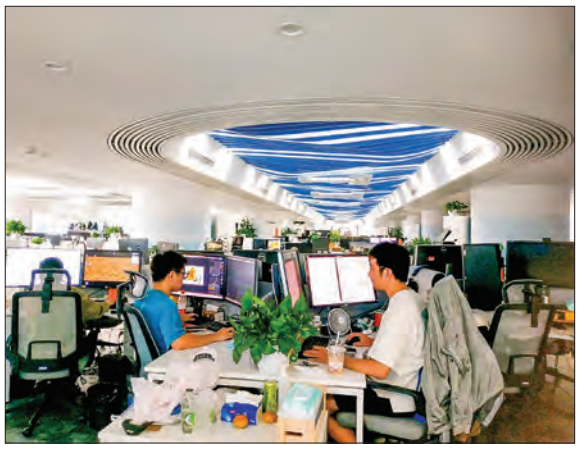
Then, we went to the Shanghai United Media Group, which was established in October 2013, following the merger of two newspaper companies, Jiefang Daily Press Group and Wenhui. Officials of the Shanghai United Media Group expressed the strengths and weaknesses of the print media and explained the challenges faced by newspapers in the digital age. They exchanged ideas regarding the challenges to the newspaper companies.

Afterwards, we bought a 118-floor observation deck ticket worth 180 Yuan (over K82,000) for the 128-storey Shanghai Tower located in the Lujiazui financial and trade zone of the Pudong area in Shanghai. Shanghai Tower is the tallest building in China and the second tallest building in the world. It was constructed in 2015 and designed by architect Marshall Strabala. It has the world's fastest elevator, boasting 149 elevators and rocketing up to 118 floors in less than a minute. We enjoyed the breathtaking view of the mega-tall skyscraper and took a documentary photo in front of trees where visitors can leave a symbol of memory with padlocks.

After shopping at a Plaza, our tour continued to Nanjing Road, the busiest shopping street in Shanghai and one of the top ten pedestrian streets in China. Food lovers can enjoy a fun tour of Nanjing Road filled with tasty Chinese restaurants and vendors offering famous snacks and traditional delicacies. The Nanjing Road consists of East Nanjing Road with affordable tourism destinations and West Nanjing Road with luxurious shopping malls and upscale clothing boutiques. After wandering the Nanjing Road, a Myanmar media group came back to Jin Jiang Tower for a night stay.

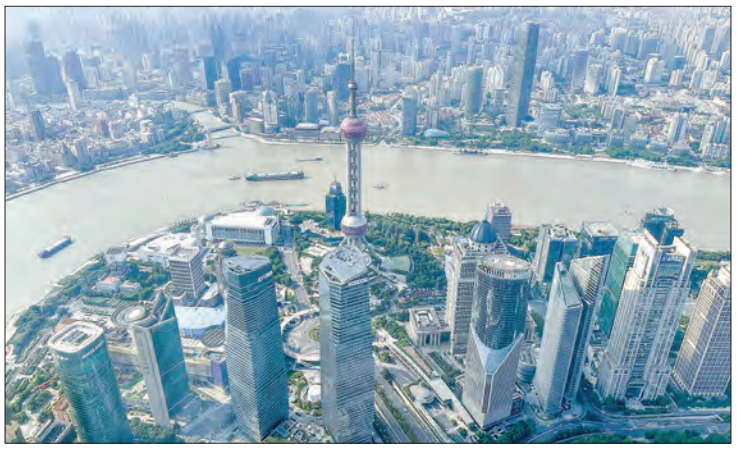
We arrived at Yangon International Airport from Shanghai Airport on 19 September. We completed a week-long trip to China. To sum up, economic, health, education and media development, modern skyscrapers, high-tech transport systems and leading technology are magnificent. Maintaining cultural heritage boosts tourism. China has gained tremendous success in tourism. I wrote this travel article suggesting how the famous tourist destinations Beijing, Hangzhou and Shanghai are well worth a visit.

Translated/EM



Shanghai United Media Group.

Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Hall.



118-storey Shanghai Tower amongst skyscrapers.

LIFESTYLE
WORLD

Australia's Perth Mint unveils Year of Dragon collection

This photo taken on 6 November 2023 shows coins of the Year of the Dragon collection at the Perth Mint in Western Australia, Australia. **PHOTO: PERTH MINT/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

THE Perth Mint on Monday unveiled its Year of the Dragon collection at a launching ceremony held in the state of Western Australia.

