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

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Myanmar, Thai armed forces strengthening bonds for enhanced bilateral relations

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing and Air Chief Marshal Punpakdee Pattanakul of the Royal Thai Air Force agreed to promote existing friendly ties and cooperation between the two armed forces of Myanmar and Thailand.

The cordial talks took place at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw where Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Air Chief Marshal Punpakdee Pattanakul of the Royal Thai Air Force yesterday morning.

They also exchanged views on the exchange of cultural troupes and friendly sport contingents of both armed forces, and further enhancement of friendly relations through exchange of goodwill visits of senior military officers, Tatmadaw members and families.

Also present at the ceremony were Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung and senior military officers. The Thai Air Chief Marshal was accompanied by senior air force officers of the Royal Thai Air Force and Military Attaché (Air) of the Royal Thai Air Force to Myanmar Group Captain Jumphol Chantakamma. — MNA/TTA

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Air Chief Marshal Punpakdee Pattanakul of the Royal Thai Air Force are pictured during the latter's courtesy call on the former yesterday.

Above 20,000 small industries registered nationwide as of Oct

The photo shows the practical training of Sagaing District SMEs Department's value-added food crop-based jam and juice production technical course 6/2022-2023.

A TOTAL of 20,522 small industries in all regions and states, including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, were registered up to October 2023.

Yangon Region has 4,559 industries, the highest number in the country. Out of the 13 categories of industries, the registration for foodstuff industries is the highest, followed by general industries.

The State Economic Promotion Fund has provided

SEE PAGE-2

NATIONAL PAGE-3

MoLA Union Minister participates in AMAG-MLAT Meeting in Brunei

NATIONAL PAGE-4

MNDAA, TNLA, PDF terrorists attack with drop bombs near Myanmar-China border

NATIONAL PAGE-10

Myanmar traditional foods served at ASEAN Gala Night in Singapore

NATIONAL

Theme of 103rd Anniversary of National Victory Day 2023

From peace of the Union towards development of the State

Objectives of 103rd Anniversary of National Victory Day 2023

10th Waning of Tazaungmone 1385 ME
7 December 2023

- To build the Union based on the democratic and federal system through united strengths of all National people
- To implement a comprehensive education system accessible to all
- To nurture youths endowed with five physical and mental strengths and a patriotic spirit
- To encourage MSME businesses by emphasizing the economic drive

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Notification No 50/2023

11th Waxing of Tazaungmone 1385 ME
23 November 2023

Allowing National Democratic Force Party (NDF) to be registered as political party

AS of 23 November 2023, National Democratic Force Party (NDF) with its headquarters located at No 47, 1st Floor, West Horse Race Course Road, near the Tamway Roundabout, Bo Sein Hman Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon Region, has been allowed to register under Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law. The registration number of the National Democratic Force Party (NDF) is 43.

Sd/ Thein Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Electric vehicles arrive at Yangon Port

Newly arrived battery electric cars unveiled at Yangon Port.

CHINA-MADE Neta U, Neta V EVs, Leapmotor T03 (Luxury) EVs, BYD Atto3 EVs, Aiqar Arrizo E EVs and Changan Benni E-Star EVs, imported with the approval of the Steering Committee on National-Level Development of Electric Vehicles and Related Industries, arrived at Yangon Port yesterday.

These battery electric cars were imported by Grand Sirius Co Ltd, NPK Motors Co Ltd, Essential Motors Co Ltd, Myanmar Great Motor Co Ltd and Myanmar Arr Thit Man Motor Co Ltd. They were claimed by the importers following the required procedures. — MNA/MKKS

Fuel oil daily delivery, distribution extend to states/regions, including Yangon

UNDER the management of the Supervisory Committee on Fuel Oil Import, Storage, and Distribution, fuel oils are distributed daily by bowsers from Thilawa Port terminals to all petrol stations in Regions and States, including Yangon Region, to ensure a sufficient supply of fuel.

Fuel, including over 1.13 million gallons of 92 Ron, over 280,000 gallons of 95 Ron, over 740,000 gallons of diesel, and over 1.19 million gallons of premium diesel, were delivered smoothly by 1,294 oil bowsers to 2,055 petrol stations across the country including Yangon Region on 22 November.

The relevant officials from the Petroleum Products Regulatory Department, supervised by the Supervisory Committee on Fuel Oil Import, Storage, and Distribution, checked supply of fuel from tankers to terminals, departure of bowsers and fulfilled the needs of the fuel oil delivery and distribution work under the rules and regulations. — MNA/MKKS

Above 20,000 small industries registered nationwide as of Oct

FROM PAGE-1

loans totalling up to 233.2 million to industries in six regions and states for the development of registered industries.

By registering, small and medium enterprises will not only be able to obtain loans from the State Economic Promotion Fund but also avail themselves of many opportunities to compete with domestic and international businesses. — TWA/MKKS

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increasing of death rate based on the disease.

NATIONAL

Chinese Ambassador calls on DPM MoFA Union Minister

Deputy Prime Minister MoFA Union Minister U Than Swe receives Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai yesterday.

U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Chen Hai, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, yesterday at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the further advancement of bilateral relations, continued implementation of mutually beneficial bilateral projects on the basis of the existing "Pauk-Phaw" friendship and cooperation in peace and stability and rule of law along the border areas between Myanmar and China. — MNA

Art Exhibition to mark Myanmar's Tazaungdine Festival

THE Royal Gallery said they will organize the "Myaing Myaing Saing Saing La Tazaungdine Art Exhibition" from 25 to 27 November at the Secretariat in Botahtaung Township of Yangon.

The event will feature about 50 oil, watercolour and acrylic paintings of artists Aung Lin Tun, Htoo Myat Thaw, Sai Mg Mg, Aung Thwin Oo, U Mar Lar, Sai Pyae Sone Aye, Chit Hnin Eain, Moe Nyo, Shwe Yoe Yar, Chit Swe, Myo Win Aung, Thiha, CMK, Myint Myint Tin, Win Thanda, Hla Htun Aung and Nanda Myint. People can visit the Art Exhibition and buy the paintings. The event will be from 9 am to 5 pm daily. — ASH/KTZH

The former Secretariat building in the centre of Yangon.

MoLA Union Minister participates in AMAG-MLAT Meeting in Brunei

UNION Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo participated in the discussions of the First Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers/Attorneys-General of the Central Authorities on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters ("AMAG-MLAT") held yesterday in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

Brunei Attorney-General Dato Seri Paduka Ahmad Isa and delivered an opening speech.

In her speech, Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo said that drug trafficking, money laundering, trafficking in persons, and terrorist attacks have become transnational organized crimes. Such crimes not only deteriorate the rule of law of a nation but also threaten international and regional peace, security, and stability. Hence, to enhance the rule of law among social communities, ASEAN must combat those transnational crimes, she added.

Union Minister for Legal Affairs Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo (L) poses for the group documentary photograph at the meeting in Brunei yesterday.

Since the legal systems of the countries are different, cooperation among respective authorities is very important in fighting against transnational crimes. Accordingly, all ASEAN members have already ratified the ASEAN Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT). Being a member state of the United Nations as well as ASEAN, Myanmar actively participates in combating transnational crimes. Myanmar also joined the Convention against Transnational Organized Crimes in 2004 and the ASEAN Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) in criminal matters in 2009. Moreover, after signing bilateral agreements with Thailand and Viet Nam, Myanmar is cooperating with on another by providing mutual assistance for criminal cases.

As localization measures, Myanmar drafted and stipulated the Law of Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters among nations and its rules in 2004. According to that law, Myanmar can seek legal assistance from a foreign country or vice versa, directly or through diplomatic channels regarding criminal matters. Myanmar abides by, complies with, and implements the obligations under the international convention, ASEAN treaties, and bilateral agreements relating to the fight against transnational crimes. Not a single country can prevent them alone, and thus it is very important for all nations to cooperate in combating the transnational crimes that are threatening the whole world, she emphasized.

