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The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Local artisans engage in net-fishing assisted by Irrawaddy dolphins in the Ayeyawady River.

Surge in Irrawaddy dolphin tourism draws both local and foreign visitors

The numbers of local and foreign travellers have increased to see Irrawaddy dolphins and net-fishing tradition in the second week of November.

Starting from the first week of November, there are 130 local and foreign travellers to see the Irrawaddy dolphins that inhabit the area of Mandalay-Kyaukmyaung and the local net-fishing tradition with the help of dolphins and there are over 200 travellers in the second week of November.

According to the Mandalay Region Department of Fisheries, Irrawaddy dolphins are watched and protected attentively as they are endangered species and currently, they are inhabiting the area of Seinpangon Village, Madaya Township and the Mingun area.

There were also appointments to come and see Irrawaddy dolphins and the net-fishing tradition even though it was not a seasonal time during August last year. — TWA/TRKM

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Myanmar rejects UN's selective biased resolution

MoFA

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Pigeon pea price falls to K325,000 per tonne within two weeks

Recent claims on banks are just rumours, CBM says

Recently spreading news that a limit has been imposed on cash withdrawals from the banks is just a rumour, according to the Central Bank of Myanmar.

Local banks can now handle any transaction up to the amount of K500 million. CBM also mentioned that such rumours are being spread by media and people linked to terrorist groups as well as terrorism supporters disguised as media on social media platforms. Despite their misinformation propaganda, most of the public is reportedly undisturbed and logical without getting into panic like in 2021.

"It was a plot to repeat the 2021 panic. Although they knew it was not true, some extremists posted on social media in support of it. It was carried out under the banner of Resistance through media, intending to present a dilemma for SAC. Actually, the banking industry has become more stable. I'd like to advise people not to be alarmed by such rumours," said a person close to the banking circle. Rumours suggesting that the amount of cash withdrawals from bank deposits is limited and that some private banks are providing advance salary to their employees have recently been spread by some malicious persons on social media and internet websites to damage the public interests. These claims are false news and misinformation, according to an announcement dated 16 November by CBM.

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NATIONAL

Announcement

MYANMA Economic Bank offers various banking services as per the market-oriented economic system being practised in the country and also provides the services of cash withdrawals from the deposits of the customers under the rules and regulations of the Central Bank of Myanmar.

If a branch of Myanma Economic Bank has to temporarily suspend its banking services, the inventories are systematically kept at the head office of Myanma Economic Bank, region/state offices and district bank branches. The banking services will be provided by other branches of Myanma Economic Bank to ensure that the customers of the relevant bank do not face any losses. Therefore, it is here announced that Myanma Economic Bank consistently maintains its banking services for the interests of the public.

Myanma Economic Bank

World Children's Day
ကမ္ဘာ့ကလေးများနေ့

"For every child, every right"
"အခွင့်အရေးအားလုံးရရှိရေး ကလေးငယ်တိုင်းအတွက် ဖော်ဆောင်ပေး"

၂၀၂၃ ခုနှစ်၊ နိုဝင်ဘာလ (၂၀) ရက် နေပြည်တော်

Myanmar Permanent Representative attends ADLP Summit in Bali

MYANMAR Permanent Representative to ASEAN U Aung Myo Myint attended the ASEAN Digital Literacy Programme (ADLP) Summit held in Bali, Indonesia, as a member of the ASEAN Foundation, trainers and youth volunteers were also present on the occasion, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

U Aung Myo Myint participated in the "ASEAN 101 Session on ASEAN Matters: Growth, Connectivity, Resilience" programme at the ADLP Summit together with other ASEAN Permanent Representatives.

The ASEAN Digital Literacy Programme (ADLP) Summit, co-sponsored by the ASEAN Foundation and Google.org, was held in Bali, Indonesia on 14 November 2023. Implementing partners, trainers and youth volunteers exchanged their views on their important role in building the ASEAN Community and more understanding of ASEAN affairs and the standards of those mechanisms. Moreover, ASEAN members also discussed the role of media literacy promoted with the help of trainers and the ASEAN Youth Advisory Group in combatting false news and misinformation.

Panel discussions of ASEAN 101 Session on "ASEAN Matters: Growth, Connectivity, Resilience" by Permanent Representatives from Myanmar and other members include its activities in respective sectors regarding youth and information under the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, activities through the ASEAN Permanent Representative Committee on building ASEAN Community, promotion of ASEAN awareness by ASEAN Foundation members with support from outside partners like dialogue partners and Google.org, and media literacy activities carried out by respective organizations to combat false news and misinformation.

At the ADLP Summit, ASEAN Permanent Representatives, the Executive Director of the ASEAN Foundation and a responsible person from Google.org also launched its digital literacy e-learning platform, DigitalClassASEAN.org where people from ASEAN members can learn by using their own languages. Afterwards, certificates of honour were granted to local partners, the Youth Advisory Group (AYG) and trainers from each member country who supported in holding that event successfully. Altogether four trainers and youth volunteers from Myanmar attended the summit. — ASH/ZN

Four Master Trainers from Myanmar seen receiving certificates of honour.

Mr Global Myanmar with his Thudanu Prince National Costume.

Mr Myanmar competes with Thudanu Prince Costume in Mister Global 2023 Thailand

ACCORDING to Mr Myanmar Ye Thway Thiha, he is going to compete with the Thudanu Prince costume as a National costume in the Mister Global 2023, Thailand. The competition is scheduled to start from 17 to 26 November in Maha Sarakham, Thailand, and Misters from over 50 countries such as Thailand, Viet Nam, Indonesia, the Philippines, Cambodia, Laos, Singapore, Korea, Canada and India are also competing in this competition.

Mr Myanmar said, "We did the shooting for the National Costume as soon as we arrived in the evening. Please support me. My weakness is I don't get to use the IG and I have the lowest likes in IG. Now, I show the link to my IG account and please like and share my photo if fans see it on your newsfeeds." The National Costume of Mr Myanmar is inspired by the Prince Thudanu of Pindaya who was famous as Myanmar Legendary heros and the prince was a professional in archery sport. Therefore, the costume is designed with pieces of jewellery to describe the greatness of the prince who carries the arrow and the bow as the royal traditional costume and the designer T Shine Htet created it. — ASH/TRKM

NATIONAL

Myanmar rejects UN's selective biased resolution

During the 78th United Nations General Assembly held in New York, a combined briefing on reports on Myanmar by the United Nations Secretary-General, Independent Investigative Mechanism on Myanmar (IIMM) and Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar was made at the Third Committee on 23 October 2023. Additionally, the resolution entitled "Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar" was adopted on 15 November 2023 without the participation of legitimate representatives of the concerned country, Myanmar.

The combined briefing was participated and briefed by Mr Khaled Khiari, Assistant Secretary-General of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) who was never mandated for such a task. Mr Thomas Andrews, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar also presented his unethical and unprofessional report on 23 October 2023. Regarding the IIMM, the accuracy of the so-called twenty-three million pieces of information items said to be collected by the IIMM remains unknown since a functional tool to scrutinize them does not exist but solely depends on the self-interpretation of the mechanism. Myanmar has registered its objection with the United Nations against the acts of Kyaw Moe Tun in respective meetings under the banner of Myanmar as he has been representing the NUG terrorist group.

As in its previous versions, the resolution tabled by the EU and OIC on 15 November 2023 contained unfounded allegations from opposition groups and certain biased media. While the resolution was tabled due to the incident in northern Rakhine State that occurred in August 2017, it intentionally excluded the root causes of that incident and reality on the ground. In fact, the mass displacement started in late September 2017, following threats, killings and coordinated attacks committed by the so-called ARSA aka Aqua Mul Mujahidin terrorist group in northern Rakhine State. Hundreds of displaced persons from camps in Bangladesh have been killed for not following the agenda of the terrorist group and for advocating the repatriation process whose realization has been affected by such life threats. Myanmar stands ready to receive those who are verified as displaced persons from Rakhine State under the existing laws and bilateral arrangements signed between Myanmar and Bangladesh. The two sides keep negotiating to kick-start the repatriation of verified displaced persons. The Government of Myanmar has been repeatedly requesting Bangladesh's support for the early repatriation of the hundreds of displaced Hindus who volunteered to return. The repatriation process cannot be materialized only by Myanmar and cooperation from Bangladesh is required. Myanmar does not recognize the invented term "Rohingya" which has never existed in legal and historical records of the country.