The 2024-dated coins are available in gold, silver, and platinum in a variety of sizes and denominations.

The first coins in the series were available from Monday with further releases over the period leading up to the Chinese New Year in February 2024.

Perth Mint's General Manager Minted Products Neil Vance said that the mint had experienced unprecedented demand for its last Year of the Dragon coins in 2012 and international interest in the 2024 release was high.

"Over the years, the Australian Lunar Series has attracted a global audience of collectors and investors," he said.

"Portraying the most auspicious animal in the lunar zodiac, the dragon coins will be highly sought after," Vance added. — Xinhua

New Beatles song set to reach number one on UK singles chart

A new Beatles song, produced with the help of AI, is on track to be named number one on the UK's official singles chart on Sunday night, the chart company said.

The song, "Now and Then", that used artificial intelligence to include the vocals of John Lennon and guitar by George Harrison, who died in 1980 and 2001 respectively, was released last Thursday.

"Now And Then debuted at Number 42 in the UK last week based on just 10 hours of sales, but is now expected to jump 41 places to the top of the Official Singles Chart when Friday's chart is announced on BBC Radio 1's The Official Chart," Official Charts said.

The song is set to be the Fab Four's 18th UK chart-topper and their first in 54 years, since The Ballad of John and Yoko in 1969. The Beatles remain second to Elvis Presley, who has scored 21 number ones on the chart since his first hit in 1957.

"Now and Then" is currently ahead of the song "Standing Next to You" by Jung Kook, and last week's number one, "Is it Over Now?" by Taylor Swift, according to the chart which is based on preliminary sales and early streaming reports from key distribution channels in the UK. Despite being highly anticipated, "Now and Then", which comes more than four decades after it was originally recorded as a demo by Lennon, received lukewarm reviews from music critics after its release.

"'Now and Then' is not terrible... But ultimately, it's kind of mundane," wrote Geoff Edgers in the Washington Post.

The Times daily in the UK said the song showed AI being used to its best advantage.

Parts of it also conjured up "that classic, bittersweet, Beatles-esque flavour", wrote reviewer Will Hodgkinson.

"Unfortunately, none of this can mask the fact that the Last Beatles Song is far from a lost masterpiece," he added. — AFP

Kimonos of Kabuki icon Tamasaburo in rare display at Oxford museum

KABUKI icon Bando Tamasaburo's kimono costumes will be put on rare display at a museum in Oxford for two years from late November to further spark interest in Britain in the over 400-year-old traditional Japanese performing art.

In what a curator of the University of Oxford's Ashmolean Museum says is the first ever exhibit entirely devoted to Kabuki costumes in Britain, a total of 13 kimonos and an "obi" sash worn by the actor in plays from the classical Kabuki repertoire such as "Sukeroku, the Flower of Edo" and "Love Letters from the Pleasure Quarters" will be featured.

Tamasaburo, designated a living national treasure and considered the top performer of female, or "onnagata," roles, said in a recent press event that he wants visitors to simply "enjoy the flamboyant Kabuki costumes" during the "Kabuki Kimono: The Costumes of Bando Tamasaburo V" exhibit starting 21 November.

One of his memorable roles is as courtesan Agemaki in the Sukeroku piece, which is among the plays with English audio offered on paid online streaming service "Kabuki On Demand" by Shochiku Co., the major producer of Kabuki performances.

Tamasaburo handpicked the robes to reflect Japan's four seasons with designs such as cherry blossoms and peonies.

Tamasaburo, who has performed multiple times abroad including in London, Paris, New York and Beijing and has received the highest French cultural honour, said he looks forward to seeing how the costumes will be "viewed in a different situation" off the stage.

The 73-year-old actor is known for his attention to detail in Kabuki costumes, ordering from craftsmen who spend a year or so to make them. He sometimes is involved in embroidery supervision, while some costumes are also tailor-made to look different depending on the lighting. Clare Pollard, curator of Japanese Art at the museum's Department of Eastern Art, said there is "interest" and "curiosity" about Kabuki in Britain and that now is a "good time to introduce Kabuki culture".

