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

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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The spouse of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Laos (R) is pictured at the event in Vientiane, Laos.

Myanmar Culture Booth shines at Laos' Annual Tea Party 2023

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Myanmar National Culture Booth participated in the Annual Tea Party 2023 for the Female Diplomatic Community at the International Cooperation and Training Centre (ICTC) in Vientiane, Laos.

The Laos Women's Union, along with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Laos, organizes this annual event to foster friendship and unity among women from the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the diplomatic community.

The Annual Tea Party 2023 for the Female Diplomatic Community took place at the ICTC in Vientiane, Laos, on 17 November 2023. The Myanmar Embassy showcased a national culture shop, exhibiting gems-decorated paintings (made of Myanmar mineral jewel pieces), Myanmar golden embroidery, silvery embroidery images, purses, and traditional Myanmar food.

Madam Alouny Kommasith, the wife of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Laos, led the event. Female officers and staff from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, female ambassadors from the embassies based in Laos, the wives of the ambassadors, female diplomats, and the wives of diplomats, along with invitees, attended the Annual Tea Party 2023 for the Female Diplomatic Community. — ASH/TRKM

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Security Forces clear and restore PyinOoLwin-Nawnghkio-Kyaukme-Lashio Union Highway for smooth public transport

Myanmar earthenware handicrafts thriving amidst high local, global demand

Myanmar earthenware Buddha statues and other earthenware handicrafts, making a comeback in the market.

DAW Zar Zar Myint, the owner of the earthenware business Pyone Pan Thar Family in Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay, mentioned that Myanmar earthenware handicrafts are trading well due to local and global demand.

Due to increased demand, there is better trading of earthenware products compared to last year. There are over a hundred kinds of earthenware, and they are also being sold to Thailand via Myawady and Kawthoung.

"Our earthenware business is thriving this year because Myanmar handicrafts are not fading away; instead, they are making a comeback in the market. We sell these earthenware handicrafts as creative seasonal items year after year.

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NATIONAL

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization

THE State Administration Council has appointed Dr Nu Nu Yi, Pro-Rector of Yangon University of Distance Education of the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education, as the Rector of the same university on probation from the date she assumes charge of her duties.

6 special civil appeal cases heard

A special appeal tribunal consisting of Chief Justice of the Union U Thar Htay and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union: U Myo Tint, U Kyi Thein, U Thein Ko Ko and Daw Pyone Pyone Aye was convened Monday morning at the Supreme Court of the Union and a total of six special appeal cases — Nos 49/2022 (Mon), 50/2022 (Mon), 29/2023 (Shan), 30/2023 (Shan), 34/2023 (Ayeyawady) and 36/2023 (Mandalay) were heard, it is learnt. — MNA

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, according to the CBM. — MNA

Steady inflow of foreign oil tankers ensures smooth distribution nationwide

OIL tankers from abroad are consistently entering the terminals at Thilawa Port in Yangon Region. Three tankers loaded oil into their respective storage tanks on 19 and 20 November. Additionally, one tanker is waiting to unload fuels, and more tankers will enter.

The Fuel Oil Import, Storage, and Distribution Supervisory Committee, in coordination with the Myanmar Fuel Oil Import and Distribution Association, is continually supplying fuels to petrol stations in regions/states, including Yangon Region, using bowsers day and night.

A total of 92 Ron (over 1,470,000 gallons), 95 Ron (more than 300,000 gallons), diesel (more than 1,040,000 gallons), and premium diesel (more than 1,020,000 gallons) were delivered by 1,311 bowsers to 1,960 fuel stores across the country, including Yangon region on 19 November. It has been reported that people are easily purchasing and using fuels, and officials are providing all necessary assistance. — MNA/KZW

An oil tanker seen docking at Thilawa Port.

Article competition for Intl Day of Persons with Disabilities

TO commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December 2023, an article competition is set to take place with the theme "Collaborating with People with Disabilities for Sustainable Development". Individuals keen on participating in the competition are required to submit their articles to the Rehabilitation Department. Submissions can be made via phone numbers at 067 3404603 or 067 3404604, and through email at vulnerablegroup.dor@gmail.com. The deadline for article submissions is 4 pm on 24 November 2023. — MNA/KZW

Myanmar earthenware handicrafts thriving...

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Our products include flower vases, various types of earthenware piggy banks, traditional Myanmar earthenware toys, other children's toys, and scales. Drinking earthenware pots, traditional Myanmar earthenware toys, and piggy banks are in high demand throughout the year. Currently, we are crafting Thingyan pots for the upcoming Thingyan period," she added.

The mentioned earthenware handicrafts are trading well this year, and the prices range from at least K50 to K1,000. Items priced over K2,000 include piggy banks at K1,700 to K2,600, Buddha statues at K5,000 to K7,000 for one statue, and flower vases at K400, K500, and over K2,000 in the market. — Maung Aye Chan/TRKM

NATIONAL

IPRD launches capacity-building training 1/2023

Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn opens the IPRD capacity-building training 1/2023 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE opening ceremony for capacity-building training 1/2023 of the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) under the Ministry of Information was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the ceremony, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn said that the capacity building training courses for staff are being conducted so that they can perform the duties of the department successfully and develop the individual's work capacities in line with the visions of the ministry.

The department conducted training sessions, basic computer courses and basic English courses for freshers and daily wage workers of the head office, and application of Digital Library Management System (DLMS), basic library skills for staff of district/township offices and pre-employment and photoshop/editing training courses for the newly appointed deputy staff officers.

He continued that the training will deliver various subjects relating to employee management and financing, civil services law, by-law, office manual, financial rules, finance, personnel and maintenance/repairs, public library management and Digital Library Management System and so on.

Moreover, it will also include the subjects that are related to work implementations of the department branches and are required to be learnt by studying hard to be able to contribute to the practical fields.

Then, the Union minister had a documentary photo taken together with departmental officials and trainees.

A total of 31 staff officers from IPRD district offices from regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw Council joined the training that will be conducted from 20 November to 1 December. — MNA/KTZH

MoI DM inspects information processes in Mandalay Region

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Ye Tint inspected the retransmission factory in Chauk on 19 November. He issued orders to the factory manager and staff to address necessary tasks. Subsequently, he visited the office of the Department of Information and Public Relations in Kyaukpadaung and held a meeting with the staff.

In the afternoon, he visited the Pakokku and NyaungU district offices, where he met the district office staff from the townships, issuing necessary directives.

He arrived at the Meiktila district office and conducted an inspection of the library, meeting with the district officers and staff yesterday morning. Following this, he held a meeting with the officials and employees of Mahlaing Township and Wundwin Township to address various business-related matters. Staff from Myingyan District, Taungtha Township, Ngazun Township, Natogyi Township, and Thazi Township attended the meeting online.

Afterwards, he inspected the Myanma Radio and Television retransmission station in Meiktila, where he met the factory manager and employees, and gave the necessary instructions.

In the afternoon, he visited offices of Pyawbwe township and the district office of Yamethin. In the evening, he reached the Tatkon Township office and conducted a departmental work inspection. — MNA/KZW

Deputy Minister U Ye Tint inspects the MRTV retransmission station in Meiktila on 19 November 2023.

Myanmar Nationals in Thailand: Passport loss requires CI application

Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok allows applications for certificates of identity for nationals who lost passports.

THE Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok has announced that Myanmar nationals holding the passport for visit (PV) or other passport types, who arrive in Thailand for visitation purposes but lose their passports, are now permitted to apply for the certificate of identity (CI) to facilitate their return to Myanmar.

According to the embassy, applicants seeking the CI must submit the required documents to the Myanmar embassy or relevant consulates-general. The necessary documents include an application letter, personal information (to be completed in the passport application form), a police recommendation letter for the lost passport (translated into English), a copy of the citizenship scrutiny card (CSC), a copy of the household registration form, a copy of the two-way air ticket, a coloured photo in 1.5 inches by two inches, and a copy of the passport. Children born to two Myanmar-citizen parents abroad should apply at the Myanmar Embassy for the issuance of the CI if they wish to return to Myanmar.

Additionally, Myanmar expatriates in Thailand holding a job passport (PJ), who have lost their passports and applied for a new one, are also required to apply for the CI at the Myanmar Embassy or Consulate-General if they have an emergency and need to return to Myanmar during the new passport application process.

