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

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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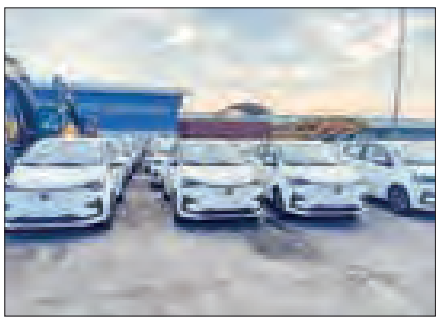

38 EV charging stations equipped with 51 chargers in initial stage in Yangon, Yangon-Mandalay Exprassway, Nay Pyi Taw

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Octane prices dip, yet diesel prices rebound

Hot-air balloons released to open Tazaungdine lighting festival at Maravijaya Buddha Image

The inaugural event of the Tazaungdine lighting festival in action at the Maravijaya Buddha Image yesterday, graced by SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and dignitaries.

A ceremony to launch the ceremony of releasing hot-air balloons to mark the Tazaungdine lighting festival dedicated to the Maravijaya Buddha Image was held on a grand scale on the water fountain platform of the Maravijaya Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township yesterday evening.

On arrival at the festival venue, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla were welcomed by male and female national races from MRTV and cultural troupes from the Fine Arts Department with cultural dances.

The Senior General and his wife cut the ribbon to launch the ceremony.

Just then, a total of 450 small hot-air balloons were released at the same time as launching the fireworks. Moreover, dances were presented to the accompaniment of a song about the wonderful festival of Tazaungdine whereas a large hot-air balloon named Arojam was also released. The Senior General, his wife and the audience enjoyed the festival.

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NATIONAL

The photo depicts devotees on pilgrimage to the Maravijaya Buddha Image during the Tazaungdine lighting festival in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: HTEIN AYE**

Pilgrims flock to Maravijaya Buddha Image in Tazaungdine

THE Maravijaya Buddha Image, the tallest of its kind in the world ally and situated within Nay Pyi Taw's Buddha Park, is drawing crowds of pilgrims from nationwide during the Tazaungdine lighting festival that started yesterday evening.

Relevant officials conducted security inspections and transported the monks, people with disabilities and elderly people who had difficulty walking by small vehicles so that they could pay obeisance comfortably.

Pilgrims across the nation offered 9,000 oil lights to the Maravijaya Buddha Image, as well as recitation of Maha Pathana Pali verses and the religious Wut associations recited religious verses. — Myo Hset Thit/MKKS

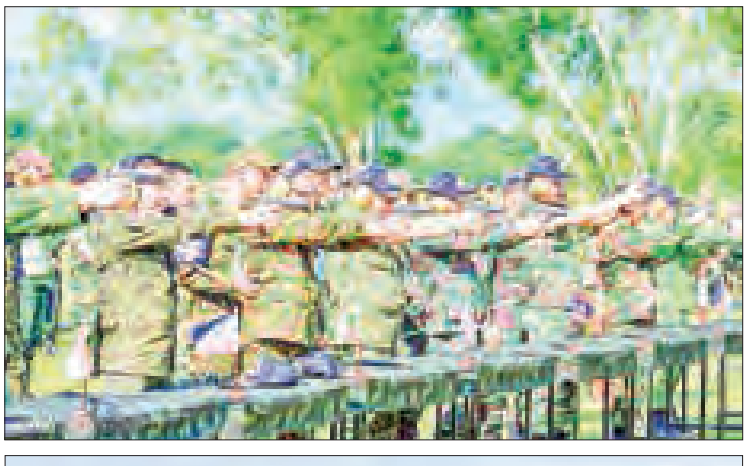
Myanmar stands fourth in 31st ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet

MYANMAR'STATMADAW competed in the 31st ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet (AARM), which was in Thailand from 20 to 24 November.

A total of 25 shooters from Myanamr's Tatmadaw team competed in carbine, rifles, machine guns and men's and women's pistols events of the AARM-31.

Myanmar stood fourth after securing eight gold, seven silver and seven bronze medals in total including five gold, four silver and five bronze medals in the team-wise competitions and three gold, three silver and two silver bronze medals in the shooting events.

The Myanmar's Tatmadaw shooting team returned to Nay Pyi Taw by air yesterday afternoon and was welcomed back by Lieutenant General Soe Min Oo and senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army). — MNA/KZL



Photos show the Myanmar Tatmadaw shooting team at the 31st AARM competition.

Myanmar delegation attends 2023 Sichuan-Chongqing & Mekong Countries Sub-National Cooperation Forum

Myanmar delegates seen with those from Mekong countries to attend the 2023 Sichuan-Chongqing & Mekong Countries Sub-National Cooperation Forum in China.

THE Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Commerce U Min Min attended the 2023 Sichuan-Chongqing & Mekong Countries Sub-National Cooperation Forum in China from 22 to 24 November at the invitation of the Foreign Affairs Office of Chongqing Municipal Government.

The forum aimed at boosting mutually beneficial cooperation of Mekong regions, enhancing trade and commerce and advancing progress among Chongqing and Mekong regions.

On 22 November, the leader of the Myanmar delegation and Deputy minister visited an exhibition of the Sichuan-Chongqing and Mekong regions at the Guanyinqiao Business Centre together with representatives from China, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam.

The opening ceremony of the 2023 Sichuan-Chongqing & Mekong Countries Sub-National Cooperation Forum was held on 23 November at the Foreign Affairs Office in Chongqing.

Speaking at the event, the deputy minister said that the forum will strengthen the cooperation between China and Mekong Sub-region countries and enhance business, trade and investment.

Moreover, the forum will bring huge economic cooperation in the future based on the long-lasting bilateral relations between China and the Mekong region.

Moreover, Myanmar is now actively working with China and the Mekong region to improve regional cooperation.

It needs to explore the promising goods to enhance the bilateral trade whereas good friendship and trust play vital roles between the exporters and importers, and it should accelerate the communication among the business people of China and the Mekong regions.

Similarly, Mandalay City Development Committee Chairman Mayor U Kyaw San attended a forum held at New World Hotel in Bishan District together with representatives and mayors from China, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam in the same evening.

The Mayor discussed the progress in Mandalay, the focal point for trade and production sectors, the tourism industry of certain regions including Mandalay and Bagan and promising economic and investments. Moreover, the delegates to the forums visited the Automobile Centre, Chongqing Planning Exhibition Gallery and International Logistics Hub in Chongqing on 24 November. The Myanmar delegation arrived back to Yangon on 25 November. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla attend Kathina robe-offering ceremony at Maravijaya Monastery

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla joined the Kathina robe-offering ceremony at Maravijaya Monastery in the precinct of Maravijaya Buddha Image in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday morning.

The Senior General and congregation viewed Kathina robes, alms and structures decorated with currency notes to be donated to Maravijaya Monastery.

The Senior General and wife offered Kathina robes and alms to Presiding Patron of Paukmyaing Monastery from Lewe Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Janinda and Abbot of Maravijaya Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Neminda respectively.

The SAC Secretary, the Joint Secretary and his wife, Council members and their wives, senior military officers and their wives donated Kathina robes and alms to members of the Sangha.

SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla view the Kathina robes and decorated alms donations at the event yesterday.

The Senior General, his wife and the congregation offered day meals to members of the Sangha led by Paukmyaing Sayadaw.

The ceremony was also attended by Union ministers, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, senior military officers and their wives, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and officials. — MNA/TTA

Hot-air balloons released to open Tazaungdine lighting festival at Maravijaya Buddha Image

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The Senior General and his wife, and audiences also viewed the release of large hot-air balloons with the titles of Swan-ah-shin (1), Thitsar-mandaing, Ahmanthit, Aungmyingyin Moekaungkin and two elephants.

While making preparations to release hot-air balloons, artistes from the modern band of MRTV of the Ministry of Information and Myawady Entertainment Troupe of the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare and other artistes performed choral dances and songs.

After offering flowers, water and oil lights to the Maravijaya Buddha Image, the Senior General and his wife lit 3,600 oil lamps together with attendees to the ceremony.

The Senior General and his wife visited the platform of the Buddha image and stone plaque chamber pagodas and cordially greeted monks and people who joined the ceremony.

The festival will last from 25 to 27 November. During the festival, 9,000 oil lamps will be lit to dedicate to the Lord Buddha with the recitation of Pathana treatise, launching fireworks, releasing hot-air balloons and weaving lotus robes. The Buddha Park will be illuminated with LED bulbs, and plans are underway to sell domestic goods, foodstuffs, personal goods and traditional snacks to be showcased by MSME businesses. People can visit the festival joyfully.

The ceremony was also attended by the Council Secretary, the Joint Secretary and his wife, Council members and their wives, Union-level persons, Union ministers and their wives, the Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council and officials. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Counter-argument to false information

False Claim: No deployment of 14,000 troops to Nay Pyi Taw

RECENTLY spreading news that about 14,000 Tatmadaw members have been stationed in Nay Pyi Taw is just misinformation, said a military officer.

"It is not true. The situation in Nay Pyi Taw is peaceful. As you know false news has been spreading every day. It might be a plan of a group. They intend to impose fear on people living in Nay Pyi Taw with that misinformation. The deployment of 14,000 Tatmadaw members in Nay Pyi Taw is not correct," he said.

Moreover, the Information Team of SAC also released a statement saying the anti-government media spread the misinformation on social media that about 14,000 troops are stationed to protect the main military headquarters from nationwide offensives, and these claims are just fake news and misinformation.

Similarly, an official of the SAC Information Team also reaffirmed that the news is just untrue and the false media outlets are spreading false information. — Myo Khine/ KTZH

Misinformation spreads: Troops from Thanlyin Naval Base absconding with weapons

FAKE news that 17 soldiers from the Thanlyin Naval Base, Yangon Region have absconded bringing weapons and munition has been intentionally spread through social media.

However, according to the credible information from the military source, there is no such desertion from the Thanlyin Naval Base. These false news are mere misinformation deliberately published on social media aiming to undermine the military unity amongst Tatmadaw members, their families and the public. — MNA/ TMT

Misinformation spreads: Tatmadaw recruiting public servants to attend military training

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council claimed that it was fake news and misinformation that civil servants and government officials were forced to attend military training in Nay Pyi Taw.

An officer remarked that it is just intentionally spreading misinformation to raise fear, insecurity and anxiety among the service personnel who are serving their rightful duties in the regular conditions at the current moment in Nay Pyi Taw.

The fake news also said that the government staff and officials in Nay Pyi Taw are allowed to travel only with the employee transport buses under tight security. Therefore, the non-CDM staff do not have a chance to abscond.

A government staff also said, "The employee transport buses have been used since before. There is no such situation that the security is tightened. I mean the security condition is just normal. Staff who come from other towns were provided better security than before. Concerning the military training news, no one ordered us to attend it or no one came to us to put our names on the list," continuing that "We also saw those fake news. They are just a mere propaganda piece."

The anti-government media published through social media that Tatmadaw is collecting information about the weight and height of the non-CDM male staff from different ministries and departments in Nay Pyi Taw to recruit them in the military in December to forcibly send them to the frontline. — Myo Khaing/ TMT

False social media claim: K2,000 collection per household for militia unit

MISINFORMATION about urging residents to contribute K2,000 per household to support the militia unit at some villages of eastern Bago Region on the evening of 24 November from the administration organizations was announced by the speaker and threatened and this kind of threat is normal to collect the money stated by the Kawa locals spreading on social media.

Concerning this false news, one of the authorities from the Bago Region administration stated that this is just false information and it used the locals' innocence and only intended to cause misunderstanding.

Therefore, various forms of false news on social media are being spread by subversive media outlets that support violence to threaten citizens and to misunderstand administrators. — MNA/TRKM

Screenshot validates viral spread of false news.

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NATIONAL

38 EV charging stations equipped with 51 chargers in initial stage in Yangon, Yangon-Mandalay Exprassway, Nay Pyi Taw

IN a bid to encourage electric vehicles (EVs) use, 38 EV charging stations have installed 51 chargers in the initial stage, said U Zaw Win, Yangon Region Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

He gave a remark at the opening ceremony of the EV charging station affiliated with Terminal 202 petrol station in Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region on 23 November.

To reduce the consumption of imported fuel in the transportation sector and air pollution, the authorities are encouraging the use of EVs as a substitute fuel oil. Under the guidance of the National-level Leading Committee on Development of the Electric Vehicle and Related Businesses, as a part of the initial stage, the installation of 51 EV chargers was done at 38 fuel stations; 24 in Yangon, seven on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway and seven in Nay Pyi Taw, which facilitates the EVs for charging, U Zaw Win elaborated.

Newly arrived battery electric cars unveiled at Yangon Port.

Myanmar Investment Commission also released a statement on 15 February that electric vehicles and related businesses will be promoted as the priority sector, as per its notification dated 15 February.

In the exercise of the power conferred by Sections 43 and 100 (B) of Myanmar Investment Law, the MIC issued this statement with the approval of the Union government.

Enterprises executing installation, manufacturing and restoration services of the EVs, renewable electricity generation, EVs charging service businesses, electric vehicle battery production, EV battery and related service business, electric bus operation services, electric taxi and transportation service businesses and scientific research development business are included in those priority sectors.

During the establishment and ideation phase for incorporation and operations, those businesses can seek permit from the MIC to enjoy tariff relief or zero-customs tariff status and exemption for other taxes levied in the country under Section 77 (A) of the Myanmar Investment Law and income tax exemption under Section 75 (C) of the Myanmar Investment Law for the importations of machinery, essential equipment and accessories, spare parts and construction raw materials that cannot be found in domestic markets. Myanmar has been bringing in electric vehicles (EVs) and EV chargers under the Customs tariff relaxation through seaborne and border trade routes as well as air transport through Yangon International Airport, according to the Ministry of Commerce. — NN/EM

UMFCCI President U Aye Win and Bangladesh Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Md Monwar Hossain exchang gifts at the meeting on 23 November 2023.

Myanmar, Bangladesh discuss promoting economic, trade collaboration

BOOSTING the bilateral trade and economic collaboration between Myanmar and Bangladesh and attracting more investments were discussed at the office of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) located in Lanmadaw Township, Yangon Region on 23 November, according to UMFCCI General Secretary Daw Khine Khine Nwe.

UMFCCI President U Aye Win and Bangladesh Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Md Monwar Hossain, PhD and party exchanged views during the meeting.

They discussed collaboration between the two countries for strengthening Myanmar-Bangladesh friendly relations, promoting trade and investment sectors, improving commodity flow and border trade, and seeking more business opportunities. — ASH/TMT

Rice exports gain good prices

RICE exports have seen a positive turn in the financial year 2023-24, projected to reach 150,000 tonnes in November, says U Ye Min Aung, President of the Myanmar Rice Federation.

Myanmar's rice fetched only US$350-400 per tonne based on quality in the previous financial year. The prices, however, rose to over $500 now.

