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

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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The photo shows the Chipwenge Hydropower Project running with China's investment in Kachin State.

Myanmar pockets US$567 mln in investments over seven months

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) greenlit 42 foreign projects from seven countries in the past eight months.

Myanmar drew foreign direct investments of US$567.38 million in the past seven months (April-October), including expansion of capital by the existing enterprises, as per the statistics released by the Directorate of Investments and Company Administration (DICA).

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) greenlit 42 foreign projects from seven countries in the past eight months. Singapore is the top source of FDI so far with $337 million in the power sector. China is placed as the second largest investor in Myanmar with $205.215 million.

The FDI inflow into Myanmar amounted to $1.74 million from the Republic of Korea, $1.087 million from the USA, $14.559 million from Hong Kong (SAR), $0.6 million from India, $1.3 million from the Republic of the Marshall Islands and $1 million from Samoa respectively.

The power sector topped the FDI lineups with $374.525 million by the permitted enterprises this FY, without capital expansion by the existing enterprises.

The manufacturing sector was ranked second with $88.788 million. The agriculture sector drew over $2.5 million. Meanwhile, the transport and communication sector saw the capital expansion of $77.82 million. An increase of capital worth $23 million was pumped into the livestock and fisheries sector as well. The existing enterprises in the service sector also saw a capital increase (US$0.619 million). — TWA/KK

SUNDAY EDITION

MEB ensures strict adherence to CBM regulations for cash withdrawals

MYANMA Economic Bank (MEB) vowed that they have been offering cash withdrawal services from saving accounts as per the rules and regulations of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM), according to a notification issued on 17 November 2023.

MEB has been providing financial services in line with the market-oriented economy, affirming that they allow customers to withdraw cash from their deposits in compliance with the CBM's rules and regulations.

If any MEB branch is forced to be suspended temporarily under some unfortunate circumstances, banking statements and data of that branch have been systematically archived in the MEB head office, regional and state offices and district branches. MEB will offer banking services through other branches so as not to violate the public interest.

Subsequently, MEB is committed to prioritizing and respecting the public interest. — NN/EM

NATIONAL PAGE-6

Agencies oversee overseas workers from departure to repatriation

NATIONAL

National Lifetime Awards for Literary Achievement, National Literary Awards for 2022 announced

THE National Literary Award Selection Committee of the Ministry of Information announced that the National Lifetime Awards for Literary Achievement for 2022 were presented to Sayagyi Dr Than Oo (Pyi Soe Min), Sayamagyi Daw Khin Than Win (Kyu Kyu Thin), Sayagyi U Chit San (Chit San Win) and Sayagyi Dr Tun Tint (Dr Tun Tint-Myanmarsar) for their commitment to lifetime outstanding and excellent performances for the development of Myanmar literature.

In addition, the first edition of published books have been selected and the names of the books and authors for the National Literary Award were announced yesterday, and 12 winners in twelve genres of Poem (Classical), Belles-lettres, Myanmar Culture and Arts, Children's Literature, Translation (Knowledge), General Knowledge (Arts), General Knowledge (Applied Science), Political Science, English Language (Knowledge), Aesthetic (Essay) and Reference.

It will present K10 million cash awards to each recipient of the National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement while K3 million to awardees of the National Literary Award. The National Literary Award Selection Committee is formed with 24 experienced persons, including intellectuals, intelligentsia, doyen literati and seniors from the realm of printing and publishing. They systematically screened and selected the winners in three stages.

Awardees need to contact 01 387724 for the Secretary of the Sarpay Beikman and 01-381449 for the Administration Department without delay.

They also need to send out their two coloured photos in 5×7 inches size and passport size each, along with the resume within one week from the date of the announcement.

Prizes will be presented on 13 December 2023 (Wednesday) at the awarding ceremony of the National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement, and National Literary Award. — MNA/KTZH

Sarpay Beikman manuscript awards for 2022 announced

THE Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Selection Committee announced the list of award-winning manuscripts and authors of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Contest 2022 which was organized by the Printing and Publishing Department under the Ministry of Information yesterday.

Prizes will be awarded to winners in the following genres — novel, collected short stories, collected poems, general knowledge (arts), general knowledge (pure science and applied science), Belles-lettres, Myanmar culture and fine arts, Children's literature, youth's literature, political literature, drama, translation and English literature.

The first, second and third winners of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Contest will be honoured with K1.5 million, K1 million and K0.7 million respectively.

The Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Selection Committee is formed with 19 experienced persons, including intellectuals, intelligentsia, doyen literati and seniors from the field of printing and publishing. It is learnt that the committee members have been systematically screened and selected from 277 manuscripts submitted to the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Contest 2022 in three stages, according to relevant genres.

Awardees need to contact 01 387724 for the Secretary of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Selection Committee and 01 381449 for the Administration Department promptly. The winners also need to send out their two coloured photos in 5×7 inches size and passport size each, along with the resume within one week from the date of the announcement.

Prizes will be presented on 13 December 2023 (Wednesday) at the awarding ceremony of the National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement, and National Literary Award.

The committee has notified that those wishing to participate in the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Contest 2023 will need to send out their manuscripts by 31 December 2023. — MNA/KTZH

Land Depression News, No 11, 2023

18 November 2023, 06:00 MST Today

Land Depression Condition

According to the observations at 04:30 pm MST today, the Cyclonic Storm "MIDHILI" which has crossed Bangladesh coast near Khepupara and continue moved North-Northeastwards. It is weakened into a Land Depression over Tripupa-Mizoram, India. It is forecast continue to move North-Northeastwards and expected to weaken gradually. This is the last news for the Cyclonic Strom "MIDHILI". — DMH

The photo shows disabled Ko Maung Maung Aye being given support in 2020.

Disabled persons can reach out to MFPWDs for employment, disaster assistance

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Federation of Persons with Disabilities (MFPWDs), the disabled who have encountered disasters can contact and ask for help to get jobs from the federation in respective regions and states.

Disabled persons who are ready to work for appropriate jobs have been employed at the three ministries in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

With the MFPWDs arrangement, six disabled individuals are employed at the office of the Department of Social Welfare (Nay Pyi Taw), at the office of the Ministry of Electric Power, at the office of the Rehabilitation Department, and at the Department of Small and Medium-Scale Enterprises (Magway Region) respectively.

They were reportedly employed at the Ministry of Education in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area in the previous years. Moreover, the federation aims to eradicate discrimination against disabled persons.

Disabled individuals can seek assistance from the MFPWDs in the respective regions and states in order to get jobs suitable for them. — TWA/TRKM

MR to provide special railway service during Tazaungdine holidays

MYANMA Railways (MR) will run the special Up and Down trains for Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon, Yangon-Mawlamyine and Yangon-Pyay routes during the Tazaungdine holidays (24-27 November), MR stated.

The Up train for the Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon route will depart at the Nay Pyi Taw railway station at 6:30 pm and arrive at the Yangon Central Railway Station at 7:30 am on 5 November.

The Up train leaving for Pyay will depart from Yangon at 1 pm and arrive at 8:55 pm. Then, the down train will depart from Pyay at 8:30 pm and arrive at Yangon at 6:30 am.

The Up train running on the Yangon-Mawlamyine route will also depart from Yangon at 7:45 am and arrive at 5:45 pm. The Down train is scheduled to leave for Yangon at 9:15 am and enter the Yangon Central Railway Station at 7:10 pm.

Tickets for those routes are available to buy three days in advance for the upper class and one day in advance for the ordinary class. — NN/KK

NATIONAL

SAC Member attends religious ceremony in Hopong

State Administration Council Member Khun San Lwin (C) is pictured while attending the event in Hopong Township in Shan State (South).

SAC Member Khun San Lwin attended a religious ceremony in Hopong, offering alms to monks and nuns who passed the Thamanegyaw examination. The event, held at Naungtaung Parahita TatU monastery in Hopong township, Shan State (South), included dignitaries such as Shan State Minister of Economic Affairs U Khun Thein Maung and Pa-O Self-Administered Zone Chairman U Khun Ye Htwe.

The ceremony began with lunch offerings to Sayadaws and monks, followed by a graduation ceremony where SAC Member Khun San Lwin observed the five precepts. The Pa-O Visakha Dhammacakka Society recited a poem in honour of the title-winning monks and nuns. Religious titles were then offered to the recipients, and SAC Member Khun San Lwin addressed religious matters. The ceremony concluded with symbolic water pouring to share the meritorious deeds.

The Narga Pura Sasana Lankara Thamanegyaw examination in Hopong saw 127 participants at primary level, with 538, 135, and 95 passing at the first, second, and third levels respectively. A total of 95 candidates were awarded the Narga Pura Sasana Lankara titles after successful completion. — MNA/ZN

Deputy Minister U Ye Tint inspects the IPRD office in Magway Region on 17 November 2023.