Applicants are allowed to depart for Myanmar only by flight. Upon arrival at Yangon or Mandalay airports, immigration officers will retain their CIs. As a result, they must follow the procedures outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to return to Thailand. The cost for a CI book is 400 baht. — TWA/TMT

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification No 46/2023

8th Waxing of Tazaungmone 1385 ME
20 November 2023

Allowing Modern People Party to register as political party

AS of 20 November 2023, Modern People Party, with its headquarters located at No 101, Apartment 100/101, Aung Thukha Street in No 5 Ward of Kamayut Township in Yangon Region, has been allowed to register under Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law.

The registration number of the Modern People Party is 41.

Sd/Thein Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification No 47/2023

8th Waxing of Tazaungmone 1385 ME
20 November 2023

Allowing Labour Party to register as political party

AS of 20 November 2023, the Labour Party, with its headquarters located at No 33/49, at the corner of Maha Bandoola Park Road and Bank Street, Ward No 1 in Kyauktada Township of Yangon Region, has been allowed to register under Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law.

The registration number of the Labour Party is 42.

Sd/Thein Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification No 48/2023

8th Waxing of Tazaungmone 1385 ME
20 November 2023

Removal from list of registered political parties and dissolving

1. The Union Election Commission permitted the Shan State Kokang Democratic Party to register as a political party under Notification 24/2023 on 30 May 2023, with registration number 19.
2. The Shan State Kokang Democratic Party failed to mobilize at least 1,000 party members within 90 days after granting registration as a political party from 30 May 2023 to 27 August 2023 under Section 5 (f) of the Political Parties Registration Law. Although the party was informed to meet the stipulated party members no later than 31 October 2023, it did not submit the party members as per the stipulation. Therefore, it breached the provisions of paragraph (9) of Sub-section (a) of Section 12 of the Political Parties Registration Law, and so the UEC Management Committee meeting No 32/2023 held on 20 November 2023 decided to revoke its registration and dissolve the party under Sub-section (b) of Section 12 of the Political Parties Registration Law.
3. Therefore, the Shan State Kokang Democratic Party has been cancelled from being registered and dissolved as a political party starting 20 November 2023.

Sd/Thein Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Myanmar delegation participates in 2023 China Intl Travel Mart, ASEAN-China Tourism Investment

The China International Travel Mart 2023 in progress from 17 to 19 November in Kunming, Yunnan Province.

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Thet Thet Khine participated in the 2023 China International Travel Mart and the ASEAN-China Tourism Industry Investment Conference in Kunming, Yunnan Province. The events, held from 17 to 19 November, aimed to promote tourism cooperation between China and other countries.

During the visit, the delegation engaged in discussions with Yunnan Province officials on tourism cooperation, with a focus on bilateral issues and human resource development in Myanmar's hotels and tourism sector. The Union minister also addressed the media, highlighting the opportunities for investment in Myanmar's tourism industry.

On 18 November, the delegation attended the ASEAN-China Tourism Investment Conference, where the Union minister delivered an opening speech. She emphasized the strategic importance of attracting tourism investments to the ASEAN region, aligning with the ASEAN Tourism Master Strategy Plan (2016-2025). The Directorate of Hotels and Tourism provided insights into Myanmar's tourism investment situation through a presentation.

The 2023 China International Tourism Fair, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative, aimed to boost global tourism in the post-Covid-19 period. The Myanmar delegation returned to Yangon on 19 November, concluding their participation in these significant events. — MNA/TS

COVID-19 report, 13 November to 19 November 2023

NEW TESTS	27,166
NEW CASES	Seven
CASUALTIES	Nil

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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

CBM implements measures for reimbursement, security amid bank attacks

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) has arranged to reimburse money lost in recent attacks on some banks upon submission of evidence, according to Deputy-Governor Dr Lin Aung in an interview with local media.

Arrangements have been made to facilitate withdrawals when customers submit supporting documents for the money lost in attacks on certain banks. Account verification can be handled at any branch for such withdrawals, as all banks have the account data of affected customers.

Furthermore, if a branch of any bank has to cease services for various reasons, it will not result in the freezing of deposits. Customers can still withdraw money at any branch of the bank nationwide based on the type of their deposits.

The Central Bank of Myanmar, Bureau of Special Investigation, and Financial Intelligence Unit are on high alert, closely monitoring recent cash withdrawals at banks. Details for cash withdrawals exceeding K100 million, as specified by the Anti-Money Laundering Central Body, are reported to the Financial Intelligence Unit.

If speculative activities are identified in any withdrawal, individuals involved will face severe punishment according to the law. Additionally, the Central Bank of Myanmar is collaborating with other law enforcement organizations to reveal instigators spreading fake news and propaganda that misleads the public to withdraw money from banks, intending to impose deterrent penalties in line with legal provisions. — ASH/ZN

Myanmar, Brazil to jointly implement pharmaceutical projects

The meeting between the Myanmar ambassador to Brazil (R) and the ABC technical cooperation head underway for the joint implementation of pharmaceutical projects in Myanmar.

MYANMAR and Brazil set to collaborate on projects involving the manufacturing of high-quality anti-snake venom, vaccination, and serum collection in Myanmar, as announced by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Regarding these projects, discussions took place between Myanmar Ambassador to Brazil U Aung Kyaw Zan and Mr Nelci Peres Caixeta, Head of Technical Cooperation for Africa, Asia, and Oceania Department at the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) under the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, on 17 November.

In the meeting, both parties cordially discussed the implementation plans for the technical upgrade project of antivenom production in Myanmar, which was agreed upon and signed between the two countries under the framework of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency. They also explored the exchange of experts and the sharing of technologies between the two nations.

Through this project agreement, the joint implementation of vaccination and serum collection, along with the production of high-quality anti-snake venom in Myanmar, will soon commence. The collaboration will involve Myanmar's pharmaceutical factory (Insein) (BPI) and the Butantan Institute of Brazil, based in São Paulo, as per the guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO). — ASH/ZN

Literary luminary Daw Kywe Kywe, Pakokku U Ohn Pe Lifetime Achievement Awardee, passes away

ACCORDING to Daw Cho Cho Latt, daughter of the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement recipient Sayamagyi Daw Kywe Kywe, who was eligible for a respect-paying ceremony of the Myanmar Writers' Association, she passed away at her house located in Dagon Myothit (East) Township at 6:15 pm on 19 November.

At the time of her passing, Sayamagyi Daw Kywe Kywe was 91 years old. She was one of the writers eligible for a respect-paying ceremony of the Myanmar Writers' Association and the honourable patron of the Myittatakun Association and the Writers' Association of Dagon Myothit (East) Township.

Daw Cho Cho Latt stated, "Sayamagyi died of old age at 6:15 pm on 19 November. She was in the hospital last week and came home as she felt better, and then she passed away."

Sayamagyi Daw Kywe Kywe received the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement in 2019, and a collection of short stories titled "Pantakar aphwint and other short stories" was published in commemoration of her 90th birthday.

Sayamagyi Daw Kywe Kywe at her 90th birthday.

She joined the literary arena with her short story "Moungtan", published in Linn Yone Magazine in March 1951. She continued to write numerous works until her last moments, including books like "Kyamatoh mainmathar", "Kayee Phyatthan Kabyar Lann", and "The Spirits of Heroes", among others. — ASH/TRKM

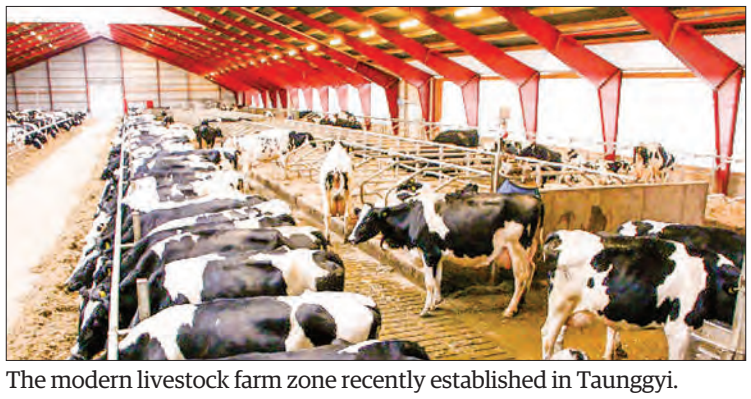
Small-scale livestock breeding zone emerged in Taunggyi

A small-scale livestock breeding zone is being established on 659 acres of land in Taunggyi Township of Shan State, according to Dr Aung Tun Min, Head of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (Taunggyi Township).