The ASEAN Ministers, Attorneys-General of the Central Authorities on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters as well as responsible personnel from the Legal Division of ASEAN Secretariat were present at the meeting. Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo also held a sideline discussion with Deputy Attorney-General of Thailand Mr Jumpon Phansumrit on the exchange of legal assistance and promotion of cooperation between the legal authorities of the two countries, and measures being taken by legal officers from Myanmar, Thailand, and Laos under the Golden Triangle Legal Officer Network Programme as well as holding annual meetings on a rotational basis. Moreover, they cordially discussed and exchanged views on the establishment of the ASEAN Legal Officers Network to realize better and more effective cooperation among ASEAN Attorney-General Offices. — MNA/ZN

NATIONAL

MNDAA, TNLA, PDF terrorists attack with drop bombs near Myanmar-China border

(L & R): Firefighters battle flames and debris after terrorist attacks on the Sino-Myanmar border.

MNDAA, TNLA and PDF terrorists are utilizing drop bombs in attacks to stop the flow of goods in the Shan State (North) and to undermine the peace and stability of the region by firing and attacking non-military targets.

The terrorists used drones to attack the car park of Seven Huaqin Import Company, which was not a military target and which had no security measures.

The terrorists used drones to drop bombs on the import car yard of Seven Huaqin Company in Kyinsankyawt, the Myanmar-China bilateral trade terminal, which is not a military target, where there were no security forces at 9:45 am yesterday. A fire broke out due to the explosion of bombs falling on the parked vehicles in the car yard, and the burning continued from one vehicle to another.

As such fires occurred, various fire brigades made efforts, and nearby security forces quickly joined with them to extinguish the fire and carry out the necessary rescue operations.

Due to this terrorist act by the MNDAA, TNLA group and the PDF terrorists, about 120 out of 258 vehicles carrying household goods, consumer goods, clothes and building materials were destroyed by fire.

The socioeconomic life of businessmen and local people were greatly affected, and the security forces will continue to execute counter-terrorism operations in collaboration with the public for the sake of peace and stability in the region. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar continues transfer of cross-border illegal immigrants to respective authorities

THE government is focusing on national stability and enforcement of law and order in all regions and states, including the border areas. As some foreign nationals are illegally entering and residing in Myanmar through land borders, administrative organizations are conducting necessary checks and repatriating them to the relevant countries under the law.

A total of 932 illegal immigrants, comprising 788 males and 144 females, were repatriated to Chinese officials yesterday. Therefore, a total of 6,138 illegal immigrants, including 5,612 males and 526 females, were repatriated to China from 31 October to 22 November.

The government will continue the process of screening and repatriation for foreign nationals who are illegally residing in the border areas. — MNA/TRKM

Counter-argument to false information

Misinformation Alert: Clarifying false reports on Mawlamyine University faculty members' movement restrictions

FALSE news and misinformation are circulating on social media, falsely claiming that the rector of Mawlamyine University issued a ban on faculty members from leaving the university premises. According to these inaccurate reports, an emergency meeting held on 16 November allegedly resulted in this restriction, as faculty members had relocated to be closer to their relatives due to concerns arising from a terrorist attack on Loikaw University in Kayah State, which led to the arrest of the rector and faculty members.

Contrary to these claims, the meeting held on 16 November was a routine gathering, and there was no decision to restrict faculty members' movement. The misinformation being spread on social media platforms appears to be a deliberate attempt to create unrest in the State, undermine peace and stability, and potentially incite terrorist activities. — MNA/TKO

A screenshot of misleading report regarding Mawlamyine University.

Debunked: Reports of 1,200 school closures in northern Rakhine confirmed as false information

FAKE news has been spread on social media, claiming that about 1,200 schools in 10 townships – Buthidaung, Maungtaw, Rathedaung, Ponnagyun, Pauktaw, Minbya, Myebon, Kyauktaw, MraukU and Sittway – in Rakhine State (North) have been closed due to terrorist acts by AA insurgents in Rakhine State.

In reality, there is no such thing as school closure in northern Rakhine State, and all schools are open as normal, according to an official from the Rakhine State Education Office.

Therefore, it is hereby announced that residents are advised not to believe in misinformation about education being spread online by anti-government media and some pro-terrorist news outlets. Parents will need to continue encouraging the education of their children. — MNA/ZN

A screenshot exposing false information on school closures in Rakhine State.

NATIONAL

Yangon hosts Chinese Film Week to boost Myanmar-China friendship relations

AIMING to promote China-Myanmar relations, Chinese Film Week will be held at the Chinese Culture Centre in Yangon.

The event, which will be jointly organized by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, China Media Group (CMG), and the Chinese Culture Centre, will showcase films rich in art and culture. Featured films include film A Dream of Red Mansions, the documentary A Bite of China Season 2, the action and comedy film Detective Chinatown 1, and the series Journey to the West. The event will run from 24 to 27 November.

Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn unveils the Chinese Film Week event yesterday in Yangon.

At the opening ceremony, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn and Minister Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar Mr Zheng Zhihong delivered speeches, and movie trailers were shown. Chinese Culture Centre officials answered questions from invited media.

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn stated that Myanmar and China have built significant historical milestones through cooperation in various sectors. The two countries fostered a bilateral relationship rooted in music and art, dating back to the Chinese Tang Dynasty and Myanmar Pyu Era. The Myanmar diplomat Pyu music troupe played a crucial role in promoting friendship between the two nations in China, utilizing music and art in 802 AD. This friendship laid the foundation for enhancing the region's international affairs and business relations.

In 2013, the Ministry of Information and Chinese Yunnan TV collaborated on a TV drama titled 'The Legends of Music', which received praise from both Chinese and Myanmar audiences. Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn emphasized that China and Myanmar, being neighbouring countries, have undergone cooperation not only in the movie sector but also in business and public relations. He mentioned that, similar to Chinese film festivals held in Myanmar annually, Myanmar delegates participated in the Lanmei International Film Week in Yunnan Province, China, showcasing Myanmar movies.

Myanmar movies and short films were featured in the Screening of Outstanding ASEAN-China Audio-Visual Programme, the 5th Guangxi Online Animation Competition, the 2022 China-ASEAN Film Culture Week, and the 5th Lancang-Mekong International Film Week organized by China in 2022 and 2023, he said. He added that "2023 Chinese Film Week" will help Myanmar people learn about China and strengthen the friendship between the two countries. He expressed his hope that the two nations will continue celebrating such festivals in the coming years, contributing to a stronger and enduring China-Myanmar friendship.

The festival was also attended by Yangon Chinese Culture Centre in-charge Mr Xiang Jianbo, Myanmar Motion Picture Organization Chair U Kyi Soe Tun, Myanmar Press Council Chair U Ohn Maung (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe), Yangon University of Foreign Languages Rector Dr Kyi Shwin, officials from the Chinese Culture Centre, and invitees. — ASH/ZS

Naypyitaw State Academy opens Faculty of Medicine

THE inauguration ceremony of the Faculty of Medicine at the Naypyitaw State Academy (NSA) took place at the academy on the morning of 23 November, according to the Ministry of Education.

To develop Nay Pyi Taw as an educational city and provide various learning opportunities, the Naypyitaw State Academy was established on 9 November 2022. From its inception, NSA adopted the faculty system with seven faculties: Arts, Science, Economics, Law, Medicine, Social Science, and Sports Education. With these seven faculties, NSA is the first comprehensive university of its kind in Myanmar.

Union Ministers and officials greet the students of the Faculty of Medicine at the Naypyitaw State Academy yesterday.

The Faculty of Medicine at NSA was launched through cooperation between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health, with an initial intake of 31 students in the first year.

A modernized curriculum, advanced laboratory equipment, internet access, and e-library facilities have been fully provided to implement a student-centred teaching system at NSA, ensuring a high-quality learning experience. Ongoing support for the university is planned every year.

Additionally, the Faculty of Medicine at NSA will use an Outcome-Based Integrated Curriculum of international standard, with experienced and qualified faculty members already appointed, and further recruitment to follow as necessary.

Hostels have been arranged for the convenient accommodation of students, and NSA plans to proceed with upgrading activities for the Medicine Faculty to achieve international recognition.