Kabuki actor Bando Tamasaburo (far L) poses for photos with Clare Pollard (C), curator of Japanese Art at the Ashmolean Museum, and Alison Beale, director of the University of Oxford Japan Office, at a press event on 31 October 2023 in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO**

To provide extra context to the display, the museum, home to 9,000 Japan-related items, is also showcasing a Japanese artist's stencil prints of key scenes and moments in kabuki dramas. — Kyodo

ECONOMY
WORLD

Indonesia economic growth hit by lagging exports

INDONESIA'S economy grew at its slowest pace for two years in the third quarter owing to a fall in exports caused by softer commodity prices, data showed Monday.

The 4.94 per cent on-year expansion was lower than forecast in a Bloomberg survey, though Central Statistics Bureau (BPS) head Amalia Adininggar Widyasanti pointed out that the figure was better than the global average.

"In the middle of the slowing global economy, climate change, and the falling price of main commodities, Indonesia's economic resilience is reflected in the 4.94 per cent of economic growth," Widyasanti told a news conference Monday.

Exports contracted 4.26 per cent, the biggest fall since the end of 2020 owing to a drop in demand for commodities including coal and palm oil. Overseas shipments have shrunk for six for the past seven months, according to Bloomberg.

Indonesia last month raised interest rates 25 basis points to six per cent, an unexpected move to defend the rupiah amid growing global economic uncertainty.

The rupiah has outperformed regional peers against a strengthening US dollar but has nonetheless tumbled and last month hit 15,800 to the greenback, its lowest level since April 2020.

A staff of a small shoe manufacturer makes their new products as they make an introductory video to be posted on social media in Bogor, West Java, on 27 September 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

The weakening currency may force the government to raise fuel prices, given the country imports half of its petroleum.

"Because we rely mostly on economic consumption, we may be able to maintain five per cent growth, but the natural resources sector... is not sustainable because of exploitation and oversupply," said Bhima Yudhistira, an economist from the Centre of Economic and Law Studies. — AFP

BOJ chief sees increasing chance of achieving 2% inflation goal

Bank of Japan Governor Kazuo Ueda delivers a speech on 6 November 2023 in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, at a meeting with local business leaders. **PHOTO: KYODO**

BANK of Japan Governor Kazuo Ueda said Monday that Japanese companies have become more proactive in setting prices and wages, and the likelihood of attaining the central bank's two per cent inflation target is "gradually rising".

Ueda made the remarks after the BOJ last week stuck to its ultralow rates but decided to allow long-term government yields to rise above its previously rigid ceiling of 1.0 per cent to reduce side effects.

In a speech to business leaders in Aichi Prefecture, central Japan, Ueda acknowledged he could not foresee the stable and sustainable achievement of the inflation target "with sufficient certainty".

"It is necessary to closely examine whether changes in firms' wage- and price-setting behaviour will become widespread and the virtuous cycle between wages and prices will intensify," Ueda said.

The BOJ's "basic thinking on the conduct of monetary policy is that it will patiently continue with monetary easing under the framework of yield curve control, aiming to support Japan's economic activity and thereby facilitate a favourable environment for wage increases," he added.

Under the yield curve control programme, short-term interest rates are set at minus 0.1 per cent and 10-year yields are guided to around zero per cent.

The latest tweak to the programme was the strongest signal yet the dovish central bank is also preparing to unwind the massive monetary stimulus that it has pursued over a decade or so when the inflation goal comes into view. — Kyodo

South Korean stocks surge after short-selling ban

SOUTH Korean stocks surged Monday after authorities imposed an eight-month ban on short selling, with officials citing "illegal shorting practices" by global investors as driving the move.

Financial regulators announced the ban Sunday, saying "fair trading ground was no longer possible" because of investment banks' "unfair trading practices".

Short selling involves traders borrowing securities to sell in hopes of buying them back at a cheaper price later.

Officials judged that "illegal shorting practices pose a risk to the stability of the market and fair pricing", Kim Joo-hyun, chairman of the Financial Services Commission, said at a news briefing.

"We have decided to suspend short trading until the end of the first half of next year," Kim added. — AFP

Sri Lanka to establish independent authority to regulate microfinance

THE Sri Lankan government is expected to establish an independent authority to regulate microfinance institutions, State Minister of Finance Ranjith Siyambalapitiya said on Monday.

Siyambalapitiya told media that the plan has been approved by the cabinet of ministers, with the Microfinance and Credit Regulatory Authority Act expected to be passed in parliament by the end of the year.