Deputy Minister for Information inspects offices, relay stations in Magway

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Ye Tint inspected the Department of Information and Public Relations in Myothit Township, Magway Region, and talked with the staff on 17 November, reports said.

The deputy minister then met staff members of the Natmauk and Taungdwingyi offices. He also checked the TV relay stations in Taungdwingyi Township. His morning inspection extended to the Minhla Township office in Thayet District and library works at the Minbu district office.

He continued to meet the regional department head, district head and staff members from Ngaphe and Sedoktara township offices, and the Myanma Radio and Television relay station in Minbu.

On the morning of 18 November, the deputy minister arrived at the Department of Information and Public Relations in Magway District and inspected the office works. He then met the regional department head, district head and staff members from the Yenangyoung office, and the news sector and sub-printing house in Magway and gave instructions.

In the afternoon, he visited offices in Pwintbyu, Salin and Seikphyu townships to inspect and give guidelines. He spent his evening meeting with employees at the Chauk Township office.

U Ye Tint instructed the staff members to work on the department's mission of informing and educating the public efficiently, encouraging frequent library use, nurturing youth through knowledge dissemination, cooperating with other departments on state-level ceremonies, competitions, lectures, and talks, supporting Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), organizing summer classes for youth development in collaboration with relevant departments, reporting on local manufacturing businesses, adhering to civil servants' duties, ethics, and laws, updating the public on the state's missions and objectives, and contributing to regional development through partnerships with respective departments. He then listened to the employees' reports and resolved issues. — Region IPRD/NT

Wunna Kyawhtin U Tin Maung Swe presents Credentials to President of Mongolia

WUNNA Kyawhtin U Tin Maung Swe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Mongolia, presented his Credentials to Mr Khurelsukh Ukhnaa, President of Mongolia, on 17 November 2023 at the State Palace in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. — MoFA

Myanmar businesspersons invited to Intl Silk Festival 2023 in Khon Kaen

MYANMAR businesspersons are invited to participate in the International Silk Festival 2023 in Khon Kaen, Thailand, which will take place from 29 November to 10 December, along with the "Pook Xiao" tradition and Red Cross Fair and Soft Power Countdown 2023. The International Silk Festival 2023 is an annual festival which has been held since 1978, to preserve tradition, culture and customs and to promote the weaving silks for future generations.

The festivals include reviving friendship ceremonies, performances, music parades, merit makings, international talk shows and promoting locally produced silk and Ikat (Mudmee) products.

The festival will provide two booths for each participating country free of charge to showcase silk and fabric products and exchange the culture of the respective countries. Those Myanmar businesspersons who want to join the festival can send information about the participants to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization through phone numbers: 067 3408622 and 067 3408623 and email: event.td.myantrade@gmail.com by 21 November within office hours. — NN/KK

NATIONAL

Counterargument to false information

Banking services remain convenient despite rumours

TAKING advantage of the fact that some branches of banks had to stop banking services due to an unanticipated situation, anti-government media, terrorist groups and their supporters disseminated this information on social media, pressuring people to take out more cash than they needed out of fear that they may lose it or experience a situation where they are unable to withdraw cash from the banks.

Myanmar's banking system uses the Core Banking System, which provides interbank services, so if the service of a branch of a bank is stopped for some reason, people can still withdraw money at any branch of the bank nationwide. In addition, they can also use services like mobile banking, internet banking, payment by bank cards as well as payments through account transfer methods. Under the supervision of the Central Bank of Myanmar, banks continue to provide services as per the terms and conditions.

People following rumours and withdrawing more money than they need from banks can be dangerous and may lose their money, while circulating more money than needed outside of banks may lead to more inflation and higher commodity prices.

People withdrawing more money than required from banks may likely be monitored by officials for suspicious circumstances such as their intention and the purposes they used their money.

In the current situation, there is enough cash in the banks, and the Central Bank of Myanmar is ready to provide cash to various banks, so the public should not withdraw more money than they need, and use banking services with confidence as usual.

Central Bank of Myanmar

MOE dismisses UTC students' data request as fake news

A so-called announcement requesting particulars of the students who have attended military training at the University Training Corps in universities, degree colleges and colleges is just fake news, according to the Ministry of Education.

That fabricated statement dated 17 November has recently spread in social media and MOE responded that it was not true.

"Due to a matter of national security, it is notified to send particulars of the students who have attended military training at University Training Corps (UTC) in universities, degree colleges and colleges to the Office of Chief of Armed Forces Training of Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office before the deadline on 17 December," that fake post stated.

"Pro-terrorist media without any integrity are writing and broadcasting them as a plot despite knowing it is fake news. There are really some people who believe in such news. So, what I'd like to suggest is that a counter-attack should be made against such broadcasting of fabricated narratives. By now, all have already known that news. It is too late for the ministry to say that it is not true only after rumours have reached every corner. They should prepare to combat against false news," one social media user commented. — Myo Khine/ZN

Oil bowsers loaded with fuels at terminals of Thilawa Port ready for distribution amongst public consumers.

Daily fuel oil delivery, distribution continues to regions/states

FUEL oils are distributed daily by bowsers from Thilawa Port terminals such as Denko, Max, MMTM, Brighter Energy, PSW and Regency SPC at Thilawa Port, as well as from PT Power Terminal in Thakayta township and Denko Terminal in Hlinethaya township, to all petrol stations in Regions and States including Yangon Region to ensure a sufficient supply of fuels.

Fuels, including over 1.4 million gallons of 92 Ron, over 360,000 gallons of 95 Ron, over 1.15 million gallons of diesel, and over 1.54 million gallons of premium diesel was delivered unimpededly by 1,602 oil bowsers to 2,261 petrol stations across the country on 17 November.

Therefore, the condition for purchasing oil in all petrol stations nationwide is reportedly normal, and the public can buy petrol easily and conveniently. — MNA/MKKS

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 18 November 2023)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud over the Northwest Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 19 November 2023: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kayin and Mon states. Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions and (Northern and Southern) Shan and Rakhine states, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing and Bago regions and Kachin, Eastern Shan and Chin states and isolated in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions and Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) mph. Wave height will be about (6-9) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Shan and Chin states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 November 2023: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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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

Bago set to host vibrant Tazaungdine Lighting, Balloon Festival

File photo shows the Great Tazaungdine Festival with lighting and hot-air balloons at Shwemawdaw Pagoda in Bago, Bago Region, in the previous year.

BAGO Region will be holding the Great Tazaungdine Festival with lighting and hot-air balloons and it is expected to be live with a teeming crowd.

There will be 15 big balloons to be released in day time; 10 big balloons to be released at night time; and 1,500 others involved in the upcoming Tazaungdine festival in Bago, according to the member of Bago Region government, regional Economic Minister U Tin Oo.

The celebration is set to be held at Shwemawdaw Pagoda. Releasing hot-air balloons and Satuditha food offering activity will be carried out at the pagoda's west gate parking ground.

The report further states that competition for weaving Matho Thingans and other entertainment programmes will also be held during the festival.

There will also be an exhibition as part of the festival. The exhibition is planned to showcase local MSME products produced by 28 townships from six districts of the Bago Region. A total of 70 booths will display regional MSME products, as elaborated by U Tin Oo.

He added, "Satuditha (charity food) is expected to serve over 1,000 visitors."

The celebration will be held from 25 to 27 November for three days. Electric lighting will be decorated not only within the Shwemawdaw Pagoda precinct but also in the Bayintnaung square, Shin Saw Pu Park, Clock Tower Park and Yankintha Park. — ASH/ TMT

The real estate and property exhibition titled 'Little Yangon Property Supermarket 2023' in progress at the Myanmar Convention Centre (MCC) located in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, yesterday.

"Little Yangon Property Supermarket 2023" Expo showcased at Yangon's MCC

THE real estate and property exhibition titled 'Little Yangon Property Supermarket 2023' is being held at the Myanmar Convention Centre (MCC) located in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region on 18 and 19 November, according to the event organizer U Kyaw Swar Hein. The two-day event mainly displays real estate properties from big cities in Myanmar like Yangon and Mandalay with over 40 booths. Special programmes of the exhibition also involve lucky draws for gold items.

Information related to houses, apartments, condominiums and residential land plots from Yangon Region, Mandalay Region, Ayeyawady Region, southern Shan State, Rakhine State, and Kayin State can be inquired at the event.