Present at the event were Union Ministers Dr Nyunt Pe, Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, Dr Thet Khaing Win, U Min Thein Zan and Dr Soe Win, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, deputy ministers, departmental heads, the deputy director of the directorate of Medical Services of Tatmadaw, rectors from Universities of Medicine, and responsible officials. Also in attendance were the chairman of the Myanmar Medical Council, medical superintendents of public hospitals in Nay Pyi Taw, professors, invitees, faculty members, and newly enrolled students in the Faculty of Medicine at Naypyitaw State Academy. — ASH/ZN

NATIONAL

A glimpse of crowded pilgrims at Maha Anthtoo Kantha Pagoda.

Maha Anthtoo Kantha Pagoda to host Matho Thingan, 9,000 oil lights offering

MATHO Thingan and 9,000 oil lights offering will be held at Maha Anthtoo Kantha Pagoda for Tazaungdine Festival, according to the organizing committee.

The 17th Tazaungdine Festival of releasing hot-air ballons, initially scheduled to take place on the platform of the Maha Anthtoo Kantha Pagoda in PyinOoLwin from 24 to 28 November, has been cancelled. Instead, Matho Thingan and 9,000 oil lights will be offered during the festival, stated the organizing committee. — TWA/TKO

126 companies blacklisted for labour rights violation

A total of 126 companies have been blacklisted for non-compliance with rules and regulations, as well as violations of labour rights in sending Myanmar workers to Thailand, the Ministry of Labour stated.

The blacklisted entities include 126 companies based in Thailand, 125 Thai citizens, and 20 agencies. Additionally, the licences of six Myanmar agencies have been temporarily revoked from six months to one year, and the licences of 43 agencies have been terminated, according to the Ministry of Labour.

Out of nearly 500 agencies that have obtained licences to send workers abroad from Myanmar, 150 agencies of which are authorized to send workers to Thailand. — TWA/MKKS

The photo shows the certificate of identity (CI) issuing office in Thailand.

Coop societies sell agricultural inputs worth K5 bln in Oct

The Agriculture Department in ChaungU Township sells chemical fertilizer and quality seeds to farmers.

COOPERATIVE societies sold K5.09 billion worth of chemical fertilizers, seeds and pesticides to farmers in 78 townships in October, according to the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development.

The Cooperative Department under the ministry has been selling agricultural inputs at reasonable prices for the development of the agricultural sector and the enhancement of the socioeconomic well-being of farmers.

Last month, a total of 10,982 members from 602 societies located in 78 townships made purchases, acquiring 88,782 bags of chemical fertilizers valued at K5.07 billion, seeds worth K0.22 million, and pesticides totalling K20 million.

Statistics showed that 34 million acres of farmland will require over 492,000 tonnes of agricultural inputs for this financial year. Efforts are underway for the farmers to purchase quality inputs in time. — TWA/NT

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MADB supports farmers with K237 bln in machinery loans

A total of K237 billion has been disbursed to over 5,000 farmers as part of a two-step loan to buy tractors and combine harvesters.

For agriculture and rural development, the loan project is overseen by the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank (MADB) of the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

Since the project's commencement in July 2017 until September 2023, the bank has provided two-step loans, with favourable interest rates, to 5,685 farmers from 187 townships across the country. These loans aim to facilitate the acquisition of tractors and combine harvesters.

In the current financial year 2023-24, 28 farmers took out loans worth K1.8 billion to buy 23 tractors and five combine harvesters, according to the ministry.

Each farmer can borrow up to K70 million, with repayments available through short-term instalments spanning three years and long-term instalments of five years. — TWA/NT

Farmers seen waiting to take out loans at the MADB.

NATIONAL
BUSINESS

Weak demand drives downward trend in peanut prices

THE peanut prices kept falling in the market owing to weak demand, according to Mandalay Commodity Depot.

New peanuts from Magway, Natmauk, Sagaing, Wetlet, Natogyi, Myinmu, Kyaukse, Mahlaing, Myingyan and Pakokku areas are flowing into the Mandalay market in the third week of November. Low demand from Chinese traders and oil millers pushed down the peanut prices.

The prevailing prices move in the range between K5,400 and K6,100 per viss in the domestic market depending on varieties. Despite the peanut price rollback, the peanut oil price stayed strong above K15,000 per viss.

The prices of red peanut hit a high of K7,550-11,000 per viss on the back of strong foreign and domestic demand on 18 August 2023. Myanmar has been exporting oil seeds (sesame seeds and peanuts) to foreign countries. Last April 2022, the world's top palm oil exporter Indonesia, which is one of the main oil suppliers to Myanmar, declared an export ban on cooking oil export to reduce domestic shortage. Consequently, Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce temporarily suspended exports of oil crops (peanut and sesame) from 9 May 2022 to have oil self-sufficiency. Exports of Myanmar's edible oil crops resumed as the world's top palm oil exporters returned to normalcy, according to a notification dated 5 July 2022 released by the Trade Department. The country exported over 10,000 kilogrammes worth US$15.857 million to foreign markets through seaborne and border trade channels over the past seven months of the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April. — NN/EM

Kyat weakens to K3,400 against greenback in grey market

KYAT depreciated to K3,400 against the US dollar in shady dealings on 23 November. The exchange rate moved up to K3,425 on 23 November from K3,230 on 1 November.

Nonetheless, the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) set the reference exchange rate at K2,100 against the US dollar.

The CBM has set the currency trading band at 0.3 per cent for the kyat to fluctuate between these two specified upper and lower exchange rates for transactions, selling or buying, starting from 10 August 2022.

Financial institutions including banks and informal money exchanges have been instructed to set a dollar value at K2,094 for buying and K2,106 for selling. However, the over-the-counter kyat-dollar exchange rate was K3,375 for buying and K3,425 for selling on 23 November in the grey market.

Despite a large price gap between the reference rate of the CBM and the unofficial market rate, there is no way for the CBM to set the new price, as per the notification released in May 2023.

US dollars being counted at a money changer in Yangon.

The dollar gained to around K4,000 on 19 August 2023. Under Section 9 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, only those entities holding foreign exchange dealer licences are allowed to deal in foreign currency and traveller's cheques. Those holding foreign currencies without valid licences and permits will face legal actions under the law, according to the CBM's notification released on 21 August 2023.

According to Notification 7/2014 dated 30 September 2014 issued by the Central Bank of Myanmar, stating that under Clause 15 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, domestic residents are allowed to keep US$10,000 in maximum or equivalent amounts of foreign currencies for six months. If those foreign currencies that have been unused for over six months have to be exchanged in local currency at the market price through authorized dealers or deposited into bank accounts. Those illegally holding foreign currencies are to face legal actions under the Foreign Exchange Management Law, the CBM warned again. — NN/EM

ADVERTORIAL

Dapein (1) Hydropower Company Limited in Myanmar Begins "100-day Difficulties-overcoming" with "Three Focuses"

IN November 2023, at the critical moment of accelerating to complete the annual production targets, Dapein (1) Hydropower Company Limited in Myanmar began the "100-day Difficulties-overcoming" with "Three Focuses". All levels of employees within the Company have been making every effort to fulfill the fixed target with unified thought, firm confidence, and invigorated spirit. To deepen the "Pauk-Phaw" fraternal friendship between Myanmar and Chinese employees, and to ensure the high-quality completion of annual production targets, the staff have been working with stronger beliefs, higher morale, and self-improvement.

The "Focus" on Safe Production to "Ensure Stability"

Dapein (1) Hydropower Company Limited has remained steadfast in safe production work, specified relevant responsibilities through all levels, and arranged the control of key links. By doing so, the Company has ensured a constant flow of stable and clean electric power for the Bhamo region in Myanmar, to effectively address its power shortage, and to make preparations for providing the region with a long-term power supply that is safe, high-quality, and reliable. Meanwhile, the Company has made in-depth investigations to eliminate risks and hazards, established safety defensive lines, strengthened the scientific scheduling of reservoirs, and optimized the operation of units so as not to waste a single watt of electrical power.