U Ye Min Aung said "Despite exporting less, improved prices have kept our earnings relatively steady. I think the rice export could reach 150,000 tonnes in November".

From April 2023 to October this financial year saw a 50 per cent drop in rice exports compared to the same period last year but only a 25-30 per cent slump in earnings.

The federation aims to export 2.5 million tonnes of rice and broken rice and earn $1 billion this financial year. — ASH/NT

Bags of rice being loaded onto the vessel at the port.

NATIONAL

NEWS IN BRIEF

Suspects of fires at Ponnagyun market

ACCORDING to Leader of the State Administration Council Information Team Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, the incident of fires at the Ponnagyun market, at 2:30 pm on 24 November in Ponnagyun township located in Rakhine State, was suspected to be a plot. "Tatmadaw only focuses on military targets with any reason to set fire to anything," Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun said.

Myanmar scores third prize in Singapore-Global Firefighters & Paramedics Challenge (SGFPC 2023)

IN the Singapore-Global Firefighters & Paramedics Challenge (SGFPC 2023) held in Singapore from 20 to 25 November, Fire Sergeant Tun Nay Win won the third prize. Firefighters from 16 countries including Myanmar, the UK, Australia, Luxembourg, Thailand, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Viet Nam participated in the competition.

Token system service at CNG shops

ACCORDING to U Kyaw Thura Win, general manager of the vehicle natural gas department, a token system will be implemented via a mobile application using IT technology at CNG filling station. In the application, the announcements of CNG outlets, latest news and estimated waiting time will be posted.

Discussion on respiratory infections with WHO

THE China Daily newspaper reported on 24 November that the Chinese health authorities announced that they had not found a new unknown pathogen related to the recent infectious respiratory disease, and they had held discussions with the World Health Organization (WHO) regarding the possibility of a local epidemic. China has recorded an increase in seasonal respiratory diseases due to the simultaneous spread of influenza viruses, mycoplasma pneumoniae bacteria, respiratory syncytial virus and adenoviruses.

Licence on satellite internet services

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Transport and Communications, satellite internet services are being used illegally in the country. Under Section (5) of the Telecommunications Law and rule 52 (c) on the frequency spectrum, domestic and foreign individuals, departments, and organizations must register with the department for a business licence if international satellite operators are expected to provide satellite communication services to end-users.

Last member of Doh Bamar Asiayon, Thakin Pe Thant rest in peace

THE last surviving member of the 20th century Doh Bamar Asiayon, Thakin Pe Thant (Thaton), who was 101 years old, passed away on 23 November. The funeral ceremony of Thakin Pe Thant will be held on Saturday, 25 November, and the traditional funeral ceremony will be held on Wednesday, 29 November, at his home in North Okkalapa Township. — Htun Htun/TKO

The scenic of People's Park lighting festival in the previous year.

Seven bus lines to run for People's Park Tazaungdine lighting festival until 10 pm

THE Yangon Region Transport Committee (YRTC) reports that YBS lines are arranged to facilitate People's Park lighting and technological, and industrial products exhibitions with public transport.

During the three-day festival period, seven YBS lines are scheduled to facilitate nighttime travel for attendees, according to U Lyan Cin Mang, the Joint Secretary of YRTC.

The bus lines will be reportedly parked in front of the People's Park until 10 pm, and regular fares are arranged for the services.

Throughout the festivities, attendees can enjoy a variety of activities, including E-sport games, services of refreshment, films, music performances and more.

The event will feature performances by renowned artistes, magic shows and a DJ dance performance in the designated areas. — TWA/KZW

New monsoon onion prices drop: K600 below old summer onion

THE price of new monsoon onion per viss is K600 lower than that of old summer onion according to the onion wholesale centres based in the Bayintnaung market.

On 25 November, the new monsoon onions entered the Pakokku market, the small size onions were K1,000 per viss and normal sizes, K2,300 per viss. The old summer onions were K2,900 per viss as the highest and it was K600 more than that of new rain onions according to the local market statistics. On that day, a total of 20,000 visses of onions entered the market.

On 23 November, 32,000 visses of onions entered and one viss of summer onions was K3,100. On 24 November, 42,000 visses of onions entered the market and the summer onions were K3,050 per viss. Only 20 bags of the new monsoon onions entered the market and it was K1,400 per viss. On 25 November, 20 bags of the new monsoon onions also entered at the cost of K2,550 per viss. It is known that the new monsoon onions will enter the market after the Tazaungdine Festival days.

Also at the Yangon market, the new monsoon onions will enter after the Tazaungdine holidays and they can be traded in parallel with the old summer onions in the market.

During these days, the prices of the old summer onions have stopped rising as their demand in the market is weak. Their demand can be weaker when the new monsoon onions especially new Myittha onions entered the market. Some of the old summer onions wrinkled and sprouted and the buyers disliked it. The difference between prices of new monsoon onion and the old summer onion can also be reduced.

In mid-November 2022, only one kind of new monsoon onion entered the Pakokku market but starting from the last week of November 2023, an average of 30,000 visses of the old summer onions still enter the market. On the other hand, the old summer onions entered the Yangon market until 5 December 2022. This year, there are more in stock of the old summer onions in the local market. The local onion cultivation areas are around 190,000 acres yield of three visses per acre and the annual onion yield is between 900,000 and 1,000,000 tonnes. Mosoon onion sown acrage is five per cent and cold season onion 95 per cent. Without 25 per cent of waste and underestimation of storage, a total of 700,000 tonnes are exported for local consumption and foreign commercial use. — TWA/TRKM

Octane prices dip, yet diesel prices rebound

OCTANE prices have fallen again. However, diesel prices have regained in the domestic fuel market.

Octane prices were K2,210 per litre of Octane 92 and K2,350 for Octane 95 on 24 November. Then, the prices declined a bit to K2,170 for Octane 92 and K2,300 for Octane 95 on 25 November.

Meanwhile, diesel prices (diesel and premium diesel) rebounded to K2,200-2,290 per litre on 25 November from K2,125-2,215 per litre on 24 November.

The figures indicated a decrease of K40-50 per litre of Octane and an increase of K75 per litre of diesel within one day.

Cars refill fuels at one of the petrol stations in Nay Pyi Taw.

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

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

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

The Petroleum Products Regulatory Department, under the guidance of the committee, is issuing the daily reference rate for oil to offer a reasonable price to energy consumers.

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

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

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

Egg supply surpasses demand; sellers cut price

THE imbalance between supply and demand forces the sellers to lower egg prices in the domestic market as the shelf life of eggs is quite short, making a certain loss.

The production cost of eggs is estimated at K5,800 per viss (20 pieces on average).

However, the selling price is K1,700 per 10-piece carton at a shop near Sanpya market in Thingangyun Township during the Tazaungdine Festival (25-27 November).

The photo shows a mobile market offering fair prices of eggs at the Yangon municipal wards.

The wholesale prices of eggs move in the range between K170 and K330 per piece depending on weight (kilogramme) and producing areas on 24 November. The carton of eggs affixed with a logo displayed at City Mart and mini-marts are priced a bit higher than those offered by the vendors selling by the roadside. Those eggs from City Mart have a longer shelf life (about 14 days from the date of the sale).

A mobile egg shop offered lower pricing plus additional benefits (Buy 20 pieces/Get 3 to 5 extra) on 24 November on the corner of Maha Bandoola and 18th Street.

While the egg price is K230 per piece and duck egg is worth K320 per pc in the retail market, that sales promotion is a great chance for the low-income community, Ko Kyi Lwin, a buyer from Sinohtan Road, told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

The buyers can get a wholesale price of 300 pcs, bearing delivery fees. This being so, the sales with promotion offers near Thanzay (market) in Lanmadaw Township are bustling. The egg was earlier delivered to a neighbouring country at the border. The egg price was K100 per pc only in 2020. — TWA/KK

MRF, Agriculture Dept organize awareness meeting for CIFER system for legitimate rice export to China

MYANMAR Rice Federation (MRF) and Crops Protection Division under the Department of Agriculture jointly held an awareness meeting for the China Import Food Enterprise Registration through (online) single window system developed by the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) on 24 November to have legitimate rice export to China.

MRF President U Ye Min Aung gave an opening remark. Then, Assistant Director Daw Tin Tin Oo from the Crops Protection Division elaborated protocol required to follow in rice export to China. Also, Dr Win Than, assistant director, also explained the CIEFR (online) registration procedures. Representatives from 76 companies which want to seek registration from the GACC also attended the meeting.

Between 1 December 2021 and 28 July 2023, a total of 1,326 Myanmar food processing companies and factories submitted over 2,400 applications to the GACC. According to GACC Decree 248 and 249, GACC registration is mandatory for food exporters starting from 1 January 2022.

Those individuals executing edible oil, oilseeds, stuffed pastry products, edible bird's nest and related products, edible grains, grains milling industrial products and malt, fresh and dehydrated vegetables, dried beans, plant species, nuts and seeds, dried fruits, unroasted coffee and cocoa bean, special dietary food excluding milk-based formula, functional foods, bee products, aquatic products including farm products, animal products and animal feed and livestock animal businesses need to apply for GACC license to place their goods in China's market. Exporters can directly access China International Trade Single Window through https://cifer.singlewindow.cn by creating accounts for those food groups which are not listed on those aforementioned 18 groups. — NN/EM

OPINION

Nurture youths to become technologists for motherland

FOSTERING the technological prowess of the youth is imperative for any nation aspiring to thrive and progress. A country's ability to stay on par with global technological advancements is contingent on the cultivation of knowledge and skills among its youth.

The term 'technology' encompasses an extensive array of expertise, ranging from the manipulation and operation of diverse tools to the mastery of intricate systems. Empowering adept and skilled young individuals with the ability to harness advanced technologies can profoundly shape the trajectory of a nation, facilitating rapid modernization.

It is undeniable that nations worldwide harbour aspirations for enhancement and influence. The quest for superpower status, spanning political, military, and economic domains, is a universal ambition. Countries seek autonomy in currency dynamics, aiming to rival established global hard currencies. The current strides in advanced technologies offer a transformative gateway for nations to redefine their socioeconomic landscape swiftly.

> The educational journey for these aspiring technologists is fraught with challenges and hurdles. However, resilience in the face of difficulties is paramount. The commitment to overcoming challenges is not merely an individual endeavour but a collective mission for the benefit of all citizens. The overarching concept that must be ingrained in the minds of these youths is their responsibility to usher in modernization through the application of advanced technologies, thereby contributing to the progress and prosperity of their motherland.

In this context, a pivotal focus on enhancing educational systems for the youth becomes paramount. Foundational school education serves as the launchpad for acquiring knowledge. Armed with insights gained from formal education, young minds must broaden their horizons to delve into various facets of advanced technologies. A comprehensive understanding of these technologies positions them to contribute significantly to their nation's progress.

Technologists, in their pursuit of knowledge, must not overlook the debt owed to their motherland. They are duty-bound to reciprocate the opportunities for learning by serving their nation with acquired knowledge, expertise, and experiences. Such patriotic dedication forms the bedrock for substantial national development, allowing countries to swiftly catch up with established superpowers.

The educational journey for these aspiring technologists is fraught with challenges and hurdles. However, resilience in the face of difficulties is paramount. The commitment to overcoming challenges is not merely an individual endeavour but a collective mission for the benefit of all citizens. The overarching concept that must be ingrained in the minds of these youths is their responsibility to usher in modernization through the application of advanced technologies, thereby contributing to the progress and prosperity of their motherland.

In essence, nurturing a generation of technologically adept youth is not just an investment in individual futures but a strategic imperative for national development. By instilling a sense of duty and patriotism, nations can harness the potential of their youth to propel themselves to the forefront of global technological innovation and progress.

People suffering from work addiction feel ill even when they are working: Study

Workaholics often experience a negative mood, suggesting elevated daily stress levels. This heightened stress may contribute to their increased vulnerability to burnout and cardiovascular issues.

WORKAHOLICS' moods are generally worse than those of other people, even while they are engaged in the thing that they are most passionate about; their work. Workaholism is similar to other addictions such as gambling or alcoholism.

This is what emerges from a study published in the Journal of Occupational Health Psychology, conducted by Cristian Balducci, a professor at the Department for Life Quality Studies at the University of Bologna (Rimini Campus), in collaboration with Dr. Luca Menghini from the University of Trento and Prof. Paola Spagnoli from the University of Campania 'Luigi Vanvitelli'.

Professor Balducci explains: "The negative mood observed in workaholics may indicate elevated daily stress levels and that could be the cause of the higher risk for these individuals to develop burnout and cardiovascular problems.

Negative mood

Furthermore, considering that workaholics often hold positions of responsibility, their negative mood could readily influence that of colleagues and co-workers. This poses a risk that organizations should seriously consider, intervening to discourage behaviors that contribute to workaholism."

Work addiction has been a well-known phenomenon for a long time: people suffering from it tend to work excessively and compulsively. This is a true obsession that negatively affects health, psychological well-being, and relations with family and friends.

Several studies indicate that workaholics commonly experience a sense of unwellness, often accompanied by negative emotions such as hostility, anxiety, and guilt when they are unable to work as extensively as they wish.

SOURCE: ANI

Several studies indicate that workaholics commonly experience a sense of unwellness, often accompanied by negative emotions such as hostility, anxiety, and guilt when they are unable to work as extensively as they wish. **PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY**

Tazaungdine

By Chit Ko Pe

Tazaungmone brings good deeds along,
traditional practices lovely abound.

Prince Siddhartha's mother made a robe good,
with a sense of son's would-be monkhood.

To commemorate her thoughtfulness and act,
holy robe-weaving competition is held.

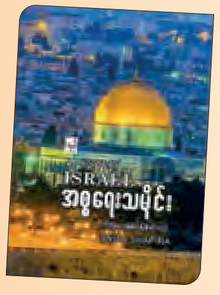
Full-moon day with dawn setting nearer,
holy robes are, at pagodas, offered.

Kathina robes to monks are donated in joy,
to replace the ones used and soiled.

A full-moon night with lanterns in series,
revellers are soaked in glee.

Salad of Mezali is consumed at midnight,
for good health by belief and foresight.

By generations, traditions are passed down,
wishing them to live long!



Book Title	-	Israel Thamaing
Translator	-	Ko Ko Lay
Publishing House	-	Yin Myo
Publication Date	-	June 2019 (1st Edition)
Price	-	K15,000

Israel Thamaing (A History of Israel by Anita Shapira)

THIS book is translated by Saya U Ko Ko Lay, who has been translating books on political affairs. He is the translator of the most famous book titled, 'The Fallen Dictators.' The book under review has won the national literary award in the genre of history and the Azrieli Institute Award. This book is full of historical evidence; a comprehensive book on the history of Israel, mentioning the beginning of the Jews, how they came to settle in the region of Palestine, how they got through in the region of Palestine under the British, how they have established the Country of Israel, how they have been attacked by the Arab enemies and the situation of Israel after having fought frequent wars against the Arab countries. This book is divided into 19 chapters.