Organizer U Kyaw Swar Hein said, "The exhibition mainly displays varieties of projects in Yangon like condominiums, apartments and residential land plots. In fact, it isn't just property from Yangon, projects from Kalaw, Myawady, and beach houses. Condos, apartments and land plots from Yangon's South, East and North Dagon Townships and many other townships are also staged at the event."

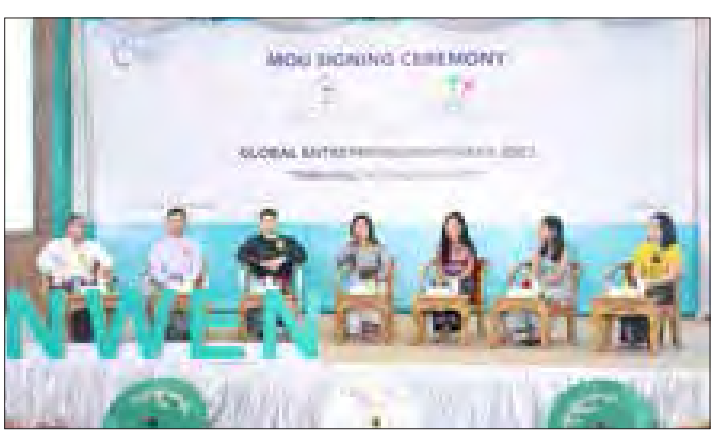
An interesting feature of the event is that it also stages condos from Thailand and Dubai, the most populous city in the United Arab Emirates. In addition, bank loan services will also be available in selling the properties showcased by the 'Little Yangon Property Supermarket 2023' exhibition.

"In Myanmar, only a few people own houses. Most people are the tenants. I hope all of our citizens possess their own houses. I wish to formulate the programme 'Myanmar Dream' to develop. I also invite the bank to this event, wishing to create a 'Future Piggy Bank for House'. The banks offer 25 years of instalment period for bank home loans. Some banks offer up to 30 years of scheduled payment terms," U Kyaw Swar Hein added. — ASH/TMT

MYANWEN, MYEA collaborate for "Thriving in Uncertainty" at GEW 2023

ACCORDING to the UMFCCI, the Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) 2023 "Thriving in Uncertainty" was held by the collaboration of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Network (MYANWEN) and Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association (MYEA) yesterday at the ballroom of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).

At the panel discussion of the Global Entrepreneurship (GEW) Week 2023 "Thriving in Uncertainty", entrepreneurs discussed approaches to support from the needed place by monitoring the updated business affairs that change round the world, and the ways of practical solutions. In honour of all entrepreneurs of the world, the week from 13 to 19 November is defined as the Global Entrepreneurship (GEW) and ceremonies, workshops and networking opportunities are held. To honour these entrepreneurs, the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Network and the Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association inked the Memorandum of Understanding and held the Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) 2023 "Thriving in Uncertainty". — ASH/TRKM



The Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) 2023 "Thriving in Uncertainty" coorganized by the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Network (MYANWEN) and Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association (MYEA) in progress yesterday at UMFCCI in Yangon.

NATIONAL

Agencies oversee overseas workers from departure to repatriation

Myanmar migrant workers who will work in Thailand are seen at Covid test centre.

THE Union Labour Minister stated that agencies are fully responsible for overseas workers from departure until their return.

He made this statement during a meeting with the executive members of the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation (MOEAF) on 16 November.

As foreign employment agencies, they face challenges regarding the workers they send to workplaces in their respective countries. The Union minister emphasized the importance of addressing labour matters related to workplace injuries and fatalities promptly. In case of any issues, it is necessary to report them to the relevant departments and coordinate with labour attaches in due course.

He encouraged them to assume full responsibility for the process of sending workers in the foreign employment benefit business, showing interest and ensuring effective implementation.

As of 31 October this year, there were 487 licensed overseas employment agencies and 147 licensed agencies in Thailand, according to the Ministry of Labour. — TWA/KZW

U Bein Bridge set for prompt repair and maintenance

ACCORDING to the Department of Archeology and National Museums (Mandalay Branch), the repair and construction works will be implemented expeditiously to make the U Bein Bridge sustainable.

The bridge is situated in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region.

In collaboration with the Forest Department, the Mandalay Regional Government's Repair and Construction Committee will form five teams to carry out these repair works, each of which will be responsible for 96 bridge spans.

The repair of the bridge will be carried out as soon as possible, using the funds from the development and other projects of the Mandalay Region Government.

The U Bein Bridge is located in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region. Workers in action for repair work.

Due to the crowded visitors to the bridge on 29 October (Full Moon Day of Thadingyut), two panels on the east side of the bridge broke down, causing many injuries, and officials repaired it within three days. — TWA/KZL

News in Brief

Banks maintain healthy financial reserves

ADDRESSING the recent rumours surrounding banks, Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, SAC Information Team Leader, stated, "For the public's awareness, the Central Bank of Myanmar has already released information about banks. What we can guarantee is that we are financially secure." According to the central bank, adjustments to cash balances and the ability to issue cash in banks are made based on financial withdrawals and inflows.

Domestic fuel prices drop again

LAST week, the price of Octane 92 was K2,130 per litre. However, as of 18 November, it has decreased to K2,105 per litre. Similarly, the price of Octane 95 has dropped to K2,240 per litre, diesel is now priced at K2,125 per litre, and premium diesel prices have fallen to K2,215 per litre. This information comes from the Fuel Import, Storage, and Distribution Supervisory Committee's price statement. Additionally, fuel reserves in Yangon, stored in Thilawa oil tanks, are replenished to ensure an adequate supply and prevent any fuel shortage.

Electric vehicle (EV) development nears 75% milestone

CURRENTLY, the company allowing imports determines the number of imported users. U Kyaw Swa Tun Myint, General Secretary of the Myanmar Automobile Manufacturers and Distributors Association, stated that the development of electric vehicles (EVs) has reached 75 per cent, as assessed by the quantity and consumption of widely available vehicles.

Myanmar exports 1,300+ tonnes of honey to global markets, including S Korea

IN the first-seven months of this financial year, Myanmar exported more than 1,310 tonnes of Myanmar honey to foreign markets, including Japan, South Korea and Thailand, through both sea and border trade. The Apiculture Division under the Department of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary reported that it received US$1.978 million in export income.

Russian government investment fund to execute fertilizer plant project in Nay Pyi Taw

PERMANENT Secretary of the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development U Khant Zaw said that the ministry, in collaboration with the Russian government-owned investment fund Roscongress, will jointly undertake the fertilizer plant project in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. This initiative aims to secure land at five locations proposed by the Russian group.

Watermelons exported to China fetch up to 7,000 yuan/tonne

ACCORDING to local merchants, watermelons are currently being exported to China through the Mongla-Talok border checkpoint in Shan State, with the price of one tonne of watermelon fetching about 7,000 Chinese yuan. Myanmar trucks can now drive directly to the Chinese side, declining truck rental fees, with charges for only the Chinese driver. — Htun Htun/KZW

NATIONAL BUSINESS

FOB prices of black gram, pigeon pea, green gram post slight decline

THE FOB prices of black gram, green gram and pigeon pea fell again on 16-18 November 2023.

The prices were down by $30 per tonne of black gram, $100 for pigeon peas, $40 for green gram from central Myanmar regions and $50 for green gram (Shwewah variety).

The FOB prices stood at $1,090-1,110 per tonne of black gram, $1,350-1,370 for pigeon pea, $740-760 for green gram from central Myanmar regions and $930-960 for green gram (Shwewah variety) between 2 and 4 November and declined to $1,060-1,080 for black gram, $1,250-1,270 for pigeon pea, $700-720 for green gram from central Myanmar regions and $880-910 for green gram (Shwewah variety) on 16-18 November.

The prices were registered at K2.9 million per tonne of black gram (Fair Average Quality/RC), K3.14 million per tonne of black gram (Special Quality/RC), K3.25 million per tonne of pigeon pea, K2,500-2,835 per viss of green gram from central Myanmar regions and K3,465 per viss of for green gram (Shwewah variety) on 18 November.

The black gram price fluctuated around K2.9 million per tonne in Yangon's market. The pigeon pea prices dramatically plunged to K3.25 million per tonne on 18 November from K3.75 million per tonne on 3 November. — TWA/KK

A shop displaying various pulses.

Black grams and pigeon peas are pictured being displayed for sale.

Pigeon pea price on downward trajectory

THE pigeon pea market is bracing for a downward trend at present, indicating a one-day drop of K500,000 per tonne 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 16-17 November. The price plunge persisted to K3.25 million per tonne on 18 November.

The decrease in FOB price and weak demand are contributing factors to the price fall.

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 exported 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

Fuel prices see slight dip on 18 Nov

FUEL prices showed a slight decline in the domestic market.