A total of 11 entrepreneurs breed 480 dairy cows, 2,000 meat cattle and 1,000 local cows in the modern livestock farm zone.

"We started to implement this small-scale modern livestock farm zone in March. The location is in Kyaukni agriculture farm in Kunlong Village-tract of Taunggyi Township. It covers 659 acres of land. It set 499.86 acres for breeders to construct livestock farms. We will use the remaining land as pastureland. Eleven entrepreneurs started operating breeding processes in October," said Dr Aung Tun Min.

Entrepreneurs must run their breeding businesses within two years and they must plant and reap the plants for animal feed in the zone aiming to reduce the herding system in the region gradually. — ASH/KTZH



The modern livestock farm zone recently established in Taunggyi.

NATIONAL

Call for collaboration with young entrepreneurs, seasoned businesswomen

UMFCCI President U Aye Win remarked, "Changes are constantly happening in the present-day world. We need to prepare the necessary plans to tackle arising challenges in doing business. If we can turn encountered challenges into opportunities, better business platforms will emerge. Young entrepreneurs possess technological skills, and they can share their experiences and knowledge. Women entrepreneurs from different businesses are well-experienced. Thus, UMFCCI calls for collaboration with these two associations."

The UMFCCI president mentioned the above remarks at the ceremony for signing the MoU between Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Network (MYANWEN) and Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association (MYEA), along with educative talks on 'Global Entrepreneurship (GEW) Week 2023 – Thriving in Uncertainty', held at the office of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) on 18 November.

The 'Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW)' is usually held from 13 to 19 November in honour of entrepreneurs worldwide.

MYANWEN was established in 2020 as a steering entity to contribute to the socioeconomic development of Myanmar. The MYEA was organized in 2012 by the guidance of the UMFCCI. — TWA/ TMT

UMFCCI President U Aye Win seen speaking on the occasion 'Global Entrepreneurship (GEW) Week 2023 - Thriving in Uncertainty' event on 18 November.

Traders send chilli peppers to cold storage amid sluggish market

A cold storage factory.

SOME chilli pepper traders who kept the stocks in their hands and who bought them at high prices moved to store them in cold storage to increase the shelf life and fetch high prices in the wake of price plunge and lack of demand in the market.

The chilli pepper market has started to fall since mid-2023.

Pyawbwe Moehtaung chilli pepper entered the market at K14,800 per viss in mid-August. The price plummeted to K9,000-9,500 per vis in mid-November owing to a high influx of new chilli pepper (Moehtaung) from the Yamethin area.

With the prices of long chilli peppers declining, some offer lower pricing when there is a demand from chilli powder manufacturers.

The prices stood at K6,000-7,000 per viss of long chilli pepper and K11,000-14,000 per viss of chilli pepper processed at cold storage.

Similarly, the prices of bell peppers also dropped to K12,500-13,500 per viss these days from K17,000 at the beginning of the harvest season.

The cold storage charge is approximately K1,000 per viss of chilli pepper.

The prices of long chilli peppers and bell peppers processed in cold storage and the original ones vary in 2022, showing a price difference of K5,000-15,000 per viss. The price of bell pepper processed in cold storage hit a high of K31,000 per viss on 17 November 2022 from K9,500-12,000 in mid-2022. — TWA/EM

Thukha Dagon public housing applicants ink contracts

THUKHA Dagon public rental housing applicants started signing contracts on 20 November, as confirmed by the applicants themselves. The applicants for 1,728 flats were chosen through transparent lots-drawing winners on 13 and 14 November. The signing period ends on 30 November.

"We submitted the rent and signed the contract this morning. Each group of five applicants entered the respective counter and paid advance rent for three months, one-month rent for December, a K11,000 fee for security and maintenance, and K8,000 for tax stamps," says U Tun Shwe, a lucky applicant from the first round. Each applicant needs to bring three copies of the household list, the citizenship scrutiny card (front and back), and notification letters confirming rental rights given on the day of the lots drawing, respectively. They also need three copies of four by six inches size photos of each family member submitted during the application process.

Flats at Thukha Dagon Public Housing.

Another applicant, Ma Htway Yi, told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM): "They said we had to submit our photos and write our names and CSC numbers on the back of each photo. We heard that any extra person that's not included in the application is ineligible. We'll go in later days since we have time until the end of this month." The housing project is located at the junction of No 2 and No 7 Highways near the No 2 tollgate in Yangon. It encompasses 194 blocks, with each block containing 16 flats.

"Those who didn't get lucky in the first round could apply again in February. They had another chance in the second round in April," says Ma Nilar Kyaw, a Thanlyin resident who did not win any flat in the first lots drawing. The flats belonging to the 14-November lots-drawing winners still need wiring and some finishing touches. So, they are not required to sign the contracts this month. The authorities said they would notify the applicants for contract signing two weeks in advance. — TWA/NT

YGN palm oil wholesale reference price set K300 higher this week ending 27 Nov

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil for the Yangon market was set higher to K4,990 for a week from 20 to 27 November from K4,680 recorded last week (13-19 November), indicating an increase of K310 per viss, according to the Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly.

Nevertheless, the market price was higher than the reference price.

To deal with the overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed the consumers of lodging the complaints for overcharging through the call centre's hotline in late August. The Department urged consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices.

The Department is making concerted efforts to steer the high volatility in palm oil prices in the retail market and offer fairer prices to the consumers, in coordination with the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association and oil importing companies.

Vendors preparing cooking oil for sale in the market in Yangon.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over the hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department or sent to the Facebook Page of the Department and the region and state departments concerned.

Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association formed a task force for edible oil price stability and started informing the lists of wholesale/retail shops of each company on 28 August, including the address of the shops in the respective townships and the number of available barrels. The task force will govern the market to meet the satisfaction of the end-users in the supply chain and get easy access to the consumers.

It will also supervise the market to ensure that palm oil sales at wholesale prices are not higher than two per cent of the net profit margin and retail prices are not higher than the 10 per cent margin.

The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the domestic demands, about 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/EM

International Mineral & Mining Forum welcomes Myanmar businesspersons

MYANMAR businesspersons have been invited to join the International Mineral and Mining Forum which will be held in January 2024 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The objective of this forum is to attract investments of international and domestic companies in mineral and mining exploration. The forum consists of technical sessions, exhibitions and industrial site visits.

Associate Professor Dr Anwaruddun Hisyam, Senior Lecturer and Chemical Engineer of the University of Malaysia in Pahang, Malaysia, and Mr Rohitesh Dhawan, President and CEO of the International Council on Mining & Metal will attend the forum as guest speakers.

The foreign participants are not required to pay to attend plenary sessions and industrial exhibitions. Please register at www.immf.IK for accommodation concession. The participants must bear the charges to visit the industrial sites.

Those enthusiastic can contact the trade development division of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization via Ph: 067 3408622 and Email: event.td.myantrade@gmail.com within office hours. — NN/EM

Watermelon growers encouraged to focus on quality to maintain exports

WATERMELON growers are urged to prioritize quality in maintaining exports amid mounting loss of watermelons exported to China, Khwanyo Fruit Depot affirmingly stated.

"Torrential rain these days resulted in crop damage. This being so, rain-fed melons should not be harvested yet as it could deteriorate quality. The growers should wait for a few days to maintain quality," Sai Khin Maung, an owner of Khwarnyo Fruit Depot pointed out.

"Myanmar's watermelon depends on Xishuangbanna Dai autonomous prefecture of Dai people in Yunnan Province. Earlier, it was primarily delivered to Yunnan. Amid the road closure at some Myanmar-China borders, we had to shift to other potential markets. The market is expected to be solid soon. Watermelon growers are still facing a series of challenges and unavoidable trade barriers. Some watermelon and muskmelon growers are taking the risk to export the melons to China amid transport hurdles. They are still struggling with high freight rates and other multiple risks," Sai Khin Maung stressed. Myanmar's watermelon is primarily exported to China. However, traders are facing challenges amid the policy changes in China, fruit traders stressed.