The "Focus" on Unit A-repair to "Maintain High-standard Service"

Dapein (1) Hydropower Company Limited has actively carried out the preliminary work of the A-repair of Unit 2. Through careful planning and fine control, the Company has striven to increase the reliability and safety of the equipment so that local people can use the electric equipment and facilities stably, local industrial and agricultural production can be developed, and the Company can make greater contributions to boost local economic growth and improve people's living standard. At the same time, the A-repair has provided a solid guarantee to realize the operation management mode of "unmanned and seldom attended" for the hydropower station.

The "Focus" on Myanmar Worker Cultivation to "Attract Talents"

Dapein (1) Hydropower Company Limited has not been idle in the construction of the Myanmar talent team. By recommendation and selection, the Company has expedited the cultivation and attraction of talents, to build a local staff team that is qualified, capable, and cooperative. During the construction and operation of the hydropower station, local Myanmar people have played an important role in production, security, logistics, and other activities. The recruitment of these employees has actively promoted local employment. The Company has also expanded its talent reserve, so as to provide human resource supply for the commissioning and operation of its new projects in Myanmar, and to add building blocks to the bridge of friendship between Myanmar and Chinese employees.

Time and tide wait for no man when thousands of sailboats are racing in the great sea of this era. Dapein (1) Hydropower Company Limited will stick to the target and work diligently, to bear new responsibilities, make new accomplishments, and achieve new breakthroughs. The Company will progress valiantly towards the overall completion of annual targets with passion and endeavor, to further deepen the "Pauk-Phaw" fraternal friendship between Myanmar and Chinese people, and to make new contributions to the development of national electric power in Myanmar.

Take physical and mental security measures

IN THE pursuit of a fulfilling and satisfying life, individuals often find themselves burdened by unmet needs, both physical and mental, throughout their lifespan. The perpetual quest to fulfil these needs becomes a cycle of dissatisfaction, as the concept of 'needs' stands in stark contrast to the idea of contentment. The eternal struggle to meet one's needs prevents the enjoyment of the fruits of satisfaction.

The teachings of Lord Buddha advocate a universal practice of relinquishing one's needs in favour of embracing satisfaction. Overcoming the challenges posed by incessant needs allows individuals to perceive their lives authentically, transcending the allure of secular desires. Failure to do so renders them perpetual victims of unmet needs, hindering their minds from experiencing the peaceful fruits of contentment.

Excessive anticipation is cautioned against, as unmet expectations lead to frustration and despair. Clinging to unfulfilled anticipations becomes a catalyst for dissatisfaction, fuelling negative attitudes and perpetuating the cycle of unmet needs. To escape this cycle, individuals must cultivate a mindset that understands and accepts all issues, consoling their minds with satisfaction without placing blame on others.

To break free from this cycle, individuals must undergo a paradigm shift in their mindset. They need to reform their perceptions and attitudes towards the world, questioning the universal truths and societal norms that have been blindly accepted for generations. Genuine outlooks and perspectives enable a closer connection to the satisfaction of life, beyond the clutches of relentless needs.

Those who remain entrenched in dissatisfaction perpetuate a life cycle of perpetual disappointment, viewing everything through the lens of unmet needs. Their inability to overcome the impact and challenges of these needs results in a missed opportunity to savour the joys of life, branding them as societal losers.

A transformative approach involves recognizing and appreciating the positive actions and virtues of others. Acknowledging the happiness and good deeds of fellow individuals becomes an essential aspect of the universal essence. Acts of praise, applause, encouragement, support, and contribution contribute significantly to positive societal change, enhancing the lives of individuals in the process.

Excessive anticipation is cautioned against, as unmet expectations lead to frustration and despair. Clinging to unfulfilled anticipations becomes a catalyst for dissatisfaction, fuelling negative attitudes and perpetuating the cycle of unmet needs. To escape this cycle, individuals must cultivate a mindset that understands and accepts all issues, consoling their minds with satisfaction without placing blame on others.

In essence, the key to a fulfilling life lies in transcending the perpetual pursuit of needs and embracing a mindset focused on genuine satisfaction, appreciation for the positive, and a transformative approach to societal and individual well-being. Hence, everybody should observe and analyze the advantages and disadvantages of needs and satisfaction and seek the best one for their lives. ■

How To Know When It's Time To Retire

By Yin Nwe Ko

RETIREMENT is a significant milestone in life, marking the end of your working years and the beginning of a new chapter. Deciding when to retire is a crucial decision that should be made after careful consideration. Here, let us explore some key indicators that can help you determine when it's time to retire.

Financial Readiness

One of the most critical factors to consider when thinking about retirement is your financial readiness. You should evaluate your savings, investments, and any retirement accounts you may have. Consider meeting with a financial advisor to discuss your financial situation and determine if you have enough money saved to support your desired retirement lifestyle. It's essential to have a clear understanding of your income sources, expenses, and potential healthcare costs in retirement.

Age and Health

Your age and health should play a significant role in your retirement decision. While there is no one-size-fits-all age for retirement, it's essential to assess your physical and mental well-being. If your job is causing significant stress or negatively impacting your health, it may be a sign that it's time to retire. Additionally, consider any potential age-related health issues and whether your job is becoming too physically demanding.

Career Satisfaction

Do you still find joy and fulfilment in your work? Or has your enthusiasm waned over the years? Your level of career satisfaction can be a strong indicator of when it's time to retire. If you no longer enjoy your job and it feels more like a burden than a source of fulfilment, it may be the right moment to consider retiring and pursuing other interests.

Personal Goals and Aspirations

Retirement is an opportunity to pursue your personal goals and aspirations. Consider what you want to do with your free time when you're no longer working. Whether it's travelling, spending more time with family, volunteering, or starting a new hobby, retirement should align with your personal desires. If you find that your current job is preventing you from achieving these goals, it might be time to retire.

Social and Family Considerations

Your social and family life is an important aspect to take into account when thinking about retirement. Consider whether your job prevents you from spending quality time with loved ones or participating in social activities. If you want to be more involved in your family or community, retirement can provide the time and flexibility you need to do so.

Job Opportunities and Market Trends

Assess the job opportunities and market trends in your field. If you find that there are limited opportunities for advancement or that your industry is evolving in a way that doesn't align with your skills and interests, it might be time to consider retiring. On the other hand, if you are passionate about your work and see exciting prospects, you may choose to continue working.

Moreover, deciding when to retire is a significant life decision that requires careful consideration of various factors. Financial readiness, age and health, career satisfaction, personal goals, social and family considerations, and job opportunities all play a role in this decision. Ultimately, retirement should be a time for personal fulfilment, so make sure to align your retirement with your aspirations and desires. Consulting with financial advisors, career counsellors, and loved ones can provide valuable insights to help you make an informed decision about when it's time to retire.

"Your social and family life is an important aspect to take into account when thinking about retirement. Consider whether your job prevents you from spending quality time with loved ones or participating in social activities. If you want to be more involved in your family or community, retirement can provide the time and flexibility you need to do so."

The above messages sound general and average people always consider them but there was an interesting article in the November 6th issue of The Wall Street Journal. My esteemed readers may assume and focus on the moment when it's time to retire. This is as follows…

At 67, Kathie Davis liked her financial services job. But the demands were getting heavier, and life outside work was moving on.

"When do you call it a career?" she wondered.

Her finances were in order, and with friends passing away — including one just into retirement — she decided it was time. Still, when her last Friday arrived in June, she sat in front of her computer well into the evening, trying to convince herself to log off.

"It just felt like a part of my life was being cut," she said.

Americans are working later than ever. The average retirement age was 62 in 2023, up from 57 in 1991, according to a Gallup poll. Many people simply don't have the luxury of stopping, financially unable to go without a paycheck well after 65. Even when your retirement account hits its mark, deciding to close the book on your career can prompt existential questioning.

Wait too long, and you might regret the extra years you gave to work. Leave too early, and you could feel lost in your new life.