Fuel prices were K2,130 per litre of Octane 92, K2,250 for Octane 95, K2,145 for diesel and K2,245 for premium diesel on 17 November. Then, the prices decreased a bit to K2,105 per litre of Octane 92, K2,240 for Octane 95, K2,125 for diesel and K2,215 for premium diesel on 18 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.

Of 146 petrol stations in Yangon, some petrol stations braced for the high demand for Octane 92. Distribution by three terminals did not meet the demand, causing fuel shortages on 10 November.

However, the petrol stations were urgently filled with stocks on the night of 10 November.

Four oil tankers docked at port terminals on 11 and 12 November, and 15 more are slated to arrive at the Port. This being so, oil will be distributed to the filling stations in a timely manner, as per the committee.

At present, there is a fuel oil security in the market, with stocks of over 13 million gallons of Octane 92, over three million gallons of Octane 95, 1.4 million gallons of Octane 97, over 29 million gallons of diesel and over 20 million gallons of premium diesel.

Myanmar imports 90 per cent of fuel oil consumption, 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 those 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

File photo shows a pump of petrol station in Yangon.

OPINION

Launch anti-corruption measures to shape honesty in society

CORRUPTION, whether it manifests in a nation, an organization, or within society, finds its roots in various causes such as ethics, prestige, greed, poverty, insufficient income, and limited employment opportunities. Safeguarding against corruption is imperative for the progress of a state, ensuring peace, stability, and overall development.

The detrimental impacts of corruption extend beyond mere malpractices, affecting the morality, and morale of individuals, and posing a significant threat to the state. In response, the government took a decisive step by enacting the Anti-Corruption Law on 7 August 2013, to address and penalize those violating the law.

Corruption, in its various forms, encompasses extortion, fraud, misuse of state finances and assets, improper use of public-owned property, abuse of authority through nepotism, and preferential treatment to close acquaintances. Financial losses incurred by the State due to corruption necessitate strict adherence to existing laws, rules, regulations, and procedures by all citizens. As service personnel of relevant departments and company staff have agreed to serve their employment under coordinated salaries, they should avoid corrupt acts.

> Authorities combatting corruption should do so without bias or discrimination, ensuring that those responsible face consequences without favouritism. Every individual must distance themselves from corruption, viewing corrupt acts as unforgivable transgressions within society. Success in eradicating corruption requires a collective commitment to staying vigilant and resolute until the goal is achieved. Thus, every citizen plays a crucial role in upholding integrity, contributing to the broader efforts to create a corruption-free society.

The government, recognizing the gravity of corruption, is actively engaged in reducing its prevalence. The mere investigation is insufficient; there is a need to foster a culture that vehemently opposes corruption. Public awareness campaigns are essential to educate citizens about preventive measures and the consequences of corrupt practices, fostering a society that rejects corruption at its core. As mostly happening corruption at the relevant departments of the government, all service personnel and customers people have to cement corruption-free relations for the enhancement of the integrity of the departments and themselves.

Corruption, in any form, adversely affects all sectors, including private enterprises and individual businesses. Preventive measures, exposure of corruption cases, and enforcement of anti-corruption laws are crucial in mitigating corruption. Citizens must comply with existing laws, viewing combatting corruption as a shared responsibility. Establishing a robust system of responsibility, accountability, and checks and balances within organizations and departments is essential for reducing corruption.

Authorities combatting corruption should do so without bias or discrimination, ensuring that those responsible face consequences without favouritism. Every individual must distance themselves from corruption, viewing corrupt acts as unforgivable transgressions within society. Success in eradicating corruption requires a collective commitment to staying vigilant and resolute until the goal is achieved. Thus, every citizen plays a crucial role in upholding integrity, contributing to the broader efforts to create a corruption-free society.

Social media helping to protect biodiversity: Study

This approach could be particularly transformative in regions with insufficient structured monitoring, offering a valuable alternative for informing and enhancing conservation efforts.

NATURE photographers using social media to post their work are helping enhance biodiversity conservation mapping in South Asia and the concept has the potential to spread globally, according to a study.

Dr Shawan Chowdhury from the University of Queensland's School of the Environment led an international team that scoured photographs on Facebook nature photography groups in Bangladesh to submit to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility database.

The findings have been published in the journals Bioscience, One Earth, and Conservation Biology.

Almost 1,000 animal species

"We found 44,000 photos of almost 1,000 animal species, including many birds and insects, 288 of which are considered threatened in Bangladesh," Dr Chowdhury said.

"This has vastly improved habitat mapping across the country where only 4.6 per cent of land is designated as protected.

"We identified many more high-priority areas for conservation, spanning 4,000 square kilometres for birds and 10,000 square kilometres for butterflies.

"We'd been missing out on the distribution data of hundreds of endangered species in Bangladesh so this is a big result.

"This could change the way scientists gather biodiversity information in the future, especially in regions where there is a lack of reliable and up-to-date structured monitoring to inform conservation efforts."

SOURCE: ANI

Zero's prime

By Chit Ko Pe

One to nine have their worth in a range,
but zero digits have none and nothing.

One to nine get their worth higher added,
when zero digits are put at each back.

On a dashboard-milage in a new car,
zero digits stand taller among others,
getting it pricier and sought after.

Likewise, failure is not a letdown behind,
but a stepping stone to rise and shine.
Sure! there is a bright future time.
Do grab it with a try!

True Love

By Mya Thae (Research)

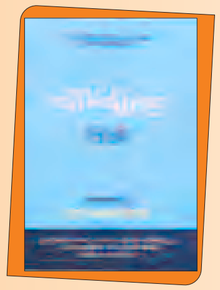
Pink and blue
I love you true.

Sweet smiles on the face
Make my heart shakes

Eyes are shining with love
I embrace you too much

Even you passed away 27 years ago
Long and miss you so
Oh! My beloved May May
Tell me where you stay

ARTICLE
BOOKRACK



Book Title	-	Ahchein Simankhantkhwehmu Pyinnya
Translator	-	Kyi Shun
Publishing House	-	Wisdom House
Publication Date	-	September 2023 (2nd Edition)
Price	-	K5,000

Ahchein Simankhantkhwehmu Pyinnya

(Time Management by Brian Tracy)

THIS book is translated by Saya Kyi Shun, who enetered the literatry field not as a translator but as a writer of film reviews. He first tried his pen in Lone Ma Lay Magazine issued in September in 1998. Then, he contributed articles to such magazines and journals as Yanantthit, Mahaythi, Ahnupyinnya Myingwin, Ahpyozin, Tharaphu, Fashion, Yokeshin Thitsar, Ahkhwint Ahlan and Taw Wun Pan in addition to Lone Ma Lay. Moreover, he has also translated many articles on management and self reliance in addition to film reviews. And he has also tried his pen on economics – both microeconomics and macroeconomics. Under another pen name called U Maung Maung (Mawgyun), he has been writing articles on law to enable the readers to have some knowledge of law, which all citizens must know and adhere to. As known to all, we cannot give excuse for our mistakes, saying we have done this and that just because we do not this and that law.

Throughout his writing and translation career, he has won literary awards: translaton award from Thuta Swezone in 2009 and another award from Tun Foundation in 2019. This publication is the second impression.

This book includes 21 proven rules concerning time management as follows:

Rule 1 The Psychology of Time Management
Rule 2 Determine Your Value
Rule 3 Think About Your Vision and Mission
Rule 4 Project Forward, Look Backward
Rule 5 Make Written Plan
Rule 6 Chart Your Projects
Rule 7 Create Your Daily To-Do List
Rule 8 Set Clear Priorities
Rule 9 Stay on Track
Rule 10 Determine Your Key Result Areas
Rule 11 Delegate to Others
Rule 12 Concentrate Single-Mindedly
Rule 13 Overcome Procrastination
Rule 14 Create Blocks of Time
Rule 15 Control Interruptiions
Rule 16 Batch Your Tasks
Rule 17 Manage the Telephone
Rule 18 Conduct Effective Meetings
Rule 19 Read Faster, Remember More
Rule 20 Investment in Personal Development and
Rule 21 Organize Your Work Space.

Last but not least, he writes 4 Ds – Desire, Decisiveness, Determination And Discipline.