In early February, tight inspections of Chinese Customs hindered truck transport. That being so, only 20-30 trucks were able to pass the checkpoint despite high demand. Consequently, watermelon was sold out at the depots on the China side, and more than 500 trucks queued in line on the Myanmar side.

In 2021, the COVID-19 restrictions hindered Myanmar's watermelon and muskmelon exports to China. Chinese Customs Regulation increased delay. Long delays of trucks caused harm to watermelon quality and only one in five trucks heading to China remained undamaged with quality watermelons.

The traders need to contemplate delivery time, price and profitability as watermelon is a perishable fruit while trying to explore new markets beyond China. — NN/EM

Export watermelons seen on the Myanmar-China border.

OPINION

Preserve environments: A heritage for future generations

IN a stern warning issued by European scientists on 8 November 2023, it was declared that this year would mark the warmest globally in a staggering 125,000 years. Startlingly, October of this year clinched the title of the warmest month in the same time span, registering a 0.4-degree Celsius increase compared to the previous October. Records reveal that this October surpassed the average atmospheric temperature of October between 1850 and 1900 by a notable 1.7 degrees Celsius as reported by different news agencies.

The surge in global temperatures this year is attributed to escalating greenhouse gas emissions and the influence of El Niño in the eastern Pacific Ocean. The consequential climate change, a consequence of El Niño, is unprecedented and reverberating across the globe. Hence, everybody needs to endure the overheat of these Saturn climatic conditions.

Despite numerous countries expressing steadfast commitments to combat climate change, some falter in upholding these promises, evading responsibility for the collective future. This raises the pivotal question of how to prevent global warming and climate change. The answer lies in a collective emphasis on averting the aforementioned problems, which pose an existential threat to humanity.

A survey by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) indicates that the ten hottest years within the past 150 years occurred during the period between the late 20th Century and early 21st Century. Currently, the world witnesses an annual rise of 0.6 degrees Celsius or one degree Fahrenheit in average temperature, fostering deforestation and global warming through excessive carbon dioxide emissions.

Presently, the world grapples with the detrimental impacts of recurring El Niño and La Niña phenomena. Consequently, environmental degradation, floods, droughts, heat waves, forest fires, storms, glacier melting, rising sea levels, and food and water shortages afflict the entire globe, including Myanmar. Climate experts have long asserted that these adversities stem from the heedless activities of humans.

Despite numerous countries expressing steadfast commitments to combat climate change, some falter in upholding these promises, evading responsibility for the collective future. This raises the pivotal question of how to prevent global warming and climate change. The answer lies in a collective emphasis on averting the aforementioned problems, which pose an existential threat to humanity.

Crucially, individuals and nations alike must curtail the consumption of fossil fuels, significant contributors to carbon dioxide emissions, and actively engage in preventing deforestation. Simultaneously, efficient utilization of renewable energy, along with endeavours to conserve energy and reduce carbon dioxide emissions, is very important.

Failure to act will subject humans and all living beings to even harsher consequences of climate change and global warming in the future. To ensure prolonged coexistence, the preservation of the environment to enhance global climatic conditions becomes paramount, requiring timely and concerted efforts from the entire world.

ARTICLE

World Philosophy Day 2023

A Brief Glimpse of afterlife Concepts in Plato's *Phaedo* and the Buddhist text *Milinda Panna*

By Myint Zan

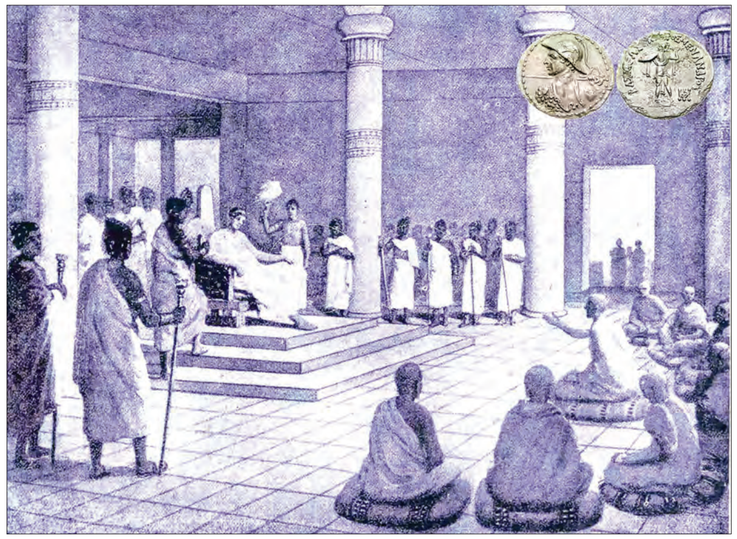
After-life as depicted in Plato's *Phaedo*

The English translation of *The Last Days of Socrates* from ancient Greek was done by among others classicists Benjamin Jowett and Hugh Tredennick. The translation contains four 'Chapters': *Euthrypo, Apology, Crito* and *Phaedo*. The longest among the four is *Phaedo*. In the 1960s the late Burmese poet and scholar Saya ('teacher') Zawgyi translated parts of *Apology*, the full narration of Crito and only a very small part of the long and turgid *Phaedo* into Burmese.

In the *Phaedo* originally written by Plato is about the long conversations Socrates had with his disciples on the day of his execution. Socrates discoursed largely about the after-life which he was so confident that he would 'transmigrate' to after he drank the hemlock. Saya (teacher) Zawgyi translated into Burmese a select few of Plato's Dialogues from the English translations mainly those done by Benjamin Jowett. As Saya himself disarmingly and (in the positive sense of the words) mischievously wrote in his Preface to Palay Toe Needan 'Introduction to Plato' should he (Zawgyi) have attempted to translate from the ancient Greek the translations could have been considerably delayed! Zawgyi did not translate the 'tract' or treatise Euthrypo which, in my opinion, is the most philosophical among the four treatises that constitute The Last Day of Socrates. Zawgyi did translate (from the English translation) only about the last 1,500 words of Phaedo and in one of the republished editions of Pala Toe Needan the concluding segment of (as stated above around 1,500 words) the Phaedo, as translated into English by Benjamin Jowett is reproduced.

At the end of Chapter Euthyphro, the person stated that he could not answer Socrates' questions and 'cut him off' saying he had somewhere to go. Plato ended the dialogue between Socrates and Euthyphro inconclusively since the problematique Socrates had raised 'whether certain actions and conduct are considered pious because the (ancient Athenian) gods love them or the Athenian gods love them because they are pious' was not resolved.

As stated in the *Phaedo*, Socrates and Plato's beliefs in the afterlife (or the underworld) Socrates ostensibly or arguably is still having endless 'philosophical discourse' with his fellow philosophers that came before and after his earthly sojourn. But some of his 'successors' like, say, philosophers David Hume in the 18th century and Bertrand Russell in the 20th did not believe in any form of after-life so perhaps they would not be among the philosophical 'mates' discoursing with Socrates.



King *Menander* questions Nagasena, from a 19th century illustration. Coins with the likeness of Menander are in the upper right corner. **PHOTO: ILLUSTRATION: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS / PUBLIC DOMAIN**

In the *Phaedo* after Socrates' execution *Phaedo* the person was requested by Socrates's disciples to narrate to them about Socrates' last day on Earth "if you (*Phaedo*) have the time". *Phaedo* replied that he had 'lots of time' to narrate about the discourse Socrates made to his disciples. Reading the long discourse in the *Phaedo* I wish that Phaedo (like Euthyphro) did not have time and have 'somewhere to go..' so that we would be spared the turgid discourse of Socrates on the after-life.

Afterlife as depicted in the Buddhist text *Milinda Panna*

Briefly, Plato's conception of the 'after-life' is very much different from the Theravada Buddhist concept of 'rebirth' based on the concept of (in transliterated Pali word) Anatta (non-self/no-soul). Plato's *Phaedo* is at the least 'non-Buddhistic' and perhaps to use a polarized term almost 'anti-Theravada Buddhist ' since it is contrary to the Anatta concept.

In the canonical Buddhist literature, there is no soul. As explained by the Buddhist monk Nagasena around 150 Before the Current Era (BCE) to King Milinda (Menander) in the text *Milinda Panna* ('Discourses in the Milinda') it is not the soul that transmigrates to the after-life but the karmic effects of one's actions. Nagasena explained that when the flame from a lit lantern is taken to lit another lantern then just as the flame in the new lantern is not considered to be the 'same flame' it is also not a new 'flame'. So unlike in the *Phaedo* if Socrates were to be reborn it is not the permanent soul of Socrates that is being 'transmigrated' to the afterlife but the new-but-not-new Socrates without a permanent soul which is being reborn.