"Work in this society defines who you are," says Louis H Primavera, a psychology professor at Touro University who studies retirement. "When you're retired, you're a 'was.' "

Your retirement should be a time of freedom, allowing you to embrace your true self and live a life that brings happiness and contentment. **PHOTO CREDIT: THE WALL STREET JOURNAL**

Maybe it's because, on the job, we convince ourselves we're impervious to the passing of time. Work forms the scaffolding of our lives, and the end of work reminds us that the end of everything is coming, too.

Our longer lifespans have also changed the calculus. Retirement was once meant to be a brief respite between physically taxing work and death. Now it can span three or more decades. That alters what we can afford to do, financially and psychologically, say those who study longevity.

Clinging to your job forever isn't the answer. Instead, experiment and adjust to find the moment that promises freedom and rest, not an identity crisis.

Try new activities — pickleball, Bible study, volunteer work — before you make the jump, to see what gives you a sense of purpose, Primavera says. Research shows too many empty hours can leave us miserable.

Consider ramping down slowly with a new role or creative pursuit. And talk to your family. Retiring at the same time as your partner, Primavera says, lets you formulate a shared vision for travel or caring for grandkids.

Redefine your identity

Start by listing six words that best describe you, says Teresa Amabile, a Harvard Business School professor writing a book about retirement. You're a grandfather and a leader, outgoing and social. Consider how retiring might change that description. If being a salesperson is your most cherished identity, you might not be ready, Amabile says. Repeat the exercise every few months to see if your sense of self might be starting to shift.

Next, sketch out what Amabile calls a "life map," labelling circles with different aspects of your day-to-day. (Think: spirituality, family, exercise, and work.) Are any of them in conflict?

"It's a gentle way to realize this life suited me beautifully when I was 35 or 45," Amabile says. But maybe, as work takes time away from your grandchildren or you have little energy for business travel, it no longer fits.

"You start to think, like, is this important? Is this the best way to spend my time?" says Tim Streeter, a 51-year-old former recruiting executive.

After being laid off at 47, Streeter interviewed for jobs at big companies, only to realize he couldn't even convince himself he wanted them. Being let go had made him feel disposable and sceptical of the notion of company loyalty.

The Ann Arbor, Mich., resident opted to retire early, taking on the occasional consulting project. The math still sometimes makes him nervous, and his investment portfolio took a hit last year

Still, he figures he might as well live his life now — self-publishing the book he always wanted to write, jetting to Spain and Puerto Rico — and return to work later if he has to.

Create the next chapter

You don't have to make a binary choice. You could taper or rethink your work.

"We've been trying to swim upstream, people at this stage of life, trying to pretend we have this boundless, youthful vigour," says Marc Freedman, the 65-year-old founder of a San Francisco-based nonprofit.

Recently, he realized he was exhausted from years of putting in seven-day workweeks, administering hundreds of performance reviews, and prepping for countless board meetings.

Still, he didn't feel done with the work. He split his job, sharing the chief executive role with a younger colleague. The move eased some of the pressure and freed him to focus on big-picture work.

"For a lot of people, they're actually at a point where they're about to do their best work, but society's telling them that they're done," Freedman says of his fellow 60-somethings.

More than 40 per cent of older adults work or plan to work in retirement, a recent AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) survey found.

Picture your legacy

Greg Meluch, of Cary, NC, dedicated himself to coaching youth hockey in his retirement and wrote a memoir to pass down to his children.

After taking a buyout package at 55, he says he thought about obituaries, and how tributes for even the most dedicated professionals usually only include a line or two about work. Then he pictured himself in an elevator, chatting with a stranger for a couple of floors.

Did he want his intro to be that he was a sales and marketing executive — or that he was a husband, father, and hockey volunteer?

Nine years into retirement, he says he feels carefree like he did as a kid.

"Work for me is a four-letter word. It was good for what I needed it to be," he says.

"But now it's not anything that I want to be."

In sum, the decision of when to retire is a deeply personal one, influenced by various factors that extend beyond mere finances. As highlighted in the real-life experiences shared in this article, it's a decision that requires careful thought and self-reflection. The traditional notion of retirement is evolving, and many individuals are finding fulfilment in their post-career years by pursuing new activities, redefining their identities, and creating the next chapter in their lives.

The transition to retirement doesn't have to be a sudden, all-or-nothing choice. It can be a gradual process, allowing you to explore new interests and responsibilities at your own pace. Whether you choose to fully retire, embark on a different career path, or engage in part-time work, the key is to maintain a sense of purpose and satisfaction in your post-retirement life.

Ultimately, retirement should be a time to rediscover yourself, nurture your passions, and reflect on your legacy. While work is an important part of our lives, it's essential to remember that it's just one facet of our identity. Your retirement should offer the freedom to embrace your true self and live a life that brings you happiness and contentment. So, when contemplating the moment when it's time to retire, take a page from those who've found joy and fulfilment in their post-career years and consider what truly matters to you as you embark on this new phase of life.

Reference: The Wall Street Journal 6 November 2023

■

NATIONAL

University openings foster peaceful study atmosphere for students

Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe meets university rectors and degree college principals online yesterday.

IN a virtual conference yesterday morning, Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe engaged with university rectors and education degree college principals yesterday. The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister Dr Moe Zaw Tun, Permanent Secretary Dr Soe Win, and officials from the Ministry of Education.

Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe announced the opening of all universities and degree colleges, emphasizing the commencement of studies. He urged faculty members to serve their teaching duties, emphasizing cooperation in the enrollment process. The Union minister stressed the need for collective efforts from rectors, pro-rectors, professors, and staff to create a conducive and supportive environment for students.

Highlighting the importance of continuous improvement in teaching and learning activities, the Union minister called for attention to the university's image, cleanliness, and overall aesthetics. He urged a systematic approach to educational management for university development.

Following the Union minister's overview, Deputy Minister Dr Moe Zaw Tun, the permanent secretary, and the director-general of the Department of Higher Education discussed forthcoming tasks. The Union minister concluded the meeting with a closing speech. — MNA/TS

Projects launched with 6th Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Fund

Union Minister U Min Naung speaks on the occassion of projects launched with the sixth LMC Fund yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE launching ceremony of the projects to be implemented with the sixth special fund of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation was held at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung said that poverty alleviation and development of the socio-economic lives of the rural people in the Lancang-Mekong region are important and that with the support of special funds, the projects to be carried out by the ministry will be implemented in the respective fields and will be successfully implemented.

Deputy Secretary of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar Mr Zhang Zhonghua and U Aung Kyaw Moe, Deputy Director-General of the International Organizations and Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, gave speeches.

Relevant officials explained the progress of the businesses that were allowed to implement the special funds (2021) and (2022).

After the ceremony, the Union Minister and Deputy Ministers, the Deputy Secretary of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and guests visited the exhibits related to the projects implemented with the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation was granted permission to implement 35 projects with a total funding of more than US12.18 million from the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund.

Five projects with the 2017 Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Fund, nine with the 2018 version, six with the 2020 version, four with the 2021 version and seven with the 2022 version of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Fund were implemented.

The projects to be implemented with the 2023 fund include the agricultural sector and health sector, hoping to reduce the poverty of rural people. — MNA /KZL

Myanmar traditional foods served at ASEAN Gala Night in Singapore

FAMILIES of the Myanmar Embassy to Singapore exhibited local products and commodities and served the guests with the country's traditional foods at the ASEAN Gala Night that was held in Singapore's Orchard Hotel on 21 November, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the event, Myanmar showcased cultural products, jewellery and traditional items among others.

In addition, Myanmar traditional foods such as coconut noodles, oiled sticky rice, and Myanmar pancakes (locally called Montleikpya) were displayed and served to the attendees.

According to the report, the event involved a special feature in which embassies of the ASEAN nations in Singapore entertained with their folk music and dance. Myanmar participants also engaged with the song named 'Thanaka'.

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore Mr Albert Chua, personnel from the Southeast Asia Department of Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, diplomats from the embassies of the ASEAN nations, and dialogue partners and other partnership countries attended the event. — ASH/ TMT

Myanmar's traditional products were showcased at ASEAN Gala Night 2023.