The original writer of this book is a historian named Anita Shapira, who is an Israeli historian. She is the founder of Yitzhak Rabin Centre, professor emerita of Jewish history at Tel Aviv University, and former head of the Weizmann Institute for the Study of Zionism at Tel Aviv University.

True to the nature of a book on history, the book was written in chronological order commencing from the late 19th century during which the Zion Movement arose up to these days. The readers of this book will have some knowledge of how the Arabs, the Jews and the Turks have lived in the region of Palestine under British rule; the challenges the Israelis have encountered in nation-building endeavour; the migration en masse; the changes in culture; the political and diplomatic landscapes amidst the battles; and the efforts made in democratic society.

Additionally, the readers will be aware of the emergence of the Zionist Movement and the territorial issues, the step-by-step building of the Jewish State, the nationalistic characters and the cultural mores of the Jewish Society, the establishment of the State of Israel and its reforms, a decade-long battles and the post-war situation of Israel and the hope for achievement of peace.

In retrospect to the long history of Israel, one will see that this Hebrew State [Kingdom of Israel] flourished the most under the reign of King Saul, who was succeeded by Kings David and Solomon. Upon the demise of King Solomon in BC 922, the country was divided into two with the South becoming the Kingdom of Judah and the North, the Kingdom of Israel. In BC 722, Assyrians, the Judah King, occupied the Kingdom of Israel with the result that the entire region had become the Kingdom of Judah. Since then, the Jewish Israelites were driven out of the region of Palestine. In February of 1947, the British Government handed over the issue of Palestine to the United Nations Organization. On 29 November 1947, the United Nations passed a resolution under which Palestine was to be divided into the Jewish State and Arab State. The Jews welcomed this resolution whereas the Arabs were against this resolution. On 14 May 1948, the Jews established the State of Israel. Since the Jewish Settlement, the Arab-Israel wars broke out never to die down. The Jews speak Hebrew while the Palestinians speak Arabic. Israel and Palestine signed the peace agreement in 1993. Yet some sections of Palestinians are always making terrorist attacks on the Israelis. This book is strongly recommended for the historians as well as for the general readers.

Book Title	-	Tatiyagaba Hma Pahtamagaba Thoh
Translator	-	Hein Latt
Publishing House	-	Zeya Moe
Publication Date	-	June 2023 (5th Edition)
Price	-	K13,000

Tatiyagaba Hma Pahtamagaba Thoh

From Third World to First: The Singapore Story (1965-2000)

By Lee Kuan Yew

SINGAPORE has been called the 20th century's "most successful development story" and is considered a model for economic development. Its stunning economic transformation has been described as a "miracle" and has been the subject of numerous analyses by scholars and governments worldwide. Given this, it is easy to forget how improbable Singapore's chances of survival had been at the outset.

Although many books and articles have been written about the city-state's economic transformation, From Third World to First, published in 2000 remained the quintessential book on the subject. Consisting of more than 700 pages and divided into three parts and 43 chapters, the book is by no means a quick read. The author, the late Mr Lee Kwan Yew or LKY as he was affectionately called, was the island city-state's founding father and first Prime Minister, its chief architect, and one of Asia's most influential politicians.

In this book, Mr Lee told the story of Singapore's transformation "for a younger generation of Singaporeans who took stability, growth, and prosperity for granted". He wanted to remind them just "how difficult it was for a small country…with no natural resources to survive in the midst of larger, newly independent nations all pursuing nationalistic policies".

Alluding to Singapore's predicament, the late Dr Henry Kissinger, former United States Secretary of State and a lifelong friend of Mr Lee, wrote in the foreword that Singapore is "by far the smallest country in Southeast Asia [and] seemed destined to become a client state of more powerful neighbours, if indeed it could preserve its independence at all". That Singapore preserved its independence and achieved what it has despite all the odds speaks volumes about Mr Lee's leadership and efforts.

Indeed, for Mr Lee, pragmatism trumps ideology. What mattered to him was whether his plan would work, whether it would ensure Singapore's survival and guarantee its success. Ideological consideration has no place in his style of governance. As such, he did not mind Singapore being referred to rather derisively as a "nanny state" explaining famously that "If this is a nanny state, I am proud to have fostered one."

Mr Lee also helped Singapore navigate the complex geopolitics of the time that was characterized by great power rivalry between the United States, the Soviet Union and China. He acted as a confidant and messenger for them and in the process, he established himself as a great leader and his city-state as a serious player that punched above its weight in world affairs.

From Third World to First - The Singapore Story: 1965-2000 is a fitting legacy of a man who was loved and dreaded in equal measure. The book is a must for any library and also a 'must read' for scholars and academicians, diplomats who take an interest in study in particular and Southeast Asia in general.

Last but not least, Saya Hein Latt, the translator of this book, won the National Literary Award for the Translation Genre in 2002.

Entertainment

Nyo Min Lwin to create new film Feng Shui

THE offering ceremony of Katawpwe (coconut and three bunches of bananas in a large pot) for the Feng Shui movie was made at Shwedagon Pagoda and Kheng Hock Temple, said the producer and director of that movie Nyo Min Lwin.

"I prepare certain options as I make films regarding Feng Shui. When I make a new film, I ask myself… would I see that movie if I were an audience? If I don't want to watch it, I question to myself whether I make the film. The film will feature unusual locations. I will prepare prefect settings systematically," he said.

He is also the creator of the story, and plot and also the director of that film. The artistes such as Htet Yan Paing, Soe San Aung, A Mi Zan, Hanna, V V Cheng, May Lan, Zin Zin Win Yan, Kitty Lay and Daw Cho.

The first scene of the film was made at Kheng Hock Temple on 23 November. — ASH/KTZH

Hlwan Paing

SINGER and actor Hlwan Paing met with fans at the fair of Sein Nan Taw Jewellery Shop in Taunggyi together with other artistes on 23 November. Regarding his movie that is nominated for an Academy Award, he said "It depends on the situation ...I might win the Academy Award or not. I don't expect too much as it also depends on my fate."

Aye Wutt Yee Thaung

MODEL Aye Wutt Yee Thaung posted the motto "Be thankful for what you have" on her Facebook page. She was the winner of the Miss Christmas competition the year after Eaindra Kyaw Zin who was the first winner of the competition. Currently, the movie "Mingalar Shi Tae Ayet" directed by Director Awratha who starred as a witch together with actor Myint Myat has been popular again on social networks recently.

Naing Zaw

The Solo exhibition of Saya Khin Zaw (Naing Zaw) "Ink & Paper" is being convened from 22 to 26 November at Lokanat Art Gallery in Yangon. The 8th solo exhibition will feature 108 paintings of Saya Khin Zaw. The paintings are drawn on paper with ink so it is a unique event for the visitors.

Celebrity Brief

Amara Bo

MYANMAR Miss Amara Bo who competed in Miss Universe 2023 in El Salvador arrived back in Yangon on 23 November.

She said that she tried her best in the competitions so as to be proud of her activities and she got experiences even though she did not achieve any awards, and also expressed gratitude to the fans for their support.

Wai Gyi

FAMOUS composer Wai Gyi has starred in one MV called "Mandalar Ko Ko" composed by Saya Paw Shan. He starred with singers Tin Myo Oo and Yadana Mai, Thwet Latt and Chaw Sint Thu. He participated in it due to the encouragement of Singer Mai, mother of Yadanar Mai. The MV was directed by director Pandita. — Htun Htun/KTZH

Loon Htar Htar

Author Loon Htar Htar whose love stories become best sellers currently writes about mindfulness. Regarding her new book "Your Life is in Your Hand", she said: "We all should peacefully neglect the soft feelings on our body in addition to the serious suffering without responding to joy...desire. The more we accustomed to neglect or not responding, the more peace we achieve."

NATIONAL

Illegal immigrants handed over to relevant authorities

THE government is focusing on national stability and 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 conduct necessary checks and repatriate them to relevant countries under the law.

A total of 815 illegal immigrants, comprising 715 males and 100 females, were repatriated to China through Chinese officials. Therefore, a total of 7,993 illegal immigrants, including 7,266 males and 727 females, were repatriated to China from 31 October to 25 November.

The government will continue the process of screening and repatriation for foreign nationals who have illegally entered and resided in the border areas. — MNA/KZW

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

Photos show damage of the crude oil pipeline exploded by terrorists and preparations of the pipeline by officials of MOGE.

Terrorists' explosions of gas pipelines result in low power output

TERRORISTS have exploded a natural gas pipeline, a non-military target, near Nyaungchaung Village, Thaton Township, Mon State, which is connected to natural gas power plants in Yangon with mines on 23 November, resulting in a low electricity output.

The explosion of the pipeline caused the Hlawga power station in Yangon to stop functioning and lose 55 megawatts of electricity, resulting in lower electricity distribution to Yangon Region, and Mon and Kayin states.

Security forces have guarded the location where the pipeline was damaged while Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) staffers are repairing it.

Similarly, a gas pipeline from the Myaingkalay gas distribution station serving the turbine in Thaton was damaged by terrorists' mine explosion near Selminegon Village, Naungkyan Village-tract, Hpa-an Township, Kayin State, on 16 November.

The electricity supply to Yangon Region, Mawlamyine and Thaton townships lowered since the turbine stopped functioning until MOGE staffers finished mending the pipeline on 18 November.

Terrorists have been torching and destroying non-military targets such as houses, offices, schools, roads and bridges, and ransacking villages nationwide, according to recent reports.

Security forces have been cooperating with the public to conduct counter-terrorist measures. — MNA/NT

TNLA, PDF halt pipeline project supplying natural gas, crude oil to China

TERRORIST acts are committed through various means to destabilize the region and undermine governmental mechanisms.

Thus, the pipeline that transports natural gas and crude oil to the People's Republic of China serves as the primary conduit through Zipin village, Kyaukme, Shan State (North). The control camp was occupied by TNLA terrorists from 15 to 18 November, and they committed destruction aimed at harming the control equipment at the camp.

Reports indicate that non-military activities by these terrorists have impacted the transportation of natural gas and crude oil to the People's Republic of China. Security forces are intensifying necessary operations to address the situation. — MNA/KZW

The documentary photos of inside and outside of the control station of the natural gas and crude oil pipeline destroyed by terrorists and map.

ECONOMY
WORLD

Top producer Ivory Coast fears for cocoa output after rains

The World Bank says the commodity provides income for around one in five Ivorians. **PHOTO: AFP**

"THIRTY years I've been in cocoa — and this is the worst season yet," said Siaka Sylla as he contemplated an almost empty warehouse at his cooperative in Ivory Coast, the world's top producer of the bean.

Following exceptionally heavy rain, this year's overall harvest of cocoa, used to manufacture chocolate, is set to be very low. The crop is harvested twice annually — October to March for the main crop and a May to August mid-crop.

On a hot November morning, a squad of trucks arrived from the plantations to drop off a few dozen bags of beans at the Scappen cooperative in the village of Hermankono, near the central southern town of Divo, some 200 kilometres (125 miles) from the economic capital Abidjan. "It's rained too much this year. Usually at this time, trucks are queueing up to unload. Here, we have barely 200 bags whereas we could stock 10 times as many," complained Sylla, chairman of the cooperative grouping some 1,500 planters.

He expects harvest volume to drop some three to four times on last year's. Concerns rise due to potential short production year. Analysts, like Jack Scoville, warn of tight supplies amid fears of El Nino impacting West Africa crops. Reduced arrivals reported in Ivory Coast and Ghana, major global producers. Adverse weather conditions, including excessive humidity, contribute to a meager cocoa harvest. — AFP

Panel says Canada dairy policies in line with trade commitments

Despite US concerns, two out of three panelists concluded that Canada's measures do not violate any specified commitments within the trade pact.

A dispute settlement panel has found that Canada's dairy import policies do not breach its commitments under a trade pact, despite Washington's concerns, US authorities said Friday. "Two of the three panellists found that Canada's measures do not breach of any of the USMCA commitments that the United States cited," said the US Trade Representative's office, referring to the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

Canada's policies limit a large share of American dairy exports — including milk, butter, yogurt and ice cream — to Canadian processors under a system known as tariff rate quotas (TRQs). A TRQ applies a preferential tariff to a set volume or quota of product, and a higher duty for amounts above that level. US officials argue that the system restricts market access for American producers, despite an earlier attempt by Canada to bring its policies into compliance with its USMCA commitments.

"I am very disappointed by the findings," said US Trade Representative Katherine Tai in a statement. "Despite the conclusions of this report, the United States continues to have serious concerns about how Canada is implementing the dairy market access commitments it made in the Agreement," she added. — AFP

Argentine shopkeepers struggle to keep pace with soaring prices

PAOLA Basso sighs as she hastily sticks price tags one on top of the other in a suburb of Buenos Aires, as the cost of goods soars after the election of libertarian outsider Javier Milei.

"It doesn't stop," Basso said.

Annual inflation in Argentina is already at 143 per cent, and prices have risen further after the outgoing government this week eased price controls on basic goods — which Milei is expected to scrap.

"Customers ask us to ... buy eggs individually. It hurts, people are in need and it's like taking away their dignity, but the prices are crazy," said the grocer in Moron, a working-class neighbourhood in the western suburbs.

On the shelves, some products have up to four labels superimposed, testifying to the dizzying inflation.

"These are crazy days," said Paola's husband Fernando Savore, vice-president of the Buenos Aires grocers' federation.

Free-market advocate Milei, set to take office on 10 December, opposes state intervention in the economy. The impending conclusion of price control agreements is heightening inflation concerns, with economist Hernan Letcher predicting a more pronounced increase next month.

Milei's anticipated push to eliminate exchange rate controls adds to fears of a significant peso devaluation and subsequent inflationary pressures.

In meat-loving Argentina, sales of pricier meat cuts decline, replaced by lower-quality cuts and cheaper pork chops. Rising prices prompt changes in consumer habits, with people struggling to afford traditional quantities of meat. A local vendor notes increased difficulty in selling fruits and vegetables due to soaring prices, with customers reducing purchases to cope with the economic strain. — AFP

Prices for daily staples rose monthly, even weekly in 2022. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Somalia joins regional East Africa trade bloc

CONFLICT-WEARY Somalia was admitted on Friday into the East African Community (EAC) as the eighth member of the bloc as it seeks to expand free trade across the region.

The accession of the fragile Horn of Africa nation, which has a population of 17 million, will boost the EAC market to more than 300 million people.

"We have decided to admit the Federal Republic of Somalia under the treaty of accession," outgoing EAC chair, Burundian President Evariste Ndayishimiye, said at a summit of the grouping in Tanzania.