The official said that about 11,000 microfinance institutions are operating in the South Asian country, but only five of them have registered with the government.

The state minister said that about three million Sri Lankans have taken loans from microfinance institutions, adding that it has become a serious problem as most debtors cannot afford to pay high interest rates. — Xinhua

Japan firms vow continued investment in China despite slowing economy

JAPANESE companies participating in a major trade fair in Shanghai vowed Monday that they will continue to invest in the Asian market despite challenges, including a slowing economy amid a property sector crisis and a harsher business environment for foreign companies.

Tetsuro Homma, head of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in China, told a press conference that Japanese firms operating in the country are "very much encouraged to further expand their businesses," as Chinese Premier Li Qiang pledged at the opening of the event Sunday to promote the market's opening-up.

About 350 Japanese firms accounting for more than 10 per cent of the total participating companies are taking part in the annual China International Import Expo, becoming the biggest group of foreign businesses, added Homma, who also serves as executive vice president of Panasonic Holdings Corp.

Panasonic Holdings Corp's booth at the China International Import Expo in Shanghai is pictured on 5 November 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Panasonic President and CEO Yuki Kusumi told reporters before the news conference that the company will "actively invest in China to help solve its social issues and enhance the quality of people's lives", referring to challenges such as ageing.

The Panasonic booth exhibited items used for its "wellness smart town", a condo project catering to the demands of wealthy Chinese retirees. — Kyodo

Improved foreign demand lifts German factory orders

GERMAN factory orders rose slightly in September, buoyed by stronger foreign demand, official data showed Monday, in a glimmer of good news for Europe's biggest economy as it battles a slowdown.

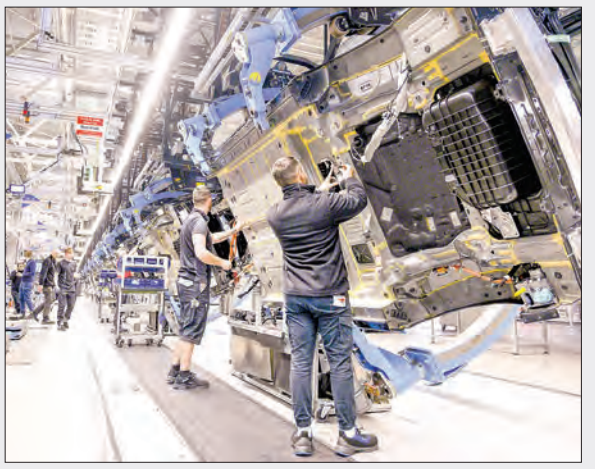
New orders, a key indicator closely watched as a sign of future business activity, were up 0.2 per cent from a month ago, federal data agency Destatis said.

Analysts surveyed by financial data firm FactSet had predicted a substantial drop of 1.3 per cent.

The positive data followed a big rise of 1.9 per cent in August — a figure that was revised significantly downwards from a previous estimate due to errors in data provided by some sectors.

Foreign demand and in particular large orders had lifted September's numbers, said the economy ministry in a statement, with orders from abroad rising 4.2 per cent.

If large orders were stripped out, September's overall industrial figures would have dropped 2.2 per cent on the month, added the ministry. — AFP


Employees of German car maker Mercedes-Benz work on the bottom side of an EQS passenger car at the 'Factory 56', a completely digitized assembly line, at the Mercedes-Benz manufacturing plant in Sindelfingen, southwestern Germany, on 13 February 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Thailand's headline inflation falls for 1st time in 25 months

THAILAND'S headline inflation fell for the first time in 25 months in October as energy and food prices softened due to government measures, official data showed on Monday.

The consumer price index (CPI), a key indicator of inflation, declined 0.31 per cent from a year earlier last month, down from a 0.30 per cent increase in August, according to the Ministry of Commerce. The October inflation growth was below the Bank of Thailand's target range of 1-3 per cent for the sixth month.

The core CPI, which excludes raw food and energy prices, edged up to 0.66 per cent in October from 0.63 per cent in the previous month. Headline inflation is expected to decrease slightly in November owing to a downward trend in food prices and last year's high comparative base, said Poonpong Naiyanapakorn, director-general of the ministry's Trade Policy and Strategy Office. — Xinhua

Lao capital strives to become green city

A study and data collection to develop a green city action plan for the Lao capital Vientiane by applying International Finance Corporation practices will be conducted.