The *Milinda Panna* is a series of dialogues between monk Nagasena and King Milinda on Buddhist philosophy and metaphysics. It was ostensibly composed around 150 Before the Current Era (BCE) in the Sanskrit language, later translated into Pali language (the *lingua franca* of Southeast Asian Buddhism) and in the early 20th century translated into English. Just as in the 1960s scholar Zawgyi translated a few *Dialogues* of Plato (from English translations) into Burmese also in the 1960s another Burmese scholar the late U Thaw Zin who was proficient in the Pali language translated from Pali into Burmese a select few excerpts from the Milinda Panha.

Plato's *Dialogues* preceded the discourses and the dialogue in the *Milinda Panna* by about 400 years. It is said that King Milinda/Menander was of Greek origin or 'extraction'. He ruled Bactra parts of what can be considered present-day Afghanistan. One does not know whether Milinda/Menander could read or write (ancient) Greek language but was perhaps unlikely that either the adept king Menander or the erudite monk Nagasena were aware of the existence not to say the contents of Plato's Phaedo.

The simple statement concerning no before or after-life of the Rationalist Society of Australia

The after-life or after-lives (in the case of Buddhist texts) is/are taken as a premise indeed an axiom in the *Phaedo* and *Milinda Panna* albeit the modes of rebirth, reincarnation, 'transmigration' as the case may be depicted in the two texts are radically different.

Fast forward from Plato's time around 2,300 years ago and Nagasena/Minander's time of around 1,900 years ago to the early 21st century. One of the mottos or announcements of the Rationalist Society of Australia is that there is no 'before-life' and 'after-life'. If *mirabile dictu* or *ex hypothesi* Plato/Socrates or Nagasena were to 'come back' would they debate with each other about the nature of the after-life? Would both of these great ancient, philosophical personages who flourished roughly four centuries apart reject, in their own ways, the simple postulate, the assertion (okay 'statement') of the Rationalist Society of Australia that there is no 'before-life' or 'after-life' as 'simplistic'?

Dr Myint Zan is a retired Professor of Law. He taught, among other subjects, Jurisprudence (Legal Philosophy) at Multimedia University, Malacca from 2007 to 2016. He established a Myint Zan Fellowship in Philosophy for Early Career Researchers at The Australia National University (ANU) for the years 2018 to 2022 and a Myint Zan prize in the Philosophy of Science in perpetuity for undergraduate ANU philosophy students. ■

Research shows air cleaners don't stop you getting sick

A recent study indicates that air filtration systems, intended to enhance safety in indoor spaces and reduce the risk of viral illnesses, are not effective in real-world settings.

According to new research from the University of East Anglia, air filtration systems do not reduce the risk of contracting viral illnesses.

A new study reveals that technologies designed to make social interactions safer in indoor spaces are not effective in the real world.

Technological Solutions Explored

The team studied technologies including air filtration, germicidal lights and ionisers.

They looked at all the available evidence but found little to support hopes that these technologies can make air safe from respiratory or gastrointestinal infections.

Prof Paul Hunter, from UEA's Norwich Medical School, said: "Air cleaners are designed to filter pollutants or contaminants out of the air that passes through them.

"When the Covid pandemic hit, many large companies and governments - including the NHS, the British military, and New York City and regional German governments - investigated installing this type of technology in a bid to reduce airborne virus particles in buildings and small spaces.

"But air treatment technologies can be expensive. So it's reasonable to weigh up the benefits against costs, and to understand the current capabilities of such technologies."

The research team studied evidence about whether air cleaning technologies make people safe from catching airborne respiratory or gastrointestinal infections.

They analysed evidence about microbial infections or symptoms in people exposed or not to air treatment technologies in 32 studies, all conducted in real world settings like schools or care homes. So far none of the studies of air treatment started during the Covid era have been published.

SOURCE: ANI

Air filtration systems do not reduce the risk of contracting viral illnesses. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ANI**

NATIONAL

Security Forces clear and restore PyinOoLwin-Nawnghkio-Kyaukme-Lashio Union Highway for smooth public transport

IN addition to committing various terror acts, including the destruction of department buildings, roads, and bridges by mine blasts in Shan State (North), TNLA and PDF terrorists have been destroying public transport roads used for regional logistics. The roads, which are not military targets, are disrupted by digging deep cross ditches and blocking them with piles of earth cuttings.

The destructive activities of TNLA and PDF terrorists include cutting and blocking roads by slashing trees and creating cross pits along the PyinOoLwin-Nawnghkio-Kyaukme-Lashio Union Highway. These activities occurred at one location each near Shwenyaungpin, Nawnghkio township, Lelkyinkway village, Ohmmakha village, Goktwin Viewpoint, and Naungpit junction, as well as seven locations between Naungpit and Naungpain villages. Due to these perpetrations, travellers and vehicles were unable to use roads, causing significant disruptions and losses for the emergency health matters of locals.

After making necessary security arrangements, security forces step by step cleared the blockades made by terrorists, starting from 6 November, and attempted to restore convenient transport for the public. On the night of 19 November, a total of 12 blocked locations were reopened. Thanks to removing barriers, the road up to Kyaukme has now been restored to regular traffic, and the security forces will continue trying to clear the remaining blockades along the Union Highway for normal operation. The security forces, in cooperation with residents, are making progress in conducting a counter-terrorism campaign against terrorists who destroyed public transport roads that are not military targets. — MNA/ZN

Clear-up operations in progress in Goktwin Viewpoint (L & R photos).

Removing measures in the Naungpit junction (L & R photos).

Locals carry out emergency patients.

Transfer of illegal immigrants continues

THE government has been transferring illegal immigrants entering the country through borders after scrutiny to their home countries in an effort to maintain law and order.

A total of 1,042 Chinese individuals (982 men and 60 women) were handed over yesterday. A total of 2,059 Chinese immigrants (1,917 men and 142 women) from China have been exposed and verified between 31 October and 20 November.

The government reaffirmed its commitment to finding and transferring illegal immigrants. — MNA/NT

The transfer of illegal immigrants underway on the Myanmar-China border.

Illegal timbers and consumer goods confiscated

THE Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force, in coordinated efforts, confiscated a total of 3.725 tonnes of illegal teak with an estimated value of K1,440,620 in Bago and Toungoo districts on 20 November. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On the same day, an on-duty team from the Customs Department impounded 90 units of Kashiwa Red Electric pans and 2,400 bags of Smart softener, collectively valued at K4.2 million, lacking official documents at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint.

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee reported two arrests on 20 November, with a total estimated value of K5,640,620. — MNA/MKKS

Seized illegal teak in Bago Region.

At NY Met, European masters can be seen in a new light

FIVE centuries of European painting can be seen in a new light starting Monday, thanks to a five-year, $150 million renovation at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The bold redo of the museum's massive wing devoted to masters from the 14th to 19th century includes a range of improvements, including to the section's skylights.

More than 700 Dutch, Flemish, French, Italian, Spanish and English masterpieces — by artists including Johannes Vermeer, Rembrandt, Francisco Goya and El Greco — have been rehung and put back on display on the walls of the 45 galleries of the permanent exhibition "Look Again: European Paintings 1300-1800."

The Met has one of the largest collections of European paintings in the world, according to its director, Max Hollein.

Visitors walk through a gallery during a press preview at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York on 16 November 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

The Austrian art historian leads one of the richest museums on the planet, thanks in large part to its deep-pocketed donors.

But the major renovation was vital, especially as the Met has been losing visitors since 2019.

As part of the renovation, all the rooms topped by skylights have been repainted, reorganized chronologically and re-lit.

The aging skylights themselves were also replaced, according to the museum — a move which has "improved the quality of light" and "enhanced the experience of looking at (the) paintings".

The sprawling museum — in Beaux-Arts construction and located on Fifth Avenue on the edge of Central Park — boasts the largest collection outside of Europe of Dutch art from the 17th century, and of Greco and Goya works outside Spain.