The resolution fails to condemn the terrorist attacks committed by the so-called NUG and PDF's which have claimed the lives of over 6,700 unarmed civilians including more than 230 children. The said resolution itself amounts to hate speech and creates more polarization and escalation of tension among different communities in the country.

Due to sweeping allegations and intrusive elements contained in the resolution as well as Myanmar's consistent position against the country-specific resolutions, Myanmar categorically rejects the whole resolution and dissociates itself from the adoption of it. Myanmar expresses its gratitude to the friendly countries which dissociated themselves from the adoption of the resolution. — MoFA

2023 Inter-State/Region Aerobics sports competitions conclude

THE final and rewarding event of the 2023 Inter-State/Region Aerobics sports competition was held at Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, joined by State Administration Council members.

The SAC members enjoyed the final games being competed under the various categories. Next, an awarding ceremony was held and winners grabbed prizes.

Yangon Region won the nine-player event while Kayin State garnered the second and Kachin earned the third. Next, Yangon Region also claimed the Physical Fitness Dance Competition while Mandalay took the second and Shan State the third.

In turn, Kachin State secured the first at a three-player event while Yangon Region grabbed the second and Mandalay the third.

Next, SAC members presented a trophy plus individual awards to the Yangon Region team that won the tourney.

During the event, the fourth, fifth and sixth-placed teams also garnered individual prizes to mark the Aerobics sports. The tourney was held from 15 to 17 November with the participation of 234 athletes from 14 teams. — MNA/KZL

An awardee receives the cash prize at the award presentation event yesterday.

Recent claims on banks are just rumours, CBM says

FROM PAGE-1

CBM assured that there is no limit imposed on the amount of cash withdrawals from bank deposits while banking services are now available at any branch of a bank throughout the nation after deposit account data of the customers are readily and conveniently accessible at each branch of the banks, thanks to core banking system. Moreover, digital banking services as well as payments can also be made easily and all banking services are provided at the banks as usual. Customers of those banks can continue to enjoy banking services regularly as well, it added.

Furthermore, CBM is reportedly working in cooperation with law enforcement organizations to reveal those who spread fake news intending to deteriorate the interests of the public and impose deterrence punishment against them, under legal stipulations. — Myo Khine/ZN

Daily newspapers available online

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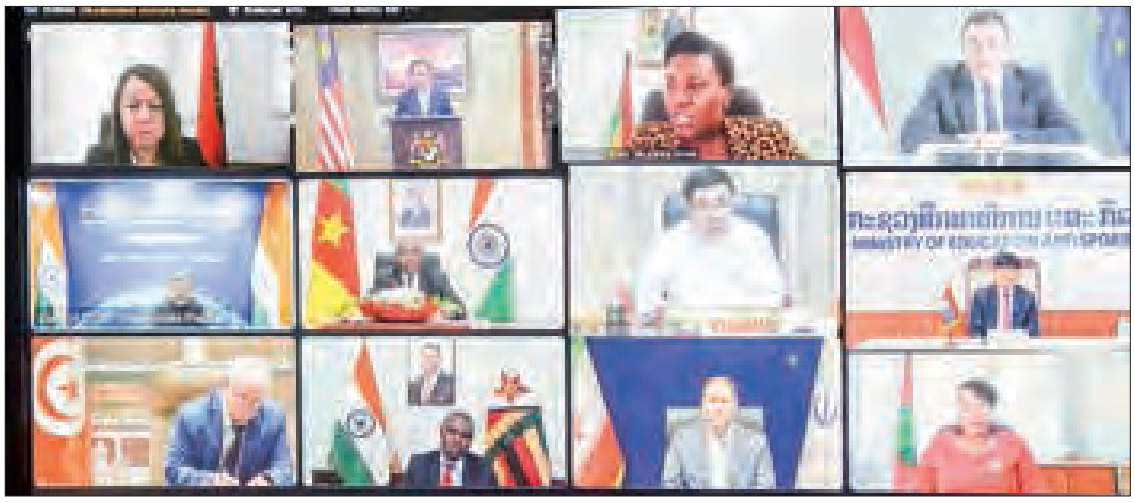
NATIONAL

MoE UM attends online 2nd Voice of Global South Summit



Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe joins the VOGSS 2.0 online yesterday.

UNION Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe attended the Education Ministers' level meeting yesterday, which is part of the 2nd Voice of Global South Summit (VOGSS 2.0), themed "Together for Everyone's Growth, With Everyone's Trust", organized by the Government of India.

The meeting, held under the theme 'Making Human Resources Future Ready', saw the participation of the Union Minister who emphasized the crucial role of education in acquiring knowledge and skills relevant to the 21st century.

The Union minister underscored the undeniable link between human resource development and educational progress, highlighting that the Ministry of Education offers capacity-building courses for newly appointed university teachers.

Additionally, an MoU has been signed between universities in Myanmar and India to foster collaboration. The Union Minister expressed confidence that the valuable discussions from the summit will contribute to sustainable development through regional cooperation.

Representatives from 15 countries, including Education Ministers and Deputy Ministers, participated in the summit.

The deputy ministers engaged in discussions addressing challenges for education development, presenting and sharing their experiences. The summit concluded successfully with a closing speech delivered by the Minister of Education from India. — MNA/KZW

Myanmar, Thailand discuss bilateral trade promotion, speedy flow of goods, information exchanges

MYANMAR and Thai officials on Friday held a meeting on matters related to bilateral trade promotion, speedy flow of goods and information exchanges in Yangon, according to UMFCCI (Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry).

During the meeting, UMFCCI President U Aye Win and Thai Business Association of Myanmar (TBAM) President Mr Nattaphong discussed the speedy flow of goods in bilateral trade, the application of the E-Lock System on the Thilawa Port-Myawady route, easy access to entry and exit of freight vehicles, eradication of illegal trade, promotion of investments, payment, information exchanges and import facilitation activities. — ASH/KTZH

A bilateral trade promotion and its related meeting between Myanmar and Thailand in progress yesterday in Yangon.

MoH delegates attend ASEAN Medical Academic Association meeting in Malaysia

THE Ministry of Health is collaborating with ASEAN countries in various healthcare fields, and the exchange of experiences and cooperation in medical research and education is increasing.

A delegation led by Prof Dr Aye Aye Chit from the Ministry of Health attended yesterday's meeting of the ASEAN Medical Academic Association, held in connection with the annual conference of the College of Physicians of Malaysia.

On the first day of the meeting, medical doctors from ASEAN countries discussed global epidemics, including hormonal diseases, arthritis, and high blood pressure. They explored the latest therapies for conditions such as heart disease and kidney disease, addressing challenges and exchanging views on their experiences in treating these diseases.

Myanmar's Ministry of Health delegates seen attending the ASEAN Medical Academic Association meeting in Malaysia.

The meeting, spanning from 17 to 19 November, will host international medical professionals, facilitating the exchange of medical experiences between countries. It is expected to provide valuable insights for the healthcare industry in the participants' respective nations and foster the sharing of positive experiences among collaborating professionals. — MNA/KZW

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NATIONAL

Myanmar showcases disaster management efforts at 2023 BRI Ministerial Forum

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win attended the 2023 Belt and Road Ministerial Forum for International Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management (BRIDRREM) online hosted by China on 16 November.

Chinese Vice-Premier Mr Liu Guozhong addressed the forum held with the theme "Emergency Management: Safety and Prevention First".

At the forum, the officials from 24 countries reported on their respective disaster management activities, and the Union minister said that Myanmar enacted Natural Disaster Management Law in 2013 and Bylaw in 2015 to carry out effective disaster management activities as the country is in disaster-prone areas. The National Disaster Management Committee was also organized under the supervision of the SAC Vice-Chairman and it has already drafted the Standing Order.

Moreover, the government constructs cyclone shelters, establishes disaster management training schools, promotes the EOC (Emergency Operations Centre) and conducts awareness programmes of alert systems.