Somalia — whose President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud was at the summit — joins Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. — AFP

China's internet giants report rapid Q3 growth amid innovation drive

In the first half of the year, key players in China's internet platform sector, such as Alibaba, JD.com, Tencent, and Baidu, experienced strong financial performance with substantial revenues and profits. This positive momentum persisted into the third quarter, reflecting rapid growth for these companies.

A slew of listed Chinese internet giants have released reports on their financial performances in the third quarter of 2023, revealing robust growth momentum propped up by innovation drives and reflecting the solid recovery fundamentals of the Chinese economy.

The revenues and profits of China's leading market players in the internet platform sector, including Alibaba, JD.com, Tencent and Baidu, continued their robust momentum in the first half of the year to log fast growth in the third quarter.

The financial reports have also revealed that the enterprises have increased their investment in artificial intelligence (AI), innovative services and related areas, creating new business.

Alibaba's revenues and profits in the third quarter grew nine per cent and 34 per cent, respectively, from the same period last year, per the quarterly results published by the company. — Xinhua

A visitor (R) communicates with a staff member (C) at the booth Alibaba at the 2023 China Cross-border E-commerce Trade Fair in Fuzhou, southeast China's Fujian Province, 18 March 2023. **PHOTO: LIN SHANCHUAN/XINHUA**

Volkswagen to launch electric platform for entry-level segment in 3 yrs

This platform, based on the modular electric drive matrix (MEB), will serve as the foundation for electric vehicles customized to meet the preferences of Chinese consumers.

VOLKSWAGEN China Technology Company (VCTC), Volkswagen Group's largest development centre outside Germany, will launch an electric platform for the entry-level segment in 36 months, said Volkswagen Group on Friday.

Derived from Volkswagen Group's modular electric drive matrix (MEB), the new platform will form the basis for electric vehicles specifically tailored to the wishes of Chinese customers.

Ralf Brandstaetter, chairman and CEO of Volkswagen Group China, said, "With the development of a China-specific platform for the entry-level segment, we are taking on significant development tasks for our 'in China for China' strategy. We will bring the platform to market maturity in just 36 months. This means that we are reducing the development time by around a third and can quickly tap into new customer groups in the dynamic electric vehicles market in China."

With an investment of around 1 billion euros (about 1.09 billion US dollars), VCTC is expected to be put into operation in early 2024 and will gather over 3,000 workers by the end of 2024. — Xinhua

This photo taken on 4 July 2022 shows a workshop of the Volkswagen Anhui MEB (modular electric drive matrix) plant under construction in east China's Anhui Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3322S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3322S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-11-2023** 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.

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Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

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ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Madagascar's incumbent President Andry Rajoelina wins presidential election

Incumbent President Andry Rajoelina of Madagascar has secured victory in the presidential election with over 50 per cent of the votes, as per preliminary results from the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI). Rajoelina garnered 2,856,090 votes, representing 58.95 per cent, according to the CENI announcement.

Madagascar President Andry Rajoelina is on course for reelection in a vote boycotted by most opposition candidates. **PHOTO: PICHA NA RIJASOLO /AFP**

MADAGASCAR'S incumbent President Andry Rajoelina has won the presidential election by garnering more than 50 per cent of the votes, according to preliminary results released Saturday by the country's Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI).

The CENI announced that Rajoelina obtained a total of 2,856,090 votes, or 58.95 per cent of the votes, at a press conference.

With more than 50 per cent of the votes garnered, the incumbent president won the presidential election during its first round, said the CENI.

Madagascar initiated its first round of the presidential election on 16 November to choose the national leader for the next five years among 13 candidates.

The CENI said before the election that over 11 million registered voters out of the total population of 30 million were expected to cast their ballots. — Xinhua

TOP HEADLINES

12 Thai hostages released from Gaza: Thai PM

A total of 12 Thai nationals who were being held hostage in the Gaza Strip have been released, Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin said on Friday.

Thai Embassy officials are on their way to pick up released hostages, Srettha said in a social media post.

The hostages have entered Israel and are currently being transported to the processing point at Hatzerim Air Force Base, the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

The released hostages will be assisted upon their arrival at a medical facility where they will be placed under 48-hour medical supervision and will not have access to outsiders, the statement said.

Hamas and Israel reached an agreement earlier this week on a four-day ceasefire in the Gaza Strip. Under the deal, Hamas would release at least 50 hostages from Gaza in exchange for some 150 Palestinian detainees held in Israel. – Xinhua

At least 8 killed in shopping mall fire in Pakistan's Karachi

AT least eight people were killed and several others injured when a fire erupted in a shopping mall in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi of Sindh province on Saturday, government officials said.

Spokesperson of the Sindh government Murtaza Wahab told Xinhua that 15 to 20 people are still trapped in the multi-storey building, and a search operation continues to rescue them.

He added that fire tenders, snorkels and a bowser are taking part in the operation to bring the fire under control.

According to police in the area, the fire broke out on the second floor of the building and spread to other floors afterwards, adding that the police are investigating the cause of the fire. – Xinhua

Booming migrant charter flights to Nicaragua prompt US crackdown

A number of Cuban migrants informed that they had journeyed with the same airline on chartered flights organized by small travel agencies.

CUBAN and Haitian migrants are increasingly taking chartered flights to Nicaragua from where they seek to travel overland to the United States, prompting Washington to impose sanctions this week on the operators of the aircraft.

Irma Perez, a 28-year-old Cuban, told AFP she arrived in the Nicaraguan capital Managua last month aboard a charter flight run by Mexican aviation firm Viva Aerobus. "We had a 45-minute layover in Cancun (Mexico) without disembarking, and then came to Managua," she said.

Perez was speaking from Mexico, after she, her husband and one-year-old son travelled there overland with the help of a people-smuggler. The family plans to head towards the United States.

Several Cuban migrants told AFP they had travelled with the same company on flights chartered by small travel agencies. Viva Aerobus, which does not advertise fights between Cuba and Nicaragua on its website, did not respond to AFP's requests for comment.

Perez said she and her husband paid $1,250 each for their tickets, and $350 for that of her son. The people-smuggler cost them another $2,100.

A report by the Inter-American Dialogue thinktank said that an average of 50 charter flights a month travelled between Havana and Managua between January and October 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

'New phenomenon'

The use of charter flights to aid migrants in getting to their dream destination "is a relatively new phenomenon", said Manuel Orozco, a director of migration issues at the Washington-based Inter-American Dialogue. — AFP

SPORTS

Shan United beat Maha to extend winning streaks in MNL

Shan United players (red) try to score a goal amidst the Maha United players during the match of Week 20 of the Myanmar National League 2023 at Yangon United Sports Complex on 25 November 2023. **PHOTO: MNL**

SHAN United trounced Mahar United 4-1 in Week 20 of the Myanmar National League 2023 at Yangon United Sports Complex yesterday, shaping consecutive victories in the current season.

Shan United, the current champion, came close to defending their title after winning the game. As for the Maha United team, they will struggle to enter the top five teams as they face a big loss.

Both teams came out with a full set of core players and scored three goals in the first half from 24 to 31 minutes, so Shan United won.

Ye Yint Aung made the first goal at 24 minutes while Mark scored the second just after one minute. Thet Paing Htwe scored a further goal at 31 minutes to lead a 3-0 win in the first half.

Shan opened the attack in the second half and scored the winning or fourth goal at 76 minutes by Lin Htet Soe. The single or consolation goal was scored by Kaung Myat Thu of Maha United at 90+1 minute. The best player award goes to Shan star player Lin Htet Soe after the game.

Yangon United will take on Hanthawady United at Thuwunna Stadium today as a Week-20 Myanmar National League match. — Ko Nyi Lay/ KZL

Brazil football confederation to sue over racial slurs

THE Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) said Friday it will take legal action against social media users who attacked its president and players with racist slurs.

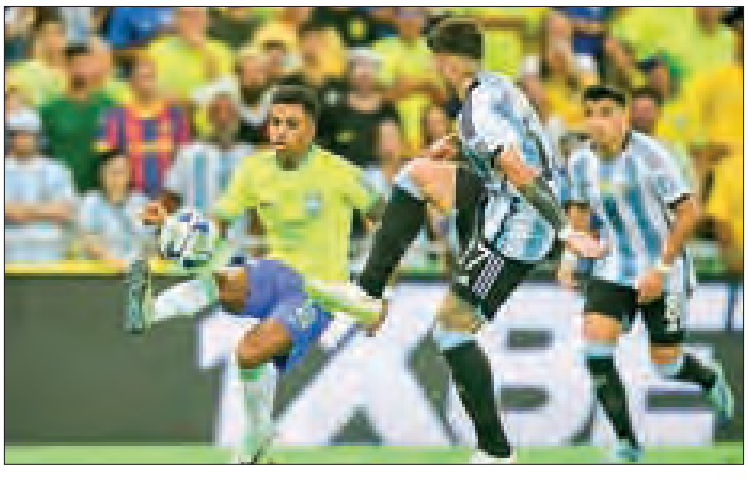
The move came after users posted comments on the CBF's Instagram page calling black players for the Brazilian national team "monkeys" and CBF president Ednaldo Rodrigues, who has Indigenous roots, an "Indian".

The CBF "will take legal action against those involved in these crimes", it said in a statement.

"We will take all necessary measures each and every time such attacks occur, without respite. The fight against discrimination is one of our most important causes".

The CBF said it also reported the incidents to Instagram, FIFA and South American football confederation CONMEBOL, as well as to police in Brazil, where racist hate speech is a crime punishable by up to five years in prison.

The racist messages were written in response to CBF posts on two recent losses to Brazil's arch-rivals Argentina: a 1-0 defeat for the senior men's team in a 2026 World Cup qualifier Tuesday, and a 3-0 loss in the quarter-finals of the under-17 World Cup Friday. — AFP



Brazilian forward Rodrygo vies for the ball during a World Cup qualifier against Argentina. **PHOTO: AFP**

Kane extends scoring run as Bayern ease past Cologne

ENGLAND striker Harry Kane continued his brilliant Bundesliga form on Friday, scoring the winner in Bayern Munich's 1-0 win over Cologne.

Kane scored a first-half tap-in to give Bayern a tenth win of the season and put them top of the table overnight.

"It was one of the easier goals I've scored in my career, but I'll take it," Kane told Dazn after the final whistle.

The England captain has now scored 22 goals in all competitions since joining Bayern in August, and has found the net in each of his last seven games in all competitions.

His latest strike was all Bayern needed as they eased past struggling Cologne with a controlled performance in the second half.

"Some people might look at the result and think they expected a bit more, but it was a really good performance from us today," said Kane.

"We controlled the game really well and should have had a few more goals in the first half for sure.

Cologne approached the game with their usual gung-ho attitude, pressing high and occasionally managing to unsettle Bayern.Yet Bayern repeatedly tore through their hosts on the counter-attack, and could have been several goals ahead by the half-hour mark. — AFP

Bayern Munich's English forward Harry Kane (L) and Cologne's German midfielder Jan Thielmann vie for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match between FC Cologne and FC Bayern Munich in Cologne, western Germany on 24 November 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

This discovery enhances our understanding of the pottery industry during the Han Dynasty (202 BC-220 AD) and provides valuable insights into the historical and cultural aspects of the region during that period.

This aerial photo taken on 25 October 2023 shows archaeologists working during the fourth excavation of the Bairen Town site in the city of Xingtai, north China's Hebei Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Ancient pottery, kilns and wells unearthed in north China ruins

A large number of pottery objects, kilns and pottery-making tools dating back about 2,000 years have been unearthed in the ruins of an ancient city in north China's Hebei Province, providing further evidence for the study of the pottery industry during the Han Dynasty (202 BC-220 AD).

The finds were made during the fourth excavation of the Bairen Town site in the city of Xingtai starting in mid-August, when more than 200 relics of various types including rammed earth, ash pits, house ruins, wells and pottery kilns were discovered in an area of about 400 square metres.

The ruins of Bairen Town are relatively well-preserved, covering an area of four square kilometres. The existing city walls have a circumference of about 8,000 metres, with some sections standing six to seven metres tall.

The excavations were conducted over almost four months by staff from the Renmin University of China, the Hebei institute of cultural relics and archaeology and the Xingtai cultural relics protection and research centre. Archaeologists have previously conducted three excavations there, in 2016, 2018 and 2022.

According to Li Meitian, director of the Department of Archaeology and Culture at the Renmin University, who led the excavation, most of the relics found this time were from the Han Dynasty, which proved that "during that period, Bairen Town was very prosperous and populous". — Xinhua

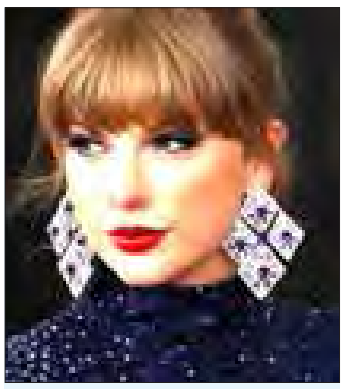
Amsterdam to lose Eurostar London service for 6 months

Renovations at Amsterdam Central station's historic building will halt passport and baggage controls. Travellers must complete these checks in Brussels before travelling to London during the affected period.

The direct Eurostar high-speed train service from Amsterdam to London will be temporarily suspended in the second half of next year due to renovations at Amsterdam Central station. **PHOTO: EUROSTAR**

DIRECT Eurostar high-speed train service from Amsterdam to London will be out of action during the second half of next year due to station renovation work, a Dutch official said Friday.

Work to Amsterdam Central station's more than 140-year-old building means that passport and baggage controls cannot be carried out for several months and travellers will need to accomplish these in Brussels before continuing on to London. "I realize that a direct journey is more pleasant than with a transfer, but this way at least a travel option is maintained for the traveller, said outgoing Dutch deputy infrastructure minister Vivianne Heijnen in a letter to parliament. The direct service from London to Amsterdam will not be affected, as passport and baggage checks are done in Britain before boarding and therefore not necessary in Amsterdam. — AFP



Taylor Swift arrives for the 65th Annual Grammy Awards at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles on 5 February 2023. **PHOTO: ROBYN BECK / AFP**

Taylor Swift concert organizer apologizes after Rio fan death

THE chief executive of the company organizing Taylor Swift's tour dates in Brazil apologized Thursday after a fan died in a searing heat wave during the pop superstar's Rio de Janeiro show.

Organizers have faced criticism after fans said they were forbidden to enter the stadium with water bottles at the concert last Friday, despite a heat index that hit 59 degrees Celsius (138 Fahrenheit) in the Brazilian beach city that day.

A 23-year-old fan in the sold-out crowd of 60,000 people died.

"We recognize we could have taken alternative measures in addition to all those we implemented, such as providing shade in external areas, changing the time of the concerts and emphasizing that fans could enter the stadium with disposable water cups," Serafim Abreu, head of Time For Fun, said in a video posted on social media.

"I want to apologize to all those who didn't have the best possible experience," he added, sending his "most sincere condolences" to the late fan's family.