According to Lao News Agency on Monday, the project aims to develop a green city action plan by collecting data and information from relevant sectors.

The action plan will focus on setting up targets for greenhouse gas emissions reduction, policy measures, activities or priority projects for green investment which will result in improving environment, and transforming the Lao capital into a low-carbon and climate-resilient city from 2030 onwards. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (159N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (159N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-11-2023** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (207N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (207N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-11-2023** 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.

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Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Don't get mad, just drink a glass of water, says pope

Children hold placards reading "Peace" in different languages during a meeting with Pope Francis at Paul VI hall in The Vatican on 6 November 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

POPE Francis made a plug for peace Monday and shared practical advice with children from around the world, including Ukraine and the Palestinian Territories, as he welcomed thousands of youngsters to the Vatican.

Francis, who turns 87 in December, appeared jovial and energetic presiding over the "Children meet the pope" event, in which the head of the world's 1.3 billion Catholics took questions from among the 7,000 young people in the audience.

"Let's work for peace, all of us!" said the pope to his rapt audience, some of whom posed questions about war and the environment, along with more personal queries, including how he keeps his cool when he's mad.

Children ages 7 to 12 from among 84 countries had been pre-selected to ask questions of the pope, including about peace, conflict, and the environment.

"Why do they kill babies during wars and no one defends them," asked one little boy from Syria.

A girl who said she was Palestinian asked whether, were a third world war to break out, "will peace never come back?"

Another asked why the weather was so hot even though it was already autumn.

The pope, seated on the stage of the Paul VI Audience Hall, had the children observe a moment of silence for babies killed during wars, and instructed them that peace-making started with "an outstretched hand, with the hand of friendship".

Earlier in the day, Francis told a delegation from the Conference of European Rabbis that he was not feeling well, choosing not to read his prepared speech to them.

But with the children, the pope seemed in top form, signing baseball caps after the event and shaking hands with his young fans. "Don't waste food!" he told the young people. "Throwing away food is a big sin."

Asked what he dreams about, he confessed that he couldn't remember because when he dreams he is asleep.

Another child asked how he kept from getting mad.

"It's true that sometimes I get mad... but I don't bite!" he joked.

"When you're mad, before responding, drink a glass of water," he advised the youngsters. — AFP

Europe to decide its future in space at Seville summit

This handout picture released on 9 September 2022 by Arianespace shows the transfer of the Central Core of Ariane 6 rocket on its launch pad for planned combined tests on 11 July 2022 in Kourou. **PHOTO: P BAUDON, E PRIGENT / ESA-CNES-ARIANESPACE/OPTIQUE / AFP**

EUROPEAN ministers are meeting in the Spanish city of Seville on Monday and Tuesday to decide on the continent's future in space, including potential exploration missions and an ongoing rocket launcher crisis.

With delays to its new Ariane rocket, Europe has no independent way to blast its missions into space and faces growing competition as the United States, China and India all aim for the Moon.

"In space, a lot is at stake, and my question literally is where does Europe want to go?" European Space Agency (ESA) chief Joseph Aschbacher said ahead of the summit.

Does Europe want to join in on the economic boom in the space sector, or be "a customer of services that others are offering?" he asked.

The first day of the summit is devoted to a meeting of ministers from the 22 ESA member states, which includes most European Union nations as well as the UK, Switzerland and Norway.

Tuesday will be dedicated to a joint EU-ESA meeting.

The member states are expected to reaffirm their commitment to Earth observation missions that collect climate change data as a priority for future funding.

Another topic on the agenda is future space exploration. In April, experts in a report commissioned by the ESA called for Europe to establish a "sustained presence" on the surface of the Moon.

The thorniest subject for the summit remains Europe's lack of rocket launchers -- the ESA has previously relied on Russia or the US to launch its astronauts into space. — AFP

S Sudan floods leave 1.6 mln children at risk of hunger: UN

MORE than 1.6 million children aged under five will suffer from malnutrition next year in South Sudan, following a surge in waterborne diseases due to flooding, the UN's World Food Programme said Monday.

The world's newest nation has endured deadly conflict, natural disasters, economic malaise and relentless political infighting since it won independence from Sudan in 2011. As flooding becomes an annual affair in some parts of the country, people living in waterlogged areas have struggled to access food while also grappling with the spread of disease.