He also expressed gratitude to the Chinese government for their support in disaster management measures and pledged that Myanmar will adopt modern technologies in disaster risk reduction.

Then, the attendees to the forum approved the Joint Statement of 2023 BRIDRREM. — MNA/KTZH

Union Minister Dr Soe Win attends the online 2023 Belt & Road Ministerial Forum on 16 November.

Myanmar delegation attends World Anti-Corruption Conference

Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commissioner U Kyaw Win Thein puts forward the presentation at the World Anti-Corruption Conference held in Indonesia on 16 November.

MYANMAR Anti-Corruption Commission Member U Kyaw Win Thein participated as a panellist in the World Anti-Corruption Conference (WACC), which is organized by the International Strategy Institute (ISI) based in Malaysia, with the theme "Towards a Corrupt-Free Future: Strengthening Global Governance Together" on 16 November in Jakarta, Indonesia. Four sectors: "Law Enforcement on Prevention and Persecution", "Strengthening Global Governance Mechanisms", "Preventing the Misuse of Laws to Evade Accountability" and "Combatting Government Corruption: Ensuring Accountability for Clean Governance" were discussed during the conference.

In the Law Enforcement on Prevention and Persecution" section, commission member U Kyaw Win Thein, Mohammad Sukri HJ Ariffin from Brunei's Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and Ms Huiri Kim from Korea's Anti-corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC) participated as panellists.

For effective anti-corruption activities, discussions focused on ethical behaviour and issues that could be broadly coordinated in the fight against corruption, including the strengthening of law enforcement agencies. Myanmar discussed issues as the Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission has established strategies for anti-corruption and prevention activities.

Establishing and implementing the annual operation plan, preparing annual reports and reports to the public transparently, and cooperating with regional anti-corruption organizations, including the ASEAN Anti-Corruption Organization ASEAN-PAC were also discussed. The signing of a memorandum of understanding with some member countries, the activities to be carried out and the confiscation of money and materials obtained from corruption were also included in the discussion. — MNA/KZL

Nationwide petrol stations maintain consistent fuel supply

FUEL is continuously loaded and distributed from the fuel terminals at Thilawa Port in Yangon. Trucks transport the fuel to filling stations across various regions and provinces, including the Yangon Region, day and night.

As fuel oil is distributed nationwide, the purchasing conditions at all petrol stations become normal. Inspection teams, serving as the supervisory committee for fuel oil import, storage, and distribution, conduct inspections of motor fuel sales to the public in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, Yangon Region and Mandalay Region. To ensure the accuracy of fuel sold to the public, inspections are carried out using standard 20-litre cups. Additionally, they engage with fuel buyers at the shops, addressing and resolving their needs. — MNA/KZW

The supervisory committee members inspect the petrol station yesterday in Yangon.

NATIONAL

90% completion of 200,000-gallon reservoir set to supply water to three townships

The construction site of a 200,000-gallon water reservoir at the corner of Yanaung Street and Minnandar Street, 1/Anawma Ward, Thakayta Township, Yangon in August 2022.

ACCORDING to the Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) of Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), the construction of the water reservoir of 200,000 gallons has been completed 90 per cent and that can be able to supply water to the townships of Thakayta, Dawbon and Pazundaung.

The mentioned water reservoir project started in the financial year of 2023-2024.

The YCDC is managing to distribute enough drinking water for the Yangon by getting the water resources from the reservoirs of Hlawga, Phugyi, Gyophyu, and Ngamoeyeik.

Those mentioned water reservoirs are supplying 205 million gallons per day and 14 million gallons from the Hlawga Lake, 27 million gallons from the Gyophyu Lake, 54 million gallons from the Phugyi, 90 million gallons from Ngamoeyeik water treatment plant and 20 million gallons from the tube- wells respectively.

In this process of supplying water daily, 90 per cent are from the above ground resources water and 10 per cent from the tube-wells. — TWA/ TRKM

CP corn price hits K17,000 per basket

STOCKS of CP corn have started flowing into the beans and pulses wholesale market in Shwebo, Sagaing Region, since the third week of September and the price hits K17,000 per basket, said the industry insiders.

A total of 900 baskets or 22 tonnes of corn were traded within a week in November. The price slightly rose from K16,800 in the first week to K17,000 in the second week.

CP corn is a vital crop for livestock feed in the local market as well as exports. It is not native to Asia but originally hails from America. In Myanmar, the crop is cultivated mainly in Shan State.

It can be grown in both the rainy season and the cold season. The cultivation period usually starts in April and May during the rainy season and October during the cold season in some parts of Myanmar.

Shan farmers, however, began spreading seeds in August. A five-kilogramme seed pack is allocated for one acre which results in around 1,000-1,200 visses of yield.

The harvest for dry corn begins once the stalk shows a brown ring, farmers stated. — TWA/NT

Corn is seen being milled by modern machines.

Authorities advise vessels to observe navigation signs in Ayeyawady River

THE Region-5 Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems of Mandalay Region instructed the watercraft and vessels to follow the river water level indicators when crossing within the Ayeyawady River.

The directorate also announced that a total of 40 water navigation signs will be erected in the river in the third week of November to ensure vessels and watercraft can cross safely along the Mingun-Mandalay waterway in Ayeyawady River.

At present, the water level in Ayeyawady River is low and it is 79 centimetres (2.6 feet) above the Mandalay's minimum water level of 360 centimetres. Since it's getting into the period with low river water levels, the directorate notified warnings for waterways to follow the rules and limitations for draught.

The period between 15 November and 15 May every year is regarded as the time when the water level is low in the Ayeyawady River. During the aforesaid period, the vessels' load draughts should follow the rules for draught systematically depending on the waterway circumstances.

A directive on the bank of Ayeyawady River.

The river routes based on the established draught limitations are five feet and six inches from Hinthada to Pyay, five feet from Pyay to Mandalay, four feet from Mandalay to Katha, three feet and nine inches from Katha to Bhamo, and two feet and six inches from Hsinbo to Myitkyina.

A total of 580 water navigation signs were set up in Ayeyawady River along Mandalay-Myinmu-NyaungU course in the first week of January 2023 for the vessels to go safely within the river. Some navigation signs that were primarily built were damaged due to weather and river erosion.

Therefore, water launches and vessels crossing within Ayeyawady River along Mandalay-Myinmu-NyaungU route should be aware of the changes in the river, and the navigation signs that will be built should also be referred to, the directorate stated. — TWA/ TMT

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NATIONAL
BUSINESS

Pigeon pea price falls to K325,000 per tonne within two weeks

THE pigeon pea price was down by K325,000 per tonne within two weeks in the domestic market.

The pigeon pea touched a high of K4.075 million per tonne on 3 November and then, the price plunged to K3.75 million per tonne on 16 November.

The decrease in FOB price and weak demand brought down the pigeon pea prices. The FOB prices stood at US$1,350-1,370 per tonne of pigeon pea (red gram) on 3 November and dipped to $1,250-1,270 per tonne on 16 November.

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.

Myanmar shipped more than 970,000 tonnes of various pulses, with an estimated value of over $817 million, to foreign countries in the past seven 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

Myanmar shipped more than 970,000 tonnes of various pulses, with an estimated value of over $817 million, to foreign countries in the past seven months during the 2023-2024 financial year beginning 1 April.

Pure gold price spikes to K3.8 mln in grey market on global cues

The soaring dollar exchanging up to K4,000 drove the gold price up to a record high of K4 million per tical in late August 2023.

PURE gold price keeps rising to approximately K3.8 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) in the grey market tracking the increase in spot gold price and the US dollar gains.

The spot gold price rallied to US$1,987 per ounce and Kyat weakened to K3,500 against the greenback in the unofficial market.

Nevertheless, the reference price set by Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) is K3.115 million per tical, showing a large gap of around K700,000 per tical compared to the grey market's rate.

The YGEA switched to the Central Bank of Myanmar's exchange rate (K2,900) for interbank transactions in calculating the reference price for pure gold. At present, the US dollar is exchanged at approximately K3,500 in the grey market.

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

The soaring dollar exchanging up to K4,000 drove the gold price up to a record high of K4 million per tical in late August 2023.