The company said the young woman was quickly treated by emergency workers after falling ill, then transferred to the hospital about an hour later. — AFP

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

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Myanmar stands fourth in 31st ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet

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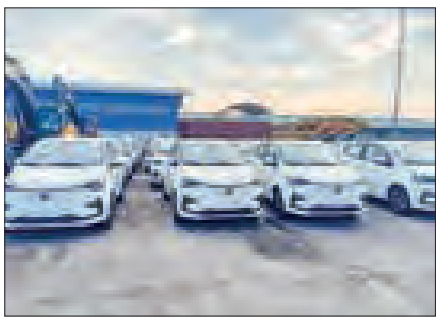


38 EV charging stations equipped with 51 chargers in initial stage in Yangon, Yangon-Mandalay Exprassway, Nay Pyi Taw

NATIONAL PAGE-7

Octane prices dip, yet diesel prices rebound

Hot-air balloons released to open Tazaungdine lighting festival at Maravijaya Buddha Image

The inaugural event of the Tazaungdine lighting festival in action at the Maravijaya Buddha Image yesterday, graced by SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and dignitaries.

A ceremony to launch the ceremony of releasing hot-air balloons to mark the Tazaungdine lighting festival dedicated to the Maravijaya Buddha Image was held on a grand scale on the water fountain platform of the Maravijaya Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township yesterday evening.

On arrival at the festival venue, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla were welcomed by male and female national races from MRTV and cultural troupes from the Fine Arts Department with cultural dances.

The Senior General and his wife cut the ribbon to launch the ceremony.

Just then, a total of 450 small hot-air balloons were released at the same time as launching the fireworks. Moreover, dances were presented to the accompaniment of a song about the wonderful festival of Tazaungdine whereas a large hot-air balloon named Arojam was also released. The Senior General, his wife and the audience enjoyed the festival.

SEE PAGE-3

NATIONAL

The photo depicts devotees on pilgrimage to the Maravijaya Buddha Image during the Tazaungdine lighting festival in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: HTEIN AYE**

Pilgrims flock to Maravijaya Buddha Image in Tazaungdine

THE Maravijaya Buddha Image, the tallest of its kind in the world ally and situated within Nay Pyi Taw's Buddha Park, is drawing crowds of pilgrims from nationwide during the Tazaungdine lighting festival that started yesterday evening.

Relevant officials conducted security inspections and transported the monks, people with disabilities and elderly people who had difficulty walking by small vehicles so that they could pay obeisance comfortably.

Pilgrims across the nation offered 9,000 oil lights to the Maravijaya Buddha Image, as well as recitation of Maha Pathana Pali verses and the religious Wut associations recited religious verses. — Myo Hset Thit/MKKS

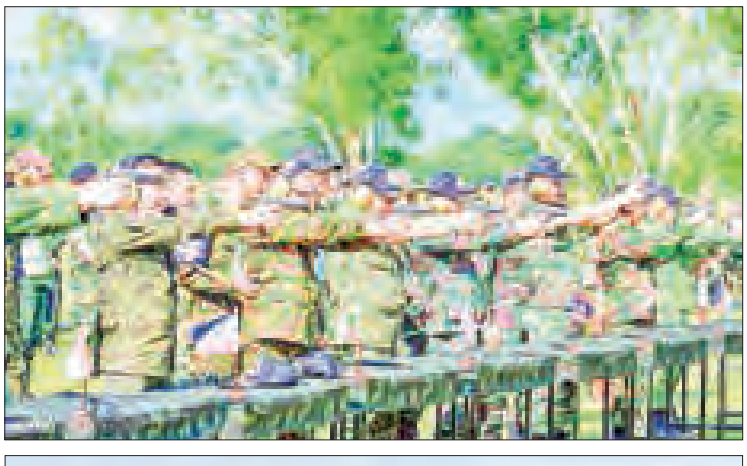
Myanmar stands fourth in 31st ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet

MYANMAR'STATMADAW competed in the 31st ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet (AARM), which was in Thailand from 20 to 24 November.

A total of 25 shooters from Myanamr's Tatmadaw team competed in carbine, rifles, machine guns and men's and women's pistols events of the AARM-31.

Myanmar stood fourth after securing eight gold, seven silver and seven bronze medals in total including five gold, four silver and five bronze medals in the team-wise competitions and three gold, three silver and two silver bronze medals in the shooting events.

The Myanmar's Tatmadaw shooting team returned to Nay Pyi Taw by air yesterday afternoon and was welcomed back by Lieutenant General Soe Min Oo and senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army). — MNA/KZL



Photos show the Myanmar Tatmadaw shooting team at the 31st AARM competition.

Myanmar delegation attends 2023 Sichuan-Chongqing & Mekong Countries Sub-National Cooperation Forum

Myanmar delegates seen with those from Mekong countries to attend the 2023 Sichuan-Chongqing & Mekong Countries Sub-National Cooperation Forum in China.

THE Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Commerce U Min Min attended the 2023 Sichuan-Chongqing & Mekong Countries Sub-National Cooperation Forum in China from 22 to 24 November at the invitation of the Foreign Affairs Office of Chongqing Municipal Government.

The forum aimed at boosting mutually beneficial cooperation of Mekong regions, enhancing trade and commerce and advancing progress among Chongqing and Mekong regions.

On 22 November, the leader of the Myanmar delegation and Deputy minister visited an exhibition of the Sichuan-Chongqing and Mekong regions at the Guanyinqiao Business Centre together with representatives from China, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam.

The opening ceremony of the 2023 Sichuan-Chongqing & Mekong Countries Sub-National Cooperation Forum was held on 23 November at the Foreign Affairs Office in Chongqing.

Speaking at the event, the deputy minister said that the forum will strengthen the cooperation between China and Mekong Sub-region countries and enhance business, trade and investment.

Moreover, the forum will bring huge economic cooperation in the future based on the long-lasting bilateral relations between China and the Mekong region.

Moreover, Myanmar is now actively working with China and the Mekong region to improve regional cooperation.

It needs to explore the promising goods to enhance the bilateral trade whereas good friendship and trust play vital roles between the exporters and importers, and it should accelerate the communication among the business people of China and the Mekong regions.

Similarly, Mandalay City Development Committee Chairman Mayor U Kyaw San attended a forum held at New World Hotel in Bishan District together with representatives and mayors from China, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam in the same evening.

The Mayor discussed the progress in Mandalay, the focal point for trade and production sectors, the tourism industry of certain regions including Mandalay and Bagan and promising economic and investments. Moreover, the delegates to the forums visited the Automobile Centre, Chongqing Planning Exhibition Gallery and International Logistics Hub in Chongqing on 24 November. The Myanmar delegation arrived back to Yangon on 25 November. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla attend Kathina robe-offering ceremony at Maravijaya Monastery

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla joined the Kathina robe-offering ceremony at Maravijaya Monastery in the precinct of Maravijaya Buddha Image in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday morning.

The Senior General and congregation viewed Kathina robes, alms and structures decorated with currency notes to be donated to Maravijaya Monastery.

The Senior General and wife offered Kathina robes and alms to Presiding Patron of Paukmyaing Monastery from Lewe Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Janinda and Abbot of Maravijaya Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Neminda respectively.

The SAC Secretary, the Joint Secretary and his wife, Council members and their wives, senior military officers and their wives donated Kathina robes and alms to members of the Sangha.

SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla view the Kathina robes and decorated alms donations at the event yesterday.

The Senior General, his wife and the congregation offered day meals to members of the Sangha led by Paukmyaing Sayadaw.

The ceremony was also attended by Union ministers, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, senior military officers and their wives, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and officials. — MNA/TTA

Hot-air balloons released to open Tazaungdine lighting festival at Maravijaya Buddha Image

FROM PAGE-1

The Senior General and his wife, and audiences also viewed the release of large hot-air balloons with the titles of Swan-ah-shin (1), Thitsar-mandaing, Ahmanthit, Aungmyingyin Moekaungkin and two elephants.

While making preparations to release hot-air balloons, artistes from the modern band of MRTV of the Ministry of Information and Myawady Entertainment Troupe of the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare and other artistes performed choral dances and songs.

After offering flowers, water and oil lights to the Maravijaya Buddha Image, the Senior General and his wife lit 3,600 oil lamps together with attendees to the ceremony.

The Senior General and his wife visited the platform of the Buddha image and stone plaque chamber pagodas and cordially greeted monks and people who joined the ceremony.

The festival will last from 25 to 27 November. During the festival, 9,000 oil lamps will be lit to dedicate to the Lord Buddha with the recitation of Pathana treatise, launching fireworks, releasing hot-air balloons and weaving lotus robes. The Buddha Park will be illuminated with LED bulbs, and plans are underway to sell domestic goods, foodstuffs, personal goods and traditional snacks to be showcased by MSME businesses. People can visit the festival joyfully.

The ceremony was also attended by the Council Secretary, the Joint Secretary and his wife, Council members and their wives, Union-level persons, Union ministers and their wives, the Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council and officials. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Counter-argument to false information

False Claim: No deployment of 14,000 troops to Nay Pyi Taw

RECENTLY spreading news that about 14,000 Tatmadaw members have been stationed in Nay Pyi Taw is just misinformation, said a military officer.

"It is not true. The situation in Nay Pyi Taw is peaceful. As you know false news has been spreading every day. It might be a plan of a group. They intend to impose fear on people living in Nay Pyi Taw with that misinformation. The deployment of 14,000 Tatmadaw members in Nay Pyi Taw is not correct," he said.

Moreover, the Information Team of SAC also released a statement saying the anti-government media spread the misinformation on social media that about 14,000 troops are stationed to protect the main military headquarters from nationwide offensives, and these claims are just fake news and misinformation.

Similarly, an official of the SAC Information Team also reaffirmed that the news is just untrue and the false media outlets are spreading false information. — Myo Khine/ KTZH

Misinformation spreads: Troops from Thanlyin Naval Base absconding with weapons

FAKE news that 17 soldiers from the Thanlyin Naval Base, Yangon Region have absconded bringing weapons and munition has been intentionally spread through social media.

However, according to the credible information from the military source, there is no such desertion from the Thanlyin Naval Base. These false news are mere misinformation deliberately published on social media aiming to undermine the military unity amongst Tatmadaw members, their families and the public. — MNA/ TMT

Misinformation spreads: Tatmadaw recruiting public servants to attend military training

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council claimed that it was fake news and misinformation that civil servants and government officials were forced to attend military training in Nay Pyi Taw.

An officer remarked that it is just intentionally spreading misinformation to raise fear, insecurity and anxiety among the service personnel who are serving their rightful duties in the regular conditions at the current moment in Nay Pyi Taw.

The fake news also said that the government staff and officials in Nay Pyi Taw are allowed to travel only with the employee transport buses under tight security. Therefore, the non-CDM staff do not have a chance to abscond.

A government staff also said, "The employee transport buses have been used since before. There is no such situation that the security is tightened. I mean the security condition is just normal. Staff who come from other towns were provided better security than before. Concerning the military training news, no one ordered us to attend it or no one came to us to put our names on the list," continuing that "We also saw those fake news. They are just a mere propaganda piece."

The anti-government media published through social media that Tatmadaw is collecting information about the weight and height of the non-CDM male staff from different ministries and departments in Nay Pyi Taw to recruit them in the military in December to forcibly send them to the frontline. — Myo Khaing/ TMT

False social media claim: K2,000 collection per household for militia unit

MISINFORMATION about urging residents to contribute K2,000 per household to support the militia unit at some villages of eastern Bago Region on the evening of 24 November from the administration organizations was announced by the speaker and threatened and this kind of threat is normal to collect the money stated by the Kawa locals spreading on social media.

Concerning this false news, one of the authorities from the Bago Region administration stated that this is just false information and it used the locals' innocence and only intended to cause misunderstanding.

Therefore, various forms of false news on social media are being spread by subversive media outlets that support violence to threaten citizens and to misunderstand administrators. — MNA/TRKM

Screenshot validates viral spread of false news.

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NATIONAL

38 EV charging stations equipped with 51 chargers in initial stage in Yangon, Yangon-Mandalay Exprassway, Nay Pyi Taw

IN a bid to encourage electric vehicles (EVs) use, 38 EV charging stations have installed 51 chargers in the initial stage, said U Zaw Win, Yangon Region Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

He gave a remark at the opening ceremony of the EV charging station affiliated with Terminal 202 petrol station in Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region on 23 November.

To reduce the consumption of imported fuel in the transportation sector and air pollution, the authorities are encouraging the use of EVs as a substitute fuel oil. Under the guidance of the National-level Leading Committee on Development of the Electric Vehicle and Related Businesses, as a part of the initial stage, the installation of 51 EV chargers was done at 38 fuel stations; 24 in Yangon, seven on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway and seven in Nay Pyi Taw, which facilitates the EVs for charging, U Zaw Win elaborated.

Newly arrived battery electric cars unveiled at Yangon Port.

Myanmar Investment Commission also released a statement on 15 February that electric vehicles and related businesses will be promoted as the priority sector, as per its notification dated 15 February.

In the exercise of the power conferred by Sections 43 and 100 (B) of Myanmar Investment Law, the MIC issued this statement with the approval of the Union government.

Enterprises executing installation, manufacturing and restoration services of the EVs, renewable electricity generation, EVs charging service businesses, electric vehicle battery production, EV battery and related service business, electric bus operation services, electric taxi and transportation service businesses and scientific research development business are included in those priority sectors.

During the establishment and ideation phase for incorporation and operations, those businesses can seek permit from the MIC to enjoy tariff relief or zero-customs tariff status and exemption for other taxes levied in the country under Section 77 (A) of the Myanmar Investment Law and income tax exemption under Section 75 (C) of the Myanmar Investment Law for the importations of machinery, essential equipment and accessories, spare parts and construction raw materials that cannot be found in domestic markets. Myanmar has been bringing in electric vehicles (EVs) and EV chargers under the Customs tariff relaxation through seaborne and border trade routes as well as air transport through Yangon International Airport, according to the Ministry of Commerce. — NN/EM

UMFCCI President U Aye Win and Bangladesh Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Md Monwar Hossain exchang gifts at the meeting on 23 November 2023.

Myanmar, Bangladesh discuss promoting economic, trade collaboration

BOOSTING the bilateral trade and economic collaboration between Myanmar and Bangladesh and attracting more investments were discussed at the office of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) located in Lanmadaw Township, Yangon Region on 23 November, according to UMFCCI General Secretary Daw Khine Khine Nwe.

UMFCCI President U Aye Win and Bangladesh Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Md Monwar Hossain, PhD and party exchanged views during the meeting.

They discussed collaboration between the two countries for strengthening Myanmar-Bangladesh friendly relations, promoting trade and investment sectors, improving commodity flow and border trade, and seeking more business opportunities. — ASH/TMT

Rice exports gain good prices

RICE exports have seen a positive turn in the financial year 2023-24, projected to reach 150,000 tonnes in November, says U Ye Min Aung, President of the Myanmar Rice Federation.