Book Title	-	Ashonedway Htaiga Ahmardway Htaiga Aungmyinthudway Bailo Ahnaing Yugyathalai
Translator	-	Aung Si Tha
Publishing House	-	Sarsizein
Publication Date	-	August 2023 (1st Edition)
Price	-	K5,000

Ashonedway Htaiga Ahmardway Htaiga Aungmyinthudway Bailo Ahnaing Yugyathalai

(How Successful People Win by John C Maxwell)

THIS book is a translation by Saya Aung Si Tha who has experience in the translation of texts on how to achieve success. The original writer has encouraged those people not to get discouraged by their failures but to turn them into stepping stones to the path to success. The writer is named John C Maxwell, who is a New York Times bestselling author. He is believed to be able to teach you how to turn any situation into a winning experience. He pointed out that no one wins at everything that they try. Nonetheless, any setback, be professional or personal, can become a step forward with the right tools and mindset to turn a loss into a gain. The most important you ever talk to is yourself; so, be careful of what you say. And the most important person you will evaluate is yourself; so, be careful of what you think. The most important person you will love is yourself; so, be careful of what you do.

The writer also said that the difference between the man who achieves success and the man who fails in the performance of tasks is that the achiever can control his feelings of dissatisfaction and manage losses in such a way that weaknesses can be turned into strengths and challenges into opportunities.

The book under review has 13 episodes. He writes on humility, maturity, gratitude, intentional growth and hope as well as victimization, avoiding pain, and blame-storming. He explains that growth is a slow process not to be rushed, by using the example that while an apple a day may keep the doctor away; eating seven apples in a day will probably result in a stomach ache. People rush to reach goals quickly. This book will remind the readers of the fact that the process of reaching the goals is as critical as the goal itself.

Episode 1 is opened with a question – If you are quite sure that you will not fail, what would you want to do? This question suggests the nature of human beings in regard to their dreams or goals. The enthusiasm, ardour and fervour will urge people to take risks if they are to succeed. Another frequently asked question will be, "What do you learn from the failures?" The writer has provided satisfactory answers to the said two questions.

Additionally, what appeals to me is the 11 traps of failure concerning which the author provides tips or guidance as to how we can escape from them. It is hoped that the readers of this book will know the secrets of success after reading. It is true that people err. And their errors will result in bitter failures. Nonetheless, what counts is their ability to learn lessons from their failures and not to repeat the same mistakes. People are required to have a correct attitude towards errors, mistakes and failures. Most importantly, people are needed not to get discouraged, not to give up their hopes but to learn lessons from such bitter experiences.

Entertainment

Model : **SAUNG YOON ZAN**
Makeup : **PHYO PHYO HONEY**
Wedding Dress : **KO BATE**
Photographer : **KYAW LWIN MOE**
Wedding Studio : **FINEST**

Two new MVs of singer Chuu Sitt Han released

THE MVs of "Htan Ywet Padee, Hna Lone Thar Ahtokepatti" songs of singer Chuu Sitt Han were released on 18 November.

The Bo Bo Music Production released the MVs of Htan Ywet Padee composed by Ywar Sarr Sein Tint Han and Hna Lone Thar Ahtokepatti by composer Phoe Si on 18 November.

"I sing the famous ancient song Htan Ywet Padee. I also competed in the Myanmar Idol singing contest with the Hna Lone Thar Ahtokepatti song, and Saya Okka Oo Tha encouraged me to sing more. I felt sad when I had to say goodbye to the contest. He encouraged me to sing saying he had many songs. The cost of purchasing song, and music production is borne by Saya," said Chuu Sitt Han.

Press show of Htan Ywet Padee, Hna Lone Thar Ahtokepatti" MVs.

The MV is directed by Directors Linn Thit and Min Satt starring by Aye Chan Maung and Chuu Sitt Han.

A press show of MVs was held at The Radio Frequency in Yangon on 15 November. – ASH/KTZH

Saung Yoon Zan

ACTRESS Saung Yoon San said that she changed her name to Saung Yoon Zan as the fortune teller urged her to do so because of her poor health condition. She added, "A name can change everything. I believe in dreams and astrology." She took a main female role in the Secret Moonlight movie in which Min Thway Khant, Min Arkar and Hein Ko Ko Kyaw starred.

Chit Oo Nyo

THE talk show of Artist U Sein Myint, who draws serial of Myanmar Ramayana and Writer of Lingadipa Chit Thu, Chit Oo Nyo is being broadcast via the Lingadipa YouTube channel and Lingadipa Facebook Page at 7 pm on Saturday and Sunday.

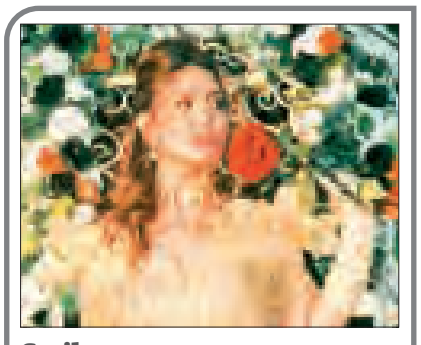
Ywar Sarr Nay Win, son of Ywar Sarr Sein Tin Han

ALTHOUGH Mandalay's Famous Ywar Sarr Sein Tin Han, composer of "Htan Ywet Padee" and scriptwriter of "Bitheik Pyine" movie and also younger brother of Famous Ywar Sarr Sein Hla Myine, passed away, his new generations still perform at ceremonial occasions under the name of " Sons of famous composer Ywar Sarr Sein Tin Han, Mingala Orchestra troupe". Moreover, the group led by Artiste Nay Win (son of Ywar Sarr Sein Tin Han), secretary of Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central), performed at the 57th convocation ceremony of Mandalay University on 17 November.

Celebrity Brief

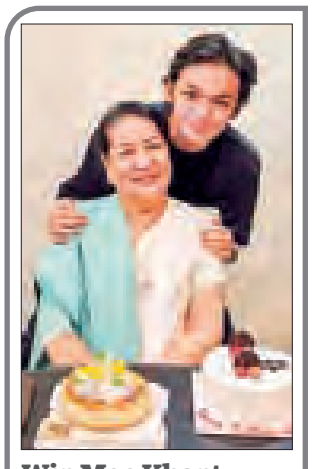
Kaung Pyae

ACTOR Kaung Pyae talked about the postponement of his wedding ceremony for various reasons including COVID-19, and the certainty of holding a wedding reception in 2014. He also made the announcement to his fans to watch his new drama series that will be broadcast soon.



Smile

ACTRESS Smile donated a new two-storey monastic building at Aung Zabu Monastery in Mawlamyine. The opening ceremony of the donation dedicated to her parents was attended by her grandma great actress Khin Lay Swe. She also celebrated Kathina donation and also donated 2,600 sets of school uniforms for students and the Dhamma Puja ceremony (night). She posted that she shared the merits with her deceased parents on her Facebook page.



Win Moe Khant

YOUNG actor Win Moe Khant made a birthday wish for his 77-year-old grandma Academy Awards winner Daw Cho Pyone "Happy Birthday Cho Cho" on his Facebook page. He is now making a film with his grandma for the first time. – Htun Htun/KTZH

WORLD

Japan PM says science technology to define changing ties with S Korea

SCIENCE and technology will be the next area of cooperation that defines improving Japan-South Korea relations as game-changing innovation is possible when two or more countries join hands, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Friday.

In a rare joint appearance with South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, Kishida underscored their personal rapport built in a series of meetings, saying that their decisions have brought about a "big change" in relations long frayed by wartime history issues.

"In the realm of security, the common recognition is, 'No one country can defend itself alone,'" Kishida said during an event at Stanford University.

"The same can be said of science and technology. From now on, no one country can create innovations that transform the world," he said.

He specifically cited semiconductors, quantum technology and artificial intelligence as the next big things made possible by multiple nations working together.

COVID-triggered chip shortages in recent years have laid bare the vulnerabilities of existing supply chains.

As a specific case of bilateral cooperation, Kishida also proposed new hydrogen and ammonia supply chains, viewed as alternative energy sources essential for decarbonization. — Kyodo

Kishida highlighted semiconductors, quantum technology, and artificial intelligence as the upcoming breakthroughs achievable through collaborative efforts among nations.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (R) speaks at a forum at Stanford University in Stanford, California, on 17 November 2023. South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol (L) also took part. **PHOTO: KYODO**

TOP HEADLINE

M6.8 quake jolts southern Philippines, 1 dead

AN earthquake with a magnitude of 6.8 struck the southern Philippine island of Mindanao on Friday, leaving one person dead and 18 injured, local authorities and Reuters said, but there was no tsunami threat.

The quake, which occurred at 4:14 pm, was centered 34 kilometres northwest of Sarangani town in the province of Davao Occidental at a depth of 72 km, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology. It was initially measured at M7.2. – Kyodo

Swiss president faulted in House probe over media leaks

Swiss President Alain Berset. **AFP/FILE**

SWISS President Alain Berset was partially faulted in a parliamentary inquiry which concluded Friday that sensitive information leaked from his office had impacted government decisions during the pandemic.