As a result of this, the YGEA has notified the members of the investigation and prosecution against those who attempt to manipulate the price through social media platforms and those involved in transactions on Viber. — NN/EM

MFPEA to deliver online training for Awareness of HACCP Plan

MYANMAR Food Processors and Exporters Association will conduct "Awareness of HACCP Plan" online training on 23 and 24 November, to deliver technical know-how regarding the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) plan to manage food safety and control hazards in the food industry.

Training will cover the following subjects: The history of HACCP, Hazards and their Control Measures, Five Preliminary Steps of the HACCP Plan and Seven Principles of the HACCP Plan.

Food processing entrepreneurs, QA/QC staff, supervisors in food businesses and those who are willing to know the basic points to ensure food hygiene are encouraged to join this course.

Upon completion of the course, they will be equipped with skills and knowledge to realize requirements to implement HACCP in food industries, detect possible food hazards, explore control principles, improve food safety awareness and knowledge for the staff, support businesses to ensure food safety and build brand trusts in manufacturing businesses.

For further details, food processors and exporters can contact the association via phone numbers: 09 887805900 and 09 887805901. — NN/EM

An MFPEA commercial for "Awareness of HACCP Plan".

Myanmar exports agricultural produce worth US$1.8 bln in past seven months

MYANMAR'S agricultural exports bagged US$1.8 billion in the past seven months of the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, according to the Ministry of Commerce. The figures plunged from $2.012 billion recorded in the year-ago period, showing a drop of $202.165 million.

Myanmar exports agricultural produce, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, intermediate goods, raw materials imported by the CMP enterprises and consumer goods.

Myanmar has been implementing the National Export Strategy (NES) 2020-2025 to bolster exports. The priority sectors of the NES comprise agricultural production, garment and apparel, industrial and electronic device, fishery business, forest product, digital manufacturing and service, logistic service, quality management, trade information service, innovation and entrepreneurship sectors. — NN/KK

OPINION

Enhance capacity and qualifications for a leadership role in society

WHILE no one can predict the future with certainty, individuals can influence the likelihood of their aspirations coming to fruition through careful consideration, foresight, capabilities, and a wide range of scope. These attributes collectively form the qualifications that are used to categorize and evaluate individuals.

In society, two distinct categories of individuals can be observed across various sectors. The first group lacks the skills necessary to navigate through complete processes, leading to delayed and inaccurate job completion. This deficiency in qualification becomes evident when facing challenges within the work process.

Life is not merely about survival. It is about realizing ambitions and savouring the fruits of one's labour. Qualifications play a pivotal role in standing out among peers and showcasing capabilities that exceed societal expectations. Only when individuals can demonstrate their skills and capacity superior to others can they expect to thrive in society. Failure to do so may cast a shadow over their prospects.

Contrastingly, the second group exhibits comprehensive qualifications, effortlessly handling tasks without exerting excessive effort. Their qualifications surpass the requirements of their assigned roles. It becomes imperative for everyone to draw lessons from this contrast. By improving their qualifications and capacity, individuals can effectively tackle problems and overcome challenges in their professional duties. Consequently, it becomes essential for individuals to undergo training and self-assessment to ensure their readiness for relevant projects.

In the initial stages, everyone begins as novices with limited qualifications. Understanding one's standards and knowing how to enhance them is crucial. Continuous training, without succumbing to the pressure, becomes a valuable tool for personal development. The sweat invested in training becomes the currency for success in practical applications, and the effort put into training becomes the foundation for outstanding performances in assigned duties.

Capacity cannot be uplifted by anyone. Individuals need to enhance their capacity themselves. They have to notice that whenever they rely on others, their capacity will decline. Hence, they have to strengthen their physical and mental capacity with readiness to overcome any challenges in their lifespan.

Life is not merely about survival. It is about realizing ambitions and savouring the fruits of one's labour. Qualifications play a pivotal role in standing out among peers and showcasing capabilities that exceed societal expectations. Only when individuals can demonstrate their skills and capacity superior to others can they expect to thrive in society. Failure to do so may cast a shadow over their prospects.

A high capacity and qualification empower individuals to achieve their goals in both the secular and religious realms. Swift advancements across all sectors enhance the quality of life for individuals. This, in turn, opens up opportunities for individuals to assume leadership roles, guiding others towards success. Emphasizing personal growth through the continuous improvement of capacity and qualifications becomes a shared responsibility for everyone.

■

ARTICLE

Green Fortune with My Thriving Bamboo Companion

By Yin Nwe Ko

HOUSEPLANTS are more than just decorative additions to our homes. They can have a positive impact on our health and well-being. While many people enjoy having plants in their living spaces simply for their beauty, there is scientific evidence to support the idea that houseplants can contribute to a healthier and happier life.

One of the most well-known benefits of having houseplants is their ability to purify the air. Plants absorb carbon dioxide during photosynthesis and release oxygen, which makes the air in our homes fresher and cleaner. Moreover, some plants can also remove toxins from the air, such as formaldehyde, benzene, and ammonia, which can be present in household items like paint, cleaning products, and furniture. Some plants known for their air-purifying qualities include the snake plant, spider plant, and peace lily.

Houseplants can also have a calming effect on our mental well-being. Studies have shown that spending time with plants can reduce stress and anxiety. The act of caring for a plant and watching it grow can be a meditative and soothing experience. Being surrounded by greenery can provide a sense of tranquillity and improve overall mood.

Having houseplants in your workspace or study area can boost productivity. The presence of plants has been linked to increased focus and concentration, making them an excellent addition to your home office or study room. The improved air quality can also help reduce headaches and fatigue, making it easier to stay on task.

Houseplants can help maintain optimal indoor humidity levels, especially during dry seasons. They release water vapour during transpiration, which increases the humidity in their immediate vicinity. This can be particularly beneficial for individuals suffering from respiratory issues or dry skin, as well as for preventing damage to wooden furniture and floors caused by low humidity.

Some houseplants, like lavender and jasmine, emit calming fragrances that can promote relaxation and better sleep. Placing these plants in your bedroom can help you get a good night's rest. Additionally, the improved air quality from houseplants can lead to a night of more restful sleep, as clean air can reduce breathing problems and allergies.

Connection to Nature

Bringing the outdoors inside can help foster a deeper connection to nature. In today's fast-paced and technology-driven world, this connection can be essential for mental well-being. Houseplants remind us of the natural world and our place in it, providing a sense of calm and connection to the environment.

In addition, houseplants are not only lovely additions to our homes but also powerful contributors to our health and well-being. They improve air quality, reduce stress, enhance productivity, regulate humidity, promote better sleep, and connect us to nature. So, whether you have a green thumb or not, consider adding some houseplants to your living spaces for a healthier and happier life. Here, I would like to share my own experience with my health closely associated with houseplants…

My wife, Monn, and I don't often keep houseplants. Anything in pots gets either overwatered or underwatered. But after my diagnosis with glioblastoma, a terminal brain cancer, with a prognosis of little more than a year to live, I loved the idea of having something new and green around.

My friend Ko Toke gave me what he said was a lucky bamboo plant in a deep-green pottery bowl with three pencil-size stalks braided together. We placed the plant in the living room window across from the couch where I spent much of the day. I smiled when I looked at it over the rim of the mug of coffee Monn brought me each morning.

I told Monn I wanted to care for the plant myself. When it didn't immediately turn yellow or brown or lose all its leaves, I was pleasantly surprised.

Tending to the plant gave me a sense of accomplishment at a time when I sometimes felt useless. Glioblastoma limited my ability to walk, and the treatment left me fatigued, making it hard for me to accomplish everyday tasks. As a family doctor, I was used to being the one who provided care, not the one who received it.

Since my diagnosis in August 2018, far too often, it seemed, I had to rely on help from other people. The enormous change left me feeling adrift and unsettled. Watering the plant, as small an act as it was, connected me to a core part of my old identity and taught me I could still be a caregiver. Plants and people could still depend on me.

Over the next few months, I recovered from surgery and completed radiation and the first round of chemotherapy. Even after I returned to work, I continued to care for the plant. Soon, it had nearly doubled in height and its leaves were shiny and lush. Both the tree and I were thriving.