Myanmar's rice fetched only US$350-400 per tonne based on quality in the previous financial year. The prices, however, rose to over $500 now.

U Ye Min Aung said "Despite exporting less, improved prices have kept our earnings relatively steady. I think the rice export could reach 150,000 tonnes in November".

From April 2023 to October this financial year saw a 50 per cent drop in rice exports compared to the same period last year but only a 25-30 per cent slump in earnings.

The federation aims to export 2.5 million tonnes of rice and broken rice and earn $1 billion this financial year. — ASH/NT

Bags of rice being loaded onto the vessel at the port.

NATIONAL

NEWS IN BRIEF

Suspects of fires at Ponnagyun market

ACCORDING to Leader of the State Administration Council Information Team Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, the incident of fires at the Ponnagyun market, at 2:30 pm on 24 November in Ponnagyun township located in Rakhine State, was suspected to be a plot. "Tatmadaw only focuses on military targets with any reason to set fire to anything," Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun said.

Myanmar scores third prize in Singapore-Global Firefighters & Paramedics Challenge (SGFPC 2023)

IN the Singapore-Global Firefighters & Paramedics Challenge (SGFPC 2023) held in Singapore from 20 to 25 November, Fire Sergeant Tun Nay Win won the third prize. Firefighters from 16 countries including Myanmar, the UK, Australia, Luxembourg, Thailand, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Viet Nam participated in the competition.

Token system service at CNG shops

ACCORDING to U Kyaw Thura Win, general manager of the vehicle natural gas department, a token system will be implemented via a mobile application using IT technology at CNG filling station. In the application, the announcements of CNG outlets, latest news and estimated waiting time will be posted.

Discussion on respiratory infections with WHO

THE China Daily newspaper reported on 24 November that the Chinese health authorities announced that they had not found a new unknown pathogen related to the recent infectious respiratory disease, and they had held discussions with the World Health Organization (WHO) regarding the possibility of a local epidemic. China has recorded an increase in seasonal respiratory diseases due to the simultaneous spread of influenza viruses, mycoplasma pneumoniae bacteria, respiratory syncytial virus and adenoviruses.

Licence on satellite internet services

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Transport and Communications, satellite internet services are being used illegally in the country. Under Section (5) of the Telecommunications Law and rule 52 (c) on the frequency spectrum, domestic and foreign individuals, departments, and organizations must register with the department for a business licence if international satellite operators are expected to provide satellite communication services to end-users.

Last member of Doh Bamar Asiayon, Thakin Pe Thant rest in peace

THE last surviving member of the 20th century Doh Bamar Asiayon, Thakin Pe Thant (Thaton), who was 101 years old, passed away on 23 November. The funeral ceremony of Thakin Pe Thant will be held on Saturday, 25 November, and the traditional funeral ceremony will be held on Wednesday, 29 November, at his home in North Okkalapa Township. — Htun Htun/TKO

The scenic of People's Park lighting festival in the previous year.

Seven bus lines to run for People's Park Tazaungdine lighting festival until 10 pm

THE Yangon Region Transport Committee (YRTC) reports that YBS lines are arranged to facilitate People's Park lighting and technological, and industrial products exhibitions with public transport.

During the three-day festival period, seven YBS lines are scheduled to facilitate nighttime travel for attendees, according to U Lyan Cin Mang, the Joint Secretary of YRTC.

The bus lines will be reportedly parked in front of the People's Park until 10 pm, and regular fares are arranged for the services.

Throughout the festivities, attendees can enjoy a variety of activities, including E-sport games, services of refreshment, films, music performances and more.

The event will feature performances by renowned artistes, magic shows and a DJ dance performance in the designated areas. — TWA/KZW

New monsoon onion prices drop: K600 below old summer onion

THE price of new monsoon onion per viss is K600 lower than that of old summer onion according to the onion wholesale centres based in the Bayintnaung market.

On 25 November, the new monsoon onions entered the Pakokku market, the small size onions were K1,000 per viss and normal sizes, K2,300 per viss. The old summer onions were K2,900 per viss as the highest and it was K600 more than that of new rain onions according to the local market statistics. On that day, a total of 20,000 visses of onions entered the market.

On 23 November, 32,000 visses of onions entered and one viss of summer onions was K3,100. On 24 November, 42,000 visses of onions entered the market and the summer onions were K3,050 per viss. Only 20 bags of the new monsoon onions entered the market and it was K1,400 per viss. On 25 November, 20 bags of the new monsoon onions also entered at the cost of K2,550 per viss. It is known that the new monsoon onions will enter the market after the Tazaungdine Festival days.

Also at the Yangon market, the new monsoon onions will enter after the Tazaungdine holidays and they can be traded in parallel with the old summer onions in the market.

During these days, the prices of the old summer onions have stopped rising as their demand in the market is weak. Their demand can be weaker when the new monsoon onions especially new Myittha onions entered the market. Some of the old summer onions wrinkled and sprouted and the buyers disliked it. The difference between prices of new monsoon onion and the old summer onion can also be reduced.

In mid-November 2022, only one kind of new monsoon onion entered the Pakokku market but starting from the last week of November 2023, an average of 30,000 visses of the old summer onions still enter the market. On the other hand, the old summer onions entered the Yangon market until 5 December 2022. This year, there are more in stock of the old summer onions in the local market. The local onion cultivation areas are around 190,000 acres yield of three visses per acre and the annual onion yield is between 900,000 and 1,000,000 tonnes. Mosoon onion sown acrage is five per cent and cold season onion 95 per cent. Without 25 per cent of waste and underestimation of storage, a total of 700,000 tonnes are exported for local consumption and foreign commercial use. — TWA/TRKM

Octane prices dip, yet diesel prices rebound

OCTANE prices have fallen again. However, diesel prices have regained in the domestic fuel market.

Octane prices were K2,210 per litre of Octane 92 and K2,350 for Octane 95 on 24 November. Then, the prices declined a bit to K2,170 for Octane 92 and K2,300 for Octane 95 on 25 November.

Meanwhile, diesel prices (diesel and premium diesel) rebounded to K2,200-2,290 per litre on 25 November from K2,125-2,215 per litre on 24 November.

The figures indicated a decrease of K40-50 per litre of Octane and an increase of K75 per litre of diesel within one day.

Cars refill fuels at one of the petrol stations in Nay Pyi Taw.

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

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

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

The Petroleum Products Regulatory Department, under the guidance of the committee, is issuing the daily reference rate for oil to offer a reasonable price to energy consumers.

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

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

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

Egg supply surpasses demand; sellers cut price

THE imbalance between supply and demand forces the sellers to lower egg prices in the domestic market as the shelf life of eggs is quite short, making a certain loss.

The production cost of eggs is estimated at K5,800 per viss (20 pieces on average).

However, the selling price is K1,700 per 10-piece carton at a shop near Sanpya market in Thingangyun Township during the Tazaungdine Festival (25-27 November).

The photo shows a mobile market offering fair prices of eggs at the Yangon municipal wards.

The wholesale prices of eggs move in the range between K170 and K330 per piece depending on weight (kilogramme) and producing areas on 24 November. The carton of eggs affixed with a logo displayed at City Mart and mini-marts are priced a bit higher than those offered by the vendors selling by the roadside. Those eggs from City Mart have a longer shelf life (about 14 days from the date of the sale).

A mobile egg shop offered lower pricing plus additional benefits (Buy 20 pieces/Get 3 to 5 extra) on 24 November on the corner of Maha Bandoola and 18th Street.

While the egg price is K230 per piece and duck egg is worth K320 per pc in the retail market, that sales promotion is a great chance for the low-income community, Ko Kyi Lwin, a buyer from Sinohtan Road, told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

The buyers can get a wholesale price of 300 pcs, bearing delivery fees. This being so, the sales with promotion offers near Thanzay (market) in Lanmadaw Township are bustling. The egg was earlier delivered to a neighbouring country at the border. The egg price was K100 per pc only in 2020. — TWA/KK

MRF, Agriculture Dept organize awareness meeting for CIFER system for legitimate rice export to China

MYANMAR Rice Federation (MRF) and Crops Protection Division under the Department of Agriculture jointly held an awareness meeting for the China Import Food Enterprise Registration through (online) single window system developed by the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) on 24 November to have legitimate rice export to China.

MRF President U Ye Min Aung gave an opening remark. Then, Assistant Director Daw Tin Tin Oo from the Crops Protection Division elaborated protocol required to follow in rice export to China. Also, Dr Win Than, assistant director, also explained the CIEFR (online) registration procedures. Representatives from 76 companies which want to seek registration from the GACC also attended the meeting.

Between 1 December 2021 and 28 July 2023, a total of 1,326 Myanmar food processing companies and factories submitted over 2,400 applications to the GACC. According to GACC Decree 248 and 249, GACC registration is mandatory for food exporters starting from 1 January 2022.

Those individuals executing edible oil, oilseeds, stuffed pastry products, edible bird's nest and related products, edible grains, grains milling industrial products and malt, fresh and dehydrated vegetables, dried beans, plant species, nuts and seeds, dried fruits, unroasted coffee and cocoa bean, special dietary food excluding milk-based formula, functional foods, bee products, aquatic products including farm products, animal products and animal feed and livestock animal businesses need to apply for GACC license to place their goods in China's market. Exporters can directly access China International Trade Single Window through https://cifer.singlewindow.cn by creating accounts for those food groups which are not listed on those aforementioned 18 groups. — NN/EM

OPINION

Nurture youths to become technologists for motherland

FOSTERING the technological prowess of the youth is imperative for any nation aspiring to thrive and progress. A country's ability to stay on par with global technological advancements is contingent on the cultivation of knowledge and skills among its youth.

The term 'technology' encompasses an extensive array of expertise, ranging from the manipulation and operation of diverse tools to the mastery of intricate systems. Empowering adept and skilled young individuals with the ability to harness advanced technologies can profoundly shape the trajectory of a nation, facilitating rapid modernization.

It is undeniable that nations worldwide harbour aspirations for enhancement and influence. The quest for superpower status, spanning political, military, and economic domains, is a universal ambition. Countries seek autonomy in currency dynamics, aiming to rival established global hard currencies. The current strides in advanced technologies offer a transformative gateway for nations to redefine their socioeconomic landscape swiftly.

> The educational journey for these aspiring technologists is fraught with challenges and hurdles. However, resilience in the face of difficulties is paramount. The commitment to overcoming challenges is not merely an individual endeavour but a collective mission for the benefit of all citizens. The overarching concept that must be ingrained in the minds of these youths is their responsibility to usher in modernization through the application of advanced technologies, thereby contributing to the progress and prosperity of their motherland.

In this context, a pivotal focus on enhancing educational systems for the youth becomes paramount. Foundational school education serves as the launchpad for acquiring knowledge. Armed with insights gained from formal education, young minds must broaden their horizons to delve into various facets of advanced technologies. A comprehensive understanding of these technologies positions them to contribute significantly to their nation's progress.

Technologists, in their pursuit of knowledge, must not overlook the debt owed to their motherland. They are duty-bound to reciprocate the opportunities for learning by serving their nation with acquired knowledge, expertise, and experiences. Such patriotic dedication forms the bedrock for substantial national development, allowing countries to swiftly catch up with established superpowers.

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In essence, nurturing a generation of technologically adept youth is not just an investment in individual futures but a strategic imperative for national development. By instilling a sense of duty and patriotism, nations can harness the potential of their youth to propel themselves to the forefront of global technological innovation and progress.

People suffering from work addiction feel ill even when they are working: Study

Workaholics often experience a negative mood, suggesting elevated daily stress levels. This heightened stress may contribute to their increased vulnerability to burnout and cardiovascular issues.

WORKAHOLICS' moods are generally worse than those of other people, even while they are engaged in the thing that they are most passionate about; their work. Workaholism is similar to other addictions such as gambling or alcoholism.

This is what emerges from a study published in the Journal of Occupational Health Psychology, conducted by Cristian Balducci, a professor at the Department for Life Quality Studies at the University of Bologna (Rimini Campus), in collaboration with Dr. Luca Menghini from the University of Trento and Prof. Paola Spagnoli from the University of Campania 'Luigi Vanvitelli'.

Professor Balducci explains: "The negative mood observed in workaholics may indicate elevated daily stress levels and that could be the cause of the higher risk for these individuals to develop burnout and cardiovascular problems.

Negative mood

Furthermore, considering that workaholics often hold positions of responsibility, their negative mood could readily influence that of colleagues and co-workers. This poses a risk that organizations should seriously consider, intervening to discourage behaviors that contribute to workaholism."

Work addiction has been a well-known phenomenon for a long time: people suffering from it tend to work excessively and compulsively. This is a true obsession that negatively affects health, psychological well-being, and relations with family and friends.

Several studies indicate that workaholics commonly experience a sense of unwellness, often accompanied by negative emotions such as hostility, anxiety, and guilt when they are unable to work as extensively as they wish.

SOURCE: ANI

Several studies indicate that workaholics commonly experience a sense of unwellness, often accompanied by negative emotions such as hostility, anxiety, and guilt when they are unable to work as extensively as they wish. **PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY**

Tazaungdine

By Chit Ko Pe

Tazaungmone brings good deeds along,
traditional practices lovely abound.

Prince Siddhartha's mother made a robe good,
with a sense of son's would-be monkhood.

To commemorate her thoughtfulness and act,
holy robe-weaving competition is held.

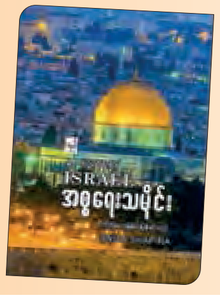
Full-moon day with dawn setting nearer,
holy robes are, at pagodas, offered.

Kathina robes to monks are donated in joy,
to replace the ones used and soiled.

A full-moon night with lanterns in series,
revellers are soaked in glee.

Salad of Mezali is consumed at midnight,
for good health by belief and foresight.

By generations, traditions are passed down,
wishing them to live long!



Book Title	-	Israel Thamaing
Translator	-	Ko Ko Lay
Publishing House	-	Yin Myo
Publication Date	-	June 2019 (1st Edition)
Price	-	K15,000

Israel Thamaing (A History of Israel by Anita Shapira)

THIS book is translated by Saya U Ko Ko Lay, who has been translating books on political affairs. He is the translator of the most famous book titled, 'The Fallen Dictators.' The book under review has won the national literary award in the genre of history and the Azrieli Institute Award. This book is full of historical evidence; a comprehensive book on the history of Israel, mentioning the beginning of the Jews, how they came to settle in the region of Palestine, how they got through in the region of Palestine under the British, how they have established the Country of Israel, how they have been attacked by the Arab enemies and the situation of Israel after having fought frequent wars against the Arab countries. This book is divided into 19 chapters.