The Met has also recently acquired paintings by women artists or portraits representing them, such as a still life by the Flemish painter Clara Peeters from the 17th century, and the portrait of an Indian woman by the British painter William Wood at the end of the 18th century during India's colonial era. — AFP

Shakira reaches deal to settle Spain tax fraud case

COLOMBIAN superstar Shakira will pay millions of euros in fines as part of a settlement announced Monday with Spanish prosecutors to settle her tax fraud case and avoid trial.

Under the deal, announced at the start of what would have been the trial of the 46-year-old singer, Shakira agreed to receive a three-year suspended sentence and to pay 7.3 million euros ($7.98 million) in fines.

Prosecutors had accused the superstar of defrauding the Spanish state of 14.5 million euros ($15.7 million) on income earned between 2012 and 2014, charges Shakira had denied, saying she only moved to Spain full time in 2015.

The singer, who wore a pink suit and sunglasses, did not speak to the throng of reporters as he entered and left the Barcelona courthouse, but in a statement she said she had agreed to settle for the sake of her two sons, Milan and Sasha. — AFP

Colombian singer Shakira (R) leaves the High Court of Justice of Catalonia after attending her trial on tax fraud, in Barcelona on 20 November 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

New Tezuka "Black Jack" manga episode created using AI unveiled

A new episode of Osamu Tezuka's famous "Black Jack" manga made with the help of artificial intelligence was unveiled Monday, with the creators saying that while the work reflected the spirit of the late legendary manga artist, its ability to depict human feelings remains an issue.

"We are happy that a very Tezuka Osamu-like work has been created," said Makoto Tezuka, son of the late artist and director at Tezuka Productions Co, one of the organizers of the project, which was launched to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the medical drama about an unlicensed genius surgeon.

Makoto Tezuka (L) unveils a new episode of the "Black Jack" manga comic at a press conference in Tokyo on 20 November 2023. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The latest 32-page episode will be published Wednesday in the weekly comic magazine Shukan Shonen Champion and will feature a female patient who has had a transplant for what was supposed to have been a "perfect" AI-made artificial heart. The magazine ran the original Black Jack series from 1973 and 1983. — Kyodo

Napoleon's hat sells for record sum at French auction

A hat belonging to Napoleon Bonaparte when he was French emperor sold for a record of nearly two million euros at a French auction on Sunday, the auction house said.

It went for 1.932 million euros ($2.1 million) — breaking the previous record for a Napoleonic hat, held by the same auction house, of 1.884 million euros in 2014 shelled out by a South Korean businessman.

The hat, known as a bicorne, is in Napoleon's trademark colours — black, with the French flag's colours blue-white-red as insignia — and attracted interest from collectors "the world over", auctioneers Osenat said, declining to give the identity or nationality of the eventual buyer. — AFP

ECONOMY
WORLD

African countries urged to speed up efforts in enhancing agricultural development

AFRICAN countries have made tangible progress in enhancing agricultural productivity, promoting sustainable farming practices and addressing food security and rural poverty, but more efforts are needed to mitigate food-related challenges, African Union (AU) Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture Josefa Sacko said.

"Through initiatives such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), investment in agricultural infrastructure, and the promotion of sustainable farming practices, we have seen positive impacts on the lives of millions of smallholder farmers and rural households across the continent," Sacko told a meeting of agricultural ministers Friday at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

He cautioned that the countries are lagging behind in fulfilling the seven broad commitments of the CAADP, a flagship programme aimed to enhance agricultural development on the African continent.

African countries passed the Malabo Declaration in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea in June 2014, committing themselves to upholding the CAADP principles and values; enhancing investment in agriculture; ending hunger and halving poverty by 2025; boosting intra-African agricultural trade and enhancing resilience to climate variability, among others, as means to implement the CAADP.

"Two years remaining before the Malabo Declaration period lapses, there is urgency for member states to accelerate CAADP implementation, including through the provision of the financing required to achieve the aspirations of CAADP in order to build resilient African food system," the commissioner said.

"Lack of investment, internal dispute and war, and external factors including climate change are some of the factors contributing to prevailing food insecurity and malnutrition in Africa," the commissioner said in an interview with Xinhua.

"The AU needs to continue working with member states and regional economic communities to mitigate the food security challenges in Africa," he said. — Xinhua

This photo taken on 18 November 2023 shows visitors taking photos in the Old Town in the southern Thai island of Phuket. **PHOTO: AFP**

Thailand economy stagnates in third quarter

THAILAND'S economy grew less than expected in the third quarter owing to still-weak exports, officials said Monday, as the government pushes a stimulus programme that includes cash handouts worth about $14 billion.

The kingdom has endured a period of sluggish growth, with investor confidence knocked despite a new government taking office and ending months of political uncertainty.

The National Economic and Social Development Council said gross domestic product grew 1.5 per cent on-year in July-September, well off the 2.2 per cent tipped by the NESDC and slower than the previous three months.

"The increase is lower due to the decline of exports, and the export figure has been lower in three consecutive quarters this year," NESDC secretary-general Danucha Pichayanan said.

The council said it now expected the economy to grow at the low end of a forecast 2.5-3.0 per cent this year. It expanded 1.9 per cent in the first nine months.

However local consumption and investment were on a better footing, Danucha said.

New prime minister and former businessman Srettha Thavisin has promised a range of stimulus measures to spur the economy.

Among them is a plan to give everyone over 16 a handout of almost $300 in a bid to kickstart buying in the country.

He has also embarked on numerous foreign trips, seeking to attract much-needed fresh investment in the kingdom. — AFP

Restoration work on Naga balustrade, stairs at Cambodia's Angkor Wat nears completion

THE restoration work on a Naga balustrade and stairs at the southern side of the famed Angkor Wat temple in Cambodia's Angkor Archaeological Park is nearing completion, the Apsara National Authority (ANA) said in a news release on Monday.

"After a three-month restoration work, more than 90 per cent of the Naga balustrade and stairs on the southern side of Angkor Wat has been completed," Say Sophearin, an archaeologist of the ANA's Department of Temple Preservation and Archeology, said in the news release.

He said his team had repaired and strengthened the foundation of the staircase and a sandstone Naga balustrade, fixed the Naga's head, and restored the 15-metre-long balustrade to its original position.

"The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of November," he said.

Built in the 12th century by King Suryavarman II, Angkor Wat is one of the key temples in the 401-square-km Angkor Archeological Park in northwest Cambodia's Siem Reap province.

This undated photo shows the restoration site of a sandstone Naga balustrade at the southern side of the famed Angkor Wat temple in Siem Reap province, Cambodia. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

The Angkor Archeological Park, which was inscribed on the World Heritage List of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1992, is the most popular tourist destination in the Southeast Asian country.

The ancient park attracted 602,570 international tourists during the January-October period this year, earning a total revenue of nearly 28 million US dollars from ticket sales, according to the state-owned Angkor Enterprise. — Xinhua

Japan's tallest skyscraper unveiled ahead of opening in Tokyo

TOWERING at a height of 330 metres, Japan's newly-built tallest skyscraper at the heart of Tokyo was unveiled to the media Monday ahead of its opening later this week.

The Azabudai Hills Mori JP Tower, completed this summer by Mori Building Co, beats the previous title holder Abeno Harukas in Osaka by 30 metres and is slightly shorter than Tokyo Tower, the capital's landmark tower standing at 333 metres.

The building is the main feature of the Azabudai Hills complex slated to open on Friday, with the developer aiming to transform and rebuild an area formerly clustered with small wooden homes that were vulnerable to natural disasters, such as earthquakes.

In addition to office space and apartments, the multipurpose complex contains a medical institution operated by Keio University, Aman Resorts' upscale hotel, high-end restaurants, luxury shops and the British School in Tokyo.

"We have integrated various world-class city functions into one place," Junya Yamamoto, an official at Mori Building told reporters. "We have significantly raised the potential of Tokyo."

The signature skyscraper contains a co-working space and a cafeteria specially designed for employees of tenant companies to socialize outside the bounds of their organizations.

About 20,000 people are expected to work in the complex, while 3,500 people are scheduled to live in about 1,400 apartments built on the premises.