The probe was announced last January amid suspicion of significant leaks of confidential information from the Swiss health ministry as the Covid-19 pandemic raged.

The affair, dubbed "Coronaleaks" and "Bersetgate" by Swiss media, revolved around how much Health Minister Berset — who currently holds the country's rotating one-year presidency and was the face of the government's Covid response — knew and what impact the leaks had on government decisions.

The investigation was opened after reports emerged that Berset's former communications chief had, at the height of the pandemic, systematically leaked information to Ringier, one of Switzerland's largest media houses, about confidential government plans for measures to counter the virus, including around vaccines and the reopening of businesses.

In their findings presented Friday, the parliamentary Control Committees that carried out the investigation, said they had confirmed large quantities of leaks of classified information about the government's Covid-19 response that appeared in various media.

Some 200 articles published by 24 different outlets had contained information based on these "indiscretions", the investigators told a press conference.

These leaks, the investigators said, "Led to a loss of confidence within the Federal Council (government) and had concrete consequences on the ways it took its decisions." — AFP

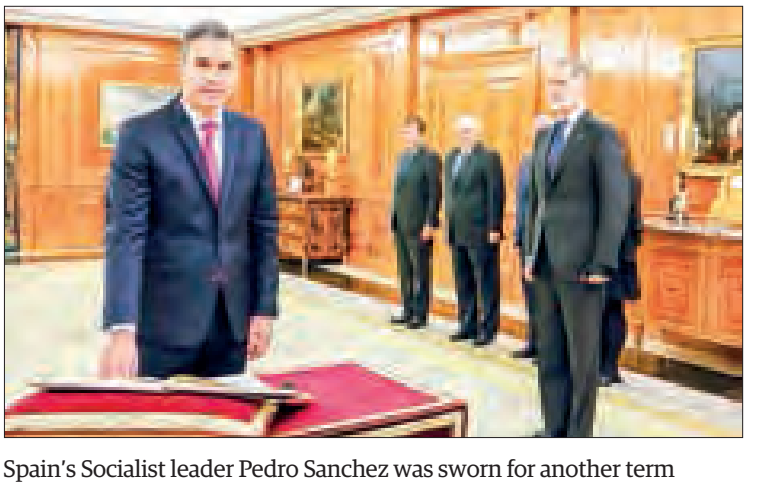
Pedro Sanchez sworn in as Spain's PM

Sanchez took the oath of office in 2018, 2020, and recently, using a copy of the Spanish Constitution, deviating from the tradition of using a Bible or crucifix as previous prime ministers had done.

PEDRO Sanchez was sworn in as Spanish prime minister in a brief ceremony with King Felipe VI of Spain at the royal residence on the outskirts of Madrid on Friday.

The ceremony, held at the Palacio de la Zarzuela, was carried out two hours after Sanchez was confirmed as prime minister in the Official State Bulletin (BOE).

As he did when being sworn in in 2018 and in 2020, Sanchez gave the oath on a copy of the Spanish Constitution, but without the presence of the bible or crucifix which previous prime ministers had used. — Xinhua

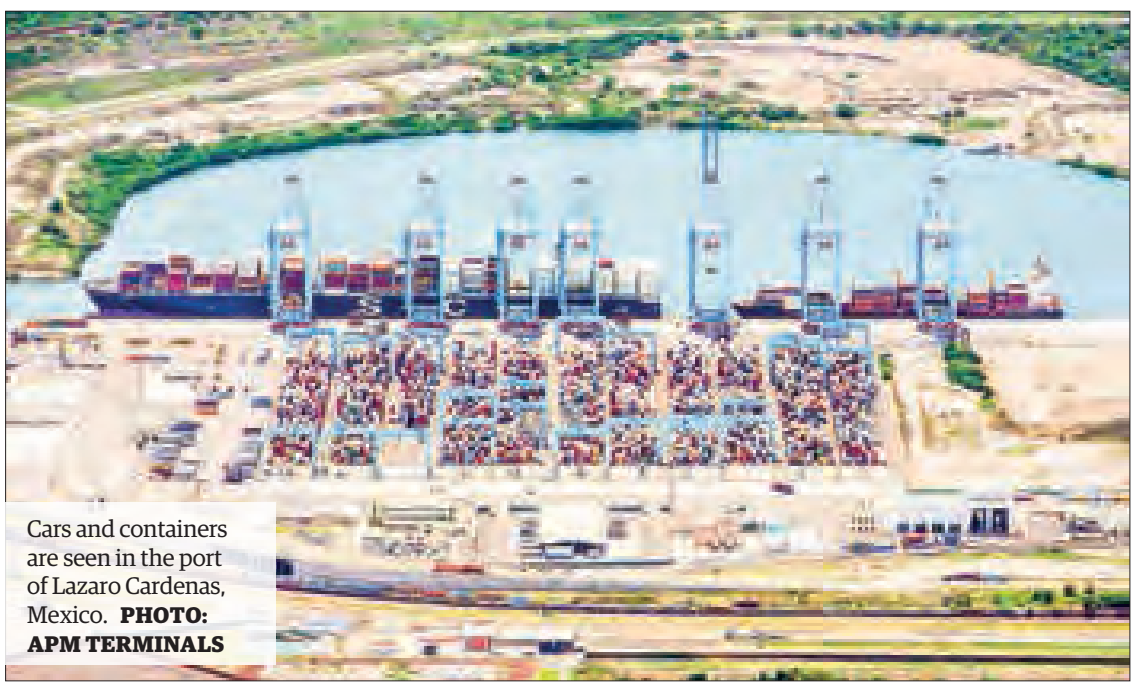


Spain's Socialist leader Pedro Sanchez was sworn for another term before King Felipe VI at the Zarzuela Palace near Madrid. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP**

ECONOMY
WORLD

IMF approves $35 bln loan agreement for Mexico

The Mexican economy is currently experiencing a widespread expansion, characterized by strong private consumption and investment, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Board Acting Chair Gita Gopinath.



Cars and containers are seen in the port of Lazaro Cardenas, Mexico. **PHOTO: APM TERMINALS**

THE International Monetary Fund approved a new loan agreement with Mexico on Thursday worth approximately $35 billion, to bolster the country's economy.

The two-year Flexible Credit Line (FCL) is the 10th such agreement between Mexico and the IMF since 2009, and is designed to help countries with strong economic fundamentals stave off crises, the IMF announced in a statement.

The Mexican authorities intend to continue to treat the arrangement as precautionary, according to the IMF.

The Fund recently announced that it expects the Mexican economy to grow by 3.2 per cent in 2023, before slowing somewhat to 2.1 per cent next year.

"The Mexican economy is in the midst of a broad-based expansion, with robust private consumption and investment," IMF Board Acting Chair Gita Gopinath said a statement announcing the new agreement.

But she warned that Mexico still faces a number of threats, including "risks of renewed volatility in the financial markets, increased risk premia, and capital outflows from emerging markets, as well as weaker US growth and a global slowdown". — AFP

Winds of change? Bid to revive England's onshore sector

WHEN yet another winter storm hits Britain, Ellis Jacklin is happier than most, as he gets his energy at up to half the usual unit price.

The mechanical projects engineer is part of a local green energy "fan club" run by his electricity provider which taps an onshore wind turbine near his home in East Yorkshire, northern England, to provide discounted power.

Enrolled households get 20 per cent off their bills when the turbine is spinning and they are using electricity, rising to 50 per cent in especially windy conditions.

"Everyone else is like 'batten down the hatches' and I'm like, 'keep it windy'," Jacklin, 30, told AFP.

He has saved nearly £400 ($500) since signing up to the Octopus Energy Generation scheme last year, one of three onshore wind fan clubs it currently runs in England and Wales.

The savings come as UK energy bills have surged in that time, contributing to the worst cost-of-living crisis in a generation.

"It's fairly substantial," Jacklin added. "I was never expecting to get the amount of money I've got back from it. Every person I've spoken to is jealous of me having it." — AFP

Onshore wind projects have been at a standstill in England for almost a decade. **PHOTO: AFP**

Kenya's economy faces climate change risks: World Bank

Climate change may reduce Kenya's economic output by up to seven per cent by 2050 unless adaptive measures are taken, warns the World Bank, citing the country's vulnerability to climate disasters, including prolonged droughts and El Nino-induced flooding.

THE impacts of climate change could shave up to seven per cent off Kenya's economic output by 2050 compared to baseline forecasts, unless it adapts, the World Bank warned on Friday.

The East African economic powerhouse is extremely vulnerable to climate disasters, recently enduring a punishing years-long drought followed by flooding precipitated by the El Nino weather phenomenon.