NATIONAL

6th Education Exhibition featuring 12 Thai universities set for Yangon

THE Sixth Education Exhibition of Thai Universities will be held at Park Royal Hotel in Dagon Township, Yangon Region, with the participation of 12 Thai universities, according to U Kaung San, a graduate of a Thai university who is organizing the exhibition. The event will take place from 9 am to 4 pm on 3 December with 12 participant universities from Thailand. Visitors will be allowed into the exhibition free of charge.

"The universities from Thailand have a desire to hold this kind of event before the upcoming semester. In response to their request for this, we discussed it with the Embassy of Thailand. They also appreciated that. In this event, support from students from Thai universities and the Embassy of Thailand were included," said U Kaung San.

At the exhibition, officials from 12 famous universities in Thailand will hold direct discussions with visitors, and Myanmar students who want to attend universities in Thailand will be able to choose and study the information provided by the universities displayed at the exhibition in one place. — ASH/TKO

An advert of the Sixth Thailand Education Fair Myanmar 2023.

(L & R): Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) or drones and remote controls.

Yangon Region bans sale and unauthorized use of drones

THE General Administration Department in various townships in Yangon Region has issued a statement prohibiting the sale of drones and drone accessories within Yangon Region. Unauthorized flights will be subject to action under Section 188 of the Criminal Law.

According to the statement by relevant townships, PDF terrorist groups have been employing drones equipped with explosives to destroy schools, departmental offices, and various public buildings, causing explosions in crowded areas to disrupt local peace and stability. In response to these potential threats, supermarkets, electronic stores, and shops are explicitly prohibited from selling, possessing, or facilitating unauthorized flights of drones and the use of drone accessories. Strict enforcement measures will be applied upon the detection of unauthorized flights. Violation of these prohibitions or orders will result in actions taken under Section 188 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, as outlined in the statement. The violations of Section 188 of Code of Criminal Procedure will be charged with one to six months of imprisonment. — TWA/TKO

Best Film Editing Academy awardee G3 (aka) Ko Zaw Tun passes away

G3 (aka) Ko Zaw Tun.

THE best film editing academy awardee G3 (aka) Ko Zaw Tun passed away at his house located in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon, at around 11 am on 23 November, according to his father, director Maung Tin Nyein (Shumawa). At the time of his passing, he was only 37 years old, and he received the Best Editing Academy Award for 2019 along with Kyaw Khine Soe for the movie "1014". He was the assistant director for the movie "Yaukkyarkaung Ataungnhasel," together with his father, director Maung Tin Nyein (Shumawa).

"He was hospitalized with hepatitis. As his liver was deteriorating, the doctor suggested transplanting it. He was treated in the hospital again a couple of weeks ago as half of his liver was malfunctioning, and he came out of the hospital about a week ago. Last night, he lost consciousness. Then, he vomited blood and was feeling ill and went to hospital again. He died just before the process of blood transfusion at 11 am this morning in North Okkalapa Hospital," his father said.

The funeral is scheduled for 3 pm on 25 November at the Yayway cemetery in North Oakkalapa Township, Yangon. — ASH/TRKM

Measures taken to close accounts linked to fake CSCs in banks, mobile services

THE State Administration Council (SAC) has announced the closure of bank accounts and mobile banking accounts opened with fraudulent citizenship scrutiny cards (CSCs). In a bid to thwart online scams, the closure of accounts associated with fake CSCs is executed through a four-fold approach involving information access and verification procedures.

The Financial Intelligence Unit - FUI Office (Nay Pyi Taw).

The four critical factors encompass adherence to the supervisory guidelines of the Mobile Financial Services Supervisory Committee by mobile banking service providers. Additionally, prosecuting entities must take action against accounts discovered to be linked with counterfeit citizenship scrutiny cards. Suspicious financial transactions are to be reported to the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), and a list of bank accounts and mobile bank accounts opened with fake CSCs is to be submitted to the Central Bank of Myanmar for closure by relevant legal entities.

The SAC emphasizes that the Central Bank of Myanmar is tasked with verifying and closing the submitted fake accounts, with account balances credited to non-redeemable accounts.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Transport and Communications holds responsibility for phone SIM cards registered with fake citizenship scrutiny cards, ensuring compliance with registration rules outlined in the gazette. — TWA/ TRKM

ECONOMY
WORLD

This photo shows the town of Grindavik, Iceland. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/WIKIPEDIA**

Iceland keeps rate unchanged as volcano eruption looms

Iceland is home to 33 active volcano systems, the highest number in Europe.

ICELAND'S central bank said Wednesday it was keeping its key interest rate unchanged despite a poor inflation outlook, citing economic uncertainty over the impact of a looming volcano eruption.

The monetary policy committee of "the Central Bank of Iceland has decided to keep the Bank's interest rates unchanged," the bank said in a statement, adding it would remain at 9.25 per cent.

The committee noted that inflation on the subarctic island had fallen slightly, coming in at 7.9 per cent in October, but said in its latest forecast the "inflation outlook has deteriorated."

This suggested that "it may prove necessary to tighten the monetary stance still further."

However the committee opted to leave it unchanged "owing to uncertainty about the economic impact of seismic activity on the Reykjanes peninsula."

Iceland has been on high alert for a potential volcanic eruption in recent weeks.

Thousands of small earthquakes have been recorded on the island's southwestern peninsula as magma shifts under the Earth's crust.

The roughly 4,000 residents of Grindavik, a fishing port around 40 kilometres (25 miles) from the capital, were evacuated on 11 November.

Iceland is home to 33 active volcano systems, the highest number in Europe.

The Reykjanes peninsula had not experienced an eruption for eight centuries until 2021. — AFP

European banks lack transparency on green finance: NGO

WHILE European banks trumpet their accomplishments in terms of green finance a lack of transparency makes it impossible to verify their progress and leaves them open to accusations of greenwashing, an activist group said Wednesday.

ShareAction looked at the green finance commitments and activities of Europe's top 20 banks.

"Banks widely promote their green credentials to their customers and shareholders," said Xavier Lerin, senior research manager at ShareAction.

"However, there is a structural lack of transparency on what their green finance activities achieve," he added.

Banks are widely criticized for slow progress on the transition to net zero in their own operations as well as the lending activities.

The study found that all 20 have set green finance targets but only four — Barclays, BNP Paribas, ING, and Intesa Sanpaolo — have published partial information on how they have calculated some of their green finance targets. — AFP

La Vela (the sail) building which houses the head office of Spanish bank BBVA (Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria Bank) in Madrid. **PHOTO: PIERRE-PHILIPPE MARCOU/AFP**

Poor in west DR Congo unimpressed by anti-poverty drive

Charcoal is commonly used for cooking in DR Congo and local supplies must now take a long road through militia-riddled areas to reach the regional capital Goma. **PHOTO: AFP**

DR Congo's president, who is seeking re-election, came to office pledging to help those in dire poverty, but in remote areas little has changed.

Felix Tshisekedi, 60, is running for a second term in a 20 December election. After taking power in 2019, he waived primary school fees — his flagship social policy— and rolled out free maternity care in the capital Kinshasa.

More Congolese children are in classrooms than ever before. But most people in the Democratic Republic of Congo remain trapped in grinding poverty and see little change.

In the small village of Camp Pay, in western DRC's Kwilu province, farmer Victor Mukala said he felt let down. — AFP

China's supply chain expo draws global exhibitors

THE first China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE), which launches on 28 November, will attract more than 1,000 participants, including representatives from government departments, business communities, international organizations, experts and scholars, according to a press conference on Tuesday.

Zhang Shaogang, vice-chairman of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, said that 515 Chinese and foreign enterprises and institutions will be participating in the expo in Beijing, and many have already reserved exhibition areas for the second expo.

This year's event will feature more than 20 different activities, covering policy interpretation, exchanges and discussions, docking negotiations, new product releases, among other topics.