The total floor space for the complex is 861,700 square metres, larger than Roppongi Hills, a massive landmark the developer built in the nearby Roppongi district. Designed on the concept of a "modern urban village", efforts were made for it to have as much greenery as possible with 2.4 hectares, about 30 per cent of the total area, reserved for green space, according to Mori Building. — Kyodo

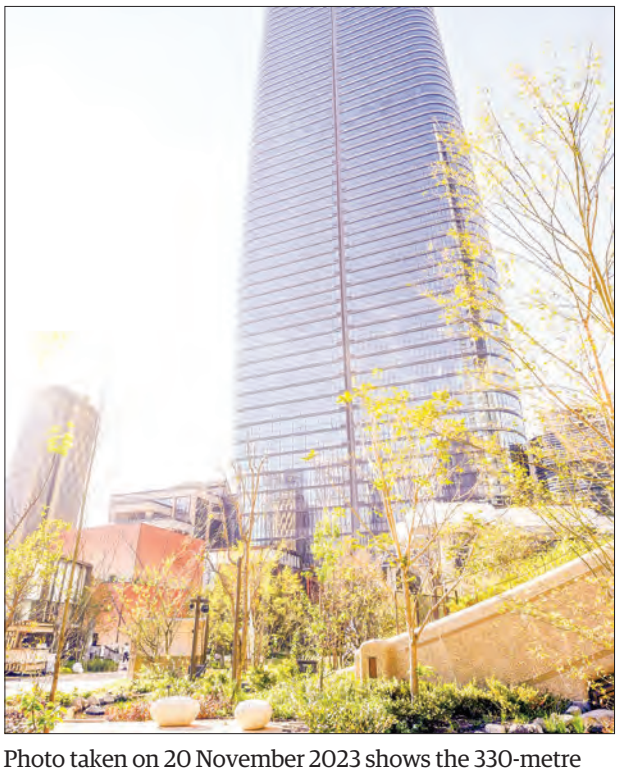


Photo taken on 20 November 2023 shows the 330-metre Mori JP Tower, the tallest office building in Japan, fronted by a central square with green spaces in the Azabudai Hills complex in Tokyo's Minato Ward. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Pedestrians walk past a security guard standing outside an outlet for the Australian communications company Optus in Sydney on 9 November 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

Australian telecoms boss quits after mass outage

THE boss of Australian telecoms provider Optus has resigned following a mass outage that cut communications to more than 10 million people, its parent group said Monday.

Chief executive Kelly Bayer Rosmarin is being replaced three days after she was grilled by Australia's Senate over a technical glitch in the early hours of 8 November that halted Optus' mobile and internet systems for nearly 12 hours.

"Having now had time for some personal reflection, I have come to the decision that my resignation is in the best interest of Optus moving forward," she said in a statement released by parent company Singtel. Singtel chief executive Yuen Kuan Moon said the outgoing Optus chief had led the company through a "challenging period" including the Covid-19 pandemic, managing to improve the company's financial performance.

"We understand her decision and wish her the very best in her future endeavours," Yuen said. — AFP

Asian markets mostly up as traders eye Fed minutes

ASIAN stocks mostly rose Monday following small gains on Wall Street as investors grow increasingly optimistic that the Federal Reserve has come to the end of its interest rate hiking cycle.

After a string of reports pointing to slowing inflation and a cooling jobs market, traders are shifting back into riskier assets as they bet on a loosening of financial conditions in the new year, with many eyeing rate cuts.

Focus will be on the release later in the week of minutes from the Fed's November policy meeting, where officials held borrowing costs and hinted that they could be finished with their tightening campaign.

A man walks past an electronic board showing numbers of the Tokyo Stock Exchange along a street in Tokyo on 15 November 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

"While the Fed is likely pleased with the evolving data, the minutes will be scrutinized in the context of easier financial conditions since the meeting and a more favourable macro environment supporting the soft landing narrative," said SPI Asset Management's Stephen Innes.

All three main indexes on Wall Street ended slightly higher Friday, while observers said they expected this week to see light trading heading into the Thanksgiving holiday. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SINAR BAJO VOY.NO. (009N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BAJO VOY.NO. (009N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-11-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (408N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (408N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-11-2023** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Israel expands Gaza operation amid hostage deal talks

GAZA braced for a further expansion of Israeli military operations on Monday even as cautious hopes built for a deal to release hostages in exchange for a pause in fighting.

The Israeli army said on Sunday they were taking their fight against Hamas militants to "additional neighbourhoods" of the Gaza Strip, where an aerial and ground offensive has already killed 13,000 people including thousands of children, according to the Hamas-run government.

The bloodiest ever Gaza war started with the shock 7 October Hamas attack that Israeli officials say left 1,200 people dead and saw 240 taken hostage.

Qatari mediators said on Sunday talks on a deal that would free some of the hostages were progressing, held up only by "very minor" practical challenges, though neither details nor a timeline were provided, and Israel and Hamas have said little.

An Israeli strike on the Indonesian Hospital near northern Gaza's Jabalia refugee camp — the territory's largest — killed 12 people, including patients, and wounded dozens more, the Gaza health ministry said on Monday.

Palestinian people are seen on their way from Gaza City towards south in southern Gaza Strip on 18 November 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

An AFP journalist saw columns of smoke rising from Jabalia on Sunday, one day after a health official said more than 80 people had been killed in twin strikes there, including on a UN school sheltering displaced people.

Social media videos verified by AFP showed bodies covered in blood and dust on the floor of a building, where mattresses had been wedged under school tables.

Israel's military has said Jabalia is among the areas of focus as they "target terrorists and strike Hamas infrastructure".

Without mentioning the strikes, the Israeli army said "an incident in the Jabalia region" was under review. — AFP

Russian official accuses Britain of "brazen robbery" in asset return

A senior official of Russian Foreign Ministry has slashed Britain's attempts to formalize the conditions for the return of seized Russian assets as a mere cover-up for robbery, local media reported Monday.

After the start of the Special Military Operation in Ukraine, London was one of the first to introduce unilateral restrictive measures against Russian individuals and organizations, and intensified efforts to seize Russia's assets within British jurisdiction, said Sergei Belyaev, director of the Second European Department at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"Nevertheless, despite the loud statements by British officials primarily aimed at the domestic audience, it is already evident that London, almost two years later, has failed to devise an effective mechanism to expropriate the frozen Russian assets. The obstacle to this is the inevitable detrimental consequences for the reputation of the United Kingdom as one of the largest international financial centres," Belyaev was quoted by Russia's RIA Novosti news agency. — Xinhua

Bangladesh's dengue cases soar past 300,000 with 1,549 deaths

BANGLADESH reported 1,291 new dengue cases and six more deaths on Sunday, bringing the tally to 301,225 and the death toll to 1,549 since January this year, the Directorate-General of Health Services (DGHS) said.

The deaths include 201 so far this month.

During the first 19 days in November, according to the figure reported by the DGHS under the Ministry of Health, 30,080 more dengue cases were recorded after 67,769 people were infected with the mosquito-borne disease last month.

The total number of recovered patients in the South Asian country stood at 294,757 including 1,522 new recoveries on Sunday, said the DGHS.

Bangladesh experienced its highest spike in dengue cases in September, with 79,598 new infections and 396 deaths reported. — Xinhua

Indian rescuers to dig new shaft for 41 men trapped for 9 days

INDIAN rescuers were battling Monday to free 41 men trapped in a road tunnel for nine days, as they prepared to dig an entirely new shaft after previous efforts failed.

Excavators have been removing earth, concrete and rubble from the under-construction tunnel in the northern Himalayan state of Uttarakhand since 12 November, after a portion of the tunnel collapsed. But rescue efforts have been slowed by falling debris as well as repeated breakdowns of the crucial heavy drilling machines, with the air force having to twice airlift new kit.

Engineers had been trying to horizontally drive a steel pipe through the debris, just wide enough for the increasingly desperate men to squeeze through at least 57 metres (187 feet) of earth and rock that block their escape.

But drilling on that route was paused on Friday, after a cracking sound created a "panic situation", officials said.

Independent disaster investigator Arnold Dix (C), President of the International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association and rescue workers conduct a survey at the Silkyara under construction road tunnel, days after it collapsed in the Uttarkashi district of India's Uttarakhand state on 20 November 2023. Indian rescuers were battling on 20 November, to free 41 men trapped in a road tunnel for nine days, as they prepared to dig an entirely new shaft after previous efforts failed. **PHOTO: AFP**

Teams were now preparing to dig the new shaft from above, forcing workers to cut an entirely new track up to the top of the forested hill high above for the heavy equipment needed.