"Without adaptation measures, the impact from climate change could not only disproportionately affect the poor, but also result in real GDP (gross domestic product) losses of up to seven percent from the baseline by 2050," the World Bank said. Although African nations are among the world's lowest contributors to emissions, they are acutely vulnerable to the growing impacts of climate change, as extreme weather events occur with increased frequency and intensity.

Kenya is extremely vulnerable to climate disasters, including a punishing years-long drought followed by flooding. **PHOTO: AFP/ FILE**

The World Bank said that the number of poor people in Kenya could increase by 1.1 million by 2050 if there is "inaction against climate change".

"Furthermore, death and illness due to malaria and water borne diseases are expected to increase by 56 per cent and 10 per cent respectively by 2050," the Washington-based lender said. The country of 53 million people will need $62 billion by 2030 to adapt its economy to climate challenges, according to the government. — AFP

Chinese commerce minister to hold talks with US counterpart

CHINA'S Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao will hold talks with US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting, Ministry of Commerce spokesperson He Yadong said Thursday. The two sides will discuss the implementation of the consensus reached by the two heads of state at their summit in San Francisco and resolve important issues in bilateral economic and trade relations, the spokesperson said at a regular press briefing.

He said the ministry will strive to facilitate the sound and steady development of China-US economic and trade relations to inject more stability and positive energy into the world economy. – Xinhua

17,000 litres of fuel enter Gaza for telecoms firm: Palestinian border official

SOME 17,000 litres (about 4,500 gallons) of fuel entered Gaza Friday through the Rafah crossing with Egypt, a Palestinian border official said, the first shipment since Israel's war cabinet said it would allow regular deliveries.

The Palestinian official said the fuel was "for the telecommunications company" Paltel, which on Thursday confirmed a total communications blackout in Gaza after it ran out of fuel. – AFP

China to become the world's largest automobile exporter in 2023

China's automobile industry has taken a solid step towards internationalization, despite a complex and grave international environment, Wang said.

CHINA is certain to become the world's largest automobile exporter this year, as its auto exports in the first 10 months hit 3.9 million units, an official with the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade said here Friday.

Wang Xia, head of the council's automotive sub-council, made the remarks at the 21st Guangzhou International Automobile Exhibition that opened on Friday.

This photo taken on 3 July 2023 shows China's 20 millionth new energy vehicle (NEV) produced by GAC Aion New Energy Automobile Co Ltd in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

China's automobile industry has taken a solid step towards internationalization, despite a complex and grave international environment, Wang said.

In the first quarter, China exported 1.07 million vehicles, surpassing Japan for the first time to become the world's largest automobile exporter. In the first 10 months, the export volume registered a year-on-year growth of 59.7 per cent to 3.92 million units. The per vehicle export price has also grown to 137,000 yuan (about 19,100 US dollars) in the first three quarters of 2023 from 85,000 yuan in 2014.

"In 2001, the export value of China's automobile industry chain was only 1.56 billion US dollars, taking up a global share of just 0.65 per cent. In the first eight months of this year, this figure neared 122 billion dollars, accounting for 5.5 per cent of the global total," Wang noted. — Xinhua

Stocks struggle to end week on high note

EUROPEAN stock markets ended up but Wall Street wavered on Friday as investors struggled to end the week on a high note after cooling inflation raised hopes of an end to interest rate hikes.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down while the S&P 500 and tech-heavy Nasdaq were in the red by late morning trade. European markets were up in afternoon deals, with London leading gains as it closed up more than one per cent despite data showing an unexpected drop in retail sales in October.

Hong Kong closed down 2.1 per cent, with shares in Chinese e-commerce titan Alibaba hammered after the company cancelled a spinoff of its cloud computing arm, citing the US-China chip war.

Crude prices also gained after falling almost five per cent on Thursday due to weak demand expectations amid China's softening economy.

Weaker-than-expected US inflation data this week fanned hopes that the Federal Reserve would not need to hike interest rates further before cutting. The data gave a strong boost to global stock markets earlier in the week. — AFP

A display showing the German Stock Market Index DAX is pictured at the stock exchange in Frankfurt, Germany. **PHOTO: AFP**

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of Shandong United Pesticide Industry Co.,Ltd have registered the following products in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributer name "Huynh Zaw Co.,Ltd", to new distributor name "Y Agro Solution Co.,Ltd". If any object 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.
Y Agro Solution Co.,Ltd. Ph-09401573814

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	Cyco	Cyromazine 500g/kg SP	F2023-4143

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of Sixf Crop Protection Co.,Ltd have registered the following products in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributer name "Myanmar Sixf Agriculture Technology Co.,Ltd", to new distributor name "Y Agro Solution Co.,Ltd". If any object 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. Y Agro Solution Co.,Ltd. Ph-09401573814

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	Jiujing	Chlorfenapyr 240 g/l SC	P2022-5759

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of Shandong United Pesticide Industry Co.,Ltd have registered the following products in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributer name "Myanmar Wai Fung Agriculture Co.,Ltd", to new distributor name "Y Agro Solution Co.,Ltd". If any object 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. Y Agro Solution Co.,Ltd. Ph-09401573814

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	Chlazo	Azoxystrobin 60g/l + Chlorothalonil 500g/l SC	P2022-5050

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

APEC Summit's final declaration omits Ukraine conflict

Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk earlier voiced hope that despite ongoing attempts, "there will be no politicization" of the APEC format.

World leaders stand for a family photo during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Week in San Francisco, California, on 16 November 2023. **PHOTO: ANDREW CABALLERO-REYNOLDS / AFP**

ASIA-PACIFIC Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders did not mention the conflict in Ukraine and the escalation of the Palestine-Israel conflict in their final joint communique that was passed at the regional forum's summit in San Francisco, California.

The so-called Golden Gate Declaration instead reaffirmed APEC members' determination "to deliver a free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent, inclusive, and predictable trade and investment environment".

"Our steady commitment to APEC's mission has helped our region become a vanguard of global growth," the document pointed out, adding that member states are "committed to necessary reform of the WTO [World Trade Organization] to improve all of its functions, including conducting discussions with a view to having a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system accessible to all members by 2024."

This came as an APEC chair's statement noted that some leaders objected to the inclusion of Ukraine- and Gaza-related issues in the declaration "on the basis that they do not believe that APEC is a forum to discuss geopolitical issues".

This was echoed by Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk, head of the Russian delegation at the APEC summit, who expressed hope that APEC will remain a purely economic forum despite attempts to politicize it.

APEC is a trade and economic forum of 21 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including Russia, China, the US and Australia. This year's summit in San Francisco took place on 11–17 November. — SPUTNIK

FORESTS, CROPS, AND PASTURES

Forest fires rage in three of Bolivia's nine departments

FOREST fires are raging in three of Bolivia's nine departments, mostly sparked by field burning to prepare farmland for planting, Deputy Civil Defence Minister Juan Carlos Calvimontes said on Friday.

The fires have damaged thousands of hectares of forests, crops and pastures, with the departments of Beni (northeast), La Paz (west) and Santa Cruz (east) the hardest-hit, he told reporters.

"We will wait for the fires to pass to quantify the damage to crops, pastures and others," he said.

A day earlier, the head of Bolivia's Forest and Land Supervision and Social Control Authority, Luis Flores, called for harsher prison sentences of four to 10 years for those convicted of starting forest fires. – Xinhua

Hundreds flee from hospital at centre of Israel-Hamas war

COLUMNS of sick and injured — some of them amputees — displaced people, doctors and nurses, were seen making their way out of Al-Shifa hospital towards the seafront without ambulances as loud explosions were heard around the facility.

On the way, an AFP journalist saw at least 15 bodies, some in advanced stages of decomposition, along a road lined by badly damaged shops and overturned vehicles as Israeli drones buzzed overhead.

The Hamas-run health ministry said 120 wounded, along with an unspecified number of premature babies, were still at Shifa hospital that has become the focus of the seven-week war sparked by Hamas's unprecedented 7 October attacks on Israel. — AFP

Italy becomes first EU country to ban production, sale of synthetic food

The new regulation bans the production, sale, import, export, manufacturing, and distribution of food or feed derived from cell cultures or tissues of vertebrate animals.

THE Italian parliament on Thursday passed a law prohibiting production and sale of synthetic food and feed, making Italy the first EU country to introduce such a ban.

The law was supported by 159 members of the Italian lower house, while 53 voted against the measure while 34 abstained.

The upper house of the parliament approved the law, which was developed at the initiative of the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the Ministry of Health, back in June.

The new regulation prohibits the use in production, sale, import, export manufacturing and distribution of "food or feed consisting of, separated out or produced from cell cultures or tissues derived from vertebrate animals".