With an exhibition area of over 100,000 square metres, the expo will have areas dedicated to supply chains for the smart vehicle, green agriculture, clean energy, healthy living and digital technology. The CISCE, the world's first national-level supply chain expo, is set to be held in Beijing from 28 November to 2 December, with the theme of "Connecting the World for a Shared Future". — Xinhua

China's Guizhou sees foreign trade growth in first 10 months

CHINA'S Guizhou Province reported a foreign trade volume of 53.29 billion yuan (about 7.48 billion US dollars) in the first 10 months of 2023, up 4.7 per cent year on year.

During the period, the southwestern province's exports rose 10.6 per cent year on year to 34.7 billion yuan, while imports decreased 4.8 per cent to 18.59 billion yuan, according to Guiyang Customs. From January to October, the province's private enterprises saw rapid growth in their foreign trade volume, which increased 16.5 per cent year on year to 33.93 billion yuan.— Xinhua

This aerial photo taken on 9 February 2023 shows a China-Europe freight train at Dulaying Station in Guiyang, southwest China's Guizhou Province. **PHOTO: LIU XU/ XINHUA**

Rising energy bills to worsen UK cost-of-living crisis

THE price cap on energy bills for most UK households will rise this winter, regulator Ofgem said Thursday, further fuelling a cost-of-living crisis that is forecast to worsen.

Bills will climb from January on rising wholesale energy prices, which have increased due to key producer Russia's war in Ukraine, Ofgem said in a statement.

The annual amount suppliers are able to charge an average household consuming electricity and gas will increase to £1,928 ($2,418) from £1,834, it added.

"This is a difficult time for many people, and any increase in bills will be worrying," noted Ofgem chief executive Jonathan Brearley.

Consumer Prices Index inflation slowed sharply to 4.6 per cent last month on easing energy bills, achieving Conservative Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's target to halve the key figure.

However, households and businesses continue to pay high energy bills after the government scrapped last year's costly subsidies, while food-price inflation remains in double digits. — AFP

Ministry of Cooperative and Rural Development
Department of Rural Development
Myanmar: Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Project
CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR SOLAR MINI-GRID ELECTRICITY PROJECTS
(Re-invitation)

The Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Cooperative and Rural Development is inviting interested companies to submit mini-grid proposals for the following projects at Kan Seik village, Dedaye Township in Ayeyarwady Region and Kyein Mae Taung village, Boke Pyin Township in Tanintharyi Region,

Lot-1: Kan Seik Solar Mini-grid Electricity Supply and Water Supply Distribution Project (Solar-81kW)

Lot-2: Kyein Mae Taung Solar Mini-grid Electricity Supply and Cold Storage for Fishery Products Projects (Solar-165.68kW)

Submission Deadline: Proposals must be delivered to the address below at 10:00 AM Local Time on 11 December 2023

Interested companies should visit the DRD Website (https://drdmyanmar.org/) or directly contact the following address for further information:

Office No.36, Department of Rural Development, Naypyidaw,
Tel./Fax: +95 673 418635, 418636
Email: PL.hq@drdmyanmar.net; drdnepmg@gmail.com; ksaung@gmail.com; myomyonpd@gmail.com

Tender Committee

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRIC POWER
DEPARTMENT OF HYDROPOWER IMPLEMENTATION

Invitation to tender for the Design, Supply, and Supervision of Erection and Commissioning of Hydraulic Steel Structue and Electromechanical Works for Hwe Htike Small Hydropower Project.

1. The Ministry of Electric Power of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, **Department of Hydropower Implementation (DHPI)**, hereinafter called the Employer, seeks to invites qualified Contractors and/or Joint Ventures to submit Tenders for the **Design, Supply, and Supervision of Erection and Commissioning of Hydraulic Steel Structure and Electromechanical works for Hwe Htike Small Hydropower Project (Delivered Duty Paid – Bellin (DHPI - Base Camp), KyaukSe Basis)**.

2. The project is located at latitude 26° 18' 50.4018" N and 95° 25' 02.5416" E and about 1.875 Mile away from South West of Lahe Town in Naga Autonomy Region of Sagaing Region of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

3. A complete set of Tender documents can be purchased with the contractor's requested letter at the following address within (10:00 ~ 15:00) hours upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **300,000 MMK (Three Hundred Thousand in Myanmar Kyat)** no later than **18th of December, 2023.**

Procurement Branch
Department of Hydropower Implementation
Office Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Telephone: 009567-8104191, 009567-8104190, 009567-8104189
E-mail : procurement.dhpi@moep.gov.mm

4. **Tender Submission Date** is **28th of December, 2023 at 13:00** (Myanmar Standard Time).

5. Tenderers must be submitted the proposals to the address above on **Tender Submission Date.** Any late proposal shall be rejected.

6. All tenders shall be rejected if they submit their proposals by electronic or express services.

7. Technical envelope will be opened in the presence of tenderer's representatives, who choose to attend at the address above after **13:00 hours** (Myanmar Standard Time) on **Tender Submission Date**.

8. Any request for the extension of **Tender Submission Date** shall not be allowed.

Tender Committee
Department of Hydropower Implementation
Ministry of Electric Power
Nay Pyi Taw

Advertise with us/ Hot Line : 09251022355, 09255597511

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB345A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB345A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-11-2023** 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 MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (102N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (102N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-11-2023** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MCC ANDALAS VOY.NO. (345W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCC ANDALAS VOY.NO. (345W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-11-2023** 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 SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Indonesia's anti-graft chairman faces corruption case

INDONESIA has named the chairman of its anti-graft commission as a suspect in a corruption case, according to police, in a setback to the reputation of an agency set up two decades ago after the fall of dictator Suharto.

It is the first time the head of the country's anti-corruption body has been accused of the crime it was created to police. Graft remains rampant in the archipelago nation, which ranked 110th out of 180 countries in Transparency International's latest corruption perception index.

Police named Indonesian Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) chief Firli Bahuri as a suspect on Wednesday over allegations of extortion and receiving gifts or gratuities in legal dealings with the agriculture ministry from 2020 to 2023.

Ade Safri Simanjuntak, Jakarta police's director for special crime, told reporters that Bahuri would be questioned "as the KPK chief in his capacity as a suspect in alleged corruption crime".

Last month, former Indonesian agriculture minister Syahrul Yasin Limpo was arrested after a series of accusations, including that he pocketed more than $800,000 in public funds.

The allegations against Bahuri are linked to Limpo's case. The KPK chief has denied the accusations on several occasions in the past. — AFP

The Indonesian government to pass a law in 2002 creating KOMISI PEMBERANTASAN KORUPSI (KPK), or the Corruption Eradication Commission with a far-reaching mandate to free Indonesia from corruption. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ DAVIDELIT / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

Incoming New Zealand PM forms three-party coalition govt

Christopher Luxon's National Party, with 48 seats in the 123-seat parliament after the recent general election, sought support from the conservative ACT and populist New Zealand First parties to establish a government.

NEW Zealand's incoming conservative prime minister said Thursday that an agreement to form a three-party coalition government had been reached, 40 days after the country went to the polls.

Christopher Luxon's National Party, which secured 48 seats in the 123-seat parliament in last month's general election, needed the support of the conservative ACT and populist New Zealand First parties to form a government.

After protracted talks, Luxon said negotiations had "concluded" and the agreement now needed to be ratified by the three coalition partners.

"At which point, I'll talk again to the governor-general and formally confirm that we're able to form a government," he told reporters in Wellington.

A formal signing ceremony is expected to be held on Friday morning, Luxon said, "so that we can get the show moving and get this country going forward". — AFP

New Zealand's incoming Prime Minister Christopher Luxon expects the agreements to form a three-party coalition government to be signed on Friday. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Car blast near Niagara Falls shuts down US-Canada crossing, kills 2

A car erupted into a fireball at a US-Canada checkpoint near Niagara Falls on Wednesday, killing the two occupants, triggering border closures and sparking a massive security alert on the eve of a major holiday.

The regional FBI field office concluded the blast, which occurred around 400 miles (640 kilometres) northwest of New York City, was not linked to terrorism.

Witnesses described seeing a car travelling at high speed before it crashed into a checkpoint barrier and exploded into flames.