Officials estimated the proposed shaft would need to be 89 metres (291 feet) deep to reach the men. — AFP

SPORTS

World Cup qualifier match today: Myanmar vs North Korea

Myanmar players (L) and North Korea players (R) take part in a training session in Yangon on 20 November 2023 ahead of the World Cup qualifier football match. **PHOTO: MFF**

AS part of the 2026 World Cup second qualifying round, Myanmar and North Korean national teams will face each other today, 21 November, at 4 pm at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon, in their second group match.

In their first group match, both teams, having faced defeats in away games, are now determined to secure their first victory. They will strive vigorously for the opening goal. Given that the Myanmar team is in Group K, they anticipate achieving success primarily in home matches.

In the first group match played on 16 November, the Myanmar team was defeated 0-5 by the Japanese team. Meanwhile, the North Korean team last to Syrian team with a 1-0 score. The pre-match press conference for the upcoming game was held on the evening of 20 November at the Thuwunna Stadium press conferencing hall. The event was attended by the head coaches and players from both teams. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZW

Myanmar vs North Korea: Live World Cup Asian Zone Qualifier on MRTV

AS part of the Asian Zone second-round qualifier for the 2026 World Cup, to be co-hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico, the Myanmar national team will face the North Korean team in their second match at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon at 4 pm Myanmar Standard Time on 21 November.

The match images will be aired on 21 November at 3:45 pm on MRTV-HD, MRTV Sports Channel, and MRTV Farmers' Channel. The live broadcast will also be available on the MRTV Parliament Channel and will be simulcast on Myanma Radio and the MRTV APP online. — MNA/KZW

Son issues warning as S Korea travel to China in World Cup qualifier

SOUTH Korea travel to China on Tuesday for 2026 World Cup qualifying, with Son Heung-min warning his side they must keep their cool in front of a sell-out crowd.

South Korea's forward Son Heung-min waves towards spectators after scoring a goal during the 2026 World Cup qualification group C football match between South Korea and Singapore at the Seoul World Cup Stadium in Seoul on 16 November 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

The clash in Shenzhen, just over the border from Hong Kong, is the pick of the second round of games in the second phase of qualifying for the World Cup in North America.

Among other notable matches, Australia face Palestine in Kuwait, Japan travel to Jeddah to play Syria, Iran are away at Uzbekistan and India host Qatar.

South Korea thrashed Singapore 5-0 on Thursday to begin their qualifying campaign, with skipper and Tottenham Hotspur forward Son scoring a screamer from outside the box.

The Koreans are top of Group C in the early standings with China, who scored 16 minutes from time for a 2-1 win in Thailand.

Jurgen Klinsmann's South Korea are favourites in Shenzhen, but Son warned: "I think Asian teams will try to be physical against us, and getting under our skin will perhaps be a part of their strategy. — AFP

Moriyasu to opt for tried and tested lineup against Syria

JAPAN will not leave anything to chance in their "tough" Asian World Cup qualifying match against Syria, manager Hajime Moriyasu said Monday.

Speaking to reporters on the eve of the Group B clash at Prince Abdullah Al-Faisal Stadium in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Moriyasu indicated he would avoid experimenting and pick his strongest available lineup.

"It's going to be a very tough match. I'm not looking to try anything new. I just want to put together the best players and meet the challenge," Moriyasu said.

"Both the players and coaching staff are doing their best to prepare for victory in the time we have."

While the Samurai Blue coasted to a 5-0 win at home to Myanmar in their opening qualifier on Thursday, including a hat-trick from Ayase Ueda, Moriyasu said he wanted his team to be more clinical with scoring opportunities.

Hajime Moriyasu, head coach of the Japanese men's national football team, attends a press conference in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on 20 November 2023, on the eve of the Asian second-round qualifier for 2026 World Cup against Syria. **PHOTO: KYODO**

They can expect a tougher challenge against a Syrian outfit who opened the second stage of Asian qualifying with a 1-0 win against North Korea in Jeddah.

The West Asians are managed by Argentine Hector Cuper, who was at the reins for Uzbekistan when they lost 2-1 to Moriyasu's Japan side at the 2019 Asian Cup.

"He is a manager I respect," Moriyasu said. "His teams are highly organized, with skilled players in clearly defined roles."

The Samurai Blue are aiming to qualify for their eighth straight World Cup finals. The draw for the 2026 tournament in North America will expand from 32 to 48 teams, with a record eight qualifying directly from Asia. — Kyodo

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Israel expands Gaza operation amid hostage deal talks

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Columns of smoke, pictured from the village of Guimar on 17 August 2023 billow from a huge wildfire which broke out almost two days ago and is raging in the northeastern part of the Canary island of Tenerife. The 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference COP28 will be held from 30 November to 12 December 2023 in Dubai. **PHOTO: AFP**

World's richest 1% emit as much carbon as bottom two-thirds: report

THE richest one per cent of the global population are responsible for the same amount of carbon emissions as the world's poorest two-thirds, or five billion people, according to an analysis published Sunday by the nonprofit Oxfam International.

While fighting the climate crisis is a shared challenge, not everyone is equally responsible and government policies must be tailored accordingly, Max Lawson, who co-authored the report, told AFP.

"The richer you are, the easier it is to cut both your personal and your investment emissions," he said. "You don't need that third car, or that fourth holiday, or you don't need to be invested in the cement industry."

"Climate Equality: A Planet for the 99%", was based on research compiled by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and it examined the consumption emissions associated with different income groups up to the year 2019.

It was published as world leaders prepare to meet for climate talks at the COP28 summit in Dubai later this month. Fears are growing that limiting long-term warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius could soon be impossible to achieve.

Among the key findings of this study are that the richest one per cent globally — 77 million people — were responsible for 16 per cent of global emissions related to their consumption.

That is the same share as the bottom 66 per cent of the global population by income, or 5.11 billion people.

The income threshold for being among the global top one per cent was adjusted by country using purchasing power parity — for example in the United States the threshold would be $140,000, whereas the Kenyan equivalent would be about $40,000.

Within country analyses also painted very stark pictures. — AFP

S Korea warns N Korea to scrap spy satellite launch plans

SOUTH Korea's military warned North Korea on Monday to immediately stop preparations for a spy satellite launch, vowing to take "necessary measures" if it goes ahead.

North Korea is preparing to launch a spy satellite for the third time, after failing twice this year to put a military eye in the sky.

Earlier this month, Seoul's spy agency said that Pyongyang was in the final stages of preparations for its third try and South Korean defence minister Shin Won-sik said Sunday that the lift-off could take place as early as this week.

"We sternly warn North Korea to... immediately suspend the current preparations to launch a military spy satellite," said Kang Ho-pil, chief director of operations at the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"If North Korea goes ahead with the launch of a military reconnaissance satellite despite our warning, our military will take necessary measures to guarantee the lives and safety of the people," he added.

After a failed second attempt in August, Pyongyang said it would carry out the third launch in October, though it never materialized. — AFP

29 Gaza babies evacuated to Egypt as Hamas reports deadly hospital strike

TWENTY-NINE premature babies were evacuated from war-torn Gaza to Egypt on Monday as the Hamas-run health ministry accused Israel of launching a deadly strike on the territory's Indonesian Hospital.

Frantic diplomatic efforts were meanwhile underway to seal a deal for the release of some of the 240 hostages Hamas militants took during their 7 October attacks on Israel.

The Gaza health ministry charged that Israel's army killed at least 12 people in a strike on the Indonesian Hospital in the Palestinian territory's north, a war zone where entire city blocks have been reduced to rubble.

Those killed included patients, said Ashraf al-Qudra, a spokesman of the ministry which has reported a death toll of more than 13,000 as the Gaza war rages on into its seventh week.

Dozens more were wounded and around 700 people remained trapped inside the "besieged" medical centre, Qudra said.

Israel did not immediately comment but pushed on with its withering air and ground campaign aimed at destroying Hamas in response to the 7 October attacks it says killed 1,200 people. — AFP

Palestinian medics care for premature babies, evacuated from Gaza City's Al Shifa hospital, ahead of their transfer from a hospital in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip to Egypt on 20 November 2023 amid ongoing battles between Israel and the militant group Hamas. **PHOTO: AFP**