"More than 1.6 million children under five years of age are expected to suffer from malnutrition in 2024," the WFP said.

In Rubkona county, where floodwaters have submerged large tracts of land, forcing entire communities to live on small islands since 2021, the cost of food staples has climbed by more than 120 per cent since April.

The county, which lies in the north of the country, is forecast to face catastrophic levels of hunger by April 2024.

'Hunger emergency'

"This is the reality of living on the frontline of the climate crisis," said Mary-Ellen McGroarty, WFP's country director in Juba.

"We're seeing an extremely concerning rise in malnutrition which is a direct result of living in overcrowded and waterlogged conditions," she said. "The spread of waterborne diseases unravels any work humanitarian agencies do in preventing and treating malnutrition and it is young children who are suffering the impact most severely," she added.

The crisis has been compounded by the return of hundreds of thousands of South Sudanese refugees fleeing Sudan's brutal war, with WFP warning last month that families were facing "a hunger emergency".

Since fighting erupted in Sudan in mid-April, more than 10,000 people have lost their lives, according to a conservative estimate from the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project. — AFP

SPORTS

Shan United FC to face Dynamic Herb Cebu FC in AFC Cup match

Players of the Shan United football club. **PHOTO: MFF**

MYANMAR'S Shan United FC will play for a pivotal encounter with Dynamic Herb Cebu FC of the Philippines in the upcoming AFC Cup clash at 6:30 pm on 9 November at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

Myanmar Football Federation announced that the press conference for this match will be held at 2:00 pm on 8 November in the press conference hall of the Thuwunna Football Stadium. The media are invited to attend and cover the event.

This match holds significant importance for both teams, as it is their last chance to secure a spot in the next round of the competition. Only a victory can keep their hopes alive.

After the first leg of the competition, Shan United FC finds itself without any points, while Dynamic Herb Cebu FC has already collected three points. In the AFC Cup ASEAN Zone, only the top team from each group and the best one of the three second-placed teams will advance to the zone semi-finals. Shan United's road to the next round relies on a win in this match.

In Group F, Phnom Penh Crown FC from Cambodia leads with nine points, followed by Macarthur FC from Australia with six points, and Dynamic Herb Cebu FC with three points. In contrast, Shan United FC has faced losing all three of their games.

In the first leg, Shan United FC was defeated by Dynamic Herb Cebu FC with a score of 1-0 on Cebu FC's field. – Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Some Myanmar National team players. **PHOTO: MFF**

29 players preliminarily selected for Myanmar's 2026 World Cup Qualifiers

MYANMAR national team's head coach Michael Feichtenbeiner has announced the selection of a 29-player preliminary for the 2026 World Cup Qualifiers. This list includes a total of 29 players from domestic and foreign clubs.

Due to injuries, some players including defender Soe Moe Kyaw of Phnom Penh Crown FC in Cambodia were not selected for the list. The selected players have already commenced their training sessions at Yangon's Thuwunna Stadium and No 1 Training Ground yesterday.

Following this training period, the final squad will be selected. On 13 November, the team will leave for Osaka, Japan, to compete in their first match of the second round of the 2026 World Cup qualifiers against Japan. After the match in Japan, the Myanmar national team will face the North Korean team in Yangon on 21 November as their second qualifier match.

The preliminary list players: goalkeepers: San Satt Naing (Yangon United FC), Pyae Phyo Aung (Hanthawady United FC), Zin Nyi Nyi Aung (Dagon Star United FC) and Kyaw Zin Phyo (Shan United FC). Defenders: Nanda Kyaw (Shan United EC), Thet Hein Soe (Yadanabon FC), Hein Zeyar Lin (Yangon United FC), Nyein Chan (Dagon Star FC), Lat Wai Phone (Ayeyawady United FC), Kaung Htet Paing (Yadanarbon FC), Ye Min Thu (Shan United FC), Zwe Khant Min (Shan United FC), Moe Swe Aung (ISPE) and Hein Phyo Win (Ratchaburi FC). Midfielders players: Wai Lin Aung (Dagon Star FC), Yan Naing Oo (Yangon United FC), Nay Moe Naing (Hanthawady United FC), Htet Phyo Wai (Shan United FC), Zaw Win Thein (Yangon United FC), Suan Lam Mang (Dagon Star FC), Hein Htet Aung (Negeri Sembilan), Kyaw Min Oo (PORM FC), Lwin Moe Aung (Rayong FC) and Maung Maung Lwin (Lamphum Warriors). Forwards: Oakkar Naing (Yangon United FC), Aung Myat Thu (Hanthawady United FC), Aung Thu (Uthai Thani), Win Naing Tun (Borneo FC) and Than Paing (Chaingmai United). — KZL