Then, mysteriously, it began to show signs of stress. I increased my watering, then decreased it. I nestled coffee grounds into the soil (a common fertilization method). I fed it commercial plant food. No matter what I did, the leaves kept browning and dropping to the floor. I grew more and more frustrated and uneasy.

"I can't even care for a simple plant!" I yelled. "I'm failing!"

Monn reminded me that we'd seen houseplants die before. She asked me why I was getting so worked up about this particular one.

"If my lucky bamboo dies," I blurted out, "I might die too!"

I couldn't shake the feeling that the plant had become a symbol of my own precarious health. Identifying with the green and growing plant offered me solace. Now that the tree was struggling, I felt increasingly fearful. Its shrivelling leaves, I worried, might signal the recurrence of my brain tumour.

I realized I had wrongly connected my careful nurturing of the plant – something over which I had at least some control – with my own survival – something over which I had no control.

As my anxiety lessened, I began to pore over online tutorials to help me care for my ailing plant. Following the instructions, I transplanted the tree to a larger pot, untangling its roots to give it room to grow. When it was back in the sunny window, we both began to thrive again.

Houseplants remind us of the natural world and our place in it, providing a sense of calm and connection to the environment.

When my tumour inevitably returned, it would not be because of any failure on my part – not because I ate sugar occasionally and certainly not because I failed to keep this plant alive.

Whenever I look at the tree with its braided stalks in its new pot, I make a point to think of Ko Toke and the other people who have cared for and supported me.

If the plant outlives me, I hope it will comfort Monn and remind her that our large community will continue to nurture her after I am gone.

Amid my health struggles, I came to understand that the well-being of my lucky bamboo plant was not a reflection of my own survival. It was a valuable lesson in letting go of the illusion of control over every aspect of life. As my anxiety lessened, I began to pore over online tutorials to help me care for my ailing plant. Following the instructions, I transplanted the tree to a larger pot, untangling its roots to give it room to grow. When it was back in the sunny window, we both began to thrive again.

I realized that the plant was not a symbol of my vulnerability, but rather a source of inspiration and hope. The way it rebounded and flourished after receiving the right care was a reminder of the resilience of life, even in the face of adversity. I, too, found the strength to persevere and continue my battle against glioblastoma.

While my tumour inevitably returned, it would not be because of any failure on my part – not because I ate sugar occasionally, and certainly not because I failed to keep this plant alive. My plant was a symbol of resilience, not just for me but for my family, friends, and caregivers who had stood by me during this difficult journey.

Whenever I look at the tree with its braided stalks in its new pot, I make a point to think of Ko Toke and the other people who have cared for and supported me. My lucky bamboo represents the bonds of friendship and the strength of the community that surrounded me during my battle with cancer. It's a reminder that even in the face of life's uncertainties, the love and support of those around us can help us thrive.

If the plant outlives me, I hope it will comfort Monn and remind her that our large community will continue to nurture her after I am gone. It's a living testament to the enduring connections we create in our lives and the love that never truly withers away. Just as my lucky bamboo flourished with care and support, I hope that my own journey has been a testament to the power of love and resilience in the face of life's challenges.

Reference: Reader's Digest May 2023

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Study helps deploy pioneering method using rhenium as proxy for carbon

Mark Torres and his Rice University team studied the river system extending from the Peruvian Andes to the Amazon floodplains to investigate the Earth's fossil carbon cycling, focusing on the dynamic movement of carbon from living organisms to the crust and the atmosphere.

The Rio Madre de Dios basin is rife with carbon-rich shales, the ideal rock type to study for the purposes of the project. **PHOTO: MARK TORRES/RICE UNIVERSITY**

CARBON, the main component of life on Earth, is continuously moving from living things down into the crust and back up into the atmosphere. Until recently, however, it was practically hard to quantify this movement.

The chemistry of a river system that runs from the Peruvian Andes to the Amazon floodplains was researched by Mark Torres of Rice University and others in an effort to shed light on the riddle of how the Earth cycles fossil carbon.

Carbon breakdown

Along with collaborators from five other institutions, Torres contributed to the demonstration that high rates of carbon breakdown continue from the top of mountains to the floodplain because weathering and erosion release carbon bound in rock that was once the ocean floor into the atmosphere.

In a study that was published in PNAS, the researchers substituted rhenium, a heavy transition metal with a silvery-grey colour, for carbon. Knowing the Earth's pre-anthropogenic, natural carbon cycle can help us better understand the planet's past and how it has responded to recent climate change.

"The purpose of this research was to quantify the rate at which Earth naturally releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and find out whether this process varies across different geographic locations," Torres said.

Traditionally, understanding this process has been challenging as it involves complex chemical reactions that transform rocks into gases like carbon dioxide, making it difficult to quantify.

SOURCE: ANI

NATIONAL
CRIME NEWS

Statement on destruction of educational buildings at Loikaw University in Kayah State and abducting of faculty members, education staff and students by KNPP and PDF terrorists

1. KNPP and PDF terrorists intentionally opened fire at Loikaw University of Kayah State which is a non-military target with heavy weapons and small arms on 13 and 14 November and surprisingly attacked security forces at the university with the deployment of excessive force.

2. These terrorist groups raided the university, destroyed educational buildings and illegally detained faculty members including the rector serving duties at the university, education staff and students. As such, security forces took necessary measures to timely save those faculty members and students not to suffering from injuries and to be safe.

3. Nonetheless, KNPP and PDF terrorists used educational staff and students as human shields in their attacks. As security forces controlled their moves so as not to cause unnecessary injuries to educational staff and students, they could save just some of them. Faculty members including the rector, educational staff and some students were abducted by KNPP and PDF terrorists. Moreover, it was found that KNPP and PDF terrorists brutally killed some faculty members.

4. In this regard, KNPP and PDF terrorists committed attacks and firing with the covers of educational buildings, which are important for the State and not military targets, forcibly detaining faculty members, and educational staff as human shields instead of allowing them to escape from the dangerous area, intentionally attacked the university of a hundred of educational staff and students, destroyed educational buildings and used these buildings as their covers in attacking. Hence, they violated the war crime under Common Article (3) of four Geneva Conventions and Article (52) of the Additional Protocol (1) as well as in accord with the customary international law in principle. Moreover, 15 member countries of the UN Security Council on 29 October 2021 condemned the attacks targeting schools, children and teachers and unanimously adopted Resolution No 2601 (2021) to protect those in the conflicts to have learning opportunities. As such, these acts of KNPP and PDF terrorists violated the UN Security Council Resolution 2601(2021) – the protection of Education in armed conflict which is Resolution 2601 (2021) of the UN Security Council.

5. Committing the attacks to target faculty members and education staff turning out good human resources essential for building a democratic nation and students who will shape the future of the State means destroying the future of the State, and this is not beneficial for anyone and an inhumane act intending to loss of the future of the country. Likewise, as their terror acts affected an unlimited postponement of examinations to be held in the third batch of the University of Distance Education, this brought tremendous loss to the students who will sit for the exam at the university.

6. That is why the statement was issued that KNPP and PDF terrorists must release faculty members, education staff, students and their family members who are not absolutely concerned with the military affairs from illegal detention without any injuries.

Information Team
State Administration Council

Online image reveals forceful abduction of faculty, staff, and students from Loikaw University by KNPP and PDF terrorists.

Online image suggests KNPP and PDF terrorists' incursion into Loikaw University, a non-military facility.

Foreign nationals arrested for online scams, gambling in Shan East & South

DUE to the prioritized efforts by the Government for peace, tranquillity and the rule of law, Myanmar law enforcement organizations have arrested the suspects involved in online money scams and online gambling including some foreigners who were illegally brought into Myanmar.

On the morning of 5 November 2023, following a tip-off, when combined teams including security forces conducted spot checks into the villages of Metmung township, Metmung district in Shan (East), they found and arrested eight Chinese in Metngauk village, Youngu village-tract, 200 people of 196 Chinese men, two Chinese women and two Malaysian men in Aung Than Lwin village, and 48 people of 39 Chinese men, one Chinese woman, three Myanmar men and five Myanmar women in Karna village, Ayekyant village-tract. All foreigners are brought into Myanmar illegally.