Violators face a fine ranging from 10,000 euros ($10,858) to 60,000 euros. However, if the law is violated by a large-scale enterprise, the fine may be increased to up to 10 per cent of the company's annual turnover and confiscation of the produced goods. — SPUTNIK

Violators face fines of 10,000 to 60,000 euros; for large enterprises, fines may be up to 10 per cent of annual turnover, with potential confiscation of goods. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ SLAVEN VLASIC/AFP**

SPORTS

A Mali Kyel Sin team player challenges the ball against the Winner Soccer goalkeeper. **PHOTO: MFF**

MIU shape big win at MFF Futsal Championship 2023

THE MFF Futsal Championship 2023 continued at the Futsal Stadium of Thuwunna, Yangon yesterday, with MIU FC's victory.

MIU beat the KKY team 8-1 in yesterday's match while Dream Team crushed UPK 2-0.

Meanwhile, YRG smashed Futsal Lover Club 3-1 and TG United trounced Yoma FC 10-2.

Next, the Mali Kyel Sin team played a 5-5 draw against Winner Soccer and Futsal-19 tied 2-2 with the SGF team.

After the matches, MIU and DT Legends from Group F, YRG from Group E, SGF from Group C and Mali Kyel Sin from Group B advanced to the next stage.

The fourth-day matches of the tourney will be continued today. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Myanmar U-19 team make ready for international tourney

MYANMAR U-19 men's football team is preparing their best for the upcoming international tournaments, as stated by the Myanmar Football Federation.

The Myanmar U-19 team started training in October and continued training with 31 players in the third week of October.

After the MNL tournament, which will end in the third week of December, players under the age of 19 will be selected again for Team Myanmar, and preliminary players will also be confirmed.

U Aung Naing is in charge of the Myanmar youth team as the head coach. In 2023, the Myanmar U-19 team participated in the MNL-2 tournament under the name of the Junior Lions team so that the players could gain experience without having to compete in international tournaments.

The Myanmar U-19 team will compete in the ASEAN U-19 Championship and Asian Cup U-20 qualifiers in 2024, and will play international friendly matches depending on the conditions of the tournament. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

A Myanmar U-19 team player (red) attempts to pass the Inter-State/Region team player (white) during a friendly match played at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 31 August 2022. **PHOTO: MFF**

Denmark edge out Slovenia to book Euro 2024 spot alongside Albania

DENMARK booked their spot in the Euro 2024 finals with a 2-1 win in their crunch match against Slovenia.

Albania also qualified on Friday, drawing 1-1 in Moldova to ensure they would finish in the top two in Group E.

The Czech Republic drew 1-1 in Poland to leave the second qualifying place from Group E undecided.

Italy moved to second in Group C with a 5-2 home win over North Macedonia. England, who have won the group, eased to a 2-0 home win over Malta.

In Group H, both teams were able to qualify with a win in Copenhagen but the hosts claimed the spoils, with goals either side of the break by Joakim Maehle and Thomas Delaney.

Danish coach Kasper Hjulmand said: "I'm satisfied with the whole team. I'm satisfied with everything. The boys looked each other in the eyes and said 'Let's show them!'"

Denmark had the better of the opening exchanges and were rewarded when Maehle slid in at the far post to tuck away an in-swinging cross on 26 minutes.

But the lead only lasted four minutes before Erik Janza curled a left-footed free-kick beyond Kasper Schmeichel. — AFP

Denmark celebrate their winning goal against Slovenia. **PHOTO: RITZAU SCANPIX/AFP**

Ivory Coast score nine against Seychelles for record victory

Bryan Mbeumo celebrates after scoring for Cameroon in a 2026 World Cup qualifier against Mauritius in Douala. **PHOTO: AFP**

IVORY Coast crushed Seychelles 9-0 in Abidjan on Friday to create a record winning margin for a World Cup qualifier in Africa.

Borussia Dortmund forward Sebastien Haller started the goal rush on 20 minutes and Karim Konate from Salzburg completed it five minutes into added time.

Konate and Hamed Traore scored two goals each and Haller, Ibrahim Sangare, Simon Adingra, Seko Fofana and Jean-Philippe Krasso one apiece in the matchday one Group F mismatch. Seychelles, a tourist destination off the east coast of Africa, are 195th in the FIFA rankings, 121 places below the Ivory Coast. The seedings for the first round of 2026 World Cup qualifying in Africa meant the nine top-ranked teams were paired at home against the nine bottom ones, so it was almost inevitable that there could be some one-sided matches. — AFP

An image projected onto Christ the Redeemer welcomes US singer Taylor Swift to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. **PHOTO: AFP**

Rio's Christ statue welcomes Taylor Swift with open arms

"Swifties" lobbied for it, and Rio de Janeiro's Christ the Redeemer statue was lit up to welcome Taylor Swift for her "Eras Tour" concert.

After lobbying from "Swifties", Rio de Janeiro's Christ the Redeemer statue was lit up to welcome Taylor Swift to Brazil ahead of a concert on Friday as part of her global blockbuster "Eras Tour".

As die-hard fans gathered at the famed statue atop Corcovado mountain and in the square below, the giant monument went dark Thursday night, then was reilluminated wearing a light-projection tribute to Swift's "Junior Jewels" T-shirt, from her video "You Belong With Me". "Welcome to Brasil", it said — in English, but using the Portuguese spelling of "Brazil" — with the names of the country's 27 states scrawled across it. Fans were ecstatic.

"I'm going to cry. What matters most to me is her seeing it, her smiling, her being happy," said Rafaela Martins Lopes, one of those who flocked to the statue.

The tribute to the US pop sensation came after fans inundated social media with calls to give her a fitting welcome to the South American country. The Catholic rector responsible for the Christ the Redeemer statue, Omar Raposo, responded with a challenge Thursday on Instagram: raise 300,000 reais ($60,000) for charity, and he would organize a special message. The response was so overwhelming it temporarily crashed the fundraising site handling the campaign. By Friday afternoon, less than 24 hours later, the goal had been met, organizers said. — AFP

Japan cracking down on illegal taxis as tourism boom drives demand

"For safe travel, use authorized taxis and well-managed hired vehicles," stated Mitsuteru Yanase, head of the transport ministry's Chiba branch office.

JAPANESE authorities are stepping up surveillance of unlicensed taxis at Narita airport near Tokyo, as a spike in the number of arrivals increases demand for transport into the capital.

Transport ministry officials handed out hundreds of fliers stating "Beware! Unlicensed taxis are illegal and unsafe!" in English and Chinese to arriving international visitors in early November at the airport in Chiba Prefecture. The fliers urge people to check the colour of vehicle licence plates as licensed taxis have green plates or plates with green frames. Unlicensed taxis have the white plates of private vehicles. It also warns that passengers may not be covered by insurance if injured while riding in an unauthorized taxi.

"To ensure safe travel, we want travellers to use (authorized) taxis and hired vehicles that are well managed," said Mitsuteru Yanase, head of the transport ministry's Chiba branch office.

Unlike overseas where ride-hailing operators, including Uber Technologies Inc and Grab Holdings Inc, are widely used, Japan in principle bans such services that enable drivers of private vehicles to serve as unofficial taxis. — Kyodo

Japanese transport ministry officials hand out fliers warning against the use of unauthorized taxis to a tourist at Narita airport in Chiba Prefecture on 1 November 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Colombian singer Shakira picked up three awards at the Latin Grammys, just days before the start of her tax fraud trial in Spain. **PHOTO: AFP**

Shakira to go on trial in Spain for tax fraud

JUST days after her success at the Latin Grammys, Colombian pop idol Shakira is set to go on trial in Barcelona on Monday for allegedly cheating Spain's tax office out of 14.5 million euros.

Prosecutors are seeking a jail term of eight years and two months, and a fine of nearly 24 million euros ($24 million dollars) for the 46-year-old singer, who now lives in Miami with her two sons Milan and Sasha. She has denied any wrongdoing and turned down a plea deal with prosecutors, paving the way for the trial which is set to get underway on Monday at 10:00 am (0900 GMT).

The case centres on where the singer, whose hit singles include "Hips Don't Lie", "Whenever, Wherever" and the 2010 World Cup song "Waka Waka", lived between 2012 and 2014.

Prosecutors allege Shakira Isabel Mebarak Ripoll — dubbed the Queen of Latin Pop — spent more than half of that period in Spain and should have paid taxes in the country.

They say she moved to Spain after her relationship with FC Barcelona defender Gerard Pique became public in 2011, but maintained official tax residency in the Bahamas until 2015. In its indictment, the prosecution claims that Shakira "used a set of companies" based in tax havens "with the intention of not paying" tax in Spain. — AFP