No 2 Swiatek beats No 1 Sabalenka in WTA Finals semis

SECOND-RANKED Iga Swiatek defeated world number one Aryna Sabalenka 6-3, 6-2 on Sunday to reach the title match of the WTA Finals, where she will face fellow unbeaten Jessica Pegula.

By downing the reigning Australian Open champion, Swiatek denied Sabalenka a victory that would have clinched the year-end top ranking for the 25-year-old from Belarus.

Instead, reigning French Open champion Swiatek of Poland can claim the year-end world number one spot for the second consecutive season by defeating American Pegula in Monday's championship match.

"I feel like it's still a long way away because I feel like tomorrow's match will be the toughest one," Swiatek said. "We can talk about it tomorrow after the match. I'm just going to continue doing what I've been doing."

Sabalenka overtook Swiatek for the top ranking two months ago but would keep it only if Pegula wins.

Pegula beat compatriot Coco Gauff 6-2, 6-1 in an hour on Saturday to reach the WTA Finals championship match, stretching her overall win streak to nine matches.

Swiatek owns a 5-3 career edge over Pegula in their rivalry but the American has won two of their three meetings this year, at the United Cup and in an August semi-final on Montreal hardcourts. Swiatek beat Pegula in this year's Doha final. —AFP

Poland's Iga Swiatek celebrates after defeating Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka during their women's singles semifinal tennis match at the WTA Finals Championship in Cancun, Mexico on 5 November 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Don't get mad, just drink a glass of water, says pope

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WORLD

China's CIIE a big booster for intl trade, investment, says Malaysian business leader

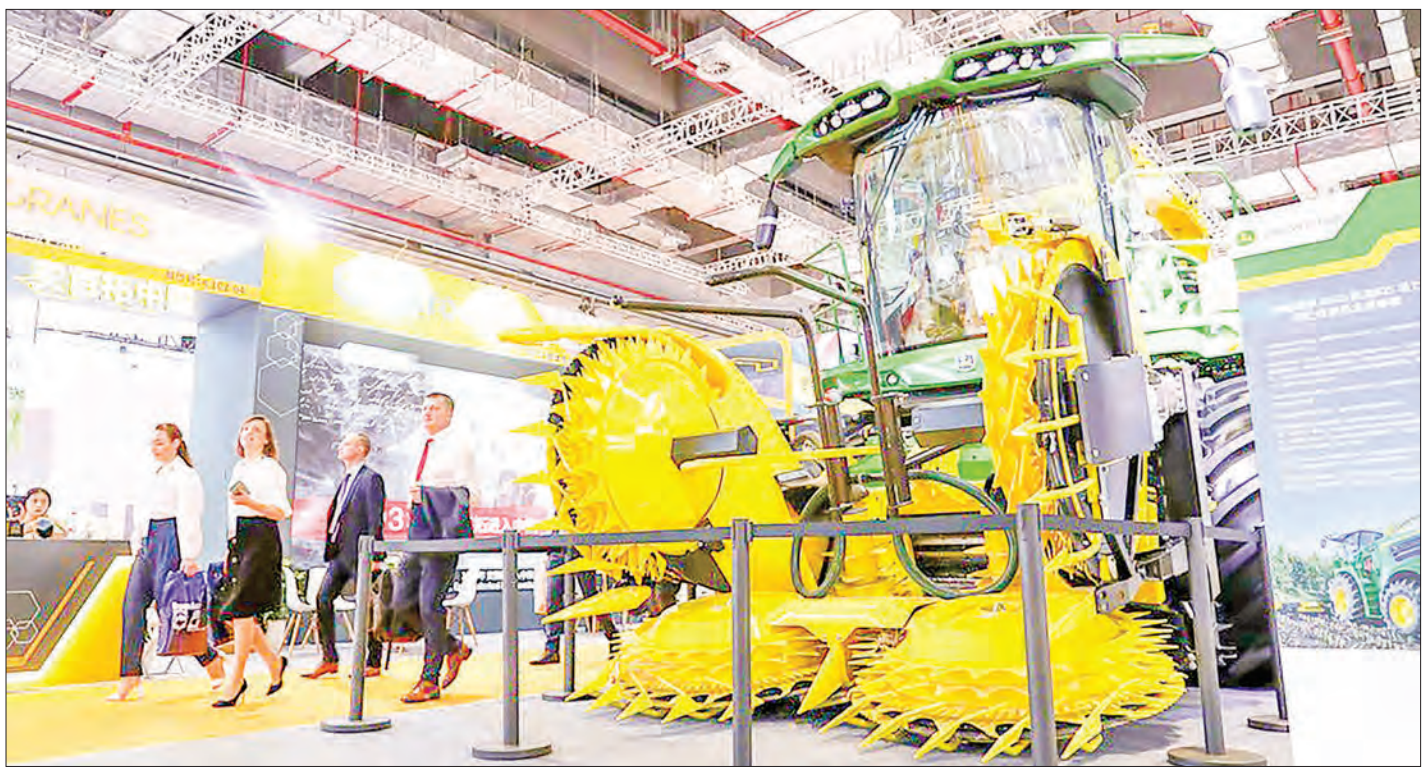
The CIIE is not only a chance to bring Malaysian products to Chinese consumers, but also a platform for entrepreneurs to meet potential partners from various countries, brainstorm innovative ideas and promote international cooperation in the food industry, says a Malaysian business leader.