Similarly, while a combined team was inspecting at Hoko junction near Tarkyant village, Tarkyant village-tract, Mongyu, Mongyawng township, two motorcycles carrying one Chinese man and one Chinese woman were apprehended at about 9:30 am on 9 November. According to the information from them, motorcycle taxi driver Ko Min's house in Kawsammein village was searched and another 13 persons including eight Chinese men and five Myanmar men were arrested.

Additionally, eight people — six Chinese men, one Chinese woman and one Vietnamese woman — were also arrested in a field near Sanphu village, Mongpone (A) village-tract, Tachilek township were arrested at about 11 am on 9 November. Moreover, seven Chinese men who entered Myanmar illegally were caught by a combined inspection team at Kalaw tollgate, Shan (South) at about 7 am on 8 November. According to initial interrogations, they came to Myanmar for various reasons to work in online scams and online gambling activities and they were arrested while temporarily hiding in the villages to escape from those spot checks.

Altogether 286 suspects comprising 270 Chinese, two Malaysians, one Vietnamese and 13 Myanmar were detained during the campaign and it is under process according to the procedures to take legal action against them. The public is also informed that they can privately report to respective security organizations if they know someone who is involved in online money scams and online gambling. — MNA/ZN

NATIONAL
CRIME NEWS

Arrests made for shipping weapons, munitions to KNPP, PDFs in Kayah State

KNPP and PDF terrorists kill innocent civilians in Kayah State, abduct the faculty members and government employees and destroy the houses of people. They also communicate with some ethnic armed organizations to purchase arms and ammunition to launch destructive attacks.

The government and Tatmadaw currently focus on the safety of people, tranquillity and the rule of law across the nation. On 16 November, New Power petrol station owner Khun Thaung Tun from Lwetet village in Panmont village-tract of Pinlaung Township, who transported the arms and ammunition to the KNPP and PDFs, was arrested.

According to his confession, other five suspects Khun Aung Min, Khun Nay Myo, Kyaw Zin Tun, Khun Aung Kyaw Myint and Khun Aung Kyaw were arrested in the house yard of Pay Tuu (aka) Mariyano from Panmont village of Pinlaung Township, together with 130 arms including RPGs, machine guns, Type-81 automatic rifles, 7,632 bombs, 13,670 7.62 bullets, one hundred-107 mm detonation coil, 500 small barrels, 1,829 magazines, 950 kilogrammes of TNT powder, 200 kilogrammes of ammonium nitrate, 2,000 sets of equipment, three six-wheeled Canter vehicles, one Ford car and one Vigo car (all without licences).

Seven arrestees seen alongside seized arms and ammunition yesterday.

It is reported that another suspect Pay Tuu (aka) Mariano who transported the arms and ammunition to Kayah State was arrested yesterday.

Offenders Khun Thaung Tun and Pay Tuu (aka) Mariano testified that they carried the weapons four times from 10 people who wore SSPP/SSA uniforms in Konkyaung village of Pinlaung Township under the instructions of KNPP and PDFs of Kayah State and stored them in the warehouse of the house, and they were arrested while arranging to transfer these weapons to Kayah State.

Arrestees will face legal action under the law. People can participate in fighting terrorism and arresting KNPP members and PDFs as quickly as possible, secretly report to the officials about their hiding places and activities, and the whistle-blowers and those who help arrest the suspects will be covertly rewarded. — MNA/KTZH

Beauty clinic charged for unregulated procedures

AUTHORITIES have brought charges against Saigon Beauty Skin and Luxury Clinic, an aesthetic clinic, for engaging in unregulated procedures, reports say.

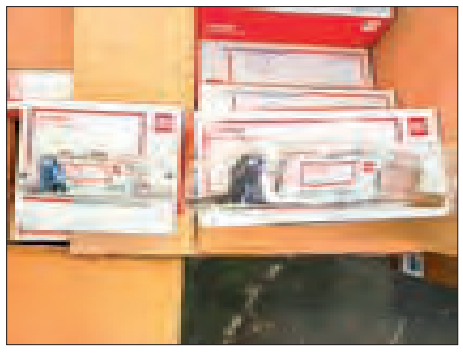
The clinic prominently advertised services like rhinoplasty and aesthetic eyelid and lip surgeries on Facebook on 14 November. The officials from the Yangon Region Department of Medical Services, the Township Private Health Service Supervisory Committee, the Myanmar Police Force, the General Administration Department and the Township Development Committee launched a joint investigation into the clinic. They found that the place was being operated by a Vietnamese citizen without a licence to practise medicine in Myanmar and a local doctor who reportedly performed unregulated operations and used unregistered drugs.

The head of the township public health department has filed multiple cases against the clinic under National Drug Law, Medical Council Law and Public Health Law at the Bahan township police station. The clinic is located at No 24/C, Natmauk Yeiktha Street, Saya San Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon Region. — TC/NT

Confiscated illegal items; Timbers, foodstuffs, industrial materials, consumer goods and vehicles confiscated

AN on-duty team conducted inspections in the Bayintnaung wholesale market in Mayangon district on 15 November and seized 420 bottles (one litre each) of Two Shrimps palm oil valued at K1.26 million without official documents at the Onemore convenience store, three types of goods worth K126,000 including 12 bottles (one litre each) of Two Shrimps palm oil without official documents at the Win convenience store, three types of goods worth K486,000 including 40 bottles (one litre each) of Two Shrimps palm oil without official documents at the Power convenience store, three kinds of goods worth K762,000 including 48 bottles (one litre each) of Two Shrimps palm oil without official documents at the Theingi Shwewah convenience store and 36 bottles of One Shrimp palm oil (18 litres each) without official documents at the Nguwahmin convenience store. The action was taken under Customs procedures.

During the inspections on 15 and 16 November, the joint teams managed by the Customs Department captured two kinds of goods valued at K16,997,280 including 15,000 kilogrammes of Chicken Manure fertilizers (K4,367,981) and 448.8 kilogrammes of Ruby Trane Refrigerant gas that were submitted by owner to abandon from two containers and seven types of goods valued at K7,450,500 including 5,880 ball pen that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) and 153 kilogrammes of Deli spring clips that were not declared in the ID from a container at the Myanmar Industrial Port, K33.298 million worth of 2,882.88 square metres of ICM ceramic tiles that were different from Brand Name from eight containers at the Asia World Port Terminal container checkpoint, 21 types of goods worth K40,865,136 including 324 UNIQLO T-shirts and 203 bottles of Body shower that exceeded the ID from three containers at the Thilawa Port Terminal container checkpoint and a Toyota Hiace (estimated value of K20 million), travelling from Thaton to Bago, carrying 60 bottles (18 litres each) of Prawn Hornet palm oil worth K3 million without official documents at the Mayanchaung permanent checkpoint. The actions were taken under Customs procedures.


Seized illegal goods.

The combined teams impounded a total of 5.351 tonnes of illegal timber worth K2,140,400 in Yephyu township of Dawei district, and a Kinglong bus (approximately K30 million), headed to Yangon from Mawlamyine, carrying four types of goods worth K12.55 million including 150 bottles (18 litres each) of Prawn Hornet palm oil without official documents at the Nyaungkhashay x-ray station. The actions were taken under the Forest Law and Customs procedures.

A total of 17 arrests were made on 15 and 16 November, with an estimated value of K175,193,297, as reported by the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA/MKKS

ECONOMY
WORLD

UK says reworked migrants treaty with Rwanda ready in 'days'

Migrants are escorted ashore from a UK Border Force vessel in Dover, southeast England, on 16 November 2023, after having been picked up at sea while attempting to cross the English Channel **PHOTO: BEN STANSALL / AFP**

The new treaty, which would take three weeks to be approved by UK lawmakers, follows a Supreme Court ruling that the current deal between the countries not go ahead.

BRITAIN on Thursday said a new treaty to send migrants to Rwanda could be ready for ratification within "days" after a court blocked an earlier and controversial agreement as unlawful.

The new treaty, which would then take at least three weeks to be approved by UK lawmakers, follows a Supreme Court ruling Wednesday that the current deal between the two countries should not go ahead.

It was a major setback for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who is under pressure to reduce irregular immigration to Britain.