The blast happened at the major Rainbow Bridge crossing near Niagara Falls with nothing left of the vehicle which was incinerated except for the engine, according to New York Governor Kathy Hochul. — AFP

Canadian police secure the area near the Rainbow Bridge border crossing after a car exploded at the US-Canada checkpoint. **PHOTO: AFP**

North Korean ballistic missile launch on Wednesday night likely failed

NORTH Korea launched a ballistic missile towards the Sea of Japan on Wednesday night, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported.

According to Yonhap, it appears the launch failed.

The missile followed a successful military satellite launch earlier on Tuesday. As reported by North Korean state media, the Tuesday launch occurred at the Sohae Cosmodrome, using the Chollima-1 carrier rocket. The rocket is said to have followed its planned trajectory, placing the Malligyong-1 military reconnaissance satellite into orbit. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reportedly oversaw the launch.

Amid enhanced US-Japan-South Korea's strategic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, Pyongyang accuses them of increasing military tensions, pointing to large-scale exercises and more US strategic assets in the region. — SPUTNIK

SPORTS

Paris transport 'will not be ready' for Olympics: mayor

In terms of transportation, there are still ongoing issues with daily transport, and they have not yet attained the level of comfort and punctuality required for Parisians.

Head of the organizing committee for the 2024 Paris Olympics Tony Estanguet (L) and Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo with the Olympic flag mark the handover from Tokyo to the French capital. **PHOTO: STÉPHANE DE SAKUTIN/ AFP/FILE**

THE transport system in Paris will not be ready in time for the 2024 Olympic Games in the French capital, its mayor said, sparking anger Thursday from political opponents.

With less than a year before the event kicks off, the transport infrastructure in Paris is already under huge pressure, with commuters and tourists alike complaining of poor frequency, overcrowding and uncleanliness.

Speaking on the Quotidien talk show on TMC TV, Hidalgo said that while the Games infrastructure will be ready "there are two things for which we will not be ready" namely transport and also the problem of homelessness. On transport, "we still have problems in daily transport issues and we are still not reaching the comfort and punctuality needed for Parisians."

"There are places where the transport will not be ready and there will not be enough trains."

Political opponents lashed out at the Socialist mayor, who has been under pressure this month after it emerged she extended a low-key official trip to a French Pacific territory in October with a two-week private visit in the holiday paradise. — AFP

Shaw was a key part of United's success last season and he has been missed as Erik ten Hag's side have endured an erratic start to the campaign. **PHOTO: AFP**

Man Utd's Shaw returns to training after injury

MANCHESTER United and England defender Luke Shaw has returned to training after a lengthy injury layoff, the club announced on Wednesday.

The 28-year-old left-back sustained a "muscle issue" in the early weeks of the season but is back in full training ahead of Sunday's Premier League clash with Everton.

Shaw's absence has created a problem at left-back as injury has also sidelined Tyrell Malacia all season.

Sergio Reguilon was brought in on loan from Tottenham as an extra option in the position, while Sofyan Amrabat, Diogo Dalot and Victor Lindelof have also filled in.

Shaw was a key part of United's success last season and he has been missed as Erik ten Hag's side have endured an erratic start to the campaign.

They are on the verge of Champions League elimination and have lost five of their first 12 Premier League games, sitting in sixth position. The club have a number of other injury concerns ahead of their trip to Goodison Park.— AFP

Tiger Woods and son Charlie to play in parent-child event

TIGER Woods, set to make his return to competition next week following ankle surgery in April, said Wednesday he will partner with son Charlie in a parent-child tournament next month.

Woods will make his comeback at the Hero World Challenge invitational event he hosts in the Bahamas on 30 November-3 December, then pair with 14-year-old Charlie at the PNC Championship on 16-17 December at Ritz-Carlton Golf Club in Orlando, Florida.

"It's an amazing gift to be able to share my love of golf with Charlie and we genuinely do look forward to playing in the PNC Championship all year," Woods said.

"Competing together against a field of so many golfing greats and their families is so special."

The 15-time major winner has not played since the Masters last April. He withdrew in the third round due to plantar fasciitis and had the surgery shortly thereafter on an ankle that suffered severe injuries in a 2021 car crash.

Woods, who turns 48 on 30 December, and his son will compete in the parent-child event for the fourth consecutive year.

While Woods will have to walk 72 holes in the Bahamas, carts are permitted in the 36-hole PNC event.

Woods caddied for his son at a junior event earlier this month and Charlie's high school team won a Florida state title earlier this month. — AFP

Tiger Woods, right, and his teen son Charlie, left, will compete in next month's PNC Championship, a parent-child 36-hole tournament. **PHOTO: DAVID CANNON COLLECTION/GETTY IMAGES/AFP/ FILE**

New coach for Thailand after muted World Cup campaign start

THAILAND'S football team have parted ways with head coach Alexandre Polking, officials said Wednesday, after a mixed start to their 2026 World Cup qualifying campaign.

A 3-1 win over Singapore on Tuesday was not enough to save the Brazilian-German's job, after his men went down 2-1 to China last week.

Team manager Nualphan Lamsam said Polking would be replaced by Masatada Ishii, the 56-year-old Japanese coach who led Buriram United to Thai Premier League titles in 2022 and 2023. — AFP

Incoming New Zealand PM forms three-party coalition govt

PAGE-14

Trade titans: Russia, China target $300 billion partnership defying all odds

Russia is a major supplier of energy commodities, including oil and gas, contributing significantly to the global energy market. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ GAZPROM**

Russia plays a significant role as a major supplier in various sectors, including energy commodities, refined products, agricultural goods, and industrial products.

AMID mounting Western pressure, Russia and China are strengthening their economic ties, with the volume of trade expected to rise to $300 billion by the end of this decade, Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Andrey Belousov revealed.

During a Russian-Chinese Intergovernmental Commission meeting held in Beijing, Belousov underscored China's steadfast position as Russia's primary trade ally and the growing investment opportunities for both countries.

"Since the start of 2023, bilateral trade has grown significantly, increasing by a remarkable one-third.

Noteworthy progress has been achieved in the exchange of metallurgical and chemical products, food items, as well as equipment and vehicles," he said.

Contrary to previous projections, which estimated a benchmark turnover of $200 billion by 2024, the Deputy Prime Minister has announced that this target would be surpassed this year.

Customs data from China showed a 29.5 per cent surge in trade between the two nations in the first three quarters of 2023, totalling an impressive $176.4 billion.

The flourishing trade ties between Russia and China have gained momentum amid the US-led Western sanctions against Russia and ongoing trade friction between the United States and China. — SPUTNIK

RELEASE MODALITIES CAUSE SETBACK

Palestinian official says truce delayed over 'last minute' hostage list details

A Palestinian official told AFP Thursday that a delay in implementation of a truce in the Gaza Strip between Israeli forces and Hamas was due to "last minute" details over which hostages would be released and how.

The truce, widely expected to go into force on Thursday but delayed during the night, had been put back over "the names of the Israeli hostages and the modalities of their release", said the official, who has knowledge of the negotiation process but asked to remain anonymous.

Lists of those to be freed had been exchanged by both sides, he added. Questions were also being raised over Red Cross access to the hostages before they would be released into Egypt, he said, and whether the Red Cross would have access to those who remained. — AFP

Stellantis recalls over 32,000 SUVs over potential fire risk

AUTOMAKER Stellantis announced on Wednesday that it was recalling more than 32,000 hybrid Jeep Wrangler SUVs from the US market, citing a potential fire risk.

Eight of the plug-in vehicles had caught fire, six of them while connected to chargers, the company said in a statement.

All the SUVs were switched off at the time and Stellantis said it was unaware of any injuries or accidents.

"The vehicles may be driven. However, the Company is advising owners to refrain from recharging these hybrid vehicles, and to park them away from structures and other vehicles, until they are remedied," Stellantis said.

It is estimated that the defect may be present in one per cent of the 2021–2024 Wrangler 4xe models covered by the recall. **PHOTO: STELLANTIS**

The recall applies to some 2021-2024 Wrangler 4xe models and the automaker said it would contact affected customers about scheduling service for their vehicles. — AFP