THE China International Import Expo (CIIE) provides an important platform for other countries to promote their products and services, which can boost international trade, attract more investment and bring opportunities for economic partners, a Malaysian business leader said.

The sixth CIIE, scheduled to be held on 5-10 November in the eastern Chinese city of Shanghai, signifies the event's first full return to in-person exhibitions since the outbreak of COVID-19.

Low Kian Chuan, president of the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (ACCCIM), told Xinhua in a recent interview that this year is the sixth consecutive year that ACCCIM has organized Malaysian companies to participate in the CIIE.

According to Low, Malaysian exhibitors will bring their food and agricultural products and consumer goods, including fruits, beverages, snacks, and cosmetics, to the CIIE.— Xinhua



This photo taken on 5 November 2023 shows a John Deere 8600 forage harvester displayed at the 6th China International Import Expo (CIIE) in east China's Shanghai. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

New Delhi to restrict vehicles as pollution spikes

NEW Delhi will restrict the use of private vehicles for a week in a bid to offer residents some respite from the toxic smog choking the megacity, authorities announced Monday.

Delhi, home to 30 million people, is blanketed in acrid smog at the onset of winter every year, primarily blamed on stubble burning by farmers in the neighbouring agrarian states.

The city is regularly ranked as one of the most polluted on the planet, with its smog blamed for hundreds of thousands of premature deaths each year.

So far, government-led efforts have failed to tackle the country's air quality problem, which a 2017 US study found kills one million people prematurely in India every year.

Commuters drive along a street engulfed by heavy smog in New Delhi on 4 November 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Gopal Rai, Delhi's environment minister, said the road-rationing scheme would be introduced for a week from next Monday, a day after Diwali — the Hindu festival of lights, when revellers set off firecrackers. — AFP

UN says food system adds US$10 trillion in hidden costs

THE food and agriculture system adds at least US$10 trillion in "hidden costs" to the global economy every year due to unhealthy diets, emissions and undernourishment, a UN agency said on Monday.

The Food and Agriculture Organization said it conducted an analysis in 154 countries to determine the "true" cost of the agrifood system.

The global quantified hidden costs totalled around $12.7 trillion in 2020, representing almost 10 per cent of the global gross domestic product, the FAO estimated.

"The future of our agrifood systems and, indeed, of our planet hinges on our willingness to acknowledge these true costs and understand how we all contribute to them," said FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu. The study found that 73 per cent of the hidden costs are linked to bad diets that are high in ultra-processed foods, fats and sugars, causing obesity and non-communicable diseases such as diabetes.

The FAO said the consequences include losses in labour productivity.

More than 20 per cent of the hidden costs are associated with environmental issues including emissions from greenhouse gases and nitrogen, water use and changes to land use.

Low-income countries are the worst hit by these hidden costs, which account for 27 per cent of their GDP compared to 11 per cent for middle-income nations and less than eight per cent in the wealthy ones. – AFP