Sunak immediately vowed to persevere with the controversial plan by securing a new treaty with Kigali. It will also need to be ratified by the Rwandan parliament. Five judges at the UK's highest court had unanimously sided with an earlier Court of Appeal decision that the policy to deport asylum seekers and refugees to the African nation was incompatible with Britain's international obligations.

The panel agreed it was not a safe third country and there were "substantial grounds" to believe it could forcibly return migrants to places where they could face persecution. Alongside the treaty, Sunak has announced plans to introduce "emergency legislation" to parliament to designate Rwanda a safe country to end the "merry-go-round" of legal challenges. — AFP

Spectre of war paralyzes Lebanon's hospitality sector

BARTENDER Richard Alam has poured hardly any drinks at his pub in Lebanon's seaside city of Byblos, where once-busy streets have emptied of customers scared by border tensions during the Israel-Hamas war.

"I opened this whiskey bottle two weeks ago and it still isn't empty," said Alam, 19, standing behind his empty bar in the coastal city, home to a World Heritage site north of Beirut.

"Before, we would go through a bottle every day or every other day," he told AFP.

Four years into an economic meltdown, Lebanon's restaurants, cafes, hotels and shops face yet another challenge: keeping afloat during the Israel-Hamas war and related hostilities on the Lebanon-Israel border.

Gaza-based Hamas militants attacked southern Israel on 7 October, triggering retaliatory Israeli bombing and a ground offensive in Gaza. Since then, Lebanon's southern border has seen deadly escalating skirmishes, mainly between Israel and Hamas ally Hezbollah.

The fighting has so far been limited to the south, but some Western and Arab countries have advised their citizens to leave Lebanon, fearing a broader conflict. — AFP

An industry syndicate said Lebanon's entertainment and restaurant sector had just begun recovering -- but now tour boats docked. **PHOTO: JOSEPH EID/AFP**

After ditching cap, Italy probes airline ticket pricing

Italy's competition watchdog is investigating flight pricing to Sicily and Sardinia after the government abandoned plans for a price cap.

Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's coalition initially proposed capping ticket prices to and from the islands but withdrew the plan amid criticism, including from low-cost carrier Ryanair. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ITALY'S competition watchdog launched an investigation Thursday into the pricing of flights to Sicily and Sardinia, seeking to address concerns over sky-high tickets after the government abandoned plans for a price cap.

Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's right-wing coalition unveiled a headline-grabbing plan this summer to cap the price of tickets to and from its islands, only to quietly withdraw the move following criticism, notably from low-cost carrier Ryanair.

In a statement Thursday, the competition watchdog said it had launched an investigation into "the possible negative effects" of the use by airlines of price algorithms on the market and the offers available to consumers, and also into the way ticket prices are communicated.

It said the probe, focusing on routes connecting mainland Italy to Sicily and Sardinia, followed a spike in prices during peak periods. The investigation could result in new national regulations or airline-specific measures, the authority said. — AFP

Itochu mulls investment to help rebuild scandal-hit Bigmotor

File photo taken in January 2019 shows the logo of Japanese trading house Itochu Corp in Osaka. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPANESE trading house Itochu Corp said Friday it is considering investing in Bigmotor Co in a bid to help reconstruct the used car dealership mired in an insurance fraud scandal.

Itochu, together with its subsidiary Itochu Enex Co and investment fund J-Will Partners, won exclusive negotiation rights and will launch due diligence. They plan to make a final decision by next spring, it said. The potential investment is based on the premise that the founding family of Bigmotor will no longer be involved in the management of the company, Itochu said.

Itochu will "gauge the possibility of a successful turnaround" through the due diligence process, it said in a statement.

Bigmotor President Shinji Izumi said in a separate statement that the company "will do its utmost to regain trust". — Kyodo

Walmart narrowly lifts forecast as inflation stays consumer concern

WALMART narrowly lifted its full-year forecast on Thursday following solid quarterly results as it continued to navigate a market challenged by elevated pricing that has depressed demand for some goods.

The giant retailer, which emphasizes its strength as a value-oriented vendor, reported profits of $453 million. That compares with a loss of $1.8 billion in the 2022 period, which was hit by large costs tied to an opioid settlement. – AFP

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

We, Marga Min Co.,Ltd would like to change distributor of the following products, (registered by Bailing Agrochemical Co.,Ltd to Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar), from former distributor Agro Green Land Chemical Co.Ltd. If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days.
MARGA MIN CO.LTD 09-455557861

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Type of pesticide	Registration No.
1.	Mesoatra	Atrazine 50% + Mesotrione 5% SC	Herbicide	P2022-5395

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

We, OMO Family Co.Ltd would like to change distributor of the following products, (registered by SUNDAT (S) PTE LTD to Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar), from former distributer Sundat Myanmar Co.,Ltd. If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days.

OMO FAMILY CO.LTD 09-5300865

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Type of pesticide	Registration No.
1.	Sunfan 20% EC	Carbosulfan 20% EC	Insecticide	FF2021-754

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

We, OMO Family Co.Ltd would like to change distributor of the following products, (registered by SUNDAT (S) PTE LTD to Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar), from former distributer Golden Key Co.,Ltd. If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days.

OMO FAMILY CO.LTD 09-5300865

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Type of pesticide	Registration No.
1.	Sunpfos 50%EC	Profenofos 50% EC	Insecticide	F2016-1048
2.	Stinger 40% EC	Dimethoate 40% EC	Insecticide	FF2021-127

Amazon to sell new cars next year in US, starting with Hyundai

Amazon to sell new cars on its US platform starting next year, partnering with Hyundai as the first featured brand, announced at the Los Angeles Auto Show.

E-COMMERCE giant Amazon said Thursday it would start selling new automobiles on its platform in the United States next year.

Amazon made the announcement at the Los Angeles Auto Show in conjunction with Hyundai, the South Korean auto giant that will be the first brand sold on the site.

The company said customers will be able to choose models and their favourite features online. They can then pick up the car at their local dealership or have it delivered to their home.

Amazon Vice-President Marty Mallick (L) and Hyundai Global President Jose Munoz speak at the media preview day for the Los Angeles Auto Show, on 16 November 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Financing options will also be available on Amazon.

"Hyundai is a very innovative company that shares Amazon's passion for trying to make customers' lives better and easier every day," said Amazon Chief Executive Andy Jassy in a statement.

Until now, car buyers could browse offerings on Amazon, but could not make their final purchase on the site.

The partnership with Hyundai will also see Amazon's Alexa smart speaker featured in models starting in 2025. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (208N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (208N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-11-2023** 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**

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ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Norway parliament says be ready for Palestinian state 'recognition'

Parliament overwhelmingly passes resolution urging government readiness to recognize Palestine as an independent state, emphasizing potential positive impact on the peace process without making it a precondition for a final accord.

NORWAY'S parliament on Thursday adopted a resolution calling on the government to be ready to recognize an "independent" Palestinian state, in a new sign of Europe's anxiety over the Gaza war.

The proposition was made by Norway's ruling coalition to counter a resolution by smaller parties calling for an immediate recognition of a Palestinian state. Passed with an overwhelming majority in parliament, it said the assembly "asks the government to be ready to recognize Palestine as an independent state when recognition could have a positive impact on the peace process, without making a final peace accord a condition".

The wording means that no recognition is likely in the immediate future but is a sign of the concern over the Gaza war in national assemblies across Europe. Iceland, Sweden, Poland, Czech Republic and Romania are among countries to have already given legal recognition to a Palestinian state.

Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, voted back into power on Thursday, told parliament that he would "work" towards recognition by his country and by Europe.

Since the Hamas 7 October attacks on Israel and Israel's military onslaught on Gaza since, there have been huge rallies in Britain and other countries in favour of the Palestinian cause. — AFP

File photo shows Norway s parliament building in Oslo. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Rescue efforts have been slowed by debris continuing to fall. **PHOTO: STATE DISASTER RESPONSE FORCE (SDRF)/AFP**

Indian rescuers warn freeing trapped workers could take another 48 hours

Excavators work to clear debris for a tunnel escape after a collapse in Uttarakhand, Himalayas.

INDIAN rescuers warned Friday it could take another two days of clearing rubble before they can reach 40 workers who have been trapped in a collapsed tunnel for nearly a week.