The original writer of this book is a historian named Anita Shapira, who is an Israeli historian. She is the founder of Yitzhak Rabin Centre, professor emerita of Jewish history at Tel Aviv University, and former head of the Weizmann Institute for the Study of Zionism at Tel Aviv University.

True to the nature of a book on history, the book was written in chronological order commencing from the late 19th century during which the Zion Movement arose up to these days. The readers of this book will have some knowledge of how the Arabs, the Jews and the Turks have lived in the region of Palestine under British rule; the challenges the Israelis have encountered in nation-building endeavour; the migration en masse; the changes in culture; the political and diplomatic landscapes amidst the battles; and the efforts made in democratic society.

Additionally, the readers will be aware of the emergence of the Zionist Movement and the territorial issues, the step-by-step building of the Jewish State, the nationalistic characters and the cultural mores of the Jewish Society, the establishment of the State of Israel and its reforms, a decade-long battles and the post-war situation of Israel and the hope for achievement of peace.

In retrospect to the long history of Israel, one will see that this Hebrew State [Kingdom of Israel] flourished the most under the reign of King Saul, who was succeeded by Kings David and Solomon. Upon the demise of King Solomon in BC 922, the country was divided into two with the South becoming the Kingdom of Judah and the North, the Kingdom of Israel. In BC 722, Assyrians, the Judah King, occupied the Kingdom of Israel with the result that the entire region had become the Kingdom of Judah. Since then, the Jewish Israelites were driven out of the region of Palestine. In February of 1947, the British Government handed over the issue of Palestine to the United Nations Organization. On 29 November 1947, the United Nations passed a resolution under which Palestine was to be divided into the Jewish State and Arab State. The Jews welcomed this resolution whereas the Arabs were against this resolution. On 14 May 1948, the Jews established the State of Israel. Since the Jewish Settlement, the Arab-Israel wars broke out never to die down. The Jews speak Hebrew while the Palestinians speak Arabic. Israel and Palestine signed the peace agreement in 1993. Yet some sections of Palestinians are always making terrorist attacks on the Israelis. This book is strongly recommended for the historians as well as for the general readers.

Book Title	-	Tatiyagaba Hma Pahtamagaba Thoh
Translator	-	Hein Latt
Publishing House	-	Zeya Moe
Publication Date	-	June 2023 (5th Edition)
Price	-	K13,000

Tatiyagaba Hma Pahtamagaba Thoh

From Third World to First: The Singapore Story (1965-2000)

By Lee Kuan Yew

SINGAPORE has been called the 20th century's "most successful development story" and is considered a model for economic development. Its stunning economic transformation has been described as a "miracle" and has been the subject of numerous analyses by scholars and governments worldwide. Given this, it is easy to forget how improbable Singapore's chances of survival had been at the outset.

Although many books and articles have been written about the city-state's economic transformation, From Third World to First, published in 2000 remained the quintessential book on the subject. Consisting of more than 700 pages and divided into three parts and 43 chapters, the book is by no means a quick read. The author, the late Mr Lee Kwan Yew or LKY as he was affectionately called, was the island city-state's founding father and first Prime Minister, its chief architect, and one of Asia's most influential politicians.

In this book, Mr Lee told the story of Singapore's transformation "for a younger generation of Singaporeans who took stability, growth, and prosperity for granted". He wanted to remind them just "how difficult it was for a small country…with no natural resources to survive in the midst of larger, newly independent nations all pursuing nationalistic policies".

Alluding to Singapore's predicament, the late Dr Henry Kissinger, former United States Secretary of State and a lifelong friend of Mr Lee, wrote in the foreword that Singapore is "by far the smallest country in Southeast Asia [and] seemed destined to become a client state of more powerful neighbours, if indeed it could preserve its independence at all". That Singapore preserved its independence and achieved what it has despite all the odds speaks volumes about Mr Lee's leadership and efforts.

Indeed, for Mr Lee, pragmatism trumps ideology. What mattered to him was whether his plan would work, whether it would ensure Singapore's survival and guarantee its success. Ideological consideration has no place in his style of governance. As such, he did not mind Singapore being referred to rather derisively as a "nanny state" explaining famously that "If this is a nanny state, I am proud to have fostered one."

Mr Lee also helped Singapore navigate the complex geopolitics of the time that was characterized by great power rivalry between the United States, the Soviet Union and China. He acted as a confidant and messenger for them and in the process, he established himself as a great leader and his city-state as a serious player that punched above its weight in world affairs.

From Third World to First - The Singapore Story: 1965-2000 is a fitting legacy of a man who was loved and dreaded in equal measure. The book is a must for any library and also a 'must read' for scholars and academicians, diplomats who take an interest in study in particular and Southeast Asia in general.

Last but not least, Saya Hein Latt, the translator of this book, won the National Literary Award for the Translation Genre in 2002.

Entertainment

Nyo Min Lwin to create new film Feng Shui

THE offering ceremony of Katawpwe (coconut and three bunches of bananas in a large pot) for the Feng Shui movie was made at Shwedagon Pagoda and Kheng Hock Temple, said the producer and director of that movie Nyo Min Lwin.

"I prepare certain options as I make films regarding Feng Shui. When I make a new film, I ask myself… would I see that movie if I were an audience? If I don't want to watch it, I question to myself whether I make the film. The film will feature unusual locations. I will prepare prefect settings systematically," he said.

He is also the creator of the story, and plot and also the director of that film. The artistes such as Htet Yan Paing, Soe San Aung, A Mi Zan, Hanna, V V Cheng, May Lan, Zin Zin Win Yan, Kitty Lay and Daw Cho.

The first scene of the film was made at Kheng Hock Temple on 23 November. — ASH/KTZH

Hlwan Paing

SINGER and actor Hlwan Paing met with fans at the fair of Sein Nan Taw Jewellery Shop in Taunggyi together with other artistes on 23 November. Regarding his movie that is nominated for an Academy Award, he said "It depends on the situation ...I might win the Academy Award or not. I don't expect too much as it also depends on my fate."

Aye Wutt Yee Thaung

MODEL Aye Wutt Yee Thaung posted the motto "Be thankful for what you have" on her Facebook page. She was the winner of the Miss Christmas competition the year after Eaindra Kyaw Zin who was the first winner of the competition. Currently, the movie "Mingalar Shi Tae Ayet" directed by Director Awratha who starred as a witch together with actor Myint Myat has been popular again on social networks recently.

Naing Zaw

The Solo exhibition of Saya Khin Zaw (Naing Zaw) "Ink & Paper" is being convened from 22 to 26 November at Lokanat Art Gallery in Yangon. The 8th solo exhibition will feature 108 paintings of Saya Khin Zaw. The paintings are drawn on paper with ink so it is a unique event for the visitors.

Celebrity Brief

Amara Bo

MYANMAR Miss Amara Bo who competed in Miss Universe 2023 in El Salvador arrived back in Yangon on 23 November.

She said that she tried her best in the competitions so as to be proud of her activities and she got experiences even though she did not achieve any awards, and also expressed gratitude to the fans for their support.

Wai Gyi

FAMOUS composer Wai Gyi has starred in one MV called "Mandalar Ko Ko" composed by Saya Paw Shan. He starred with singers Tin Myo Oo and Yadana Mai, Thwet Latt and Chaw Sint Thu. He participated in it due to the encouragement of Singer Mai, mother of Yadanar Mai. The MV was directed by director Pandita. — Htun Htun/KTZH

Loon Htar Htar

Author Loon Htar Htar whose love stories become best sellers currently writes about mindfulness. Regarding her new book "Your Life is in Your Hand", she said: "We all should peacefully neglect the soft feelings on our body in addition to the serious suffering without responding to joy...desire. The more we accustomed to neglect or not responding, the more peace we achieve."

NATIONAL

Illegal immigrants handed over to relevant authorities

THE government is focusing on national stability and 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 conduct necessary checks and repatriate them to relevant countries under the law.

A total of 815 illegal immigrants, comprising 715 males and 100 females, were repatriated to China through Chinese officials. Therefore, a total of 7,993 illegal immigrants, including 7,266 males and 727 females, were repatriated to China from 31 October to 25 November.

The government will continue the process of screening and repatriation for foreign nationals who have illegally entered and resided in the border areas. — MNA/KZW

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

Photos show damage of the crude oil pipeline exploded by terrorists and preparations of the pipeline by officials of MOGE.

Terrorists' explosions of gas pipelines result in low power output

TERRORISTS have exploded a natural gas pipeline, a non-military target, near Nyaungchaung Village, Thaton Township, Mon State, which is connected to natural gas power plants in Yangon with mines on 23 November, resulting in a low electricity output.

The explosion of the pipeline caused the Hlawga power station in Yangon to stop functioning and lose 55 megawatts of electricity, resulting in lower electricity distribution to Yangon Region, and Mon and Kayin states.

Security forces have guarded the location where the pipeline was damaged while Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) staffers are repairing it.

Similarly, a gas pipeline from the Myaingkalay gas distribution station serving the turbine in Thaton was damaged by terrorists' mine explosion near Selminegon Village, Naungkyan Village-tract, Hpa-an Township, Kayin State, on 16 November.

The electricity supply to Yangon Region, Mawlamyine and Thaton townships lowered since the turbine stopped functioning until MOGE staffers finished mending the pipeline on 18 November.

Terrorists have been torching and destroying non-military targets such as houses, offices, schools, roads and bridges, and ransacking villages nationwide, according to recent reports.

Security forces have been cooperating with the public to conduct counter-terrorist measures. — MNA/NT

TNLA, PDF halt pipeline project supplying natural gas, crude oil to China

TERRORIST acts are committed through various means to destabilize the region and undermine governmental mechanisms.

Thus, the pipeline that transports natural gas and crude oil to the People's Republic of China serves as the primary conduit through Zipin village, Kyaukme, Shan State (North). The control camp was occupied by TNLA terrorists from 15 to 18 November, and they committed destruction aimed at harming the control equipment at the camp.

Reports indicate that non-military activities by these terrorists have impacted the transportation of natural gas and crude oil to the People's Republic of China. Security forces are intensifying necessary operations to address the situation. — MNA/KZW

The documentary photos of inside and outside of the control station of the natural gas and crude oil pipeline destroyed by terrorists and map.

ECONOMY
WORLD

Top producer Ivory Coast fears for cocoa output after rains

The World Bank says the commodity provides income for around one in five Ivorians. **PHOTO: AFP**

"THIRTY years I've been in cocoa — and this is the worst season yet," said Siaka Sylla as he contemplated an almost empty warehouse at his cooperative in Ivory Coast, the world's top producer of the bean.

Following exceptionally heavy rain, this year's overall harvest of cocoa, used to manufacture chocolate, is set to be very low. The crop is harvested twice annually — October to March for the main crop and a May to August mid-crop.

On a hot November morning, a squad of trucks arrived from the plantations to drop off a few dozen bags of beans at the Scappen cooperative in the village of Hermankono, near the central southern town of Divo, some 200 kilometres (125 miles) from the economic capital Abidjan. "It's rained too much this year. Usually at this time, trucks are queueing up to unload. Here, we have barely 200 bags whereas we could stock 10 times as many," complained Sylla, chairman of the cooperative grouping some 1,500 planters.

He expects harvest volume to drop some three to four times on last year's. Concerns rise due to potential short production year. Analysts, like Jack Scoville, warn of tight supplies amid fears of El Nino impacting West Africa crops. Reduced arrivals reported in Ivory Coast and Ghana, major global producers. Adverse weather conditions, including excessive humidity, contribute to a meager cocoa harvest. — AFP

Panel says Canada dairy policies in line with trade commitments

Despite US concerns, two out of three panelists concluded that Canada's measures do not violate any specified commitments within the trade pact.

A dispute settlement panel has found that Canada's dairy import policies do not breach its commitments under a trade pact, despite Washington's concerns, US authorities said Friday. "Two of the three panellists found that Canada's measures do not breach of any of the USMCA commitments that the United States cited," said the US Trade Representative's office, referring to the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

Canada's policies limit a large share of American dairy exports — including milk, butter, yogurt and ice cream — to Canadian processors under a system known as tariff rate quotas (TRQs). A TRQ applies a preferential tariff to a set volume or quota of product, and a higher duty for amounts above that level. US officials argue that the system restricts market access for American producers, despite an earlier attempt by Canada to bring its policies into compliance with its USMCA commitments.

"I am very disappointed by the findings," said US Trade Representative Katherine Tai in a statement. "Despite the conclusions of this report, the United States continues to have serious concerns about how Canada is implementing the dairy market access commitments it made in the Agreement," she added. — AFP

Argentine shopkeepers struggle to keep pace with soaring prices

PAOLA Basso sighs as she hastily sticks price tags one on top of the other in a suburb of Buenos Aires, as the cost of goods soars after the election of libertarian outsider Javier Milei.

"It doesn't stop," Basso said.

Annual inflation in Argentina is already at 143 per cent, and prices have risen further after the outgoing government this week eased price controls on basic goods — which Milei is expected to scrap.

"Customers ask us to ... buy eggs individually. It hurts, people are in need and it's like taking away their dignity, but the prices are crazy," said the grocer in Moron, a working-class neighbourhood in the western suburbs.

On the shelves, some products have up to four labels superimposed, testifying to the dizzying inflation.

"These are crazy days," said Paola's husband Fernando Savore, vice-president of the Buenos Aires grocers' federation.

Free-market advocate Milei, set to take office on 10 December, opposes state intervention in the economy. The impending conclusion of price control agreements is heightening inflation concerns, with economist Hernan Letcher predicting a more pronounced increase next month.

Milei's anticipated push to eliminate exchange rate controls adds to fears of a significant peso devaluation and subsequent inflationary pressures.

In meat-loving Argentina, sales of pricier meat cuts decline, replaced by lower-quality cuts and cheaper pork chops. Rising prices prompt changes in consumer habits, with people struggling to afford traditional quantities of meat. A local vendor notes increased difficulty in selling fruits and vegetables due to soaring prices, with customers reducing purchases to cope with the economic strain. — AFP

Prices for daily staples rose monthly, even weekly in 2022. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Somalia joins regional East Africa trade bloc

CONFLICT-WEARY Somalia was admitted on Friday into the East African Community (EAC) as the eighth member of the bloc as it seeks to expand free trade across the region.

The accession of the fragile Horn of Africa nation, which has a population of 17 million, will boost the EAC market to more than 300 million people.

"We have decided to admit the Federal Republic of Somalia under the treaty of accession," outgoing EAC chair, Burundian President Evariste Ndayishimiye, said at a summit of the grouping in Tanzania.

Somalia — whose President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud was at the summit — joins Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. — AFP

China's internet giants report rapid Q3 growth amid innovation drive

In the first half of the year, key players in China's internet platform sector, such as Alibaba, JD.com, Tencent, and Baidu, experienced strong financial performance with substantial revenues and profits. This positive momentum persisted into the third quarter, reflecting rapid growth for these companies.