Excavators have been removing debris since Sunday morning to create an escape route for the workers after a portion of the tunnel they were building collapsed in the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand.

Rescue efforts have been slowed by debris that has continued to fall as workers labour to clear the tunnel.

After an earth-boring drill developed problems, the air force on Wednesday flew in a second drilling machine on a C-130 Hercules military plane, with the giant drill bit stretching much the length of the aircraft's cargo hold.

Engineers are trying to drive a steel pipe about 90 centimetres (nearly three feet) wide through the debris -- wide enough for the trapped men to squeeze through.

By Thursday night, only 18 metres (60 feet) of pipe had been inserted into the debris with the help of the new machine. — AFP

Pelosi husband attacker found guilty of assault, attempted kidnapping

THE man who attacked the husband of top US lawmaker Nancy Pelosi with a hammer in the couple's California home was found guilty Thursday in a San Francisco federal court.

Jurors convicted David DePape of assault for the attack in which he fractured Paul Pelosi's skull. He was also found guilty of attempting to kidnap Nancy Pelosi, the then-speaker of the House of Representatives, who was not at home at the time.

"A federal jury has convicted David Depape of Attempted Kidnapping of a Federal Officer or Employee and Assault on the Immediate Family Member of a Federal Official," said US prosecutors in a statement.

"DePape faces a maximum sentence of up to life in prison."

The jury deliberated for less than a day, and returned a unanimous verdict, the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

At the time of the October 2022 attack, Democrat Nancy Pelosi was second in line to the presidency and a regular target of far-right conspiracy theories. — AFP

US Representative Nancy Pelosi attends the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Week in San Francisco, California, on 16 November 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

SPORTS

MFF Futsal League to kick-start in December

THE MFF Futsal League-1 tournament and MFF Futsal League-2 tournament organized by the Myanmar Football Federation Futsal and Beach Football Committee will start in December.

The MFF Futsal League-1 tournament will be launched on 6 December with a total of 10 teams while the MFF Futsal League-2 tournament will be held on 16 December with a total of 12 teams.

This year, the Myanmar Football Federation has increased the number of teams in the League-2 competition to four, so everyone can see 12 teams.

Last year, there were only eight teams, but this year it has been increased to four teams. To implement the promotion and relegation system for the league competitions, the League-2 competition has been held since 2022.

The teams that will compete in these two leagues will compete in the MFF Futsal Championships which will be held from 16 to 29 November as a preliminary preparation before the start of the league. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Futsal has become a popular game in Myanmar. **PHOTO: THAW GYI**

Italy's Alex Schwazer, pictured in 2012, was ruled out of the 2016 Rio Olympics after losing an appeal over an eight-year doping ban. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Ex-Olympic walking champion Schwazer blocked from Paris Games

Former Olympic champion walker Alex Schwazer, suspended for doping until August next year, declares on a reality TV show that he has lost the last chance to participate in the 2024 Paris Games.

EX-OLYMPIC champion walker Alex Schwazer, suspended for doping until August next year, has lost his last hope of participating in the 2024 Paris Games, the Italian has announced during a reality TV show.

"The decision (by the World Anti-Doping Agency, WADA) was announced after two years and it is not in my favour. I'm really sorry, because I remain convinced that this decision is fundamentally wrong. It was not taken in a neutral way," Schwazer, 38, revealed during the "Grande Fratello" show, the Italian version of "Big Brother" on Thursday.

"I believe I'm paying the price for never having accepted the decision of sports justice and for having fought for years to prove my innocence," the 2008 Olympic 50-kilometre champion told his 'housemates'. "In the coming days, I will consider the next steps regarding this decision and my presence here in the house," added Schwazer. — AFP

Stevenson labours to WBC lightweight crown

UNDEFEATED American fighter Shakur Stevenson laboured to a unanimous-decision victory over Edwin De Los Santos of the Dominican Republic to claim the vacant WBC world lightweight crown on Thursday.

The unbeaten 26-year-old improved to 21-0, with 10 knockouts after easing past De Los Santos via margins of 115-113, 116-112, 116-112 at the T-Mobile Arena.

The win sealed Stevenson's third world title at different weight classes after stints as featherweight and junior lightweight champion. But it was a lacklustre showing from both fighters, and the crowd signalled its disapproval through the later rounds as boos echoed around the arena. — AFP

Everton deducted 10 points after breaching Premier League financial rules

EVERTON have been docked 10 points after being found guilty of breaching Premier League financial rules, plunging the club into the relegation zone.

The punishment, the biggest sporting sanction in the Premier League's history, leaves the Goodison Park club 19th in the table on a total of just four points after 12 matches.

Everton have been docked 10 points after a breach of Premier League financial rules. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Everton said they were "shocked and disappointed by the ruling", announcing their intention to appeal.

The Premier League referred the club, who have posted losses for five consecutive years, to an independent commission in March for an alleged breach of its profitability and sustainability rules (PSRs).

Clubs are allowed to lose a maximum £105 million ($130 million) over a three-year period or face sanctions.

The Premier League said in a statement: "The club admitted it was in breach of the PSRs for the period ending season 2021/22 but the extent of the breach remained in dispute". — AFP

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Indian rescuers warn freeing trapped workers could take another 48 hours

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Journalists and staff members work at the international media centre of APEC 2023 in San Francisco, the United States, 12 November 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting kicks off in San Francisco with focus on sustainable future

THE 30th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting kicked off in San Francisco, the United States, on Thursday with an aim to build a more interconnected, innovative, and inclusive APEC region.

The meeting, held in Moscone Centre in downtown San Francisco, was chaired by US President Joe Biden.

"Our world stands at an inflection point where the decisions we make now gonna determine the course of the world, not just a few of our countries, for the next several decades of consequence," Biden said in his opening remarks.

"Every economy sees signs of what is to come if we don't act," he said.

"We're responsible for the largest share of global missions. We must also bear responsibility for the solutions while we still have time to change course," Biden noted.

The leaders' meeting, scheduled for Thursday and Friday, gathered political and business leaders from 21 APEC member economies.

The meeting is the highlight of the APEC Leaders' Week, held in San Francisco from 11 to 17 November with the theme of "Creating a Resilient and Sustainable Future for All." — Xinhua

A SURGE IN ILLEGAL MIGRATION

Croatia cracks down on migrants as Europe beefs up border checks

It took Croatia years to finally enter into Europe's passport-free travel zone that promised to ease access for other European nationals travelling to the country and boost its tourism-driven economy.

But less than a year since its border crossings with European Union peers were dismantled, temporary checks have been reintroduced amid a surge in illegal migration across the region.

Neighbouring Slovenia re-introduced checks along its borders last month, following similar moves by Italy and other EU countries.

"People ask themselves what kind of fence could stop these people who passed so many frontiers and countries," said Perica Matijevic, the head of the Krnjak municipality near Croatia's border with Bosnia that has been a hot-spot for crossings. Matijevic, who referred to a registration camp for incoming migrants that is being prepared in the area, is not alone in his weariness. Locals in the scarcely populated area complain that groups of migrants – almost all of whom are young men – moving through the area have only increased anxieties. – AFP

Flash floods kill 100 in Horn of Africa: charity

MORE than 100 people, including 16 children, have died and over 700,000 been forced out of their homes in the Horn of Africa due to flash flooding, the British charity Save the Children said Thursday.

The region, particularly Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia, has been lashed by unrelenting downpours since the beginning of the month due to the El Nino weather phenomenon, inundating homes and farmland.

About 46 people had died in Kenya, 32 in Somalia and another 33 in Ethiopia, Save the Children said, warning the rains were "showing no signs of slowing down".

The Horn of Africa is one of the regions most vulnerable to climate change and extreme weather events are occurring with increased frequency and intensity.

The region is emerging from the worst drought in four decades after multiple failed rainy seasons that left millions of people in need and devastated crops and livestock. "Heavy flooding and displacement have cut off families and children from basic services including access to food, healthcare, water and hygiene services," said Xavier Joubert, Ethiopia director for Save the Children. — AFP

Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia have been lashed by unrelenting downpours since the beginning of the month due to the El Nino weather phenomenon. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**