A slew of listed Chinese internet giants have released reports on their financial performances in the third quarter of 2023, revealing robust growth momentum propped up by innovation drives and reflecting the solid recovery fundamentals of the Chinese economy.

The revenues and profits of China's leading market players in the internet platform sector, including Alibaba, JD.com, Tencent and Baidu, continued their robust momentum in the first half of the year to log fast growth in the third quarter.

The financial reports have also revealed that the enterprises have increased their investment in artificial intelligence (AI), innovative services and related areas, creating new business.

Alibaba's revenues and profits in the third quarter grew nine per cent and 34 per cent, respectively, from the same period last year, per the quarterly results published by the company. — Xinhua

A visitor (R) communicates with a staff member (C) at the booth Alibaba at the 2023 China Cross-border E-commerce Trade Fair in Fuzhou, southeast China's Fujian Province, 18 March 2023. **PHOTO: LIN SHANCHUAN/XINHUA**

Volkswagen to launch electric platform for entry-level segment in 3 yrs

This platform, based on the modular electric drive matrix (MEB), will serve as the foundation for electric vehicles customized to meet the preferences of Chinese consumers.

VOLKSWAGEN China Technology Company (VCTC), Volkswagen Group's largest development centre outside Germany, will launch an electric platform for the entry-level segment in 36 months, said Volkswagen Group on Friday.

Derived from Volkswagen Group's modular electric drive matrix (MEB), the new platform will form the basis for electric vehicles specifically tailored to the wishes of Chinese customers.

Ralf Brandstaetter, chairman and CEO of Volkswagen Group China, said, "With the development of a China-specific platform for the entry-level segment, we are taking on significant development tasks for our 'in China for China' strategy. We will bring the platform to market maturity in just 36 months. This means that we are reducing the development time by around a third and can quickly tap into new customer groups in the dynamic electric vehicles market in China."

With an investment of around 1 billion euros (about 1.09 billion US dollars), VCTC is expected to be put into operation in early 2024 and will gather over 3,000 workers by the end of 2024. — Xinhua

This photo taken on 4 July 2022 shows a workshop of the Volkswagen Anhui MEB (modular electric drive matrix) plant under construction in east China's Anhui Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3322S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3322S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-11-2023** 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

The Global New Light of Myanmar
www.gnlm.com.mm

သတင်းစာ မှာယူလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်
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ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Madagascar's incumbent President Andry Rajoelina wins presidential election

Incumbent President Andry Rajoelina of Madagascar has secured victory in the presidential election with over 50 per cent of the votes, as per preliminary results from the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI). Rajoelina garnered 2,856,090 votes, representing 58.95 per cent, according to the CENI announcement.

Madagascar President Andry Rajoelina is on course for reelection in a vote boycotted by most opposition candidates. **PHOTO: PICHA NA RIJASOLO /AFP**

MADAGASCAR'S incumbent President Andry Rajoelina has won the presidential election by garnering more than 50 per cent of the votes, according to preliminary results released Saturday by the country's Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI).

The CENI announced that Rajoelina obtained a total of 2,856,090 votes, or 58.95 per cent of the votes, at a press conference.

With more than 50 per cent of the votes garnered, the incumbent president won the presidential election during its first round, said the CENI.

Madagascar initiated its first round of the presidential election on 16 November to choose the national leader for the next five years among 13 candidates.

The CENI said before the election that over 11 million registered voters out of the total population of 30 million were expected to cast their ballots. — Xinhua

TOP HEADLINES

12 Thai hostages released from Gaza: Thai PM

A total of 12 Thai nationals who were being held hostage in the Gaza Strip have been released, Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin said on Friday.

Thai Embassy officials are on their way to pick up released hostages, Srettha said in a social media post.

The hostages have entered Israel and are currently being transported to the processing point at Hatzerim Air Force Base, the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

The released hostages will be assisted upon their arrival at a medical facility where they will be placed under 48-hour medical supervision and will not have access to outsiders, the statement said.

Hamas and Israel reached an agreement earlier this week on a four-day ceasefire in the Gaza Strip. Under the deal, Hamas would release at least 50 hostages from Gaza in exchange for some 150 Palestinian detainees held in Israel. – Xinhua

At least 8 killed in shopping mall fire in Pakistan's Karachi

AT least eight people were killed and several others injured when a fire erupted in a shopping mall in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi of Sindh province on Saturday, government officials said.

Spokesperson of the Sindh government Murtaza Wahab told Xinhua that 15 to 20 people are still trapped in the multi-storey building, and a search operation continues to rescue them.

He added that fire tenders, snorkels and a bowser are taking part in the operation to bring the fire under control.

According to police in the area, the fire broke out on the second floor of the building and spread to other floors afterwards, adding that the police are investigating the cause of the fire. – Xinhua

Booming migrant charter flights to Nicaragua prompt US crackdown

A number of Cuban migrants informed that they had journeyed with the same airline on chartered flights organized by small travel agencies.

CUBAN and Haitian migrants are increasingly taking chartered flights to Nicaragua from where they seek to travel overland to the United States, prompting Washington to impose sanctions this week on the operators of the aircraft.

Irma Perez, a 28-year-old Cuban, told AFP she arrived in the Nicaraguan capital Managua last month aboard a charter flight run by Mexican aviation firm Viva Aerobus. "We had a 45-minute layover in Cancun (Mexico) without disembarking, and then came to Managua," she said.

Perez was speaking from Mexico, after she, her husband and one-year-old son travelled there overland with the help of a people-smuggler. The family plans to head towards the United States.

Several Cuban migrants told AFP they had travelled with the same company on flights chartered by small travel agencies. Viva Aerobus, which does not advertise fights between Cuba and Nicaragua on its website, did not respond to AFP's requests for comment.

Perez said she and her husband paid $1,250 each for their tickets, and $350 for that of her son. The people-smuggler cost them another $2,100.

A report by the Inter-American Dialogue thinktank said that an average of 50 charter flights a month travelled between Havana and Managua between January and October 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

'New phenomenon'

The use of charter flights to aid migrants in getting to their dream destination "is a relatively new phenomenon", said Manuel Orozco, a director of migration issues at the Washington-based Inter-American Dialogue. — AFP

SPORTS

Shan United beat Maha to extend winning streaks in MNL

Shan United players (red) try to score a goal amidst the Maha United players during the match of Week 20 of the Myanmar National League 2023 at Yangon United Sports Complex on 25 November 2023. **PHOTO: MNL**

SHAN United trounced Mahar United 4-1 in Week 20 of the Myanmar National League 2023 at Yangon United Sports Complex yesterday, shaping consecutive victories in the current season.

Shan United, the current champion, came close to defending their title after winning the game. As for the Maha United team, they will struggle to enter the top five teams as they face a big loss.

Both teams came out with a full set of core players and scored three goals in the first half from 24 to 31 minutes, so Shan United won.

Ye Yint Aung made the first goal at 24 minutes while Mark scored the second just after one minute. Thet Paing Htwe scored a further goal at 31 minutes to lead a 3-0 win in the first half.

Shan opened the attack in the second half and scored the winning or fourth goal at 76 minutes by Lin Htet Soe. The single or consolation goal was scored by Kaung Myat Thu of Maha United at 90+1 minute. The best player award goes to Shan star player Lin Htet Soe after the game.

Yangon United will take on Hanthawady United at Thuwunna Stadium today as a Week-20 Myanmar National League match. — Ko Nyi Lay/ KZL

Brazil football confederation to sue over racial slurs

THE Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) said Friday it will take legal action against social media users who attacked its president and players with racist slurs.

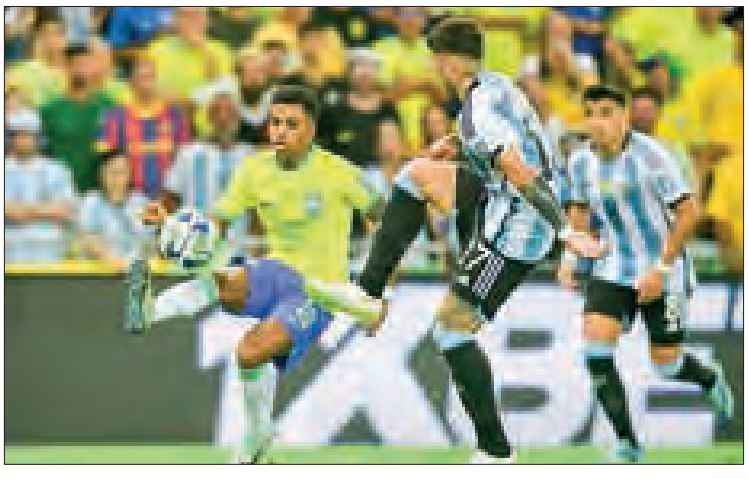
The move came after users posted comments on the CBF's Instagram page calling black players for the Brazilian national team "monkeys" and CBF president Ednaldo Rodrigues, who has Indigenous roots, an "Indian".

The CBF "will take legal action against those involved in these crimes", it said in a statement.

"We will take all necessary measures each and every time such attacks occur, without respite. The fight against discrimination is one of our most important causes".

The CBF said it also reported the incidents to Instagram, FIFA and South American football confederation CONMEBOL, as well as to police in Brazil, where racist hate speech is a crime punishable by up to five years in prison.

The racist messages were written in response to CBF posts on two recent losses to Brazil's arch-rivals Argentina: a 1-0 defeat for the senior men's team in a 2026 World Cup qualifier Tuesday, and a 3-0 loss in the quarter-finals of the under-17 World Cup Friday. — AFP



Brazilian forward Rodrygo vies for the ball during a World Cup qualifier against Argentina. **PHOTO: AFP**

Kane extends scoring run as Bayern ease past Cologne

ENGLAND striker Harry Kane continued his brilliant Bundesliga form on Friday, scoring the winner in Bayern Munich's 1-0 win over Cologne.

Kane scored a first-half tap-in to give Bayern a tenth win of the season and put them top of the table overnight.

"It was one of the easier goals I've scored in my career, but I'll take it," Kane told Dazn after the final whistle.

The England captain has now scored 22 goals in all competitions since joining Bayern in August, and has found the net in each of his last seven games in all competitions.

His latest strike was all Bayern needed as they eased past struggling Cologne with a controlled performance in the second half.

"Some people might look at the result and think they expected a bit more, but it was a really good performance from us today," said Kane.

"We controlled the game really well and should have had a few more goals in the first half for sure.

Cologne approached the game with their usual gung-ho attitude, pressing high and occasionally managing to unsettle Bayern.Yet Bayern repeatedly tore through their hosts on the counter-attack, and could have been several goals ahead by the half-hour mark. — AFP

Bayern Munich's English forward Harry Kane (L) and Cologne's German midfielder Jan Thielmann vie for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match between FC Cologne and FC Bayern Munich in Cologne, western Germany on 24 November 2023. **PHOTO: AFP**

This discovery enhances our understanding of the pottery industry during the Han Dynasty (202 BC-220 AD) and provides valuable insights into the historical and cultural aspects of the region during that period.

This aerial photo taken on 25 October 2023 shows archaeologists working during the fourth excavation of the Bairen Town site in the city of Xingtai, north China's Hebei Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Ancient pottery, kilns and wells unearthed in north China ruins

A large number of pottery objects, kilns and pottery-making tools dating back about 2,000 years have been unearthed in the ruins of an ancient city in north China's Hebei Province, providing further evidence for the study of the pottery industry during the Han Dynasty (202 BC-220 AD).

The finds were made during the fourth excavation of the Bairen Town site in the city of Xingtai starting in mid-August, when more than 200 relics of various types including rammed earth, ash pits, house ruins, wells and pottery kilns were discovered in an area of about 400 square metres.

The ruins of Bairen Town are relatively well-preserved, covering an area of four square kilometres. The existing city walls have a circumference of about 8,000 metres, with some sections standing six to seven metres tall.

The excavations were conducted over almost four months by staff from the Renmin University of China, the Hebei institute of cultural relics and archaeology and the Xingtai cultural relics protection and research centre. Archaeologists have previously conducted three excavations there, in 2016, 2018 and 2022.

According to Li Meitian, director of the Department of Archaeology and Culture at the Renmin University, who led the excavation, most of the relics found this time were from the Han Dynasty, which proved that "during that period, Bairen Town was very prosperous and populous". — Xinhua

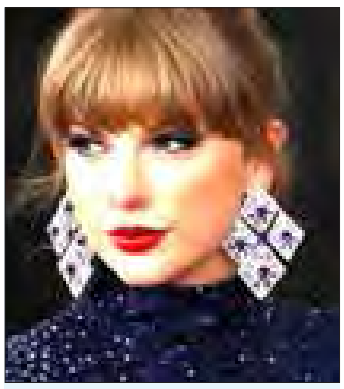
Amsterdam to lose Eurostar London service for 6 months

Renovations at Amsterdam Central station's historic building will halt passport and baggage controls. Travellers must complete these checks in Brussels before travelling to London during the affected period.

The direct Eurostar high-speed train service from Amsterdam to London will be temporarily suspended in the second half of next year due to renovations at Amsterdam Central station. **PHOTO: EUROSTAR**

DIRECT Eurostar high-speed train service from Amsterdam to London will be out of action during the second half of next year due to station renovation work, a Dutch official said Friday.

Work to Amsterdam Central station's more than 140-year-old building means that passport and baggage controls cannot be carried out for several months and travellers will need to accomplish these in Brussels before continuing on to London. "I realize that a direct journey is more pleasant than with a transfer, but this way at least a travel option is maintained for the traveller, said outgoing Dutch deputy infrastructure minister Vivianne Heijnen in a letter to parliament. The direct service from London to Amsterdam will not be affected, as passport and baggage checks are done in Britain before boarding and therefore not necessary in Amsterdam. — AFP



Taylor Swift arrives for the 65th Annual Grammy Awards at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles on 5 February 2023. **PHOTO: ROBYN BECK / AFP**

Taylor Swift concert organizer apologizes after Rio fan death

THE chief executive of the company organizing Taylor Swift's tour dates in Brazil apologized Thursday after a fan died in a searing heat wave during the pop superstar's Rio de Janeiro show.

Organizers have faced criticism after fans said they were forbidden to enter the stadium with water bottles at the concert last Friday, despite a heat index that hit 59 degrees Celsius (138 Fahrenheit) in the Brazilian beach city that day.

A 23-year-old fan in the sold-out crowd of 60,000 people died.

"We recognize we could have taken alternative measures in addition to all those we implemented, such as providing shade in external areas, changing the time of the concerts and emphasizing that fans could enter the stadium with disposable water cups," Serafim Abreu, head of Time For Fun, said in a video posted on social media.

"I want to apologize to all those who didn't have the best possible experience," he added, sending his "most sincere condolences" to the late fan's family.

The company said the young woman was quickly treated by emergency workers after falling ill, then transferred to the hospital about an hour later. — AFP